



## Public Safety Commission

# AGENDA

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026**  
**6:00 p.m.**

This meeting includes in-person and virtual participation.

Albany Fire Department Station 11  
611 Lyon St SE, The Ralston Room  
Or join the meeting here:

<https://council.albanyoregon.gov/groups/saf/zoom>

Please help us get Albany's work done.

Be respectful and refer to the rules of conduct posted by the main door to the Chambers and on the website.

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of December 3, 2025, minutes. (Pages 1-4)
4. Department reports
  - a. Police- Marcia Harnden
  - b. Fire- Chris LaBelle
5. Guest speakers: Community Paramedic Hillary Kosmicki and EMS Division Chief Ray Wooldridge will demonstrate Albany Fire Departments lifting device.
6. Business from the members.
7. Next meeting date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at the Albany Police Department

*This meeting is accessible to the public via video connection. The location for in-person attendance is accessible to people with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify city staff at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at: [rochelle.james@albanyoregon.gov](mailto:rochelle.james@albanyoregon.gov) 541-917-7564*

*Testimony provided at the meeting is part of the public record. Meetings are recorded, capturing both in-person and virtual participation, and are posted on the city website.*



## MINUTES

December 3, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Albany Police Department, The Staff Conference Room

Approved: DRAFT

### Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Green called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

### Roll Call

Members present: Cynthia Green; Bessie Johnson; Kevin Kreitman; Erik Rau; Sheree Speaks-Mahi

Members absent: Nick Fowler; Katie Pleis;

Staff present: Chief of Police Marcia Harnden; Fire Chief Chris LaBelle;  
Rochelle James, Administrative Assistant

The October 1, 2025, minutes were approved a presented.

### Staff Updates:

#### **Police Update – Chief Marcia Harnden**

Chief Harnden advised that she is expecting the February report to show a homicide. APD is waiting on some medical information to come back and, if confirmed, there will be one homicide showing for 2025 on the February 2026 crime report. Overall, both years look very similar in their numbers.

APD is very busy due to the 2024 changes to drug laws. Chief Harnden described the circumstances in which an individual may be offered the opportunity to enter deflection. If a citation originates from contact with the person, it is routed through both the Linn County and Benton County District Attorneys' Offices, which will evaluate whether the person is qualified for deflection. If there is an adjoining charge, they are not qualified, as another crime is involved.

Both counties received grant funding for the program, but we do not yet have statistics to report. The State of Oregon is looking into the program to estimate the return on investment of those grant dollars.

Overdose numbers have leveled off, and there have been no additional deaths since the last report in October. APD is still receiving overdose calls, but we are seeing a good usage of Narcan. Fentanyl is the most prevalent substance we've seen, and it continues to flow into the state. Our health care providers believe that the overabundance of Narcan is preventing a lot of deaths, as it is readily available. We will continue to track it year over year. Looking at 2019 through 2025, we still have a significant fentanyl problem in the state.

APD has seen an uptick in departures. We had two child abuse investigation detectives resign. Hiring is a top priority. We have three new employees starting in about one week and possibly another three in January. We will finally be fully staffed with dispatchers for the first time in two and a half years. We also have three senior employees who have given us at least one year's notice of their retirement. The advanced notice allows APD to overhire for the position before they leave. That is part of our vacancy numbers, along with two police officer positions that were added in the current budget cycle.

We have our new mental health provider on board in January. After reworking the job description, we received many applicants. The current applicant is local, has worked for Adult Protective Services for 30 years, has extensive experience in media outreach, and is well-regarded. She is in the background phase, and we hope to get her hired in January.

We have one person on light-duty status due to a previous injury. That employee will be able to help us work through our traffic enforcement tickets. We are looking at hiring some retired part-time employees to help handle those tickets. We had one Monday when the company loaded over 700 tickets into our queue for review.

Commissioner Rau asked if Chief Harnden had considered changing the structure of dispatch to make hiring easier. Chief Harnden explained that the APD call center is a secondary answering point where the original call comes in, is transferred to APD, and information is entered into those calls, potentially by multiple dispatchers. Chief Harnden advised that she is reluctant to consolidate as it can affect the quality of call-taking and dispatching. Chief Harnden stated that while dispatch staffing has increased since she became the Police Chief, she would like to hire one additional dispatcher, to provide two-person 24-hour coverage for the city. APD also needs an additional child abuse detective, and there are budgetary concerns to consider. Chief Harnden advised that they have considered different scheduling options, but a scheduling change does not appear to be a viable or desired option at this time.

