

April 30, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a budget meeting on April 28, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, and Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox.

Zoom participation: Commissioner Duram

1:30 pm Sheriff's Department: Present was Sheriff Darren Short and John Hyslop

Darren Short presented the Sheriff's Department's preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Darren Short confirmed he had the current wages and insurance added to the budget. Darren Short began by addressing the budget increase for new vehicles. John Hyslop noted the new legislation regarding detention officer's pay, which John Hyslop indicated now includes longevity pay and will be retroactive, will also be a large portion of the budget increase. John Hyslop also indicated that the need for new radios was included in the budget. Darren Short went on to discuss why the need for new radios was so significant, stating the current radios are no longer supported by the dispatch operating system and how the current Motorola Radios only 'speak' to other Motorola devices, not any other brands. Darren Short stated it would be roughly \$60,000 for maintenance with the current system, a cost that could be avoided if new radios were purchased. Commissioner Duram confirmed the new radios will be compatible. Commissioner Hammons asked if there were any expected retirees this year and if this expense was included in the budget. John Hyslop confirmed there will be two employees retiring and it was included in the budget. Commissioner Hammons questioned the \$300,000 projected for vehicles. Commissioner Teske noted there was still \$70,000 left in the vehicle budget for the current year, which Darren Short stated it will be used to finish outfitting the vehicles recently purchased. Commissioner Hammons opened a discussion regarding grants and donations to the department, including NW Drug Task Force. John Hyslop said the revenues have not been added to the budget as of yet but are estimated to be approximately \$180,000. Commissioner Teske confirmed this year's budget showed \$6.026. Commissioner Hammons confirmed \$686,000 would go to the detention center. Commissioner Teske inquired about the increase of vehicle insurance. Darren Short and John Hyslop stated they thought it was an inflated rate and finance will be looking into it. Commissioner Hammons opened a discussion regarding the professional services budget. Darren Short and John Hyslop added to the conversation, pointing out costs like roto rooter was \$800 a visit every time an inmate clogged a toilet. John Hyslop stated he would provide a full list of professional services at the next meeting. Open discussion about citizens being the ones that actually contribute to the budget increases as the need for services increase. Commissioner Teske noted that it appeared the fuel budget increase was due to the previously allocated funds being added to the wrong category. Commissioner Hammons stated it appeared most of the budget increase was due to vehicle purchases, wage and

insurance increases. Darren Short added the increases were also due to communication and technical cost increases. There was an open discussion regarding where leftover funds would be allocated.

1:47 pm Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairperson

ATTEST: _____
Nikki Fox, Administrative Assistant