

**CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM
JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE**

Meeting Summary

June 29, 2009

**Eugene Emergency Services Training Center – 1705 W 2nd Avenue
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Elected Officials Present:

Lane County Commissioner Rob Handy

Eugene City Councilors Mike Clark and Andrea Ortiz

Springfield City Councilors Dave Ralston and Hillary Wylie

Eugene Staff Present:

Randy Groves, Denise Giard, Joe Zaludek, Julie Lindsey, Joann Eppli

Springfield Staff Present:

Dennis Murphy, Mark Walker, Brian Evanoff, Bart Noll

IAFF Local 1395 Representatives Present:

Kevin Gray

Lane Rural Staff Present:

Dale Borland, Bill Bass, Chris Heppel

LCOG Staff Present:

Byron Vanderpool and Paula Taylor

1. Welcome

- Randy Groves convened the fifth meeting of the Ambulance Transport System (ATS) Joint Elected Officials (JEO) Task Force. He then completed a roll call of the elected officials. He added that Scott Olmos had a last minute conflict, and will not be able to attend today's meeting.
- Everyone present introduced themselves.

2. Future ATS JEO Task Force Meetings

- The Task Force decided to meet during council break and keep the 2nd and 4th Monday meeting schedule. The Task Force agreed that biweekly meetings will be cancelled if necessary.
- The next ATS JEO Task Force meeting is scheduled for:
 - Monday, July 27, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Fire Conference Room.
- The Task Force meeting on September 14th was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict with the quarterly JEO meeting. However, the Task Force will request to be added to the agenda for the quarterly JEO meeting to provide a status report on the Task Force's work.

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3. JEO Meetings

- Randy Groves reported that a special JEO meeting was requested for July 21st in hopes that the ATS JEO Task Force would be ready to make recommendations to address the issues of the Central Lane ambulance transport system to the full JEO group. However, the Task Force has not yet completed enough work to present meaningful, thoughtful recommendations. Additionally, with July 21st quickly approaching, it does not allow enough time to conduct any public forums, which is an important step in the process. He then suggested using the July 21st date to instead present results of the ESCI cooperative services study between Eugene Fire & EMS and Springfield Fire & Life Safety, since the report will provide suggestions for potential solutions to address some of the issues with the Central Lane ambulance transport system. The Task Force agreed that the ESCI cooperative services study results will be presented at the July 21st JEO meeting.

4. Meeting Summary Approval

- The Task Force unanimously approved the May 28, 2009 Meeting Summary.

5. Items for Discussion

Establish Mobile Health Services Partnership – Springfield Presentation

- The Task Force unanimously approved Springfield Fire & Life Safety staff moving forward with a grant application to fund the development of a Mobile Health Services Partnership. The Mobile Health Services Partnership is a national demonstration project designed for the purpose of helping to solve the current funding challenge to the ambulance transport system. The partnership will feature a prominent role for the fire service agencies, and may include one or more private healthcare and medical transportation organizations, as well as participation by a major healthcare insurer.

Create an Ambulance Service Taxing District – LCOG Presentation

- LCOG staff distributed a draft report titled *Ambulance Service Providers – Formation and Annexation*, a matrix titled *Overview of Selected Alternatives for Funding Ambulance Services*, and a corresponding map on the study they conducted on creating ambulance service districts.
- Byron Vanderpool stated that LCOG was commissioned by the Lane Fire Defense Board to conduct the study. He said the report includes options, details, as well as technical and legal requirements for developing an ambulance service district. He added that it was clear from earlier discussions with the ATS JEO Task Force and at JEO meetings that a broader set of options needed to be considered for addressing the financial issues with the ambulance transport system, and that the Task Force could use some information to assist with narrowing the search to find the most viable options. In addition to the Action Plan that Eugene, Springfield and Lane Rural staff developed, Byron referred to the matrix titled *Overview of Selected Alternatives for Funding Ambulance Services*. He explained that this document is an overview of selected alternatives, offering a quick look at some of the alternatives for creating districts, consolidation, levels of governance, and showing different benefits and different actions. Options shown include everything from creating an intergovernmental agreement under ORS 190, all the way through creating an

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ambulance service taxing district. Byron stated that this overview document is meant to assist the Task Force filter information and determine what options they are most interested in exploring further. It is intended to answer very high-level questions. He said once the Task Force has determined which options they are most interested in, then staff will do the work to further flesh out the details.

