

Columbia River Fire and Rescue  
Civil Service Meeting  
270 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens, OR 97051  
August 6, 2024  
1:30 p.m.

Staff Present: Chief Eric Smythe, Kate Lerhner, Chief Examiner W. Scott Jorgensen  
Commissioners Present: Chair Ricky Linares and Mark Kreutzer

Linares called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

**New Business: Staffing Update**

Smythe said that one firefighter was recently hired off of the list. Another was hired back six weeks after going to another agency. The new hire is at FTEP.

The district is fully staffed at 27 firefighters and 8 EMTs and is operating under its tax revenue costs. It is moving in the right direction.

A bond may become necessary in the future to replace and upgrade equipment. The goal is to eventually have 30 firefighters.

He is working on a strategic plan that will be based on the budget so it's sustainable.

Stakeholders will be involved in that process. It will include public outreach and engagement.

The district's deficit will decrease substantially in the next budget year. Around \$900,000 goes into operations and around \$4.2 million is needed for cash carryover and the contingency fund.

He will want to renew the recruitment deadline at the next commission meeting. There's one retirement that's probably pending and a couple more possible openings.

**Old Business: Changes to Civil Service Manual**-Kreutzer moved to approve as presented. That motion was seconded by Linares and adopted unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Linares adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.