

A Full-Time SRO at Every School

Updated cost outline and implementation proposal for Bend-La Pine Schools, Oregon

Includes relief coverage, holiday leave planning, a household tax scenario and corporate vehicle sponsorship.

Planning scenario: 33 schools, 8 existing SROs retained, 25 additional school-assigned officers plus 1 relief/absence officer = 26 additional positions.

ADDITIONAL POSITIONS	MIDPOINT COST PER OFFICER	ANNUAL INCREMENTAL COST
26	\$162,500	\$4,225,000
ILLUSTRATIVE CITY SHARE (50%)	BEND HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE CITY SHARE / HOUSEHOLD
\$2,112,500	47,408	\$44.56 / year

Executive summary

Using a planning midpoint of **\$162,500 per officer per year**, the 25 school-assigned officers needed to cover schools beyond the current 8 plus one additional relief officer would cost about **\$4.225 million annually**. A hypothetical 50/50 split between the district and city/county partners would mean an illustrative city/partner-side contribution of **\$2.1125 million per year**.

Spread evenly across approximately **47,408 Bend households**, \$2.1125 million is equivalent to **\$44.56 per household per year** (about \$3.71 per month). This is an average funding comparison, not an actual bill or a proposal that each household would pay the same amount.

Tax increase: illustrative scale

The City of Bend's adopted 2025–27 budget lists a permanent operating property-tax rate of **\$2.8035 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value** and projected 2025–26 city permanent-rate property-tax revenue of about **\$46.354 million**. The illustrative \$2.1125 million city-side share is about **4.56% of that projected revenue**. If raised solely by increasing revenue at the same base, this is a rough scale comparison—not a statement that the City can simply raise its permanent rate by 4.56%. Oregon tax limits and voter-approval requirements may mean a local-option levy or another lawful funding source is needed. Actual household tax impacts depend on assessed value and the final mechanism.

Key assumptions and exclusions

These figures are estimates, not an official police, sheriff or district quote. They assume \$150,000–\$175,000 per additional position annually, with \$162,500 used as the midpoint. The estimate does not separately price vehicle purchases, marked-car refurbishment, equipment, recruitment, academy training, supervision or other start-up expenses. A dedicated relief officer is included, but actual coverage resilience will depend on staffing, workload and leave scheduling.

1. Annual cost scenarios

Scenario	Cost per position	26 additional positions	Illustrative 50% share
Lower	\$150,000	\$3,900,000	\$1,950,000
Midpoint	\$162,500	\$4,225,000	\$2,112,500
Higher	\$175,000	\$4,550,000	\$2,275,000

Household and tax context

Measure	Planning estimate
Bend households (Census 2020–24 estimate)	47,408
Illustrative city/partner half of midpoint	\$2,112,500 annually
Average equivalent across all households	\$44.56 annually / \$3.71 monthly
Share of projected City permanent-rate property-tax revenue	Approximately 4.56%
Current City permanent operating tax rate	\$2.8035 per \$1,000 taxable assessed value

Important tax qualification

The \$44.56 figure divides the hypothetical city-side funding share by all households in Bend, including renters and households whose tax burden would not be equal. It is not a prediction of an individual property-tax bill. The 4.56% compares the proposed share with the City's projected permanent-rate property-tax revenue, not with every tax or fee paid by Bend residents. A valid tax proposal would require review by City finance and legal staff, including Oregon property-tax limits and voter approval rules.

2. Staffing model and leave coverage

One named school-assigned SRO for each of 33 schools. Keep the current 8 officers in place and add 25 school-assigned positions for schools without dedicated coverage. Add one additional relief officer (26 new positions total) to help cover sick leave, training, vacancies and other absences. One floater can cover only one absence at a time, so multiple simultaneous absences may still require agency backup.

School-holiday leave policy

Schedule annual leave primarily during school holidays and breaks wherever operationally practical, coordinated with each officer's employing agency. This reduces predictable school-day gaps, but cannot eliminate sick leave, emergency leave, mandatory training or overlapping absences. The relief officer should be prioritized for these gaps, and the agencies should maintain a documented backup plan.

Suggested operating steps

1. Confirm assignments and service hours.

Define whether full-time coverage means instructional hours only or also arrival/dismissal, sports, events and summer programs.

2. Establish joint governance.

The district, Bend Police Department and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office agree on school assignments, employment, supervision, dispatch, emergency response, information sharing and complaint review.

3. Recruit and prepare officers.

Use a phased hiring plan; confirm agency hiring standards and provide training in youth engagement, de-escalation, safeguarding and school-specific emergency procedures.

