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The council, not the manager, will set the budget for the proposed external auditor/review board, but has not yet decided on the details. In 1998, the city estimated that a similar proposal (that failed very narrowly at the polls) would cost about \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year in salaries. This month, the city estimated that the total cost of adding three new positions to a stormwater program would be \$230,000 a year.

Supporters argue that the cost of the auditor/review board is another red herring since it would cost the same whether it's external and independent or internal and manager-controlled.

The real reason behind the union's opposition is simple, Chase said. "They like it just the way it is, which is they're basically unaccountable."

Whatever the cost, supporters argue, it's far less than the alternative. Although Taylor provided a detailed estimate of all the costs involved in the new auditor/review board, the city manager has refused to provide a similar detailed estimate of the total taxpayer costs of Magaña/Lara. The \$1.06 million in settlements so far may be just the tip of the iceberg. Another \$32 million in claims are still pending.

Also undisclosed is how much the city has spent on legal bills defending the lawsuits. Add up all the attorney fees, settlements, consultants, staff time, overhead, wasted salaries, meetings, prosecution costs, court costs, etc., spent on the two convicted cops and the total so far could easily exceed \$6 million. That doesn't include the cost of about 100 years of jail time (more than \$10 million), nor the high but less tangible costs of the damage to the department's reputation, morale and citizen trust.

"It's more expensive not to do it than to do

it," Luvert said of the measure.

Three ballot measures for a new police station have failed in recent years. Without police reform, "Who's going to vote for the police buildings?" asks Dr. Ed Coleman, a retired UO professor and leader in the black community. "Certainly not me."

The reasons for voting yes on 20-106 go far beyond Magaña and Lara, leaders of the city's minority and civil rights communities say.

Minorities have accused the Eugene police of racial profiling for years. A decade ago the city lost \$20,000 in a lawsuit by two black teens who were stopped and held at gunpoint by police. Last year, Cortez Jordan, another young black man, said he planned to sue after police singled him out for a stop and frisk. A Saudi man sued the city this year for \$5 million, alleging brain damage from the "Southtowne beat-down" he received from police.

The city commissioned a study a couple years ago that showed that minorities are far more likely than whites to be stopped and searched by police. But the department hasn't taken significant steps to reform the problem, or even admitted that it actually has a problem.

After Magaña, Lara and the racial profiling incidents, "the public doesn't have confidence in the Eugene police and shouldn't, really," said Dave Fidanque, director of the Oregon branch of the ACLU. That lack of trust costs more than money, he said. The distrust actually makes Eugene less safe, as community members "are less likely to report crimes, they are less likely to come forward as witnesses, and that compromises public safety."

The truly independent, external police review offered by Measure 20-106, Fidanque said, is "the only hope of restoring confidence in the Eugene police."

EW

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