



Pondera County Sheriff's Office
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Sheriff – Coroner Robert C. Skorupa

Undersheriff Robert R. Bender

July 27, 2026

Mr. Jones,

Thank you for reaching out to me! I had heard through the rumor mill that the City of Conrad was not interested in trying to negotiate the contract, instead, they had been spending the extra time I granted after the previous contract expiration attempting to find a different dispatch center to provide dispatch services. I was afraid I would have to terminate dispatch services for the City of Conrad effective August 1st.

To respond to your question about why we are asking for such an increase, 4 years ago we attempted to bring the cost of the dispatch contract more in line with those counties around us who had cities using their dispatch services. The same argument was made then about it being too big of an increase and the City of Conrad was not in a position to financially make that big of a jump. We therefore settled on the small increase.

I do not believe the City of Conrad fully understands what our dispatchers do for them under this contract. Here is a breakdown:

1. Answer CPD Administrative Line 24/7
2. Dispatch Law Enforcement, Fire, & EMS
3. Run vehicle and person queries through CJIN
4. Run criminal and drivers' history through CJIN
5. Enter City warrants, stolen vehicles, temporary orders of protection, & attempt to locate into CJIN
6. Maintain CJIN certification
7. Enter missing persons and runaways into CJIN
8. Enter stolen property into CJIN
9. Conduct welfare checks on officers
10. Complete dispatch call logs for officers

I think it's fair to say that for years, the City of Conrad has fallen short of what other Montana towns pay for their dispatch services. All we would like is to be more in line with other counties. I understand that such an increase as we are proposing is substantially more for the upcoming contract. I understand that would be a significant amount of money all at once, but we are again trying to bring the contract in line with where it should be, and we believe that it should cover the cost of at least a part-time dispatch position, which right now is \$77,052.00. Again, that is why we are requesting that amount. It is my belief that at some point, whether it be this contract or a future contract, the City of Conrad needs to fund a part-time dispatcher position.

As such, I would like to propose a counter offer, which is still less than half of the initial request. I offer this in respect and understanding of how the full amount would be a significant increase. I

too do not have the authority to bind the County to these figures, but will use them to present to the County Commissioners if the City of Conrad finds they can work with it.

To give time to more slowly work the City of Conrad towards closing the gap to covering the cost of a part-time dispatcher, I propose:

Fiscal Year	Annual Fee	Annual Increase
FY 2026-27	\$35,000.00	48%
FY 2027-28	\$38,500.00	10%
FY 2028-29	\$42,350.00	10%
FY 2029-30	\$46,585.00	10%
FY 2030-31	\$51,243.50	10%
FY 2031-32	\$56,367.85	10%
FY 2032-33	\$62,004.64	10%

If this works for the City of Conrad, I will present it to the County Commissioners for their approval.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Skorupa
Sheriff, Pondera County

