ROUGHLY EDITED TRANSCRIPT
CITY OF EUGENE
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 22, 2025
12:00 P.M.

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>> YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ASKED TO MAKE A DECISION TODAY.

LET'S MAKE THIS GO FORWARD NOW.

I KNEW I WAS GOING TO JINX MYSELF.

THE PRESENTATION IS LONGER THAN MY NORMAL STYLE, SO I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO COVER TODAY.

WE'VE DONE A LOT OF WORK ON FIRE GOVERNANCE.

I'M FOCUSING ON A NEW FIRE DISTRICT AND NEW INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.

THERE'S A LOT OF TECHNICALITIES.

IF THERE'S MORE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AS WE GET INTO FINANCES, I'VE PUT THIS MORE INTO A SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK STYLE.

WE ALL LEARN IN DIFFERENT WAYS, SO HOPEFULLY YOU CAN TRACK ALONG.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE WHILE WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT NEXT STEPS WITH EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD EMS DEPARTMENT, THE INFORMATION I'M SHARING TODAY IS EUGENE SPECIFIC.

I'M NOT COVERING INFORMATION ABOUT SPRINGFIELD, ALTHOUGH I WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE TO THANK SPRINGFIELD.

IT'S AN INCREDIBLE PLEASURE TO PARTNER WITH THEM, AND NANCY IN PARTICULAR, IN WORKING ON HIRING A CHIEF, AND THE WORK ON THIS.

THEY'VE BEEN GREAT PARTNERS.

WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE THAT.

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT AUDIENCES WATCHING TODAY, AND EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT IDEA OF WHAT THE PROBLEM IS WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE.

SOME MIGHT BE THINKING, WHAT PROBLEM, THE SERVICE IS GREAT.

SOME HAVE A VERY INFORMED PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LEAD AND WORK IN AN ENVIRONMENT PROVIDING SERVICE TO A REGION, BUT STILL MANAGED BY TWO SEPARATE MUNICIPALITIES.

I WANT TO SHARE AGAIN MY GRATITUDE WITH OUR TEAMS THAT SHOW UP EVERY DAY AND DO GREAT WORK IN THE FIELD, AND ON CALLS, WHILE MANAGING THE FRUSTRATIONS AND CONFLICTS OF TWO SYSTEMS.

THE EXCEPTIONAL WORK OUR COMMUNITY IS RECEIVING IN THE FIELD IS SUPPORTED BY AN INCREDIBLE TEAM WORKING LARGELY BEHIND THE SCENES TO MAKE THAT WORK.

IMAGINE RUNNING A MERGED BUSINESS WHERE YOU STILL HAD TWO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR TWO COUNCILS, TWO CEOS OR CITY MANAGERS, TWO CFOS AND ON AND ON.

WHILE OUR SERVICE IS SINGLE FOCUSED, OUR SYSTEMS ARE STILL DUAL, DUE TO GOVERNANCE, HAPPENING FOR OVER A DECADE.

THANK YOU TO THE CHIEF AND YOUR COMMAND TEAM AND OTHERS, TO INCLUDE COUNSELOR RANDY GROSS.

WHILE WE CAN SPEND TIME ON THE PROBLEMS WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE, I THINK IT'S ACTUALLY MORE IMPORTANT TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE WE'RE TRYING TO SECURE.

A SIMPLIFIED NORTH STAR IS THIS -- STABLE, EFFICIENT, AND SCALABLE, A GOVERNANCE MODEL THAT ENSURES LONG-TERM STABILITY AND GROWS WITH THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES.

WE BROUGHT IN AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANT WITH A LOT OF EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA, AP TRITON, TO INVESTIGATE THE DIFFERENT PATHS FORWARD.

THEY CONDUCTED MANY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS TO INCLUDE STAFF, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND UNION REPRESENTATIVES TO HELP US FOCUS ON THE OUTCOMES WE COLLECTIVELY HOPE TO ACHIEVE.

THESE ARE THE OUTCOMES THEY DISTILLED FROM THOSE CONVERSATIONS.

I'M NOT GOING TO READ THROUGH ALL OF THEM, BUT YOU CAN KIND OF SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SINGLE GOVERNANCE, OVERSIGHT BY BOTH CITIES, FINANCIAL IMPACTS ARE MANAGEABLE, AND HOPEFULLY THE STAFF EXPERIENCE IS POSITIVE.

I'M FOCUSING ON EUGENE NEEDS.

I'M GOING TO PROBABLY SAY THAT MORE TIMES THAN YOU WANT ME TO, BUT WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FUTURE THAT IS STABLE AND PREDICTABLE.

VERY IMPORTANT THAT OUR TEAM HAS THE ABILITY TO INNOVATE AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, THAT WE'RE ABLE TRUE GROW, AN ABILITY TO RESPOND TO THAT GROWTH, AND THAT WE HAVE THE RESOURCES TO SUSTAINABLY FUND THE DEPARTMENT.

AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO SAY IT LONG BEYOND MY RETIREMENT, OUR FIRE AND EMS SYSTEM NEEDS MORE RESOURCES.

IT'S NOT A SERVICE AREA THAT WE ACTIVELY PLAN FOR.

EMERGENCY SERVICES NEED TO BE PROACTIVELY PLANNED FOR AND RESOURCED.

THE BEST DAY TO PLAN FOR YOUR WORST DAY IS NOT THE DAY AFTER.

SO HERE'S JUST A COUPLE OF THINGS TO SET SOME JUST GENERAL PARAMETERS WHY I THINK WE NEED MORE RESOURCES.

WE KNOW FOR THE LAST HOWEVER MANY YEARS I FEEL LIKE THE ENTIRE TIME I'VE BEEN ON THE EXECUTIVE TEAM, THE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT FUND IS ALWAYS A LITTLE BIT IN THE HOLE.

IT'S BEEN ABOUT A MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR THAT WE'VE HAD TO SUPPLEMENT WITH ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND.

IT DOES EARN REVENUE, BUT NOT ENOUGH REVENUE TO COVER ITS COSTS.

IF YOU THINK ABOUT THE $1 MILLION, THE NEED TO POTENTIALLY EXPAND, THAT GAP GETS A LITTLE BIT LARGER.

ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE AT MEANS A LOT OF THINGS.

IN THIS CASE I'M TALKING ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE SYSTEM.

WE KNOW THAT THERE'S GOING BE A FUTURE GAP WITH THAT.

AND WE'VE ALL TALKED ABOUT THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STATIONS.

WE KNOW IT'S ABOUT $3 MILLION A STATION.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BUILD THEM ALL AT ONE TIME, BUT AS WE CAN GET INTO MORE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SERVICE NEEDS IN THE FUTURE I THINK THE CHIEF WILL TELL YOU AT SOME POINT THERE'S A NEED FOR THREE.

LASTLY, THE AP TRITON REPORT POINTED TO ASSETS THAT MIGHT BE NEEDED AROUND $5 MILLION.

WE DON'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DO THAT.

THESE ARE THE FIVE MODELS THAT THE -- THAT THE -- THAT WERE EXPLORED BY OUR CONSULTANT.

THEIR FINAL RECOMMENDATION INDICATED THAT AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY WAS MOST FEASIBLE AS OUR NEXT GOVERNANCE MODEL.

SINCE THAT TIME, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF A NEW AND INDEPENDENT FIRE DISTRICT, SO I'M GOING TO COVER THAT IN A LOT MORE DETAIL THAN BEFORE.

I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT BEING AN INDIVIDUAL FIRE DEPARTMENT IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

EUGENE HAS INVESTED WELL IN OUR DEPARTMENT OVER TIME, AND THERE ARE PROS AND CONS TO EACH MODEL TO INCLUDE BREAKING UP.

THE COMMUNITY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE WELL SERVED AND IT'S NOT AN OUTCOME TO BE FEARED.

IT'S NOT PREFERRED, BUT NOT FEARED.

LET'S START WITH THE FIRE DISTRICT AND AREAS WHERE I FEEL YOU'VE ASKED FOR MORE CLARITY.

A FIRE DISTRICT, A SPECIAL DISTRICT, IS A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT, A NEW GENERAL GOVERNMENT THAT HAS ITS OWN SEPARATE ELECTED BODY.

TYPICALLY THEY'RE SINGLE FOCUSED.

SO, FOR EXAMPLE, WILLAMETTE LANE AND OTHER DISTRICTS, FUNDED BY PROPERTY TAX.

THAT'S THEIR PRIMARY AND SOMETIMES ONLY FUNDING SOURCE.

IN OREGON, THEY'RE TYPICALLY RURAL.

IN SOME WAYS I CONSIDER IT, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT A DISTRICT, IT'S ESSENTIALLY A LINE ON A MAP.

THE IMAGE TO THE RIGHT, YOU CAN SEE A BIG BLURB OF TAN IN THE MIDDLE, REPRESENTING EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD, SURRENDERED BY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS.

EVEN IN THIS DIAGRAMMATIC VIEW, WE HAVE A SIGNIFICANT URBAN SERVICE AREA.

HOW DO YOU CREATE ONE?

THERE'S TWO WAYS IN OREGON TO FORM A DISTRICT.

ONE IS TO FORM A NEW DISTRICT, WHICH ACTUALLY, BECAUSE OF US BEING URBAN AND NOT RURAL, REALLY DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE AN OPTION FOR US.

THE SECOND OPTION IS TO ANNEX A RURAL DISTRICT, WHERE THE OUTSIDE EDGES COME IN TO PLAY.

THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS THAT GO INTO FORMING A DISTRICT.

THIS IS NOT END ZONED TO BE -- THIS IS WHAT COMES FIRST OR NEXT OR ALL THAT'S COUNTED.

I'M GIVING YOU A SAMPLE OF DECISION POINTS.

THE FIRST THING THAT I'LL MENTION IS THAT THE REQUIRES EXISTING DISTRICT INTEREST, WHICH I'LL COVER A LITTLE BIT ON THE NEXT SLIDE.

CITY COUNCIL HAVE MULTIPLE VOTES THROUGH THIS PROCESS.

THERE'S METRO PLAN AMENDMENT THAT WOULD BE NEED TO BE VOTED ON BY EUGENE AND LANE COUNTY, POTENTIALLY SPRINGFIELD, A NUMBER OF CITY CODE CHANGES.

THERE'S DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ASSET SALES AND AGREEMENTS, REQUIRES A VOTE OF THE CITIZENS.

WOULD REQUIRE A CANCELLATION OF THE IGA AND A LOT OF UNTANGLING OF RESOURCES.

ALL OF THIS IS ANTICIPATED IN THE REPORT AND EVERY CONVERSATION I'VE HAD TO BE A MINIMUM OF A FOUR TO FIVE-YEAR PROCESS.

SO TODAY I'M GOING TO FOCUS IN ON THE WILAKENZIE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT.

THOUGH THIS IS UNCOMFORTABLE FOR ME, BECAUSE I HAVEN'T HAD CONVERSATIONS ABOUT IF THEY'RE INTERESTED, AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP, THAT SAID, THIS DISTRICT WAS THE FOCUS OF A 2004 INITIATIVE IN SPRINGFIELD THAT WAS ULTIMATELY NOT SUCCESSFUL.

IT'S THE ONLY DISTRICT THAT HAS A TAX RATE EQUAL TO OR ABOVE WHAT THE AP TRITON REPORT RECOMMENDED AS A BASE, AND IS THE TAX RATE IN DISTRICT THAT'S BEEN REFERENCED AS THE GOAL IN EVERY SINGLE CONVERSATION I'VE HAD WITH ANYBODY THAT IS MOVING AND PUSHING FOR A DISTRICT.

SO LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT.

AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, A NEW DISTRICT IS ESSENTIALLY A NEW GENERAL GOVERNMENT, AND IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE SAME LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS AS THE CITY OF EUGENE.

LIMITATIONS ARE THE SAME, AND BECAUSE I'M FOCUSING ON EUGENE SOME OF THE INFORMATION WILL BE VERY FAMILIAR.

I'M GOING TO USE THE TAX RATES OF THE WILAKENZIE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, WHICH HAS A PERMANENT TAX RATE OF APPROXIMATELY $3.07 PER THOUSAND.

THE CITY OF EUGENE'S ENTIRE PERMANENT RATE IS APPROXIMATELY $6.85 PER THOUSAND.

I'M GOING TO USE A MAXIMUM CASE SCENARIO, THE SCENARIO WHERE A NEW TAXING DISTRICT IS ADDED WITH ITS FULL RATE, WITHOUT EUGENE OR ANY OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT LOWERING THEIR RATES.

WHILE IT'S POSSIBLE THE CITY OF EUGENE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENT DECISION TO TRY TO LOWER YOUR RATES TO OFFSET SOME OF THE NEW DISTRICT, IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE UNDER ANY SCENARIO TO OFFSET A $3.07 RATE.

EVEN IF THE CITY AGREED TO ABSORB A FUTURE LEVY, YOU CAN'T CONTROL WHAT OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENTS MIGHT PUT FORWARD AND BE APPROVED BY THE VOTERS TO INCLUDE A SUPPLEMENTAL LEVY BY A NEW FIRE DISTRICT.

SO I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO LOOK AT WHAT'S IMPORTANT AND EVEN LIKELY.

I ALSO DON'T WANT TO STATE A DISCLAIMER ON EVERY SLIDE, SO I'LL SAY IT HERE AND LET IT GO.

I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN TO SHOW A SCALE OF IMPACTS BUT THE FINANCIAL DANTE WON'T BE RIGHT SLIDE BY SLIDE.

"INTENT IS TO SHOW ACCURATE AND UNBIASED INFO THAT REFLECTS THE SCALE AND REALITY OF THE CHOICES.

AS WE NARROW IN ON OPTIONS, THE NEXT STEPS WE'LL NEED TO CONTINUE REFINING THE DATA.

A DECISION ON FIRE GOVERNANCE SHOULD NOT BE BASED SOLELY ON FINANCE, AND THE FIRST QUESTION THAT EVERY SINGLE PERSON BRINGS UP OR TALKS ABOUT IS FINANCES, PROPERTY TAXES, PROPERTY TAX LIMITS AND COMPRESSION.

I'M GOING TO WALK THROUGH.

YOU'VE SEEN THIS SLIDE BEFORE.

AS A REMINDER, COMPRESSION WAS INTRODUCED BY MEASURE 5 IN 1990, AND IT LIMITS THE RATE OF TAXATION BY GOVERNMENT BODIES, BOTH BY EDUCATION AND BY TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

WE'RE FOCUSING ON GOVERNMENT, THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT, SO THE TOTAL RATE IS $10 PER THOUSAND OF REAL MARKET VALUE, IS A LIMIT, A LEGAL LIMIT, OF WHAT CAN BE CHARGED TO ANY PROPERTY.

SO WHAT COMPRESSION IS IS ESSENTIALLY TAXES THAT CAN'T BE COLLECTED IF THE TAX RATES PUSH A PROPERTY ABOVE THOSE LIMITS.

WE'RE GOING TO WALK THROUGH THIS IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT EXAMPLES.

SO I'M JUST GOING TO KEEP MOVING.

MOST TAXPAYERS ARE UNAWARE IF THEIR PROPERTY IS COMPRESSED, WHEN YOU GET A TAX BILL, YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE IN COMPRESSION.

YOU DON'T KNOW THE INDIVIDUAL RATES YOU'RE BEING CHARGED BY DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.

SO I'M GOING TO WALK THROUGH FIVE DIFFERENT EXAMPLES.

IT'S GOING TO FEEL REALLY LONG, BUT I WANT US TO SET THE BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THIS HAPPENS ON AN INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY BASIS, ONE THAT SHOWS HOW IT PLAYS OUT IN A NEIGHBORHOOD AND ONE MORE SPECIFIC TO A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY.

WE ALL TAKE IN INFORMATION DIFFERENTLY.

IT'S COMPLEX.

I'VE HAD TO LOOK AT THIS MULTIPLE DIFFERENT WAYS TO COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND IT.

SO STARTING WITH A PROPERTY TAX STATEMENT ON AN INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY, IF YOU'RE A PROPERTY OWNER, YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THIS.

IF YOU AREN'T, I HOPE MY APPROACH WILL SHED LIGHT ON HOW THIS WORKS AND HOW IT MIGHT IMPACT YOU AS A TENANT.

THE CITY OF EUGENE AND EARNED RUN NEW TAXING DISTRICT, SUCH AS FIRE, FALLS IN A CATEGORY ON YOUR TAX STATEMENT.

I'VE OUTLINED THIS IN RED.

YOUR BILL IS MADE UP OF MORE THAN THAT.

IT'S AS IF WE'RE LOOKING AT YOUR WATER AND ELECTRIC BILL, AND I'M ONLY GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE ELECTRIC PART.

ON THE LEFT OF YOUR BILL, YOU FIND BOTH THE REAL MARKET VALUE AND ASSESSED VALUE OF A PROPERTY.

I'M GOING TO /REFERENTIAL/REFERRAL TO THOSE TWO VALUES OVER AND OVER AS WE GO THROUGH THE FINANCIALS AS THEY ARE A BASIS OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S TAX LIMITS OR IF COMPRESSION HAPPENS ACTUAL TAXES THAT ARE OWED.

I APOLOGIZE, I'LL REPEAT THIS MULTIPLE TIMES, BUT TAX LIMITS ARE CALCULATED ON THE REAL MARKET VALUE, WHICH IS THAT GREEN ARROW.

THAT IS GOING TO SHOW UP ON ALL THE SLIDES.

ACTUAL TAXES ARE CALCULATED ON ASSESSED VALUE.

AFTER WE UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WORKS ON A FEW PROPERTIES, I'M GOING TO WALK THROUGH SYSTEM-WIDE IMPACT.

LET'S FOCUS ON THE FIRST RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

SORRY.

THIS REDBOX IS THE SAME AS THE LAST SLIDE.

I PULLED IT STRAIGHT OVER.

I'VE ADDED IN THE INDIVIDUAL RATES FROM EACH BODY THAT RESULTS IN THE TAX BILL.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE TOTAL OF ALL TOTAL GOVERNANCE CURRENTLY IN MOST OF EUGENE IS $9.66 PER THOUSAND.

THE CAP ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT IS $10 PER THOUSAND, SO SEEMS LIKE WE'RE CLOSE TO BEING IN COMPRESSION TO MANY.

IT'S BEEN A LONGSTANDING VALUE OF THE CITY OF EUGENE AND REGIONAL PARTNERS TO STAY WITHIN THE $10 CAP.

THIS HAS MADE GOOD SENSE, BECAUSE IT WAS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATION TO MANAGE THE COST OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT, AND THERE WERE MANY YEARS WHERE REAL MARKET VALUE AND ASSESSED VALUE WERE CLOSER THAN THEY ARE FOR MANY PROPERTIES TODAY.

YOU'LL SEE EXAMPLES IN JUST A MINUTE.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE LIMIT IS BASED ON $10 PER THOUSAND OF REAL MARKET VALUE, NOT ASSESSED VALUE.

SO ON THIS PROPERTY, THE ACTUAL PROPERTY TAX LIMIT IS CURRENTLY JUST OVER $7,500.

SO ON THIS PROPERTY, IF YOU ADDED A NEW FIRE DISTRICT AT THE RATE OF $3.

07, THE TAXES OWED WOULD INCREASE TO OVER $6500, STILL UNDER THE MEASURE 5 LIMIT OF $7500.

I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU THE EXACT SAME MAP ON THE NEXT SLIDE.

EXACT SAME THING.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COLLECTION LIMIT CALCULATED ON THE REAL MARKET VALUE SHOWING THAT $7,516.

CAN'T GO ABOVE THAT THIS YEAR.

YOUR ACTUAL TAXES ARE CLAYED ON ASSESSED.

ARE CALCULATED ON ASSESSED.

WHAT THAT WOULD BE WITH A NEW $12.72 RATE, SHOWING THAT YOU WOULD HAVE A TAX INCREASE OF $1,574 ON THIS PROPERTY AS YOU WOULD NOT HIT COMPRESSION UNTIL YOU GET TO $7,516.

THIS IS A GRAPH SHOWING THAT EXACT SAME PROPERTY OVER TIME.

THE DARK BLUE LINE AT THE TOP IS THE REAL MARKET VALUE, A COMBINATION OF THE TWO BLUE LINES BELOW THAT REPRESENT THE IMPROVEMENT VALUE AND THE LAND VALUE THE RED LINE IS THE ASSESSED VALUE.

AS YOU CAN SEE, IN 2025, THE RMV, REAL MARKET VALUE, IS WELL ABOVE THE ASSESSED VALUE ALLOWING FOR MORE TAX GROWTH BEFORE HITTING COMPRESSION OR TAX COLLECTION LIMITS.

AGAIN, THE $10 LIMIT IS APLAYED TO RMV, THE DARK BLUE TOP LINE.

IN 2025, THAT LOOKS GREAT, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK BACK HAVE FAR.

OUR HISTORY IS A GOOD INDICATOR OF FUTURE RISKS.

ANY DIPS IN VALUE THAT BRING THE TOP LINE DOWN MEANS TAXES THAT CAN'T BE COLLECTED.

IF THAT HAPPENS, ALL THE GOVERNMENTS LISTED IN THE LIST I SHOWED YOU WITH A REDBOX WOULD LOSE REVENUE.

LET'S LOOK AT AN EXAMPLE WHERE YOU CAN THROW A BALL FROM HOUSE-TO-HOUSE.

THIS EXAMPLE, I'M USING IT TO SHOW FOR A NEW TAXING DISTRICT IS ADDED, HOW THAT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT TRIGGER COMPRESSION.

IN A LATER SLIDE, I'LL SHOW YOU A TAX IMPACT FOR THESE SPECIFIC PROPERTIES.

FOR THIS WE'RE LOOKING AT WHETHER OR NOT THE NEW OVERALL RATE OF $12.72 ESSENTIALLY WOULD TRIGGER COMPRESSION.

FIRST PROPERTY, YES, THE NEW RATE WOULD EXCEED THE LEGAL TAX LIMITS.

THAT PROPERTY WOULD ACTUALLY BE IN COMPRESSION.

IT WOULD PAY MORE TAXES, BUT STILL LEAVE $103 WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COLLECT.

THE NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR WOULD NOT EXCEED THE TAX LIMITS.

IN FACT, WHEN YOU CALCULATE HOW HIGH RATE THAT WOULD GET BEFORE YOU HIT COMPRESSION, YOU COULD RUN THE BOTTOM NUMBER OF 1274 UP TO 1547 BEFORE YOU LOSE.

IF YOU GO ACROSS THE STREET, WHERE YOU MIGHT EVEN TRICK-OR-TREAT, YOU CAN GO ALL THE WAY UP TO $17.16 BEFORE THAT PROPERTY WILL BE IN COMPRESSION.

THIS IS A POINT IN TIME MEASUREMENT THAT CHANGES ANNUALLY.

THERE'S A SIGNIFICANT VARIATION FROM PROPERTY TO PROPERTY, CREATING A LOT OF DISPARITY AND INEQUITIES IN HOW SERVICES ARE FUNDED.

NOT A NEW ISSUE.

JUST ONE TO BE AWARE OF.

AND OUR REGION HAS BEEN REALLY GOOD ABOUT KEEPING OUR OVERALL RATES BELOW $10, WHILE PORTLAND, ON THE OTHER HAND, HOVERS CLOSER TO $15.

THIS IS WHY I THINK WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT COULD POTENTIALLY HAPPEN.

THESE ARE THE SAME THREE PROPERTIES.

THE FIRST ONE WAS THE ONE I SHOWED YOU IN COMPRESSION.

THEN THE OTHER TWO, SAME SLIDE I SHOWED YOU EARLIER SHOWING THAT HISTORY.

YOU CAN SEE YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK BACK VERY FAR TO SEE THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHERE WE WOULD BE LOSING SIGNIFICANT REVENUE.

I'M GOING TO WALK THROUGH A COMMERCIAL EXAMPLE.

THIS IS A LARGE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OUT WEST 11TH.

YOU TAKE THE REAL MARKET VALUE, MULTIPLY THAT BY $10 PER THOUSAND TO GET TO THE TOTAL TAX LIMIT.

SAME THING HERE, IF YOU CALCULATE THE VALUE ON 965, YOU CAN SEE WHERE -- WHAT THE TAXES ARE.

IF YOU RAISE IT TO 1272, WHAT THAT NUMBER IS.

YOU CAN SEE THE 324 IS HIGHER THAN THE LEGAL LIMIT FOR THIS PROPERTY.

YOU WOULD LOSE 69,475 -- YOU CAN SEE IT.

THOSE ARE TAXES THAT WOULDN'T BE COLLECTED.

THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE TALK ABOUT BEING LOST TO COMPRESSION.

I'M GOING TO SHOW THESE EXAMPLES SIDE-BY-SIDE BEFORE I GO TO A MORE SYSTEM-WIDE LOOK, SHOWING YOU RATE AND TAXES, AT THE CURRENT RATE, THE RATE AND TAXES AT THE NEW RATE, HOW THAT WOULD IMPACT "PROPERTY OWNER BY YEAR AND MONTH.

THE SECOND HOUSE, BUILT IN 1964, HAS A REALLY LARGE GAP.

WHAT THEIR IMPACT WOULD BE.

THE NEXT TWO NEIGHBORS, AND THEN FINALLY THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY.

THIS PLAYS OUT ACROSS THE CITY AND BY PROPERTY CLASS.

WHEN WE PRESENTED TO YOU ABOUT THE OREGON PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM, WE SHARED THIS SLIDE, HAD WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT THE CHANGED PROPERTY RATIO, A COUNTY-WIDE AVERAGE OF ASSESSED VALUE TO REAL MARKET VALUE FOR PROPERTIES WITHIN THE SAME CLASSIFICATION.

IT'S A GOOD FRAMEWORK FOR LOOKING AT HOW COMPRESSION MIGHT PLAY OUT ACROSS THE CITY AND ACROSS DEVELOPMENT TYPES.

AS YOU CAN SEE, RESIDENTIAL MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ARE GOING TO HAVE THE MOST ROOM FOR GROWTH AND WHERE TAXES COULD GO UP THE MOST.

AS YOU MOVE DOWN INTO INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PROPERTY, MORE LIKELY, ON AVERAGE, TO BE IN COMPRESSION AND HAVE REVENUE LOSS.

YOU CAN SEE HOW MUCH VARIATION THERE IS ACROSS THE CITY, WITH DARKER COLORS BEING MORE LIKELY TO BE COMPRESSED.

THOSE TEND TO BE MORE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY.

GIVEN ALL OF THAT INFORMATION, LET'S LOOK DISTRICT-WIDE AT WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN TERMS OF REVENUE GENERATION WITH COMPRESSION.

IN THIS MAP, THE GREEN LINE REPRESENTING THE EXISTING WILAKENZIE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT HAS BEEN CARRIED AROUND THE EUGENE AREA.

FOR THIS AREA WE ESTIMATE A NEW DISTRICT WITH A PERMANENT TAX RATE OF $3.07 WOULD GENERATE ABOUT $56 MILLION ANNUALLY.

PROPERTY TAX IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF REVENUE, AND THE GROWTH RATE HAS BEEN BELOW 4 PER ANNUALLY IN EUGENE FOR A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME.

WE'LL HAVE AN UPDATED NUMBER AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION FROM LANE COUNTY, BUT LOOKING AT OUR OWN DATA THIS NUMBER WILL FOLLOW THE SAME TREND OF SUB 4% GROWTH.

AS WE TALK ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT BUDGET SHIFTING, WE'VE SHIFTED TO A BIENNIUM.

FOR EXAMPLE, ROUGH AGAIN, BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS SOME NUMBERS THAT DON'T CARRY OVER YEAR OVER YEAR, ABOUT $112 MILLION FOR THE BIENNIUM, REPRESENTING ABOUT 7.6% GROWTH.

ALL RIGHT.

ONE MORE THING ABOUT COMPRESSION, JUST AS A REMINDER, THIS IS THE SAME RED BOX, REMEMBER THAT THE EDUCATION HAS A $5 PER THOUSAND LIMIT, GENERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A $10 PER THOUSAND LIMIT, AND THE BONDS, CAPITAL BONDS, DON'T ACTUALLY FALL INTO THOSE SAME COMPRESSION LIMITS.

SO WE'RE NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT THOSE TWO.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT RATES.

AS A REMINDER, WHEN WE DO TALK ABOUT COMPRESSION, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU A COUPLE NUMBERS, WHAT GETS COMPRESSED FIRST IS THE LOCAL OPTION LEVIES.

I'VE INDICATED THOSE FOR BOTH EUGENE AND LANE COUNTY AS THEY WILL, WHEN WE LOOK AT THE NUMBERS NUMBER, YOU'LL SEE WHY THAT IS.

SO THAT $56.4 MILLION ANNUALLY, THE CITY OF EUGENE LOSES ABOUT $2.4 MILLION.

LANE COUNTY, 1.75.

THE FIRE DISTRICT GENERATING AND ALSO IN COMPRESSION IN THEIR FIRST YEAR, AND THE UPPER WILLAMETTE SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT.

JUST AS A REMINDER, SCHOOLS ARE NOT IMPACTED BY THIS.

THIS IS THE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET OVER THE LAST TWO BIENNIUM.

THE GENERAL FUND LINE ON THE TOP IS THE BEST AMIES-TO-APPLES COMPARISON.

WITHIN THE CITY, THE GENERAL FUND NUMBER IS LOWER THAN WHAT I PREVIOUSLY SHOWED YOU WHAT THE DISTRICT WOULD BRING IN, BUT IT HAS HIGHER GROWTH.

THERE ARE A COUPLE REASONS, BUT WE ALLOCATE MORE RESOURCES TO SUPPLEMENT THE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THE RESOURCES GREW BEYOND OUR REVENUE GROWTH.

ALSO NOTABLE IS THE OTHER REVENUES, SUCH AS COMMUNITY SAFETY TAX.

UNLESS THE CITY DECIDED TO VOLUNTARILY GIVE A NEW GOVERNMENT YOUR PAYROLL TAX, THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO FUND THAT SERVICE WITH PROPERTY TAX REVENUE.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT JUST THE TOP LINE, THE GENERAL FUND FOR A NEW DISTRICT VERSUS THE CITY OF EUGENE, THE FINANCIAL DRIVER FOR MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DISTRICT IS THE $12 MILLION IN ANNUAL NEW CAPACITY.

WE'RE GOING TO COME BACK TO THAT.

THAT SAID, THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS, OTHER THAN FINANCES, TO CONSIDER.

ONE OF THE INTERESTING FACTS IS THAT, AS YOU SEE EVEN THOUGH ON THE LOWER TABLE OUR POPULATION, WHEN YOU LOOK AT EUGENE AND SPRINGFIELD TOGETHER, WE REPRESENT JUST UNDER 74%, OUR ASSESSED VALUE IS OVER 76%.

AS YOU MOVE FROM A CITY SERVICE TO A REGIONAL SERVICE, THE COSTS SHIFT.

BECAUSE OF OUR HIGHER VALUE, EUGENE RESIDENTS WILL PAY MORE THAN A COST DISTRIBUTED BY POPULATION.

IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THE OTHER ITEMS I PREVIOUSLY SHARED AS DESIRES FOR A NEW MODEL -- THAT IS NOT THE RIGHT SLIDE.

WE'LL COME RIGHT BACK TO THAT.

I'LL SWITCH NOW TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.

A LOT LESS SLIDES HERE, BECAUSE IT'S DEFINITELY AN AREA THAT WE HAVE MORE UNDERSTANDING.

IT'S AN AREA THAT THE CONSULTANTS SPENT TIME WITH YOU.

IT'S ALSO A MODEL WE HAVE SOME FAMILIARITY WITH.

AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY IS A PUBLIC BODY AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

IT HAS POWER AND DELEGATIONS DELEGATED BY THE CITY.

IT WOULD HAVE A NEW BOARD GOVERNED BY EXISTING REPRESENTATIVES.

METROPOLITAN WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION IS A SIMILAR ENTITY, BUT I'M GOING TO COVER THAT IN THE NEXT SLIDE, WHERE YOU HAVE EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVING A ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE AND ALSO HAVING COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

THEY'RE TYPICALLY SINGLE SERVICE, FUNDED BY THE CITIES.

THEY DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO RAISE TAXES, BUT THEY COULD DO FEES.

I SAY MWMC IS CLOSE BUT DIFFERENT, BECAUSE AS WE'RE IMAGINING AN IGE FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, WE'RE IMAGINING IT A STEP BEYOND WHAT WE'VE DONE WITH METROPOLITAN WASTEWATER.

