



Yamhill County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Sam Elliott

535 NE 5th Street, Room 143, McMinnville, Oregon 97128-4595

Business Office: (503) 434-7506 • Fax: (503) 472-5330

Jail: (503) 434-7507 • Fax: (503) 434-7534

Email: sheriff@yamhillcounty.gov

"Excellence in Service"

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2025
TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Sam Elliott, Sheriff 
RE: Request for Authorization to Apply and Approval to Accept – CJC Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Grant

This memo serves as our request to authorize Sheriff Sam Elliott, or his designee, to apply for and, if approved, accept the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Grant Program in the not-to-exceed amount of \$127,405.00

The grant program was established under 2023 Oregon Laws Chapter 582, Section 1, (ORS 137.686), and modified by HB 3069 (2025), and is intended to "financially assist local law enforcement agencies and the Oregon Department of Justice with costs associated with addressing and prosecuting organized retail theft, as defined in ORS 164.098." The grant period runs from October 1, 2025, through August 31, 2027.

The Sheriff's Office has proposed applying for the following grant funds:

| CATEGORY | ITEM DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT REQUESTED |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| Personnel | Overtime (YCSO, McMinnville PD, Newberg Dundee PD) and DDA II position | \$63,904.96 |
| Equipment | License Plate Reader (LPR) Cameras | \$20,000.00 |
| Equipment | Surveillance Vehicle | \$30,000.00 |
| Equipment | Surveillance Vehicle Equipment | \$10,000.00 |
| Training | Training for each agency | \$ 3,500.00 |

If awarded funds, we will partner with McMinnville Police Department, Newberg-Dundee Police Department, and Yamhill County District Attorney's Office to implement an Organized Retail Theft (ORT) program across Yamhill County. The county is experiencing a significant rise in organized retail theft activity that threatens public safety, burdens local businesses, and strains law enforcement resources. These theft groups are increasingly sophisticated, operating in coordinated crews that target multiple retail locations in a single day, often using stolen vehicles, lookouts, and distraction techniques. These crimes are not isolated incidents but part of broader criminal enterprises that fund drug trafficking, identity theft, and other illicit activities.

Yamhill County is home to a diverse range of retail establishments, including national chains, local businesses, shopping centers, and agricultural supply stores. These businesses are increasingly targeted by organized retail theft groups due to their accessibility and proximity to major transportation corridors such as Highways 99W, 18, 219, 47, and 22, which facilitate quick entry and exit for mobile crews. This countywide approach ensures a coordinated response to organized theft, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries, and strengthens partnerships with local law enforcement, retailers, and community stakeholders.

I am available to answer any questions you may have regarding this request.

SJE:emw

cc: Ken Huffer, County Administrator
Mike Barnhart, Finance Director

Approved by the Yamhill County Board of
Commissioners on 10/09/2025
via Board Order 25-328