

Council Business Meeting

January 19, 2021

Agenda Item	Letter of Intent to Explore an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Talent Supply with Police Services	
From	Tighe O'Meara	Police Chief
Contact	Tighe.omeara@ashland.or.us ; (541) 552-2142	

SUMMARY

Staff is coming before Council to seek authorization of a letter of intent to explore the possibility of providing police services to the City of Talent.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

26. Improve public communications and community partnerships regarding public safety policies and best practices.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

None

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The police departments of the Cities of Talent and Ashland have enjoyed a strong partnership for several years. In recent months, the City of Talent has contracted with Ashland Police Department (APD) to provide shift coverage as needed due to Talent Police Department being short staffed. Both cities wish to explore whether a more robust APD offering of police services would be beneficial to both communities. The best model for this offering, if any, remains to be determined. The options range from backing away from shift coverage entirely, to total consolidation of the two departments. There are several intermediate options as well. If the letter of intent for this exploration is authorized, staff will return to Council as needed to offer updates and to ask for appropriate direction for further steps.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The fiscal impacts of various models remain to be determined and would be an integral part of this exploration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council authorize the letter of intent.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

I move to authorize the letter of intent to further explore options for providing police services to the City of Talent.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Draft Letter of Intent



Letter of Intent

January 12, 2021

Adam Hanks, Interim City Manager
City of Ashland
20 East Main Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520

Interim City Manager Hanks,

The City of Talent would like to further explore the opportunity to develop a mutually beneficial Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Ashland to provide police services for our communities. The purpose of this IGA would be to consolidate resources and save money through economies of scale while ensuring public safety for our communities.

On December 16, 2020, the Talent City Council directed staff to continue discussions with the City of Ashland regarding the possibility of a future IGA between our jurisdictions that would address issues of public safety services staffing and funding of mutual concern.

The City of Talent appreciates the great regional partner City of Ashland has been over the years. We especially appreciate the recent support provided by the Ashland Police Department, and the leadership of Ashland Police Chief Tighe O'Meara, for patrol coverage through an existing contract.

Further discussion would enable us to develop a suite of options for the consideration of our respective City Councils that would include consideration of public safety needs, resources, and funding. The proximity of our cities makes our ongoing coordination and collaboration mutually important for the safety of our communities.

Please let me know if your City is supportive of us continuing to explore a mutually beneficial IGA.

Sincerely,

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Interim City Manager
City of Talent
110 East Main Street
Talent, Oregon 97540