

CAHOOTS Program Briefing

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History

CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) is a mobile crisis intervention program staffed by White Bird Clinic personnel using City of Eugene vehicles. This relationship has been in place for nearly 30 years and is well embedded in the community. CAHOOTS provides support for EPD personnel by taking on many of the social service style calls for service to include crisis counseling. They often provide initial contact and transport for intoxicated persons, mentally ill, or disoriented persons as well as transport for necessary non-emergency medical care. CAHOOTS is dispatched on EPD's service channel and calls are triaged through the Central Lane Communication Center. Each van is staffed with a medic (nurse or EMT) and an experienced crisis worker.

The FY18 contract budget for the CAHOOTS program was approximately \$798,000 which funded 31 hours of service. One van is on duty 24 hours a day. A second van is in service, providing overlap coverage 7 hours per day. We anticipate adding 11 hours of service later this year. A second van will be in service from 0800-0200 hours bringing our FY19 budget to \$1,041,953 for 42 hours of service. Annual fleet costs are \$122,696 which includes fuel, maintenance, insurance, and replacement.

Current

Over the last four years, the demand for CAHOOTS services has increased significantly. In 2014, CAHOOTS handled 9,662 calls for service. In 2018, CAHOOTS handled 17,440 calls. In 2018, EPD received 96,508 public initiated calls for service and had 30,922 self-initiated calls for service. CAHOOTS calls are not all police and fire diverts. Some calls are a joint response or CAHOOTS is summoned to a police or fire call after it is determined their services are a better match to resolve the situation. However, CAHOOTS remains a primary responder for many calls providing a valuable and needed resource to the community.

