

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue
2625 Highway 101 North, Florence, OR 97439

Minutes of Board Meeting – February 20, 2013

Steve Olienyk, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Directors Steve Olienyk, Cindy Spinner, Lori Gates, John Scott, and Rob Ward were in attendance.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief John Buchanan, Division Chief Janet Huston, Division Chief Marvin Tipler, and Division Chief Sean Barrett were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Director Ward made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on January 16, 2013. The motion was seconded by Director Scott and was approved by unanimous vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: A communication from WHA Insurance providing the annual budgeting forecast for property/casualty, workers' compensation and health insurance renewals. In addition, there was reference to the fact that the district's Workers' Comp Modification rate is decreasing from 1.03 to .86, which is "due to excellent leadership, quality training and a commitment to firefighter safety."

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FIRE DISTRICT INCIDENT REPORT: The report reflecting the activity during January 2013 was reviewed and various incidents were discussed.

FIRE DISTRICT TRAINING REPORT: The report reflecting training in January 2013 was reviewed.

SAFETY MEETING MINUTES: The January Safety Meeting minutes were reviewed.

FIRE DISTRICT PARTICIPATION REPORT: The report reflecting volunteer participation for the month of January 2013 was reviewed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Chief Buchanan asked Board President Olienyk to report on his meeting with Director Mike Webb of Western Lane Ambulance which was for the express purpose of discussing the possibility of merging the two agencies. He learned that Western Lane Ambulance is no longer interested in merging with SVFR. In addition, he learned that Peace Harbor Hospital wants Western Lane Ambulance to remain on the hospital property which means they won't be building on the Charl's Restaurant property that they previously purchased. Chief Buchanan commented that their decision not to build on the Charl's property could possibly provide SVFR the opportunity to acquire the property for additional parking and logistics, which can be explored at a later date.

Division Chief Janet Huston provided election materials for Directors Scott and Gates. Their board positions are expiring on June 30, 2013. They will both complete the forms and write a check in the amount of \$10.00 for the filing fee, returning the completed documentation to Division Chief Huston for filing.

Division Chief Janet Huston reported that as a result of the PERS Project in which SVFR was directed by PERS representatives to report wages on volunteers, duty officers, and part-time employees from 1/01/2005 forward, we have exceeded our budgeted PERS line item. So that we have sufficient funds for the balance of the fiscal year, she recommended that \$35,000 be transferred from the Operating Contingency line item into the PERS line item.

There followed a motion made by Director Ward to read Resolution 2013-01 Title Only, a resolution to transfer funds for fiscal year 2012/2013 from Operating Contingency to the PERS Line Item No. 1105. The motion was seconded by Director Scott and was approved by unanimous vote.

Director Ward made a motion to adopt Resolution 2013-01. The motion was seconded by Director Scott and was approved by unanimous vote.

Chief Buchanan reported that a Senate Bill introduced by Senator Floyd Prozanski would change State Law to allow rural fire districts to enter into contracts with local or state law enforcement agencies. He further indicated that on the onset of this proposed legislation it appears to shift some of the cost of providing law enforcement to the independent taxing fire districts, and that the fire districts statewide are voicing their disapproval of this legislation. The SVFR board members were in agreement that our fire district would not support this proposed legislation.

REVIEW OF THE BILLS:

MOTION: Director Spinner made a motion to ratify bills paid during the past month totaling \$120,897.30 and transfers from the Money Market Account to the Checking Account also made during the past month. The motion was seconded by Director Gates and was approved by unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: The financial statements were provided and discussed.

FUTURE AGENDA BUSINESS: Board President Olienyk stated that the next regularly scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JANET L. HUSTON
Division Chief of Administration

John - We just received your Wkr's
Compr. dification Rate.
It is decreasing
From 1.03 to .86. This is
due to excellent leadership
quality training and a
commitment to firefighter safety
Congratulations!

WHA
INSURANCE

January 2013

**Budgeting Forecast for Property/Casualty, Workers' Compensation & Health
Renewals**

Dear Board Members and Fire Chief:

Dave

This information is generated to assist your District with projected insurance premiums as you prepare your operating budget for adoption in June. Your District's individual claims frequency and severity of losses will play a key role in the final equation for your potential increases or decreases of premiums.

