

Perceived Benefits of a Regional Consolidation

For

Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District

&

Snowmass-Wildcat Fire Protection District

Managerial Efficiency

Reduced duplication of services and projects; managing one large system produces more efficiency than managing two small departments.

Community Expectations

The community should expect government to operate in a fiscally responsible manner while still having the expectation of premier services. The principals behind consolidation speak to these expectations.

Succession planning

Succession planning is challenging but important; a larger organization means more opportunity to develop employees for future roles.

Asset Management

As a single, larger organization has access to more resources to streamline asset allocation. This includes apparatus, equipment, and personnel.

Finance

Dedicated professional in-house to oversee the financial aspects of the organization; eliminates outsourcing. Allows for consolidated auditing and ambulance billing.

Operational depth

Consolidate to gain economies of scale & gain efficiencies; pooling of resources provides better response capabilities and the chance to implement and expand specialized services.

Cost Avoidance

Opportunity to expand and improve services at a fractional cost; a combined organization can improve and grow because of scale.

Personnel Development & Retention

A larger system has inherent benefits for personnel advancement and retention. A larger system means more supervisory functions and a higher and more diverse call volume.

Challenges

We must acknowledge that there will be challenges with this process. Culture change and creating a new culture will require constant attention. Other challenges will include the loss of identity and new organizational habits and routines. An awareness of operational challenges of SOGs and things like uniforms, patches, badges, and even the color of the trucks will be on the radar of senior staff.