



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

3:30 pm

Madison Avenue Meeting Room
500 SW Madison

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Discussion/ Possible Action | I. Ambulance Rate Review
(Attachment) |
| Discussion/ Possible Action | II. Council Policy Review and Recommendation: 07-1.10,
"Advertising on Corvallis Transit System Buses"
(Attachment) |
| Discussion/ Possible Action | III. Public Safety Tax
(Attachment) |
| Information | IV. Other Business |

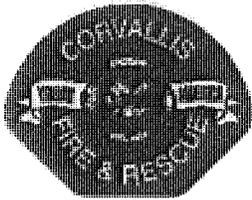
Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 3:30 pm

Madison Avenue Meeting Room, 500 SW Madison Ave

Agenda

None at this time.



541 766-6961
541 766-6938 (fax)

CORVALLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM
400 NW Harrison Blvd.
Corvallis, OR 97330

To: Administrative Services Committee
From: Roy Emery, Fire Chief *RE*
Subject: Annual Ambulance Rate Review
Date: February 4, 2013

I. Issue:

To review the fee schedule associated with ambulance transport services.

II. Background:

The provision of EMS and Ambulance Transport comprises a significant portion of Corvallis Fire Department's daily activities (both within the city and throughout Benton County). As a result, fees associated with ambulance transport services reduce the Fire Department's reliance on general fund dollars by an estimated 20% annually. As directed by Council, the Fire Department conducts an annual ambulance rate review to maintain a general balance between fees charged for services and cost. To achieve this balanced approach desired by Council, ambulance rate adjustments have been based upon the alignment with "median" values charged among those agencies reviewed (see Attachment A).

III. Information & Findings:

Staff completed a phone survey of agencies within Benton, Linn, Lane, Yamhill, Polk, and Marion Counties. The areas and agencies were selected in an effort to obtain a representative sample of agencies of similar size, and/or areas served within the Mid-Willamette Valley (to include communities with institutions of higher education). The following represent the salient findings and information gained:

- Corvallis rates adopted in 2012 remain at or above the "median" level for those agencies surveyed.
- The last rate increase (\$1000 base ALS) resulted in approximately \$391,000 in additional charges, yet only realized approximately \$80,000 in additional revenue.
- Areas which influence the realization of additional revenues include, but are not limited to, call volume, payer mix/cost shifting, collection performance, bad/uncollectable debt, and other discretionary write-off (charitable).
 - FY11/12 Payer mix: 30% Insurance; 61% Medicare/Medicaid; 9% Private Pay.
 - FY11/12 showed a 4% increase in EMS responses but only a 2% increase in transports.
 - Historically, only 80% of EMS responses by Corvallis Fire Department result in a billable transport. This is approximately 5% higher than several other agencies surveyed.
 - Collaborative efforts between the Fire Department and the Finance Department have realized significant improvements in overall ambulance collections (e.g., 90% net).
 - FY10/11 & 11/12 had notable increases in charitable write-offs – likely due to ongoing negative economic influences.
- Mandated write-offs (those associated to Medicare, Medicaid, and other capitated payers) are continuing an upward trend and resulted in an 18.4% increase in FY11/12 as compared to FY 10/11.

- Given the impacts of healthcare reform (nationally and at the state level), as well as the continued implementation of the Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO), staff anticipates these increases to continue and grow (predominantly due to increased enrollment in CCOs and Healthcare exchange).
- FY 11/12 noted an increase in Fire-Med membership utilization. This increase resulted in the retention of 26% of membership revenues while the remaining revenue is lost to cover membership benefits.
 - Although the local CFD Fire-Med program maintains a 'net' positive revenue stream, neighboring agencies have made modifications to membership benefits and/or raised the membership rate in an effort to maintain a 'net' positive revenue balance. For example, Lebanon Fire modified benefit to cover only ½ of out of pocket vs. 100% of the out of pocket - thus reducing write-offs by ½. Conversely, the City of Albany simply raised the membership rate to \$65.
- Inconsistency between charges listed for ambulance services and other department policies and/or Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) billing practices came to light during this review and warrant further study. They include:
 - Current per hour rate for EMT standby - \$70 v. \$75/hr.
 - Current ambulance wait-time fee - \$61.25 per ½ hr v. \$125 per ½ hr
 - Charges for Extra Attendant no longer allowed per CMS guidelines
- Fees established for public assistance responses (in excess of six per year) has shown to be difficult to apply and administer. To date, this charge has not been utilized.

