



<i>CITY RECORDER USE ONLY:</i>	
AGENDA ITEM #:	_____
MEETING DATE:	_____
FINAL ACTION:	_____

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

WORK SESSION:

TO: *City Council*

FROM: *Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager*

MEETING DATE: *April 1, 2017*

PROJECT TEAM: *Michael Kinkade, Fire Chief*

SUBJECT TITLE: *Fire Task Force: Foundational Principles*

ACTION REQUESTED: Ordinance Order Resolution Motion Informational

X all that apply

ISSUE STATEMENT:

The Western Washington County Fire Task Force was formed to evaluate governance options for providing fire service in Western Washington County. The participating agencies include the City of Cornelius, Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District, City of Forest Grove, Forest Grove Rural Fire Protection District, and Gaston Rural Fire Protection District. Each of these entities currently has an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Forest Grove for providing fire service.

BACKGROUND:

In 2010, the Fire Department Strategic Plan first identified the possibility of cooperative partnerships for fire service provision. In 2011, the IGA between the City of Cornelius and the City of Forest Grove was implemented. In 2016, an IGA between the City of Gaston and the City of Forest Grove was implemented. In 2015, a study was conducted by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) that identified a Fire Authority and eventually a District as possible governance options. In addition, a visioning process was held with the Mayors of Cornelius and Forest Grove and representatives from the Forest Grove, Cornelius, and Gaston Rural Fire Districts. In 2016, presentations were given to the City Council on the Fire Authority concept.

On January 27, 2018, the Annual Town Hall Meeting centered on governance options for providing fire services. In March, 2018, the City Council approved Objective 2.14, Fire Authority IGA, to “Participate in a Task Force of potential members to consider the financial, legal, and operational impacts of intergovernmental fire service delivery”.

The Western Washington County Fire Task Force was formed and began meeting in November, 2018. The Task Force is composed of six members including Mayor Truax and Councilor Rippe (PSAC Liaison) from the City of Forest Grove, Mayor Dalin from the City of Cornelius, Wes VanDyke from the Cornelius Rural Fire Protection District, Cleo Howell from the Forest Grove

Rural Fire Protection District, and Michael Piedmonte from the Gaston Rural Fire Protection District.

The goal of the Task Force is to study potential governance models and provide a consensus proposal to the five governing boards. The potential governance models identified by the Task Force include 1) continue with current system of individual IGAs, 2) Establish a comprehensive IGA that essentially forms a fire authority, and 3) establish a Western Washington County Fire District.

The Task Force has met 4 times since November. With the assistance of Assistant Washington County Administrator Don Bohn, the Task Force has developed a set of Foundational Principles (attached) to guide discussions and assist in evaluating the governance models identified above. The Foundational Principles were recently approved by the City of Cornelius, Gaston RFPD, Forest Grove RFPD, and Cornelius RFPD.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Work Session is informational and intended to introduce the Foundational Principles and allow for question and answer. Don Bohn from Washington County will be in attendance and facilitate their introduction. Based on feedback from Council, staff intends to draft a resolution considering approval of the Foundational Principles at the April 22, 2019 Council meeting.

ATTACHMENT(s):

Western Washington County Fire Task Force Foundational Principles



Western Washington County Fire Task Force

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

DRAFT APPROVED BY FIRE TASK FORCE FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Service to the Community

- The fire and rescue system is designed, organized, governed and funded to provide effective, efficient and reliable services to the community.
- The fire and rescue system recognizes an interdependent service area that spans the City of Forest Grove, City of Cornelius, Forest Grove Rural Fire, Cornelius Rural Fire and Gaston Rural Fire.

Governance and Identity

- The fire and rescue system is unified and locally governed and managed.
- The fire and rescue system delivers services and service levels as determined by community and stakeholder needs and interests.
- The fire and rescue system reflects the values and spirit of the community served.

Operationally Effective and Responsive

- The fire and rescue system provides coordinated and comprehensive response throughout the unified service area.
- The fire and rescue system is managed to optimize resource deployment and ensure consistent and appropriate response capabilities.
- In coordination with other emergency management agencies, the fire and rescue system will be prepared and equipped to respond during disaster related events.

Professional

- The fire and rescue system attracts and retains a qualified and professional workforce.
- The fire and rescue system provides standardized and regular training and development opportunities.
- The fire and rescue system actively recruits, engages and trains volunteers and provides opportunities for advancement.

Fiscally Responsible

- The fire and rescue system will exemplify operational excellence in a fiscally responsible manner.
- The fire and rescue system will procure and maintain the resources necessary for unified deployment and response.
- The fire and rescue system will be funded by an equitable finance strategy that can accommodate current and future service demands.
- The fire and rescue system will be supported by viable, sustainable and stable funding.

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