



Daniel B. Walton

County Fire Warden / County Fire Chief

Request for Proposal:

Fire Department Funding and Governance Analysis

Proposal Due By: November 7, 2019

Project Overview:

Tooele County is seeking proposals from reputable companies that specialize in financial planning & data analysis. The selected company will be hired to conduct a study on the feasibility of creating an additional fire district or service agency and the funding options that exist. Currently the majority of the unincorporated lands within Tooele County are only provided with fire department services through mutual aid agreements. These fire departments are underfunded and understaffed. Tooele County is experiencing a steady rate of growth and it is our concern that the current system we have in place to support these fire departments is not sustainable.

Project Goals

- We have three geographical options to explore:
 - Expand the North Tooele Fire District to be county wide including the few small municipalities that have requested to be included in the study.
 - All lands outside of the North Tooele Fire District.
 - Use the current Fire Department response zones to create multiple districts – 6 separate zones.
- Determine the strengths and weaknesses between two governance options; Fire Districts or Service Agencies.

Tooele Fire Warden / Fire Chief
15 East 100 South
Tooele, UT 84074

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- Determine the tax/revenue limitations and what funding is available within the proposed areas.
- We would like to know the legislative requirements associated with the implementation of any potential scenario.
- The study should be completed with ample time to put a proposed option on the ballot for the November 2020 election.

Scope of Work

The selected company will need to evaluate the current governance and funding system that exists in Tooele County and what options we have for an improved and more sustainable process. The study will need to evaluate the fiscal impacts relative to tax/revenue limitations and what potential exists for funding from the proposed areas. The generated report will evaluate the governance options and how the revenue models would look based on the current tax base that exists within the different geographical areas. The report will also need to outline the legislative requirements for implementing any proposed changes.

Current Roadblocks and Barriers to Success

- The Tooele County Fire Department is currently under the Sheriff's office and is comprised of one part time employee who oversees two volunteer fire departments and has numerous administrative duties. The amount of time that he will be able to commit to this process will be limited.
- Four out of the six small volunteer fire departments that provide mutual aid services to the unincorporated lands within Tooele County are managed by incorporated towns. Even though these towns have expressed interest in being included in the study, there is a history of resistance to change.
- Resistance for the county wide model; the North Tooele Fire district is comprised of the majority of the tax base that exists within Tooele County. There may not be ample additional revenue to make the district expansion palatable.

- The unincorporated lands outside of the North Tooele Fire District are vast landscapes with limited taxable entities.

Elements of Proposal

A submission must, at a minimum, include the following elements:

- Description of the firm that includes a general overview, names and credentials of the proposed team.
- A narrative outlining the firm's strengths and distinguishing skill or capabilities as they might relate to the proposed study.
- A list of similar projects the team has worked on as well as respective references.

Submissions

Tooele County has budgeted \$15,000 for this study. Proposals should be submitted to me before the deadline of November 7th, 2019.



Daniel B. Walton

10-8-19

Date



November 5, 2019

Daniel B. Walton
County Fire Warden/County Fire Chief
15 East 100 South
Tooele, UT 84074

RE: PROPOSAL FOR FIRE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Dear Chief Walton:

Zions Public Finance, Inc. (ZPFI) is pleased to submit this Proposal to evaluate the feasibility of various options for the provision of fire services in Tooele County, including governance and funding strategies. ZPFI recently worked with Riverdale, South Ogden and Washington Terrace to conduct a similar study and is currently conducting a study for Payson and Santaquin to evaluate the feasibility of joint provision of fire/EMS services.

In addition, ZPFI has extensive experience working with both special service districts and local districts and understands their structure and governance. A sample of our experience includes the Unified Fire Authority (UFA), North Davis Fire District, Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA), Utah Transit Authority (UTA), Snyderville Basin Special Recreation District (SBSRD), Weber Fire District, Kearns Improvement District, Hooper Water Improvement District, Castle Valley SSD, Metropolitan Water SSD, Coral Canyon SSD, Snyderville Water Reclamation District, Twin Creeks SSD, Mountain Regional Water SSD, Magna Water Improvement District, Timberlakes SSD, Taylorsville-Bennion Improvement District, Mountain Green Fire District, Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service District and Jordanelle Special Service District. In addition, we have prepared public safety (including fire and EMS) impact fees for numerous cities.

