



Coburg Fire District

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Received by
City of Coburg
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City of Coburg Administrator, Mayor and Council

March 9, 2023

Like many of you I learned that the Junction City Police Chief is retiring and the Coburg Police Chief is in process of filling in as interim. I am providing you with my thoughts on why I think this something the City of Coburg should not be involved in, and why we should keep our limited staff in Coburg.

In the fire and medical service we strongly believe in mutual and automatic aid agreements to help each other in emergencies and mitigate all emergencies as fast as we can with a safe outcome using the closest units, district lines are not important to us. That is true and should be true in all public safety services for emergencies. If the public is in danger and Coburg PD can help, no matter the location, I think they should. However; Administrative vacancies or non emergent issues are not part of that process. They can be a drain on a small police department that does not have true, not on call from a residence in another town, 24 hour coverage.

A question we should be asking is why the sudden retirement of the Chief in Junction City, usually there is a reason for a sudden departure or retirement that has had no successor planning; you are likely stepping into a bad situation. Something here should raise a big red flag for you!

We currently do not have 24 hour police coverage. I am told we have officers on call 24 hours a day, but that is not 24 hour coverage, and we do not always get an officer. The last major incident we had when we were concerned for our safety in the city was a stabbing on February 7th 2023. We had no response from Coburg PD, they were not available. I understand how difficult 24 hour coverage is with little staff. The fire district has three full time employees and a cadre of volunteers to accomplish 24 hour, in district medical and fire coverage.

Training and Certification: You may be lead to believe Junction City needs a Chief with a specific certification level. There are exemptions for that certification for up to two years for someone that is working on the certification. Junction City should have a plan for such vacancies. As an example they should have a captain that is actively working on those task books. If not, this is a succession issue Junction City should have planned for.

What is your plan if our Police Chief retires or is offered a full time job in Junction City after you give another agency an opportunity to have a part time trial of services? What are you doing for secession planning for our Chief of Police as he nears retirement?

I do not want you to think the relationship between the Coburg Fire District and the Coburg Police is in any way compromised. We have wonderful police officers in Coburg and they are very helpful and dedicated to our citizens. We have great working relationships, just like the public we just want to have a police officer available when we need one. We would like 24 hours of coverage with an officer on duty for our safety and the public's safety. As one of the smallest police agencies in the county, if someone needs to help maybe it shouldn't take away from our needs here in Coburg.

Thank you for consideration of my concerns,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chad Minter', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chad Minter
Fire Chief