



CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE DIST. #2
CITY OF PORT ANGELES

COMMISSION MEMO

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2006
TO: CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #2 COMMISSIONERS
FROM: CHIEF JON BUGHER AND CHIEF DAN MCKEEN
SUBJECT: FUNCTIONAL CONSOLIDATION OF VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Summary: Clallam County Fire District #2 and the Port Angeles Fire Department are proposing a functional consolidation of their volunteer firefighter programs. This consolidation of volunteer programs is driven by the increasing trend in the difficulty of recruiting and retaining dedicated volunteer firefighters. The functional consolidation of volunteer programs will result in increased efficiency with volunteer firefighter recruitment and training as well as significant increases in the effectiveness of emergency response through the availability of a larger pool of available personnel. It has been demonstrated that functional consolidations result in financial efficiencies and reduction of duplication.

Recommendation: Approve the Interlocal Agreement for the functional consolidation of volunteer programs between the Port Angeles Fire Department and Clallam County Fire District #2.

Background / Analysis: Clallam County Fire District #2 and the Port Angeles Fire Department are both faced with the local reality of a nationwide trend in the difficulty with recruiting and retaining qualified volunteer firefighters. This trend is largely due to a few very prevalent issues:

- Volunteer firefighters face an ever-increasing time commitment
- Training requirements are becoming more and more intense
- Mandated certifications are continually added
- Call volumes are escalating – again resulting in extended time commitments

In order to address the trend of decreasing volunteerism, and to increase the effectiveness of emergency response, Clallam County Fire District #2 and the Port Angeles Fire Department are proposing a functional consolidation of volunteer firefighter programs. This functional consolidation will involve the following subjects:

- Joint recruitment and hiring
- Joint training
- Personnel station assignments
- Emergency response procedures
- Standardization of procedures
- Command responsibility

The functional consolidation provides that all District volunteer firefighters will become members of the City and all City volunteer firefighters will become members of the District. In addition, both agencies will retain financial responsibility (sponsor) the number of volunteer firefighters approved in their 2006 budgets. The sponsoring agency will be responsible for provision of uniforms, protective equipment, medical and insurance costs, etc. for those personnel assigned.

There are a number of benefits that will be achieved through this functional consolidation:

- A larger pool of volunteers will be available for response in both jurisdictions
- Both agencies will no longer be “competing” for volunteers from the same pool of candidates
- Joint hiring practices will result in standardization and financial savings
- Standardized training will result in safer, more efficient operations

A detailed Interlocal Agreement is prepared that outlines the responsibilities of each agency and is attached. The agreement has been reviewed by both the District’s and the City’s attorney.

DM

Attachments: Interlocal Agreement
Presentation Handout