



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners  
FROM: Gary Schmidt, County Administrator  
RE: Funding Requests  
DATE: September 9, 2025

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**REQUEST:** Board direction on the provision of additional General Fund Support for the Victim Advocate Program (District Attorney's Office) and the Dog Services Program (Department of Transportation and Development).

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### Victim Advocate Program (Ask: Retention of 4 Positions)

The District Attorney's office was notified in August 2025 that two of their grants – the federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) and the state Crime Fees and Assessment (CFA) – will be reduced this year. The Oregon Department of Justice has stated they are able to partially offset the VOCA loss for this year; however, there would still be a reduction of approximately 4 full time employees. The chart below shows the current funding and reductions in each program:

Funding Source	FY 25/26 Budget	Reduction	New Totals
VOCA	\$515,000	(\$313,129)	\$201,871
CFA	\$250,000	(\$28,070)	\$221,930
Total:	\$765,000	<b>(\$341,199)</b>	\$423,801

The DA's Office is mandated to provide victim rights information to all victims of crime and to provide support throughout the criminal justice process, which includes requesting restitution for financial losses caused by a crime. With the current staff level, they provide these services in person and over the phone. They attend court with victims, process documentation of the rights they request and their restitution requests. They also proactively reach out to victims to notify them of events that will be happening in their case to ensure they have an opportunity to participate if they wish.

The loss of these positions will significantly reduce the office's ability to proactively reach out to victims. Essentially, they would have to prioritize the most serious crimes (homicide, sexual assault, assault, child abuse and domestic violence) and only provide written notifications to victims of crimes that are considered not as serious (property crimes, misdemeanor crimes).

### Dog Services Program (Ask: Addition of 2 Positions)

Dog Services provides a shelter to house stray and dangerous dogs. Dog Services also provides statutorily mandated rabies vaccination and licensing. Currently, shelter services operate 7 days a week with 7 staff to care for sheltered dogs.

Demand for dog shelter services has varied over the last 5 years, with highs of up to 1,000 dogs to pandemic lows of hundreds. While shelter services have been reduced over the past few years due to funding reductions, shelter needs are increasing: Dog Services sheltered 660 dogs over the past year. More than half of those dogs housed - 300-400 annually - are directly related to law enforcement encounters requiring officers to detain dogs.

The addition of 2 full time employees at a total cost of approximately \$250,000 was not approved in this year's budget request. As such, shelter capacity will need to be reduced to 15 dogs. While this is not a long-term solution, it will have the immediate impact of the following:

- Voluntary relinquishments of dogs and stray dogs will no longer be accepted.
- Once space limits are reached, law enforcement agencies will be informed that ONLY "high risk" dogs will be accepted for containment.
- Adoption services will be severely limited.

### Funding Source: Contingency or General Fund Reallocation

If the Board were to fund all or part of these two programs, the dollars could be drawn from contingency or through a reduction in General Fund Support for other departments.

The County's contingency policy requires any money withdrawn from that account must be replenished the following budget year.

### **OPTIONS:**

Option #1: Fund the entirety of both the District Attorney budget request of \$341,199 and the Dog Services budget request of \$250,000.

Option #2: Partially fund both or only one of the requests.

Option #3: Do not grant any additional funds and direct both programs to operate with reduced funds.