

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

**May 14, 2013
11:30 AM
Fairbanks Fire Department**

PSC Members:	John Eberhart (Seat A - 2014)	Robert Fox (Seat E - 2015)
	Bill Satterberg (Seat B - 2015)	Nathan Smoot (Seat F - 2013)
	Peter Stern (Seat C - 2013) Chairman	Carl Cox (Seat G - 2014)
	Buzzy Chiu (Seat D - 2014)	Thomas Carter (Seat H - 2014)

Special Meeting Minutes

Called to order at 11:38

Attendance: John Eberhart, Bill Satterberg (1145), Peter Stern, Buzzy Chiu, Nathan Smoot, Carl Cox.
Excused: Robert Fox and Thomas Carter

Memo of May 8, 2013 from Pat Cole to Commission Chair Stern was reviewed. In summary, the City is looking for ways to optimize the existing capabilities of the Police and Fire Departments and is not currently looking to engage in a fully integrated PSO program. Mayor Cleworth indicated that while Fairbanks is not expected to see any personnel cuts, there is limited prospect for any increase in staffing for either department. His goal is to find ways to use existing personnel in both departments more effectively. Discussion was held regarding various aspects of a sworn officers duties that do not need to be performed by an officer, and that might be accomplished by FFD. There was also discussion regarding the costs and merits of training police officers to provide some level of EMS, and to be trained to perform a reliable situation size up for fire incidents and basic support functions. Considerable debate discussed the roles the two departments serve at various emergency functions and how those roles would affect priorities. There was also some discussion of auxiliary support, both for the Fire and Police departments from citizen volunteers.

Topic for next work session – June 11, 2013 at Fairbanks Police Department: Take a closer look at the list of specific tasks that might be reassigned or shared by the two departments. Specifically look for barriers in the various collective bargaining agreements.

Adjourn: 1305

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Special Meeting Agenda

ADOPT AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT

BUSINESS

PSO Concept

Continuation of Last Month's Discussion

NEXT MEETING

Proposed: June 11, 2013

Fairbanks Police Department

CLOSING COMMENTS

ADJOURN

Submitted by: Lisa Howard (amended 5/13/13)



City of Fairbanks

May 8, 2013

To: Peter Stern, Chair
Public Safety Commission

From: Patrick Cole

Subject: Your List of Issues/Questions

Peter, thank you for your effort to list the issues relating to our discussion of adaptation of the Public Safety Officer Concept. We have re-formatted your topics along with some preliminary responses and observations from the City public safety administration. Note that the Mayor is not advocating a "full" PSO Sunnyvale-like concept at this time, but rather changes that optimize the existing capabilities of current positions.

1. Daily non sworn tasks.

See accompanying list of potential expansion of FFA and FPD functions and duties. Note that

2. How much time would be "saved" from a sworn officer's time by not having to do these tasks?

That depends on how many tasks are shared; the greater the overlap, the more efficient the two departments become.

3. Suggested that fire prevention efforts would increase. How?

Fire company walk through of bars, community events and facilities open to the public would spot potential fire code violations like blocked exits, improper storage of flammable liquids, over occupancy, deficient emergency vehicle access, etc. Mere presence would lead to greater awareness and owner self-correction. Understand that this was once done. Company inspections have been discussed for years. No reason why FPD employees could also become aware of potential fire prevention problems as they perform their work.

4. Training police officers in first aid would be beneficial. Role confusion on scene might not be a good thing.

Assume EMT level trained personnel always defer to paramedics or higher level EMT? FPD provides some level of first aid now (depending on officer and circumstances), and help in rescues, etc. No confusion now, so why would there be in the future?

AST ONCE TRAINED TROOPERS TO EMT LEVEL, NOT DONE NOW, WHY?

5. AED deployment in patrol cars might be a better choice.

Good start, but why not provide greater service?

6. Training costs for fire and police need to be investigated and expanded. The numbers presented don't seem correct

Numbers presented as starting point with input of Fire Department Administration. You are correct that PowerPoint did not include the annual 24 hours of refresher training.

7. Need a time line for the apartment fire on 16th ave April 21. Impact if there had been a delayed response.

Warren & Ernie asked to work on this question.

8. Unless there is a unified CBA what CBA governs a grievance from the other department?

While not certain I understand the question, the best practice would be a "joint crafts" amendment to the PSEA and FFU CBA and to clarify expanded/overlapping duties in new CBA. Currently, six unions work under one Joint Crafts contract which includes flexibility to address changing work loads.

Hiring

9. If a candidate comes with both police and fire experience/certification how much advantage would they get in the hiring process? Run the risk of losing excellent employees with only police or fire experience or education

Question assumes full PSO. City Fire Department currently grants priority to paramedics. No current problems in recruiting qualified candidates in either department.

10. If a police officer goes on military leave and a fire fighter agrees to a transfer to cover that absence, what is the impact on the fire budget regarding overtime while that firefighter is working as a pso?

This question assumes full PSO, not contemplated at this point.

Minority hire

11. Neither Dept. has very good records on minority hire. PSO will only make that worse.

This question assumes full PSO, not contemplated at this point.

