

News Release

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CITY CONSIDERS OPTIONS FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

During the next few months the Florence City Council will be studying viable options for the provision of fire protection and emergency services in the City. Over the past ten years these services have been provided under a contract with Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue District (SVF&R). The District has determined that it can no longer afford to provide the same level of service to the City at the current level of funding.

The contract with SVF&R is funded through a portion of the property taxes collected from Florence residents. Currently, the City's property tax rate is \$2.86 per \$1,000 of assessed value; approximately 39 cents of the tax rate is used to pay for fire protection and emergency services.

"The Council definitely has some important decisions to make," said Florence Mayor Phil Brubaker. "Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue has done a great job responding to the citizens' needs. Renewing their contract is certainly an option we will be considering." Other options include annexing the City into the Fire District. Annexation would mean that all costs for fire protection and emergency services would be shifted to the Fire District, which would then be able to tax Florence citizens directly for providing those services. The City Council could also decide re-establish its own fire department.

"We will be considering all of the options," noted Mayor Brubaker. "Although cost will be a concern, providing for the safety of Florence residents is our top priority."

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