

Josephine County Fire Protection Committee – Alternatives Analysis – Updated 6/23/20

Status Quo	JOSEPHINE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BCC) OPTIONS				VOTER AUTHORIZED	
No Change	Zone 2	Franchise	Contract	Form a New Fire District	Annexation	Form a Rural Fire Protection District
DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION
<p>1. Fire service in the unprotected area is provided by two private fire companies, Rural Metro Fire and County Fire which are both supported by subscription. Rural Metro provides all hazard response to the unprotected areas of the County.</p> <p>2. 25% or more of the unprotected area of the County is without contractual fire services.</p> <p>3. Currently minimal regulatory authority over PFPs.</p>	<p>1. Maximum .0025 tax rate</p> <p>2. Taxes assessed on real market value</p> <p>3. Optional .0025 special tax if majority of electors authorizes</p> <p>4. Possible .0125 real market property bonded indebtedness</p> <p>5. Opt out provision if public approves a RFPD with a 2 year phase in</p> <p>6. BCC defines delivery method</p> <p>7. Authority for managing is with BCC or an Advisory board/designee of the BCC</p>	<p>1. Options include sole source or multiple providers</p> <p>2. Requires service levels, finances, and standards spelled out in franchise</p> <p>3. Contract Authority for managing is with BCC or an Advisory board/designee of the BCC</p>	<p>1. Countywide (excluding areas served by existing public fire departments)</p> <p>2. By geographic boundaries or areas</p> <p>3. Can be sole source or multiple contracts</p> <p>4. Authority for managing is with BCC or an advisory board/designee of the BCC</p>	<p>1. No taxing authority without public vote</p> <p>2. Could fund with grants, legislative contributions, County redirect of existing revenue</p> <p>3. Eligible for surplus property donations, in-kind contributions</p>	<p>1. Governing body is existing district</p> <p>2. Tax rate is from existing district</p> <p>3. Authority for managing is with existing Fire District Board or until a new Board is elected by voters</p> <p>4. Requires two votes on one ballot: form a RFPD and annexation</p> <p>5. Requires election by existing District and annexed area</p> <p>6. Would require replacement of existing District Fire Board and election of new Fire board members that represents both areas</p> <p>7. Would require integration of existing District and Annex area command staff</p>	<p>1. Permanent rate cost/thousand and services to be delivered determined by voters”</p> <p>2. Rural Fire Board elected at same time with management authority</p> <p>3. Eligible for grants, surplus equipment, etc.</p> <p>4. Service delivery options: a. Contract b. Franchise (never been done) c. All New - Ground Up d. Combination of above or transition of above e. Form a Rural Fire Protection District (RFPD)</p> <p>5. Placed on ballot by BCC or by citizen signature.</p>

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					8. Assumes buy in from existing private fire companies	

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PROS	PROS	PROS	PROS	PROS	PROS	PROS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. County saves ballot fees of \$35,000 if only item on ballot. 2. No change, no new conflict in PFP 3. No choice disruption 4. Free market continues to regulate pricing with competition 5. This is EASY 6. No government intrusion 7. All hazard delivery is provided from three 24/7 stations from Rural Metro 8. Mutual Aid / Auto Aid working well with Rural Metro 9. Reserve stations, engines, firefighters augment 24/7 stations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start it today 2. All would need to pay-would eliminate subsidy of 30% of County 3. BCC specify the delivery method and standards 4. Could start rate low to build reserves for future Fire organization. 5. Flexibility of delivery: contract, franchise, etc. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If exclusive, improves funding stability for franchise holder 2. Can address some of the known status quo issues via an exclusive franchise contract and a requirement that all must participate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requires service levels, finances, and standards spelled out in contract 2. If exclusive, improves funding stability for contract holder 3. Can address known status quo issues via the contract 4. Similar to status quo, requires no voter/resident input or change 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No taxing authority without public vote 2. Tax rate on assessed value on 5 acres where ODF currently taxes on remaining acres 3. Could fund with grants, legislative contributions, and County funds 4. Authority having jurisdiction in a 5 member citizen Board elected by voters 5. Opportunity to improve ISO and coverage 6. Get out of unprotected status 7. All people pay, no subsidy for all hazard - creates a larger operating budget 8. Favorable financing on bonds and other financial paper 9. Remove current possible billing confusion with 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limited economies of scale in management staff and support possible 2. Citizen vote 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No taxing authority without public vote 2. Tax rate on assessed value on 5 acres where ODF currently taxes on remaining acres 3. Could fund with grants, legislative contributions (available \$1.5 million), and County funds 4. Authority having jurisdiction in a 5 member citizen Board elected by voters 5. Opportunity to improve ISO and coverage, improve response time and reduce cost of homeowner insurance 6. Get out of unprotected status 7. All people pay, no subsidy for all hazard - creates a larger operating budget

