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COMMISSION

AGENDA MEMORANDUM Item No. 8c

ACTION ITEM Date of Meeting October 24, 2023

DATE: October 5, 2023

TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

FROM: Thomas Bailey, Police Commander

SUBJECT: SCORE Public Safety Funding 2023-2026

Amount of this request: \$4,497,000

Original interlocal agreement estimated cost: \$2,000,000

Revised total cost estimate: \$6,497,000

ACTION REQUESTED

Request Commission authorization for additional funds in the amount of \$4,497,000 for services provided by South Correctional Entity (SCORE) in conjunction with the SCORE Interlocal Agreement for Inmate Housing with the Port

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October of 2021, the Commission approved the 2021-2026 Interlocal Agreement South Correctional Entity (SCORE) and the Port of Seattle for Jail Services. The estimated total project cost for the five-year ILA was \$2,000,000. Jail costs have escalated beyond our original projections due to increases in jail costs and bookings. We are projecting we will exhaust the original \$2,000,000 before the end of 2023. Therefore, we need additional funds to continue to receive jail services.

We are forecasting jail costs for the remainder of 2023 to exceed our original authorization by \$177,000, and we are estimating annual expenses in 2024, 2025, and 2026 at \$1,440,000 per year. While the average monthly costs are \$120,000, we have spent over \$200,000 in a month (March 2023.) We are therefore requesting the Commission authorize an additional \$4,497,000 that is necessary if we are to continue our current enforcement and booking practices through the remainder of this ILA, which expires in October 2026.

JUSTIFICATION

In October of 2021, the Commission approved the 2021-2026 Interlocal Agreement between SCORE and the Port of Seattle for Jail Services. This was due to booking restrictions in King County which severely impacted the Port's ability to keep SEA safe. The estimated total project cost for the five-year ILA, beginning October 2021, and ending October 2026, was \$2,000,000. This amount was insufficient as passenger loads continue to fully recover from the pandemic

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slowdowns, there is increased criminal activity in King County, and jail costs continue to rise each year.

During the term of this ILA, bookings have as follows:

Daily Housing Rates (original) 2021 2023

General Population – Guaranteed \$128.00 \$142.58

Beds No. of Beds: 2

General Population – Non- \$184.00 \$204.97

Guaranteed Beds

Daily Rate Surcharges:

Mental Health – Residential Beds \$159.00 \$163.77

Medical – Acute Beds \$217.00 \$223.51

Mental Health – Acute Beds \$278.00 \$286.34

Booking Fee \$35.00 \$65.00

Transport/ security fee \$65.00 \$85/ hr

Additionally, arrestees booked into SCORE are held until their initial appearance, thus preventing them from immediately returning to the airport, as we often experienced. Additionally, many individuals we book into SCORE must also be held in an individual cell due to their threat to other prisoners and receive mental health and medical care, which increases the costs.

As a result of the increased bookings, we have spent approximately \$1.7 million of the \$2 million we requested for the original ILA with SCORE.

When the SCORE ILA was approved in 2021, the POSPD compared cost and feasibility to King County Jail, and other local facilities. To recap the benefits of SCORE, we highlighted the

following:

To explore improvements in efficiency as well as cost savings, the Port of Seattle Police requested a proposed ILA from the South Correctional Entity (SCORE). SCORE is located approximately 3.5 miles south of SeaTac Airport, in Des Moines Washington, and is the primary booking entity for most South King County law enforcement agencies. In addition to much closer proximity and efficiency, usage of SCORE represents a potential cost savings to the Port of Seattle as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: King County Jail versus SCORE daily cost comparison

COST KING COUNTY SCORE

BOOKING 212.78 128.00 (GUARANTEED BED)

184.00 (NON-GUARANTEED)

MAINTENANCE 202.75

(DAILY FEE)

INFIRMARY 320.73 217.00

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In-facility care included

Co-payments Inmate responsibility

Outside medical svcs Contract agency billed

Emergency care Contract agency billed

Pharmaceuticals Meds billed to contract
agency

PSYCH/ 339.88 159.00 (RESIDENTIAL)

MENTAL 278.00 (ACUTE)

HEALTH

PSYCH OTHER 92.81 (KC ONLY)

WORK 149.82

RELEASE

The current ILA between the Port of Seattle and King County Jail expires in 2020, and the Police Department will seek to renew that agreement (in conjunction with the SCORE ILA) to provide more efficient booking options for our waterfront officers.

Approval of the SCORE ILA will improve efficiency and potentially provide cost savings to the Police Department.

The other facilities we considered were not feasible due to their location, lack of capacity, and conditions.

In 2022, our total booking costs were \$668,315.79 (an average of 55,692.98/month). In 2023, from January to June, our costs due to increased bookings were \$789,392.55 (average 131,565/month.)

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2022 SCORE Booking Stats

2023 SCORE Booking Stats

Comparing similar time periods, it is clear there has been a sharp increase in bookings. Of the 409 bookings so far in 2023, approximately 73% were charged with Criminal Trespassing. The remainder were booked on warrants and other charges.

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With the benefit of nearly two years of booking data for SCORE, we believe we should estimate approximately \$1,440,000 in jail expenses per year, or \$120,000 per month. While we will continue to seek solutions besides booking for individuals in our jurisdiction, we must maintain the ability to book individuals into SCORE when there are no other alternatives.

The Port of Seattle's mission and agenda include maintaining a safe gateway for travelers coming through the airport and seaport. Unfortunately, that requires, at times, that when a crime is committed, we arrest and book persons into SCORE. As stated above, the number of arrests and fees have increased. While it is difficult to determine the number of people we will book in any given year, we have no reason to suspect that the cost will decrease.

We have spent approximately \$1,149,392 this year. By year-end, we can expect to exceed our original allocation of \$2 million by \$177,000. Therefore, we need additional funds to continue to receive jail services.

With thirty-nine months remaining on the SCORE ILA, we are requesting an additional \$4,497,000.

DETAILS

Scope of Work

If the authorization is granted, jail services will continue under the current ILA without interruption.

A new ILA between SCORE and the Port of Seattle will be proposed in 2026 for jail services for the proceeding years.

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

Another alternative is to arrest and book fewer persons. Officers currently screen each arrest to determine if there are alternatives to booking and will continue to do so unless funding is not approved. With rises in crime in King County, however, this is likely not feasible.

This is not the recommended alternative.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Cost Estimate/Authorization Summary Capital Expense Total

COST ESTIMATE

Original estimate \$0 \$2,000,000 \$2,000,000

Current change 0 \$4,497,000 \$4,497,000

Revised estimate 0 \$6,497,000 \$6,497,000

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AUTHORIZATION

Previous authorizations 0 2,000,000 2,000,000

Current request for authorization 0 4,497,000 4,497,000

Total authorizations, including this request 0 6,497,000 6,497,000

Remaining amount to be authorized \$0 \$4,497,000 \$4,497,000

Annual Budget Status and Source of Funds

The Police Department budgets for jail services each year. It originally budgeted \$2,000,000 for the five-year SCORE ILA. In 2024, the SCORE budget has been increased to \$1,350,000. If additional costs are accrued, the department will absorb the increase.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST

(1) Interlocal Agreement Between SCORE and the Port of Seattle for Jail Services

(2) 2024 Rates and Housing Agreement Amendment

(3) Amendment Notice Letter

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

October 12, 2021 – The Commission authorized a five-year interlocal agreement with SCORE for jail services. The total cost for this agreement was approximately \$2,000,000

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