

# The 4-1-1 on 9-1-1

Information Brief

October 2017



CITY OF JOHN DAY

# What is 9-1-1 Dispatch?

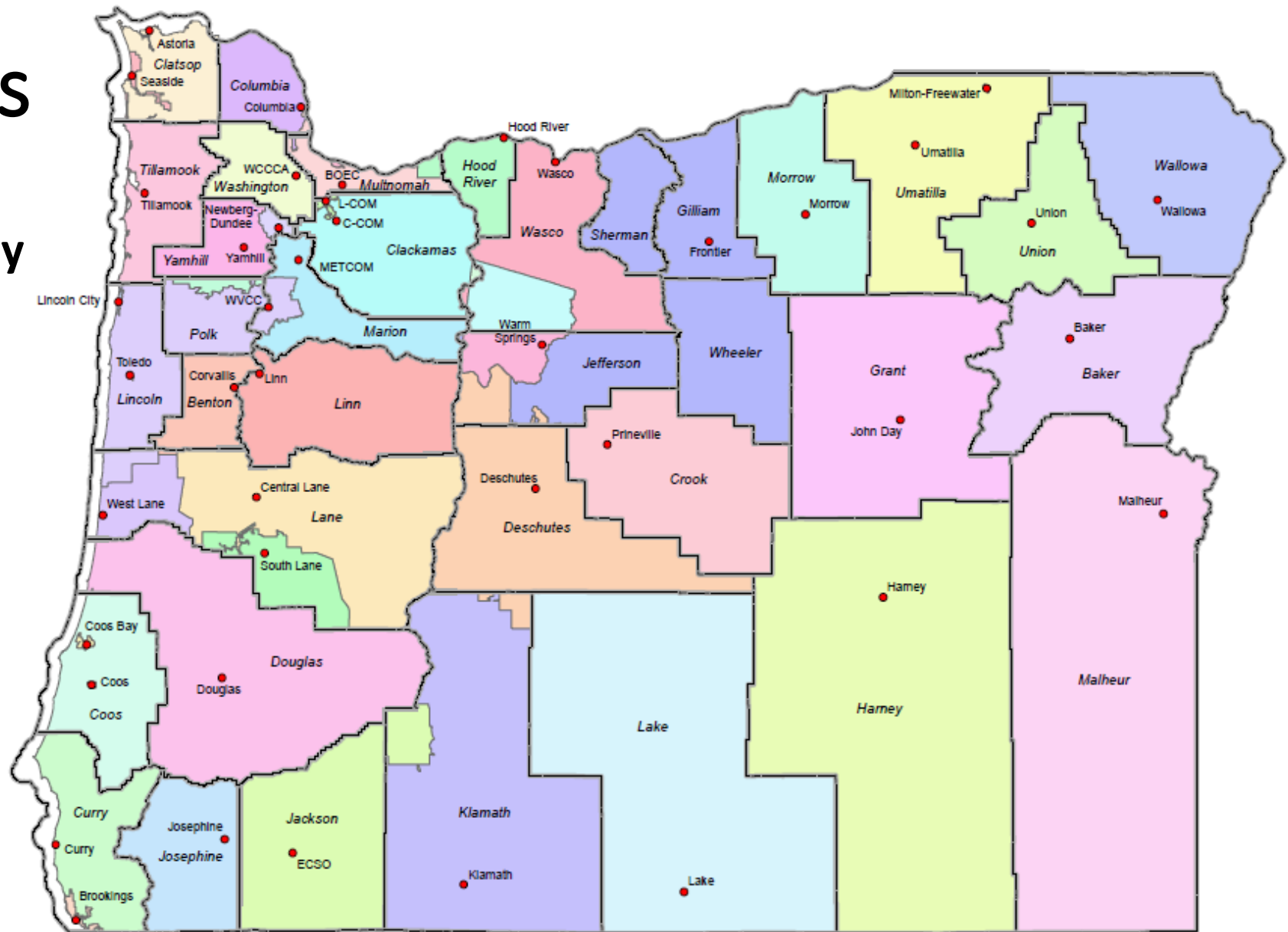
- The formal name for 9-1-1 emergency communications centers or dispatch centers throughout the state is **Public Safety Answer Point**, abbreviated PSAP
- There are currently **43 PSAPs in Oregon**
- The PSAP that services Grant County is called the **John Day Emergency Communications Center (ECC)**
- The John Day ECC employs **5.5 employees**, called **Telecommunicators**
- All employees must be **certified by the State of Oregon** through the Department of Public Safety, Standards and Training (DPSST)



