



City of Airway Heights - Kalispel Tribal Property Service Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Issue?

The Kalispel Tribe owes the City more than \$1.5 million in contract payments accrued since 2019. The City can no longer afford to subsidize the high volume of police and fire calls arising from the Tribal property, so it will reduce the level of fire, police and emergency services it provides to the Kalispel Tribe.

When will it go into effect?

Effective Dec. 31, 2022, subject to availability of resources, the City may respond to calls for police, fire and emergency services arising from the Tribal Property where there is an imminent threat to human life.

Why is the City taking action now?

Our City is experiencing rapid growth, placing a significant increase in demand on infrastructure and public safety services. It is unsustainable to subsidize the Tribe's operations while serving the public safety of all citizens without payments from the Tribe. As our City grows, the tax base is not, even as residents and local businesses pay their fair share. The entire community is impacted as a result and the City's resources are spread thin.

What will happen when a call is placed to 911?

The Tribe has the ability to coordinate police, fire and emergency medical services with a variety of service providers. The ultimate selection of vendors is up to the Tribe to engage.

What contractual agreements are in place between the City and Tribe?

There are two contracts. The Kalispel Tribe owns 40 acres of land for its casino operations and 250 acres of land within the city limits used for commercial, residential and industrial uses. In 1996, the City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tribe to pay \$374,250 annually to mitigate impacts of its gaming operations. In 2006, the Tribe entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Airway Heights and Spokane County to support

the use and development of its 250-acre property. The Tribe has failed to make payments on either of its contracts since 2019.

What property is included in the Tribe's service area?

Areas included in reduced services include the entire casino property, as well as Tribal Trust properties in the Copper Land and Salish Flats apartments. See the map here [INCLUDE LINK](#)

How much does the Kalispel Tribe owe the City of Airway Heights?

Total unpaid annual payments due and owing the City of Airway Heights exceed \$1,479,000.00. In the meantime, the City's estimated cost to deliver law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services is \$1.5 million annually.

How can this get resolved?

Numerous efforts for the City to reach a resolution with the Tribe have been unsuccessful to date, yet we remain hopeful the parties can work together to find a solution. To help protect the safety of our community, please support the City and encourage the Tribe to honor their contractual obligations.