



City of Sidney, MT
Public Safety Committee Meeting
August 25, 2026 4:30 PM
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

1. Call to Order

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was stated by all present.

3. Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

City Officials/ Staff Present:

Committee members present: Alderman Kauffman, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Mrs. Creek

Other members present: Police Chief Kraft, Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, CAO Chamberlin, Clerk/Treasurer Lange, and BI/FM Rasmussen

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. July 28th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the July 28, 2026, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Alderman Kauffman to approve the minutes as written and seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment/ Visitors

Your opportunity for the public to address the Council on items not included on the agenda, no action will be taken during this time.

No public comments were presented.

6. Monthly Reports

- a. July 2026 Police Department Report
Police Chief Kraft presented the July 2026 Police Department monthly report. The Committee reviewed the report and had no additional questions or concerns.
- b. July 2026 Fire Run Report
The Committee reviewed the July 2026 Fire Department-run report presented by FM/BI Rasmussen. No additional questions or concerns were presented.
- c. August 2026 Compliance Officer Report
CAO Jessica Chamberlin presented the Compliance Officer's report. During the reporting period, 48 properties were abated without City assistance for mowing or uncontrolled weeds. The Compliance Officer also addressed numerous vehicle-related violations, including vehicles remaining on public streets beyond the allowable period and vehicles creating obstructions. Five nuisance properties are currently being addressed, with three scheduled for court hearings at the end of September. The Committee discussed regulations pertaining to multiple vehicles parked on residential properties. CAO Chamberlin explained that the City Code does not limit the number of vehicles that may be located on a property. Enforcement may apply when vehicles are inoperable or unlicensed, create a safety or nuisance condition, or prevent required property maintenance. Vehicles parked on lawns are generally permissible provided the surrounding property is maintained, and the vehicles do not otherwise violate the City Code.
Residents with concerns regarding a specific property may contact City Hall or the Compliance Officer, who can inspect the property and determine whether a code violation exists.

7. New Business

- a. Eastern Montana Drug Task Force MOU 2026
Chief Kraft presented the Eastern Montana Drug Task Force (EMDTF) Memorandum of Understanding for the upcoming fiscal year. Because the Sidney Police Department is not currently providing a Task Force Officer, the City's annual contribution will return to \$6,000, consistent with previous years when the City did not assign an officer to the task force.
Chief Kraft reported that the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation is attempting to fill an additional narcotics investigator position in Sidney to work alongside the existing investigator. He noted that assigning a Sidney officer to the task force again in the future could provide value to both the department and the community if staffing levels allow and an appropriate officer is available. Task Force Officers operate with statewide jurisdiction through DCI and may assist with investigations outside the Sidney area as needed.
A motion was made by Alderwoman Rasmussen to recommend City Council approval of the Eastern Montana Drug Task Force Memorandum of Understanding as presented and seconded by Alderman Kauffman. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Emergency Operations Plan

The Committee continued its review of the proposed City of Sidney Emergency Operations Plan. Staff also provided the Richland County Emergency Operations Plan and a comparison memorandum identifying differences between the County's existing plan and the proposed City plan.

Chief Kraft explained that the City's plan closely mirrors the County plan but is specifically tailored to City operations and is intended to function as a companion to the County's overarching emergency response framework. The plan primarily formalizes existing practices by identifying command structure, primary and supporting agencies, and responsibilities during significant emergency incidents.

Chief Kraft explained that the City's plan closely mirrors the County plan but is specifically tailored to City operations and is intended to function as a companion to the County's overarching emergency response framework. The plan primarily formalizes existing practices by identifying command structure, primary and supporting agencies, and responsibilities during significant emergency incidents.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Rasmussen to recommend approval of the City of Sidney Emergency Operations Plan and forward it to the City Council and seconded by Alderman Kauffman. The motion carried unanimously. The plan is anticipated to be presented to the City Council at the September 8, 2026, meeting.

9. Comments and Questions from the Committee

The Committee requested an update regarding the City's recent meeting with the Montana Department of Transportation concerning the intersection at Seventh Avenue. Potential visibility and safety improvements had previously been discussed, including the possibility of a mirror or other measures. CAO Chamberlin reported that no formal follow-up meeting has been scheduled. MDT indicated it would remain in communication with the City as its review is completed, and potential options are evaluated. City staff will continue following up with MDT regarding the intersection and any recommended improvements.

10. Adjournment

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]