

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)⁵⁻⁶ SOS is a non-profit formed in 2012 (<http://securingoursafety.org/>).



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/>. SOS's 11 most important questions of the total 43 FAQ follow.⁸

FAQ 8. Who pays for the Grants Pass Dept. Public Safety (GPDPS) and How is the GPDPS paid for? Is the GPDPS paid for through the CO tax? ANSWER: Approx. 85% of the current fiscal year GPDPS budget is paid by property taxes on GP properties only. The rest comes from GP Public Safety (CPS) dedicated or restricted revenue sources along with approximately 5% of the GPDPS budget coming from discretionary GP general fund revenues. The GP relies on CO services such as the jail and the JO CO District Attorney (DA), but the GP does not receive any CO tax revenue. However, GP residents pay the same CO tax rate as CO residents because we all share in the services provided by the CO.

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.

Community Response After Sheriff Had To Cut Services

FAQ 8 ANSWER (cont.) GP property tax dollars only support services inside GP because only GP residents pay for those services. CO property tax rates only pay for services provided by the CO (City budget).

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? ANSWER: This is difficult to answer precisely because GP has a consolidated Public Safety Department that handles police, fire, and operates the 911 Agency and takes all 911 calls in the CO under contract. Police and fire share a management team and share facilities. Separating only law enforcement in this consolidated structure is difficult. Also keep in mind that in JO CO outside of the City, residents must pay a separate fee for fire protection. The tax rate in GP will be higher, but the level of service is also significantly higher as GPDPS operates police, fire, and 911 call taking services 24 / 7 (City budget).

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? ANSWER: Actually, everyone in the CO, both in and out of the cities pay the same rate for CO services. CO taxes are based on a permanent tax rate (PTR) of \$.5867 per thousand of assessed value (AV). A property owner assessed at \$150,000 will pay \$88 in CO taxes to the general fund regardless of whether or not they are located in a city or a rural area (JO CO).

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? ANSWER: The CO's PTR is approx. 58 cents per \$1,000 of a property's AV and everyone in the cities and CO pays this rate. **Of the 58 cents, in the current year approx. 32 cents goes to Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Services (LE/CJS)**. JO CO has the lowest tax rate in the whole state because federal funds used to provide the rest of the \$ to operate the CJS.

Securing Our Safety (SOS): Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ 11 ANSWER (cont.) In GP, in addition to the CO's tax rate GP residents pay more than \$6.00 per \$1,000 in assessed value, all of which goes to PSS (mostly police and fire services). While GP has a consolidated management and facilities structure for police and fire, slightly more than \$4 of the rate would be the estimated cost for LE while close to approximately \$2 would be the cost for fire services.

The services GP provides are for the most part different than the services the CO provides. The CO operates the jail, juvenile justice, DA, and has rural patrol. GP has police, fire, and also operates a consolidated 911/dispatch center. A number of stakeholders have suggested GP and CO should combine forces, but the services provided are very different. CO residents pay 32 cents while GP residents pay more than \$4.32 for LE/CJS.

What may end up happening is the CO studying a district for services that are operated by the CO that we all share – specifically the adult jail, juvenile justice, the DA, and perhaps even a service such as animal control. SOS estimates that the combined cost for all GP and CO residents for all these services that we share would be an additional \$1.25 to \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed values if property taxes were the method chosen to pay for the services **(at the level they were at last year, not the higher service level our citizens want)** (CO & City budgets).

Additional Educations Brochures identify SOS's other 11 most frequently FAQ.⁸

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.

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

8. Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee. 09/05/13. *SOS: 11 Most Frequently Asked Questions*. Brochure III.K.3.2.7.1 (1 of 3). Hugo, OR.

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.3.2.8.3 (3 of 5)

Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



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?

Very Draft September 5, 2013

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee