



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SUNNYSIDE, WA
June 12, 2023

ITEM TITLE: Add Position to Jail/Corrections for Court Bailiff	PROPOSED COUNCIL ACTION: Authorize Position
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SUBMITTED BY	Jamison Horner
EXHIBITS	Corrections Job Description
APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER	May 31, 2023

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$40,300
BUDGET AMENDMENT	\$40,300

SUMMARY

Municipal Court officials including the Judge and Court Administrator met with the Administrative Services Director, Police Chief, and Police Commander to address issues that have cropped up in court security since the contract with the previous security company expired. The previous company was unable to renew due to lack of staffing, and the City has been working with the Yakima County Sheriffs Office to have off-duty Deputies screen attendees of court proceedings and standby during court sessions. Unfortunately, the current process has a lack of redundancy, which has caused issues with finding coverage when the Deputies are unavailable or have scheduling issues. Staff proposes adding an additional corrections officer position, and creating a work assignment of Bailiff within the department. This would allow our City staff to provide the required security and ensure that all shifts are covered regardless of planned or unexpected leave. While this does increase expenditures in the General Fund, Sunnyside operates the largest municipal jail in the county, as well as providing housing for other agencies across the state. It is important that we maintain adequate staffing for the safety of inmates and staff. The jail has been operating with the minimum staffing threshold for our operation and adding this position would not only provide the service to the Court, it would also increase coverage for the jail when court is not in session and provide more flexibility in scheduling.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the position of Court Bailiff and Authorize staff to amend the Classification & Compensation Schedule and include the amount in the next Budget Amendment.