

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Gloria Mendoza called the Committee-of-the-Whole (C.O.W.) meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The meeting was held in person and was also available via teleconference.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present in person: Mayor Mendoza and Councilmembers Steve Barrientes, David Diaz, Laura Flores, Bill Moore (Mayor Pro Tem), Robert Ozuna (6:15 p.m.) and Joan Souders

Present via teleconference: None

Absent: Councilmember Javier Rodriguez

Staff present: City Administrator/Public Works Director Cus Arteaga, City Administrator Shane Fisher, City Attorney Quinn Plant, Fire Chief Pat Mason, Assistant Public Works Director Todd Dorsett, Public Works Foreman Hector Mejia and City Clerk Anita Palacios

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Cemetery Improvements**

City Engineer Stephanie Ray with HLA Engineering and Land Surveying Inc., provided an update on the cemetery improvements. She explained that plat maps for the existing expansion were provided to the City on September 28, 2023, for review and comment. A project meeting occurred on September 28, 2023, to discuss work completed and the City's desire to pursue additional improvements. On October 4, 2023, HLA staff met with City staff and the Mayor to review a concept plan for the future expansion. The concept plans for the future expansion were presented to the Council for review and comments.

City Administrator Arteaga suggested an Ad Hoc Council Committee be formed to provide recommendations to the Committee-of-the-Whole for the phased future expansion.

Discussion took place. No action was taken.

**B. Ambulance Service Update**

Fire Chief Mason provided an update on ambulance services, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

Discussion took place. No action was taken.

**C. Resolution approving Task Order No. 2023-09 with HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., for the Grandview Stormwater Improvements**

City Administrator Arteaga explained that the City received FY 2023 Water Quality Combined Financial Assistance from the Washington State Department of Ecology to improve stormwater conditions within the City. The project would design and construct three stormwater treatment facilities for known outfalls to remove untreated stormwater from the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District's conveyance system. Funding for this project consisted of \$1,074,995 Ecology grant and \$189,705 City funds, for a total project cost of \$1,264,700. Task Order 2023-09 included preparation of final Contract Documents, Bidding Services, and Construction Services to complete the Stormwater Improvement project. Construction award to the lowest responsible contractor would be by separate Council action. The project targeted three locations where City stormwater comingles with Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District. When complete, three new infiltration systems would manage City Stormwater for West Fifth Street, Larson Street, and Butternut Road. Eighty-five (85) percent of this Task Order was funded by a grant from the Department of Ecology. The remaining 15 percent was funded by local funding and was budgeted. He presented Task Order No. 2023-09 with HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., to provide professional engineering and land surveying services for the Grandview Stormwater Improvements with an estimated fee for services in the amount of \$221,500.

Discussion took place.

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. moved a resolution approving Task Order No. 2023-09 with HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., for the Grandview Stormwater Improvements to the October 24, 2023 regular meeting for consideration.**

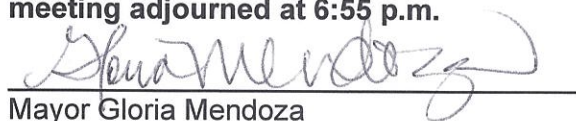
Roll Call Vote:

- Councilmember Barrientes – Yes
- Councilmember Diaz – Yes
- Councilmember Flores – Yes
- Councilmember Moore – Yes
- Councilmember Ozuna – Yes
- Councilmember Souders – Yes

**5. OTHER BUSINESS – None**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion by Councilmember Moore, second by Councilmember Souders, the C.O.W. meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Gloria Mendoza

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anita Palacios, City Clerk

## City Council Meeting / 10-10-23

### Update on the Emergency Medical Transport ILA with Sunnyside

Let me share some history with you for those that weren't here through this whole process.

We were provided ambulance service by a privately owned ambulance service until the mid 1990's.

Privately owned ambulance companies started disappearing in the mid 1990's. There's a lot of things that contributed to this, but the simple answer is that the level of service expected was going up (ALS was starting to be the level of service provided which was more expensive to provide) and the amount they were collecting from people paying their bills was going down. Bottom line was that they couldn't make money any more. American Ambulance (the local privately owned ambulance company at the time) was sold to Prosser Hospital and Sunnyside Fire Dept. was starting to operate an ambulance service in the Sunnyside Fire Dept.

