



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 10, 2024

Public Safety Contract with the Town of Bennett in Negotiations

Adams County, Colo. (Jan. 10, 2024):

On January 9, 2024, the Town of Bennett Board of Trustees held an Executive Session to discuss the ongoing public safety contract with the Adams County Sheriff's Office for 2024. The Adams County Sheriff's Office has attempted to address this situation since April 2023. We continue working with the Town of Bennett to negotiate a contract to provide complete law enforcement services to town residents and businesses.

At this point, a public safety contract has yet to be agreed upon for 2024 as the town Board of Trustees continues to review the proposal Sheriff Claps presented to them in November of 2023. The proposed agreement provides for two deputies, 1/3 of a detective, ¼ of a sergeant, and ¼ of a commander, to provide complete law enforcement services. The cost for a mid-range deputy in the assigned rank and equipment is \$489,922.64 for 2024, the amount outlined in the agreement. While this assignment of personnel is below the State of Colorado's recommendation of 2.1 law enforcement officers per thousand population, the Sheriff will supplement the required deputies as necessary for their safety and that of the town's citizens. Based on the estimated population for the Town of Bennett as 4,700 residents, the agreed-upon allocation of 3 deputies is significantly below this recommendation.

Bennett's population has grown 43% growth since 2017. The previous public safety contracts for 2022 and 2023 were lowered to \$390,000 in consideration for the Town of Bennett's stated "financial hardship." This decrease led to costs incurred by the taxpayers of Adams County for services delivered to the Town of Bennett. As a law enforcement agency, we cannot underpay for vital personnel and equipment and safely provide quality service. The contract for 2024 that has been offered to the town Board of Trustees is a pass-through agreement that only includes the costs to the Sheriff's Office to provide service in the Town of Bennett. The proposed 2024 contract is below actual costs when body-worn camera data storage, pay rate for each deputy, and overtime are considered.

As an agency, we have worked extremely hard to build positive relationships and the community's trust in Bennett. We want to continue to provide a high-quality service to the residents and businesses of the Town of Bennett. We do not want the safety of the Bennett community to be in jeopardy and have any persons or property at risk. We care for the community of Bennett and will continue to provide emergency services to protect lives and property.

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