



MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOC/CAO Issues Coordination

February 4, 2026
1:30pm to 2:30pm
Courthouse Square
Commissioner's Boardroom
Salem, Oregon

Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

1. Welcome

Chair Willis

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 1:50pm

Chair Willis, Commissioner Cameron, Commissioner Bethell, CAO Fritz, DCAO Eppley, and BOC ASM White were present.

2. HB4002 Budget Revisions Update

Chris Eppley
Gary White

- a. Chris Eppley and Gary White provided an update to the Board about the progress of closing down RESTORE Court so as to reduce expenses commensurate with the reduction in HB4002 funding received this year from the CJC. Commissioner Bethell said she would like DA Clarkson and Sheriff Hunter to come present their plan for closing down RESTORE Court and paying restitution for those in the program.

3. VSO Contract Discussion

Chris Eppley
Gary White

- a. Chris Eppley and Gary White provided an update to the Board on the options for moving forward with provision of VSO services. Those options include
 - i. Continuing with Community Action Agency for managing the VSO services
 - ii. Bringing the management of VSO services in-house to the HHS Department
 - iii. Contracting with another Community Partner to manage the provision of VSO services, potentially providing store front space on the ground floor of the CH2 building for this purpose.

Chris identified that bringing the services in-house to the HHS Department would increase the cost of this program by approximately \$93,000 per estimate provided by Ryan Mathews, HHS Administrator.

Chris also noted that Business Services had provided an estimate of \$503,000 to

remodel the first-floor space that is currently occupied by the Community and Economic Development Department for the purpose of providing VOS services.

The Commissioners wanted additional information to confirm the number of VSO positions included in Ryan's proposed plan and the cost per month of operating in the proposed space on the first floor of this building. Gary White will gather the requested information and provide it to the Board.

4. State of the County

Gary White

- a.** PGE Request to Speak as a "Gold Sponsor" – Wendy Veliz with PGE offered to be a sponsor of the State of the County event at a high level of donation and that she would love it if she could say a few words as a sponsor. The Board said they do not want sponsors to be provided time to speak given the limited amount of time booked for the event.
- b.** Awards or Recognition – The Commissioners identified they want to offer the young man in FFA who spoke the Salem Chamber of Commerce meeting an opportunity to speak and to recognize him at the event. AJ should be contacting the Chamber of Commerce to find contact information.
- c.** Emcee – The Board would like Jan to Emcee the event again this year.

5. Other

All

- a.** Jan Fritz provided the Board with an update of the decision package decisions going into the FY 2026-27 budget in order to keep them up to date on the process.
- b.** Jan also asked about their willingness to begin a hiring freeze so as to slow the County's expenditure rate as resources are not keeping up with costs. They agreed to initiate the freeze immediately with the exception of those positions already listed and open jail deputy positions.

6. Adjourn

- a.** Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 2:48pm.