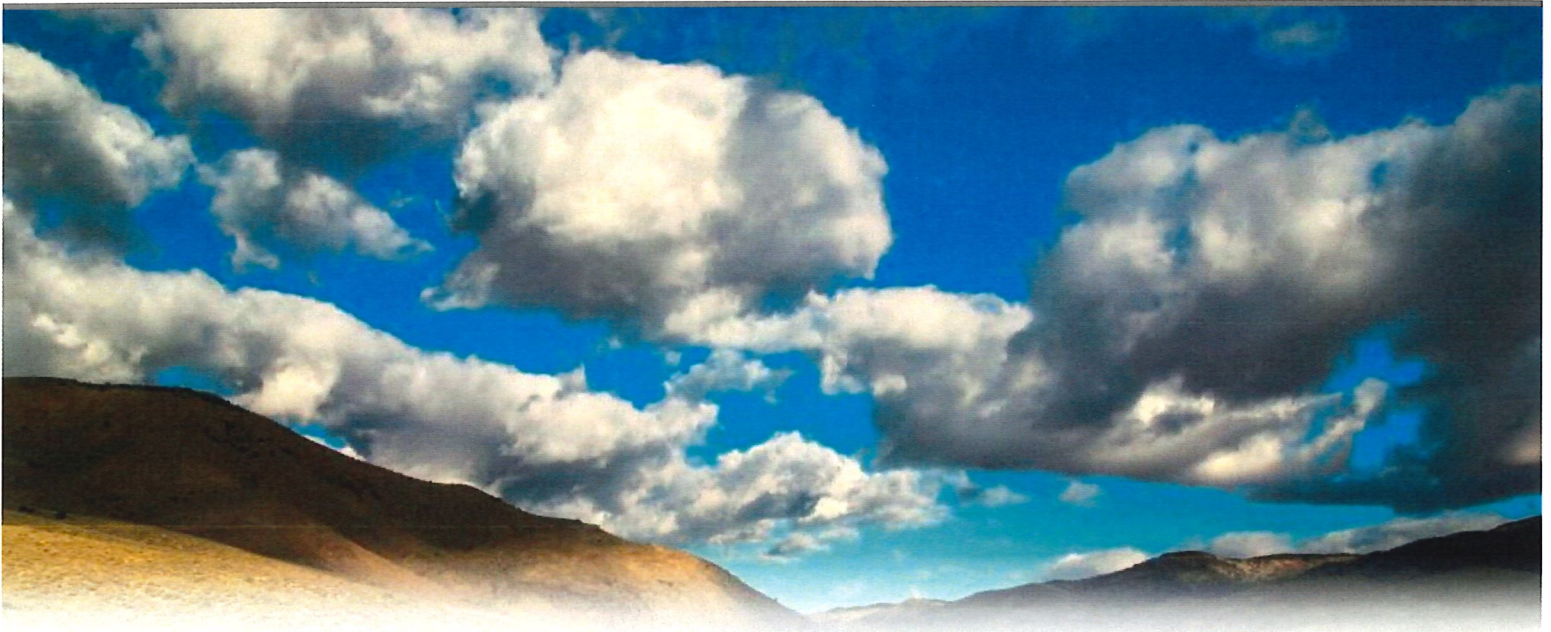
We are excited to work with you on this important project. Please let us know if we can provide you with any further information.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susie Becker".

Susie Becker
Vice President, Zions Public Finance, Inc.

PROPOSAL FOR
TOOELE COUNTY, UTAH
FIRE FUNDING AND
GOVERNANCE ANALYSIS



NOVEMBER 2019
LEWIS YOUNG ROBERTSON & BURNINGHAM, INC.

LEWIS  YOUNG
ROBERTSON & BURNINGHAM, INC.

