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BIGGS AND GRIDLEY AGREE TO EXTEND POLICE CONTRACT

At their separate city council meetings Monday night, Biggs and Gridley gave unanimous approval to an agreement extending the current law enforcement services partnership through at least June of 2014.

The new formula for cost share will continue with adjustments intended to address current and anticipated costs of operating the Gridley-Biggs Police Department.

Biggs is now paying just over \$400,000 of the department’s \$2 ½ million annual budget. GBPD includes 16 sworn officers, 24-hr dispatch services, a dozen patrol cars, participation in regional programs like BINTF, and a new detective position being added July 1.

Gridley’s Mayor Jerry Fichter expressed satisfaction with the contract extension, “Gridley has a first class police force who are here to serve and protect. This agreement helps make this entire area a safer environment for both cities. Crime does not recognize city limit signs and with this agreement, we will continue to ensure that criminal conduct is not welcome or tolerated in this part of the county. ”

Roger Frith, Biggs’ mayor and public safety commissioner, reflected similar sentiment, “Our communities are well served by one of the best staffed police departments around. We are fortunate to have what we do. Working together both cities are better off.”

The two cities’ 2007 contract was modified in 2010 but limited to 24 months. Biggs had been exploring alternative options in an environment of constrained general fund tax revenues. Both city councils recognized benefits of continuing the partnership if it could be affordable for both cities.

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