

OFFICERS: Fees could range from \$1.35 to \$9.25 per bill

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If the fee were to be charged per dwelling, which means the fee would be assessed for each residence in an apartment complex as well as businesses, the rate would drop to \$7-\$8 per year – \$1.35 per bill for one officer, \$6.75 for all five.

“One of the challenges we face is that staffing costs aren’t static,” Wood said. “Cost of living increases, health insurance costs and PERS contributions all go up, and any fee will have to have some sort of escalation clause.”

City Manager Chris Eppley said that contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) are scheduled to increase by \$200,000 this year alone and similar increases can be expected every two years.

“Right when you get to the point of thinking you can do this, PERS hits you with another increase,” Eppley said.

Teague said the five officers would fill voids in the current roster. One officer would be assigned to traffic control, two would be added to patrol shifts in the evening and night, one would become a property crime detective and one would be added to the Community Response Unit, which specializes in longer term investigations.

“The traffic unit began in 1994 with four officers. There’s one now, and 11,000 more

people. We also have the same number of detectives as we had in 1994,” Teague said. “We don’t have a property crime detective and, at any given time, there are 30 cases waiting to be worked.”

Depending on who ends up filling the roles, recruits or lateral transfers, the timetable for getting a new officer on the street can range from one month to one year.

Wood also addressed concerns about paying the fees for those living on fixed incomes. At a city council meeting last week, resident Judy DeSpain urged the city to find some other way to collect the needed revenue. Wood said the city has payment plans and works with a network of nonprofits to help those in need and that no one was likely to have their water cut off as a result of inability to afford the fees.

The discussions about police funding are happening at the same time the city is considering adding fees to utility bills to improve parks throughout the city. The work session was intended to be a primer for city councilors to spread the word based on the same set of facts, but Mayor Cathy Clark stressed that it is not a question of either/or.

“This is not a debate of police vs. parks – both are livability issues, both are valid parts of our community – and I don’t want to set this up as adversarial,” Clark said.

School supplies needed

The eighth annual Salem-Keizer Education Foundation School Supply Drive kicked off Aug. 1 and runs through the end of the month.

The drive goal is restocking the School Supply Depot, a permanent, sustainable resource that provides year-round supplies to Salem-Keizer schools in need.

Community members can donate school supplies at the more than 85 businesses and organizations in Salem and Keizer. The drive helps take pressure off local teachers who often pay for school supplies out of their own

pockets.

Items needed include composition notebooks, alarm clocks, water color paints, dry erase markers, Sharpies, math graph paper, 9-volt batteries, baby wipes, glue sticks, colored pencils, scissors, staplers and staples, paper clips, pencil sharpeners, printer paper, scientific calculators, wooden dowels,

include:

Scotch tape, spiral notebooks, colored markers, highlighters, Post-It Notes, tissues, white glue, masking tape and duct tape.



Drop-off sites in Keizer include: Keizertimes, Courthouse Athletic Club, First Tech Federal Credit Union, Kaiser Permanente, Oregon State Credit Union, Starbucks and Town & Country Lanes.

TRASH,

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The second option would call for a 4 percent increase to residential and multi-family carts and a 7 percent increase to commercial services.

For a residential customer with the three standard-sized carts, rates would increase

to \$22.31 per bill. For a commercial customer with a 95-gallon roll cart, rates would increase from \$30.30 to \$32.42. For a business with a three-year, front-load container, rates would increase from \$176.61 to \$188.97.

Residential, multi-family and commercial rates would all increase by 5 percent under the third plan. The average residential customer’s bill would

increase to \$22.52 per cycle. A business with a 95-gallon roll cart would pay \$31.82. Three-year container rates would increase to \$185.44.

The city of Keizer collects a franchise fee for contracted waste management services by Valley Recycling and Lorens (as well as electric, natural gas and cable television services), but the city council must approve all rate changes.

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