



# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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**Title:** Regional Emergency Management Agreement

**Preferred Agenda:** June 8, 2021

**Submitted By:** Ray Towry, City Manager

**Reviewed By:** Ray Towry, City Manager

**Type of Action:** Resolution \_\_\_\_ Motion X Roll Call \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

**Relevant Code/Policy:** [SHMC 2.52 Emergency Management Program](#)

**Towards Council Goal:** Goal #1: Be an Effective and Efficient Government  
Goal #3: Essential Services  
Look for methods to improve community safety, Police, Community Design, etc.  
Develop partnerships w/ regional services and work to connect them w/ the appropriate members of the public.

**Attachments:** IGA Disaster Preparedness Consultant DL  
Presentation[23] from Consultant

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## **Purpose of this RCA:**

Approve Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for regional Emergency Management Consultant work.

## **Background/Context:**

In the past year Sweet Home has endured two emergency and catastrophic situations, the COVID-19 Pandemic and wildfires. We learned a lot regarding our resources and what help may, or may not, come from larger agencies for the first couple of days as they mobilize their resources. This is consistent with windstorms we've experienced in the past as well.

Neighboring communities of Brownsville and Lebanon have had the same experience. After discussions with the City of Brownsville, Brownsville Fire District, Lebanon, Lebanon Fire District, and Sweet Home Fire District, we thought it would be advantageous to work together, combining local resources, in future events.

All three communities offer unique, local resources and contacts that can be helpful during emergent situations. For example, during the wildfires last fall our local logging community played an intricate role in containing the fire. They have both a spirit to serve our region and the equipment to do so in many situations. Lebanon offered to house our fleet and administrative functions should we need to evacuate. WE have offered services to Brownsville when they were concerned about their WWTP operations. Lebanon, Brownsville, and Sweet Home have a history and willingness to lend aid when needed. This agreement formalizes that

spirit and allows staff to formally begin working toward a regional/neighboring Emergency Management approach.

The staffs' initial discussion centered on an FTE that would work for all three communities. As we waded into the details, we realized having an experienced contractor outline the process for the collaboration, assess our current plans, define our capacity, identify our local partners, identify our local resources, and then help us identify funding for our efforts would be a much more efficient process and give us a better foundation to build from with the FTE if and when that occurs.

The outcomes should be the actual baseline for moving forward that will detail roles of each entity and goals for the collaborative efforts.

This document outlines parameters for the groups to operate as a regional team and outlines the first goal which will determine future efforts, if feasible.

### **The Challenge/Problem:**

How do we work with regional and state partners to best prepare our community for future catastrophic, emergency situations?

### **Stakeholders:**

- East Linn County Residents – During emergent, potentially catastrophic issues, borders should not play a role in aiding victims, or potential victims, caught in dire situations.
- City Staff – Staff believes this regional approach may benefit our community and lessen the workload, especially in the set-up of the program.

### **Issues and Financial Impacts:**

This agreement outlines our ability to operate as a regional coalition moving forward. It does commit us to the Phase 1 study, anticipated to cost +/- \$36,000 total. These costs would be equitably distributed among the six entities and solidified in the forthcoming contract. The City of Sweet Home is set to be the fiscal agent, so while the entire amount of the project is in the expense section of the budget, we would be billing out the majority of the expenses for reimbursement.

### **Elements of a Stable Solution:**

How do we develop a thorough and professional **regional** emergency management system/plan that maximizes local resources to protect local residents and assets during and after catastrophic events such as wildfires, windstorms and pandemics?

### **Options:**

1. Do Nothing – City staff would continue to implement and develop the best plan possible with our given resources.
2. Suggest Edits to the IGA – Council could suggest some edits to the document.
3. Authorize staff to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement for Shared Disaster Preparedness Consultant – The regional team would begin work on the Phase 1 of the project July 1.

### **Recommendation:**

1. Staff recommends option 3, Authorize staff to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement for Shared Disaster Preparedness Consultant. The regional team would begin work on the Phase 1 of the project July 1.