



Prineville City Manager Robb Corbett
May 13th, 2008

Staff Report – Information

Topic: Infrastructure development as it relates to Public Safety Services

Department: Police

Staff: Chief Eric Bush

Recommendation:

Provide direction to staff regarding the long and short term options for adequately funding staff and facilities for public safety within the City.

Overview:

This City of Prineville has seen unprecedented growth in three areas within the last few years, geographic area, population and demand on public safety services. Since 2003 the geographic area patrolled by City Police Officers has grown approximately thirty percent. Population and the demand for public safety services have grown approximately twenty percent. In that same time no new Police Officers have been added to our force. Oregon law limits growth in the tax base (main source of revenue for public safety) to 3 percent, even when the actual cost of providing those services increases significantly more. Laws and labor agreements have been established in the last five years that have eliminated past opportunities for efficiencies in the deployment of staff.

Prior to 2004 the resources for the general fund were supplemented by Railroad resources in amounts that varied from year to year, but consistently were between \$100,000 to \$300,000. The council provided direction to staff to reinvest those dollars into the Railroad, reload facility and dinner train rather than continuing the policy of transferring dollars to the general fund.

In 2000 a need was identified to expand the physical space of the Police Department and make major upgrades to the building. After staffing several options a plan was developed to build a new City Hall and do a complete renovation of the existing building at 400 NE 3rd St, increasing space for the Police Department and adding decades of useful life to the facility.

In 2004 the plan was cut back to the construction of a new City Hall and a simple expansion into the old City Hall space by the Police Department, which addressed, to some degree, the space issues, but did little to address the age and overall design problems of the building. On August 28th, the Council was briefed by a civil engineer regarding the precarious condition of the Police Department and its vulnerability to even a moderate seismic event. As a result the council directed that the public safety funding committee which had been recently established also develop a plan to replace the existing Police Department building.

The Public Safety Funding / Building committee was formed and has worked on these issues with the assistance of staff for approximately the last 8 months.

Discussion:

In order to meet minimum staffing objectives for the Police Department, including the 911 center, would require nearly \$500,000 in new revenue, annually in today's dollars. Many options were evaluated, but the ideal solution recommended by the committee was forming a special district for the 911 center thus freeing up an obligation to the general fund of somewhere between \$300,000 to \$550,000 annually, along with other efforts to raise revenues, where appropriate, and evaluating the current distribution of general fund dollars, making more funds available to the Police Department.

In order to replace the current facility a target amount of at least \$5,000,000 dollars was identified, plus the cost of land for a site. Fortunately several options were identified to reduce the overall resource requirement. One is the revenue generated from the sale of the current facility. Two, would be the use of existing real estate owned by the City to site a new police department or use to trade for a site. Third would be the liquidation of City owned property inventory to raise cash for the construction of a new Police Department.

Budgetary Considerations:

Sources of revenue.

Special district.

Real estate inventory.