



Lane Fire Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Savings from merger would hire additional Paramedic *Fire authority wants to staff a third ambulance full-time*

[Veneta, Ore.] Lane Fire Authority reports that the cost savings from a merger between Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue would be enough to hire one additional full-time paramedic. The new paramedic would help staff the ambulance housed at the Veneta Fire Station for customers of Lane Fire Authority.

Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue operate under a special agreement as Lane Fire Authority to reduce costs and improve emergency services for residents of both fire districts. Voters likely will be asked to approve the merger sometime in 2016. Until that time, the fire agencies have three boards of directors, pass three budgets, and pay for three insurance policies and audits every year to comply with state law.

Merging would reduce these costs substantially, and those savings would pay for a full-time paramedic. The Lane Fire Authority Board of Directors identified this as a priority for the agency in the years ahead to improve service and reduce response times in the Veneta area.

Lane Fire Authority currently staffs two ambulances full-time out of the Irving and Franklin stations. These locations were chosen to provide the broadest range of coverage for the areas served by the fire authority.

The ambulance at the Veneta station is currently staffed on an as-needed basis by fire authority personnel. This means pulling personnel away from other duties such as maintenance, fire prevention, firefighter training, or administration when necessary. Adding one paramedic means Lane Fire Authority could provide an ambulance during peak times when call volumes are highest.

“Our goal is to staff that ambulance full-time and reduce response times for medical emergencies,” said Fire Chief Terry Ney. “It won’t happen immediately, but savings from the merger will move us closer to that goal.”

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Lane Fire Authority provides fire, life safety and emergency medical services (EMS) to 36,000 residents over 276 square miles in the Willamette Valley. This new partnership is actually two fire districts – Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue – operating under a special agreement since 2012 that saves money and improves emergency services for the community. Our career and volunteer emergency personnel respond to over 4,700 emergency calls per year, 85% of which are for EMS.



Alderwood | Alvadore | Butler | Central | Crow | Elmira | Fox Hollow | Franklin
Noti | Irving | Lorane Hwy | Spencer Creek | Walton | Wolf Creek | Veneta