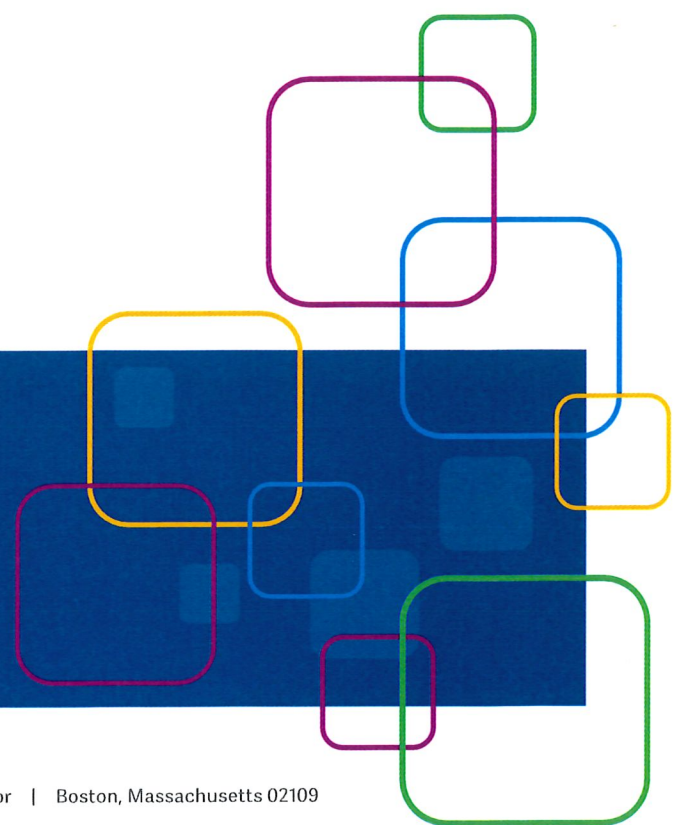
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(P) 801-596-0700 - (TF) 800-581-1100 - (F) 801-596-2800 - WWW.LEWISYOUNG.COM

Tooele County

Fire Department Funding and Governance Analysis

November 7, 2019

Daniel B. Walton
Fire Chief
15 East 100 South
Tooele, UT 84074



Fire Funding and Governance Analysis – Tooele County – Fall 2019

Justification for Proposal Selection

Tooele County posted a request for proposal in search of a reputable company to conduct a Fire Funding and Governance Analysis in October of 2019. Upon the deadline of November 7th the County had received back three proposals which included the scope of work, company credentials, and a price associated with conducting the study. These are the three Firms and their quoted costs:

Lewis, Young, Robertson, and Burningham (LYRB): \$10,900

Public Consulting Group (PCG): \$12,500

Zion's Public Finance, Inc. (ZPFI): \$15,000

After further review of the proposed team's, their individual credentials, similar project history, and business references; it was determined that either the Public Consulting Group or Zion's Public Finance would be the most appropriate agency to conduct the study. They both have compiled a 5 member teams and identified specific roles and duties for each individual, compared to the 2 person team proposed by LYRB. The workflows in their proposals seemed to have been better thought out or articulated, and include much more detail when compared with the LYRB proposal. Additionally, throughout the bidding process I found LYRB's response time to phone messages and correspondence lacking punctuality. This led me to believe that they may not have time in their schedule to focus enough time on this project to produce a quality product in the allotted timeframe.

After determining that PCG and ZPFI were the top contenders to be awarded the bid, it came down to the cost quoted in the proposals. Zions Public Finance had previously mentioned to me that the budgeted \$15,000 may not have been adequate to accomplish the amount of work that was requested in the request for proposal, and that is why they requested the full amount. This leaves some concern that ZPFI will not be able to provide the required personnel hours to fully complete the project. Whereas Public Consulting Group has come in under budget, provided a thorough proposal, expressed excitement to work on the project, as well as the other factors listed above, the decision was made to select their agency to conduct the study.

Daniel Walton
Tooele County Fire Warden

11/19/2019
Date