

**KITTITAS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S STUDY SESSION MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 109 - ELLENSBURG
Regular Meeting**

WEDNESDAY	8:00 AM	August 6, 2025
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Board members present: Chairman Laura Osiadacz, Vice-Chairman Brett Wachsmith and Commissioner Cory Wright.

Others: Sheriff Clay Myers, Inspector Chris Whitsett, Chief Darren Higashiyama, Chief Admin. Deputy Nancy Shaff, IT Director Doug Fessler, Budget & Finance Director Zack DeHaven and Facilities Director Patti Stacey.

Requesting Board approval on a change order for the Jail project for additional exterior repairs: Patti Stacey updated the Board on cost increases for the Jail repair project. The problem was identified as a defect in original construction in which the top parapet was not correctly attached. This caused damage over time to the exterior walls and may make other planned modifications including the installation of skylights more expensive. Despite the increased cost for specific project components, the project as a whole is expected to remain under the budget of 5.5 million dollars.

Discussion & direction – IT roles and responsibilities: The Sheriff opened the IT conversation with remarks on the improved relationship and communication between KCSO and IT. He asked Doug Fessler for comment. Doug described a recent meeting with Jeremy and Chief Shaff in which IT determined to establish a Dell purchasing account for Jeremy. The Sheriff and Doug Fessler both discussed the need for an upgrade to the fiber network into the jail to support higher quality Wi-Fi throughout the facility, facilitating jail services and programs both mandated and advisable. The Sheriff estimated the cost at \$300,000. Commissioner Wright expressed appreciation for the cooperation of IT and KCSO.

Discuss Cle Elum Bankruptcy: Sheriff mentioned the ongoing Cle Elum Bankruptcy. That all agreements are intact and being paid for. Sheriff commented on KITTCOM services and continuing with business.

Discuss Title III Funds: Commissioners Wright and Osiadacz were looking for an itemized list with cost for the SAR equipment we planned to purchase with Title III funds. A list was provided, and they were ok with that list. This was the first Title III award in some time, in the future a list of items will be included in all packets for each process with the BOCC.

OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Osiadacz asked about the 'clearance rate' for crimes reported to KCSO. Inspector Whitsett provided the figure from the most recently published data from WASPC, 29.8%.

APPROVED

9/2/2025

Commissioner Wright asked about the state of the supply chain for Sheriff's Office vehicles. Sheriff Myers replied that it was improving steadily over recent years.

Sheriff Myers discussed ongoing friction between state and federal authorities regarding federal immigration law enforcement, without reference to any specific incidents in our county.

Chief Higashiyama added that some Department of Homeland Security grant money previously received by the county as state pass-through would be unavailable this coming year because of this state/federal conflict over immigration law enforcement.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 a.m.



Kim Dawson

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Laura Osiadacz, Chairman