



Scott Sanders
Chief of Police

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair
House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St, NE
Salem, OR 97301

04/19/2019

RE: Support of HB2449
Chair Nathanson, Members of the House Revenue Committee:

Coos Bay Police Department is the 9-1-1 center for the City of Coquille. Our agency proudly answers 9-1-1 calls for all of Coquille and Coos Bay dispatches 9 Coquille Police Officers for us. Coos Bay answers all our 9-1-1 calls and we are extremely dependent on their technology and communications infrastructure to process each of these calls. The amount of funds distributed to our PSAP from the 9-1-1 tax covers a percentage of our operational cost.

As you know, the 9-1-1 tax in Oregon has not kept up with inflation and has remained at .75 cents since 1995. HB2449 seeks to increase the tax and help ensure continued safe operations of our 9-1-1 network in the State of Oregon. The cost of operating a consolidated 9-1-1 center continues to rise based on fixed operational and personnel costs. Our cost for dispatch service increased 5% this year alone and without 911 dollars increasing the city of Coquille must pick up the full increase.

Our agency has been notified by the 9-1-1 program within Oregon Emergency Management that the 9-1-1 tax will no longer fund some of our basic equipment that we have in use today. This shifts more of the burden of the 9-1-1 operations to our local jurisdictions and means that in order to just maintain our current service levels, our police, fire and medical agencies will be required to pay more for 9-1-1 call taking equipment and operations. If we are unable to absorb the costs that have been paid by the 9-1-1 tax, our agency will be forced into a situation where calls may need to go into a queue or we may have a significant delay in answering calls simply because we do not have enough call taking positions or telephone lines within our PSAP to answer emergency calls while dispatching responders.

Currently the 9-1-1 tax does not have enough funds to pay for our 9-1-1 needs, nor does it have enough funds to plan for needed upgrades to the system. HB2449 helps ensure a more sustainable model for our emergency communications needs throughout the State of Oregon. We have already seen a shift from the 9-1-1 tax to the local level to support basic operations. We need immediate assistance to fix this deficit and ensure the 9-1-1 program in Oregon is funded to be that first line of defense for any emergency. We need your help to keep our communities in safe. Respectfully

Chief Sanders
Coquille Police Dept.