

Keeping the community safe

RESPOND FASTER • DETER CRIME • BE ACCOUNTABLE

What is the problem?

OUR COMMUNITY SAFETY SYSTEM IS STRESSED

- Calls for police service have increased 21 percent since 2014.
- Staffing levels have remained relatively flat.
- One out of three non-life-threatening police calls for service receive no response, and general response times have increased by 20 minutes.
- The number of unsheltered homeless adults is significantly higher than in many other similar communities.

The system includes police, fire, 911, municipal court, prevention and social services, which are interdependent and work together.



What is the plan?

The Eugene City Council passed the Community Safety Payroll Tax Ordinance (No. 20616) in June 2019 to provide long-term funding for community safety services. The Community Safety Payroll Tax is expected to generate \$23.6 million annually to provide faster, more efficient safety responses, deter crime, connect people to services, engage and help at-risk youth, support more investigations and court services, and add jail beds to reduce capacity-based releases and hold those who commit crimes accountable.



FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

- 40 patrol officers, 5 detectives, 4 sergeants and lieutenant
- 10 community service officers, sergeant and lieutenant
- 9.5 staff for 911
- Street Crimes Unit
- Animal welfare and traffic safety officers
- Evidence control and forensic analysts
- 10 additional jail beds and increased jail services
- Opening 3rd municipal courtroom with additional staffing
- 911 triage/community response unit
- Expansion of Community Court and Mental Health Court
- Enhanced homeless services - emergency shelter options and day center
- After school programs at Title 1 schools

Three-pronged approach

RESPOND

This is the first priority with the goals of:

- Answering more calls
- Getting to more crimes faster
- Using new tools and methods to increase efficiency

RESOLVE

The goal is to resolve every situation in a way that is best for the people involved, as well as the community.

- More investigations
- More court services
- More accountability

PREVENT

Many people are seen repeatedly. The goal is to reduce those interactions and help people deal with their challenges. Community partners are integral.

- Deter crime
- Connect people to services
- Engage at-risk youth early

As a community we are at our best when we come together to solve our toughest challenges. We can keep Eugene a welcoming and safe place for all.

– Eugene Police Chief Skinner

Community Safety Payroll Tax

EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAX

TAX RATE

Employers (2 or Less Employees)*

0.0015

Employers (More than 2 Employees)

0.0021

*An employer with two employees or less would receive a reduced rate of .0015 on the first \$100,000 of payroll.

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL TAX

TAX RATE

Minimum Wage Employees**

0.0000

Employees Earning \$12.01-\$15/hour

0.0030

Employees Earning Above \$15/hour

0.0044

** As of July 1, 2020, the minimum wage in Eugene will be \$12 per hour.

Payroll tax estimator: eugene-or.gov/PayrollTax

Accountability

Funds will only be used to pay for community safety services.

Protections in the proposed ordinance passed by the council include:

- Creating a separate fund for payroll tax revenue
- Ensuring that payroll tax funds won't replace existing funding
- Requiring an independent financial audit
- Establishing a citizen advisory board to review annual performance audits
- Requiring a 7-year review and reauthorization
- Charter amendment capping the rates and limiting use to community safety



Find the most current information on community safety at: eugene-or.gov/CommunitySafety
Have questions? Contact us at CSpayrolltaxhelp@eugene-or.com or by calling 541-682-5053