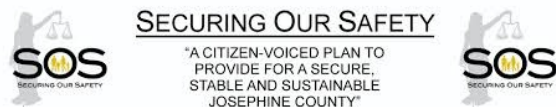


Josephine (JO) County (CO) Justice System (JS) & Public Safety Services (PSS)

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 that formed in 2012. <http://securingoursafety.org/>



Selected FAQs of SOS's 43 JO CO JS&PSS issue questions.⁷ SOS and its volunteer members are trying to collect answers to any questions that come their way regarding funding proposals or questions. The following are selected questions and answers.

FAQ 4. How much is the proposed County Levy? \$1.48 per thousand of property assessed value (not market value); This will raise **\$9,150,741** in 2013.

FAQ 5. Does all of the \$1.48 of the Tax Levy go to the Criminal Justice System? The levy funds go to fund following programs.

- Adult Jail (inmate capacity)
- Sheriff Deputy Response/Patrol
- Sheriff Office Civil Services
- School Security and Resources
- District Attorney
- Juvenile Justice
- Animal Protection

Community Response After Sheriff Had To Cut Services

FAQ 6. What specific services would I expect to see increased as a result of my participation in the levy? As outlined in Question #5, the levy provides for increased jail beds, increased deputies, added school security officers, additional DAs to prosecute offenders, re-establish juvenile justice services, and provides for animal protection (not shelter operations); **This levy will not provide full services in all departments, it is ONLY for those programs specifically listed in FAQ #5.**

FAQ 12. Can the Sheriff deputize and utilize more volunteers such as people with concealed weapon permits? Not effectively.” The Sheriff’s Office cannot put volunteers, by themselves, into patrol cars, unless they have been licensed by the [Oregon] Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). Without training and certification by DPSST, volunteers’ roles would be limited to their current roles. **JO CO would be at risk in violating Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Sheriff’s Union if it were to use volunteers in place of union employees.**

This levy will not provide full services in all depts.

Today, as most of you know, we live in a highly litigious society and as such are constantly under the threat of litigation. Such litigation engages the “Deep Pocket” theory; which means, include everyone you can for a larger payout. If the plaintiff is successful not only the agency (ultimately the taxpayers) but the volunteer(s) stands to lose everything they own. The cost of just one such case can devastate an individual and/or the community.

We currently use about 200 volunteers in areas such as; search & rescue, reserve deputies, neighborhood watch, posse, staffing our sub-stations in Merlin and Cave Junction, and helping at the JO CO Jail. Some of these functions require extensive training and a high level of commitment (Source JO CO Sheriff Gil Gilbertson).

Securing Our Safety (SOS): Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ 13. Can the Sheriff run the jail with volunteers?

No. The potential of being sued is astronomical. The amount of time, training, supervision, and cost; plus, the extreme commitment of a civilian makes this a non-starter.

FAQ 14. The sheriff should do like in Arizona... build jails made of tents with barbed wire and keep the inmates in pink outfits...don’ make the jail a “good” place to go.” Is the Sheriff able to do this? Although I like the idea I have to say no. **The laws in Oregon preclude this concept.** Once again, it would require more staff to accommodate such an undertaking (Source JO CO Sheriff Gil Gilbertson).

FAQ 17. Are all 911 calls answered in JO CO even now? If so, by whom? The JO CO 911 Agency contracts with the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety to answer all incoming JO CO 911 phone calls. This is accomplished by dispatchers (employed by the City of Grants Pass) who are already staffing a consolidated dispatch center. When 911 phone calls are received, the dispatcher sends (dispatches via radio) the appropriate units (e.g., city fire, city police, rural fire districts, AMR Ambulance, etc.). One exception is that the JO CO Sheriff’s Office (JCSO) operates its own stand-alone dispatch center. In the case of a 911 phone call that would be a JCSO responsibility, the call is either forwarded to their dispatch center, or to the Oregon State Police for evaluation and dispatch (Source GPDPS Chief Joe Henner).

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

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Justice System Exploratory Committee

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

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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

SELECTED FAQs OF SOS's 43 FAQs

Brochure III.K.3.2.8.4 (4 of 5)
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



Very Draft September 5, 2013

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee