



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** June 26, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Deschutes County Ambulance Service Area Committee recommendation to support additional ambulance support for Oregon wildfire incidents

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move approval of a letter supporting the licensing of Rapid Emergency Management as a wildfire incident ambulance service in the State of Oregon.

(Note: This letter could be signed by the ASA Committee Chair or by the Board or Board Chair, whichever is preferred.)

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

OAR 333-250-215 (2) (f) requires that when the Oregon Health Authority EMS & Trauma Systems is determining whether to license an ambulance service, there must be a documented need for the service supported by the county government in which the ambulance service is based.

The Deschutes County Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Committee met on June 12 with representatives of Rapid Emergency Management (REM), a business that provides full-service emergency management, with EMS licenses in Indiana and Texas, and has over a decade of experience in emergency management, emergency medical services, and disaster response. Specializing in ambulance services, medical care, and medical staffing, REM has a variety of equipment available for immediate deployment including over 100 ambulances. REM is applying to provide services as part of the Incident Resources Agreement (IRA) Program, which is operated by the State of Oregon, to provide additional wildfire suppression ambulance support through the State of Oregon Department of Forestry. REM is currently contracted at the Federal level via the US Forest Service for ambulance support of federally declared wildfire incidents (i.e., VIPR contract), but not contracted for state-level wildfire incident ambulance support. They currently have seven ALS ambulances stored in Redmond, Oregon for their Federal VIPR contract.

The ASA committee recommends supporting REM's application to be licensed in Oregon, provided they do not provide emergency transport in Deschutes County per County Code 8.30 and do not hire local ASA EMS staff without first obtaining permission from franchised EMS providers.

The Oregon Department of Forestry has expressed a need to license additional non-emergency wildfire incident ambulance support in Oregon and therefore the ASA Committee recommends support for REM becoming a licensed wildfire-only ambulance service in the State of Oregon.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

None

**ATTENDANCE:**

Tom Kuhn, Deschutes County ASA Administrator (Public Health)

Chris Bell, Deschutes County Legal