

# Keeping the community safe

RESPOND FASTER • DETER CRIME • BE ACCOUNTABLE

## What is the problem?

### OUR COMMUNITY SAFETY SYSTEM IS STRESSED

- Calls for police service have increased 21 percent since 2014.
- Staffing levels have remained relatively flat.
- One out of three non-life-threatening police calls for service receive no response, and general response times have increased by 20 minutes.
- The number of unsheltered homeless adults is significantly higher than in many other similar communities.

The system includes police, fire, 911, municipal court, prevention and social services, which are interdependent and work together.

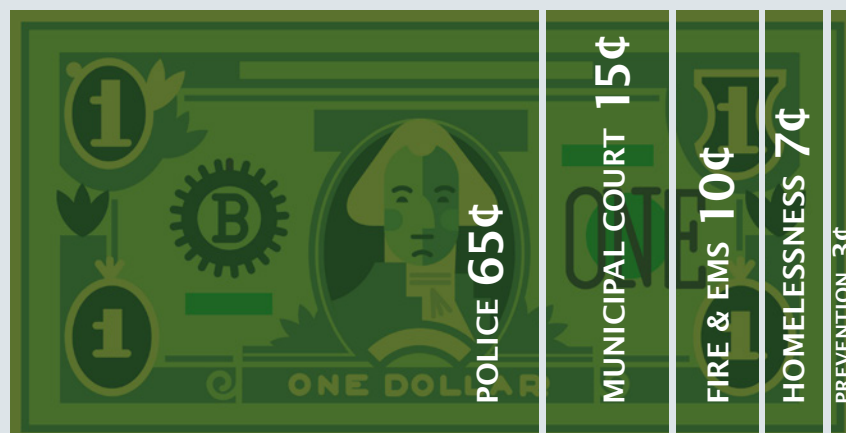


## What is the plan?

Since 2015, the City has identified ways to maximize existing resources and reduce demands on the overall Community Safety System. In 2018, Eugene City Council endorsed a one-time, 18-month \$8.6 million bridge strategy to continue effective programs and meet critical needs through June 2020. Ongoing funding is needed to address community safety.

**To create longer-term system stability is approximately \$23.6 million per year.**

### HOW THE FUNDS WILL BE SPENT



### FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

- 40 patrol officers, 5 detectives, 4 sergeants and lieutenant
- 10 community service officers, sergeant and lieutenant
- 9.5 staff for 911
- Street Crimes Unit
- Animal welfare and traffic safety officers
- Evidence control and forensic analysts
- 10 additional jail beds and increased jail services
- Opening 3rd municipal courtroom with additional staffing
- 911 triage/community response unit
- Expansion of Community Court and Mental Health Court
- Enhanced homeless services - emergency shelter options and day center
- After school programs at Title 1 schools

## Three-pronged approach

### RESPOND

This is the first priority with the goals of:

- Answering more calls
- Getting to more crimes faster, especially those that are low-level
- Using new tools and methods to increase efficiency

### RESOLVE

The goal is to resolve every situation in a way that is best for the people involved, as well as the community.

- More investigations
- More court services
- More accountability

### PREVENT

Many people are seen repeatedly. The goal is to reduce those interactions and help people deal with their challenges. Community partners are integral.

- Deter crime
- Connect people to services
- Engage at-risk youth early

## The funding proposal

The City Council reviewed several funding options to sustainably pay for the Community Safety System. The City Council voted on May 8 to send an ordinance for a shared Community Safety Payroll Tax to a public hearing to get feedback. The proposed tax would be collected by employers operating within Eugene. Both employees and employers would pay the tax. This chart shows the rates employees and employers will pay and examples of the cost:

#### EMPLOYEE

\$20/hour working 40 hours

Tax rate 0.4%

**\$14/mo**

#### MINIMUM WAGE EMPLOYEE

\$12/hour\* working 40 hours

Tax rate 0.2%

**\$4/mo**

#### EMPLOYER

with \$500,000 gross payroll/year

Tax rate 0.2%

**\$83/mo**

\*Minimum wage in 2020

Funds will only be used to pay for community safety services. Protections in the proposed ordinance passed by the Council include:

- Creating a separate fund for payroll tax revenue
- Ensuring that payroll tax funds won't replace existing funding
- Requiring an independent financial audit
- Establishing a citizen advisory board to review annual performance audits
- Requiring a 7-year review and reauthorization

## Share your thoughts

### PUBLIC HEARING

**TUESDAY, MAY 28 at 7:30 PM**

**EUGENE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY**

**Bascom-Tykeson Room, 100 W 10th Ave., Eugene OR**

- **Attend or watch the webcast** at [eugene-or.gov/webcast](http://eugene-or.gov/webcast).
- **Give testimony.** The sign up to speak opens at 7 pm.
- **Submit written testimony.**  
Online: [eugene-or.gov/CommunitySafety](http://eugene-or.gov/CommunitySafety)  
Email: [mayorcouncilandcitymanager@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:mayorcouncilandcitymanager@ci.eugene.or.us)  
Mail: Mayor and Council, City of Eugene, 125 E. 8th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401



Find the most current information on community safety at:  
[eugene-or.gov/CommunitySafety](http://eugene-or.gov/CommunitySafety) or by calling 541-682-5587