

Josephine (JO) County (CO) Justice System (JS) & Public Safety Services (PSS)

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services¹⁻⁴

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. They both failed. **“Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?”**

SECURING OUR SAFETY (SOS)⁵

<http://securingoursafety.org/>

Mission⁵ “A Citizen-Voiced Plan to provide for a secure, stable and sustainable Josephine County.”

Securing Our Safety (SOS)⁶ SOS is a non-profit that formed in 2012.



SOS's Frequently Asked Questions⁷ For the full list of SOS's 43 JO CO JS&PSS issue questions and answers, please see <http://securingoursafety.org/qa/>.

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.
2. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission*. Hugo, OR.
3. HNA&HS. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.
4. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.
5. Securing Our Safety. Downloaded July 29, 2013. *Home Page of SOS*, <http://securingoursafety.org/>. Grants Pass, OR.
6. SOS. Downloaded July 29, 2013. *SOS Teams*. <http://securingoursafety.org/the-can-do-list/>. Grants Pass, OR.

Community Response After Sheriff Had To Cut Services

FAQ SOS's 11 most important questions of the total 43 FAQ follow.

FAQ 1. What's the problem? ANSWER: JO CO has lost most of the federal/timber funding that used to support criminal justice program costs. The temporary levy to fund the JO CO JS and replace these revenues (sheriff's office, county jail, district attorneys, juvenile center) was voted down in May of 2012. Without that funding, much of the JO CO JS is now shut down. Many crimes are not even prosecuted right now as a result and only a very small part of the adult jail is being used. The juvenile justice center is shut down and only a few juvenile beds are rented from Jackson CO. There are only a few deputies patrolling the rural parts of the CO and divisions such as detectives that served the rural CO are also shut down. Many people and crimes are not getting the service they deserve and the City of Grants Pass and entire CO are starting to see more crimes and more repeat offenders.

FAQ 2. How much do we need to fund the CO JS?

ANSWER: Estimates used in last year's vote called for **approximately \$12 million per year to maintain roughly the same level of services we had prior to the failed levy** (functioning jail, District Attorney, juvenile justice, county sheriff). If this were funded through a permanent property tax, the rate would be about \$1.99 across the entire CO (rate is per \$1,000 assessed value). This would equate to an annual cost of approximately \$300 per year for a home valued at \$150,000, or \$25/month. That's half a tank of gas or less per month. However, SOS Teams are working hard to find solutions to supplement local taxes and collecting input on the level of services residents desire throughout JO CO. We hope the eventual cost to restore services will be even less, because the costs of going without these services are even more severe than funding the services locally.

7. SOS. Downloaded September 5, 2013. *Frequently Asked Questions*. <http://securingoursafety.org/question-box-faq/>. GP, OR.

Securing Our Safety (SOS): Frequently Asked Questions

- FAQ 3. How are the CO's existing property taxes spent?
- FAQ 4. How much does it cost to lodge an inmate per day at the JO CO Jail?
- FAQ 5. How much does it cost for a new Deputy District Attorney (salary/benefits) at the JO CO District Attorney's Office for one year?
- FAQ 6. How much in discretionary funding does the CO have available for criminal justice services?
- FAQ 7. How many police officers does the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (GPDPS) have?
- FAQ 8. Who pays for the GPDPS and How is the GPDPS paid for? Is the GPDPS paid for through the CO tax?
- FAQ 9. So if I am a Grants Pass City Resident, how much extra do I pay for law enforcement than my CO brothers and sisters?
- FAQ 10. Why are CO taxpayers the only ones paying for the criminal justice system? Don't criminals in the city get put in jail too?
- FAQ 11. Explain in more detail the current property tax system, why there is a problem, and how much would a solution to this crisis cost?

SOS asks, “Not finding the answer you are looking for?” Please feel free to ask SOS a question.

Additional Educations Brochures identify SOS's other FAQs.

Exploratory Committee's Mission

Mission An independent Justice System and Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee (*Exploratory Committee*) to investigate the JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) issue was formed under the leadership of the Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society (HNA&HS).

Big picture ideas for the exploratory effort include the following.

1. Identifying the JS&PSS issue.
2. Identifying the JS&PSS sub-issues for research and analysis.
3. Identifying a range in level of services
4. Identifying a range of cost for services.
5. Identifying revenues for services.

The ultimate goal is an adequate justice system and public safety services. Is it possible to have a higher level of service for a lower cost? The purpose of the *Exploratory Committee* is to gather information adequate enough to understand the JS&PSS issues. This includes educational outreach efforts.

The *Exploratory Committee's* purpose is limited to investigating and researching the JS&PSS issues. It will not make evaluations of right or wrong, nor make recommendations on how to vote.

The contents of this brochure are expressions of the opinions and beliefs of those that contribute based on their thoughts and experiences. Hopefully, their efforts will assist the public toward informed decision-making.

- Donations Are Not Tax Deductible -

Edited by Mike Walker, Member, Exploratory Committee

Securing Our Safety, Inc.

PO Box 2626
Grants Pass, OR 97528
Tax ID # 46-1212712
SecuringOurSafety@gmail.com
www.SecuringOurSafety.org



HNA&HS Officers

Wayne McKy, Chair
Lis Butowitsch, Treasurer
Mike Walker, Education Chair

Exploratory Committee Members

Mike Walker, Chair
3388B Merlin Road # 195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-471-8271
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Wayne McKy, Member
Karen Rose, Web Master
Jon Whalen, Member

Justice System Exploratory Committee

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

SOS's 11 MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Brochure III.K.3.2.8.1 (1 of 5)
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



FAQ 1. What's the problem?

FAQ 2. How much do we need to fund the county justice system?

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Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee