



AGENDA COVER MEMORANDUM

AGENDA DATE: April 28, 2026

PRESENTED TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: County Administration

PRESENTED BY: Steve Mokrohisky, County Administrator
Judy Williams, Chief of Staff

AGENDA TITLE: REPORT/ Public Safety Funding Workgroup Monthly Report

I. MOTION

None.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

This item is a progress report on the Public Safety Funding Workgroup, an internal committee, charged with moving the work of the Public Safety Funding Task Force forward.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

Lane County's public safety system has been underfunded since the 1980s due to multiple compounding factors. Over the past three decades, no less than five workgroups have reviewed, studied, and proposed solutions for public safety funding, including a 1992 revenue review task force and a more recent 2005 effort. With the exception of the 2013 Public Safety Levy, no previous efforts resulted in successful long-term changes to public safety funding in Lane County. The primary factors contributing to the chronic lack of funding for public safety are:

- the loss of federal timber revenue and 90% reduction in Secure Rural Schools funding;
- a comparatively low permanent property tax rate; and

- the cost to provide services growing faster than revenues.

Currently the Lane County Sheriff's Office and Youth Services Division receive voter approved levy funds to help support a minimum of 255 local adult jail beds and 16 youth treatment and detention beds. The first levy was approved by voters in 2013 and has been renewed twice. It represents the only voter-approved funding specifically for public safety services provided by Lane County.

On October 17, 2023, the Board directed the County Administrator to establish and appoint members of a limited-duration public safety task force to explore possible long-term funding solutions for Lane County's public safety system, and to create a report with recommendations for the County Administrator to present to the Board of County Commissioners.

In a presentation to the Board on June 24, 2025, following a year of detailed research and discussion, the Public Safety Funding Task Force recommended that the County Administrator further explore four primary opportunities for long-term, stable funding:

- Efficiency, Prioritization, and Trust
- Multi-Layered Solution
- Payroll Tax
- Special District Formation

For more information on the work of the Public Safety Funding Taskforce, including the Final Report, click here [Public Safety Funding Task Force - Lane County](#)

On August 27, 2025, the Board held a work session to discuss the recommendations in further detail and to discuss next steps. The Board directed staff to move forward with a sense of urgency, to have monthly Board updates, to engage the community, to create a timeline and a roadmap of what it would take to move forward with a funding mechanism that the community would support.

B. Policy Issues

A task force was created by the County Administrator following an Order from the Board of County Commissioners delegating the responsibility to the County Administrator (Lane Manual 3.105) via 23-10-17-05.

C. Board Goals

This effort is expressly identified in the newly adopted 2025-2027 Lane County Strategic Plan, under Safe and Healthy County.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

Through a Request for Quotes (RFQ) process, staff evaluated several proposals and ultimately selected Lexicon & Line to conduct listening sessions and stakeholder interviews groups to generate clear insight into how defined voter segments respond to potential public safety funding mechanisms and associated messaging. This effort is estimated to cost approximately \$39,850. Some additional travel costs could be added at staff's discretion depending on the need.

E. Health Implications

Health implications related to public safety can be identified most readily as the improvement in safety and wellbeing for residents and families across Lane County when our public safety system is able to support critical services.

F. Analysis

Please see Attachment A, *the Public Safety Funding Workgroup Progress Report and Timeline*, for a list of both completed and future tasks. This is a working document updated frequently by staff.

Following the results of a recent poll, staff are working with an outside vendor, Lexicon & Line, to help organize and facilitate listening sessions and stakeholder interviews. Work has been underway to prepare facilitation guides and scripts for the listening sessions that begin the week of April 20th. The stakeholder interviews will begin shortly thereafter. The Board will hear from Lexicon & Line on June 3rd with a summary of those findings.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

There are no recommendations at this time.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Monthly Board updates are anticipated to continue until they are no longer needed.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Public Safety Funding Workgroup Progress Report and
Timeline