

**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 13, 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, Director Holbrook, and Director Linda Stent

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Chief Schick called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. A roll call established a quorum for SVFR, WLAD, and WLFEA.

UNFINISHED ITEMS FROM NOVEMBER 6th:

Apparatus List: The apparatus list was distributed and reviewed. Chief Schick explained that the green highlighted items will be ordered in the future. The yellow highlighted items are currently approved for surplus; however, they are still moving through the surplus process. It was explained that the agency utilizes NFPA guidelines for planning. We put many miles on the ambulances due to the number of transports. Chief pointed out that the dates to replace or purchase are flexible. Everything is setup for ALS. Discussion around the state supplied apparatus occurred.

WLAD Local Option Levy: Discussion around the recent election occurred where two of the three agencies in Lane County failed their recent ballot measure. Options for the WLAD local option levy were discussed. Director Russell thought that the last increase for the levy occurred in 2012. Discussion around the level of service occurred; pointing out that many of our paramedics are critical care. Since renewal is always easier than increasing, WLAD could remain the same and SVFR could go out for a levy. Director Palisi asked if we would hire a PR firm. Chief stated it would be up to the board. Director Heppel asked if we knew who passed their levy. Chief stated that Springfield, Rogue River, Rocky Point, St. Paul, Amity, and Polk passed their levies. Director Webb suggested looking at the whole fiscal plan. The union did their own advertising for passing the levy. There were targeted social media posts. Crews went out to educate public on what Medicare pays versus actual costs. Impact fees were discussed for 2026. Raising the local option levy by .23 to .68 per \$1000 for the May election was the favored option. Director Russell requested a group to help the agency pass the levy along with information on how it would affect the district.

CAPITAL PLANS:

Building: The goal for building or remodeling is to increase and improve the sleeping quarters. Director Webb stated it might be easier to fund if replacing a tsunami zone station with this project. Charlie York proposed to the board that they put together a group of stakeholders. Director Buss wants to hear what crews would like. Crews would like to move to Station 1 and put Administration at Station 2. Director Stanton wants to add a modular for crew. The boards and crew were adamantly against moving forward with a modular building for the crew. Directors Russell and Webb did not want to see ambulance leave the hospital grounds. Director Palisi stated that we should get rid of Stations 7 & 3. There was consensus on looking at a modular building for Administration across the street and completing a station remodel to include training and apparatus bays. Director Palisi likes the bank building.

SUCCESSION PLANNING:

Chief Schick announced that he intends to retire June of 2026 so the board needs to decide if they will go out for a national search or hire from within. He would really like the board to consider Rob as the next Fire and EMS Chief as he has the education and the experience. Chief let the board know that he would like to continue for 20 hours as the Fire Marshal and/or be the CERT Manager and would be available for Rob. Director Palisi stated his opinion regarding going out for an outside /out of state Chief and is firmly against it. Palisi asked if we would get another officer. Chief stated that we would; however, the captains would take on more. Director Webb asked if there were any other candidates, and Chief was not aware of any.

MIH replacement is currently priority. Director Buss wanted to look at our disallowed numbers for ambulance billing. Chief Chance stated that we could get Alyssa back.

Director Russell asked about training and if the crews were getting good training. Crews stated that they are happy with the current training.

FUTURE BUSINESS:

The next Joint board meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The work session adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Lutgen, Recording Secretary