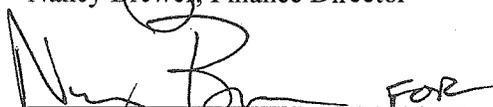
IV. Staff Recommendation:

Given the background, facts and findings, Fire Department Staff recommend the following:

- Maintain ambulance base rates at current levels for FY 13/14.
- Increase Fire-Med membership from \$50 per year to \$65 per year in order to align membership rate with primary reciprocal agencies (e.g., City of Albany) and potentially extend the solvency of the program by two to three years.
- Increase per hour rate for EMT standby from \$70 per hour to \$75 per hour.
- Increase ambulance wait/standby time from \$61.25 per ½ hour to \$125.00 per ½ hour.
- Remove charges for 'extra attendant'
- Remove charge for public assistance calls (in excess of six per year), and direct staff to pursue establishing an EMS nuisance response ordinance containing civil penalties.

REVIEWED and CONCUR:


 Nancy Brewer, Finance Director

 FOR
 Jim Patterson, City Manager

	County	Fire-Med	BLS-Emergency	ALS 1 Emergency	ALS 2 Emergency	ALS 1 Non-Emergency	BLS Non-Emergency	Evaluation & Treatment No Transport	Transport Mileage (per mile)
Corvallis Fire (Current)	Benton	\$50.00	\$775.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$775.00	\$450.00	\$15.00
Eugene Fire & EMS	Lane	\$62.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$20.00
Lane Fire Authority	Lane	\$62.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$20.00
South Lane Fire and Rescue	Lane	\$62.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$20.00
Springfield Fire & Life	Lane	\$62.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$20.00
Albany Fire	Linn	\$65.00	\$1,020.00	\$1,020.00	\$1,020.00	\$1,020.00	\$1,020.00	\$420.00	\$19.50
Jefferson Fire District	Linn	\$50.00	\$700.00	\$800.00	\$900.00	\$800.00	\$700.00	\$400.00	\$15.00
Lebanon Fire District	Linn	\$50.00	\$743.80	\$854.63	\$854.63	\$854.63	\$743.80	\$274.28	\$13.74
Sweet Home Fire	Linn	\$50.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$177.50	\$13.50
Salem Fire Department	Marion	\$50.00	\$781.92	\$919.50	\$970.73	\$919.50	\$619.23	\$448.60	\$14.86
Marion County Fire District #1	Marion	\$50.00	\$781.92	\$919.50	\$970.73	\$919.50	\$650.00	\$450.00	\$15.00
Keizer Fire District	Marion	\$50.00	\$781.92	\$919.50	\$970.73	\$919.50	\$619.23	\$448.60	\$14.86
Turner Fire District	Marion	\$50.00	\$740.00	\$870.00	\$925.00	\$870.00	\$650.00	\$450.00	\$15.00
Dallas Fire Department	Polk	\$50.00	\$712.00	\$894.00	\$894.00	\$894.00	\$712.00	\$450.00	\$18.00
Polk County Fire District #1	Polk	\$50.00	\$759.00	\$855.00	\$950.00	\$855.00	\$759.00	\$404.00	\$15.00
McMinnville Fire	Yamhill	\$70.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$450.00	\$22.00
Newberg Fire Department	Yamhill	\$45.00	\$1,440.00	\$1,440.00	\$1,440.00	\$1,440.00	\$1,440.00	\$432.00	\$19.80
Median		\$50.00	\$781.92	\$919.50	\$970.73	\$919.50	\$775.00	\$450.00	\$15.00
Median for College/University Communities		\$50.00	\$781.92	\$919.50	\$970.73	\$919.50	\$759.00	\$448.60	\$15.00

MEMORANDUM

March 4, 2013

To: Administrative Services Committee
From: Mary Steckel, Public Works Director *MS*
Subject: Council Policy #CP 07-1.10, Advertising on Corvallis Transit System Buses

Issue:

The Council Policy on Advertising on Corvallis Transit System (CTS) buses is required to be reviewed every three years by the Public Works Director, and updated as necessary.