- Councilor Dave Ralston noted that “ambulance service district” is not specifically shown. Byron confirmed that there is no specific category for ambulance service district, and said this is detailed in the report titled *Ambulance Service Providers – Formation and Annexation*. Byron added that an ambulance service district can be formed as one of several special districts.
- Dennis Murphy added that Western Lane is a health district that was originally a hospital function when PeaceHealth moved there. He said that the board made a conscious decision to form a health district. Paula Taylor further added that Western Lane is considered a special district.
- Councilor Dave Ralston expressed his interest in developing a system that utilizes existing elected officials rather than creating another layer of elected officials. He commented that annexing to an existing district is another way to go. Paula Taylor noted that a rural fire protection district already exists. Councilor Ralston restated that he does not want to create another elected board. Paula Taylor said that there are a lot of options, and added that one thing to consider if looking at annexing to an existing district, is the tax rate of that district. She stated that another option she thought about was to create a new ambulance service district, initially not include Western Lane, choose a tax rate, and then merge the two districts (the new district and Western Lane). Councilor Ralston noted that there is no specific mention of how the options relate to compression. Paula explained that a feasibility study would be required for the formation of a special district, and the feasibility study would be a logical place to address compression and related issues. Byron Vanderpool added that staff have not gone into details, especially on compression, because it depends on the areas and rates being considered. He added that compression expands through changes in the county, and a very thorough financial analysis and feasibility study would need to be performed to identify areas that are currently in compression. Councilor Ralston mentioned that compression for the total of Lane County may be just a couple of cents. Byron added that it depends on the territory being looked at and rates being considered.
- Commissioner Rob Handy inquired on the tax rate for Western Lane, to which Dale Borland replied that it is currently 32 cents, with a levy out for 28 cents. Referring to the overview matrix, Commissioner Handy confirmed that the “no impact on existing districts” shown for the option of a *Merger of like districts by cessation of district(s) being absorbed into surviving district* is not a hard no, meaning that there are not as many impacts on other districts of that same nature.
- Byron Vanderpool stated that Western Lane is interested in participating in future discussions with the ATS JEO Task Force. Paula Taylor added that Western Lane is also experiencing financial challenges as well.

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- Randy Groves inquired on the timeline for the process to form a new taxing authority. Paula Taylor asked the Task Force to go to Section 6 (page 6-7) at the end of the report, where she included a sample formation timeline. She said this sample timeline assumes a November election, and being optimistic, it would take approximately two years to get to the point of submitting something. She added that the area being considered would need to be known. Randy Groves noted that forming a new taxing authority is not a short-term solution. Paula Taylor stated that the timeline for annexation is shorter if there is not an election. She said that annexation could be passed in any election. Byron Vanderpool emphasized that the timelines shown are very optimistic, and assume that every step in the process runs smoothly. He said that sometimes these processes can take several years. He added that it is hard to guess how long the public information piece will take, and is a critical component of the process.
- Councilor Dave Ralston commented that the earliest possible start is May 2010. Paula Taylor said she believes it is already too late for that. Byron cited the example of the Metro Plan, and stated that the process can run smoothly if there is concurrence among the three bodies, however, when elected officials do not agree, the process can take a really long time.
- Commissioner Rob Handy noted that the Metro Plan is complicated in certain parts of the county, there are a range of options, and the Intergovernmental Agreement helps the elected officials figure out how to creatively work together. Randy Groves added that the ESCI Eugene/Springfield Cooperative Services Study being presented at the July 21st JEO will show other examples of how the two agencies can further collaborate and shrink their administrative footprints, thereby becoming more efficient, and he believes, effective in delivering services.
- Paula Taylor guided the Task Force through the report titled *Ambulance Service Providers – Formation and Annexation*. She said after the table of contents, the first section includes information on special districts that could be formed under the law. There are at least three viable options: a health district, a county service district and a rural fire protection district. She stated that boundary changes formation or an annexation of any special district would have to go through a process in ORS 198. Paula said Lane County has developed a very detailed instruction packet (still in draft form) that outlines the process of doing a formation, including a fee schedule, as well as valuable and useful documents. To form a county service district the Lane County Board of Commissioners are the elected board as required by law. Paula said Section 2 is a summary of the existing system. She stated that the ambulance service plan describes different areas and specific statutory requirements that must be complied with. She said Section 3 is information from a survey conducted of other ambulance service providers. Paula added that the survey information ranges from name to tax rate, to governance structure. She noted that a health district can have up to an 11 member board, and existing health districts govern over hospital services.
- Commissioner Rob Handy asked Paula for a cliff notes version of the information. Paula Taylor went on to explain that rural fire protection districts can provide a wide range of services, such as ambulance, hazardous waste disposal responsibility, can tax, and can