IT CONTINUES TO HAVE EMPLOYEES IN EUGENE AND EMPLOYEES IN SPRINGFIELD, AND IT'S EASIER TO DO THAT, BECAUSE THE OPERATIONS ARE SEPARATE.

IN THIS ONE, WE'RE IMAGINING THE IGE WOULD BE THE EMPLOYER, AND THE EMPLOYEES IN EUGENE AND SPRINGFIELD WOULD BE EMPLOYED BY THE IGE.

THE CHIEF WOULD REPORT TO THAT NEW BOARD, NOT TO THE CITY MANAGERS.

IT'S NOT PART OF THE CITY.

IT'S STILL SUPPORTED BY THE CITY, BUT IT IS A SEPARATE ENTITY, HAS SEPARATE SYSTEMS, AND THEY TEND TO HAVE AN URBAN FOCUS.

IGE FORMATION HAS A LOT OF STEPS.

AGAIN, A SAMPLING OF POINTS.

THERE WOULD BE A LOT OF WORK IN TERMS OF EVEN STARTING TO DEVELOP AN MOU AND DEAL POINTS TO GET TO A IGA TO FORM AN IGE.

WHEN THE CONSULTANT GAVE US THEIR REPORT, THEY GAVE US AN EIGHT-PAGE TO-DO LIST, LIKE LITERALLY THESE ARE THE STEPS YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH.

IT'S EIGHT PAGES FRONT AND BACK.

STILL HAVE TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT EQUIPMENT AND ASSETS.

THERE'S NEW SYSTEMS AND SHIFTS YOU HAVE TO UNTANGLE.

WHILE IT MAY NOT BE FIVE YEARS, IT'S CERTAINLY GREATER THAN TWO.

IN AN IGE, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT REVENUES, WE START WITH THE CITY'S REVENUES.

AGAIN, I'M GOING TO USE THE MAXIMUM CASE SCENARIO, USING AN ASSUMPTION THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS ITS CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS.

GIVEN THE NORTH STAR AND DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY NEEDS, AN IGE WOULD NEED AN ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCE.

AS AN EXAMPLE ONLY I'M GOING TO TALK THROUGH WHAT THAT MIGHT LOOK, TRYING TO MATCH THE CAPACITY OF A NEW DISTRICT BY RAISING AN ADDITIONAL $12 MILLION.

ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF AN IGE, THEY STILL HAVE THE SUPPORT OF TWO CITIES' SUPPORT.

THIS IS SIMILAR TO MWMC, WHO RECOMMEND AND SET RATES, THAT BOTH CITIES APPROVE, USUALLY BY CONSENT.

I'VE BEEN A MINDSET TO MORE OF A UTILITY MODEL.

IT'S A 24/7 OPERATION YOU CAN'T SHUT OFF, AND OUR COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON IT SCALING WITH GROWTH AND NEED.

IT'S A SERVICE THAT NEEDS A MORE PROACTIVE PLANNING AND APPROACH.

AS YOU CAN SEE HERE, I'VE PLACED IGE IN THE GROWTH COLUMN AS THAT COULD BE A FUTURE DECISION ON HOW THAT WOULD GROW.

LASTLY, BEFORE I LEAVE THE SLIDE, I WANT TO REMIND EVERYONE THIS OPTION IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE CITY, A TOOL TO GENERATE CAPACITY AS A SINGLE ENTITY, ONE THAT COULD SCALE UP OVER TIME.

THESE ARE NUMBERS WE'VE PULLED FROM PREVIOUS WORK WE DID ON FIRE FUNDING.

AND SHOWS WHAT HAPPENS ACROSS A TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD.

BASED ON THE RESEARCH WE DID DURING THE LAST FIRE FUNDING CONVERSATION, THIS IS THE IMPACT TO THESE PROPERTIES TO GENERATE $12 MILLION ANNUALLY IN NEW CAPACITY.

THE REASON FOR THIS IS A FEE IS ESTABLISHED BY ACCOUNT HOLDER, WHICH IS BROADER THAN PROPERTY OWNER.

AS YOU MIGHT RECALL, FEES ARE PAID ACROSS THE SYSTEM, AND INCLUDE PROPERTIES THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM PROPERTY TAXES, SUCH AS THE CITY OF EUGENE, NONPROFITS, THE UO, ETC.

IT'S BASED ON SQUARE FOOTAGE, CONSIDERED AN EQUITABLE TO LOOK AT THE COST OF FIRE SERVICES.

THIS IS HOW THIS COMPARES WHEN LOOKING AT A TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY.

WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING AT A FIRE DISTRICT AND A FEE.

BUT ULTIMATELY PLEASE KNOW MY EVENTUAL RECOMMENDATION TO YOU WILL NOT BE BASED SOLELY ON FINANCE.

IN THE END WE WILL REVISIT PRIORITIES TO DETERMINE THE BEST MODEL.

WHILE THIS WILL GO ON FOR YEARS, I INTEND TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO YOU IN DECEMBER.

WE HAVE A FEW TOUCHPOINTS HERE WITH YOU TODAY WITH THE REVIEW PANEL.

AND AGAIN, THIS WILL CONTINUE.

TODAY I'D ACTUALLY LIKE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK AND UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MIGHT NEED TO KNOW OR UNDERSTAND BETTER PRIOR TO MY MAKING THAT RECOMMENDATION IN DECEMBER.

BACK TO YOU, MAYOR.

>> THANK YOU, CITY MANAGER.

VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THAT UPDATE.

A LOT OF WORK OVER A LOT OF YEARS.

I WILL NOW OPEN UP THE FLOOR TO COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

I SEE COUNCILOR GROVES FIRST IN THE QUEUE.

>> THANK YOU, MAYOR.

THANK YOU, CITY MANAGER, FOR THAT PRESENTATION.

IT'S AS CLEAR AS YOU COULD MAKE IT.

IT'S A VERY COMPLICATE ISSUE.

JUST TO BE CLEAR, WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE COST OF A DISTRICT YOU ARE ADDING IN ADDITIONAL REVENUE THAT'S NEEDED FOR TRYING TO CATCH UP TO THE LAST 44 YEARS, WHERE OUR GROWTH HAS BEEN STAGNANT.

CORRECT?

>> SO NO -- WELL, SO WHEN I'M DOING THE DISTRICT, I'M JUST SHOWING YOU WHAT THAT RATE WOULD GENERATE ACROSS EUGENE.

IT WOULD GENERATE $12 MILLION MORE THAN WHAT WE'RE CURRENTLY PUTTING IN GENERAL FUND.

THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SHOW.

IT WON'T -- I DON'T KNOW ACTUALLY IF IT'S ENOUGH TO GET ABOVE.

IT COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE TO LEVY.

>> THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO GET AT.

IT WOULD HELP WITH THE CATCH-UP.

WHATEVER WE DO, I MEAN WE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT OUR RESOURCES HAVE NOT KEPT UP WITH THE PACE OF GROWTH AND THE CAPACITY LIMITATIONS WE ARE EXPERIENCING.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE CHIEF AND HIS TEAM FOR CONTINUING TO MAKE THIS THING WORK, EVEN THOUGH IT'S AWKWARD AND CUMBERSOME.

I WANT TO THANK OUR FIREFIGHTERS FOR CONTINUING TO BE PROFESSIONAL AND JUST ALWAYS SEEM TO BE ABLE TO PULL THINGS TOGETHER TO MAKE THEM WORK.

FOR ME, ONE OF THE THINGS I WILL BE LOOKING AT IS A PLAN FOR CATCH-UP.

I DON'T KNOW THAT IT CAN BE DONE IN ONE YEAR, BUT SOME WAY, REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF GOVERNANCE WE END UP THAT THAT HAPPENS.

THE OTHER THING, QUESTION I WANTED TO ASK, WAS, AGAIN, LOOKING AT THE DISTRICT AS OPPOSED TO THE IGE, THE DISTRICT, NONE OF THOSE NUMBERS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHAT'S ALREADY COMING FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, CORRECT?

OKAY, CORRECT.

YOU WERE MUTED, BUT I COULD READ YOUR LIPS.

>> THAT'S WHY I CALLED IT THE MAXIMUM CASE SCENARIO.

>> GOT IT.

THANK YOU.

AGAIN, THE $12 MILLION INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT, THAT'S IN KEEPING WITH THE PREMISE THAT AP TRITON REPORTED BACK, CORRECT?

>> I GUESS I'LL LEAVE MY AUDIO ON.

THE $12 MILLION IN THE DISTRICT, I'M JUST PULLING THAT OUT AS AN EXAMPLE OF, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FOCUSING GET MORE MONEY IN A DISTRICT.

IF YOU LOOK AT OUR GENERAL FUND THAT WE'RE CONTRIBUTING, IT WOULD GENERATE MORE THAN OUR GENERAL FUND, BUT THAT'S NOT BASED ON ANYTHING IN THE TRITON REPORT.

I TRIED TO USE THE -- WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU NEED TO GENERATE THAT $12 MILLION FOR GROWTH, AND YOU DO IT IN THE IGE, AND WHAT THAT COSTS.

SO I THINK THAT DECISION ABOUT WHAT THE RIGHT -- YOU KNOW, DISTRICT IS GOING TO GENERATE THAT MONEY ON DAY ONE, LIKE WHETHER YOU NEED IT ALL IN DAY ONE OR NOT, AND THE IGE YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO RATCHET THAT UP AS YOU WANT TO CATCH UP AND GROW.

>> DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF WHAT THAT THE PUBLIC'S APPETITE WOULD BE FOR THIS, OR IS THAT SOMETHING WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO BE DOING SOME POLLING ON?

>> YEAH.

I HAVEN'T TALKED TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL ABOUT A DISTRICT.

>> I DON'T HAVE A GOOD FEEL FOR IT MYSELF, BUT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE FIRE SERVICES FEE, QUITE A FEW PEOPLE THAT I SPOKE WITH AT LEAST SAID THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT MORE MONEY GOING TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, BUT ONE OF THEIR COMPLAINTS WAS A SMALLER PERCENTAGE WOULD ACTUALLY BE GOING TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HELP WITH THE FACT THAT WE HAVEN'T HAD GROWTH TO KEEP UP WITH POPULATION GROWTH.

THAT'S ALL I'M GOING TO ASK FOR NOW, I'LL PROBABLY WANT A SECOND ROUNDED, BUT I'LL WAIT TO SEE WHAT IS ASKED AND WHAT THE ANSWERS ARE.

THANK YOU, MAYOR.

AND THANK YOU, SARAH.

>> COUNCILOR CLARK, YOU'RE SHOWING NEXT IN THE QUEUE.

THEN COUNCILOR KASHINSKY.

>> THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK INVOLVED IN THAT PRESENTATION.

HAVING WORKED ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE WITH COUNCILOR GROVES FOR A WHILE, I KNOW THE COMPLEXITY OF THIS.

THAT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT PRESENTATION TO GET TOGETHER AND PUT OUT THERE A WAY THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE FOR EVERYBODY INVOLVED.

