



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** October 8, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Bend Fire and Rescue Proposed Contract with Alfalfa Fire District

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to authorize Bend Fire & Rescue to enter into a contract with Alfalfa Fire District for the provision of Basic Life Support emergency transport services within the boundaries of Alfalfa Fire District's fire protection area.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Deschutes County's Ambulance Service Area (ASA) franchised Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers prioritize dispatching the closest available EMS unit to reduce response times and improve patient outcomes. Bend Fire & Rescue has identified that utilizing Alfalfa Fire District for emergency calls originating in eastern Deschutes County will enhance response efficiency and preserve centrally located EMS resources for higher-volume areas.

Under the proposed agreement, Alfalfa Fire District will provide Basic Life Support (BLS) services and transport exclusively within their fire district, which falls within Bend Fire & Rescue's ASA. All operational details and service boundaries are clearly outlined in the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the two agencies.

Per Deschutes County Code 8.30.070, franchised providers may subcontract emergency ambulance services with Board approval. The code requires:

**8.30.070. Sub-contracting of Services by Franchisees.**

A. A franchisee wishing to contract with another ambulance service provider to provide emergency ambulance services within the boundaries of its ASA must first obtain approval from the Board to do so. Before such approval will be provided by the Board:

1. Contracts assigning the provision of emergency ambulance services from a franchisee to a subcontracted ambulance service provider shall be in writing. The franchisee will provide the proposed contract with a proposed subcontracted ambulance service provider and any supporting materials to the Board for its review and approval, and
2. The proposed subcontracted ambulance service provider must be vetted and

approved by the Board to provide emergency ambulance services using the application process outlined in DCC 8.30.050 - Franchise-Application.

Key benefits of the contract:

- **Faster Response Times:** Alfalfa Fire District's proximity to eastern Deschutes County allows for quicker EMS response to emergencies in their area.
- **Preservation of Central Resources:** Bend Fire units can remain available for higher-volume areas by reducing long-distance responses.
- **Improved Patient Outcomes:** Timely BLS transport can positively impact health outcomes in rural areas.
- **Efficient Use of Local Resources:** Alfalfa Fire District is already equipped and trained to provide BLS services within their jurisdiction.
- **Strengthened Interagency Collaboration:** Formalizing this partnership supports regional EMS coordination and resource sharing.
- **No Budget Impact:** The contract does not require additional funding or budget adjustments.

Bend Fire & Rescue will present the proposed contract and highlight its benefits, including improved response times and enhanced service coverage for residents in eastern Deschutes County.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

None

**ATTENDANCE:**

Tom Kuhn, Project Manager, Health Services  
Drew Norris, Deputy Chief EMS, Bend Fire & Rescue  
Chad Lavallee, Fire Chief, Alfalfa Fire District