

AGENDA
Law and Justice Council
Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center

This Council meets about, and takes action on, issues pertaining to local criminal justice matters. This includes but is not limited to: Issues regarding jail management and DOC coordination, local crime trends and availability of criminal justice resources, sharing of information, personnel and infrastructure to reduce duplication of efforts and facilitate policing and supervision efforts to reduce recidivism and enhance responses to offender violations.

Approval of Minutes (Action)

- February 22, 2022

Introductions

- Around the Room Introductions

New Business

- Review, for approval, of the response letter for the County Commissioners (Action)

Old Business

- Questions from the County Commissioners
 - Should the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) be renewed?
 - What has the PSST revenue been utilized for since its inception and how has the region benefited?
 - What is the Council's recommendation on the tax rate?
 - If the tax is renewed should there be a sunset and, if so, what should the time frame be?
 - Should costs related to Southeast Communications (SECOMM) and regional 911 be included as eligible uses of the tax? If so, who contributes to (SECOMM) and how much?

Other Business

Public Comment

To: Benton County Commissioners
From: Law and Justice Council
Date: March 1, 2023
Subject: Answers to the Questions Posed

On February 14th, Law and Justice Council Chair, Kennewick Police Chief Chris Guerrero, received the below questions from the Benton County Commissioners via the Deputy County Administrator. These questions were discussed at Law and Justice Council (“the council”) meetings on February 15th and February 22nd. The answers to the questions below received unanimous votes.

Should the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) be renewed?

Answer: Yes

What has the revenue generated from the PSST been utilized for across the region since its inception? How has that benefited the region?

Answer: This information will be shared directly to the Deputy County Administrator via each jurisdiction.

What is the LJC recommendation on the rate for the tax should it be renewed?

Answer: Continue with 3/10's

If the tax is renewed should there be a sunset and, if so, what time frame should that be?

Answer: Based on the jurisdictional continued need, the council recommends no sunset. If the Commissioners determine there is a need for a sunset, the council recommends a 10 year sunset.

Should costs related to SECOMM and regional 911 be included as eligible uses of the tax? If so, who contributes to SECOMM and how much?

Answer: Yes, SECOMM and regional 911 should be included as eligible uses of the tax. Individual jurisdictions can provide who and how much each contributes to the Deputy County Administrator.