

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 20-10-27-4

In the Matter of Adding 4.0 FTE Deputy Sheriff Positions in the General Fund within the Department of Public Safety by Allocating up to \$2 million in Secure Rural Schools Road Fund Reserves and up to \$2 million in General Fund Reserves to provide Five Years of Improved Rural Patrol Services

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to increase rural patrol services and add designated District Deputies to the McKenzie River Valley for disaster recovery following the Holiday Farm Wildfires and to West Lane County which is the most geographically difficult region to provide services from the central office in Eugene; and

**WHEREAS**, ORS 368.706 provides that payments from timber or Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payments “received by a county...and deposited into that county’s road fund may be expended for patrolling within the county by county’s law enforcement officials;” and

**WHEREAS**, the County Road Fund FY 20-21 budget contains \$3,128,511 in SRS Reserves for Future Projects which are not part of the County’s required reserve for the Road Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing County Road Fund required reserve has decreased from the desired 40% down to 32% due to impacts from COVID-19 on Highway Funds/Gas Tax revenue decreasing and a plan to replenish that reserve will be needed in the near future; and

**WHEREAS**, the County General Fund has a \$4 million reserve previously designated for replacement of the current Lane County Courthouse and that project has been delayed; and

**WHEREAS**, the County’s Road and Bridge system has experienced an estimated \$4.14 million in damages from the Holiday Farm Wildfire and the County also has identified needed road and bridge maintenance, preservation and improvement in other regions of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the addition of 4.0 FTE Deputy Sheriff positions will allow the Sheriff to provide designated District Deputies in the McKenzie River Valley area and West Lane County and the allocation of the remaining Future Projects Road Fund SRS Reserve will provide funds for use by Public Works for road and bridge infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners received a presentation on this request at the October 27, 2020 meeting and expressed a desire to review the success of these additions before the end of the five year funding period and requested a report back in approximately two years’ time;


**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. Allocate up to \$2 million from the Road Fund SRS Future Projects Reserve and up to \$2 million from the General Fund Reserve to provide 5 years of increased Rural Patrol Services to McKenzie River Valley and West Lane County; and

2. Allocate the remaining \$1,128,511 SRS Future Projects Reserve in the Road Fund to be used by Public Works as needed for road and bridge infrastructure; and
3. Approximately two years from the date of this Order, the success of the Deputy additions will be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners and consideration of options for stable funding for Rural Patrol Services for the entire County will occur; and
4. A plan to replenish the Road Fund reserve will be considered as part of FY 21-22 annual budget process.
5. The Total FTE for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, be increased as follows:

<u>GENERAL FUND (124)</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Public Safety (Sheriff's Office)	4.0

**ADOPTED** this 3rd day of November, 2020.




---

Heather Buch, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners