

PRFPD VA
Public Meeting Comments
4/21/23

Note: This document is a brief synopsis of questions and comments presented by attendees at the Public Meeting on April 21st, 2023 at the Prospect Community Center. This is not intended to be a comprehensive or detailed summary; for a full recording of the meeting please visit the Prospect Rural Fire Protection District Website at _____.

1. When would a levy go on a ballot? We are likely 2-3 years out, IF a levy is indeed desired by residents. That's what this meeting is to determine!
2. How many calls have been missed in the last year? Approximately 2 medical calls, no fire calls
3. How many people are currently on stipends? 4
4. How many additional people within the department would be supported by a levy? Depends on the expected service levels desired moving forward, that's what we're hoping to learn here!
5. Would "staffed shifts" really be supported with this number of calls (~250-350 calls each year)? TBD. We would likely focus on highest use times (as determined by a review of call volume with Dispatch). Staffed shifts would also support a whole host of other needs within the dept, such as vehicle and facility maintenance, fire and medical program administration, etc.
6. Are there other avenues to fund medical programs? We have verified that little to no grants are available for medical program needs. We will continue to work other similar departments; however, we do know that most that do not bill patients focus on Fire grants and shift tax funds to cover medical needs (this is what we are currently doing). The recent Mercy Flights partnership have been a huge help to decrease supply costs!
7. Concerning the current budget that is ~\$116k- why is ~25% going to pay the Chief and admin when they are supposed to be volunteers? The Chief and Admin Assistant are both volunteers, both volunteering many hours each week above and beyond what they are paid for. The stipend is the best we can do to entice and retain qualified individuals to take on these challenging roles, as they each take on significant responsibilities. It is such a big ask that we are not aware of any others who are willing to take on such substantial personal and professional liabilities, even with this stipend.
8. What is the difference in a full time and part time chief? Depends on contract- duties, roles and payment amounts would be negotiated by any new person in that role.
9. When was the last levy? PRFPD has never had a levy, it is the same as it ever was even though we have added an entire new medical program and our annual call volume and administrative requirements has increased dramatically.
10. Why are there no grants available for medical needs? Likely 2 main reasons: Costs are typically offset by patients in other areas due to direct billing of patients for services (we do not currently do patient billing in Prospect), and because medical supplies are typically "consumables" vs lasting assets.
11. Comment: Grants often ask, "do you have the ability to levy?" as in, 'why are you asking for money from us when you can be requesting a levy?'
12. Comment- When it comes to public interaction fundraisers are important! Yes, they are! Unfortunately with our volunteers each putting in hundreds of hours annually, including working full-time jobs while covering training requirements, late night and weekend calls, our small staff is not able to do everything we'd like to do and focusing on emergency needs in this community is paramount. If anyone here is willing to assist with fundraising we would SURE love the help!
13. Comment- Public interaction is going to be one of the hardest things for us to muster, so we suggest checking with the school regarding Parent/Teacher nights to share PRFPD info, host "Meet a Firefighter" events, bingo nights, etc. (please see response to previous comment regarding resourcing limitation by volunteers). Cynthia verified the Jamboree is free to us, and we will continue "Pictures with Santa", Trunk or Treat and The Christmas Bazaar as they are 'low prep' type events. Attendees then discussed ideas for using props at Jamboree, and/or school.

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14. In the summer months many folks go to the URRAT office looking for help, what should I tell them to do? Please have them call 911 even if it is not 'real emergency' (i.e., a fire/medical need or concern that is not administrative in nature) - this musters response, covers volunteers for insurance, registers metrics, substantiates supply needs, and a whole host of other things. We have had a sign on the door for many months directing folks how to reach a firefighter/medical responder or another person if the need is administrative.
15. How can we reach residents that are not on Facebook or don't see the fliers we post? Attendee suggests we ask members of the public to donate to fund a mailing, also use school marquis. Bulk mailing through a printer service might also work.
16. Comment: The County has some level of responsibility regarding our water system up here so someone needs to reach out to them to get our hydrants back in shape! From Grants Specialist- a FEMA grant is an option for this, we've investigated and started that process, but not likely to be this round. From Firefighter- the existing, defunct system would not serve our needs for a variety of reasons. From attendee: we looked into that a few years ago and just the engineer drawings would have cost nearly a million dollars, just for drawings! From another attendee: check with Colleen Roberts.
17. Regarding citations for illegal burns, who does that now? It is not resourced under current budget. Oregon Dept of Forestry CAN do it, IF they respond, but most times they will not.
18. What's the deal with the "Fire Dept" line on my homeowners' insurance? Not sure, we aren't aware of what that would cover! Also, we have no reimbursement abilities through insurance as we are currently 100% tax funded (may be worth checking into).
19. Do other departments bill? Many departments with paid staff have expanded abilities to bill for services. We currently are not resourced to do that.
20. Comment- Many older folks on a fixed income, but everything is going up in cost and the government is going to pot!
21. Do we have dollar figures to work with regarding a levy? Not yet, we needed this public meeting to learn here what we need to look into in order to put dollar amounts on this effort. In summary of what we heard here, let's wrap up and summarize our action items.
22. Summary of items heard during this meeting that the public wants us to pursue to determine if a levy would be supported, and how much the levy should be for.
 - a. Citations/billing
 - b. Outreach- junior FF and others in #13
 - c. Fundraising needs/community interaction
 - d. Funded medical program
 - e. Ways to improve volunteer recruitmentSend these notes to Cynthia!