Background:

Prior to 2006, the City had an informal policy regarding advertising standards. In 2006, the City proceeded with placing a political ad on buses following a request to do so, since it was determined that there was no adopted policy that would allow the City to restrict the ad. A protest was lodged as a result of this ad placement. Subsequently, staff developed and the City Council adopted the existing Council Policy in March, 2007. The policy served to comprehensively outline categories of ads deemed appropriate or inappropriate for use on the buses. This policy has remained virtually unchanged since its adoption.

In March, 2011, the Oregon Court of Appeals upheld a 2008 ruling that TriMet's long-running policy of accepting only commercial advertisements violates constitutional free speech protections.

Discussion:

As a result of the 2011 court ruling and on the recommendation of the City Attorney, the City has accepted forms of advertising that were previously not allowed under the Council Policy governing advertising on CTS buses. The City Attorney had expressed concerns about the number of restrictions in the existing policy, but this draft addresses the 2011 court ruling to ensure the policy is legally sound. Input provided by the City Attorney has been incorporated into the policy.

The City receives 35% of net sales made by its bus advertising contractor, Lamar Advertising. Below is a breakdown of bus advertising revenue for the previous three calendar years.

<u>Contract Period</u>	<u>Net Sales</u>	<u>35% Net Sales</u>	<u>Monthly Avg. 35% Net Sales</u>
2010	\$51,734.20	\$18,106.97	\$1,508.91
2011	\$58,597.09	\$20,508.98	\$1,709.08
2012	\$42,735.40	\$14,957.39	\$1,246.45

Recommendation:

ASC recommends to the City Council to approve the attached revision to Council Policy CP 07-1.10.

Review and concur,



James A. Patterson, City Manager

CITY OF CORVALLIS

COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

POLICY AREA 1 - GENERAL

CP 07-1.10 Advertising on Corvallis Transit System Buses

Adopted March 5, 2007

Revised March 15, 2010

Revised March ____, 2013

1.10.010 Purpose

A. The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for the display of advertising in or on the Corvallis Transit System (CTS) buses. This policy is intended to provide objective and enforceable standards for determining the scope of permissible advertising on city buses. It is intended that these standards be applied consistent with the free speech guarantees of the constitutions of the United States and the State of Oregon.

~~B. It is the City's declared intent and purpose not to allow or cause any of its buses to become a public forum for the dissemination, debate, and/or discussion of public issues.~~

~~B.~~ It is the City's declared intent and purpose to take into account interests which are of importance to the operation of the transit system. These interests include:

- (1) Maximizing revenues to CTS operations by selling advertising space;
- (2) Promoting and maintaining an orderly administration and operation of the transit system, which includes maximizing revenues by attracting and maintaining the patronage of passengers;
- (3) Maintaining the safety of passengers;
- (4) Protecting minors who travel on the City's transportation system;
- (5) Avoiding any potential identification of the City with viewpoints, express or implied, by any advertisement permitted on City buses; and
- (6) Maintaining neutrality on political and religious issues.

Council Policy 07-1.10

DC. The City reserves the right to amend these policies and standards at any time, including the right to declare a complete ban on all advertising on all City buses and direct that no advertisements of any kind be accepted for display and posting.

1.10.020 Definitions

Advertiser - An individual, company, agency, association, organization, or any other type of entity proposing to place an advertisement on or in CTS buses.

Advertising Contractor - An individual or company under contract to the City of Corvallis to sell, install, maintain, and remove advertisements on CTS buses, and to administer the bus advertising program in accordance with the requirements of this policy.

Corvallis Transit System (CTS) - A public transportation system operated by the City of Corvallis.

~~Political Speech - Speech that (1) refers to, supports or opposes a political committee, specific ballot question, measure, initiative, referendum or recall petition, or (2) refers to, supports or opposes any candidate for public office.~~

Public Service Announcements - Viewpoint-neutral messages which are not commercial in nature.

1.10.030 Policy

A. Attribution. All advertisement on City buses shall clearly and unambiguously identify the person or entity that has sponsored, paid for, or caused the ad to be placed on city buses. Web site addresses or phone numbers without definition or identification of sponsorship, are insufficient to satisfy this section.

B. Disclaimer. ~~City reserves the right~~ **requires**, in all circumstances, ~~that to require~~ an advertisement on or in its buses ~~to include~~ a disclaimer indicating that it is not sponsored by, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the City. **This provision does not apply to advertisements that the City sponsors or co-sponsors.**

C. Limitations Upon Advertisements. ~~The City intends that its facilities constitute nonpublic forums that are subject only to the viewpoint-neutral restrictions set forth below.~~ Certain forms of paid and unpaid advertising will not be permitted for placement or display on or in City buses. No advertisement will be displayed or maintained if the advertisement or information contained in it falls within one or more of the following categories:

Council Policy 07-1.10

- (1) False, misleading, or deceptive commercial speech. The advertisement proposes a commercial transaction, and the advertisement, or any material contained in it, is false, misleading, or deceptive.
- (2) Unlawful goods or services. The advertisement, or any material contained in it, promotes or encourages, or appears to promote or encourage, the use or possession of unlawful or illegal goods or services.
- (3) Unlawful conduct. The advertisement, or any material contained in it, promotes or encourages, or appears to promote or encourage, unlawful or illegal behavior or activities.
- (4) Endorsement. The advertisement, or any material contained in it, implies or declares an endorsement by the City of any service, product or point of view, without prior written authorization of the City.
- (5) Obscenity or Nudity. Contains any nudity, obscenity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse as those terms are now, or may hereafter be, defined in ORS 167.002051 to ORS 167.100. It is the intent of this category to restrict any proposed advertisement which violates any provision of the statutory scheme set forth in ORS 167.002 051 to ORS 167.100, including amendments or supplements thereto. All proposed advertisements considered pursuant to this category must clearly and unmistakably demonstrate compliance with the statutory scheme.
- ~~(6) Prurient sexual suggestiveness. The advertisement contains material that describes, depicts, or represents sexual activities or aspects of the human anatomy in a way that the average adult, applying contemporary community standards, would find appeals to the prurient interest of minors or adults in sex.~~
- ~~(7)~~(6) Libelous speech, copyright infringement. The advertisement, or material contained in it, is libelous or an infringement of copyright, or is otherwise unlawful or illegal or likely to subject the City to liability.
- ~~(8) Tobacco. The advertisement promotes the sale or use of tobacco or tobacco-related products, including depicting such products.~~
- ~~(9) Alcohol. Promotes the sale of wine, liquor, beer, or distilled spirits or other alcoholic beverages.~~

Council Policy 07-1.10

- ~~(10) Political Speech. The advertisement contains political speech.~~
- ~~(11) Religious. Supports or opposes a religion, denomination, creed, tenet, or belief.~~
- (12)(7) Interference. Displays any word, phrase, symbol, or character likely to interfere with, mislead, or distract traffic, or conflict with any traffic control device.
- ~~(13) "Adult"-oriented goods or services. The advertisement promotes or encourages, or appears to promote or encourage, a transaction related to, or uses brand names, trademarks, slogans or other materials which are identifiable with, material rated "X" or "NC-17" or equivalent, adult book stores, adult video stores, nude dance clubs and other adult entertainment establishments, adult telephone services, adult Internet sites, and escort services.~~
- ~~(14) Special provisions regarding Web addresses and telephone numbers. The advertisement directs viewers to a Web site or telephone number that contains material that violates these guidelines.~~

D. Accepted Advertising. The spaces available on the City buses may become limited in number. Therefore, advertising that meets the requirements set forth herein, will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

E. Advertising Program and Administration. The City may, from time to time, select an "Advertising Contractor" who, if selected, shall be responsible for the daily administration of the City's advertising program, in a manner consistent with this policy.

F. Severability. If any category set forth in Section 1.10.030.C is determined to be invalid as applied in a specific context, the category shall remain applicable in all other permissible contexts.

~~G. Public Service Announcements. The Advertising Contractor for the City may, from time to time, make unsold space available for public service announcements proposed by non-profit corporations that are exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or by federal, state or local government agencies or subdivision thereof. Each such non-profit corporation shall provide the Advertising Contractor with documentation demonstrating that it currently qualifies under the above-referenced provision of the Internal Revenue Code. A public service announcement shall not contain a message that is retail or commercial in nature and shall comply with the advertising standards set forth in this policy. A public service~~

Council Policy 07-1.10

~~announcement is required to bear the following legend if the sponsor is not readily or easily identifiable from the content or copy of the proposed advertisement: "This message is sponsored by _____."~~

HG. CTS promotions. Consistent with the limitations contained herein, Corvallis Transit System may display on City buses materials, including advertisements and notices, that pertain to operations, service promotions or any other non-commercial purpose.

HH. Disclaimer of Liability. Upon submission of advertising, Advertiser expressly agrees that the City is not liable for any damages, whether direct or indirect, arising out of delays in posting of the advertisement due to the review process. Advertisers are urged to submit their advertisements with sufficient lead time to allow for review, if necessary.

1.10.040 Implementation

This policy will be incorporated by reference in the contract between the City and the Advertising Contractor, and the City will provide oversight to ensure that the content standards set forth in this policy are adhered to.

1.10.050 Review and Update

This policy shall be reviewed every 3 years by the Public Works Director; beginning in February 2007, and updated as necessary.

MEMORANDUM

March 20, 2013

TO: Administrative Services Committee
FROM: Nancy Brewer, Finance Director *NB*
SUBJECT: Public Safety Tax – Further Modeling

I. Issue

To provide several rate options for assessing a public safety tax (PST) based on previous direction from the Administrative Services Committee.

II. Background

The last several ASC meetings on possible PST development consisted of looking at rate ranges for different possible rate structures for the public safety services package being contemplated to be funded. The ASC has recommended the PST or similar funding mechanism to be used to add:

- 9.0 FTE Firefighters (and one ambulance) to re-open Fire Station Five;
- 1.0 FTE Fire Training Lieutenant;
- 1.0 FTE Fire Prevention Officer;
- 6.0 FTE Police Officers with vehicles; and
- 1.0 FTE School Resource Officer (SRO) with an expectation that School District 509J would fund a second SRO position.

Over the past month, using this data, staff has developed a likely staffing plan based on the time it takes to get employees through the recruitment, testing, and selection process. Based on ASC's preferred timing to start a PST on July 1, the first year would require about \$1.17 million in revenue. The second year and thereafter would require revenues of \$2.25 million to fully cover the on-going operating costs.

ASC also indicated that revenue in the first year that would be in excess of costs might be used to fund some of the capital needs. Setting the revenue target at \$2.25 million will allow for \$1.08 million for planned capital expenditures. The strategic plans for the Police and Fire Departments identified one-time funding for vehicles and for continuing to implement the 700 Mghz radio system.

Finally, at the February 19 City Council meeting, there was a request from the City Council to also know what a likely tax rate would be if the amount necessary to fund the restoration of service was obtained via a local option property tax levy.

III. Discussion

In order to generate \$2.25 million per year, the fee amounts by suggested method would be as follows:

- By number of meters (15,911): \$11.78 per month

- By number of living units¹ (30,261): \$6.20 per month
- As a local option levy property tax: 54¢ per \$1,000 assessed value

Under these scenarios, the table below provides a sampling of what different households and other entities would pay:

Customer Services Account Holder:	Annual Tax Amounts:		
	By Meter/Acct	By Acct + MF Unit	Special Levy
NE; 980 sq ft; AV=\$122,044	\$141.36	\$74.16	\$65.90
NW-North; 4610 sq ft; AV=\$473,010	141.36	74.16	255.43
NW-West; 2480 sq ft; AV=\$271,767	141.36	74.16	146.75
NW-Central; 1200 sq ft; AV=\$161,320	141.36	74.16	87.11
SW; 1560 sq ft; AV=\$204,356	141.36	74.16	110.35
SW-Central; 1560 sq ft; AV=\$147,663	141.36	74.16	79.74
SE; 1440 sq ft; AV=\$177,507	141.36	74.16	95.85
SE; 2830 sq ft; AV=\$278,147	141.36	74.16	150.20
OSU - Family apartments	282.72	6,971.04	0.00
OSU - Resident Halls	1,979.04	304,500.96	0.00
OSU - Co-ops	565.44	15,721.92	0.00
OSU - Non resident buildings	25,020.72	13,126.32	0.00
Delta Chi (OSU Greek House)	141.36	1,038.24	152.98
Delta Upsilon (OSU Greek House)	141.36	2,224.80	167.96
The Gem (OSU)	141.36	19,281.60	44.37
Samaritan Hospital	2,685.84	1,409.04	0.00
United Methodist Church	424.08	222.48	0.00
Highland View Mobile Estates	565.44	13,052.16	2,442.85
City of Corvallis	9,895.20	5,191.20	0.00
Winco - 2335 NW Kings Blvd	141.36	74.16	2,424.61
Riverfront Renaissance	141.36	1,112.40	7,630.12
Regent Retirement Residence	141.36	74.16	2,085.92
Hewlett-Packard	424.08	222.48	160,988.19

It is clear from the table above that the impact of the three alternatives is different for different properties. The local option tax levy does not meet the City Council’s stated objective to have OSU and other large non-profits help pay for a portion of these public safety costs, the demand for which is driven in part by the growth in the student population.

IV. Next Steps

There are a number of different directions the City Council can take this discussion. This section attempts to lay out alternatives, which are diagrammed in Attachment A:

1. Do nothing. Do not add services and do not pursue a new revenue source.
2. Add back some or all of the identified services, but without an additional revenue source. Manage the increased costs by cutting services elsewhere in the General Fund.
3. Combine adding some or all of the services with cuts for a portion and new revenues for another portion.

¹ Data is conservatively estimated and would need to be further researched, vetted and maintained; simplifying assumptions are that living units would include individual dwellings such as mobile homes, apartments/residences in multi-use buildings, dormitory /fraternity individual unrelated occupants, and do not include retirement home units, nor hotel/short-stay occupancy rooms.

4. Add back some or all of the services identified and seek a new revenue source to fully fund the restoration.

For options 3 or 4, consider:

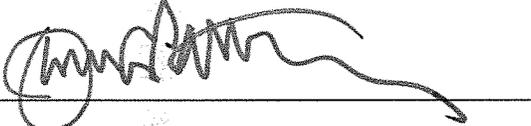
1. Implementing the Public Safety Tax, billed on the City Services bill, or via some other mechanism.
 - a. This could be done by the City Council (which may result in a citizen initiative to refer it to voters); or
 - b. Council can refer the question to voters for approval.
2. Pursue a Local Option Property Tax Levy to fund public safety services.
 - a. This requires a referral to the voters, with a November or May vote the most likely dates that would not require a double majority. If this option is pursued, Council will want to discuss how this would work with the potential renewal of the current local option levy.

For any of the above options, the City Council should have a public comment period, and perhaps even a special Council meeting to receive public comments. Council could proceed by developing a preferred alternative and then ask for input on that alternative, or Council could ask citizens to weigh in on all of these options.

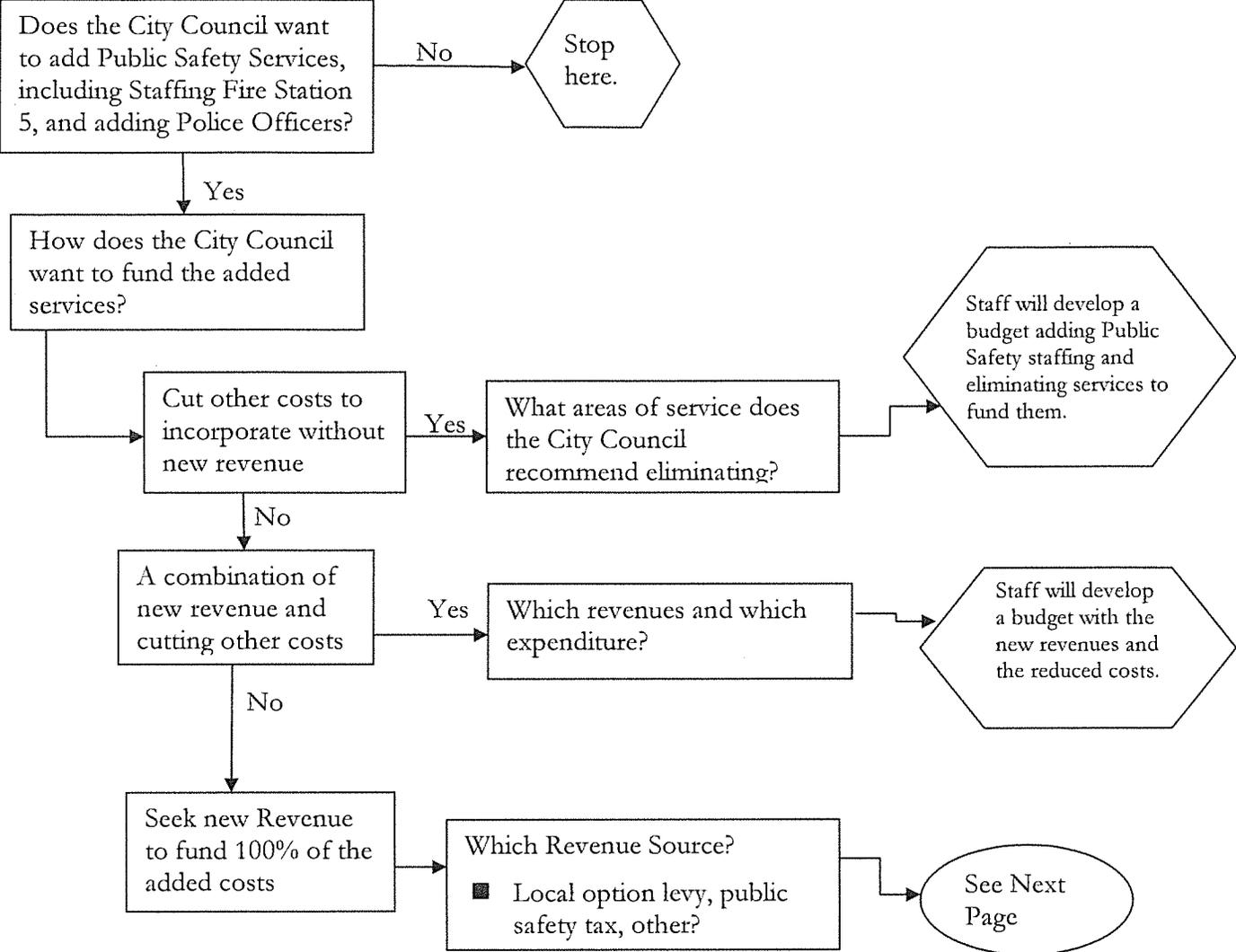
V. Requested Action

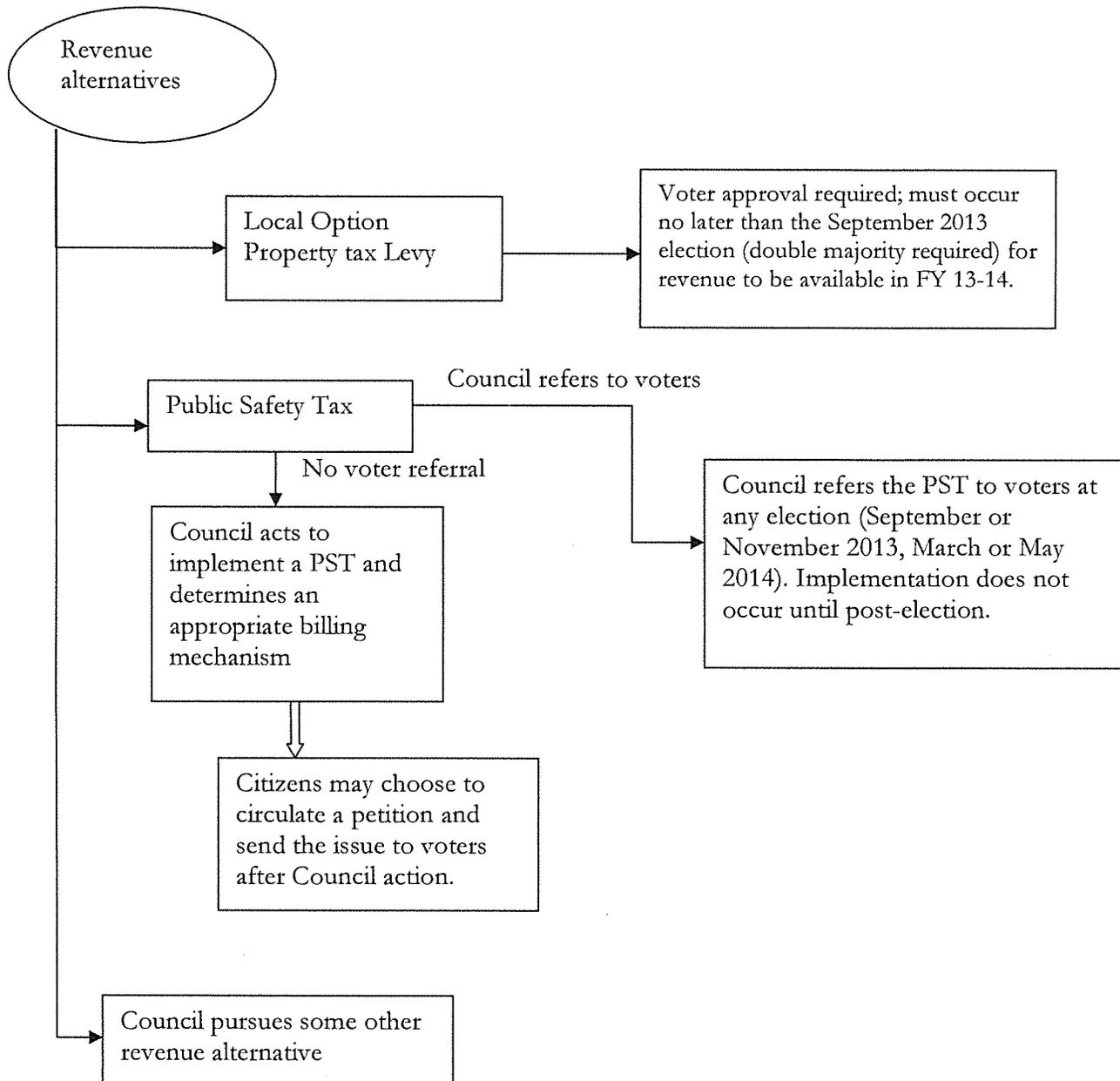
Review this information and provide additional direction for staff.

Review & Concur:



City Manager





03-18-2013

- By number of living units¹ (30,261): \$6.20 per month
- As a local option levy property tax: 54¢ per \$1,000 assessed value

Under these scenarios, the table below provides a sampling of what different households and other entities would pay:

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2. Add back some or all of the identified services, but without an additional revenue source. Manage the increased costs by cutting services elsewhere in the General Fund.
3. Combine adding some or all of the services with cuts for a portion and new revenues for another portion.

¹ Data is conservatively estimated and would need to be further researched, vetted and maintained; simplifying assumptions are that living units would include individual dwellings such as mobile homes, apartments/residences in multi-use buildings, dormitory /fraternity individual unrelated occupants, and do not include retirement home units, nor hotel/short-stay occupancy rooms.

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March 20, 2013

Attachment 2

Administrative Services Committee
City Council
City of Corvallis

Regarding the Public Safety Tax.

When I mentioned to people that I was coming to this meeting everyone said to tell the city they cannot add this tax to our City Services Bill without a vote.

My question left from the last meeting is that I kept hearing that this is a way to collect money from non-profit organizations that do not pay property tax. So with this proposal it sounds like everyone is going to have to pay more just to make those groups pay more. There certainly has to be a better way to negotiate with the state regarding OSU. How do other cities with universities handle the water bill and public safety services?

Given several issues that have come up recently this seems to be a piecemeal approach to budget problems. Along with this Public Safety tax, we have heard that Park and Recreation is considering a separate taxing district, and that the city is considering contracting out certain services. There are definitely budget problems and with many of the proposals we are pitting one department against another.

It also feels like some of these proposals are coming top down with no citizen input. I suggest perhaps the Budget Commission or another, possibly created, committee meet to garner ideas from citizens. Perhaps it isn't the place of the Budget Commission to do a line-by-line analysis or come up with creative ideas. If not then get a group of citizens to recognize the problem and submit ideas. If citizens are involved in creative solutions then there might be more support for whatever is proposed.

Sincerely,



Louise Marquering