

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE July 18, 2017	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
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TO: Mayor Benetti and City Councilors

FROM: Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE: Co-Locating Public Safety Dispatching Services

BACKGROUND:

There has been a considerable amount of discussion and effort over the last 30+ years in regards to moving from a multiple dispatch center model to a single countywide public safety dispatch center (Center). During the long journey, several studies have been undertaken, and a few attempts towards a single entity which would serve the collective needs of our citizens have been tried, but they have been unsuccessful.

Our (Coos Bay, North Bend, and the County) latest collective efforts which began more than half a year ago, is headed in the right direction although it is moving slowly. We had initially hoped when we began these discussions in late 2016 that we could have made a single Center a reality on or before July of this year. Unfortunately, there are a number of issues which need to be resolved which include modifications to the County's radio system and the building used to house their Center, and those take time.

One of the desired outcomes of a single Center is increased efficiencies in the delivery of services to the public safety agencies in our County and our respective citizens. In addition, it is expected that the cost of providing public safety dispatching services from a single entity will provide a cost savings over the collective cost of providing those services from three separate locations. A large part of the anticipated savings will be realized by a reduction in the necessary personnel to operate a single Center.

When we began discussions with North Bend and the County last year, we had an open and unfilled position in our dispatch center. We chose to keep that position unfilled given our work towards a single Center and the knowledge that the position would be eliminated once that was achieved. While our work has lingered on, we have experienced three additional openings. In an effort to continue providing the necessary services we have been utilizing one of our record specialist as a dispatcher, and we have temporarily brought back two retired employees. In addition, we have been in negotiations with the City of North Bend in an effort to co-locate our collective dispatch personnel in our Center. Collectively, we have between us ten (10) full-time personnel, and we believe that we can effectively and efficiently provide public safety dispatching services for our two entities while we continue to work with the County in creating a single Center in Coquille.

We have a tentative agreement with the City of North Bend which includes the co-location of our collective personnel who will work out of our Center for a period of not more than one year. During this period, North Bend's personnel will continue to be North Bend employees and will be supervised by a Captain from the North Bend Police Department. CBPD Captain Chapanar and NBPD Captain

Bennett will work together and jointly oversee the overall operations of the Center. Coos Bay will compensate the City of North Bend an amount equal to the average monthly employment costs for two dispatch positions for each month of joint dispatch operation. This tentative agreement will provide a cost savings to both Coos Bay and North Bend.

ADVANTAGES:

In addition to a cost savings to both Coos Bay and North Bend, bringing the dispatch center personnel together will help towards the integrating of our employees, which will be required when were able to move into a single Center.

DISADVANTAGES:

None

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The estimated savings of the proposal over the FYE 18 appropriation authority is approximately \$170,000.

ACTION REQUESTED:

As there is sufficient budget authority, this matter is being brought before the Council for your concurrence in moving forward with an agreement with the City of North Bend.