I AGREE ENTIRELY WITH RANDY'S COMMENTS.

MORE IMPORTANTLY TO ME, I WOULD SAY IT'S IMPORTANT, I THINK, THAT THE COMMUNITY KNOWS, THEIR FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THEIR FIRE CHIEF

HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY LONG AND VERY HARD WITH THE SYSTEM THAT'S -- THAT IS NOT GIVING THEM THE BEST SUPPORT THAT THEY NEED IN ORDER TO SERVE ALL OF US THE BEST WAY.

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THEY NEED A SINGLE ORGANIZATION THAT MANAGES THEM.

THEY NEED THE RESOURCES TO DO THE JOB MORE EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT HAVING TO SCRIMP AND GET BY WITH THINGS THAT ARE LESS THAN OPTIMAL FOR TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO GIVE THEM THE STRUCTURE THAT CAN PROVIDE THAT KIND OF SUPPORT.

IT IS MY OPINION THAT A BIG PART OF THAT IS FINANCIAL, AND THAT WE HAVEN'T GROWN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH THE RESOURCES OVER TIME TO DO THE JOB THAT WE'RE ASKING THEM TO DO.

AND BY COMPARISON, I WOULD ONLY SAY THAT, LOOKING BACK, 20-25 YEARS, AND OUR LIBRARY WAS A ONE-STORY BUILDING WITH A COUPLE OF DOZEN PEOPLE WORKING THERE.

TODAY THE LIBRARY LOOKS VERY, VERY DIFFERENT.

AND THE LIBRARY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF EUGENE.

BUT I WOULD VENTURE TO SAY, SO IS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

WE HAVEN'T GROWN THAT IN THE SAME WAY WE'VE GROWN OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY.

I THINK IT'S TIME WE REEXAMINE THAT, WHICHEVER WAY SARAH ENDS UP RECOMMENDING THAT WE MOVE FORWARD, HOW WE RECOMMEND BALANCING WHAT PRIORITY OUR SERVICE DELIVERY IS MATTERS IN THIS DISCUSSION AS WELL.

THANK YOU.

>> COUNCILOR KASHINSKY.

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, SARAH, FOR THE PRESENTATION, AND TO EVERYONE WHO PUT WORK INTO THIS.

I KNOW IT'S BEEN -- SOMETHING A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON FOR A LONG TIME.

I WANT TO SAY THAT SOME OF THE -- MANY OF THE FINANCIAL QUESTIONS I HAD WERE ANSWERED BY YOUR PRESENTATION.

AND SO THANK YOU.

IT WAS VERY THOROUGH.

I DID HAVE -- I ALSO APPRECIATED DISCUSSING THE POTENTIAL REVENUE OPTIONS, IF THERE WAS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY THAT TOOK OVER THIS.

READING THROUGH THE CONSULTANT REPORT, THERE WASN'T A DISCUSSION OF HOW YOU WOULD HANDLE INCREASED FUNDING FOR THIS.

SO I APPRECIATED THAT OPTION BEING PUT IN THERE.

MY QUESTION IS JUST TO CLARIFY UNDER EITHER OF THESE OPTIONS IT WOULD INVOLVE SETTING UP INDEPENDENT AND SORT OF SEPARATE STRUCTURES, IS THAT RIGHT?

INDEPENDENT HR, I.T., FINANCE SUPPORT, AND UNDER EITHER OF THESE THEY WOULDN'T HAVE THAT SAME CHALLENGE, WHERE THEY HAVE TWO CFOS AND TWO BUDGETS THEY'VE GOT TO DO?

>> RIGHT.

>> IS THAT CORRECT?

ALL RIGHT.

THE OTHER QUESTION I HAD THAT'S A LITTLE BIT MORE -- WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE MEMBER FEES AS PART OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, IS THAT LIKE THE BOARD, LIKE PER PERSON IN EUGENE, EUGENE'S GOING TO GIVE US 10 BUCKS, WHATEVER THE NUMBER IS.

IS THAT HOW THAT WORKS?

>> I THINK THAT'S HOW THEY IMAGINED IT.

I CALLED IT MEMBER FEES, BECAUSE IN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, YOU CREATE THE ENTITY, AND IT HAS THE ABILITY TO GROW OVER TIME, SO IF SOMEONE ELSE WANTED TO JOIN YOU COULD POTENTIALLY TALK ABOUT THAT.

YEAH, IT WOULD BE ESTABLISHING THAT RATE, THAT SORT OF BASE RATE, AT WHICH YOU'RE DOING YOUR SERVICE.

>> OKAY.

AND THEN I THINK AS WE CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION, ONE THING I WOULD FIND HELPFUL IS DISCUSSION AS WE'RE LOOKING AT THESE, WHAT ARE SORT OF DOWNSIDES OR MAJOR BARRIERS THAT MAY COME UP FOR EITHER OF THESE OPTIONS.

SO IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE LOOKING AT, AND YOU'RE, LIKE, I JUST DON'T SEE HOW THIS PIECE IS GOING TO WORK, THAT WOULD BE GOOD TO KNOW.

THAT COULD COME FROM A LOT OF DIFFERENT PLACES.

I KNOW COUNCILOR GROVES WAS SORT OF TALKING ABOUT PUBLIC APPETITE BEING POTENTIALLY A BARRIER FOR SOME OF THESE OPTIONS, OR A SUPPORT FOR SOME OF THESE OPTIONS, YOU KNOW, IF THERE'S A SENSE THAT SPRINGFIELD WOULD NEVER AGREE TO A CERTAIN THING, AND SO IT MEANS THAT WE'D BE DOING THIS ON OUR OWN, AND WHAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT WOULD BE.

I THINK UNDERSTANDING WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PLACES WHERE THIS COULD GO OFF THE RAILS WITH EITHER OF THE TWO OPTIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

THANK YOU.

>> THANKS.

>> COUNCILOR KEATING.

COUNCILOR KEATING, YOU'RE STILL MUTED.

AND NOW YOU ARE ALSO FROZEN.

YOU MAY NEED TO TURN OFF YOUR VIDEO.

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

>> WE CAN HEAR YOU, BUT YOU'RE FROZEN.

WOULD YOU TURN OFF YOUR VIDEO?

>> IT'S STILL FROZEN.

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> WE CAN HEAR YOU.

>> OKAY.

CITY MANAGER, THANK YOU FOR THE PRESENTATION.

IT'S CLEAR-EYED, AND I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE IN-DEPTH OVERVIEW.

I'M WONDERING HOW MUCH -- HOW MUCH ARE EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD FIRE TEAM -- AND I COUCH THIS IN MY GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS AND LEADERSHIP AS WELL.

HOW OFTEN ARE FIRST RESPONDERS RESPONDING TO CALLS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT IN THAT WILAKENZIE FIRE DISTRICT ALREADY, AND IF THERE'S MEASURES 5 AND 50 REFORM SEEN AT THE STATE LEVEL, HOW THAT MIGHT LOOSENING OF COMPRESSION RESTRAINTS CHANGE THE CALCULUS AND CHANGE THE CONVERSATION ABOUT A POTENTIAL, NOT CREATION OF A FIRE DISTRICT, BUT FOLDING INTO AN EXISTING FIRE DISTRICT IF, SAY, THE COMPRESSION IS A 1250 -- IS NOT CONSTRAINED AT A $10.

>> I'M GOING TO SPLIT THIS QUESTION UP.

SO ONE THING I DIDN'T CLARIFY, IS WILAKENZIE IS A TAXING DISTRICT.

THEY DON'T ACTUALLY -- THEY CONTRACT WITH EUGENE SPRINGFIELD FIRE FOR SERVICE.

IT'S AN INTERESTING -- SO CHIEF CAVEN WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER HOW OFTEN WE'RE GOING INTO THAT DISTRICT.

IT'S PRETTY SMALL.

THE SECOND PIECE OF HOW FUTURE PROPERTY TAX REFORM COULD IMPACT, I'D HAVE TO THINK THROUGH THAT.

YOU KNOW, IT COULD ACTUALLY MAKE IT SO THAT BOTH CITIES HAVE THE ABILITY TO BETTER FUND THEIR DEPARTMENTS AS WELL.

CAVEN, DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A STAB AT THAT WILAKENZIE?

>> YES.

SARAH IS RIGHT.

WILAKENZIE IS ONE OF SEVEN DISTRICTS THAT CONTRACT WITH THE CITIES FOR SERVICE.

AND IN TOTALITY, THERE'S NOT A LOT OF POPULATION OUT THERE.

AND SO IT'S BELOW A THOUSAND TOTAL CALLS PER YEAR THAT WE SERVICE IN THEIR AREAS.

>> THANK YOU, CHIEF.

THANK YOU, CITY MANAGER.

I'M ASSUMING I'M STILL FROZEN.

YOU CAN HEAR ME.

I'LL GIVE UP THE REST OF MY TIME AND KEEP MYSELF ON MUTE AND WITH MY CAMERA OFF.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.

WE HEARD YOU OKAY ONCE YOUR SCREEN WAS OFF, IN CASE YOU COME BACK IN THE SECOND ROUND.

COUNCILOR ZELENKA.

>> YEAH.

THANK YOU.

I APPRECIATE THE WORK AND THE SERVICE THAT THE FIREFIGHTERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, GIVE TO OUR CITY, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU NEED IT.

THAT'S WHEN THEY'RE REALLY, REALLY VALUABLE.

HOPEFULLY YOU NEVER NEED THEM.

THIS IS A SUPER COMPLICATED, AND HATS OFF TO THE CITY MANAGER FOR TRYING TO MAKE THIS AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE, BUT IT'S NOT SIMPLE.

IT'S VERY COMPLICATED.

I THINK THE FIRE FEE, BECAUSE IT WAS AN INCREASE IN REVENUE FROM TAXPAYERS, IS THE CAUSE OF WHY IT MET ITS DEMISE, RELUCTANT TO GO

TO THE OTHER RHETORICAL REASONS FOR IT, BECAUSE I THINK PEOPLE ARE REALLY ABOUT THE MONEY, NOT ABOUT HOW IT WAS DONE, A QUESTION I HAD ABOUT THE DISTRICT.

SO IF THE TAX RATE IN THE WILAKENZIE FIRE DISTRICT WERE TO BE ASSUMED FOR THE CITY, BOTH CITIES, AND IT WOULD CREATE $12 MILLION, THAT'S INCREMENTAL DOLLARS.

AND SO WHAT WOULD THAT BE USED FOR, AND WOULD THAT CREATE AN INCREASE IN SERVICE?

>> NOT NECESSARILY.

I APOLOGIZE FOR USING THAT NUMBER.

I'M JUST TRYING TO BE, LIKE, WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF A DISTRICT, AND THE IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGE THAT I COULD SEE, LOOKING AT IT, OH, IT GENERATES THIS.

YOU KNOW, IT'S A COUPLE THINGS.

