

# **Service Differences Between City Fire Departments and Fire Districts**

- Governance, Funding, and System Considerations

# Service Differences – Fire Districts

- Independent Board of Directors
- Sole mission is Fire and EMS
- Budget and taxes are set solely for Fire Service needs

# Service Differences – City Fire Departments

- Operated as a department within a city government
- Reports to a City Manager/Administrator or Mayor
- Budget is approved by the City Council
- Policies are usually driven by City rules

# Funding Options – Fire Districts

- General Fund (Property Taxes)
- Bonds (Capital Projects, Infrastructure, Operating Expenses)
- Levies (Staffing and Hiring)
- SDCs (System Development Charges for Capital Improvements)

# Funding Options – City Fire Departments

- General Fund (Property Taxes)
- Bonds (Capital Projects, Infrastructure, Operating Expenses)
- Levies (Staffing and Hiring)
- SDCs (System Development Charges for Capital Improvements)
- Public Safety Fees (Water or Utility Fees)
- Loans or Intergovernmental Charges (Public Works)
- Transfer of funds between departments
- Urban Renewal Districts
- Split costs across departments (Legal, Finance, Procurement)

# Funding Challenges – Ambulance Transport

- Increased call volumes with decreased revenue
- Medicare and Medicaid caps (80–90% of transports)
- GEMT funding uncertainty
- Rising cost of supplies, equipment, and apparatus (technology-driven)

# Additional Challenges – Rural Ambulance Providers

- Low call volume with same operational costs
- Difficult to recruit and retain staffing
- Challenges providing ALS vs BLS
- Long transport times with limited resources

# Dispatch Systems Considerations

- Governance structure (City, County, ORS 190 IGA, Special District)
- Frontier vs Metro differences (staffing, technology, backup, infrastructure)
- Radio systems (P25, ownership, funding responsibility)
- CAD systems (priority dispatching, mobile data, event typing)

**Questions?**