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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Scott Ciecko, Assistant County Counsel  
Brad O'Neil, Captain, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

SUBJECT: Cleanup of Abandoned RVs

DATE: May 10, 2022

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### Question Presented:

What are the current County processes and procedures for dealing with cleanup of abandoned RVs in unincorporated Clackamas County? This is an information only presentation to the Board at this stage with no specific request for action.

### Short Answer:

Staff from a number of County departments have begun working together throughout the past year to secure funding and establish practices for dealing with abandoned RVs. Staff continues to work to streamline and formalize those practices, and to identify and secure sources of dedicated, ongoing funding.

### Discussion:

The problem of dilapidated RVs being abandoned in public rights of way is not new to the region, but it appears to be increasing in unincorporated Clackamas County. The Sheriff's Office is currently aware of approximately 30 abandoned RVs subject to tow,

and in the past year have ordered approximately 7 of them towed. The attached map shows the locations of known abandoned RVs.

These RVs are unsightly and create a blight on the neighborhoods where they are left. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for the RVs to be burned, to leak hazardous fluids, to contain drug paraphernalia, or to be abandoned in locations where they pose sight line obstructions or encroachment hazards to the traveling public.

So far, only abandoned RVs posing a safety risk are being considered for towing. The reason is that there is not currently a dedicated source of ongoing funding for this purpose, and towing and proper dismantling of an abandoned RV costs approximately \$6,000 to \$8,000 per vehicle.

Throughout the past year, staff from several County departments have begun coordinating to address this problem. There is now frequent communication between the Sheriff's Office, Code Enforcement, Transportation, and County Counsel. When an abandoned RV is reported, a deputy will inspect it and it is added to the list. If the RV is identified as posing a potential safety risk, staff from these departments will discuss whether a tow is warranted and whether funds are available for towing and dismantling.

The sources of funding identified by staff to date are as follows: \$30,000 from Sustainability; \$20,000 from WES (for abandoned RVs located within its service district); \$25,000 from the BCC/County Administration. Transportation has also agreed to provide money for abandoned RVs on County roads, but a specific amount has not been identified. In addition, there is currently an effort underway to secure a grant from Metro for an additional \$200,000 for this purpose.