IT GENERATES A LITTLE BIT MORE REVENUE AND HAS ITS OWN INDEPENDENT ELECTED BODY AND ITS OWN INDEPENDENT SINGLE FOCUS.

I THINK THAT IS APPEALING TO SOME.

THAT RATE WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE -- IT'S NOT FULLY.

WE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE YOU MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS AROUND, YOU KNOW, WHAT WOULD THEY HAVE TO PAY IN TERMS OF ADMINISTRATION.

YOU KNOW, IT'S UNCLEAR HOW MUCH OF A SERVICE IMPACT YOU WOULD GET WITH THAT.

>> IF ANY?

>> YEAH.

AND AGAIN, THIS BODY WOULD NOT BE IN CONTROL OF THAT.

A NEW ELECTED BOARD WOULD BE DETERMINING WHERE THOSE RESOURCES GO AND HOW THEY'D BE INVESTED, WHERE NEW STATIONS GO, WHERE NEW STATIONS MOVE.

THAT'S NOT A -- THAT WOULDN'T BE A CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

>> RIGHT.

THE CITY WOULD LOSE CONTROL OVER ALL OF THAT, BE INVESTED IN THE NEW BOARD.

BUT IF I GOT SLIDE 21 CORRECT, IF THE WILAKENZIE FIRE DISTRICT RATE WERE PUT ON TOP OF WHAT WE'RE ALREADY DOING, THEN IN MOST INSTANCES YOU WOULD SEE AN INCREASE IN PEOPLE'S TAXES THAT THEY WOULD PAY, UNCLEAR WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD GET A INCREASE IN SERVICE, MAYBE, MAYBE NOT.

MY SCREEN JUST WENT BLACK.

OH, YEAH, THANK YOU.

AND FOR SOME, IN COMPRESSION, THAT WOULD PUT SOME IN COMPRESSION, AND WE WOULD SEE A LOSS IN THE CITY OF EUGENE REVENUE, AND WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A CUT IN SERVICES OF ABOUT $2.4 MILLION A YEAR.

IS THAT -- DID I SUM THAT UP?

IT'S A VERY COMPLICATED ANALYSIS.

YOU'RE MUTED, SARAH.

>> YES.

BUT AGAIN, I USED THAT MAXIMUM CASE SCENARIO.

IN THE MAXIMUM CASE SCENARIO, YOU WEREN'T VOLUNTARILY REDUCING YOUR RATE.

SO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT LEAVES AND YOU STILL HAVE -- YOU WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE MORE RESOURCES.

SO YOU PROBABLY COULD ABSORB SOME OF THAT WITHOUT HAVING TO MAKE ANY SORT OF CUTS.

>> BECAUSE WE'RE NOT PAYING FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANYMORE.

>> CORRECT.

LANE COUNTY WOULD BE IN A DIFFERENT -- ALTOGETHER, BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T GET THE OFFSETTING RESOURCES.

>> RIGHT.

THEY WOULD SEE THAT $1.75 MILLION CUT.

ALL RIGHT.

>> RIGHT.

>> AND FOR THE IGE, KIND OF THE SAME, IF YOU INCREASED IT TO GET THE $12 MILLION, YOU'D SEA-TACES INCREASES, MAYBE AN INCREASE IN SERVICE, MAYBE NOT, BUT IT WOULD BE LESS IMPACTFUL THAN A DISTRICT, IS WHAT I GATHERED.

>> WELL, YOU WOULDN'T SEE A TAX INCREASE.

YOU'D SEE A UTILITY FEE.

>> YEAH, YOU'D SEE A FEE, BUT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT PEOPLE PAY OUT.

BUT THEY DON'T HAVE TO USE THE WHOLE AMOUNT, RIGHT?

>> CORRECT.

>> IN THE DISTRICT.

IT COULD BE -- BUT IF YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO GET MORE REVENUE, THEN IT'S JUST ABOUT HAVING ITS OWN ENTITY DIRECT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S WORK.

>> CORRECT.

>> YEAH.

THANKS.

>> WE'RE AT THE END OF THE FIRST ROUND.

ONE COUNCILOR, COUNCILOR GROVES, MENTIONED A SECOND ROUND.

THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.

I HAVE A HANDFUL OF QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS SOME OF WHICH COME OUT OF SEEING THAT INCREDIBLY HELPFUL PRESENTATION.

THANK YOU, CITY MANAGER, YOU DID AN INCREDIBLE JOB OF COVERING DEPTH AND BREADTH OF INFORMATION.

I APPRECIATED YOUR FRAMING OF THIS AS A TYPE OF UTILITY, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THAT 24/7 MUST RESPOND, NEEDS TO BE AVAILABLE ASPECT.

THE SLIDE THAT YOU SHARED AFTER INTRODUCING THE GOAL OF STABILITY, EFFICIENCY AND SCALABILITY, VERY HELPFUL AS A REFERENCE, BUT SPEAKING TO RESOURCES, THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, OUR AMBULANCE FUND IS CURRENTLY DISTRESSED.

YOU MENTIONED THE $1.2 MILLION I THINK A YEAR GAP.

THAT WAS A QUESTION.

AND ALSO THE $1.2 MILLION GAP WITH ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE.

ARE THOSE TWO CATEGORIES OF RESOURCES WHERE THE GENERAL FUND IS CURRENTLY BACKSTOPPING SOME OF THAT NEED?

>> YEAH.

SO THE AMBULANCE SHORTFALL, THE GENERAL FUND BACKSTOPS.

I'LL LET THE COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE GAP THAT WE'RE SEEING IS CURRENTLY PRETENDING LIKE A FIRE CHIEF, WE HAVE SOME INITIAL FUNDING FOR THAT, BUT WE'LL HAVE AN EVENTUAL GAP TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SOLVE.

>> THE STATIONS INVESTMENT NEEDED IN FUTURE, THREE STATIONS AT $3 MILLION EACH, AND WHAT LOOKED LIKE DEFERRED MAINTENANCE, KIND OF ASSET INVESTMENTS, THOSE TWO WOULD BE A DIFFERENT CATEGORY.

THOSE AREN'T CURRENTLY BEING CAPTURED THE SAME WAY?

>> AGAIN, THIS WAS A HIGH-LEVEL SAMPLING.

THE ASSETS ON THE FAR RIGHT, THE $5 MILLION, WE WERE TRYING TO REFLECT WHAT WAS IN THE AP TRITON REPORT, SAYING YOU PROBABLY NEED FIVE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS, THIS AND THAT, AND SOME OF THE DEFERRED PIECE, BUT IT'S NOT FULLY COMPREHENSIVE.

IT'S MOSTLY BEING USED FOR ME AS AN INDICATOR TO TELL YOU THE SYSTEM NEEDS MORE RESOURCES NO MATTER WHICH DIRECTION YOU GO.

>> THANK YOU.

THAT WAS THE EXTRA CLARIFICATION THAT I WANTED TO CONFIRM WITH YOU.

NEXT TWO QUESTIONS MIGHT BE A LITTLE BIT SIMPLER.

MAYBE NOT.

DO ANY OF THESE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AFFECT OUR COMMUNITY'S PROTECTION FROM WILDFIRE?

DO ANY OF THESE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE DECISIONS ALONE CHANGE HOW EXPOSED OR NOT EXPOSED OUR COMMUNITY IS TO THE RISK OF WILDFIRE?

>> CHIEF, DO YOU WANT TO ANSWER THAT OR DO YOU WANT ME TO?

>> NO.

I'LL TAKE A STAB AT IT.

ALONG WITH SOME OF THE OTHER, YOU KNOW, INITIATIVES, THE GAP FUNDING AND THE STATIONS, WHATEVER PATH WE CHOOSE NEEDS TO ACCOUNT FOR FUTURE INVESTMENT IN THE WILDFIRE SPACE AS THAT CHANGES AND AS WE GROW AND DEVELOP THE PROGRAM.

RIGHT NOW THAT PROGRAM DOES RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PAYROLL TAX, AND, YOU KNOW, POSSIBLY WITHIN THE IGE WE WOULD KEEP THAT, AND HAVE A NEW REVENUE STREAM TO ADDRESS FUTURE NEEDS IN THAT SPACE.

IN EITHER OF THOSE TWO OPTIONS, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL PARTNERS TO STRENGTHEN WILDFIRE, BUT, AGAIN, THAT'S MORE DOWN THE ROAD.

BOTH OF THEM PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT.

I THINK THE REVENUE STRUCTURE THAT COMES WITH AN IGE MIGHT GIVE US MORE FLEXIBILITY IN IDENTIFYING, EXPLAINING AND SELLING THAT TO THE COMMUNITY.

THAT'S A LONG-WINDED ANSWER.

>> NOT LONG-WINDED AT ALL, CHIEF.

THANK YOU FOR EXPLAINING THAT.

THAT'S AN AREA, THE FEW CONVERSATIONS I'VE HAD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, THERE'S SOME CONFUSION, NOT CONCERN, ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THIS PARTICULAR DECISION, NOT THAT OTHER DECISION, ABOUT RESOURCES, IS THE ONE THAT'S MOST RELEVANT TO WILDFIRE RISK.

THIRD QUESTION IS MAYBE FOR OUR NEXT CONVERSATIONS, OR FUTURE CONVERSATIONS, BUT HOW ARE -- HOW CAN WE BE THINKING ABOUT WHEN, WITH THE DISTRICT MODEL -- I KNOW WE'RE FOCUSED ON THE CITY OF EUGENE, BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN NUMBER OF ASSETS, SORT OF DIFFERENT WAYS THAT OUR TWO COMMUNITIES HAVE INVESTED OVER DECADES IN THIS RESOURCE.

HOW DOES THAT GET CAPTURED INTO THIS PROCESS?

BECAUSE I THINK THE CITY OF EUGENE AND CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, I THINK BOTH OF OUR COMMUNITIES, TRY TO LIVE OUT OUR VALUES IN OUR DECISIONS, BUT IN SOME WAYS THEY'VE BEEN REALLY DIFFERENT OVER DECADES.

>> YEAH.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT WELL TODAY.

I THINK THAT'S AN AREA THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CONTINUE WORKING ON COLLECTIVELY.

I THINK SPRINGFIELD IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION MID-NOVEMBER-ISH, AND THEN WE'LL COME TOGETHER TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSION.

BUT THAT'S A CHALLENGE TO BE HONEST.

>> OKAY.

GREAT.

WE'LL LOOK FORWARD TO THAT CONVERSATION.

COUNCILOR GROVES.

>> MAYOR, COUNCILOR YEH JUST RAISED HER HAND FOR FIRST-ROUND.

>> EXCUSE ME.

GO AHEAD.

>> NO WORRIES.

MY QUESTION WAS THE MAYOR'S LAST QUESTION.

I'LL JUST SAY THANK YOU FOR THE HARD WORK ON THE PRESENTATION.

IT WAS A LITTLE DENSE, BUT I THINK I GOT IT.

I REALLY ENJOYED EVERYONE'S QUESTIONS AS WELL.

I GUESS I WILL DO ONE CLARIFYING.

