



Public Safety Tax Oversight Committee Minutes

April 16, 2026 4:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Co-Chair, Bruce Frakes.

Roll Call

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

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 JANUARY 13TH, 2026, MEETING

A motion was made to approve minutes from the January 13th, 2026 meeting by Charline Gray, which was seconded by member Tara Kruse. 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:

- Station Design Process -
 - Ground-breaking and footings poured for Station #8 and Training building. This

is set to be completed sometime next year.

- Conceptual design done for Station #5 on Sterling, construction will begin August 2026. The design process for Station #8 has begun.

Completed Major Projects:

- 1 Pumper delivered and in service February 2026 at Station #6.
 - The frontline apparatus' in the last five years have been replaced.

Projects in Process:

- 1 Pumper Ordered - Fall 2027 delivery
- 1 additional Pumper Ordered — Fall 2027 delivery (\$80,000 dollars savings)
- Station #1 (Spring/24 Hwy.) west side parking lot trees have been removed
- The spec process for a new ladder truck has a 4-year lead time. There are only three manufacturers and these trucks cost at or above \$2 million dollars.

Q/A?

Member Tara Kruse: How are you doing on hiring?

Deputy Chief Stobart: We are playing catch-up, we hired six in January and are down four to five spots. Applications should start opening next month.

Member Tara Kruse: Are there a lot retiring?

Deputy Chief Stobart: We have had eight talk about retiring this year, and we currently have five out on a one-year leave of absence. We would like to ask to hire ten to twelve firefighters.

Chief Walker: On April 8th, 2026, council passed the local 781 bargaining contract. We will be advertising differently and encouraging current firefighters to promote. We are always playing catch-up. It takes six to nine months to make someone a Firefighter. We will be hosting a recruitment event in the Fall and are trying to build diversity.

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Fire Department

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

UPDATE FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT

The updates below were presented by Chief Doug Brinkley, 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, furniture/equipment and Greg's Lock and Key for keys at the Independence Justice Center.

We took delivery of the large Mobile Command Center and paid for it in February.

Deputy Chief Sumstad: We will have the Command Center present at the next meeting for you all to view.

Deputy Chief Petersen: We haven't hit PST yet for Motorola, this will come out this fiscal year. Our current handhelds are aging, and new ones are about \$8,000.00 dollars.

Chief Brinkley: If you look at page two of use tax (Prop P) report, you will see the total revenue at \$8,467,113.00. Page three lists the total encumbrances and YTD expenses at \$3,468,772.00.

The expenses include over \$3 million for personnel expenses (salaries and benefits), Academy training, Interfund Charges, Investment Advisor Fees, Uniforms and Gear for new officers and other machinery/equipment.

We currently have one officer vacancy in this fund with one officer resigning in February.

If you look at page two of the Marijuana Sales Tax, the total fund balance revenue for FY 25/26 lists \$891,160. The expenditures total lists \$230,487.00 which includes Animal Services, Community Development and Debt Service.

Member Patrick Casey: Is the Kiln still in the works for Animal Control?

Deputy Chief Petersen: The cost went up 50% from the first presentation. It will need to be replaced, but they are back under the Health Department.

Member Patrick Casey: Are you housing Animal Control people?

Deputy Chief Petersen: No, we were going to, but it never came to fruition.

Chief Brinkley: If you look at page four of the Prop P tax report, it lists the expenses and encumbrances. As of February 26th, 2026, we have spent 71.3% of our budget in this fund. The biggest expense is overtime. We have used approximately 75% of our OT budget through February 2026. This puts us on pace to exceed our overtime budget by \$1 million dollars.

Part of these expenses are due to an increase in salaries. The last two years, we have had to hold staffing which then backfills vacancies with overtime.

Member Tara Kruse: What are we doing to mitigate lawsuits with IPD? People don't understand,

is there a way to mitigate it, or will everyone realize they have to deal with it.

Chief Brinkley: This is the cost of doing business. With changes like limiting pursuits, this could reduce accidents and reduce claims. We are seeing the same with use of force and making sure the officers are using policy. Are supervisors correcting and training? There will be more oversight to reduce liability.

We are currently down 24 officers right now, we have conditional offers out to detention officers as some are going to the academy as PO Recruits.

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 Charline Gray. 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 Erin Boatright and seconded by Charline Gray. All in Favor. The Quarterly Use Tax Report was approved by all committee members.

3. Acceptance of Marijuana Tax Report from Police Department

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

The next quarterly Public Safety Tax (PST) Oversight Committee Meeting date has not yet been identified.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Co-Chair Bruce Frakes, which was seconded by Erin Boatright. All in Favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.