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				private fire companies 10. Special districts can take advantage of state resources 11. Employees have potential state provided benefits 12. Can enforce fire codes and investigate fire causes All hazard response possible		8. Favorable financing on bonds and other financial paper 9. Remove current possible billing confusion with private fire companies 10. Special districts can take advantage of state resources 11. Employees have potential state provided benefits 12. Can enforce fire codes and investigate fire causes 13. All hazard response possible 14. Ability to improve assistance to Grants Pass other RFPD's in the county and Fire Districts throughout the Rogue Valley

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CONS	CONS	CONS	CONS	CONS	CONS	CONS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40 years of conflict between PFP continues No long-term solution to improve fire protection. No authority to enforce fire codes or investigate fires PFPs are not recognized by the Office of State Fire Marshal in Oregon. Challenges when it comes to mutual aid PFP business model may change and not be profitable leaving community unprotected No ability to complain about service nor ability to increase/decrease service and costs Not a service delivery plan that is recognized as effective, but instead an anomaly in Oregon. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable to loss of single provider No citizen vote for first .0025 tax Permanent tax on total acreage -- not limited to 5 acres Never been done in OR, no experience Possible long time to make happen Tax may be for eternity Remain in unprotected status Lose current \$1.5 million from state ISO, coverage and response time cannot be improved without a bond measure Tax rates & home owners costs cannot be lowered without special levy or bond 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No taxpayer control of rate Vulnerable to loss of single provider No citizen vote Annual fee to County from subscriptions paid Not a permanent solution ISO and coverage cannot be improved to reduce homeowners insurance costs and response time Remain in "unprotected" status Confusion with dispatch and on-scene Subsidy issue continues (65% RM contract payers subsidize other for all hazard coverage) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No taxpayer control of rate Vulnerable to loss of single provider No citizen vote Not a permanent solution Can't improve ISO and reduce homeowner insurance Can't improve coverage and response time Remain in "unprotected" status Confusion with dispatch and on-scene Subsidy issue continues (65% RM contract payers subsidize other for all hazard coverage) - is an unfair financial model Codifies all the negative aspects of status quo Lose current \$1.5 million from state 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PERS comes into play if services not contracted out All forced to pay tax for fire protection Lose chance of competition that may keep prices competitive Startup costs Could be interruption of service level during transition if private provider leaves before transition concludes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Existing tax rates, levies, and bonds of existing district inherited by annexed area Proposed district greater than all current fire districts combined Requires election with many more people <i>Tax base of unprotected area is several times higher than any other District</i> <i>Annexation which would water down the tax base of the existing district</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PERS comes into play if services not contracted out All forced to pay tax for fire protection All options except contract require a bond for capital improvement and funding for start up costs Could be interruption of service level during transition if private provider leaves before transition concludes. Could require complex, extended transition. 	

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<p>9. Inability to receive grants and surplus properties. Cannot receive FEMA reimbursement for declared event.</p> <p>10. Fire protection is funded at approximately 65% of available tax rate which restricts ability to improve ISO, coverage and response time</p> <p>11. Lack of public accountability</p> <p>12. Legal liability for the public entity-the County</p> <p>13. No taxpayer control of rate</p> <p>14. Vulnerable to loss of single provider</p> <p>15. No citizen vote</p> <p>16. Remain in "unprotected" status</p> <p>17. Confusion with dispatch and on-scene</p> <p>18. Subsidy issue continues (65% RM</p>		<p>10. Lose current \$1.5 million from state</p> <p>11. Codifies all the negative aspects of status quo</p> <p>12. Administration at County level, daily operations, dispatch and on the fire ground is much more complicated unless it is sole source</p>				

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COSTS	COSTS	COSTS	COSTS	COSTS	COSTS	COSTS
	1. Permanent tax rate with no local election 2. Capital outlay-possible bond measure	1. Franchise annual subscription fee 2. If not subscribed, need to pay cost of service	1. Contract annual subscription fee 2. If not subscribed, need to pay cost of service		1. Capital outlay - bond measure 2. Permanent tax rate	1. Permanent tax rate that can't be changed without another vote for a bond or levy. May be a vote to remove and reinstate new rate. NEED DISCUSSION
TRANSITION	TRANSITION	TRANSITION	TRANSITION	TRANSITION	TRANSITION	TRANSITION
None	Required	Required	Not applicable without replacement funding	Required	Required	Required