The continued high unemployment for Oregonians (8.4% through December) coupled with financial constraints of many public and private corporations has led to another challenging budget cycle. The 2013 Oregon legislation session is underway and promises to address many critical issues with final answers not expected for several months. The Property market is hardening (increasing premiums) from the re-insurers, in part due to Japan's earthquake and tsunamis in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 on the East coast. The Liability market is experiencing increases due to more tort claims and challenges against public entities including employment practices. At the same time, Workers' Compensation rates are up an average of 1.7% overall for all class codes. Many Districts who earned Best Practices Credit saw a two year rate lock applied for those that qualified on the SDAO package policy for 2013 - 2014.

Looking at the various lines of coverage we would anticipate the following:

Bond/Crime Coverage

The District should avoid having more than one carrier for your Bond and/or Crime coverage to avoid potential reduction of coverage. Our recommendation to protect the District is that Blanket Bonds or Crime Coverage should be written to cover full faithful performance of duties for all employees. SDAO's crime policy automatically provides this coverage.

The rates with most companies remain flat from the prior year, but the deductible for some limits are increasing slightly. Recent claims against Public Entities suggest the need to evaluate accounting policies and procedures as well as giving consideration to updating the limits to reflect your current exposure. While the State of Oregon's

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minimum requirement for the smallest Districts is \$10,000, most Districts should consider a minimum of \$100,000 limit. Implementing more non-cost bearing internal controls and security systems is also recommended to reduce potential claims.

Health Benefits

Medical coverage continues to be volatile with increases over the past decade that are unprecedented. Some of the costs for National Health Care (Obama Care) continue to be factored into group benefits this year with anticipated cost of 3-4%. Medical coverage is trending at 15% and dental at 5% for 2013. By the beginning of April, the picture for renewal should be much clearer to provide detailed information for your District. Please contact Kim Nichol森 at knichol森@whainsurance.com with your specific benefits questions.

Workers' Compensation

The NCCI (National Council on Compensation Insurance) pure rate is the starting point for each class code that is multiplied by the carrier's rate load (operating costs) to obtain the cost per \$100 of payroll for each class code. The District's claims for the prior three years are factored into an equation to give an experience modifier based on your claims experience. Starting with 2013 a new formula will be utilized to calculate the experience modifier that will cap the large claims at \$10,000 rather than the previous \$5,000. The experience modifier (1.0 is average) further adjusts the premium for the Workers' Compensation coverage. Before the end of February, those Districts that have the opted for reimbursement of non-disabling claims will be given the option to pay the small claims thus removing those claims from the experience modifier calculation. Please note current medical cost affect the trending for some class codes and is evident with the new rates below including the significant increase for the Volunteer Firefighters class code:

<u>Class Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Pure Rate change for 2013</u>
7710	Firefighters	+ 1.66%
8411	Volunteer Firefighters	+ 16.4%
8742	Chiefs/Officers and Board members	No change
8810	Office Clerical	+ 7.1 %

Property and Casualty

The Property market is experiencing minor increases with the overall re-insurance premiums, minor loss of some capacity for Special Flood Hazard Area coverage and shifting coverage for tsunami from flood to earthquake coverage. Most Districts will see

little change in the property rates. A safe projection would be to budget for a 3% increase. Some high value properties will see a 5-8% increase as carriers continue to fear catastrophic losses from a single event. Our suggestion is to review and possibly increase the District's Personal Property and Portable Equipment to reflect new acquisitions and grants. Liability (Casualty) premiums are based on budgets and payroll, therefore if the District's budgeted income or payrolls are projected to increase, plan on proportional increases for the premium. As a hedge you may want to budget for a 3% increase in your general liability rates. If your District has added any new vehicles or adjusted the vehicles values, buildings, equipment or other liability exposures, you will need to take those into account when anticipating premiums for your budget purposes. Overall, the vast majority of Districts will fall within the 5% Rate Lock for 2013-1014.