SO THE WAY -- THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, IF WE MOVE TO A FIRE DISTRICT, AT LEAST FOR THE FINANCES, PEOPLE WILL NOT BE PAYING AN EQUAL SHARE DUE TO THE WAY OUR TAX SYSTEM -- I MEAN, THIS IS ALL THINGS THAT COME FROM PROPERTY TAXES ARE THIS WAY.

IT'S JUST NOT AN EQUAL SYSTEM.

DIFFERENT PEOPLE WILL BE PAYING A DIFFERENT AMOUNT.

IT'S NOT NECESSARILY BASED ON THE TRUE VALUE OF THEIR PROPERTY.

>> UMM, I THINK THAT'S ACCURATE TO SAY.

I THINK THAT IS -- I MEAN, IT'S A CURRENT SITUATION.

>> YEAH.

IT'S AN ONGOING PROBLEM, RIGHT?

OKAY, OKAY.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE I GOT THAT STRAIGHT.

OKAY.

THEN ALL MY OTHER QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED.

THANK YOU, MAYOR, FOR BRINGING UP THE LAST ONE FOR ME.

THANK YOU.

>> LET'S SEE.

COUNCILOR GROVES AND COUNCILOR ZELENKA, I THOUGHT I HAD YOU BOTH, COUNCILOR GROVES AND THEN COUNCILOR ZELENKA.

>> MY HAND WENT DOWN FOR SOME REASON.

THANK YOU, MAYOR.

I WANT TO START WITH ADDING TO WHAT CHIEF CAVEN SAID IN RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTION ABOUT WILDLAND.

OUR CREWS ARE EQUIPPED THE SAME.

I STARTED MY FIRE SERVICE CAREER HERE IN 1980, AND WE HAD ADAPTERS TO WORK WITH SPRINGFIELD, AND SPRINGFIELD HAD ADAPTERS TO WORK WITH US.

OUR HYDRANTS, THE LARGE PORT WAS A DIFFERENT SIZE.

I ALWAYS EQUATED MUTUAL AID.

IT'S LIKE STARTING A FOOTBALL GAME AND HAVING A SECOND FOOTBALL TEAM SHOW UP HALFWAY THROUGH THE FIRST QUARTER.

THEY HAVE DIFFERENT PLAYS, DIFFERENT TERMINOLOGY.

YOU RUN INTO EACH OTHER.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE THAT POSTMERGER FUNCTIONAL CONSOLIDATION, BECAUSE EVERYBODY IS INTERCHANGEABLE, THE EQUIPMENT IS THE SAME, AND OUR STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, OUR HOSE EVOLUTIONS, LADDER EVOLUTIONS ARE ALL THE SAME.

THAT'S ONE OF THE REAL POSITIVES TO THE SYSTEM.

IT WAS ALWAYS INTENDED TO BE ONE SYSTEM, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE FORM OF GOVERNANCE WAS.

THE OTHER THING I WANTED TO ADD IS, YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE REASONS THE FIREFIGHTERS ARE PUSHING THE DISTRICT IS THE SENSE OF AUTONOMY.

NOW, I THINK WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THAT THROUGH THE IGE PIECE, BUT THAT IS WHY THEY PUSH THAT.

IT'S A VERY DISTINCT, CLEAR MODEL.

IT'S WORKED IN OTHER PLACES.

THAT'S A PIECE THERE.

A QUESTION I HAVE FOR THE CITY MANAGER, SARAH, IF WE -- RECOGNIZING WE NEED TO GET MORE RESOURCES ON THE STREET IN ORDER TO SERVE THE PUBLIC -- AND I WILL ADD, I KEEP HEARING PEOPLE SAY IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR 25 YEARS.

THAT'S WRONG.

IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR 44 YEARS.

I REMEMBER WHEN WE TOOK OVER THE AMBULANCE IN 1981, AND -- MAY OF 1981, AND WE HAVE GROWN BY ONE FIREFIGHTER PER SHIFT ON THE EUGENE SIDE SINCE THAT TIME.

ONE FIREFIGHTER, GOING BACK TO WHAT COUNCILOR CLARK SAID.

I SUPPORT THE LIBRARY AS WELL, BUT THE LIBRARY'S INCREASED IN SIZE MANY HUNDREDS OF PERCENT.

YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT.

QUESTION FOR THE CITY MANAGER, THOUGH, I'M ASSUMING, SHOULD WE DECIDE TO START ADDING RESOURCES, WE COULD TAKE AND COME UP WITH A DEDICATED FIRE FEE TO POSE TO THE VOTERS, OR HOWEVER WE PROCESS IT, WE COULD DO THAT BEFORE EITHER A DISTRICT OR THE IGE WERE FORMED, CORRECT?

>> YEAH.

YOU COULD DO THAT AT ANY TIME.

>> I DO THINK THAT --

>> THAT IS IN A WAY A WAY TO GENERATE REVENUE AND START TO MAKE THAT SHIFT BEFORE A MULTIYEAR PROCESS.

>> THANK YOU.

I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT WE NEED TO LOOK AT, YOU KNOW, IN SPEAKING WITH CHIEF CAVEN, RESPONSE TIMES ARE ALREADY DEGRADED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> COUNCILOR ZELENKA.

>> A COUPLE QUESTIONS.

HOW THREE DIFFERENT AREAS PLAY OUT UNDER THE TWO DIFFERENT SCENARIOS.

IF THE DISTRICT OR IGE WANT TO INCREASE REVENUE, DO THEY HAVE TO GET A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE?

THAT IN THE DISTRICT.

>> THE ONLY WAY THE DISTRICT WOULD BE ABLE TO GENERATE REVENUE BEYOND THE PERMANENT TAXING RATE WOULD BE A LEVY VOTED ON BY THE PEOPLE.

AN IGE WOULD HAVE THE ABILITY, A CITY COULD CONTINUE TO LEVY AND CONTRIBUTE, OR COULD AUTHORIZE THE IGE TO SET, ESTABLISH AND COLLECT FEES.

>> DOES THE DISTRICT HAVE THE ABILITY TO -- WITHOUT A VOTE -- GO ALL THE WAY UP TO THE MAX THAT THEY HAVE IN THERE, AS THEIR MAXIMUM RATE?

>> WELL, THE PERMANENT RATE WILL BE THE RATE ON DAY ONE.

>> DAY ONE?

>> YEAH.

THE COMMUNITY HAS TO VOTE ON THAT.

BOTH COMMUNITIES -- THE WILAKENZIE DISTRICT AND WHICHEVER COMMUNITY, IF EUGENE JUST WAS THE ONLY CITY, EUGENE VOTERS WOULD HAVE TO VOTE ON THAT.

THEN IF THEY WANTED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN THE FUTURE, YOU WOULD VOTE ON THAT.

>> RIGHT.

TO FORM THE DISTRICT, BUT ONCE IT'S A ONE BIG DISTRICT WITH SPRINGFIELD AND EUGENE, AND EUGENE VOTED FOR IT, AND

SPRINGFIELD DIDN'T, IT WOULD STILL OCCUR IN SPRINGFIELD, BECAUSE IT'S ALL IN THE SAME DISTRICT, AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE DISTRICT?

>> I SEE THE CITY ATTORNEY SHAKING HER HEAD.

>> ARE YOU ASKING THE SCENARIO, IF THE -- IF EVERYBODY SAYS THEY WANT TO BE A DISTRICT, AND ONE COMMUNITY SAYS YES AND ONE COMMUNITY SAYS NO?

>> NO.

THEY SAY YES TO THE DISTRICT.

THEN THEY WANT TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF REVENUE, SO THEY HAVE TO TAKE A VOTE.

SPRINGFIELD VOTES NO.

EUGENE VOTES YES.

>> IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

ONCE YOU'RE A DISTRICT, IT'S A DISTRICT-WIDE VOTE.

>> YEAH.

SO --

>> IN FACT, EUGENE COULD SAY -- I MEAN, WHEREVER THE PEOPLE ARE SAYING YES, WILL BE APPLIED ACROSS THE DISTRICT.

>> RIGHT.

EVEN THOUGH SPRINGFIELD WOULD VOTE NO, IN THAT SCENARIO, THEY WOULD STILL BE IMPOSED ON.

OKAY.

AND THE ASSETS, YOU DIDN'T TALK ABOUT THE ASSETS.

THIS IS HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

DO WE KNOW THAT NUMBER IS, CHIEF CAVEN, HOW MUCH ASSETS THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS HAVE?

>> I DON'T HAVE THAT NUMBER TODAY.

WE OWN PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT AND BUILDINGS, ALL THE THINGS.

>> YEAH.

IT'S GOT TO BE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

THAT'S NOT ANYWHERE IN THIS ANALYSIS?

>> NO.

>> IF IT WERE INCLUDED, THE DISTRICT HAD TO BUY THE ASSETS, THAT COST WOULD BE ON TOP, AND EAT UP A LOT OF MONEY, BECAUSE YOU'D HAVE THE DEBT SERVICE.

ALL THE PREVIOUS INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFERS WE'VE HAD RECENTLY, LIKE THE NEW CITY HALL, THEY WERE NOT FREE.

THEY WERE PAID FOR.

MAYBE NOT -- SO HOW WOULD PAYOUT -- THE DIFFERENCE IN PAY BETWEEN SPRINGFIELD AND EUGENE FIREFIGHTERS PLAY OUT IN THESE TWO SCENARIOS?

>> YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THEIR PAYROLL PAY?

>> PAYROLL PAY, YEAH.

>> YEAH.

THEY WOULD BECOME -- YOU KNOW, I THINK WE WOULD HAVE TO NEGOTIATE -- THE IGE WOULD HAVE TO NEGOTIATE A NEW CONTRACT WITH IGE EMPLOYEES, AND THEIR PAY RATE WOULD BE THE SAME.

THEY'LL HAVE A SINGLE EMPLOYER.

>> AND MY GUESS IS THAT SPRINGFIELD WOULD GO UP AND EUGENE STAY THE SAME.

>> CAN I JUMP IN REAL QUICK AND JUST CLARIFY, WE'VE BEEN UNDER THE SAME LABOR CONTRACT SINCE 2014.

WE MAKE THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY.

THE ONLY --

>> WHY DOES THE REPORT SAY THERE WAS A DIFFERENTIAL?

>> THERE'S A DIFFERENTIAL IN HOW AND WHEN, WHICH CREATES CHALLENGES.

THE BIGGEST DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE TWO IS THE BENEFITS.

>> RIGHT.

THAT'S PAY TO ME.

SO THE BENEFITS COST IS REALLY DIFFERENT.

LIKE THEY SAID $1.3 MILLION A YEAR DIFFERENT, IF I RECALL.

>> YEAH.

THE PLANS ARE DIFFERENT.

SPRINGFIELD HAS ACCESS TO A CLINIC.

THERE ARE THINGS IN THERE.

FROM A BASE LEVEL, AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHAT A FIREFIGHTER GETS PAID IN THEIR TOTAL COMPENSATION IS NEAR IDENTICAL WHEN YOU STACK UP WHAT THE BENEFITS COST.