# 43 PSAP Locations

## Eight (8) border Grant County

- Prineville
- Harney
- Malheur
- Baker
- Union
- Umatilla
- Morrow
- Frontier



# Basic Services

- The PSAP is **co-located with the John Day Police Department** at 450 E. Main Street in John Day
- **9-1-1 Service Area** is all of Grant County (4,529 square miles)
- The PSAP **serves 21 public agencies** in Grant County
- Answers both **9-1-1 emergency** and **non-emergency calls** (voice and radio)
- Also **accepts text-to-911**



# Agencies Served

## **Fire Departments (12) Served**

- Canyon City Fire Department
- Dayville Fire Department
- Granite Fire Department
- John Day Fire Department
- John Day Rural Fire Department
- Long Creek Fire Department
- Monument Fire Department
- Mt Vernon Fire Department
- Mt Vernon Rural Fire Department
- Prairie City Fire Department
- Prairie City Rural Fire Department
- Seneca Fire Department

## **Law Enforcement Agencies (4) Served**

John Day Police Department  
Grant County Sheriff's Office  
United States Forest Service  
Bureau of Land Management

## **Ambulances (5) Served**

John Day Ambulance - ALS  
Long Creek - BLS  
Monument Ambulance - ILS  
Prairie City Ambulance - ILS  
Seneca Ambulance - BLS



# Call Volume

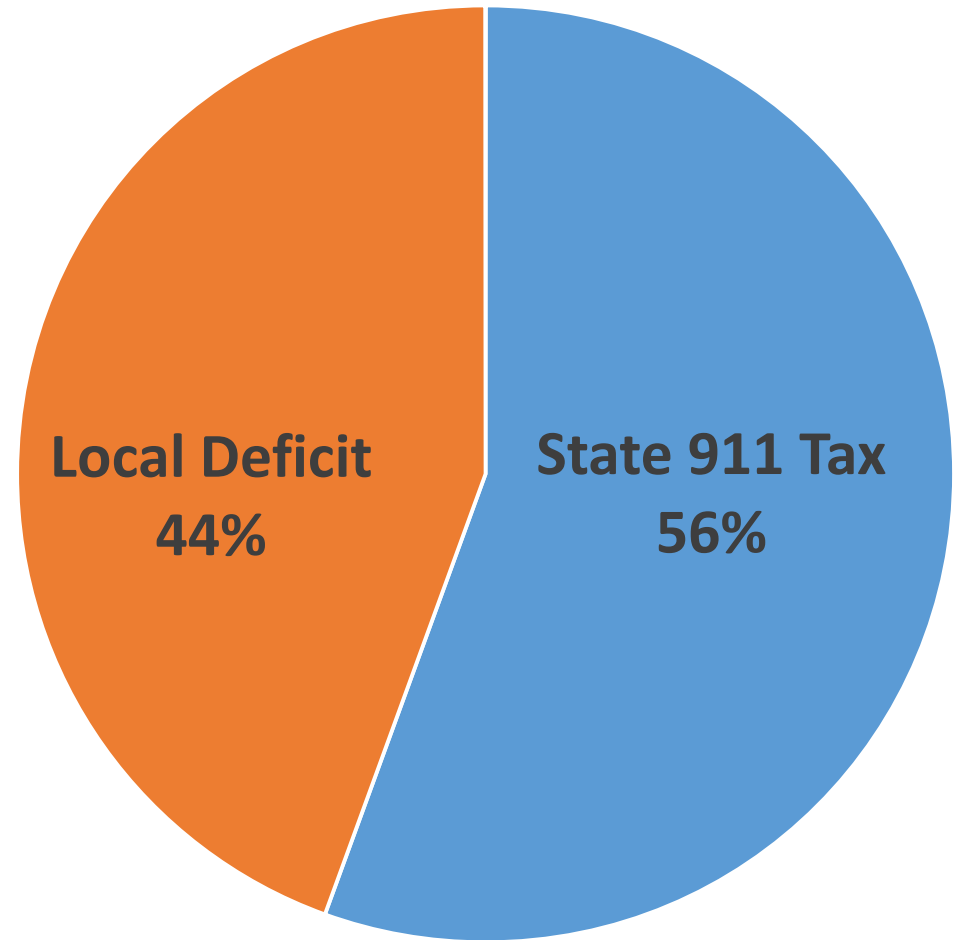
- **7,758 calls for service** in 2016 (**10% increase** over 2015)
- **2,723** were calls to **9-1-1** (one-in-three calls)
- **9-1-1 calls increased by 22%** year-over-year
- **Non-emergency calls increased 10%**



# Budgeting Basics

## Only partially funded by State 9-1-1 Tax

- **Cost to operate = \$450,000** per year
- **Revenue = \$250,000** per year  
(from State 9-1-1 tax)
- **Local Deficit = \$200,000** per year  
(from City of John Day and user fees)



**Issue #1:** Local deficit is growing faster than state revenue (cost curve)

**Issue #2:** How to pay for the local deficit?



# Issue #1) Cost curve is not sustainable

- **75-cent per month state tax** on telephones unchanged since 1990's
  - Tax applied to telephones initially
  - Expanded to include cellular and prepaid wireless
  - Total receipts increase with statewide population growth (more phones = more \$\$)
- **Costs increase faster than revenue**
  - Cost of living adjustment (1%)
  - Insurance increases (7-8% annually)
  - PERS performance in the market (variable)
  - Equipment and materials increases (3% annually)
  - Utility increases (4% in 2017)





## Issue #2) How do we fund the local deficit?

**X Option 1** – Increase revenue through statewide tax increase


**X Option 2** – Each city in Grant County pays their share of the cost

- **Option 3** – Increase revenue through local tax increase (county levy)
- **Option 4** – Merge the John Day PSAP with another PSAP (last option)

John Day City Council attempted on multiple occasions to increase the statewide tax (including letters to Governor and Representatives); succeeded in receiving \$420,000 on condition of County submitting a local option levy to voters but no statewide tax increase. Most cities have not committed to paying their share of the cost.



# Option 2) Based on population, how much should each city pay toward local deficit?



Jurisdiction (population)	Share of Deficit	Local Deficit (general fund)	What each agency actually pays...
John Day (1,735)	23.4%	\$46,640	\$103,162 (51.8%)
Prairie City (910)	12.3%	\$24,462	\$0
Canyon City (705)	9.5%	\$18,952	\$0
Mt Vernon (525)	7.1%	\$14,113	\$0
Seneca (215)	2.9%	\$5,780	\$0
Long Creek (195)	2.6%	\$5,242	\$0
Dayville (150)	2.0%	\$4,032	\$0
Monument (130)	1.8%	\$3,495	\$0
Granite (40)	0.5%	\$1,075	\$0
County Unincorporated (2,805)	37.9%	\$75,403	\$79,198 (39.8%)
Total Population (7,410)	100%	<b>\$199,194</b>	<b>\$182,360 (91.6%)*</b>



CITY OF JOHN DAY

\*Balance paid by EMS, Forest Service & other users

## Option 3) Countywide property tax levy

- **Shall the County impose a Local Option Tax to fund the 911 system not currently funded through the State imposed telephone tax?**
- Ballot measure referred to voters by Grant County Commission
- Will be mailed on October 18; Votes counted on November 7
- Cost estimated at 38 cents per \$1,000 assessed value (\$38 per year for a \$100,000 home)
- Tax levy is limited to five years
- Tax collected will be reduced or eliminated by the County Assessor if statewide revenue increases due to a change in the state 9-1-1 tax
- Tax will fund 9-1-1 operations until June 30, 2023



# Option 4) Merge with another PSAP

- Mergers are complex and require negotiating contracts for service
- Specific challenges:
  - **Technical connection** between their PSAP to our 21 agencies (network and telecommunications infrastructure for backhaul)
  - **Costs of service** must be negotiated and may not eliminate the local deficit
  - **Loss of local knowledge** from Grant County dispatchers
  - **Loss of six local jobs** (three paid by the State)
  - May experience **quality of service** issues during initial transition
- Merger process will begin immediately if local option levy fails
- If local option levy fails and no other revenue sources are obtained, the merger will be completed by June 30, 2019

