

SULTAN CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

ITEM NO: D-2
DATE: December 3, 2009
SUBJECT: Jail Transport Van Service
CONTACT PERSON: Jeff Brand, Police Chief

ISSUE: The Snohomish County Jail has been conducting a pilot Jail Transport Van Service since November 1, 2009 to determine if the concept is cost effective and would be used.

The Jail Transport Van generally works Wednesday – Saturday from 2:00 to midnight and moves around the county as needed. As patrol units make arrests, they call the van and arrange a meeting location so the van staff can take custody of the deputy or officer's prisoner.

The benefit of this program is that it reduces the amount of time an officer or deputy is tied up on an arrest. On average, it takes Sultan Deputies between 1 ½ - 2 ½ hours to arrest and book a prisoner, depending on traffic and how many people are already waiting to be booked into the jail.

By utilizing the Jail Transport Van, deputies meet the van somewhere between Sultan and Everett and are usually only tied up 30 – 45 minutes, saving a substantial amount of time and money and getting the deputies back into Sultan much faster.

The Snohomish County Jail charges \$25 per prisoner that is transported and includes the transport cost with the city's jail bill each month. This trial period began November 1st and will end by December 31st and be evaluated at that time.

Sultan Deputies have used the Jail Transport Van seven times since the beginning of the trial period which means we should realize a \$175 transport bill for November. According to Sgt. Leslie VanderWel, her crew has used the van the most because of the hours and days it is in service. Sgt. VanderWel has told me the jail van staff has generally been able to come out to or near Sultan to pick up our prisoners which means the deputy is able to complete booking paperwork while waiting for the van and then turn prisoner and paperwork over to the jail and be available for calls. Leslie is very supportive of the program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Direct City Staff to negotiate an amendment to our Jail Services Contract, if the Jail Transport Van is instituted on a permanent basis and bring the contract back to Mayor Eslick and the Council for review and approval.

After the contract amendment is approved, direct staff to amend our 2010 budget to cover the cost of the service,

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Given the limited hours of the Jail Transport Van service, staff expects we will use it about ten times per month. At a rate of \$25 per prisoner for one year, we should see an **increase** of about **\$3,000** in our jail services bill in 2010.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council can choose not to utilize the Jail Transport Van service and direct Sultan Deputies to continue to transport and book prisoners themselves. This will reduce the hard cost of transporting prisoners but will continue to take deputies out of Sultan for an extended period of time.