



Lake County Sheriff's Office

Lake County Sheriff's Office
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Daniel Tague, Sheriff

****Testimony in Support of SB 5531: Rural Frontier Public Safety Infrastructure Package****

Date: May 11, 2025

From: Sheriff Daniel Tague, Lake County Sheriff's Office

To: Joint Ways and Means Committee

Subject: Support for SB 5531 – Funding the Rural Frontier Public Safety Infrastructure Package (\$3 Million for Lake County)

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to you today to earnestly solicit your support for SB 5531, which seeks to secure \$3 million in funding for vital public safety infrastructure projects in Lake County. As the Sheriff of Lake County, it is my responsibility to ensure that our community is served by facilities and technology that meet current operational and legal standards. Unfortunately, several of our critical infrastructure components are now severely outdated and failing to meet these requisite standards.

Lake County, due to its vast geographical size comparable to the entire states of Israel or New Jersey, faces unique challenges that intensify the need for updated public safety infrastructure. Herein, I detail the five crucial projects encompassed within the SB 5531 funding request:

1. ****Feasibility Study for Lake County Jail Replacement****

The Lake County Jail, being the second oldest in Oregon, falls significantly short in meeting contemporary legal and safety standards. The obsolete design of our current facility makes compliance with current laws not just challenging but, in many respects, impossible. Funding for a feasibility study is the first step towards a solution that aligns with modern requirements and ensures the safety of both staff and inmates.

2. ****Construction of a New Christmas Valley Annex****

The existing annex in Christmas Valley critically supports our law enforcement and multiple county services, including parole and probation, district attorney, non-profit crisis center, public health, and veterans' services. This facility is 96 miles away from the main courthouse. This project will provide

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essential upgrades including designated workspaces for deputies and proper separation of critical areas such as the Intoxilyzer room, enhancing operational efficiency and security.

3. ****Upgrading Records and Jail Management Systems****

Our current systems date back to 2005/2006 and are woefully inadequate for today's demands. The proposed upgrade will revolutionize our ability to manage reports, evidence, inmate commissary, medications, and personal effects with greater accuracy and security.

4. ****Replacement of Body Worn Cameras****

The technology for our body-worn cameras is now seven years old, causing us to lag behind in capturing reliable and high-quality footage necessary for both accountability and legal processes. The newer cameras also come without the financial burdens of matching grant requirements, which are currently beyond our fiscal reach.

5. ****Updating Mobile Data Computers****

Our in-field technology is outdated, with no spares left to replace failing units. The ability to securely and efficiently process data in real-time is essential for effective law enforcement, particularly in our expansive county.

The commitment of \$3 million through SB 5531 would not just be an investment in infrastructure; it would be a profound investment in public safety, justice and the quality of life for all residents of Lake County.

Your support for this bill will directly influence our ability to uphold the law and maintain safety across one of Oregon's most sprawling counties. I, along with the citizens of Lake County, deeply appreciate your consideration and urge you to pass SB 5531.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Daniel Tague

Lake County Sheriff's Office

Lake County, Oregon