Over the next 20 plus years, Prosser provided primary ambulance service to Grandview and Sunnyside Fire Dept was called on when Prosser wasn't available.

Up to 2019, we didn't have an ambulance provider agreement with anybody. They just provided ambulance service to our community because they chose to. And they could have stopped providing that service at any time they wanted if they felt it was necessary. Which means we would have had to find someone else to provide it, started our own ambulance service or went without ambulance service.

Keep in mind that most of these 20 plus years, both ambulance services weren't making enough money from the ambulance service to pay for itself and were subsidizing it from other revenue sources.

Prosser, by absorbing the loss in other areas of the hospital, and Sunnyside by setting up an Ambulance Utility Fee to cover the losses it suffered in an effort to break even.

In April of 2018 – Mr. Platt, from Prosser Hospital Ambulance, approached our City Council about PHA operating in the red and the possibility of us supporting them in the process of trying to pass an EMS Levy.

Supporting PHA in running an EMS Levy was not supported and discussions then began on the possibility of the City of Grandview assisting financially with the cost of running the ambulance service versus starting our own ambulance service.

It was decided that if Grandview was going to start paying for ambulance service, then we wanted to make sure that we had some control over the service we were being provided. This could be through running our own ambulance service or an agreement in place so we were assured that the citizens of Grandview would have ambulance service available to them and that the taxpayers of Grandview are getting the best service possible for what it's costing them.

June – Sept. 2018 (We worked with City Manager Don Day, Chief Ken Anderson and Battalion Chief Bill Harris from Sunnyside and Tyler Platt from Prosser during this process). We evaluated the cost of providing our own ambulance service, as well as the cost and level of service that both Prosser Hospital Ambulance and Sunnyside Fire Dept. Ambulance could provide. It was decided that for the cost, it would be best to go into an agreement with Sunnyside Fire Dept. Mainly because an agreement with Sunnyside could potentially provide us with a crew that could do EMS and firefighting where Prosser's crew would only be able to do EMS. Us providing our own ambulance service would give us the best overall service, but it would also be the most expensive option.

The majority of the decision between Sunnyside Fire Dept. and Prosser Hospital Ambulance was based on the attached questionnaire comparing what they could offer us in service. (see attached questionnaire)

The City Council decided to partner with the City of Sunnyside.

Oct. – Dec. 2018. An ILA with Sunnyside was put together. We signed the agreement with Sunnyside originally in late January of 2019. But unfortunately, about this same time City Manager Don Day retired. The agreement was put on hold while they hired a new City Manager. City Manager Martin Casey was hired and brought up to speed with what was going on in regards to the ambulance ILA. After he was ready to move forward, the agreement was signed by both parties on July 8, 2019 and went into effect on Sept. 1, 2019.

At the time we started the agreement with the City of Sunnyside, their staffing was City Administrator Martin Casey, Fire Chief Ken Anderson and Battalion Chief Bill Harris.

In the beginning, there was no established funding to pay for this agreement. It was decided that we would begin by paying for it out of the reserves of the EMS fund and work on establishing funding for it during the next few months. We would either need to establish an Ambulance Utility Fee or take the money out of the General Fund.

In 2020 we did an “Ambulance Utility Cost of Service and Rate Study” to determine what our rate would be for an Ambulance Utility Fee. This study breaks down the overall cost to operate the fire dept., develops the cost-of-service framework, establishes the cost-of-service for fire and emergency medical services, establishes and identifies customer classes and cost allocation methods for the ambulance utility, calculates availability and demand rates for each customer class, and establishes what is an allowed amount to collect through an ambulance utility fee for our community. This was completed in November 2020.

In March 2021 the City Council established an Ambulance Utility Fee for the City of Grandview. At that time, we had exhausted the EMS Reserve funds and were starting to pay the ambulance charge to Sunnyside out of the Current Expense Fund. The Ambulance Utility Fee amount was set at \$5.95 per ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) and still remains at that amount. The City Council has the option to raise this 6% per year by City Council approval.

We paid \$13,620 per month (\$163,440 annually) for the 1<sup>st</sup> 16 months. 2021 - \$15,633 per month (\$187,596 annually) 2022 - \$16,766 per month (\$201,324 annually)

The amount we pay is for Sunnyside to stay in Grandview and provide 24 hr. primary ambulance coverage to the City of Grandview, and assist with other firefighter type duties as appropriate as much as their work schedules and the facilities allow.