THEY'RE JUST DIFFERENT.

>> THEY'LL HAVE A SINGLE EMPLOYER, SINGLE SET OF BENEFITS, AND BE THE SAME.

THAT DISCREPANCY WILL GO AWAY.

>> RIGHT.

AND INCREASE COSTS.

YOU KNOW, WHEN WE WERE DISCUSSING THE FIRE FEE, MY -- I WAS INITIALLY THOUGHT FIRE FEE MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO INCREASE REVENUE, BUT ALSO THAT THAT WE COULD USE THE HEAD ROOM BEFORE COMPRESSION TO BE ABLE TO USE THAT FOR A BOND, OR EVEN A CAPITAL BOND, TO DO FIRE STATIONS.

EITHER WAY, THERE ARE OTHER MECHANISMS TO GET MORE MONEY INTO THE -- INTO THE POT FOR FIREFIGHTING.

ALL OF THIS BOILS DOWN TO THE WILLNESS OF EUGENE AND SPRINGFIELD TAXPAYERS TO RAISE THEIR TAXES OR FEES.

WE DON'T REALLY KNOW THAT.

IS THERE A WAY FOR YOU TO COME BACK TO US WITH MORE ABOUT THAT?

>> IS THAT SUGGESTING THE POLLING THAT'S BEEN MENTIONED ONCE BEFORE?

>> WELL, HOWEVER.

YEAH.

A POLL WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE WEEKS.

>> NOT YET.

THAT'S UNCLEAR TO ME, BUT IT COULD BE PART OF AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

>> COUNCILOR EVANS, I SEE YOUR HAND IS UP, BUT ALSO NOT FUNCTIONING IN THE NORMAL WAY.

>> YEAH.

MY VIRTUAL HAND IS NOT FUNCTIONING, MAYOR.

THERE'S A COUPLE QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE ON THIS THAT -- PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE IGE THAT I'M INTERESTED IN.

NOT JUST FROM THE LONG-TERM REORGANIZATIONAL ASPECT, BUT SOME -- TO ADDRESS SOME OF OUR MORE IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN FIRE, AND THAT WOULD BE WHAT WOULD AN IGE'S BONDING CAPACITY LOOK LIKE IF WE EFFECTED AN IGE AND MERGED THOSE ENTITIES, EUGENE, SPRINGFIELD AND WILAKENZIE, WOULD THAT BE A VOTE OF OF ALL OF THOSE TOGETHER OR AN INDIVIDUAL VOTE FOR EUGENE, AN INDIVIDUAL VOTE FOR SPRINGFIELD, AND THEN AN INDIVIDUAL VOTE FOR WILAKENZIE?

>> SO AN IGE WILAKENZIE WOULD NOT BE A PART OF -- THAT WOULD BE A SEPARATE --

>> OKAY.

I'M GETTING THAT PART.

>> I THINK THERE'S TWO DIFFERENT -- THERE'S A COMPLEX ANSWER.

THIS IS ALL PART OF WHY THERE'S AN EIGHT-PAGE TO-DO LIST OF PUTTING TOGETHER AN IGE.

YOU KNOW, IN ONE -- CURRENTLY THERE'S, YOU KNOW, THERE'S MWMC, DOES A LOT OF THEIR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION, AND THEY PAY IT WITH THEIR UTILITY RATE, SO THEY DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BOND.

THERE'S ANOTHER SCENARIO WHERE BOTH CITIES ARE BONDING ON BEHALF OF.

SO IT CAN BE A COUPLE DIFFERENT WAYS.

KATHRYN, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JUMP IN AND CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT I THINK IT CAN BE A DONE A COUPLE DIFFERENT WAYS.

>> THE SECOND QUESTION WOULD BE HOW -- UNDER AN IGE, HOW WOULD A LEVY FOR OPERATIONS WORK.

WOULD WE, AGAIN, BE A SINGLE ENTITY THAT WOULD GO OUT FOR, YOU KNOW, A LEVY, FOR INSTANCE, TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS, INCREASE FIREFIGHTERS, PAY RATES, ALL OF THAT.

>> SO AN IGE DOESN'T HAVE TAXING AUTHORITY.

SO AN IGE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PUT A LEVY OUT.

SO WHEN I TALKED ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP FEES, WE TALKED ABOUT THAT A LITTLE BIT EARLIER, ONCE THOSE MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE SET, AND THIS IS THE -- YOU KNOW, THE COST, WHATEVER JURISDICTION COULD CHOOSE TO HAVE A LEVY TO SUPPLEMENT THAT OR A FEE TO SUPPLEMENT THAT, I THINK IN AN IDEAL SITUATION, IF YOU WANT TO RUN IT LIKE A UTILITY MODEL, YOU WOULD WANT TO HAVE A FEE THAT IS SET BY THE IGE THAT ESTABLISHES THAT FOR THAT GROWTH.

YOU COULD DO IT A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WAYS.

WE'D HAVE TO -- AGAIN, THAT'S PART OF THE SETTING IT UP.

>> SO THAT WOULD BE A NEW FEE ON TOP OF WHAT WE WOULD DO IN TERMS OF AN IGE MERGER MODEL?

AM I MIXING APPLES AND ORANGES HERE?

>> A LITTLE BIT.

OR YOU'VE GOT TWO DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF APPLES.

THE IGE -- SO ALL I'VE SAID, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, EVEN IF WE STAY A SINGLE DEPARTMENT, YOU NEED TO FIND MORE RESOURCES.

IN AN IGE MODEL, YOU COULD DO THAT THROUGH A FEE POTENTIAL.

YOU COULD DO THAT THROUGH CONTINUING TO LEVY.

WE HAVEN'T LEVIED FOR FIRE, BUT YOU COULD.

SPRINGFIELD DOES.

I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND A LEVY.

WHEN I GET AROUND TO MAKING A RECOMMENDATION, A LEVY IS TIME LIMITED, A FIVE-YEAR FUNDING SOURCE.

>> IT NEEDS TO BE RENEWED.

>> YEAH.

IF YOU WANT CERTAINTY IN HOW YOU'RE PROVIDING THAT SERVICE, I THINK YOU'D WANT A MORE STEADY STREAM.

>> SO IT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE FOR US TO HAVE A STANDARDIZED FIRE FEE THAT WOULD NOT HAVE ANY LIMITATIONS ON RENEWALS OR ANY OF THAT KIND OF THING?

>> THAT WOULD BE IDEAL.

I KNOW THAT'S -- YOU KNOW, THAT'S A POLICY DECISION.

>> YEAH.

THAT'S HELPFUL, CITY MANAGER.

I JUST -- YOU KNOW, I'M THINKING ABOUT, YOU KNOW, CURRENT ISSUES THAT WE HAVE, AND OUR ABILITY TO MEET THE NEED IN CASE WE HAVE SOME KIND OF DISASTER IN THE NEAR TERM, AND OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY RESPOND, GIVEN THE RESOURCES WE CURRENTLY HAVE, VERSUS WHAT OUR NEEDS ARE DOWN THE ROAD.

THAT'S NOT A QUESTION.

JUST A COMMENT.

>> I ADDED MYSELF TO THE QUEUE AGAIN TO ASK A FOLLOW-UP QUESTION, CITY MANAGER, BECAUSE ONE OF COUNCILOR EVANS' QUESTIONS MADE ME WONDER ABOUT THIS.

YOU MENTIONED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DISTRICT, THAT WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AT SORT OF THE CEILING OF THE PERMANENT RATE.

DOES THAT MEAN THAT ITS GROWTH RUNS INTO THE VERY SAME CHALLENGES WE'VE SPENT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF THIS YEAR GRAPPLING WITH, WHICH IS GREATER THAN 3% GROWTH IN COSTS, PROPERTY TAX INCREMENT INCREASE?

>> YEAH.

THEY WOULD BE AT THEIR PERMANENT TAX RATE.

IF YOU LOOK AT THE EUGENE GROWTH NUMBERS, OUR PROPERTY TAXES HAVE GROWN AROUND 3.5% OVER THE LAST 5-10 YEARS.

SO THEY WOULD BE LIMITED BY THAT GROWTH FOR THE REST OF TIME UNLESS THEY LEVIED.

>> NOT THAT SAME NUMBER.

IT CHANGES EVERY YEAR.

>> RIGHT.

>> THAT'S WHY I USED THE DATA POINT OF LOOKING AT THIS YEAR'S PERMIT AND CONSTRUCTION DATA, I DON'T THINK THAT NEXT YEAR IS GOING TO HAVE HIGHER GROWTH.

IN FACT, I'LL BE SURPRISED IF IT'S NOT LOWER.

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU FOR THAT CLARIFICATION.

COUNCILORS, ANY OTHER FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS TODAY?

I KNOW THERE ARE PROBABLY A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE FOLLOWING ALONG AT HOME, DIGESTING THIS INFORMATION, AND THAT PRESENTATION.

I WILL CITY MANAGER, THAT I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY WOULD BENEFIT FROM UNDERSTANDING MORE OF THE COMPLICATING FACTORS THAT YOU WALKED THROUGH QUICKLY.

VERY APPRECIATED.

IT REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE AND COMPLEXITY OF THIS WORK THAT'S BEFORE US.

COUNCIL, NOT SEEING ANY OTHER FINAL QUESTIONS, FROM YOU ALL TODAY, KNOWING WE WILL CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION, I WANT TO BE SURE TO SAY TWO THINGS IN CLOSING.

FIRST OF ALL, JUST TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO CHIEF CAVEN, ALL OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS, OUR FIRST RESPONDERS, ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PART OF THE STAFF THAT ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THAT WORK AND THAT SERVICE.

I ALSO REALLY APPRECIATE SOMETHING THAT COUNCILOR GROVES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS PRESENTATION, WHICH IS THAT EVEN AS WE'VE BEEN IN A PROCESS OF FUNCTIONAL MERGER FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND STILL WITH THIS QUESTION ABOUT GOVERNANCE BEFORE US, WE HAVE ALREADY EXTRACTED SIGNIFICANT VALUE FROM THOSE YEARS OF WORK TOGETHER, AND THAT COORDINATION OF TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT AND SORT OF ONSITE PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES.

I CANNOT IMAGINE, COUNCILOR GROVES, WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE TO HAVE TWO DIFFERENT PLAYBOOKS RUNNING AT THE SAME TIME ON A FOOTBALL FIELD, BUT REALLY APPRECIATE THAT VALUE THAT OUR COMMUNITY HAS RECEIVED FROM ALL OF THIS WORK OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS.

SO THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN A PART OF DELIVERING THAT, BUT MOST ESPECIALLY TO OUR FIRST RESPONDERS AND CHIEF CAVEN.

WITH THAT, THEN THIS CONCLUDES OUR AGENDA FOR TODAY.

THANK YOU ALL FOR THAT ROBUST DISCUSSION AND GREAT PRESENTATION.

I NOW CLOSE THE OCTOBER 22ND, 2025, EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION.

WE ARE ADJOURNED.