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have fees. She said a health district can also provide this same range of services. Referencing the summary in Section 1 on Page 1-3, Paula noted that the range of services health districts provide is very broad. She added that the fire district statute is very specific. She said that health districts are used in different ways, and noted that some existing hospitals started as health districts. Paula stated that there are districts in Oregon that only provide ambulance services, but have the ability to provide a wide range of services. She said the purpose of the district has to be submitted in a petition to the county.

- Councilor Andrea Ortiz asked for information on existing districts.
- Councilor Dave Ralston asked who would respond to emergencies and car accidents if there were a separate ambulance system. Using Western Lane as an example Randy Groves stated that they respond with both ambulances and fire engines. Dale Borland added that Western Lane is not heavy on first response, and that first response needs to be requested, as it is not automatic in that service area.
- Commissioner Rob Handy asked for more information on others agencies experiences, to open up access to information on the breadth of opportunities and challenges. Byron Vanderpool said that staff want to know what level of information the Task Force wants on the various options, and what types of information will be most helpful.
- Councilor Andrea Ortiz asked for a chart of options, including what each option will do and the pros and cons of each option. Randy Groves said that staffs' goal is to provide elected officials with as much information as possible, so the elected officials can make informed policy decisions. He said that staff would have to think about how to best deliver this information in a chart or table format.
- Councilor Mike Clark said he is also interested in a list of options showing the pros and cons for each option.
- Dale Borland said taking a look at Lane Rural's operation in regards to multi-role personnel and considering a health district, he asked how multi-role personnel flush out.
- Councilor Dave Ralston re-emphasized that he really does not want to create a new elected board. He supports making the Lane County Board of Commissioners the elected board, and believes others would be supportive of this structure. In reviewing the overview matrix, he noted that most options seem to have a new board. Randy Groves asked LCOG staff if it would be possible for the board to be comprised of one elected official from each jurisdiction. Byron Vanderpool replied that the short answer is "no". He noted that the Intergovernmental Agreement option does not provide additional revenue. As an example, Metro Wastewater entered an ORS 190 agreement with Eugene, Springfield and Lane County to operate the Metro Wastewater facility, and then created a county special district with bonding authority to build a facility. This allowed them to specify what the board is comprised of. He added that the Board of County Commissioners has fee setting authority. Councilor Ralston commented that he keeps raising the topic, because others will bring it up, and people will oppose it. He personally wants to retain the Lane County Board of Commissioners as the elected board. Byron Vanderpool said that under ORS, we can establish a county special service district; how

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we establish a county special service district can be accomplished in various ways.

Forming a county special service district is one way to establish a new taxing district.