Provident

After remaining flat for many years, the premium for the group AD&D policies are expected to increase 3-5%, depending on past claims. As the District's policy renews, be sure to review options provided to ensure adequate coverage.

Marketing

WHA is currently monitoring companies and programs in the marketplace to fulfill our duty of due diligence for the most comprehensive coverage and policy forms, competitive premiums, efficient claims adjustors and loss control services. As we work with you, we will continue to approach the general insurance industry to provide a thorough market analysis. As your independent agent of record we encourage you to direct any company representatives or agents to our office to provide you with additional options for your consideration.

WHA is a full service safety and risk management insurance agency. Our staff is available to provide assistance with your on-going insurance and risk management efforts. If you have any questions or would like assistance, please contact us at 800-852-6140 or email your question to Tammy Fitch at: tfitch@whainsurance.com or Dona Holmes at: dholmes@whainsurance.com.

Best regards,



David Penicook
Public Entity SDAO Coordinator

SVFR

Monthly Incidents

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2013} And {01/31/2013}

Incident	Type	Date	Location	Description
13-0000001-0	FIRE	01/01/2013	Highway 101 & 30TH ST	324 Motor Vehicle Accident
13-0000002-0	FIRE	01/02/2013	Siltcoos Lake	365 Watercraft rescue
13-0000003-0	FIRE	01/02/2013	Mercer Lake Road & MP 1	6112 Dispatched & cancelled
13-0000004-0	FIRE	01/03/2013	2525 OAK ST	745 Alarm system activation,
13-0000005-0	FIRE	01/04/2013	Highway 101 & GRAND AVE	322 Motor vehicle accident
13-0000006-0	FIRE	01/04/2013	05710 GRAND AVE /30	551 Assist police or other
13-0000007-0	FIRE	01/05/2013	4310 HIGHWAY 101	5313 Smoke or odor
13-0000008-0	FIRE	01/07/2013	240 RHODODENDRON DR	111 Building fire
13-0000008-1	FIRE	01/07/2013	280 RHODODENDRON DR	111 Building fire
13-0000009-0	FIRE	01/12/2013	879 31ST ST	311 Medical assist, assist
13-0000010-0	FIRE	01/12/2013	88674 SHORELINE LOOP	311 Medical assist, assist
13-0000011-0	FIRE	01/13/2013	5724 MERCER CREEK DR	5313 Smoke or odor
13-0000012-0	FIRE	01/15/2013	10TH ST & NOPAL ST	324 Motor Vehicle Accident
13-0000013-0	FIRE	01/15/2013	Highway 126 & MP 21	6112 Dispatched & cancelled
13-0000014-0	FIRE	01/16/2013	18 MARINERS LANE	6113 Dispatched & cancelled
13-0000015-0	FIRE	01/16/2013	RHODODENDRON DR & EDEN LA	324 Motor Vehicle Accident
13-0000016-0	FIRE	01/16/2013	4701 Highway 101	324 Motor Vehicle Accident
13-0000017-0	FIRE	01/16/2013	Highway 101 @ MP 184.5	322 Motor vehicle accident
13-0000018-0	FIRE	01/18/2013	88184 2ND AVE	631 Authorized controlled
13-0000019-0	FIRE	01/18/2013	2525 OAK ST	5312 Smoke smell
13-0000020-0	FIRE	01/19/2013	Driftwood II	3111 Medical assist, ATV
13-0000021-0	FIRE	01/19/2013	700 Highway 101	311 Medical assist, assist
13-0000022-0	FIRE	01/19/2013	88010 WOODLANDS DR	311 Medical assist, assist
13-0000023-0	FIRE	01/19/2013	700 Highway 101	322 Motor vehicle accident
13-0000024-0	FIRE	01/19/2013	Highway 101 and MP 195.7	322 Motor vehicle accident
13-0000025-0	FIRE	01/19/2013	05101 COLTER ST	631 Authorized controlled
13-0000026-0	FIRE	01/21/2013	88380 Highway 101	311 Medical assist, assist
13-0000027-0	FIRE	01/21/2013	1655 15TH ST	311 Medical assist, assist
13-0000028-0	FIRE	01/23/2013	Highway 126 & QUINCE ST	323 Motor vehicle/pedestrian
13-0000029-0	FIRE	01/28/2013	9TH ST & IVY ST	324 Motor Vehicle Accident
13-0000030-0	FIRE	01/29/2013	90150 Lake Creek Mountain	6117 Dispatched & cancelled

