



Eugene-Springfield Fire Governance Review Panel

MEETING 1 SUMMARY

MEETING DETAILS

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2022
Time: 2:30-4:30pm
Location: Zoom Webinar & In-Person (Lane Council of Governments, Buford Room)

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Governance Review Panel Attendees:

Kori Rodley, *Springfield City Councilor*
Steve Moe, *Springfield City Councilor*
Michael Clark, *Eugene City Councilor*

Randy Groves, *Eugene City Councilor*
Nancy Newton, *Springfield City Manager*
Sarah Medary, *Eugene City Manager*

Staff Attendees:

Niel Laudati, *Springfield Legislative & Public Affairs Manager*
Kristie Hammitt, *Eugene Assistant City Manager*
Scott Cockrum, *Interim ESF Fire Chief*

Kelsey Hunter, *ESF Executive Assistant*
Brenda Wilson, *LCOG Executive Director*
Kelly Clarke, *LCOG Principal Planner*
Rachel Dorfman, *LCOG Assistant Planner*

In-Person Attendees:

Roy Emery, *Fire Marshall*
Mary Bridgett Smith, *Springfield City Attorney*
John Follett, *Springfield Fire and Division Manager*
Nathan Bell, *Springfield Finance Director*

Chaim Hertz, *Springfield HR Director*
Ray Brown, *ESF Deputy Chief of Operations*
Mike David, *President of IAFF 851*
Chris Heppel, *ESF Deputy Chief of Strategic Services*



MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome & Introductions

Brenda Wilson, LCOG Executive Director, provided welcoming remarks and took attendance. Ms. Wilson will facilitate Governance Review Panel meetings, which are open to the public and noticed and conducted according to public records laws.

2. Governance Review Panel Purpose and Rules of Conduct

Presenter: Brenda Wilson, LCOG

Ms. Wilson provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Governance Review Panel, meeting materials, timeline, and what Panel members and the public can expect from Governance Review Panel meetings. Ms. Wilson noted that the Governance Review Panel will not be a decision-making body but will provide critical insights and feedback to staff throughout the process and serve as liaisons to their respective City Councils.

3. Project Overview, Structure, and Timeline

Presenter: Brenda Wilson, LCOG

Ms. Wilson provided a brief introduction to the Eugene-Springfield Fire functional consolidation, noting that this project is the next step in that process to determine the future of fire service. Ms. Wilson provided an overview of the project phases as follows, noting that much of the work will be occurring simultaneously, rather than sequentially, and that input will be sought from stakeholders throughout the project:

Phase 1: Education and Information

Phase 2: Plan Development, Options, and Decision

Phase 3: Implementation

Ms. Wilson discussed the ideal outcomes of this process, including: 1) a plan that provides for sustainable funding and service levels over time to meet the needs of our growing metro population while dealing with funding challenges; 2) efficient operations and streamlined decision processes; 3) addressed concerns and needs of both cities and all stakeholders; 4) a plan ultimately supported by both cities. Panel members were provided with notebooks containing project information, including FAQs, Governance Review Panel Purpose and Rules of Conduct, Work Plan, and Communications Plan. All materials will be updated regularly and are available on the project website: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4924/Governance-Review-Panel>.



4. Eugene-Springfield Fire History & Context

Presenter: Scott Cockrum, Interim ESF Fire Chief

Chief Cockrum presented a series of slides that provided an overview of the history of functional consolidation, including successes, efficiencies, and challenges. Chief Cockrum set the stage for future discussions, which will take a deeper dive into current operations, EMS, training logistics, finance, human resources, IT, and administrative services. The slides were provided to Panel members in their notebooks and are also available on the project website.

Governance Review Panel members noted that, prior to functional consolidation, the fire department experienced issues as separate departments (e.g. the fire departments both carried hose adapters because the hoses did not connect); requested more information about response reliability; and expressed interest in learning more about the current challenges and stress points.

5. IAFF 851

Presenter: Mike David, President of IAFF 851

Mr. David discussed some of the benefits of functional consolidation, such as increased safety and trust, as well as current challenges from a labor perspective, such as aligning wages and healthcare benefits. Mr. David expressed his support for this process to help clear confusion about what the future looks like.

6. Roundtable Discussion

Ms. Wilson asked each Governance Review Panel member and the City Managers about their thoughts or concerns about the process as it was laid out in the meeting. Several Panel members expressed appreciation for the process and a desire to work together to get across the finish line. Other key thoughts and questions from Panel members included:

- *What is the cost to taxpayers per firefighter per year?*
- *How are staff and folks who put their lives on the line experiencing this? How are neighbors experiencing it? Important lens to look at this equitably.*
- *What are the “rubs” created by the fact that the cities do things differently that create challenges we need to overcome? At the end, we can make good decisions about governance models that will address problems best/most efficiently. Make people and employees safer in doing the job by being more coordinated.*
- *This has been a team effort from day one with vision to provide better service while controlling costs. Believe finishing this is the right thing to do/right direction. No one right answer but hopeful we will be diligent and thoughtful in this process.*
- *2020 fires scary for this community. Hope we can achieve clarity and certainty for this group.*
- *Have heard from employees about need for more clarity and more direction.*



7. Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Upcoming Meetings:

Meeting 2 – March 17

Meeting 3 – March 31

Meeting 4 – April 14

Meeting 5 – April 28

Meeting 6 – May 12 (as needed)