



AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: June 9, 2025
Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

TO: Lane County Board of Commissioners

PRESENTED BY: Eve Gray, Health and Human Services Director

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Emergency Medical Services in Lane County Challenges and Solutions Task Force Update.

I. MOTION

None: Presentation Only.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Emergency Medical Services in Lane County challenges and solutions task force.

Update to the Board on the status of the EMS taskforce.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

At the Board meeting on 10.22.2024, the Board heard from Health and Human Services Director Eve Gray, Eugene-Springfield Fire Chief Mike Caven and Oakridge Mayor Bryan Cutchen about the challenges facing EMS providers and funding in Lane County. The Board gave approval for the Health and Human Services Department to proceed with preparations and assembling personnel from county EMS providers and jurisdictions to join an EMS task force, in line with the model of the previously assembled Joint Elected Officials Ambulance Taskforce in October 2011.

On 01.28.25, Director Gray updated the Board and requested an extension to the start of this work due to not all municipalities having the capacity to participate in the spring. The Board agreed to this request.

In the intervening months, Director Gray has worked with the local fire chiefs to identify participants for the task force. All ambulance service areas have identified participants.

For the 06.24.25 Board meeting, the Board of Commissioners is being asked to formally authorize the Joint Elected EMS Funding Task Force through a Notice of

Board Action. The charge of the task force is to analyze the current financial outlook for EMS operations in Lane County and recommend options for sustainably funding EMS services into the future. Updates will be provided to the Board of County Commissioners every 6 months, with a goal of task force completion within 18 months.

The following individuals are being recommended to the Board of County Commissioners as members of the Joint Elected EMS Funding Task Force.

- Commissioner Heather Buch – Lane County
- Director Eve Gray – Lane County
- Chief Mike Caven – Eugene/Springfield Fire & EMS
- Councilor Eliza Kashinsky - Eugene
- Councilor Kori Rodley – Springfield
- Fire Chief Michael Schick – Western Lane Fire & EMS
- EMS Chief Rob Chance – Western Lane Fire & EMS
- Board President Mike Webb – Western Lane Fire & EMS
- Chief John Wooten – South Lane Fire & EMS
- Board Member Tom Monroe – South Lane Fire & EMS
- Board Member Debbie Stumph – South Lane Fire & EMS
- Chief Scott Hollett – Oakridge Fire & EMS
- Mayor Bryan Cutchen – Oakridge Fire & EMS
- Councilor Marty Scott – Oakridge Fire & EMS
- Chief Dale Borland – Lane Fire Authority
- Board Member Greg Deedon – Lane Fire Authority

B. Policy Issues

No new policy issues, presentation only.

C. Board Goals

N/A – Discussion only

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

N/A – Discussion only

E. Health Implications

N/A.

F. Analysis

No new analysis, presentation only.

IV. Alternatives/Options

N/A

V. RECOMMENDATION

N/A

VI. ATTACHMENTS

N/A



EMS Funding Challenges Task Force Update

JUNE 24, 2025

Background

Update from October 22 and January 28 meeting

- Board authorized staff on 10/22 to begin work to form a task force
- Staff updated Board on 01/28, asking for an extension due to identification of stabilization funding for Oakridge and more time needed to engage ASA providers
- It remains true that all EMS providers in Lane County face funding challenges
- Funding challenges stem from limitations on reimbursement from Medicare & Medicaid

County Responsibility

The county is responsible for identifying ambulance service areas and contracting with ambulance services

Oversight of ambulance services is a core function of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, with assistance from the Director of Health & Human Services

Should any part of the local ambulance system fail, Lane County will be responsible for identifying an alternative

Work Completed Since January

Membership for task force nominated by local mayors and fire district boards, in coordination with fire chiefs

Facilitator for task force engaged to start pre-planning work

Administrative support identified for task force

Process Points

What We Are Asking Today

- Approval of task force, membership, and charge

Task Force Charge & Timeline

- To analyze the current financial outlook for EMS operations in Lane County and recommend options for sustainably funding EMS services in the future
- Task force will be scheduled for 18 months, with updates to the Board every 6 months

Background

Membership nominated for task force

Commissioner Heather Buch – Lane County

Director Eve Gray – Lane County

Chief Mike Caven – Eugene/Springfield Fire & EMS

Councilor Kori Rodley – Springfield

Councilor Eliza Kashinsky – Eugene

Fire Chief Michael Schick – Western Lane Fire & EMS

EMS Chief Rob Chance – Western Lane Fire & EMS

Board President Mike Webb – Western Lane Fire & EMS

Chief John Wooten – South Lane Fire & EMS

Board Member Tom Monroe – South Lane Fire & EMS

Board Member Debbie Stumph – South Lane Fire & EMS

Chief Scott Hollett – Oakridge Fire & EMS

Mayor Bryan Cutchen – Oakridge Fire & EMS

Councilor Marty Scott – Oakridge Fire & EMS

Chief Dale Borland – Lane Fire Authority

Board Member Greg Deedon – Lane Fire Authority

Alternatives/ Options

Approve the establishment of a limited-duration emergency medical services task force with all of the recommended individuals as members – Staff recommendation

Approve the establishment of a limited-duration emergency medical services task force with some of the recommended individuals and direct staff to recruit additional/alternative members

Decline the establishment of a limited-duration task force for emergency medical services

Discussion