

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 23, 2026, 6 p.m., Trowsdale County Courthouse

Present: Chris Gregory, Amber Russell, Judy Kerr, David Nollner, Shane Burton, Steve Whittaker, Linda Bruce.

Others Present: Sheriff Ray Russell, EMS Director Matt Batey, Gina Duncan, Fire Chief Ken Buckmaster

Chairman Amber Russell called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Minutes of January 5, 2026 meeting were reviewed. **Motion to approve by Gregory, second by Bruce. Motion approved.**

Sheriff Ray Russell presented department's report. From January 23-February 23, department logged 1,582 calls, 23 wrecks worked, 86 citations, 325 traffic stops, 53 arrests, 61 booked into jail and 59 released, 132 warrants entered and 143 served.

Sheriff presented proposed medical contract with Dan Carey, would run from July 1, 2026-June 30, 2029 and have 5% annual increases. Sheriff noted Carey has had contract for last few years and has saved department money. Gregory asked about concerns of on-call staff arriving in a timely manner, told has not been much of a problem. Bruce asked how contract is billed, it is quarterly per sheriff.

Motion to recommend approval of contract to full Commission by Burton, second by Whittaker. Motion approved.

Personnel concerns: 1 correction spot open at jail; patrol is fully staffed with 1 at academy. No vehicle, maintenance, budget immediate needs.

Gregory asked for update on radio tower. No word received from engineer.

Sheriff provided prison update: 37 indictments handed down previous week, 350 cases pending in court system. Sheriff estimated would take five years to clear backlog.

Gregory asked if new jail could be designed to hold some prison-related cases and reduce transport costs for sheriff, who said it is possible. Jail was recently inspected and recertified only because Trowsdale County is under plan of action. Chairman Russell asked if plan of action has timeline. Sheriff said no but jail could be decertified.

Nollner asked about radio tower cost, sheriff estimated \$300,000. Burton asked how long this process has taken, sheriff said about two years. Gregory noted that Budget Committee has not heard anything regarding tower, recommended that LEO begin the bid process and then Budget would have to fund once bids are received.

Motion by Gregory to authorize mayor's office to begin bid process on radio tower, second by Nollner. Motion approved.

Whittaker asked about timeline for new prison contract, should be summer or fall 2026.

Next meeting scheduled for March 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Gregory, second by Bruce. Motion approved.

Minutes presented by Chris Gregory