12. Go back over impact of PSO on ISO manning rating

Defer to Warren & Ernie; do not see any effect.

13. Discuss how commercial insurance rates are set.

Defer to Warren & Ernie.

14. Impact on insurance rates for ISO class changes

Defer to Warren & Ernie.

15. Need to look at shift changes to 10/14hr to truly share personnel?

This question assumes full PSO, not contemplated at this point. Optimum PSO schedule is 3/12 – 4/12 hours/week for 42 hour average. Get copy from Warren.

16. FAI airport staffs by shift not fill in.

Do not understand.

17. Mutual aid 2 way street. How might staffing be handled with pso?

This question assumes full PSO, not contemplated at this point

18. Police have no minimum staffing level. Left up to shift commander.

True.

19. Risk of closing Sta 4 while pso's do police tasks, resulting in delayed response.

Any new task assumed by FFD personnel would be dropped in event of a call. Primary duty would always be suppression response. Would be looking for either in-station added duties for Station 4 personnel or duties that would not delay response.

20. UAF info, How many dual degree (fire science and criminal justice) students in past 10 years?

Do not know.

21. IF the pso concept concentrates on patrol officers or firefighters rather than upper ranking positions, as people move up the promotion ladder how long will the city benefit from a pso if it has to shoulder the cost of training them?

This question assumes full PSO, not contemplated at this point. Note: normal time as FF is about five years.

22. If the city has problems retaining public safety employees won't the most turn over be in the lower ranks?

Not aware of any problem retaining public safety employees. We find in the Fire Department, turnover is roughly half via retirement and half by resignation. Police turnover is not "lower rank-centric" to quote Chief Zager.

23. If uniformed the same, safety issue for unarmed fire fighters

This question assumes full PSO, not contemplated at this point.

24. If a PSO as a police officer walks through a bar and notices life safety issues what happens? The same establishment refused to allow fire fighters to do an inspection then what?

This question assumes full PSO, not contemplated at this point.

25. How does public know if they talking to a fire fighter or a police officer? Are they possibly implicating themselves as they give medical history involving drug use?

This question assumes full PSO, not contemplated at this point.

26. What is the measurement to be used if more sworn officers are on patrol for determining better service is the end result?

Goal is providing more service with existing staff via use of available human knowledge, experience and time.

27. Is lowering crime an achievable goal by having more officers on patrol?

Our goal is to increase the productivity of the employees we have within available funding. The relationship of police officer staffing to crime rates is complex.

28. Will the new reality be more undercover officers working on drug related crimes?

Not the objective of this proposal; if we are able to increase public safety services by expanding FFD services, there are many areas where FPD could provide enhance services..

29. Would traffic enforcement increase?

Same answer as No. 28. Note, it is certainly feasible for FFD personal to issue parking tickets, especially for issue like parking in emergency access areas, blocking fire hydrants, etc. Do not see any change in moving violations.

30. Will property crimes receive more attention?

Same answer as No. 28. It would certainly be feasible for FFD staff to take routine reports for stolen property, which would increase efficiency.

31. Will pso have any effect on filling SRO positions?

Assuming there will still be an SRO program, no. One can certainly imagine that a FFD employee could provide a positive effect in school program, but suspect current grant program has limitations. Further research needed.

32. Would pso staffing ensure summer downtown foot patrols?

Same answer as No. 28. Again, the presence of FFD personnel on the street would enhance public safety in that the FFD employee could act as "eyes and ears" of police. Certainly would be viewed favorably by the public

33. If pso result in more police staffing and it becomes the new "norm" what will be the new "norm" for EMS & fire staffing? Will residents of aurora, johnston and lemota find a new response "norm"?

This question assumes full PSO, not contemplated at this point

Cc: Mayor Cleworth
Fire Chief Cummings
Ass't Fire Chief Misewicz
Police Chief Zager

Attached: draft list

List of Potential Duties/Functions Added to FFD

	Topic	Comments/Follow up
a	Assist CSP	
b	Assist Title 47s	
c	Expand Fire Prevention – company inspections for obvious fire code issues at bars, events, commercial establishments, industrial operations etc.	
d	Assist VIPs at incident scenes	
e	Routine report-taking for property thefts	
f	Parking Citations related to emergency vehicle access/ fire hydrants, etc.	
1	District Attorney's Office Daily Run. A portion of the duties could easily be accomplished by a civilian such as dropping off criminal complaints, reports, subpoenas etc	
2	Court run – Much of this detail centers around dropping off items for criminal court (original city charging documents, search warrant returns, bench warrant summons' etc.) and items for probate which are most notably protective order return of service sheets	
3	Picking up paperwork at City Attorney, Clerks Office and mail room at city hall	
4	Landlord/tenant and other civil issues	
5	Correctable citations	
6	Child passenger safety seat checks and installations	
7	Creating calls in CAD, completing data entry and assigning/disposition of calls	
8	Police officer back ground checks (local checks through RMS/CAD)	
9	Picking up citations/stamps/paperwork at locations such as Graphic North Printing	

