

Fountain Green City Council held a work meeting to discuss the North Valley Police Department Proposal

Date: April 16, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Fountain Green City Hall, 375 N. State

Attendance – Kerry Farnworth, Vaughn Jacobson, Rich Walker, Kim Johnson, and Jacob Littlefield.

Presiding – Mayor Pro-Tempore Rich Walker, excusing Mayor Willard Wood.

1. Call to Order

The work meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tempore, Rich Walker to discuss a proposal from the North Valley Police Department regarding law enforcement services for Fountain Green City.

2. Presentation – North Valley Police Department Proposal

Presenter: Chief Steve Gray

Chief Steve Gray introduced himself and presented the proposal for contracted police services. The proposed annual cost is approximately **\$130,000**, which would fund:

- One full-time officer dedicated to Fountain Green City
- Supplemental coverage from additional North Valley officers
- Estimated daily coverage of **8–10 hours**, with additional support as needed

Chief Gray emphasized the department's goal of providing sufficient visibility and service so the City would not need to-track enforcement hours.

3. Services Included in Proposal

Chief Gray outlined services included under the contract:

- Law enforcement patrol and response
- Enforcement of city ordinances
- Animal control services
- Support from administrative staff, including:

- Financial director (shared with Fairview)
 - Full-time administrative secretary
 - Grant writing assistance (recent grants totaling approximately \$160,000+)
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4. Organizational Structure

Chief Gray reviewed department staffing:

- Chief of Police
- Deputy Chief
- Multiple Sergeants (patrol and investigations)
- Approximately **10–11 full-time officers** (with Fountain Green participation)
- **4 part-time officers**
- Civilian support staff

The department also operates the **only K-9 unit in the county**.

5. Operational Plan

- A **west-side division** would serve Fountain Green and Moroni
 - Officers would work **12-hour shifts**, split between cities
 - Additional resources would be shared across jurisdictions for major incidents
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6. Animal Control Services

- Full animal control services would be provided
 - Coordination with existing city personnel is optional
 - Services include:
 - Responding to animal complaints
 - Impoundment and pound management
 - Enforcement through fees and/or citations
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7. Financial Considerations

- Proposed cost: **~\$130,000 annually**
- Future cost increases may occur due to:
 - Inflation
 - Fuel costs

- Personnel wages

Chief Gray stated adjustments would be discussed collaboratively and not introduced unexpectedly.

Court Revenue Estimates

- Current revenue estimated under \$10,000 annually
 - Projected increase to approximately **\$30,000 annually**
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8. Governance and Board Representation

North Valley operates under a **Special Service District** governed by a 5-member board:

- 2 representatives from Fairview
- 2 representatives from Mount Pleasant
- 1 civilian member

Fountain Green may eventually qualify for board representation as a full member.

9. Dispatch Services Discussion

- County dispatch costs projected to increase from ~\$700,000 to ~\$900,000
 - Cities may be required to share costs
 - Implementation anticipated by **2027–2029**
 - North Valley is exploring alternative dispatch options
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10. Ordinance Enforcement

Chief Gray discussed enforcement philosophy:

- Emphasis on **education and compliance first**, citations when necessary
 - Coordination with city officials for enforcement priorities
 - Assistance with identifying and revising problematic ordinances
 - Ongoing communication with Planning & Zoning and city administration
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11. Facility Use

North Valley requested potential use of city facilities for:

- Report writing
 - Officer workspace
 - Parking of patrol vehicles
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12. Community and Council Questions

Discussion topics included:

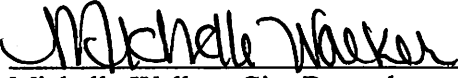
- Jurisdiction outside city limits
- Staffing levels and training (POST-certified officers required)
- Handling of reports and officer visibility
- Concerns regarding prior enforcement practices
- Coordination with city attorney on ordinance enforcement
- Animal control responsibilities and legal updates

Chief Gray emphasized:

- Commitment to visibility and proactive policing
 - Collaboration with the City on expectations and enforcement priorities
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13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.


Michelle Walker, City Recorder

