



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

[www.washoecounty.gov](http://www.washoecounty.gov)

## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 10, 2025

**DATE:** Wednesday May 8, 2025

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Andrew Barrett-Venn, Captain,  
Washoe County Sheriff's Office Detention Operations  
(775) 328-2962, abarrett@washoecounty.gov

**THROUGH:** Darin Balaam, Sheriff

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve the Cooperative Agreements between Washoe County Sheriff's Office and Lovelock Paiute Tribe, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Walker River Paiute Tribe, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for reimbursement to Washoe County for custody services of tribal inmates at the rate of \$109 per day per inmate and \$88.62 per hour for guard/transportation services for an estimated annual revenue to Washoe County in the amount of \$309,124. (All Commission Districts.)

---

### SUMMARY

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) has a longstanding history of housing tribal inmates from Northern Nevada through a contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Recently, the BIA reinterpreted the terms of the agreement and is no longer willing to cover costs for inmates with only non-federal, local charges. As a result, new cooperative agreements are necessary to continue providing custody services for Northern Nevada tribes. The proposed contract rates align with the previous BIA agreement, and the scope of services remains unchanged.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services -** Supporting tribal communities by providing custody services to our Nevada tribal partners.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

None

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

## **BACKGROUND**

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office has provided jail services for Northern Nevada tribes, which lack detention facilities and have limited law enforcement personnel. Under a federal contract established in September 2020, WCSO housed tribal inmates and received reimbursement from the BIA at a rate of \$109 per inmate per day.

However, due to a reinterpretation of the contract language, the BIA has informed WCSO of its intent to terminate the agreement for inmates with non-federal charges.

Several tribes — including the Lovelock Paiute Tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Walker River Paiute Tribe, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe — have expressed a strong interest in continuing to use the Washoe County Detention Facility. This partnership is critical for maintaining public safety, as alternative detention locations are often remote or unavailable.

The BIA has entered into contract as a rider on the US Marshal's contract for their federal tribal inmates at a rate of \$160 per inmate/per day. Due to local tribal financial constraints, the rate of \$109 per inmate/per day was negotiated with our local tribal partners.

Providing local custody services allows tribal law enforcement to promptly return to their communities, improving response times and public safety.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The estimated annual revenue from these agreements is approximately \$309,124, based on the total number of inmate bed days used by the participating tribes in FY24, billed at \$109 per day per inmate.

Should Washoe County Sheriff's Office staff be assigned to medical transport or hospital-guard duty for a tribal inmate, the tribe to which the inmate belongs has agreed to reimburse Washoe County for the cost of those guard services. Reimbursement will be paid at \$88.62 per hour for the duration of the transport, plus mileage at the current IRS Standard Mileage Rate.

Revenue received from local tribal inmate incarceration per diem is reflected in 150900-431500 (Federal Incarceration) and guard/transportation hourly rate in 150900-485100 (Reimbursements).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Cooperative Agreements between Washoe County Sheriff's Office and Lovelock Paiute Tribe, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Walker River Paiute Tribe, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for reimbursement to Washoe County for custody services of tribal inmates at the rate of \$109 per day per inmate and \$88.62 per hour for guard/transportation services for an estimated annual revenue to Washoe County in the amount of \$309,124.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the Cooperative Agreements between Washoe County Sheriff's Office and Lovelock Paiute Tribe, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Walker River Paiute Tribe, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for reimbursement to Washoe County for custody services of tribal inmates at the rate of \$109 per day per inmate and \$88.62 per hour for guard/transportation services for an estimated annual revenue to Washoe County in the amount of \$309,124."