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City of Waldport

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County rejects enhanced south county patrol proposal

The City of Waldport has been informed that Lincoln County has rejected the proposed approach to enhanced sheriff's office patrols in South Lincoln County. In a conversation Wednesday morning, the Lincoln County Sheriff Curtis Landers informed the City Managers from Waldport and Yachats that the County Administrator Tim Johnson had rejected contributing to the new shared model proposed by Waldport. This may lead to significantly reduced patrol coverage for the county.

"For over two decades Waldport has paid more than half its city property taxes towards enhanced patrol coverage. With an 11% increase in costs this year, we requested that a blended option be considered, with the county covering 20%, but allowing the deputies to Patrol outside the city," said Dann Cutter, city manager. "Both the sheriff's calculations and ours put the deputies outside the contract area that much anyhow – we thought it only fair the burden be shared - formally allowing the increased coverage under the contract."

In communication with the city, Sheriff Landers had supported the joint proposal, expressing that it would greatly enhance the current patrol system.

"We are surprised by this response from county administration. Yet again, south county is treated like an afterthought," said Greg Holland, mayor. "Lincoln County's administration has failed to increase patrol deputies along with population growth in several decades yet is willing to spend over \$150/night per person on a warming shelter. We don't begrudge those seeking a warm bed, but at what point do we see them protect the actual taxpayers."

The council will consider how to proceed at the budget hearing May 23rd, at 1600.

For additional information contact the City at 541-563-3561 or email dann.cutter@waldport.org

The City of Waldport, founded in 1911, lies near the center of the Oregon coastline, at the mouth of the Alsea River. It has a population of 2321 as of June 2021, and enjoys a wide range of outdoor activities, crabbing and fishing, hiking trails and a beautiful oceanfront.

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