- Dennis Murphy said that the reason the Task Force is looking at new means of taxes to support the ambulance function is because Eugene, Springfield and Lane Rural currently serve areas that are not in the two cities or fire protection district, and therefore, they do not pay city or district taxes. He added that if the use of General Fund support comes as a necessary means under the moniker of an ambulance taxing district, it needs to be decided what the amount is that we want to be charging if we had an ambulance servicing district. He suggested using the existing taxing structure within our current authority, and holding this conversation before launching a new authority. Dennis mentioned that FireMed has a low-cost rate and is a simple solution. He added that if we create a new super district, and used General Fund support, the money would be coming from the same taxpayers' pockets, which would not help us achieve equity to all user groups. He then suggested looking at implementing short-term options for a couple of years while working on developing the longer-term options. He advocated against increasing the tax load, and for considering alternatives of using what we already have in place to create a model for short-term implementation, and to get to a vote.
- Commissioner Rob Handy expressed his appreciation for today's discussion. He said he is interested in exploring all options. He added that there is currently a lot of focus on public safety in the community, with ambulance service being an element of public safety that is a core service that should be paid for with the first dollars. He said there has been a lot of talk on differential or split rates, and asked how we find a solution to take a chance and include the broader public safety arena. He would like to create a package that addresses a lot of different things with parallel issues at the same time, and includes both urban and rural areas.
- Councilor Mike Clark said he believes the more specific and finite the recommendations the Task Force brings forward, the more potential there is for votes of approval from the full JEO group, as well as public support. He agreed that the need to do things differently exists. He asked if there is a way to create a mechanism to receive a greater share of contributions from non-metropolitan areas. Dennis Murphy replied yes, this is a very focused viewpoint. He said the following questions should be considered: 1) how does it work out over the greater service population; 2) should an equitable or assessed value be used; 3) how much per thousand do we have to put into an ambulance service; 4) can we increase penetration into the rural areas? Randy Groves added that almost everyone in Lane County lives in either an incorporated city or a fire district, and ambulance service could be made a part of the base.
- Councilor Mike Clark agreed that building the longer-term solutions will take a couple of years. Dennis Murphy added that solutions can be implemented unilaterally, and stated that Western Lane has an out-of-district surcharge that is passed on to patients. Randy Groves further cautioned that we do not want to create a system that negatively impacts neighboring jurisdictions, because we respond to calls in and out of each others' areas daily. Byron Vanderpool said an out-of-city fee could be charged for non-city residents.

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- Councilor Mike Clark asked if there is a mechanism to charge for out-of-Lane County-response, to which Dennis Murphy responded that Lane Rural could contract with Junction City. Randy Groves added that there is already a differential charge based on distance. As an example, if someone lives in Walton, they will pay more because of the mileage charge.
- Councilor Dave Ralston commented that it seems like we have to have a dual track, and he is compelled to do what Dennis Murphy has suggested. He sees a need to develop both a short-term and longer-term strategy to deal with the problem. The three chiefs all agreed with his assessment. Dennis Murphy spoke again about mobile health care and said there will be more money with the grant, which is meant to take care of two things: 1) more appropriate use of resources; and 2) stop cold access to 9-1-1 and hospital emergency rooms. He re-stated that we need to invest in the short-term while doing work for long-term solutions.
- Councilor Mike Clark said thinking of the longer-term, he asked if anyone had detailed information on President Obama's pitch for a new healthcare plan. Dennis Murphy stated that healthcare for all does not always include everybody, and added that it is a Medicare model, making him wonder about the ambulance piece. Denise Giard said that ambulance transportation is a small piece of the President's healthcare plan. Councilor Mike Clark asked what would happen if we develop a funding strategy and the Federal government in turn corrects the Medicare problem? Randy Groves said he did not have confidence in the Federal government's ability to fix the problem within the short-term. He further added that there will be a snowball effect if the economy continues to decline, which will exacerbate the problem. Dennis Murphy said the President's plan is intended to insure more people. Randy Groves noted that if the Federal government truly fixes the problems with Medicare and Medicaid, that this would be a good problem for us to have. It would then be a matter a right-sizing our revenue sources to meet the needs of delivering the service. Dennis Murphy said that mobile health services will be looked at, which is not just a redistribution of who pays for it.
- Councilor Andrea Ortiz stated that while she appreciates the discussion, she is interested in continuing with Paula's presentation.
- Councilor Dave Ralston asked if it is appropriate to make a motion with what has been suggested, and then make motion to devise a system to identify what is coming out of the General Fund from each of the cities, and pass that formula on to make it equitable so that our citizens are not subsidizing other cities and rural communities. Councilor Andrea Ortiz commented that is assuming that all elected officials are on same the page for making things equitable across Lane County. Councilor Ralston said it could be presented as a long-term solution. Councilor Ortiz then said she would support a motion to investigate. Commissioner Rob Handy asked if the information could come out of the LCOG study, and Dennis Murphy suggested a motion to ask LCOG to create something for elected officials to review. Councilor Ortiz added that the Eugene Budget Committee has not approved ambulance going into the General Fund, she said she asked for City Council support and asked the City Manager to study and report back on the possible options to resolve Ambulance Transport funding issues, including the incorporation of all

