



For immediate release....

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### Fire Service Planning and Capacity Study

In a collaborative effort to enhance fire service efficiency and improve emergency response capabilities, the City of Ashland, Fire District 1, 3, 4 & 5, and Evans Valley Fire District 6, will partner to commission a Regional Fire Service Planning and Capacity Study. This study will serve as an information-gathering initiative to analyze the local fire service and explore improvements in regional emergency service delivery. It may offer recommendations, but it won't mandate implementation, nor will it seek specific outcomes.

As our communities continue to grow, fire protection services must evolve to meet their needs. This study is an important step in exploring how regional cooperation could strengthen fire response and enhance public safety. The study will evaluate the current state and identify opportunities for increased coordination and potential shared services of fire services across the jurisdictions. The goal is to identify strategies that improve public safety, maximize resources, and ensure long-term sustainability of fire protection services.

A consultant will be selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to conduct a comprehensive assessment to include:

- **Review of Current Systems:** A detailed analysis of each entity's operational readiness – services provided, staffing, facilities, equipment, policies, etc.
- **Financial Analysis:** Assess budgetary health, funding models, strains and fiscal opportunities.
- **Assessment of Service Level Objectives:** What levels of service are currently provided; do they match the risk of the service area?
- **Feasibility Analysis & Recommendations:** Identify opportunities to pool resources such as personnel, apparatus, and equipment while maintaining community identities. Recommendations will be based on operational effectiveness and community impact.

The Study will provide additional focus on operational alignment of the Applegate Fire District and Williams Fire & Rescue, and assist the Prospect Fire Department, Lake Creek Rural Fire District, and Greenspring's Fire in assessing their current state to accurately guide future Strategic Plans or Standards of Cover. The Study is made possible by an award from a Public Infrastructure and Economic Revitalization grant.

*"The partnership of these agencies is anchored in a mutual commitment to safe, efficient and reliable service being the top priorities", shares Fire Chief Mike Hussey. "The study allows us to explore ways to enhance fire protection services across our region. By working together, we can identify solutions that*

*improve resource availability, operate with a high regard for safety and ensure long-term sustainability for our fire departments.”*

*“Our communities have demonstrated resilience and are building back strong. We need to ensure the fire service is prepared to meet the changing conditions today and predicted needs of the future. A well-planned and well-organized fire service is a pillar of strong resilient communities.”*

**Next Steps**

The participating agencies will begin the consultant selection process in the coming weeks, with the study expected to commence later this year. Updates will be provided as the exploration progresses, and community input will be encouraged at key milestones.

For additional information, please contact one of the participating agencies Fire Chief’s at:

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Additional information can be requested by email at [mediarequest@jcf3.com](mailto:mediarequest@jcf3.com)

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