



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Summary Minutes

Sheriff's Office Work Session

August 21, 2025. 9:00 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell.

Board's Office: Jan Fritz, Jon Heynen, Heather Inyama, Matt Lawyer, and Trevor Lane.

Legal Counsel: Sabastian Tapia, and Steve Elzinga.

Business Services: Tamra Goetsch.

Sheriff's Office: Shane Burnham, Jacob Ramsey, Mike Hartford, Jeremy Landers, and Nick Hunter.

Citizen: Kathy Rogers.

Salem Reporter: Madeleine Moore.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Evidence

- Preparing to move evidence to a new storage facility:
 - Significant challenges due to a backlog created by previous understaffing.
 - Need to relabel all evidence items.
- There are two full-time evidence technicians and one supervisor:
 - One tech is on medical leave.
 - It is difficult to keep up with daily tasks and the move.
- All evidence must be relabeled and entered into a new records management system (EIS):
 - Previous system's data was not migrated.
 - Up to 40,000 items, each must be physically touched and relabeled.
- Only evidence technicians can supervise the handling of evidence:
 - Non-technicians (including modified duty staff) can only help if an evidence tech is present.
- The move is complicated by need to maintain chain of custody and accreditation standards:
 - Strict control over access and keys.
- Disposal of evidence is a challenge due to the closure of the Covanta incinerator:
 - Handled destruction of evidence.
 - Alternative methods are in place for guns:
 - Contract with Gun Busters.
 - Biohazards:
 - Health department contracts.
 - Non-contraband items:

- Dumpster disposal.
- Drug evidence must be incinerated:
 - Currently requires long-distance transport.
- Regional solutions are being explored with Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and other counties.
- Environmental regulations with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have hindered the establishment of local incinerators.
- The move is expected to take about three months:
 - A methodical plan being developed by the evidence supervisor.
 - Due in two months.
- Prioritize relocating older evidence first and organizing efficiency, and ensure daily operations continue.
- Temporary hires are a possibility:
 - Triggers a mandatory inventory of 5% of all evidence items upon the temps departure.
 - Adds a significant workload.

304B Program

- This federal program offers discounted pharmaceuticals for underserved and uninsured populations:
 - Could benefit the jail's population by reducing medication costs.
- Two eligibility paths:
 - Partnering with a local hospital:
 - Assume compliance responsibility.
 - Reluctant due to liability concerns.
 - Need for inmates to be considered hospital patients.
 - Partnering with the county health department:
 - Makes the jail a sub-grantee for specific grant-funded programs (e.g., STD testing).
 - Limit discounts to certain medications (STI, HIV, hepatitis).
- The health department is providing some services (STD testing, education):
 - Open to expanding its role.
- Broader pharmaceutical discounts (including psychotropic drugs) require a hospital partnership.
- Compliance is complex, requiring detailed policies, procedures, and documentation to ensure eligibility and avoid violations.
- Other counties have attempted similar partnerships:
 - Limited success.
 - Due to the complexity of compliance.
 - Limited scope of eligible medications.
- Ongoing research is being done:
 - Webinars.
 - Best practices from other jurisdictions.
 - Meetings with the health department and local hospitals to explore options.

Hospital Costs

- Contract with Salem Health for inmate medical care is under renegotiation:
 - Seeking to increase the payment rate from 60% to 80% of invoices:
 - 5% increase in year one.
 - 10% in year two.

- 5% in year three.
- Requested a 50% rate (cash rate offered to uninsured individuals):
 - Salem Health declined.
 - Seeking to apply the new rates retroactively to unpaid bills:
 - The county disputes this.
- Concern about fairness:
 - County should not pay more than uninsured individuals or Medicaid for the same services.
 - Legal review is suggested to address potential regulatory issues.
- Medicaid at times covers hospitalizations for inmates who stay over 24 hours:
 - Approvals can be reversed after the fact.
 - The county being billed for the full amount, sometimes over a year later.
- Need higher-level negotiations with hospital leadership:
 - Legal counsel to address rate-setting, retroactive billing, and parity with other payers.
- Annual costs for hospital care have nearly doubled over four years:
 - Significant budget implications for the county.

180 Fund Realignment

- Community corrections funding from the state has been reduced
 - Transition Center closure and cuts to vacant positions:
 - Deputies, a supervisor, and a victims advocate.
- The Transition Center provided emergency housing for high-risk individuals (level three sex offenders, arsonists, murderers):
 - \$400,000 per year for 8-10 people per night.
 - Mostly covered by overtime staffing.
- Alternative housing options explored:
 - Contracting with local hotels:
 - Less expensive but lack supervision and has liability risks.
 - Private security or facility security aides, which require hiring additional staff.
- The board expressed strong opposition to closing the program:
 - Without a viable alternative, citing public safety concerns.
- Nonprofit partnerships are a potential solution:
 - They house similar populations and may staff the facility at lower cost.
- The Transition Center is undergoing a \$700,000 renovation:
 - Upgrades to the control tower to create a hybrid secure/transitional facility.
 - The board agreed with the current construction plan:
 - Consider future flexibility for different uses.
- Need a work session to discuss:
 - Priorities.
 - Funding.
 - Long-term solutions for community corrections.
 - Offender housing.
 - The Transition Center's role.
- Propose reallocating funds from the center to support critical positions in community corrections and the jail:
 - Breakdown of costs for rehiring deputies, a supervisor, a victims advocate, and restoring training and contingency funds.

ArcGIS Graffiti Map

- New system developed to enhance graffiti response, reporting, and analysis.
- The system allows for:
 - Public and staff reporting of graffiti incidents:
 - Including photo uploads and location mapping.
 - Status tracking for each incident, visible to users:
 - Reported, assigned, and resolved.
 - Improved coordination with code enforcement officers:
 - Able to document and close cases in the system.
 - Integration with community partners and work crews for efficient response and documentation.
 - Enhanced crime analysis capabilities:
 - Identification of patterns and potential gang activity.
- Expected to improve efficiency, transparency, and data-driven decision-making in graffiti abatement.

Other

- Removal of a vehicle related to a PGE issue:
 - Consent forms have been signed, and action is underway.
- Need to optimize contractor work and consider facility design for future flexibility.
- Union Gospel Mission's insurance limitations on housing level three sex offenders:
 - Maximum of three at a time.
- Need creative and collaborative ideas for housing and supervision of high-risk populations.

Next Steps:

- Schedule a work session (or community corrections board meeting) to address:
 - Priorities and funding for community corrections.
 - Transition Center.
 - Offender housing.
- Evidence supervisor to give comprehensive move plan within two months:
 - Updates as needed.
- Continue negotiations with Salem Health:
 - Including legal review of rate-setting and retroactive billing issues.
- Exploration of 340B program ideas with the health department and local hospitals.
- Rollout and refinement of the ArcGIS graffiti mapping tool.
- Follow-up on the removal of the vehicle related to the PGE issue:
 - Report progress.
- Detailed cost breakdowns and hiring plans funded by the 180 Fund realignment.
- Regular updates on major projects and challenges.

Adjourned – time: 10:35 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White