4. Publish the leave and backup calendar.

Plan annual leave around school breaks, identify the relief officer's daily assignment, and set a documented process for sick-day or unexpected absence coverage.

5. Review performance each year.

Report actual costs, school coverage, response times, training, referrals and arrests, community feedback, and whether the staffing model meets agreed goals.

3. Corporate sponsorship for retired police vehicles

Invite local employers and corporate sponsors to help fund the acquisition and preparation of retired police vehicles for visible placement at school entrances or other approved locations. This could provide a recognizable safety presence at lower cost than buying new vehicles, while keeping the SRO staffing plan separate from the vehicle sponsorship.

Possible sponsorship model

Element	Proposed approach
Sponsor pool	Invite local businesses, major employers, dealerships, service companies and community foundations to contribute cash, vehicles, repairs or in-kind services.
Vehicle sourcing	Ask police/sheriff fleet managers about retired vehicles that are legally available for transfer or sale. Confirm title, condition, insurance, ownership and decommissioning requirements.
Preparation	Budget for mechanical inspection, safe parking, maintenance, signs/decals, lighting requirements and any required removal or modification of emergency equipment.
Use and oversight	Obtain law-enforcement and school-district approval for placement, branding and maintenance. Clearly establish whether each vehicle is staffed or only a static visual deterrent; never imply an officer is present when one is not.
Public accountability	Publish sponsor contributions and costs, prohibit sponsor influence over policing or student discipline, and review whether the visible vehicles are useful and well maintained.

4. Phased implementation and decisions

Phase 1 — Validate (0–3 months)

Confirm school count, actual current SRO assignments, fully loaded costs, current agreements, fleet availability and legal constraints.

Phase 2 — Design and approve (3–6 months)

Set service standards, funding split, leave policy, relief deployment, sponsor rules, school-by-school coverage plan and reporting measures.

Phase 3 — Hire and deploy (6–18 months)

Recruit additional officers in cohorts, train them, prioritize coverage gaps and publish implementation progress. Timing depends on hiring and training capacity.

Phase 4 — Evaluate (after the first full school year)

Compare actual spending and coverage with the plan, review community feedback, assess vehicle sponsorship value and adjust deployment.

Decisions required before a formal proposal

- Verify the working baseline of 8 current SROs and confirm whether all are full-time and how many schools each currently covers.
- Confirm the 33-school planning count and define the exact coverage hours required.
- Obtain agency-verified costs for salary, benefits, overtime, training, supervision, vehicles and equipment.
- Decide how city, county and district shares would be funded and obtain legal review of any tax proposal.
- Determine whether one relief officer is sufficient based on leave patterns, geography and simultaneous absences.
- Approve written rules for retired vehicles, sponsors, maintenance, placement and public communications.

Sources and assumptions: City of Bend, 2025–27 Adopted Biennial Budget (permanent operating property-tax rate and projected property-tax revenue); U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts / Census profile for Bend households. Cost per SRO, staffing counts, 50/50 cost split and proposed implementation are planning assumptions requiring confirmation. Household equivalent and revenue percentage are arithmetic estimates, not a forecast of individual tax bills.

5. School District and Per-Student Cost Breakdown

This page adds the district-side cost and an illustrative per-student equivalent to the existing SRO proposal. It uses the same midpoint staffing estimate already presented in this document: 26 additional positions at \$162,500 each, or \$4.225 million per year.

Annual funding view	Annual amount	Equivalent per student / year
Total cost of 26 additional officers	\$4,225,000	\$252.99
Illustrative school district share (50%)	\$2,112,500	\$126.50
Illustrative city/county partner share (50%)	\$2,112,500	\$126.50

What the parent-funded equivalent would look like

If parents were hypothetically asked to cover the entire district's 50% share, that would equal about **\$126.50 per student per year**—approximately **\$10.54 per student per month**, averaged across the district's 16,700 students.

Number of students in family	Annual equivalent	Monthly equivalent
1 student	\$126.50	\$10.54
2 students	\$252.99	\$21.08
3 students	\$379.49	\$31.62

Important interpretation

These are averages for comparison, not proposed school fees or an estimate of what any individual parent would actually pay. The district's share would normally be funded through district revenues and budget decisions, not automatically billed to parents. A parent contribution, fee, or levy would require a separate policy and legal review. The calculation divides the illustrative district share evenly by 16,700 students; it does not account for family income, exemptions, school-level differences, or enrollment changes. If the funding split changes, the per-student figures change proportionally.

Enrollment basis: Bend-La Pine Schools' website reports 16,700 students and 33 schools. <https://www.blschools.org/> | Staffing costs and 50/50 funding split remain preliminary planning assumptions from this proposal.