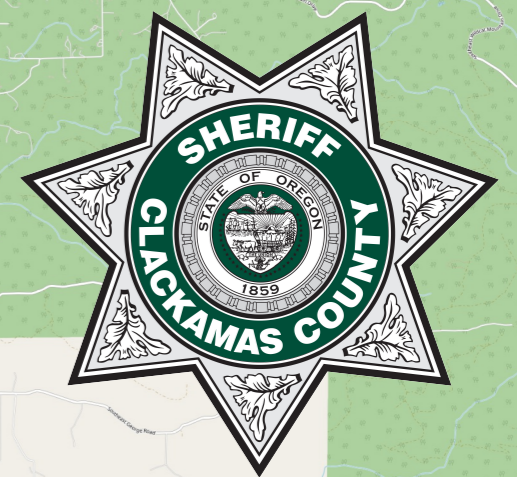
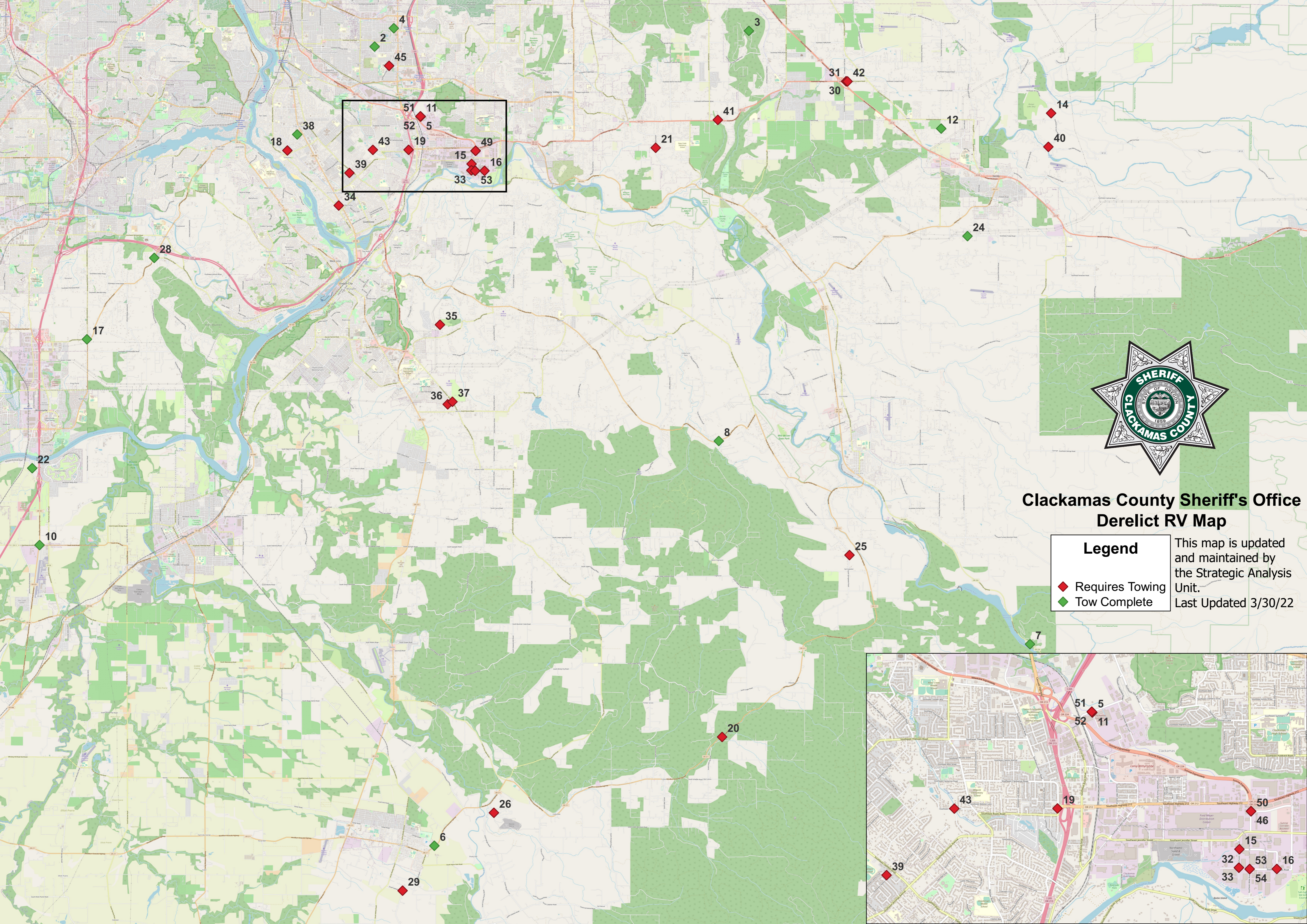
Of the existing money, the full amount of WES dollars remain available because they are newly identified funds. Approximately \$5,000 of the BCC/County Administration money remains available, and approximately \$5,000 of the Sustainability money is available. As a result, there is currently money available for towing approximately three RVs from within WES boundaries, and perhaps two RVs from the rest of the County.

For next steps in dealing with this problem, it will be helpful to formally designate specific County departments and staff tasked with responding to abandoned RVs and tracking available funding. The Sheriff's Office has indicated it is able to continue inspecting abandoned RVs and ordering tows when funds are available. A centralized location for keeping and tracking available funding is still needed with assigned staff responsible for determining when funds exist for a tow and when they do not.

A final note regarding this issue is that this memorandum only addresses *abandoned* RVs. Occupied RVs, even if parked in public right of way for long periods of time, present a different set of issues and should be considered separately.

Although this is an information only presentation at this time, staff welcomes direction and assistance from the Board and County Administration in order to continue to address abandoned RVs within the County.





**Clackamas County Sheriff's Office  
Derelict RV Map**

<b>Legend</b>	This map is updated and maintained by the Strategic Analysis Unit. Last Updated 3/30/22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">◆</span> Requires Towing</li> <li><span style="color: green;">◆</span> Tow Complete</li> </ul>	

