



Ashland/Talent – CONSOLIDATION STUDY

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City Manager Joe Lessard
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Overview of Two Departments/Communities

CITY OF TALENT

6,141 population

1.32 square miles in city boundaries

CITY OF ASHLAND

21,620 population

6.64 square miles in city boundaries

350,000 tourists + SOU resident students



Budgets for Both Departments

Ashland Police Department (APD)

- Annual Budget is approximately \$8,000,000
- Full staffing is 28 sworn officers and 7.5 non-sworn officers
- Plus, cadets and park patrol

Talent Police Department (TPD)

- Annual Budget is \$1,621,663
- Full staffing is 8 sworn officers and 1.5 PT non-sworn officers

TIMELINE

Events Leading up to Partnership

- **2017** APD staffing authorized to increase to 33 (never realized)
- **2019** APD staffing at 30
- **2020** TPD saw staffing drop, while APD was still good
- **2020** TPD & APD started talking about consolidation
- **2021** TPD & APD entered into an agreement to provide training, on-call supervision as needed and eventually cover 12 hours of patrol
- **2021** APD staffing dropped due to retirements, transfers and exit from LE. APD had to back away from providing regular shift coverage



Where we are now

Current Ashland Agreement with the City of Talent

\$750/month for access to training, sergeants and detectives as needed

\$110/hour for shift vacancies that will cover...

- Overtime cost with rollups
- Gas/wear & tear on APD patrol car



STUDY RESULTS

Study suggested options for Talent going forward

1. Re-establish TPD in its entirety \$1,648,393
2. Contract with Jackson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) at a cost of \$1,369,143
3. Contract/Consolidate with APD at a cost of \$1,470,315
4. Contract with Phoenix PD at a cost of \$1,038,392

The study also noted that there are qualitative issues at play



Options Moving Ahead

- APD is succeeding in rebuilding its staffing
- Mid-2023 targeted for completion of staffing, barring unexpected exits from the department
- Appears TPD intends to retain their own fully staffed police team
 - *TPD is fully staffed and resuming full operations*
- TPD desires to continue with the current APD partnership
 - *Access to training, supervisors and detectives*
 - *Shift coverage as needed (diminishing as TPD staffing increases)*
- APD desires to continue the current partnership with TPD and is open to more cooperative opportunities in the future





QUESTIONS?