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or some portion of the Ambulance Transport Fund into the General Fund in the FY11 budget. She added that based on the City Manager's report back, she will have to have the majority of the Eugene City Council vote yes on ambulance going into the General Fund before moving forward. She said she feels like the Task Force is walking really fast, and asked that this conversation be slowed down.

- Randy Groves asked Eugene staff if it is possible to run the numbers on what is coming out of the General Fund before the next Task Force meeting. Denise Giard noted that even if we charge for services, it does not mean we are going to get the revenue, because of Medicare/Medicaid capitated payments, and the number of accounts going to collections. She said the City Attorney provided an opinion that we are not able to charge an increased rate to out-of-area residents since we do not get General Fund assistance. Dennis Murphy added that we need to do a good study, and said he believes imposing a new fee to everybody is very intrusive, and should only be done with great care. He stated that Eugene, like Springfield, will have to decide whether or not spend its own General Fund money, and will have to populate how much General Fund support would cost. Dennis noted we are running out of money, and suggested that the Task Force consider forming one type of special districts, so we can apply a formula. Randy Groves asked again if it is a reasonable assumption that the numbers on what is coming out of the General Fund can be ready by the next Task Force meeting. Denise Giard replied that she can provide a percentage on the majority of Eugene residents. Dennis Murphy stated that Springfield bills for Lane Rural. Staff from all three jurisdictions agreed to prepare information on the General Fund for the next Task Force meeting.
- Paula Taylor reviewed Section 3 of the report, which is comprised of information from a survey conducted of existing ambulance service providers. She said Sweet Home has two zoning areas, and they are out there doing something that allows them to have two separate tax rates. One of the survey questions asked how things are going. Western Lane said they are experiencing the same issues as others, and they have been successful in providing ambulance service. At the same time, Western Lane expressed a great deal of interest in being involved in discussions with the Task Force and staff from the three jurisdictions. One question that was asked of Lane Rural is how much General Fund money is dedicated to ambulance service, which was not available at the time of the survey. Paula added that Sweet Home's General Fund information was also not available at that time, but it could be if that was something the Task Force is interested in. Byron Vanderpool stated that the dual-role function in districts dramatically complicates the answer to that question. Paula said that she is curious how emergency medical services cross-training and having an ambulance district fit together, and how different services will be provided. Moving on to Section 4, Feasibility Analysis, Paula said this section includes the draft formation package that Lane County has developed, which should be available on the county's website in July. She said it addresses many critical points that the Task Force discussed today, such as: 1) defining the area; 2) what services will be provided; 3) what the budget will be; and 4) what will be the impact on the units of government. It is noted that this is an "opportunity to tell your story", by reporting the information to get to a decision-making point. Paula said that also included in this

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section is the annexation form packet that Lane County has developed, that is already available on the county's website. She added that so far, there have been no annexations to fire districts in Lane County, however, several people have expressed interest. Paula noted that an annexation is the same as a formation, in that the decision-making body is the Lane County Board of Commissioners. She stated that the annexation process is a simpler two-year process, and that the county is putting in a somewhat understandable, yet complex process. Paula said that the challenges in the ORS 198 provisions are identical for both formation and annexation processes. Looking at Page 4-35, Dale Borland said that the fees associated with annexation, as defined by Oregon law, on less than an acre are assessed on a sliding scale. For 100 acres or more the fee is \$8,820. He noted that fees for formations range from \$8,890 to \$24,600 based upon assessed valuation. Byron Vanderpool suggested planning for spending the high-end number that is just under \$25,000. Continuing through the report, Paula said Section 5, Public Awareness Strategy, is brief because this strategy depends on what you choose to do. She emphasized again that it is a key component of the process. Byron added that the public awareness piece is where the costs are, and said it will be a multi-year strategy and will cost a lot of money to hire an expert. Paula noted that examples of timelines are also included.

