



Eugene Springfield Fire Governance Review Panel Frequently Asked Questions

This document will be updated as needed.

Q: What is the Eugene Springfield Fire (ESF) Governance Review Panel (GRP)?

A: The City of Eugene Fire & EMS and the City of Springfield Fire & Life Safety departments merged to form Eugene Springfield Fire in 2010. This partnership has proven to be beneficial to both communities over the last decade. The Eugene Springfield Fire Governance Review Panel was established in 2022 to evaluate and identify the final phases of the consolidation of the two departments. This work continues efforts to create the most efficient and effective system for fire and life safety services within our community.

Q: Who is involved in the GRP?

A: The GRP consists of two City Council members from Eugene and Springfield. Meetings are facilitated by a third-party facilitator from the Lane Council of Governments.

Q: Why did the cities of Eugene and Springfield merge fire and emergency medical services?

A: The City of Eugene and the City of Springfield share a continuous border and have worked together in a shared resource, automatic aid capacity up until the functional consolidation. It was determined through a comprehensive study in 2009 that combining the two City's fire departments would create efficiencies, ultimately providing a more effective and sustainable regional service. The study concluded:

1. The public expects a fast response to fire and medical emergencies. Effectively responding to the closest medic unit or fire truck with similarly trained and equipped personnel to a 911 call helps accomplish this regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.
2. Both cities were, and are, experiencing growing demand for public safety services. Population and calls for service in both cities continue to increase, with trends expected to continue in the coming years.

Considerations in proposing the functional consolidation in 2010 included:

- Elimination of duplication in the two fire departments:
- Administrative staff: Consolidation of staff and resources into one administrative structure.
- Training: Fire and EMS training, Continuous Quality Improvements and certifications are conducted by a single entity at the same training site.
- Equipment Purchases: Manufacturer, model, purchase power became consistent across the agency.
- Logistics: Economy of scale for purchasing and the delivery of critical services, supply, equipment testing, OSHA compliance testing.
- Standardization of dispatch and response protocols and data collection.

Q: How is ESF governed?

A: ESF is currently governed by both the City of Eugene and the City of Springfield, within their City Council City Manager governance structure. Currently, ESF works under a two-government

structure, with separate budgets, established within each city. ESF's workforce is a combination of Eugene and Springfield employees.

Q: How is ESF currently funded?

A: ESF is currently funded by both the City of Eugene and the City of Springfield in a proportional cost-sharing agreement. Each City provides budgeting for employees and costs associated with providing emergency services based on a Standards of Coverage they choose for their city. Eugene and Springfield each continue to have their own employees on payroll, however employees can be assigned to work in either city.

Q: What are the options for ESF that will be discussed in Phase 1?

A: There are several options available for consideration, including:

- Staying with the current functionally consolidated IGA.
- Creating a special district or annexing to an existing one.
- Changing the IGA to a full contract for services.
- Move to an Intergovernmental Entity model (like Wastewater Management)
- Modifying the current IGA.

Q: What happens to the firefighters and staff in the two Cities? Will they still be providing service to my community?

A: With any future agreement, the firefighters and staff will remain as employees and services will continue to be provided throughout both communities without interruption.

Q: What are the challenges ESF is facing?

A: The current agreement was established in 2011 in an effort to recognize the many efficiencies of creating a functionally consolidated fire service. When the functional consolidation occurred, it was projected to be reevaluated. Many of the goals of the functional consolidation have been realized, however, some have not. ESF continues to operate under a two-government system with governance, employees, budgets, labor agreements, payroll systems, HR policies, and administrative policies remaining separately in place for both cities and their employees.

Q: What is the timeline for the GRP?

A: The evaluation of ESF's governance will happen in three phases:

Phase 1 – This is an exploratory phase. It is evaluating the different legal options and deciding on an acceptable course of action. We anticipate this to be complete in early Spring of 2022.

Phase 2 - The second phase considers the available options, the long-term financial and legal considerations, labor agreements, and other internal and external considerations. The second phase could be by summer 2022.

Phase 3 - The third phase is the implementation. Since ESF has been a functionally consolidated fire department for 12 years, implementation time could be reduced depending on the option chosen.

Q: Will the cost for services change?

A: Financial impacts of consolidation options will be explored by the GRP. Costs cannot be firmly estimated until the GRP has advised on the direction of ESF's governance.

Q: What if the Cities do not come to an agreement?

A: If the jurisdictions cannot reach an agreement on a new path forward, the existing agreement will remain in place. The City of Eugene and City of Springfield City Managers, with feedback from the GRP, will determine next steps for ESF's governance.

Q: What is the difference between Eugene Springfield Fire, City of Eugene Fire & EMS, and City of Springfield Fire & Life Safety?

A: Eugene Springfield Fire was the name chosen for the functionally consolidated organization that combines fire and EMS services for the Cities of Eugene and Springfield. The fire departments for each city still have their own budget systems and are recognized within each city's operations as City of Eugene Fire & EMS and City of Springfield Fire & Life Safety.