

VENETA CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Title/Topic: **Public Safety Fee Adjustment**

Meeting Date: April 8, 2024
Department: Administration

Staff Contact: Jacob Thode
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ISSUE STATEMENT

Should the City Council adopt Resolution No. 1412, increase the Public Safety Fee from \$4.00 to \$6.00, effective July 1, 2024 and repeal Resolution No. 1334?

BACKGROUND

On July 12, 2021 the Veneta City Council unanimously passed Ordinance No. 562, creating a monthly public safety fee for the City of Veneta. On August 9, 2021 the Council unanimously directed staff to enact a \$4.00 per month public safety fee beginning in January 2022. Public Safety Fee revenues are collected in the Law Enforcement Fund to pay for contracted police services from Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) among other public safety expenses. One of the goals of implementing the Public Safety Fee was to allocate no more than 50% of property taxes to the Law Enforcement Fund. The Public Safety Fee can also be allocated towards other public safety expenses within the Law Enforcement Fund.

On March 11, 2024 the City Council directed staff to bring forth a resolution to increase the public safety fee from \$4.00 to \$8.00 per month. The increase included \$0.75 intended to cover the remaining costs to the LCSO contract for 2025 ensuring that no more than 50% of property tax revenues are allocated to the Law Enforcement Fund, and an additional increase of \$3.25 intended to cover the additional shortfalls within the Law Enforcement Fund budgeted for code enforcement activities, including the costs for a part time code enforcement officer. See Table 1 below.

Table 1. FY 2025 Law Enforcement Fund Forecasted Expenditures and Revenues

Expenditures		
	LCSO Contract	\$ 1,079,656
	Code Enforcement	\$ 120,344
	Total	\$ 1,200,000
Revenues		
	Property Tax FY 2025	\$ 956,893
	\$4 Public Safety Fee	\$ 100,000
	Marijuana Tax	\$ 30,000
	Prior Property Tax	\$ 15,000
	Total	\$ 1,101,893
Difference w/ Total Estimate Revenue		\$ 98,107

However, on March 25, 2024 City Council elected to change the Public Safety Fee from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per month, reflecting a \$0.75 adjustment to cover increased LCSO contract costs and \$1.25 adjustment for costs for a proactive code enforcement program.

The cost of contracted police services with the LCSO is expected to be \$1,070,565. At 50% of property tax, revenue is estimated to be \$956,983 for FY 2025. Proactive code enforcement, including abatement costs and code enforcement procedures, is expected to cost \$30,000-\$40,000.

At \$4.00 per month, Public Safety Fee revenues are estimated to be approximately \$100,000. If a \$4.00 monthly fee is maintained, there would be a funding gap of approximately \$20,000 needed to match the LCSO's contract, and another \$32,763 needed to support proactive code enforcement activities.

An increase of \$0.75 to the fee would make up the difference to support the LCSO contracted police services, and an additional \$1.25 would make up the difference to support proactive code enforcement. See Table 2 below.

Table 2. FY 25 Budget for LCSO Contract and Proactive Code Enforcement

LCSO Contract	\$ 1,079,656
Proactive Code Enforcement	\$ 30,000
Expected FY 25 Property Tax	\$ (956,893)
Remaining After Property Tax	\$ 152,763
\$4 Public Safety Fee	\$ (100,000)
Remaining After Public Safety Fee	\$ 52,763
\$0.75 Pubic Safety Fee Increase	\$ (20,000)
1.25 Public Safety Fee Increase	\$ (32,100)
Remaining	\$ 663

The resolution before the Council would raise the Public Safety Fee from \$4.00 to \$6.00, effective July 1, 2024.

City Council may choose to what adjustment, if any is made to the Public Safety Fee.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Adopt Resolution No. 1412, a resolution establishing a Public Safety Fee Amount in Accordance with Ordinance No. 562 and repealing Resolution No. 1334, thereby increasing the Public Safety Fee from \$4.00 to \$6.00, effective July 1, 2024, as presented.
2. Adopt Resolution No. 1412, a resolution establishing a Public Safety Fee Amount in Accordance with Ordinance No. 562 and repealing Resolution No. 1334, as amended by Council.
3. Direct Staff to conduct further analysis on the public safety fee and come back to City Council in May with additional options.
4. Take no action, thereby maintaining the Public Safety Fee at \$4.00 per month.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Option #1 – Adopt Resolution No. 1412, a resolution establishing a Public Safety Fee Amount in Accordance with Ordinance No. 562 and repealing Resolution No. 1334, thereby increasing the Public Safety Fee from \$4.00 to \$6.00, effective July 1, 2024, as presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION

"I make a motion adopt 1. Adopt Resolution No. 1412, a resolution establishing a Public Safety Fee Amount in Accordance with Ordinance No. 562 and repealing Resolution No. 1334, thereby increasing the Public Safety Fee from \$4.00 to \$6.00, effective July 1, 2024, as presented."

ATTACHMENTS

N/A