Total Incident Count 31

EMS Incident Cnt: 0

Fire Incident Cnt: 31

SVFR

Department Journal

01/01/2013 to 01/31/2013

00:00 to 24:00

Training Classes

Time	Type	Record Id	Description/Location	Staff Hrs
Tue Jan 8, 2013				
09:00	TRAIN		Live Fire Training	14.00
		Station 01		
19:00	TRAIN		CPR Recertification	78.00
		Station 01	Central Station	
Tue Jan 15, 2013				
09:00	TRAIN		Burn to Learn Prep and Practice	16.00
		Station 01	Property outside City Limits	
19:00	TRAIN		Ropes/SCBA	160.00
		Station 01	Central Station	
19:00	TRAIN		Burn to Learn	36.00
		Station 01	Structure in community (burn to learn)	
Tue Jan 22, 2013				
09:00	TRAIN		Ladder Training	10.00
		Station 01	Central Station	
19:00	TRAIN		Initial Entry/Hydrants/Vehicle Fires	78.00
		Station 01		
Tue Jan 29, 2013				
09:00	TRAIN		Fire Extinguishers	10.00
		Station 01	Central Station	
19:00	TRAIN		Association/Business Meeting	94.00
		Station 01	Central Station	
20:00	TRAIN		Firefighter 1 Instruction/Exting	0.00
		Station 01	Central Station	
Total Entries:		10		
			Total Staff Hrs:	496.00

January 2013 DF CALL PARTICIPATION

Full Time/Part Time	01/08/13				01/15/12				01/22/13				01/29/13				Last Activity					
	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	N/A		Jan. Calls	YTD Calls	% YTD Calls	% Jan Calls	YTD Calls
Barrett, S	X	X	N/A	N/A	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14	14	45%	45%	14	14	45%	45%	14	45%
Connor, S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	15	15	48%	48%	15	48%
Jagoe, B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	10	10	32%	32%	10	32%
Moore, H	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	12	12	39%	39%	12	39%
Stober, G	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	11	11	35%	35%	11	35%
Tipler, M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	15	15	48%	48%	15	48%
Battalion Chief																						
Carnahan, J	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	8	8	26%	26%	8	26%
Chaplain																						
Murphy, D	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	3	75%	75%	3	3	75%	75%	4	4	13%	13%	4	13%
Support																						
Stober, A	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	2	50%	50%	2	2	50%	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Captains																						
Barrett, D	X	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	3	75%	75%	3	3	75%	75%	7	7	23%	23%	7	23%
Barrett, M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	5	5	16%	16%	5	16%
Beck, D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	1	1	3%	3%	1	3%
Iabichello, L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	21	21	68%	68%	21	68%
Madden, T	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	3	3	10%	10%	3	10%
Spinner, M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	3	75%	75%	3	3	75%	75%	14	14	45%	45%	14	45%
Warren, P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	6	6	19%	19%	6	19%
Station 1																						
Annett, D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	100%	100%	4	4	100%	100%	14	14	45%	45%	14	45%
Crabtree, T	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	0	0	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%	0	0	0%	0%	0	0%
Evans, B	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	2	50%	50%	2	2	50%	50%	1	1	3%	3%	1	3%
Gray, A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	3	75%	75%	3	3	75%	75%	1	1	3%	3%	1	3%
Green, L	X	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	3	75%	75%	3	3	75%	75%	9	9	29%	29%	9	29%
Green, M	O	O	O	X	O	O	X	X	1	1	25%	25%	1	1	25%	25%	1	1	3%	3%	1	3%

