



Daniel B. Walton

County Fire Warden / County Fire Chief

Request for Proposal:

Fire Department Funding and Governance Analysis

Proposal Due By: November 7, 2019

Project Overview:

Tooele County is seeking proposals from reputable companies that specialize in financial planning & data analysis. The selected company will be hired to conduct a study on the feasibility of creating an additional fire district or service agency and the funding options that exist. Currently the majority of the unincorporated lands within Tooele County are only provided with fire department services through mutual aid agreements. These fire departments are underfunded and understaffed. Tooele County is experiencing a steady rate of growth and it is our concern that the current system we have in place to support these fire departments is not sustainable.

Project Goals

- We have three geographical options to explore:
 - Expand the North Tooele Fire District to be county wide including the few small municipalities that have requested to be included in the study.
 - All lands outside of the North Tooele Fire District.
 - Use the current Fire Department response zones to create multiple districts – 6 separate zones.
- Determine the strengths and weaknesses between two governance options; Fire Districts or Service Agencies.

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- Determine the tax/revenue limitations and what funding is available within the proposed areas.
- We would like to know the legislative requirements associated with the implementation of any potential scenario.
- The study should be completed with ample time to put a proposed option on the ballot for the November 2020 election.

Scope of Work

The selected company will need to evaluate the current governance and funding system that exists in Tooele County and what options we have for an improved and more sustainable process. The study will need to evaluate the fiscal impacts relative to tax/revenue limitations and what potential exists for funding from the proposed areas. The generated report will evaluate the governance options and how the revenue models would look based on the current tax base that exists within the different geographical areas. The report will also need to outline the legislative requirements for implementing any proposed changes.

Current Roadblocks and Barriers to Success

- The Tooele County Fire Department is currently under the Sheriff's office and is comprised of one part time employee who oversees two volunteer fire departments and has numerous administrative duties. The amount of time that he will be able to commit to this process will be limited.
- Four out of the six small volunteer fire departments that provide mutual aid services to the unincorporated lands within Tooele County are managed by incorporated towns. Even though these towns have expressed interest in being included in the study, there is a history of resistance to change.
- Resistance for the county wide model; the North Tooele Fire district is comprised of the majority of the tax base that exists within Tooele County. There may not be ample additional revenue to make the district expansion palatable.

- The unincorporated lands outside of the North Tooele Fire District are vast landscapes with limited taxable entities.

Elements of Proposal

A submission must, at a minimum, include the following elements:

- Description of the firm that includes a general overview, names and credentials of the proposed team.
- A narrative outlining the firm's strengths and distinguishing skill or capabilities as they might relate to the proposed study.
- A list of similar projects the team has worked on as well as respective references.

Submissions

Tooele County has budgeted \$15,000 for this study. Proposals should be submitted to me before the deadline of November 7th, 2019.

Daniel B. Walton

Date