- The crew would stay here in Grandview 24 Hrs. a day if we had appropriate sleeping facilities for them.
- Because they have to return to Sunnyside to sleep, and their other assigned work duties in Sunnyside, the crews have typically spent about 9 - 10 hrs. per day here if their work load allows. And this is still what is happening now.
- There has been ongoing discussion since the beginning of our agreement with Sunnyside in regards to what the “assist with other firefighter type duties as appropriate” means. This discussion originates from the original questionnaire that they provided us the answers to. (see attached)

In late March of this year, City Administrator Arteaga and I met with the new City Manager, Elizabeth Alba, Jamison Horner and Interim Fire Chief Cameron Haubrich to discuss the current status of our agreement. We discussed the "assist with other firefighter type duties as appropriate" part of the agreement that was implied when we decide on who our provider would be. This is an area that hasn't been satisfactorily addressed since the agreement was initially started. City Manager Alba advised that this is an area that is affected by recent changes in personnel as well as the need to negotiate with the union staff in regards to this. City Manager Alba indicated that they shouldn't be charging us for something that not everyone is agreement is being provided and that they would suspend the monthly payments starting in March of this year. This year we were paying \$17,625 per month (\$211,500 annually). So far we have paid 2 months, or \$35,250.

Since our meeting in March, the current staffing in Sunnyside is City Manager Elizabeth Alba, Fire Chief Cameron Haubrich and Assistant Chief Chad DenBoer.

During the start of budget preparations for this year, I did have some discussions with Chief Haubrich, but haven't received any firm decisions on their plans.

When I was requested to give you an update tonight, I reached out to Chief Haubrich again, but he was on vacation until today. I tried contacting Chief Haubrich today, but he informed me that he is now home sick.

What am I expecting to happen: Currently the Sunnyside Fire Dept. is still operating just like they have since the beginning of the agreement. On the days their work load allows, they're here at our station, ready to respond, approximately 9 – 10 hrs. per day. Keeping in mind that ambulances in today's world can be very busy at times. And their response area includes much more than just the City's of Sunnyside and Grandview. We have still only paid 2 monthly payments this year for this service. At this time, I can't tell you for sure if they will come back and expect us to pay some of those missed payments.

- I'm expecting that Sunnyside will start billing us again at the rate that we were currently paying for next year and continue providing the level of service they currently are.
- I'm expecting Sunnyside to re-evaluate the cost of providing the service for us and give us their potential new rate as two different possibilities; one based on providing the level of service they currently provide (EMS emergency response only), and one based on providing the level of service they currently provide, as well as providing the "assist with other firefighter type duties as appropriate" part.
- If I'm correct in us receiving this information, then I think it would be appropriate at that time based on those new numbers and that new information to re-evaluate our situation in regards to operating our own ambulance service or contracting with Sunnyside Fire Dept. or Prosser Hospital Ambulance. And make an appropriate choice at that time for our taxpayers.

In the meantime, the level of medical response services for our community continues to be the same now as it has been for the last 3 years. Grandview Fire Dept. personnel and Sunnyside Fire Dept. ambulance respond whenever we have a call for emergency medical services. The Sunnyside Fire Dept. ambulance still responds from the Grandview Fire Station as much as their schedules allow.

I'm attempting to get Sunnyside to provide us with definitive answers to some of the questions I've shared here and will keep you informed as soon as I have more information.





# Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council

From: Cus Arteaga, City Administrator/Public Works Director

Date: September 5, 2018

Re: Ambulance Service

I am submitting the following information for Council's consideration regarding an ambulance service in Grandview.

The information will compare services offered by Prosser Memorial Hospital Ambulance (PMHA) and the City of Sunnyside Ambulance Service (SAS) such as cost and additional benefits from each provider to the Grandview Fire Department. The estimated call volume is projected at 650 to 700 calls for service.

How many ambulances will be available to respond with scheduled on duty staff?

PMHA: \_\_\_\_\_

SAS: 1 in GV, 2 staffed in

How many FTE will be scheduled on shift for your agency?

PMHA: \_\_\_\_\_

SAS: 2 in GV  
4-7 in SS

*SS - PLUS  
IF NECESSARY  
2 CHIEF ARE BOTH  
PARAMEDICS w/  
4th AMBULANCE*

What would be the cost of coverage for the following shifts?

PMHA: 12-hour shift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SAS: 12-hour shift \$ 126 K

PMHA: 24-hour shift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SAS: 24-hour shift \$ 126 K

Will your ambulance team provide assistance, as needed, to the Grandview Fire Department during downtime?

PMHA: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

SAS: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please check the following duties that the ambulance team would be able to assist with: (This is not an all-inclusive list, other duties may be added.)

Clean station meeting room, kitchen, bathrooms, windows, apparatus bay floors and etc.

- Wash and wax apparatus and command vehicles.
- Help firefighters and recruits with hands-on practical training (EMS & Fire).
- Respond as firefighters through an Auto Aid Agreement on all types of emergency responses.
- Perform company level business inspections.
- Perform daily/weekly/monthly vehicle checks.
- Assist with public education presentations.
- Assist with annual hydrant inspections and flow testing.
- Assist with developing, preparing and implementing training classes.

Will additional assistance from your staff positively contribute to the City's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating:

PMHA: Yes  No  SAS: Yes  No  *Bi-DIRECTIONAL*

Will you be able to combine fire suppression and EMS training with the City of Grandview?

PMHA: Yes  No  SAS: Yes  No

Will you be able to share fire equipment with the City of Grandview?

PMHA: Yes  No  SAS: Yes  No

*VERTICAL ROPE CONFINED SPACE TRENCH RESCUE - ANATOMY HAZMAT TEAM*

If yes, please identify what types of equipment: AUTOMATIC AID & FIRE SUPPRESSION

Will you be able to jointly purchase fire equipment with the City of Grandview?

PMHA: Yes  No  SAS: Yes  No  *IF COUNCIL APPROVES*

*CREDENTIALLED FIRE MARSHALS AIR/REHAB UNIT*

Will you be able to jointly participate in the construction of a new fire sub-station with the City of Grandview to improve response times?

PMHA: Yes  No  SAS: Yes  No  *IF COUNCIL APPROVES*

Will you be able to apply to the Yakima County SIED Program for loan/grant funds?

PMHA: Yes  No  SAS: Yes  No

Will you be able to participate in grant opportunities with the City of Grandview for the purchase of fire suppression and EMS equipment?

PMHA: Yes  No  SAS: Yes  No





MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council
From: Cus Arteaga, City Administrator/Public Works Director
Date: September 5, 2018
Re: Ambulance Service

I am submitting the following information for Council's consideration regarding an ambulance service in Grandview.

The information will compare services offered by Prosser Memorial Hospital Ambulance (PMHA) and the City of Sunnyside Ambulance Service (SAS) such as cost and additional benefits from each provider to the Grandview Fire Department. The estimated call volume is projected at 650 to 700 calls for service.

How many ambulances will be available to respond with scheduled on duty staff?

PMHA: 2 SAS:

How many FTE will be scheduled on shift for your agency?

PMHA: 4/DAY SAS:

What would be the cost of coverage for the following shifts?

PMHA: 12-hour shift \$ SEE PRO POST #2 SAS: 12-hour shift \$

PMHA: 24-hour shift \$ SEE PRO POST #1 SAS: 24-hour shift \$

Will your ambulance team provide assistance, as needed, to the Grandview Fire Department during downtime?

PMHA: Yes X No SAS: Yes No

If yes, please check the following duties that the ambulance team would be able to assist with: (This is not an all-inclusive list, other duties may be added.)

X Clean station meeting room, kitchen, bathrooms, windows, apparatus bay floors and etc.

- Wash and wax apparatus and command vehicles.
- Help firefighters and recruits with hands-on practical training (EMS & Fire).
- Respond as firefighters through an Auto Aid Agreement on all types of emergency responses.
- Perform company level business inspections.
- Perform daily/weekly/monthly vehicle checks.
- Assist with public education presentations.
- Assist with annual hydrant inspections and flow testing.
- Assist with developing, preparing and implementing training classes.

Will additional assistance from your staff positively contribute to the City's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating:

PMHA: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ *UNKNOWN* SAS: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Will you be able to combine fire suppression and EMS training with the City of Grandview?

PMHA: Yes  No \_\_\_ SAS: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Will you be able to share fire equipment with the City of Grandview?

