



Memorandum Date: November 28, 2023

Order Date: December 13, 2023

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Lane County Administration Office

PRESENTED BY: County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER: IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTING LANE COUNTY RESIDENTS TO SERVE ON THE LIMITED-DURATION PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING TASK FORCE

I. MOTION

To direct 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.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board is being asked to approve an Order that directs the County Administrator to form a limited-duration task force to explore possible long-term funding solutions for Lane County's public safety system. The County Administrator will be responsible for creating the task force, appointing members, and ensuring the task force has the resources necessary to complete its mission.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

Steep decline in federal forest revenue (more than \$40 million annually in inflation-adjusted dollars) during the past 20 years has affected public safety funding particularly hard, resulting in an inability to maintain critical services at an appropriate level without additional investment from taxpayers.

In 2005, a previous Public Safety Task Force convened to identify the gaps in the system and provide goals for the following five years. The final report included an analysis of possible funding opportunities to support the five-year goals; however,

none were ultimately pursued.

After nearly 20 years, the work performed by the 2005 Public Safety Task Force is in need of updating in order to inform current discussions and guide possible actions.

Currently, the Lane County Sheriff's Office and the 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 of County Commissioners voted to create a limited-duration task force of Lane County residents to explore funding opportunities for public safety services. Applications for membership opened on October 19, 2023 and the first review of eligible applicants began on December 1, 2023.

B. Policy Issues

A task force may be 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).

C. Board Goals

Maintaining the stability of the public safety system in Lane County is directly in line with the strategic priority of "A Safe, Healthy County" as discussed in the 2022–2024 Lane County Strategic Plan. Objective B2 under the strategic priority expressly directs Lane County to "actively pursue a renewal of the 5-Year Public Safety Levy which ends June 2023."

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The greatest resource will be the staff time required to support the task force, including logistical support, subject matter expert support, and coordination. It is possible the County Administrator will identify an independent facilitator to work with the task force. If that occurs there would be costs associated.

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

Engaging a non-partisan, limited-duration task force to evaluate and recommend possible long-term public safety funding solutions is an important first step in a

community discussion regarding the future of public safety in Lane County.

A task force of Lane County residents would include between 9 and 11 community members, including those who may represent partner organizations or agencies, and operate with a minimum quorum of 6 members. The task force chair will be selected by the County Administrator from among the appointees. The task force will include broad, balanced representation of the Lane County community.

Community members on the task force must be:

- 18 years of age or older.
- full-time residents of Lane County.

Applications for the positions dedicated to community members were:

- open for more than 30 days.
- posted on the County website.
- shared with local media.
- shared on social media.
- announced to applicable special interest groups.

Applicants were required to provide basic contact information, confirm their eligibility, and provide a cover letter addressing their interest and qualifications to serve on the task force.

Each commissioner will appoint one applicant who lives within the commissioner's district from the pool of eligible applicants at the close of the application period. The County Administrator will select the remaining four to six members of the task force from the same applicant pool in consultation with County public safety service leadership.

A reasonable timeline for the task force is as follows:

- October–December 2023: Task Force Recruitment and Selection
- January 2024– March 2024: Task Force Meetings
- Spring/Summer 2024: Task Force Final Report to County Administrator
- Summer 2024: Presentation to the Board of County Commissioners

The task force, once formed, should determine its meeting schedule and frequency within reasonable parameters; however, staff believes 6–8 meetings would be sufficient.

G. Alternatives/Options

- a. Adopt the Order as written.
- b. Make adjustments to the proposal outlined in this Board Memo and Order.
- c. Decline to appoint task force members.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board adopt the Order as written.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

If the Order is approved as written, applicants will be notified immediately. Staff will then begin to appoint the remaining members of the task force. The task force is expected to begin meeting at the beginning of 2024 and to conclude its work in spring or summer of 2024. The task force's report and recommendations will subsequently be shared with the Board by the County Administrator.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

Upon completion of the task force's work, the County Administrator will return to the Board with the task force's report and recommendations for consideration.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Board Order

Attachment B: Selected Candidate Letters

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 23-12-13-01

In The Matter of Appointing Lane County
Residents to Serve on the Limited-Duration
Public Safety Funding Task Force

WHEREAS, Lane County has seen an 82 percent reduction (more than \$40 million) in federal revenue from public lands since 2001; and

WHEREAS, there is no indication that Lane County's federal revenue from public lands will increase in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, Oregon tax policies limit temporary property tax increases from occurring without a vote of the local electorate; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the steep decline in federal forest revenue has affected public safety funding particularly hard, resulting in an inability to maintain critical services at an appropriate level without additional investment from taxpayers ; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners understands that engaging a limited-duration task force to evaluate and recommend possible long-term public safety funding solutions is an important first step in a community discussion regarding the future of public safety in Lane County; and

WHEREAS, Lane Manual 3.105 allows for the creation of a task force under the leadership of the County Administrator.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. The following Lane County residents shall be appointed to the task force on behalf of commissioners:
 - a. District 1 – Keith Cole
 - b. District 2 – David W. Lewis
 - c. District 3 – Paul Solomon
 - d. District 4 – Courtney Griesel
 - e. District 5 – Faye Stewart

ADOPTED this 13th day of December, 2023.

Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

Attachment B

To whom it may concern,

I Keith Cole am interested in sitting in on the task force board. I am a coastal business owner, resident, and multiple property owner of West Lane County. I believe this makes me a great candidate of the task force and the direction of the sheriff departments outlook of the residents of the coastal community of Florence Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration,

Keith Cole

Attachment B

October 20, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Paul Solomon and I am a Senior Advisor and former Executive Director of Sponsors, Inc., Lane County's premier reentry service provider. I am applying to serve on the Public Safety Funding Task Force.

I bring considerable experience working in the criminal/legal system in Oregon. In addition to my 22+ years of leadership experience at Sponsors, I bring a wealth of experience providing service on local and statewide boards and commissions related to public safety. Below is a list of some of the relevant bodies I have served on:

Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, Chair	2023 – Present
SB 1145 Legislative Workgroup	2021 – 2022
Dave's Killer Bread Foundation (DKBF), Board President	2021 - 2022
Oregon Governor's Racial Justice Council's Criminal Justice Reform and Police Accountability Committee, Co-Chair	2020 – Present
Oregon Public Defense Services Commission, Commissioner, Vice-Chair	2020 – 2023
Lane County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, Chair	2016 - 2023
○ LPSCC Budget Committee, Reentry Services Representative	2013 – Present
Oregon Governor's Reentry Council	2011 - Present
Lane County Poverty and Homelessness Board	2014 – 2022

In addition, I am deeply committed to finding solutions to Lane County's perpetual lack of funding for our critical public safety system services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Solomon

November 29, 2023

Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Re: Lane County Public Safety Funding Task Force Application

Board Chair Farr and Members of the Lane County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Public Safety Funding Task Force. As a resident of Lane County for over two decades, currently in Commissioner Pat Farr's District 4, I am committed to addressing the critical public safety needs of our diverse community.

The recent renewal of the jail operational levy was a success and testament to the hard work of Sheriff Harrold, his staff, and the Board of Commissioners. This success builds a platform for a larger, strategic look at the broader public safety budgetary needs necessary to support our geographically large and diverse community.

As Lane County endeavors to solidify its position as a thriving economic hub for Oregon, a tourist destination in the Pacific Northwest, and a desirable place to live, work and play, addressing the imbalance between the growing demand for complex public safety services and the insufficient funding available is imperative.

I hope my perspectives as a community member and my current and past professional background might provide perspectives which offer meaningful input to the intricate task of analyzing and proposing technical and innovative solutions. This experience includes support and representation of a business and landowner operating in both rural and urban settings, and supporting creative public-private partnerships, like the timber deputy program. My prior roles in public service include leadership in municipal government, drafting and management of voter-approved special taxing districts, and development and implementation of municipal budgets. I have also served on and staffed various boards and working groups tasked with managing community tax dollars and resources. These experiences have provided me with a nuanced understanding of the challenges posed by the evolving dynamics of community needs against budgetary constraints.

Lastly, as a parent and community member, I hope to contribute to the shaping of thoughtful solutions which improve the outlook for future generations. I'm hopeful solutions can be found which are meaningful and offer long-term public safety service and funding stability and alignment for the Sheriff's Office and community.

Thank you in advance for consideration of my participation and service.

Sincerely,



Courtney Griesel
Resident of Lane County District 4

Attachment B

To: Honorable Commissioner Buch
East Lane County Commissioner
Lane County
125 E. 8th
Eugene, Oregon 97401

From: Faye Stewart

RE: Public Safety Funding Task Force

Dear Commissioner Buch,

From 2005 through March of 2017 I served as the East Lane County Commissioner. During that time one of my primary goals was to improve public safety service in Lane County. I served on the Public Safety Coordinating Council, Court Security Committee, and was in service when the County passed the first Jail Bed Funding Levy.

I have a deep understanding of the Sheriff's Department, Lane County Government, and their budget challenges. I would be honored to be selected to serve on the Public Safety Funding Task Force and work to establish a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. I believe I have a great deal of knowledge that could be very beneficial to the Task Force.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Faye Stewart