January 2013 DF ALL PARTICIPATION

Holden, J	O	X	X	2	50%	2	50%	0	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	01/29/13
Heindel, M	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	12	39%	12	39%	12	39%	01/21/13
Larson, J	X	X	X	4	100%	4	100%	3	100%	3	10%	3	10%	3	10%	01/29/13
Lemmonds, K	X	X	X	4	100%	4	100%	15	100%	15	48%	15	48%	15	48%	01/29/13
Orozco, K	O	O	O	1	25%	1	25%	0	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	01/29/13
Payne, T	X	O	X	2	50%	2	50%	4	50%	4	13%	4	13%	4	13%	01/29/13
Reid, Sam	O	O	O	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	01/29/13
Romero, C	O	O	O	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	3%	1	3%	1	3%	12/11/12
Sanchez, K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	6	19%	6	19%	6	19%	01/04/13
Smith, J	O	O	O	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	3%	1	3%	1	3%	01/19/13
Stapleton, C	O	O	X	1	25%	1	25%	5	25%	5	16%	5	16%	5	16%	01/19/13
Stapleton, D	X	X	X	4	100%	4	100%	9	100%	9	29%	9	29%	9	29%	01/29/13
Teel, T	X	X	X	4	100%	4	100%	6	100%	6	19%	6	19%	6	19%	01/29/13
Thurman, B	X	X	O	3	75%	3	75%	8	75%	8	26%	8	26%	8	26%	01/29/13
Walker, K	X	O	X	2	50%	2	50%	0	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	01/22/13
Wymore, R	O	X	X	3	75%	3	75%	7	75%	7	23%	7	23%	7	23%	01/29/13
Wymore, T	O	X	X	3	75%	3	75%	5	75%	5	16%	5	16%	5	16%	01/29/13
Zimmerman, D	X	X	X	4	100%	4	100%	7	100%	7	23%	7	23%	7	23%	01/29/13
Station 2																
Aaron, J	O	O	O	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	12/30/12
Borg, A	X	X	X	4	100%	4	100%	6	100%	6	19%	6	19%	6	19%	01/29/13
Foglio, Ty	X	X	X	4	100%	4	100%	2	100%	2	6%	2	6%	2	6%	01/29/13
Gibson, C	O	X	X	3	75%	3	75%	9	75%	9	29%	9	29%	9	29%	01/29/13
Hickson, N	X	O	X	3	75%	3	75%	13	75%	13	42%	13	42%	13	42%	01/29/13
Martin, T	X	X	O	3	75%	3	75%	6	75%	6	19%	6	19%	6	19%	01/29/13
Oakley, Kyle	O	X	O	1	25%	1	25%	3	25%	3	10%	3	10%	3	10%	01/15/13
Reck, C	X	X	X	4	100%	4	100%	14	100%	14	45%	14	45%	14	45%	01/29/13
Reynen, J	X	X	O	3	75%	3	75%	21	75%	21	68%	21	68%	21	68%	01/29/13
Small, M	O	O	O	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	10/15/12
Snapp, T	X	X	X	4	100%	4	100%	8	100%	8	26%	8	26%	8	26%	01/29/13
Station 3																
Holden, C	X	X	O	3	75%	3	75%	2	75%	2	6%	2	6%	2	6%	01/29/13

SAFETY COMMITTEE

January 29, 2013

MINUTES

Those in attendance: Buchanan, Carnahan, Moore, Stober, Tipler, Doug Barrett, Mike Barrett, Beck, Jagoe, Iabichello, Madden, Spinner, and Warren.

Station One Apparatus Room Floor Wax

Chief Tipler reported on the product used to wax the apparatus room floor. Due to slipping concerns, we will add additional mats to the floor near the firefighters' entrance door.

Inventory

Chief Moore advised officers that we will be placing new traffic cones, safety vests, and hand-held traffic signs on each engine per a safety grant from Special Districts Association of Oregon.

Structure Fire Standby Personnel

Captain Beck asked if we shouldn't be paying for volunteer personnel that standby after a structure fire. Agreed that we should pay hour for hour for standby at the \$10/per hour rate.

LOSAP/VALIC

Captain Beck expressed concern that volunteer personnel in the outlying stations don't have an equal ability to meet minimum points to earn a deposit into their VALIC/LOSAP Retirement account. The recommendation was that we reduce the minimum points to 12.