Commissioner Johnson asked about the Narcan usage statistics on the crime report. There was discussion about the Leave Behind Narcan program, in which APD participates. The program is federally funded and allows officers to leave behind Narcan doses at high-risk locations. There are several other local organizations that also provide Narcan.

Commissioner Speaks-Mahi asked if there is data available regarding recidivism. Chief Harnden advised that she did not have data, but APD sees a certain section of individuals repeatedly. There are deflection options and the option to have the charges dismissed upon completion of the drug court program. Many times, these individuals are tied to other theft and property crimes. Recidivism is tracked through drug court.

Chief Harnden talked about the Situation Table, which addresses individuals who are high users of community resources. Different providers will come in, present cases to the group, and then determine who at the table is best suited to take on that challenge and provide the necessary services.

#### **Fire Update – Chief Chris LaBelle**

The total responses for the department are just under 5000 since the beginning of July. We have applied for a grant for the deputy fire marshal position, but we have not heard back. We do have one firefighter that was injured and has been placed on light duty. While on light duty he will assist the deputy fire marshal with business inspections. This will be a good opportunity to go out and see some of the businesses. We have seen an improvement in response times which may be partly attributed to our new station alert system. We hope to see those numbers continue to improve.

The numbers today do not include the new lifting devices pilot program at the care facilities. We signed a contract with the different care facility, along with a hold harmless agreement. We are now able to go to those facilities, provide the equipment, and begin the training to get the program up and running.

Commissioner Rau asked for clarification on how the stats and graphs are compiled and created and noted the fluctuations from year to year. The impact of concurrent calls and tracking when the department are out of resources were discussed.

The top 25 responses showed nothing unusual: sick person, fall assist, breathing problem. AFD made a public service announcement regarding dryer fires and cleaning your dryer vents. As we get into the holiday

season we will be messaging regarding candles, space heaters, turkey fryers, etc. This is the time of year we see an uptick in residential fires.

Commissioner Kreitman suggested compiling statistics on structure fires only showing the time spent on scene.

AFD hosted an open house in October in North Albany and over 500 people attended. A different station is selected each year to host the open house. The theme this year was lithium-ion battery safety.

We have eight people in the academy, and they will finish on December 19, 2025, and we will be fully staffed, which will allow us to focus more on other things.

We received approval from the City Council to enact a fire alarm fee which is like the nuisance alarm fee at APD. We increased the Fire-Med membership fee by \$15.00.

The union contract was ratified. This is a two-year contract. Through mediation, both sides were able to come to the table and compromise, and both sides seemed to be happy with the outcome.

We have visited two of our four middle schools so far to give our 8<sup>th</sup> graders hands-only CPR instruction.

Lastly, Kyle Romey has accepted a job with Hughes selling fire engines. His last day will be December 18, 2025. He may stay on in an auxiliary role with our incident management team. Our department will sponsor him in the same way we sponsor retired Training Chief Scott Cowan.

Commissioner Rau asked if wait times for academy classes at DPSST are still an issue. Chief Harnden advised wait times are no longer an issue. The academy began hosting classes with 60 students which was hard on staff. The academy also asked Chiefs and Sheriffs to project out their needs over the next few years so they could adjust accordingly.

Additionally, all state agencies have been asked to take a 5 percent pay cut, which potentially means laying people off. That would eventually trickle over and have ripple effects. DPSST uses agency loan instructors, but that is not a sustainable model.

Commissioner Johnson asked if trainees are new or lateral hires. Chief Harnden advised some candidates are coming from other agencies and we are seeing those interested request to bargain their beginning salary. Chief LaBelle advised they have a pre-determined chart with qualifications that determine the starting salary of a lateral candidate.

Commissioner Greene commented that the city hosted a lovely event for volunteers on Citizen Advisory Groups throughout the city.

Commissioner Rau asked if there would be a guest speaker at the next meeting and Chief Labelle suggested EMS Chief Ray Wildridge to talk more about the breakout lifting device. Hillary Kosmicki may be able to attend as well.

#### Business from the Commission

##### Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on February 4, 2026, at the Albany Police Department.

##### Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Greene adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rochelle James  
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Reviewer's Name  
Reviewer's Title

*\*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing [cityclerk@cityofalbany.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofalbany.net).*



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
DEPARTMENT REPORT**  
**December 3, 2025**



Albany Fire Department Total Responses					
Month	FY 22 Total	FY 23 Total	FY 24 Total	FY 25 Total	FY 26 Total
July	1,070	992	1,001	1,015	1,061
August	1,048	968	1,018	1,118	1,011
September	1,010	920	862	998	921
October	958	972	957	1064	1,047
November	941	970	891	938	929
December	945	1158	970	997	
January	911	1007	1118	999	
February	829	914	816	957	
March	853	880	936	903	
April	864	905	922	875	
May	896	891	996	1013	
June	936	924	973	990	
Total	11,291	11,495	11,459	11,859	4,969

Fire & Life Safety Evaluations					
Month	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26
July	142	79	67	79	89
August	98	97	51	91	84
September	88	60	98	70	37
October	69	54	82	98	58
November	85	31	70	143	
December	95	83	86	70	
January	172	72	52	65	
February	132	72	52	57	
March	110	102	76	78	
April	92	54	77	48	
May	73	57	81	38	
June	175	75	72	69	
Total	1,083	836	864	906	268

Average Response Times City of Albany Calls Only 911 Call Received to Arrival Time					
	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26
Emergent Responses	7:10	7:18	7:06	7:25	7:03
Structure Fires	6:18	6:09	6:35	6:27	6:18

Community Paramedic Activity					
Month	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26
July	40	47	28	51	36
August	50	29	45	26	22
September	45	26	24	17	32
October	46	38	40	34	31
November	13	40	53	19	
December	14	23	39	27	
January	30	58	56	55	
February	21	19	45	36	
March	14	54	21	32	
April	33	33	22	50	
May	29	64	58	54	
June	44	46	20	58	
Total	306	477	373	459	121

Top 25 Responses	Count
SICK PERSON	716
FALL	454
LIFT ASSIST	383
BREATHING PROBLEMS	309
UNCONSCIOUS FAINTING	255
TRANSFER	247
MVC INJURY	245
CHEST PAIN	238
UNKNOWN MEDICAL PROBLEM	237
FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION	202
SEIZURE	142
OD INGESTION POISONING	106
HEMORRHAGE BLEED	105
STROKE CVA TIA	99
ABDOMINAL PAIN OR PROBLEMS	87
FIRE MOVEUP ONLY	84
TRAUMA INJURY	83
PSYCHIATRIC SUICIDE ATTEMPT	81
EMERGENCY TRANSFER	79
HEART PROBLEMS AICD	71
DIABETIC PROBLEM	67
SMALL MISC FIRE	63
CARDIAC OR RESPIRATORY ARREST	58
BACK PAIN	54
ASSAULT RAPE VIOLENT TRAUMA	49

	# of Concurrent
1	1817
2	1730
3	963
4	346
5	78
6	30
7	4
8	
9	
10	

Row Labels	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Grand Total
00	20	15	15	14	20	17	16	117
01	17	16	14	20	9	16	21	113
02	19	9	15	5	14	4	15	81
03	14	13	14	14	12	14	11	92
04	12	13	13	11	12	15	10	86
05	10	12	17	13	13	22	16	103
06	20	17	24	20	16	17	20	134
07	23	25	28	25	20	27	24	172
08	27	31	40	36	36	33	27	230
09	41	26	33	30	39	40	33	242
10	40	44	39	53	35	46	47	304
11	44	46	47	47	45	37	44	310
12	35	36	41	33	37	43	34	259
13	41	47	47	37	45	30	31	278
14	37	45	45	39	42	26	45	279
15	31	31	44	54	43	37	40	280
16	33	49	46	41	57	39	43	308
17	40	33	34	44	47	52	43	293
18	33	28	41	48	28	54	33	265
19	34	31	38	27	31	42	32	235
20	34	33	39	32	33	31	34	236
21	24	38	38	21	35	33	24	213
22	29	26	39	21	30	35	21	201
23	25	16	21	13	12	27	23	137
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>4968</b>

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# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

