



City of Tieton 2008-2009 3/10ths Annual Report

The 3/10ths funding for Yakima County Law Enforcement Agencies has been a great asset to each and every city throughout our valley. Whether shown in more officers on the street, more prosecutors in the court's, or more equipment for law enforcement agencies, we have all benefited from it in some way.

Most importantly the citizen's that live in Yakima County have benefited from this fund, our families are safer, our officer's better trained, and new equipment on and off the road has been made available. Due to the 3/10ths fund agency budgets aren't being raised or cut to accomplish this. The 3/10ths funding is not being used to fill those gaps, and is a fund which is created for criminal justice purposes only.

The Tieton Police Department has used it's funding for two new patrol cars, updated firearms and less lethal equipment. These items range in cost between \$800 to \$43,000. Tieton's new cars were equipped with state of the art in-car video systems that record our traffic stops or when the emergency lights are activated. For the first time Tieton Police Department has computers in the patrol cars. This allows us to run driver and warrant checks and do the reports in the cars instead of the office, this keeps us on the streets more and visible to the public.

When fuel cost got out of hand in 2008, we used our 3/10ths funding to start a bike patrol for our small city. It was a benefit to us and the tax payers to keep our fuel cost down as much as possible. Putting the bikes on the road saved approximately \$500 for the months we were able to use them. This year and in 2010 we expect to recover all the cost of the bikes and additional equipment by the savings to our fuel costs. We can continue to utilize the patrol cars as they are equipped with bike racks in case we need to get somewhere right away.

Without the 3/10th funding the City of Tieton would never have been able to afford the equipment we purchased. As you can see with the dollar amounts shown a budget increase would have been inevitable for the items we needed for the police department. This fund is increased each and every time goods are purchased in Yakima County. As a taxpayer it makes sense because it's not a new tax for this fund, it's a small percentage from the sales tax that already existed.