



Public Safety Tax Oversight Committee Minutes

January 13, 2026 4:00 PM

17221 E. 23rd St. S, Independence, MO 64057
Conference Room 117

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm by Co-Chair, Bruce Frakes.

Roll Call

Members Present: Co-Chair, Bruce Frakes, Patrick Casey, Tara Kruse, Erin Boatright, and Charline Gray

Members Not Present: Chair, Brad Mudd

Also Present: Fire Chief Jimmy Walker, Deputy Fire Chief Kirk Stobart, Interim Police Chief Doug Brinkley, Deputy Chief Jason Petersen, Deputy Chief Michelle Sumstad, Dennea Leap, and transcriber Jennifer Schatz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 MEETING

A motion was made to approve minutes from the meeting on September 25th, 2025 by Erin Boatright, which was seconded by member Patrick Casey. All members in favor, no opposition.

UPDATE FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

The updates below were presented by Chief Jimmy Walker and Deputy Fire Chief Kirk Stobart.

Open/Unpaid Encumbrances:

- 1 Pumper Ordered - February 2026 delivery.
- 1 Pumper Ordered - October 2026 delivery.
- Station Design process — An email will be going out soon with information on the

groundbreaking ceremony at the Station 8 site. The groundbreaking for Station 5 will be sometime in August after the World Cup.

Completed Major Projects:

- 1 Pumper delivered and in service December 2025 and went to Pumper 8.

Projects in Process:

- 1 Pumper Ordered - Fall 2027 delivery
- 1 additional Pumper Ordered — Fall 2027 delivery (\$80k savings). A pumper was being built that someone ended up not wanting, which allowed the purchase at a discounted price.
- Station 1 west side parking lot — trees have been removed. We are seeing progress with the lot expansion and fencing.

Chief walker: We spent \$200k on new bunker gear. The previous gear was at a 10-year shelf life. The new gear will go to the next hiring class, seven new firefighters will be starting in the next few weeks and a new fire inspector has also been hired.

Chief Walker & Deputy Fire Chief Stobart met with the Arts Commission regarding a waiver combining the 3% given (total of \$300k) from all stations and doing a community project or an art installation/fire station type project.

Member Charline Gray: With the purchase of the pumper with new emissions, will it be exempt in 2027?

Chief Walker: The new standards won't take effect yet, we will be grandfathered in.

Deputy Fire Chief Stobart: The cutoff is if you order after spring and there is currently a two-year wait list on fire trucks.

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Fire Department

The members had no further questions for the Fire Department. A motion was made by Pat Casey and seconded by Tara Kruse. All in favor. The IFD report was approved by all committee members.

UPDATE FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT

The updates below were presented by Deputy Chief Jason Petersen and Deputy Chief Michelle Sumstad.

If you look at page four of the Quarterly Report, you will see a breakdown of transfers out. The construction projects are tied to the Justice Center, and the furniture/equipment amount is for new cubicles and desks in some spaces.

Pat Casey asked, "With the employees moved out of the IUC to the new building, does PD move in?"

DC Sumstad: There is still IPL-related business happening here with customer service. The second and third floors have a substantial completion date of February 11th, 2026. The furniture will move in on that date with a target date of April 1st for PD employees to move over here. The current staff at PD HQ (Detention, Patrol, Crime Scene, and Property/Evidence) won't move over until there are funds for the addition.

DC Petersen: Vehicles will be a priority for the FY 26/27 budget to get caught up. No vehicles were purchased out of the PST this year.

Tara: Last time we lost a contract and bought vehicles from Hwy. Patrol. Are these cars being replaced?

DC Petersen: We surplus vehicles through various reasons. It is a lot more manageable now. The insurance company payment will only do so much. We try to maintain a rotation ahead of running short on vehicles.

Tara: Are we back to enough manufacturing where we can buy more vehicles?

DC Petersen: Yes, we will be able to with respect to production as long as funding is there.

DC Sumstad: We will be taking delivery sometime next week on the command post. I went to Wisconsin along with a sergeant to do the final inspection. The command post that was purchased with FY 23/24 funds. The command post can be used at FIFA and Santa Cali Gon. The sergeant said that everything was well-thought-out in design, and it will all be used. We will have the command post available to look at by the next PST meeting in March.

If you look at page two of the Marijuana Tax Report, it shows information on the incinerator replacement. We were \$40k short for the RFPs and don't have the funding to support purchasing.

Co-Chair, Bruce Frakes: Is the incinerator used daily?

DC Petersen: No it is not.

On the Prop PD report, page three, it breaks down the unassigned fund balance. This is difficult to calculate due to the combining of the general fund and Prop PD. On page four it lists a breakdown of additional information on Object Codes that are running high. There are currently three items —

1. Overtime (5102) — running over budget on overtime costs department wide. We have used approx. 75% of the OT budget through November. This puts us on pace to exceed our OT budget by \$1 million dollars.

2. Professional Services (5226) — over budget here due to a contract for Interim Chief and Permanent Chief selection services.
3. Other Services (5240) — over budget due to the high number of liability claims. The claims were budgeted at \$80,000, and we have already been charged approx. \$112,000 in claims.

Pat Casey: Has this tax helped with staffing?

DC Petersen: Initially, there was a little bit of a rush with hiring, but during winter time it tends to slow down.

Co-Chair, Bruce Frakes: Have you seen lateral transfers?

DC Petersen: Yes, we have from Little Rock, Liberty and other cities/states. It helps when you can bring people in with lateral pay. With the activity Independence has, it is a busy town.

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Police Department

Members had no further questions for the Police Department. A motion was made by Erin Boatright and seconded by Tara Kruse. All in Favor. The IPD Quarterly Report was approved by all committee members.

2. Acceptance of Quarterly Use Tax Report from Police Department

Members had no further questions for the Police Department. A motion was made by Charline Gray and seconded by Tara Kruse. All in Favor. The IPD Quarterly Use Tax Report was approved by all committee members.

3. Acceptance of Quarterly Marijuana Tax Report from Police Department

Members had no further questions for the Police Department. A motion was made by Pat Casey and seconded by Charline Gray. All in Favor. The IPD Quarterly Marijuana Sales Tax Report was approved by all committee members.

4. Acceptance of Quarterly Prop PD Tax Report from Police Department

Members had no further questions for the Police Department. A motion was made by Charline Gray and seconded by Tara Kruse. All in Favor. The IPD Quarterly Prop PD Report was approved by all committee members.

NEXT MEETING MARCH 24, 2026, AT 4:00 PM

The next quarterly Public Safety Tax (PST) Oversight Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24th, 2026 at 4:00 pm at the Independence Utilities Center.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn made by Co-Chair Bruce Frakes, which was seconded by Erin Boatright. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.