

**Western Lane Ambulance District  
Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue  
Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority  
2625 Highway 101 North, Florence, OR 97439  
Joint Work Session Minutes, November 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m.  
The Zoom recording will be on the WLFEA Website.**

**SVFR & WLFEA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Director Jim Palisi, Director Keith Stanton, Director David Carrillo, Director Stephanie Restrepo, and Director Laurie Heppel

**WLAD & WLFEA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Director Mike Webb, Director Cindy Russell, Director Vanessa Buss (arrived at 5:24 pm), and Director Linda Stent (via Zoom)

**Not Present:** Director Adam Holbrook

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Fire and EMS Chief Michael Schick, Deputy Chief Rob Chance, and Office Manager Trish Lutgen

**Chief Schick called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. A roll call established a quorum for SVFR, WLAD, and WLFEA.**

**STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW:**

Deputy Chief, Rob Chance, reviewed the Western Lane Fire and EMS Authorities strategic plan that was developed with the assistance of Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) which was approved by Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) board of directors on May 26, 2022.

Discussion around operations occurred. Director Palisi asked if joint drills with the Department of Forestry were occurring. Deputy Chief Chance stated that we are improving with joint drills. He went on to inform the board that with the improved relations with the South Coast Fire Defense Board that joint trainings and practice would continue going forward as it is becoming extremely beneficial.

The use of data was discussed and its role in decision making. Director Webb asked about call data. Deputy Chief Chance responded that while we are in the process of gathering data, most of our data is reported to the state. Further discussion occurred around developing an Emergency Operations Plan. Director Webb stated his concern regarding any type of emergency that occurs in Florence and want to make sure that we were getting all the groups together to discuss a plan. In addition, Director Webb stated that people need to understand sheltering in place and be able to do so.

Discussion around the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating occurred. It was explained that the rating evaluates a fire department's ability to provide fire protection services to a community and often impacts homeowners' insurance rates. The ratings range from 1 to 10, with one indicating the highest level of fire protection and ten indicating the lowest or no protection. Our last rating, received in 2017, is a four. We took a big hit last time because there are no hydrants south of the bridge and the city does not test the hydrant system. We test private systems such as Coast Village.

**BUDGET FORECASTS:**

Fire and EMS Chief, Michael Schick, reviewed the tax revenue with the board. He explained the taxable value limitation and how the maximum assessed value (MAV) cannot increase by more than 3 percent each year unless there are changes to the property. Each year the MAV and the Real Market Value (RMV) for

each property tax account are calculated and taxed on the lesser of the two values. Chief reviewed these rates over time for each district and the assessed value comparisons for our neighbors.

Chief Schick reviewed annual ambulance transport revenues and explained there was a big drop due to us telling the hospital no more nighttime transfers unless it is critical.

Chief Schick reviewed expenses including staff wages, materials and services, and capital.

**WLAD Local Option Levy:**

Fire and EMS Chief, Michael Schick, reviewed the levy rates for rural fire protection agencies in Lane County. WLFEA is currently in the middle with a total of 2.31 from both taxing entities. He reviewed the different options for renewing the WLAD Local Option Levy along with the elections calendar.

**FUTURE BUSINESS:**

The next Joint work session is scheduled for November 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

**The work session adjourned at 7:52 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Lutgen, Recording Secretary