

**CITY OF COOS BAY
JOINT CITY COUNCIL / URA WORK SESSION
Agenda Staff Report**

MEETING DATE July 11, 2017	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
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TO: Mayor Benetti and City Councilors
FROM: Rodger Craddock, City Manager
ISSUE: Funding for the South Coast Interagency Narcotic Team (SCINT)

BACKGROUND:

Given that many of the law enforcement agencies on the Southern Oregon Coast are small and do not have the adequate resources to conduct investigations into organized distribution and the trafficking of illegal drugs, the South Coast Interagency Narcotics Team (SCINT) was formed several decades ago. It has been serving the citizens of Coos, Curry, and Western Douglas Counties. The team has traditionally been made up of loaned officers from local city and tribal police departments, Coos and Curry Sherriff's Offices, and the Oregon State Police (OSP).

Funding for the organization was initially obtained through forfeiture of seized assets which were a product of unlawful drug activity. In addition, grant funding has been a main staple in funding for SCINT operations. Over the years, the seizure laws have changed which has resulted in fewer dollars being made available to organizations like SCINT; and the use of those funds have been restricted. In addition, federal grant opportunities have ebbed and flowed over the years.

In 2012, the City of Coos Bay assigned Capt. Mitts to serve as the Director of SCINT. Up until last year, the City has been reimbursed for Capt. Mitts' salary costs. Given that some key federal grants were not renewed, SCINT has not had sufficient funds to reimburse the City for Capt. Mitts' services. Over the last year, there have been several discussions with Coos County and SCINT officials regarding dedicating a portion of marijuana tax revenues towards the funding of SCINT.

ADVANTAGES:

The obvious advantages of combining law enforcement resources is due to the fact that no one agency has the personnel or funding sources to effectively combat the issues involved in trafficking, manufacturing, distribution and crimes associated with illegal narcotics. Providing some dedicated funding to help augment available seizure and grant funds is imperative for the continued existence of the organization.

DISADVANTAGES:

None

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Unknown at this time. Given that marijuana dispensaries are relatively new in Coos Bay, it's hard to anticipate the amount of annual revenue the City will receive from the City's 3% tax on the sales of marijuana for recreational use as well as the portion of the state tax which will be shared with the City at some point in the future.

ACTION REQUESTED:

This matter is being brought before the Council for discussion and input.