

Feasibility Summary



The full version of the Economic Feasibility Statement for the Formation of Pleasant Hill Goshen Rural Fire Protection District can be found at our website www.pleasanthillgoshenfire.org

The Boards of Directors of both Pleasant Hill and Goshen have spent years studying options and have developed a solid plan that rebuilds the Pleasant Hill fire station and creates sustainable funding for 24 hour staffing at both Pleasant Hill and Goshen stations. Creating a new, single fire protection district will support more efficient and effective fire and emergency services to the nearly 5,500 residents in these rural communities, building on our strengths and eliminating redundancies.

The proposed new district establishes a stable, efficient, and permanent tax base to fund:

- Construction of a new Pleasant Hill fire station on existing property
- Consistent paid staffing of the two primary fire stations in Goshen and Pleasant Hill
- Required maintenance and replacement of critical investments including facilities, apparatus, and equipment
- Dedicated staff to manage critical organizational areas including training, recruitment & retention, and health & wellness
- Daily operations of the new district

Staffing: The new district will allow for an improved operational staffing model to ensure timely, high quality response to emergencies. The proposed district will be able to fund a total of 9 full time employees in the first year, providing 24/7 on-duty staff at Pleasant Hill and Goshen stations available for immediate response, while continuing to also rely on volunteers. Estimates of the ratio of career paid staff to volunteer are 1 career member to every 3-4 volunteer member.

Fire Stations & Emergency Vehicles: The new district would operate 3 stations within the service area: Goshen Fire Station, Jasper Fire Station, and the proposed replacement Pleasant Hill Fire Station. The new district could reduce redundancy by sharing vehicles which would allow for replacement of some vehicles that are approaching the end of their lifespan.

Calls for Service: Pleasant Hill Goshen Rural Fire Protection District will assume all emergency and non-emergency response duties held by the existing districts. This includes: emergency medical service response (EMT/paramedic care); structural firefighting response; response to motor vehicle crashes for fire, life safety and hazard concerns; wildland firefighting response in the urban interface; hazmat response at the operational level; response to rescue incidents and initial support for water rescue; fire prevention and public education; inspections and prevention efforts in partners with Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office. The estimated call volume for the first year is 1200 alarms for service with 50% being true medical emergencies, nearly 15% being motor vehicle crashes, 10% being fires, and about 25% being miscellaneous alarms (including "false alarms").

Budget and Financial Forecasting: The new district will remain primarily funded through use of a permanent property tax on all properties with a structural assessed value. In addition to taxes, the district will generate revenue from service level contracts, cost recovery for response, interest on accounts, and prior year taxes estimated to be received. The proposed tax rate for the new district is \$2.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value which will generate a total of approximately \$1,850,049, based on recent property value estimates. For average property owners in Pleasant Hill (\$290,102 assessed value) that will reflect an increase above the existing permanent tax rate of about \$27 per month, and for those in Goshen (\$236,585 assessed value) an increase of about \$9 per month. While this may seem steep, this increase achieves the primary goal of effective fire and emergency response into the future for the communities we serve.

The proposed fire district will maintain service for the existing Goshen Rural Fire Protection District and Pleasant Hill Rural Fire Protection District. Additionally the new district will extend protection to currently unprotected homes that exist adjacent to Goshen Fire District but outside the Eugene City limits. Similarly, properties within the geographic area of the Pleasant Hill Fire District, but outside the current fire district boundaries will be included. The addition of these homes offers an increase in overall assessed value, generating additional funds through property taxes.

Pleasant Hill Goshen Fire District

