

VENETA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Title/Topic: Public Safety Fee Adjustment

Meeting Date: May 12, 2025
Department: Law Enforcement

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ISSUE STATEMENT

Should the City Council adopt Resolution No. 1442 that increases the Public Safety Fee from \$6.00/month to \$9.00/month, effective July 1, 2025 and repeal Resolution No. 1412?

BACKGROUND

The City of Veneta contracts with the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) to provide law enforcement services. The City's contract provides the community twenty hours of dedicated police coverage each day by a sergeant and four deputy sheriffs, including the necessary equipment to conduct police services. Starting January 1, 2025, the contract sergeant position changed from a part-time position to a full-time one.

It has been the City's budgeting policy to limit at 50% the percentage of property taxes that go towards the LCSO contract. This policy prevents increasing contract costs from diverting property tax funding from parks, planning, and administration services. The City's Public Safety Fee, enacted in 2021, added a flexible funding mechanism for public safety expenditures including law enforcement services.

Last year, the City Council approved a \$2.00 adjustment from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per month reflecting a \$0.75 adjustment to cover increased LCSO contract costs and a \$1.25 adjustment for code enforcement costs. At \$6.00/month, the revenue generated is roughly \$150,000.

At its March 10th meeting, the City Council increased Zumwalt Campground ticket costs for the upcoming Oregon Country Fair season to provide at least \$25,000 of revenue to address, in part, the LCSO contract funding gap. Additionally, Council directed staff to return with additional options for covering that gap.

At its April 14, 2025 public meeting, the City Council directed staff to bring forward a resolution to increase the Public Safety Fee from \$6.00/month to \$9.00/month. The increase would, in large part, close a funding gap for law enforcement services of approximately \$118,000 due to increased contract costs and the change from a half-time sergeant to a full-time sergeant in January 2025.

If property tax revenue continues to increase, the funding gap could diminish over time in five or six years. However, the use of cash reserves without an increase of the Public Safety Fee to cover the gap until that happens is not sustainable. There may only be one or two more years that cash reserves can be used without violating City budget policy for holding cash reserves

The table below summarizes these figures:

Expenditures		
	LCSO Contract	\$ 1,257,225
Revenues		
	Property Tax FY 2025	\$ 988,330
	\$6.00 Public Safety Fee	\$ 150,000
	Total	\$ 1,138,330
Difference w/ Total Estimate Revenue (Gap)		\$ 118,895
Zumwalt Fund Transfer		(\$ 25,000)
\$3.00/month Fee Adjustment to \$9.00/month		(\$ 75,000)
Law Enforcement Fund Cash Reserves		(\$ 18,895)
	Total	\$ 118,895
Gap		\$ 0

The resolution before the Council would raise the Public Safety Fee from \$6.00 to \$9.00, effective July 1, 2025. City Council may choose to what adjustment, if any is made to the Public Safety Fee.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Adopt Resolution No. 1442, a resolution establishing a Public Safety Fee Amount in Accordance with Ordinance No. 562 and repealing Resolution No. 1412, thereby increasing the Public Safety Fee from \$6.00 to \$9.00, effective July 1, 2025, as presented.
2. Adopt Resolution No. 1442, a resolution establishing a Public Safety Fee Amount in Accordance with Ordinance No. 562 and repealing Resolution No. 1412, as amended by Council.
3. Direct Staff to conduct further analysis on the public safety fee and come back to City Council in June with additional options.
4. Take no action, thereby maintaining the Public Safety Fee at \$6.00 per month.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Option #1 – Adopt Resolution No. 1442, a resolution establishing a Public Safety Fee Amount in Accordance with Ordinance No. 562 and repealing Resolution No. 1412, thereby increasing the Public Safety Fee from \$6.00 to \$9.00, effective July 1, 2025, as presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION

"I make a motion adopt Resolution No. 1442, a resolution establishing a Public Safety Fee Amount in Accordance with Ordinance No. 562 and repealing Resolution No. 1412, thereby increasing the Public Safety Fee from \$6.00 to \$9.00, effective July 1, 2025, as presented."

ATTACHMENTS

None