PMHA: Yes \_\_\_ No  SAS: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, please identify what types of equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be able to jointly purchase fire equipment with the City of Grandview?

PMHA: Yes \_\_\_ No  SAS: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Will you be able to jointly participate in the construction of a new fire sub-station with the City of Grandview to improve response times?

PMHA: Yes \_\_\_ No  SAS: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Will you be able to apply to the Yakima County SIED Program for loan/grant funds?

PMHA: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ <sup>STILL</sup> *RESEARCHING* SAS: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Will you be able to participate in grant opportunities with the City of Grandview for the purchase of fire suppression and EMS equipment?

PMHA: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ *UNKNOWN* SAS: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

# GRANDVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Cus Arteaga, City Administrator  
**COPY:** Mayor, City Council  
**FROM:** Pat Mason, Fire Chief  
**DATE:** September 19, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** Ambulance Service

Cus,

In March of this year we were approached by our current Primary Ambulance Provider, Prosser Hospital Ambulance, concerning the fact that their ambulance service was losing money. They advised that last year their ambulance service had created a financial deficit of over \$600,000 and that they were on track for the same thing to happen again this year. They advised that they were not going to be able to continue to operate this way and were looking into options to try and help offset some or all of this deficit. After exploring a couple different options, they arrived at the option that they would approach the City of Grandview concerning contracting with them for a fee. The City Council tasked us with exploring our options to ensure that the citizens of Grandview have access to quality ambulance services in a cost-effective way for the foreseeable future. The City Council also indicated that they would like to see this service provided under some type of long term contract and/or agreement.

We currently have two (2) local ambulance services in our area that are willing to provide ambulance services to the citizens of Grandview. One of these providers is Prosser Hospital Ambulance. Prosser Hospital Ambulance (PHA) is an EMS Only provider. PHA has been providing ambulance service to our area for approximately 18 years as the primary response agency. The other provider is Sunnyside Fire Department. Sunnyside Fire Department (SSFD) is a combination fire department and EMS Provider. SSFD has been providing ambulance service to our area for approximately 24 years as the secondary response agency.

In an effort to provide a quality ambulance service to our community in a cost-effective way we approached both agencies to see what they could offer us as well as what that would cost. As we looked into working with both agencies it became very obvious that there were many additional benefits that we could take advantage of by partnering fire department to fire department. Those same benefits were limited by partnering fire department to EMS Only agency. One other significant possibility that came to light if we chose to work with SSFD was an offer by Astria Sunnyside Hospital to financially support SSFD up to \$215,000 per year for up to five years initially to help off-set the cost of providing the service to the Grandview/Mabton area. With the indication that the financial support would be reevaluated at that time and could possibly continue even after five years.

With this information in mind both agencies presented a proposal to the Mayor and City Council. SSFD proposed that they could provide ambulance service in the City of Grandview for \$126,023 per year. For now, this included having a staffed ambulance in Grandview during the day and then since we don't have sleeping quarters available they would return to Sunnyside and respond from there during the night. PHA proposed that they could provide ambulance service in the City of Grandview 24 hours a day for \$185,294 per year. In addition to the \$185,294, the City of Grandview would need to provide facilities for the crew to use and sleep in here in the city with some additional amenities.

After discussing and evaluating the two proposals, Mr. Platt from PHA advised the City Council that he did not feel the two proposals were comparing apples to apples because he didn't feel Sunnyside's proposal was a 24 hours per day plan and his was. The City Council then asked us to bring back some additional information to make sure we were evaluating both agencies equally as well as a potential draft agreement for the service.

A memo was prepared and given to both agencies to provide answers based on their agency's abilities. See attachments, page ?? to ?? and page ?? to ?. I have summarized the information below:

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>PHA</u>	<u>SSFD</u>
Ambulances available with on duty staff?	2	3 (at night), 4 (daytime)
Scheduled on duty staff?	4	6 – 9
Annual cost to Grandview:		
12 Hour Shift?	\$115,449 (2017 Call #'s)	\$126,000
24 Hour Shift?	\$185,295	\$126,000
Ambulance personnel provide assistance to GFD during downtime?	Yes	Yes
Some areas ambulance personnel could assist with:		
Cleaning around station and bays?	Yes	Yes
Wash and wax apparatus, vehicles?	Yes	Yes
Conduct hands-on practical EMS & Fire training?	Yes	Yes
Respond as firefighters through auto aid agreement?	No	Yes
Perform company level inspections?	Yes	Yes

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>PHA</u>	<u>SSFD</u>
Perform apparatus checks?	No	Yes
Assist with public education?	Yes	Yes
Assist with hydrant inspections and testing?	Yes	Yes
Assist with developing, preparing and implementing training classes?	Yes	Yes
Will partnering with your agency positively impact our Insurance Rating?	Unknown	Yes – for both cities
Can we combine fire suppression and EMS training?	Yes	Yes
Can you share equipment with the City of Grandview? What types of equip?	No	Yes Automatic Aid with Fire Suppression, Vertical Rope Rescue, Confined Space & Trench Rescue, Credentialed Fire Marshal's, Air/Rehab Support Unit
Able to jointly purchase fire equipment?	No	Yes with Council approval
Able to participate in construction of new fire station?	No	Yes with Council approval
Able to apply for Yakima County SIED Program loan/grant funds?	Researching	Yes
Able to participate in grant opportunities with the City of Grandview?	Unknown	Yes

As you can see above in an effort to compare apples to apples, while PHA has indicated that they can be of more assistance to us in several of the areas listed than they have been in the past, SSFD has indicated that they can assist us in all of the listed areas. As we have explored this ambulance provider question, it has become apparent the more we discuss it, that there are more benefits in a fire department to fire department partnership than a fire department to EMS agency partnership.

We are selecting an ambulance service provider that can be our primary ambulance service 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Because we do not currently have sleeping quarters located at our station, our discussion includes how many hours the provider will spend at the Grandview Fire Station. They would then return to their home facility at night for their rest period. But that same agency would still respond from that location at night if there was a call in Grandview. This is how it works now from the standpoint of PHA being here at the Grandview Fire Station as available for approximately 8 to 9 hours during the day and then being at their Prosser location the rest of the time.

In addition, the agency we select will be our primary ambulance agency. But just like fire departments, no ambulance agency has the resources to handle every call that occurs by themselves. The other ambulance agency not chosen to be our primary ambulance service, at their discretion would be our back-up (secondary) agency. If the primary agencies units are all busy, then the secondary agency would be requested. This is how it works now with PHA being the primary agency and SSFD being the secondary agency.

It would be beneficial for several reasons to look at having a living/sleeping quarters available here at the fire station. One of those is that it would provide an opportunity to lessen the call out burden on the Volunteer's. Another being that it would provide an opportunity for the Volunteers to sign up for shifts at the station rather than being on call at home. This would potentially increase participation by the Volunteers, shorten response times, allow us to reach out farther from Grandview for potential Volunteers and extend the time frame that we will be able to provide fire department services with Volunteer's. It would also allow us to have the ambulance provider located right here in our City 24 hours a day rather than 12.

For now, both ambulance agencies are looking at providing ambulance coverage in the city for 12 hours a day and then returning to their home station at night. This is due to a lack of available rest facilities at our fire station. For either one of the agencies to stay in Grandview for the entire 24 hour period, the City of Grandview would need to provide the facilities for them to be able to do that. The proposals from both agencies do not include providing those facilities.

SSFD has indicated that doing a 12 hour shift here in Grandview and the other 12 hours from their Sunnyside facility would cost \$126,023 per year. If they were able to stay in Grandview for the entire 24 hour shift, the cost would remain at the \$126,023 per year. One of the reasons that SSFD has indicated that they would be able to provide the service for this cost is because of Astria Sunnyside Hospital. Astria Sunnyside Hospital has indicated that if SSFD Ambulance picks up this service area, then they will commit to supporting SSFD up to an additional \$215,000 to help offset their costs (See Attached, Page ??). Astria has committed to maintaining this level of support for 5 years and will review the possible need for further assistance at that time. SSFD has provided this service for their citizens for over 20 years in a financially stable way.

PHA has indicated that doing a 12 hour shift here in Grandview and the other 12 hours from their Prosser facility would cost approximately \$115,449 per year (Proposal #2 on Page ?? / based on 2017 call volume statistics Email on Page ??). If they were able to stay in Grandview for the

entire 24 hour shift, the cost would then be \$185,295 per year (Proposal #1 on Page ??). One of my concerns with PHA is in regards to their history of operating their ambulance service without a financially stable funding source. This was made evident back in 2008/2009 when they shared their financial shortfall at that time. Subsequently, the City of Grandview paid them almost \$100,000 to help them offset their losses and then they still ended up having to close their Grandview facility. And then earlier this year, it became evident again when Mr. Platt shared that they had a loss last year of over \$600,000 and were on track for that to happen again this year. This discussion was the catalyst that led us to where we are today in discussing the City of Grandview paying for ambulance service. And if Grandview does contract with PHA for ambulance service and pays them \$115,000 to \$120,000 per year, this still doesn't account for almost \$500,000 of their annual deficit. This leads to the question of how they will cover this deficit while at the same time making an ambulance more available to the City of Grandview? In addition, if they can't find a way to cover this deficit, then what assurance do we have that they will be financially able to continue to provide ambulance service for the long term?

Another point to consider as we work on a solution to this problem is the fact that I have been coming to the Mayor and City Council for several years now to share that we are in dire need of at least one additional FTE at the fire department. I want to make sure that the Mayor and City Council understand that there is still a dire need for a minimum of at least one additional firefighter at the fire station. If we end up contracting with PHA then I do NOT feel that would alleviate my immediate need for hiring an additional FTE. And I will be coming to the City Council during the 2019 budget presentations requesting your support of hiring an additional FTE in 2019. This FTE request would amount to an increase in my budget request of approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000. If we end up contracting with SSFD then I feel the need to hire an FTE could be postponed for the next 2 to 4 years. The difference between the two being that with SSFD we would have available to us through auto aid agreements people that can assist us in all areas with all types of emergencies.

I have also spoke with Robert Ferrell who is with the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau. His email is attached on Page ??. He indicated that they don't have any past experience of rating a jurisdiction that partnered with an EMS only agency. He does state though that they would be willing to consider any potential benefits it may provide the next time we are evaluated. He also explains though, that their experience has been with evaluating fire departments that have partnered with neighboring fire departments. And while some areas could benefit us as long as they are being done correctly by either agency, all areas including fire training and actual structural firefighting could benefit the rating of our community when being provided by another fire department.

In addition, from a long-term perspective, partnering with SSFD provides some opportunities to the tax payers of both communities to save some money. The first one being the willingness of Astria Sunnyside Hospital to help with \$215,000 of funding for the Sunnyside Fire Department. This alone is a potential \$1,075,000 savings to the tax payers of Sunnyside and Grandview. And, as we look to the future we have to consider such things as adding fire stations, replacing our aerial truck, purchasing future fire engines and etc. We currently partner with Yakima County Fire District #5 in regards to our current fire station, one of our fire engines and our rescue truck. This has enabled the citizens of Grandview to save over \$500,000 in initial investment as well as

reducing our maintenance expenses almost in half. The ability to partner with SSFD on a joint fire station, aerial ladder truck and fire engine in the future has the potential to save the citizens of Grandview over \$1,000,000 just in initial purchasing. While still giving us the same benefits from an insurance rating standpoint as if we were doing all of this on our own at a considerably higher cost. It also enhances our opportunities of attaining grant dollars and etc. because it would be benefitting two communities instead of just one.

Currently we are using PHA as our primary ambulance provider and SSFD as our secondary ambulance provider for those times that none of the PHA units are available. It is my understanding that SSFD had to respond to Prosser's primary response area for 911 type calls 50 times in 2017 because their units were not available. And that SSFD has had to respond to PHA's primary response area for 911 type calls 58 times in the last 12 months. This amounts to approximately a 15% increase over 2017. I completely understand why this is necessary since PHA is trying to take on more Inter-Facility Transfers (IFT's) to help offset their financial losses. But it leads me back to the same question I mentioned earlier. How is PHA going to be able to improve on their financial losses by taking on more IFT's while at the same time making an ambulance more available for 911 type calls in Grandview? They are either going to be financially unstable or they are going to be even less available to respond on 911 type calls. Either one of which I feel could create a bad situation for the citizens of Grandview in reference to providing a long-term stable ambulance service for our people.

Based on the information provided, it is my recommendation that we partner with SSFD to provide our primary ambulance services. As long as PHA is available and willing they would be utilized as our secondary ambulance service when SSFD is not available.

If you have any questions or need further information please let me know.

Thanks,  
Pat