

SALT LAKE COUNTY
COUNTYWIDE POLICY
ON
**COUNTY FUNDING OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES
IN RECREATIONAL AREAS**

Purpose –

To establish procedures and guidelines for Salt Lake County’s funding of fire, paramedic, police protection, and other eligible public safety services in areas of the county that the County Council has designated as recreational areas consistent with Utah Code Ann. § 17-34-1.

1.0 Policy

It is the policy of Salt Lake County (the “County”) to provide a standardized procedure to process, assess, and consider funding requests for statutorily defined fire, paramedic, and police protection services (“public safety services”) in designated recreational areas of the county.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to the provision of statutorily defined public safety services to areas of the county outside of the limits of cities or towns designated as a recreational area, or to areas of the county within a municipality located in an area designated as a recreational area. Public safety funding requests shall only be considered for statutorily eligible recreational areas, as defined by Utah Code § 17-34-1, and further designated and adopted by a resolution of the County Council. This policy does not apply to the County’s provision of public safety services on a countywide basis, including statutorily required services provided by the Salt Lake County Sheriff such as search and rescue services.

3.0 Funding Request Timeline and Evaluation Process

The County and any relevant governmental entity requesting funding for public safety services in a designated recreational area of the county shall adhere to the following procedures:

3.1 Governmental entities providing public safety services to potentially eligible recreational areas may request formal designation of those areas as recreational areas from the County Council, or the County Council may of its own initiative designate recreational areas consistent with Utah Code and its policy prerogatives.

- 3.2 The County will consider public safety funding requests for eligible recreational areas as a part of its annual budget process. Funding requests from other governmental entities should be aligned with the County's fiscal year, which runs from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year. Funding requests from other governmental entities should be submitted in writing to the County on or before July 31 of the year prior to the fiscal year that such funds are being requested. Such funding requests shall include sufficiently itemized budgetary detail describing the eligible public safety services, as well as documentation that the request complies with Utah law and this policy.
- 3.3 Following the receipt of a funding request, the County Mayor or their designee shall conduct a review of the funding request and submit written recommendations to the County Council as part of the County's annual budget process. The County Mayor may include favorably reviewed funding requests as a part of the County's proposed budget.
- 3.4 Consistent with their statutory authority, the County Mayor and Council may also make their own public safety funding recommendations for eligible recreational areas as a part of the County's budget process.
- 3.5 The County may invite other governmental entities to provide a briefing related to the funding request to the Council at an appropriate budget workshop or other Council meeting.
- 3.6 The County Mayor and Council shall evaluate public safety funding requests consistent with applicable law, this policy, and the County's budgetary constraints and overall policy objectives.
- 3.7 Salt Lake County's decision to provide public safety funding or services to an eligible recreational area is entirely discretionary and subject to annual budgetary approval by the County Council.
- 3.8 Following budgetary approval by the County Council, the County Mayor or their designee may negotiate any applicable interlocal agreement necessary to provide public safety funding to eligible recreational areas and shall submit such agreement to the County Council for final approval. Such interlocal agreements shall not be amended unless authorized and approved by the County Council in an open and public meeting.

4.0 Funding Considerations

The County establishes the following policy considerations and criteria for reviewing and providing public safety funding in eligible recreational areas:

- 4.1 Favorable consideration may be given to entities providing public safety services in eligible recreational areas that have maximized and exhausted other revenue

streams, including available municipal and tourism taxes.

- 4.2 Favorable consideration may be given to entities providing public safety services in eligible recreation areas that are able to demonstrate a clear alignment between requested funding and actual public safety needs demonstrated through clearly itemized budgets, as well as a demonstration that the public safety services in the recreational area are utilized by residents who live outside of the recreational area or tourists.
- 4.3 Funding is made solely at the discretion of the Council and is subject to the availability of funds in the County's budget. Nothing in this policy shall be understood to create an entitlement or guarantee of funding for services provided to any potentially eligible recreational area.

5.0 Audit

- 5.1 The Council or Mayor may request that the Salt Lake County Auditor perform a financial or performance audit on the use of any public safety funding provided under this policy. Any audits performed under this policy may occur within two years from the time the funding was made.
- 5.2 Interlocal agreements providing funding to other governmental entities shall include provisions requiring the other governmental entity to agree to cooperate with the audits described in this section as a condition of the agreement.

APPROVED and PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

Aimee Winder Newton, Chair

ATTEST:

Lannie Chapman
Salt Lake County Clerk

REVIEWED AS TO FORM:

Deputy District Attorney