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

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services¹⁻²

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

May 29, 2012 The number of **patrol deputy positions** will drop from 24.5 to six. Three of those are contract deputies, specifically assigned to patrol Cave Junction, BLM forests, and Oregon State Marine Board waterways. That leaves two deputies and a sergeant for the rest of the county.^{2A}

October 17, 2012 O'BRIEN, Ore. -- There's no room in the county jail for burglars and thieves. And the sheriff's department in a vast, rural corner of southwest Oregon has been reduced by budget cuts to three deputies on **patrol** eight hours a day, five days a week.³

May 11, 2013 County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson cut his staff from 98 to 37 and closed most of the 262-bed jail. Deputies are only on **patrol** between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays.⁴

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.

2. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.

2A. Mortenson, Eric. May 29, 2012. *Josephine County Begins Dismantling its Sheriff's Office in Response to May Defeat of Tax Levy*. "Oregonian." Portland, OR

3. Barnard, Jeff October 17, 2012. 'Citizens Against Crime,' O'Brien Oregon Civilian Force, Organizes Via Facebook After Budget Cuts. For The Huffington Post.

4. Mapes, Jeff. May 11, , 2013. *Financially Troubled Oregon Counties Face Critical Turning Point Locally, in Legislature and in D.C.*. Oregon Live/"Oregonian." Portland, OR.

5. The Grants Pass Daily Courier. May 16, 2012. *Budget-Building, Layoffs, Jail Releases Ahead*. Grants Pass, OR.

1 Deputy or 0 Deputies Left, Down From 24.5

May 16, 2012 Layoff notices are due to go out this week to nearly 100 county employees, including to 70 of 98 Sheriff's Office employees; 20 of 30 Juvenile Department employees and eight of 24 District Attorney employees. The sheriff's **28-person patrol** division is expected to be cut to four: the sheriff and three deputies who by contract must patrol Cave Junction, rivers and federal forests.⁵

May 16, 2012 Voters, defeated a four-year tax proposal to fund local criminal justice programs, including jail, **rural patrol**, prosecution and juvenile department services. Gilbertson said he himself will respond to calls, with possible backup from three deputies obligated by outside contracts to patrol Cave Junction, rivers and federal forests. Oregon State Police also might be available to respond to emergencies.⁶

Chart 1: Approximately June 2013⁷ Rural patrol was technically from 22 to 3. The 3 contracted patrol deputies for the City of Cave Junction, rivers, and federal forests are not for private property rural patrol. Therefore, rural patrol for rural private property went from 19 personnel to 0 (zero).

6. Hall, Shawn, Reporter. May 16, 2012. *Voters Squash Criminal Justice Levy*. "The Grants Pass Daily Courier". Grants Pass, OR.

7. JO CO Sheriff's Office. 2012. *2011 vs. 2012 Staffing By Operational Division Of The JO CO Sheriff's Office* (Statistical Analysis Report). Grants Pass, OR.

8. Monaghan, Brendan, Guest Columnist. June 6, 2013. *Brendan Monaghan: Federal Timber Policy Sows Discomfort in Southern Oregon*. "Oregonian." Portland, OR.

9. Oregonian Editorial Board. June 29, 2013. *Lawmakers Expect To Sine Die: Oregon Legislatures Today*. "Oregonian." Portland, OR

10. The New York Times. July 5, 2013. *In Oregon, a Demand for Safety, but Not on Their Dime*.

JO CO Sheriff's Rural Patrol

June 6, 2013 Last month's defeat of two public safety levies has made the provision of essential services almost untenable. A story that went viral recently recounts how a Josephine County woman about to be burglarized and sexually assaulted called 911 and was told by the dispatcher that the county couldn't send anyone to help.⁸

June 29, 2013 Curry and Josephine have rolled law enforcement staffing back to the point that 911 calls that once would have been viewed as urgent sometimes receive responses that amount to, "Good luck taking care of yourself." Already, both counties have long stretches of time **without patrol coverage**.⁹

The **gaps in patrol coverage** lead to situations like one last summer that received national attention. A Cave Junction woman called 911 to report that her ex-boyfriend, who had hurt her before, was breaking into her house. Since no deputies were available in Josephine County, the dispatcher transferred her to state police, who offered this advice: "If he comes inside the residence and assaults you, can you ask him to go away?"

July 5, 2013 With the fiscal year that started on July 1, the Josephine County Sheriff's Office now has exactly one deputy left available for general calls in a county of 83,000 people — down from a high of 22 at full staffing a few years ago.¹⁰

Caution The number of Rural Patrol deputies can change monthly.

Want more information? Contact a member of the *Exploratory Committee*.

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 costs 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 -

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Justice System Exploratory Committee

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

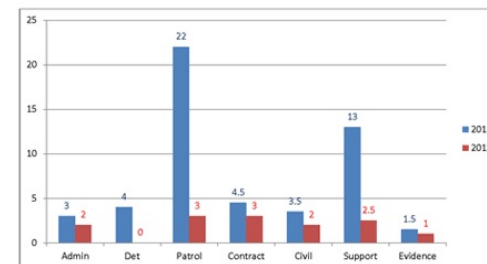
JO CO SHERIFF'S "RURAL PATROL" COVERAGE

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Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



JOSEPHINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Statistical Analysis Report

2011 VS. 2012 STAFFING BY OPERATIONAL DIVISION



The above chart show staffing by section/unit within the Operations Division for FY2011 and FY2012, the total reduction from 2011 to 2012 was 38 employees. (The above information does not include Jail staffing)

Patrol

Chart 1. 2011 vs. 2012 Staffing By Operational Division Of The JO CO Sheriff's Office
(Statistical Analysis Report)

What is an adequate level of PSS? According to HB 3453 and all media coverage the minimally adequate standard is historical costs, or approximately 12 million annually for the JO CO Sheriff's Office.

July 30, 2013

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee