

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Planning Session Worksheet**

**Presentation Date:** April 14, 2020      **Time:** 3:00 pm      **Length:** 30 Minutes

**Presentation Title:** Search and Rescue Issues

**Department:** Finance, Risk, and County Counsel

**Presenters:** Elizabeth Comfort, Eric Machado, Stephen Madkour and Scott Ciecko

**Other Invitees:** Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

**WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?**

No action requested. This is an opportunity to update the Board on the current status of Search and Rescue in the County and to answer questions that Commissioners have regarding the same.

**SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND:**

Following the 2019 settlement of the *Jenkins* lawsuit, which involved a wrongful death claim from the estate of a climber who died after falling on Mt. Hood, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office has been examining best practices for search and rescue activities, including best practices relating to working with volunteer search and rescue organizations in the community. As a result of that examination, and after engaging in strategic planning meetings with volunteer groups, the Sheriff's Office has indicated that it will restructure the way it manages and coordinates those volunteer groups, and has announced that it will be working towards organizing its own group of search and rescue volunteers that will report directly to the Sheriff.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

The topics to be discussed will be directed by commissioners based on the questions they ask.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are potential budgetary implications involved with the way in which the Sheriff manages search and rescue volunteers, but implications depend on which options are eventually implemented and would need to be addressed directly by the Sheriff's Office. In addition, there could be financial impacts on the County by way of increased or mitigated liability risk depending on how search and rescue is ultimately undertaken.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

As this policy session is primarily a question and answer session, it does not appear to impact any strategic plan.

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:**

Under ORS Chapter 404, the Sheriff for each county has a duty to provide for search and rescue within the County. That duty is not defined with specificity, although it is clear that the responsibility falls upon the Sheriff.

**PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

As this policy session is primarily a question and answer session, there has not been any prior formal public participation.

**OPTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND ATTACHMENTS:**

Not applicable.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Scott Ciecko, Assistant County Counsel, on behalf of,  
Stephen Madkour, County Counsel