## December 2025



CRIME SNAPSHOT						
Selected Group A Offenses	Oct 2024	Oct 2025	% Chg	2024 YTD	2025 YTD	% Chg
Person	43	41	■ -4.65%	490	391	■ -20.20%
Homicide	0	0	■ N/C	1	0	■ -100.00%
Rape	1	0	■ -100.00%	15	15	■ 0.00%
Ag Assault	8	3	■ -62.50%	78	56	■ -28.21%
Assault - Other	28	30	■ 7.14%	315	263	■ -16.51%
Sex Crime	6	8	■ 33.33%	81	57	■ -29.63%
Human Trafficking	0	0	■ N/C	0	0	■ N/C
Domestic (subset of above)	6	14	■ 133.33%	89	98	■ 10.11%
Property	169	111	■ -34.32%	1398	1315	■ -5.94%
Robbery - Residence	0	0	■ N/C	1	0	■ -100.00%
Robbery - Business	0	0	■ N/C	3	4	■ 33.33%
Robbery - Other	0	1	■ N/C	19	11	■ -42.11%
Robbery 3 (subset of above)	0	1	■ N/C	14	12	■ -14.29%
Burglary - Business	6	0	■ -100.00%	39	28	■ -28.21%
Burglary - Other	5	1	■ -80.00%	16	8	■ -50.00%
Burglary - Residence	4	1	■ -75.00%	35	38	■ 8.57%
Stolen Vehicle	13	4	■ -69.23%	57	46	■ -19.30%
Larceny - From Vehicle	31	5	■ -83.87%	175	116	■ -33.71%
Larceny - Shoplifting	35	49	■ 40.00%	341	399	■ 17.01%
Larceny - Other	41	19	■ -53.66%	347	287	■ -17.29%
Arson	0	0	■ N/C	20	12	■ -40.00%
Vandalism	9	5	■ -44.44%	103	126	■ 22.33%
Fraud - Credit Card	2	2	■ 0.00%	25	27	■ 8.00%
Fraud - ID Theft	6	11	■ 83.33%	92	73	■ -20.65%
Fraud - Other	17	13	■ -23.53%	125	140	■ 12.00%
Society	56	57	■ 1.79%	429	641	■ 49.42%
Animal Cruelty	1	1	■ 0.00%	12	8	■ -33.33%
Drug Laws	25	26	■ 4.00%	105	281	■ 167.62%
DUII	15	19	■ 26.67%	182	181	■ -0.55%
Weapons Laws	15	11	■ -26.67%	130	171	■ 31.54%
Livability	69	22	■ -68.12%	621	398	■ -35.91%
Abandoned Vehicle	68	20	■ -70.59%	588	377	■ -35.88%
Junk/Trash	0	2	■ N/C	30	16	■ -46.67%
Overnight/Prohibited Camping	1	0	■ -100.00%	3	5	■ 66.67%
Calls for Service	Oct 2024	Oct 2025	% Chg	2024 YTD	2025 YTD	% Chg
Call Source	3064	3112	■ 1.57%	30856	32274	■ 4.60%
Dispatched Calls	1840	1739	■ -5.49%	16953	16436	■ -3.05%
Self-Initiated Calls	1224	1373	■ 12.17%	13903	15838	■ 13.92%
Response Time (Minutes)						
Priority P & 1	5.56	6.62	■ 18.98%	5.62	5.76	■ 2.47%
Priority 2 & 3	12.36	21.59	■ 74.67%	10.99	13.28	■ 20.80%
Priority 4+	8.98	17.76	■ 97.89%	7.87	10.93	■ 38.94%

Changes in small numbers can result in large percentage changes and must be viewed with caution.

11/26/2025 08:10

\*Year to Date



Albany Police Department									
Narcan	Year	ODs	OD Death	Heroin	Fentanyl	Meth	LSD	Cocaine	
10	2019	21	2	12	2	3	1	0	
20	2020	29	1	14	4	6	2	1	
39	2021	50	4	21	15	7	1	1	
72	2022	91	11	14	63	18	0	1	
155	2023	126	18	5	105	23	1	3	
82	2024	95	11	0	68	13	1	7	
99	2025	67	7	0	54	9	2	3	



HIRING

2025 HIRING	
2025 total hires	7 (+3 next week and 3 in January)
PENDING HIRES	1 DISPATCHERS (Dec) 5 POLICE OFFICERS (Dec/Jan) 1 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CASE MANAGER
VACANCIES	1 Dispatcher 7 Police Officers * 1 CSO coming in Feb
<b>*2 New police officers positions created in 25-27 budget plus three confirmed retirements in 2026</b>	