- Providing a hypothetical example, and referring to the chart on annexing to an existing district, Paula Taylor said that under merger/consolidation law, if the Task Force makes the decision to form a health district to provide ambulance service, the new health district could initially exclude Western Lane. She said, then, if the new health district and Western Lane merge, Western Lane would benefit from a higher rate. She said consolidation creates a whole new entity, a new board and a new rate. On annexation to an existing taxing district, for example, if Eugene and Springfield were to annex to Lane Rural, the following questions would need to be answered: how does service get provided; what does that mean for ambulance service; and is it consistent with the Metro Plan. She added that Western Lane and the rest of Lane County could be annexed. Paula further explained that one of the criteria Lane County has to consider is whether or not an annexation is consistent with the Lane County Plan, the Metro Plan and any other city-related plans, which is done as part of the analysis. Paula said she had another idea, which is to set-up for a specific purpose that can be added to an existing service district that does not have a tax rate as properties, and then create a county service district. She explained that some ORS 190 agreements have government authority, and like any other taxing district can grow with annexations. Byron Vanderpool added that we do not have an existing service district tax rate, and would have to establish one. Providing another example, Paula said that if Springfield requested itself to be annexed to Willakenzie Fire District, which is a total contract district that itself delivers no services, the two cities could then annex to Willakenzie. Dennis Murphy stated that Willakenzie has a robust enough tax rate to cover all of Eugene and Springfield Fire's needs now and into the future. He added that Eugene and Springfield are providers of fire service for Willakenzie now by contract.

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- Referring to Section 4, Feasibility Analysis, Councilor Dave Ralston pointed out that using Lane County's taxable value at 10 cents per thousand would fund the ambulance system's deficit, and is substantially less than FireMed.
- Paula Taylor then briefly explained the color-coded map distributed with the report that shows all fire providers, but not all districts or ASAs. Some of the maps she distributed did not include the legend on the back side, so Paula said she will bring complete maps to distribute at the next Task Force meeting.
- Randy Groves suggested continuing this discussion at the next Task Force meeting, where short-term solutions will be part of the discussion as well. He reported that with the current system, Eugene's Ambulance Transport Fund (ATF) is challenged in getting through FY10 in the black. He noted that the Eugene's ATF currently receives no General Fund support. He added that the ambulance rate and mileage increases are probably not going to realize a large sum of money for the department because of Medicare/Medicaid capitation and the increasing numbers of uninsured and indigent patients. Councilor Mike Clark further added that the City's budget shortfall is growing. Randy Groves noted that it is impossible to make exact projections, because it depends on how contract discussions conclude with IAFF, and with unemployment rates continuing to rise, our problems will continue to increase as well.

6. ATS JEO Task Force Action Plan

- Staff added additional detail to the Task Force's Action Plan, but there was insufficient time to discuss the additions at the meeting.

7. Information Share

- Randy Groves reported that Eugene held a public hearing for the ambulance rate and mileage increase, which two members of the public attended. Denise Giard said that both attendees expressed concern with having elevated the rates to such a high level. Councilor Mike Clark confirmed rate increases do not come before City Council. He then asked for an informational memorandum to the Mayor and City Council on a six month progress report on the rate increases. Denise Giard commented that six months of experience would not be available to be reported until nine months into the new rate because of the lag-time from call to collection.
- Randy Groves then invited the Task Force to an informational webinar on July 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. here in the Fire Conference Room. The webinar is called "Fighting Back", and the topic of discussion will be on how emergency medical services can survive the financial crisis. Dennis Murphy added that the organization facilitating the webinar is very familiar with how ambulance business is done in this area and in the past, has been contracted with for evaluation of both Eugene and Springfield's service system.
- Regarding Life Flight, Randy Groves reported that he wants to inform the Task Force and staff that Life Flight's Eugene airport site has to be moved due to construction of the new airport Fire Station, and the move was going to have to be paid by the airport. (Life Flight provides critical longer-distance transports, as well as out-of-area inter-hospital