Safety Concerns

Battalion Chief Carnahan brought up two incidents elsewhere that cost firefighters their lives. First, wind storms, and second when a fire engine preparing to lay a hoseline backed over one of their firefighters.

Logo Jackets

Chief Tipler has had a request from one volunteer to put an arm patch on a jacket. Chief Tipler to select jackets that will be permitted for volunteers to purchase and have a patch to sew on the sleeve.

Mutual Aid Staffing

Chief Buchanan changed the policy of having five firefighters respond out of district on mutual aid to four firefighters with one of the four being a supervisor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

John Buchanan, Recording Secretary

SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE AND RESCUE
"Protection with Pride"

Resolution No. 2013-01

Resolution Transferring Funds for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of \$35,000, as follows:

FROM:
Line Item #

TO:
Line Item #

1607 Operating Contingency

1105 P.E.R.S.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th date of February, 2013.



Steve Ollenyk, Board President



Cindy Spinner, Secretary/Treasurer

Bill would allow fire districts to pay deputies

By Saul Hubbard

The Register-Guard

Published: February 7, 2013 12:00AM, *Midnight*, Feb. 7

SALEM — Lane County Sheriff Tom Turner is backing a bill that could help get more deputy patrols into some rural parts of the county.

Turner's proposal — introduced as Senate Bill 422 by Sen. Floyd Prozanski, a Eugene Democrat — would change state law to explicitly allow rural fire districts, which receive their financial support through independent taxing districts, to enter into contracts with local or state law enforcement agencies.

That could allow those fire districts to hire law enforcement officials — either from the sheriff's office, Oregon State Police or a nearby city's police department — to work just in their geographic area. There are 24 such districts in Lane County.

SB 422 will get a first public hearing today in the Senate's Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee.

Prozanski said the change would give rural fire districts "a tool to have police services" available both when firefighters are responding to house fires or vehicle accidents and for general patrols.

To pay for the law enforcement services, the fire districts could either dip into their existing funds or seek voter approval for a tax increase. Given that districts — most of which are staffed primarily by volunteer firefighters — don't typically have additional funds available, the latter scenario would be more likely, Prozanski said.

Turner said he brought the concept forward after the Mohawk Valley Fire District, which serves Marcola and the surrounding area, expressed an interest in retaining a "resident" sheriff's deputy who works exclusively both around Marcola and along the McKenzie River. Federal dollars pay for that deputy now, but those dollars are expected to dry up soon.

"Resident deputies work really well in certain settings," Turner said. Under current law, fire districts "can't utilize their funding to hire a deputy. If they want to, this (bill) would provide them with that option."

But, as Turner acknowledges, not all fire districts are on board.

Fire Chief Dean Creech of South Lane County Fire & Rescue said he didn't "have any interest in sub-contracting with the sheriff's office."

He added that the proposal could potentially allow a district's elected fire board "to arbitrarily approve putting funding that voters have approved for fire services towards a law enforcement contract."

"If you go to voters and justify your case to the people about needing a local deputy, I don't have a problem with that," Creech said. "But asking the voters for more money would certainly be very difficult in my district."

Fire Chief Dennis Shew of the Mohawk Valley Fire District said he hasn't decided yet if he's for or against the concept.

"Ultimately, whether a district board decides to get involved in a 'buy a cop' program, that will be a choice made by voters," he said.

But asking voters to pay more taxes for a deputy who would just staff a small area close to their homes might represent more of a winning proposition than a county-wide tax measure, Shew acknowledged.

"The reality is that it does allow for local control within what is an already-established taxing district," he said. "It would provide better protection than no protection."

Turner said it was unlikely that an elected fire district board would hire a deputy without first asking voters.

"If they did that, they'd be ousted by their constituents," he said.

If the bill becomes law, the sheriff's office "would certainly put it out there" that the service was available to fire districts, Turner said. "But they'd have to want it."

With county dollars now funding only 20 patrol deputies in all of rural Lane County and no more money earmarked for patrols in the county commissioners' proposed tax levy, Turner said SB 433 was just "one more option for us to keep deputies on the roads."

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