



City of Stevenson

Leana Kinley, City Administrator

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To: City Council
From: Leana Kinley, City Administrator
RE: Law Enforcement Contract with Sheriff's Department
Meeting Date: September 21, 2023

Executive Summary:

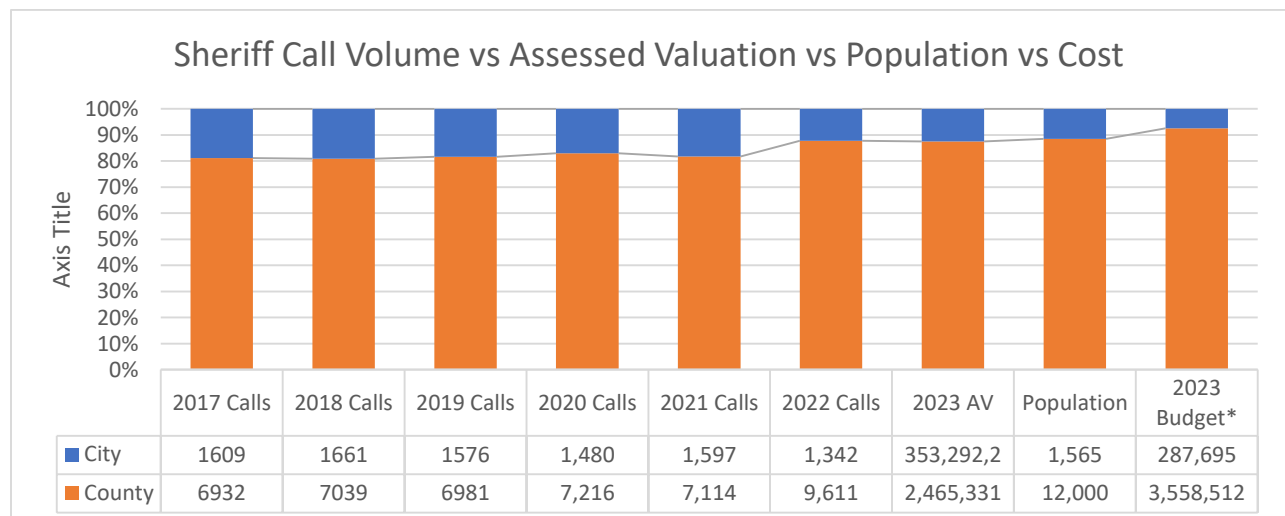
The law enforcement contract with Skamania County expires on December 31, 2023. A new two-year contract is presented for discussion. Council established a subcommittee with councilmembers Paul Hendricks and Dave Cox to negotiate the contract. The Sheriff's Office presented a proposed cost increase of \$100,000 for 2024 and \$50,000 for 2025 to bring it to a level that matches other comparable agencies, with no additional changes to the contract.

Overview:

Here is some data regarding the impact Stevenson has on the County overall through number of calls, population, and what the residents currently pay for through their property taxes.

In 2022:

- 14% of calls for service were in the city limits.
- 21% is the average number of calls over the past five years.
- 13% is Stevenson's portion of the county population.
- 14% is Stevenson's portion of the county's assessed valuation (used for determining property taxes paid).
- 8% is Stevenson's portion of the Sheriff's department budget in 2023 (*contract amount of \$201,546 plus property taxes paid of \$86,149). The city has paid between 8-10% of the Sheriff's Office budget over the past 6 years.



[**The original calculation of \$509,950 for property taxes paid by city residents was calculated based on a percentage of assessed valuation between the city and county (14% times total Sheriff's Office budget of \$3,558,512) rather than taking the city's assessed value and calculating the amount of taxes based on the county rate times the percentage of the budget which is allocated to the Sheriff's Office (\$353,292,275/1,000 * 0.98980121 * 25%). The revised calculation is \$86,149.]

Using the 2023 budgeted amount for the Sheriff's Office, if the city wanted to pay an amount equal to the average percentage of calls over the past 5 years it would be \$662,951. This would equate to paying for the increased cost of service above and beyond what the residents currently pay for through their property taxes.

\$749,101	Adjusted portion based off average number of calls (21% of SO budget)
- 86,149	City's portion of property taxes to Sheriff's Office (14% of SO budget)
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\$662,951	Difference

Information provided by Sheriff Scheyer on the cost of service for other agencies is below:

	Contract Amount	Type of Service
Pacificorp Contract	\$69,144	One Deputy-six months
US Forest Service	80,810	One Deputy-Part-time
City of Davenport	315,000	County Provided
City of Bingen	359,310	Joint services w/WS
City of Okanogan	350,276	County Provided
City of Tonasket	324,792	County Provided
City of Benton City	357,095	County Provided
	\$ 341,295	Average City contract
	\$299,908	Average cost for 2 Deputies

Once concern brought up by Sheriff Scheyer is the cost of providing services for special events, such as parades. The is the ability to require the organizer of such events to pay the cost of services for the event. Most of these are for parades related to events funded through the Tourism Fund and are then able to be included within those contracts. This means the Tourism Fund would then pay for the cost of the parade rather than the General Fund, and the organization will not feel the impact of the additional cost. The only other agency that regularly requests road closures with additional deputy needs is the School District for the annual Band Concert on Second Street. There may be the ability to provide an exemption for special districts to address the potential impact.

Related to street closures and the impact on services is the impact increased tourism has on the calls for services such as domestic violence, vehicle prowls, thefts, motor vehicle collisions, and traffic complaints.

Another concern raised was the houseless population and the impact a lack of restrictive camping ordinance creates for increased calls for service.

Action Needed:

Direction on contract changes for further negotiations. A revised contract can then be presented for further discussion at the October 19th council meeting.