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transports.) One option being discussed with Life Flight is to relocate to the 2nd & Chambers campus in Eugene. This option would be at no cost to the City, and flight crews would be housed at Fire Station 2 quarters. Eugene Fire & EMS is also working to bring Lane Community College's Paramedic program to the 2nd & Chambers campus. LCC's EMT-Intermediate program is already using the 2nd & Chambers site to hold its classes. Randy Groves stated that Life Flight would be a good addition to this partnership, plus housing them here would reduce their overhead and make continuation of services more viable. Randy added that Life Flight is also a FireMed Membership Program partner that helps the consortium of Eugene, Springfield and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue attract members. He said that he will share information with the Task Force as it becomes available, and cautioned that if this move is a go, things would move quickly. Councilor Andrea Ortiz asked if there is a long-term solution for Life Flight, to which Randy Groves replied that we would like to find a long-term solution for Life Flight to remain located in the area. He added that this particular base is currently losing money for Life Flight, which is a non-profit provider. Randy added that if Life Flight relocates to 2nd & Chambers they will save money on fuel. Councilor Andrea Ortiz asked if there is room in our footprint to accommodate Life Flight's relocation to 2nd & Chambers, to which Randy Groves replied yes. He added that, in fact, the other day, Life Flight did a noise and landing test, landing on the courtyard's center grassy knoll, which is the preferred site. He said he was inside the 9-1-1 Comm Center, where staff were still taking 9-1-1 calls and carrying on normal conversations. He added that one call taker made the comment to him that when maintenance staff use a leaf blower or pressure washer outside, it is more disruptive than the helicopter landing or taking off. Dennis Murphy added that the 2nd & Chambers location has less fog than the Eugene airport, which is critical to Life Flight's operation. He also said that Life Flight provides transport services to Portland. Randy Groves said this is a good example of maintaining partnerships throughout the region and in the surrounding communities.

8. Additional Issues

- No one brought forward any additional issues to discuss.
- The meeting was adjourned.

(Recorded by Joann Eppli)

**OVERVIEW OF SELECTED ALTERNATIVES
FOR FUNDING AMBULANCE SERVICES**

Type of Entity	Applicable Statutes	Creates New Revenues	Governing Body	Election	Impact on Existing Districts	Statutory Limitations	Comprehensive Plan Impacts
Intergovernmental Agreement	ORS 190	No	Existing Elected Bodies	No	No		No
Formation of a new fire district	ORS 198 and ORS 478	Yes	New Elected Board	Yes, primary or general election	Yes	Cannot have overlapping district formed under same principal Act	Perhaps (Metro Plan has specific language about special districts)
Formation of a new health district	ORS 198 and ORS 440	Yes	New Elected Board	Yes, primary or general election	Yes	Cannot have overlapping district formed under same principal Act	Perhaps (Metro Plan has specific language about special districts)
Formation of a county service district	ORS 198 and ORS 451	Yes	County Board of Commissioners	Yes, primary or general election	Yes		Perhaps (Metro Plan has specific language about special districts)
Annexation to an existing district	ORS 198 and principal Act	Yes, at established permanent tax rate	Existing Elected Board	Optional	Yes	Cannot have overlapping district formed under same principal Act	Perhaps (Metro Plan has specific language about special districts)
Merger of like districts by cessation of district(s) being absorbed into surviving district	ORS 198 and principal Act	No	New Configured Elected Board	Yes, next available election	No		Perhaps (Metro Plan has specific language about special districts)
Consolidation of 2 or more like districts into a new successor district	ORS 198 and principal Act	Yes	New Configured Elected Board	Yes, next available election	Yes		Perhaps (Metro Plan has specific language about special districts)

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: May 28, 2009
Meeting Type: Regular
Department: Springfield Fire & Life Safety
Staff Contact: Dennis Murphy
Staff Phone No: 726-3737
Estimated Time: 15 Minutes

**AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SUMMIT
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ITEM TITLE: MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES GRANT APPLICATION

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of Grant Preparation

ISSUE STATEMENT: Mobile Health Services (MHS) design and development has been discussed at previous Task Force meetings and is currently under option evaluation review. Shall staff prepare to submit a federal grant application for development of a national demonstration project for the purpose of helping to solve the current funding challenge to the Ambulance Transport System?

ATTACHMENTS: A. MHS Option Evaluation
B. *FIRE CHIEF* magazine journal article

**DISCUSSION/
FINANCIAL
IMPACT:** Proposed solutions to funding challenges of the Central Lane County Ambulance Transport System (ATS) are designed to assist in stabilizing the system. To avoid system quality deterioration and lowered levels of service, ideally options would increase revenues and/or address capacity issues within the existing system. Otherwise, stabilization depends on shifting greater system costs to taxpayers or reductions in service levels.

The MHS option proposes to assist in stabilizing the ATS by addressing *both increased revenues and system capacity* by charging new fees for all non-emergency services rendered and eliminating inappropriate use of 9-1-1 EMS services by shifting non-emergency calls to services designed to match the actual care needed. The MHS system also has the potential to lower the overall cost of prehospital and emergency department care and improve response to non-emergency access, thus meeting the goals of health care reform.

Grants now available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act offer the opportunity to develop a potential intermediate to long-term ATS stabilization strategy with little or no cost to local government.

MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES DESIGN PROPOSAL

The preliminary concept for a national demonstration project follows the attached magazine information closely:

1. Using the system design specified in the article, recruit the essential parties for sponsorship and participation in a national demonstration project which would feature a prominent role for the fire service in partnership with one or more private healthcare and medical transportation organizations. Participation by a major healthcare insurer is also essential to oversee payer reimbursement potential and recommend who will pay for services of the various providers following conclusion of the grant-funded period.
2. Meet and confer as needed to establish a mutually beneficial role for each provider and establish a contractual obligation to provide services.
3. Create a detailed planning and implementation document.
4. Meet with the state's congressional offices to determine their support.
5. Submit the plan for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, better known as "Stimulus Package" funding. The most likely category is Healthcare Reform and more specifically what is known as "Comparative Effectiveness Funding." Funding allocated to this category is \$1.1 billion.

Potential proposed participants at this point are:

1. **NATIONAL LEVEL:** *International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC); federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); national level private ambulance provider such as Rural Metro Corporation (RMC) or American Medical Response (AMR).*

IAFC acting through its consulting services system would act as sponsoring agency and be responsible for assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the model for potential replication elsewhere. IAFC would also be responsible for managing the Request-for Proposals process for participation by various providers. The IAFC consulting services system has reached agreement-in-concept for this role.

The **private ambulance company** would provide design, development, implementation, and management oversight of all non-emergency medical care and transportation components of the MHS system. Participation by a major national ambulance provider is highly desirable due to their unique depth, resources, and strengths as well as their ability to help replicate the model as needed. Preliminary contact has been made with RMC and AMR regarding the concept.

2. **LOCAL LEVEL:** *The City of Springfield, acting through the Department of Fire & Life Safety (SFLS); PacificSource (insurance); Cascade Medical Solutions (MedExpress).*

SFLS has been responsible for national demonstration projects on several levels, such as the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) RapidZap (rapid cardiac defibrillation) project, and beta site application of fire service accreditation. The Chief of department is the founder and first Chair of the EMS Section of IAFC. The department's FireMed system would be responsible for public information, education, and determining the potential for future marketing of Mobile Health Services products. Fees for non-emergency services would be distributed to Ambulance Transport System partners through the FireMed system. The City of Springfield is willing to invest staff time needed to secure necessary agreements and participate in development of the grant application.

PacificSource is a major statewide healthcare insurer based in Springfield, OR. A preliminary meeting with PacificSource has been completed and their participation is under review.

Cascade Medical Solutions (CMS) is a long-term provider of mobile primary care services known as MedExpress based in Eugene, OR. CMS has reached agreement-in-concept to participate.