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	<p>For September 26, 2022 City Council Meeting Re: Agenda Item 6.d. Fire Department Information Report To. Mayor Bennett, City Councilors, and Staff, My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Ward 1. I am a Co-Coordinator of 350 Salem OR, local affiliate of climate justice organization 350.org. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on agenda item 6.d. the Information Report from Fire Chief Niblock. This expands on a comment delivered orally. We are grateful for the courage, hard work and collaborative effort by the Salem Fire Department to contain the recent Vitae Springs fire. At the last City Council meeting Chief Niblock reported on that effort and on the challenges of also responding to two structure fires, one that destroyed two houses, as well as 100 other calls. There is a better way to meet such challenges. Almost all emergencies involving the Fire Department are medical. Rather than continuing the expensive, wasteful practice of sending both fire trucks and ambulances on medical calls, Salem needs more ambulances and rapid response vehicles, deployed where they can achieve desired response times. Compared to fire trucks, ambulances are smaller, more fuel efficient, and equipped to transport patients as well as stabilize them. This will reduce wear and tear on fire trucks and ensure that firefighters and trucks are ready and available for fighting fires. The Bond measure, which we support for its opportunities to improve safety and convenience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with disabilities, also offers a once in a generation chance to move the Salem Fire Department into the 21st century. Trucks and equipment purchased now will last for decades. It's critical to make sure that this money is used for vehicles that align with Salem's climate goals, make smart use of new technologies, and make careful use of city funds. References to some of these opportunities are included below. Climate change is here and will bring more fires like Vitae Springs. The Santiam Canyon fires two years ago came dangerously close to Salem. At the same time as Salem needs to prepare for climate impacts, we also must do our part to reduce climate-changing emissions. This means applying a climate lens to city policies, practices, and purchases. Business as usual is no longer an option. Resources: • Electric emergency vehicles are coming into use in Portland, Los Angeles and other cities in the US, Canada and Europe. Electric fire and medical emergency vehicles will cut back on greenhouse gas and toxic</p>

Message

emissions, lower fuel and maintenance costs, and reduce dependence on volatile war-implicated oil markets. • Smaller more nimble, less expensive, less polluting vehicles can be tailored for particular situations. • Eliminate the wasteful practice of sending both fire trucks and ambulances to medical emergencies. This duplication produces unnecessary greenhouse gas and toxic emissions and unnecessary wear and tear on fire trucks. I know from experience, it is intrusive for people and families in the midst of a medical crisis. As is the case around the country, a very small percentage of emergency calls in Salem are for actual fires. In addition to effective deployment of ambulances, specialized small rapid response vehicles, even motorcycles and bicycles can maneuver quickly to get medical assistance to an emergency situation. In cases of minor illness or injury, a rapid response team may be all that's needed. For serious cases, first responders can quickly provide critical assistance and call an ambulance. Salem needs to stop doing things the same old way and get smart about public safety. There are alternatives and innovations that can save money, improve emergency response, and align with climate goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Several resources addressing these issues are provided below. I would like to highlight a few: Phil Keisling, Senior Fellow and retired Director of Portland State University Center for Public Service, and former Oregon Secretary of State, in an article for Governing titled "Why we Need to Take the 'Fire' out of 'Fire' Department," discusses the decades long decline in fires and rise in medical situations calling for emergency response. Yet all too often both fire trucks and ambulances are sent out. Keisling says, "While firefighters' working realities have changed profoundly in recent decades, their government structures and operating protocols remain largely frozen in bureaucratic amber." His research team identified both alternative vehicles and alternative response protocols to improve efficiency and save costs. He goes on to say, "Unnecessarily high operating costs are the most visible result of clinging to an expensive, "just-in-case" delivery model for this core public service. Another is the unnecessary wear and tear on expensive fire trucks, which can easily cost \$1 million or more." Quoted in a piece on NPR, Keisling suggested moving resources from large firefighting staffs. "And it's not anti-firefighter, it's not anti-union, and it's not anti-government," he says. "It's just, why aren't we taking limited resources and deploying them in a smarter way?" -- Pierce, a Wisconsin-based manufacturer of fire trucks, announced in an October 2021 press release "a joint development agreement with the City of Portland, Oregon Fire and Rescue to place a Pierce® Volterra™ zero-emissions pumper into service with the city's busiest station, Madison, WI, Los Angeles, CA and Mesa, AZ also have or will soon have electric fire trucks. "An Ode to Miniature Fire Trucks" in Streets Blog USA in May 2021 shows that smaller fire trucks and appropriately sized response vehicles are compatible with safer, narrower streets. The Eugene Springfield Fire Department has an electric Rapid Responder from Eugene-based EV manufacturer Arcimoto. Falck, the company that operates ambulance service in Salem, has developed an electric ambulance. Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue has a variety of vehicles to provide the most appropriate response to an emergency REFERENCES: Emergency Medical Response Reviving EMS | CBCNY The Citizens Budget Commission (CBC) <https://cbcny.org/research/reviving-ems> Why We Need to Take the 'Fire' Out of 'Fire Department' (PSU Senior Fellow Phil Keisling) <https://www.governing.com/archive/col-fire-departments-rethink-delivery-emergency-medical-services.html> Sending Firetrucks For Medical Calls : Shots - Health News : NPR

shots/2017/04/11/523025987/why-send-a-firetruck-to-do-an-ambulances-job
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue - Response Cars & Medic Units
<https://www.tvfr.com/163/Response-Cars-Medic-Units> Driving the Future - Falck
Launches Unique Electric Ambulance
<https://www.falckambulance.co.uk/news/Driving-the-Future---Falck-Launches-Unique-Electric-Ambulance/38> "Rapid Responder" made by Eugene EV company
Arcimoto. <https://www.arcimoto.com/rapid-responder> Smaller Fire Trucks The Big
Red Guide - Your Guide to the Fire Industry: 25 Small Fire Trucks
<https://www.thebigredguide.com/vehicles/size-capacity--small.html> An Ode to the
Miniature Fire Truck – Streetsblog USA <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2021/05/04/an-ode-to-the-miniature-fire-truck/> Electric Fire Trucks Pierce & Portland Fire and
Rescue Joint Development Agreement for Volterra Electric Pumper
<https://www.piercemfg.com/pierce/press-release/pierce-and-portland-fire-and-rescue-secure-joint-development-agreement-for-volterra-electric-pumper> Los
Angeles Electric fire truck <https://www.hotcars.com/lafd-is-getting-its-first-ever-electric-fire-truck/> <https://www.livekindly.co/la-electric-fire-truck-clean-energy-future/> Mesa AZ E-One first electric fire truck in North America
<https://interestingengineering.com/e-one-is-delivering-the-first-fully-electric-fire-truck-in-north-america> <https://electrek.co/2021/11/01/rev-group-receives-order-to-build-first-fully-electric-fire-truck-in-north-america/> Electric fire trucks - Fire
Fighting in Canada <https://www.firefightingincanada.com/electric-fire-trucks/>
Wave of the future: Electric fire pumps are more than simply green technology
<https://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-apparatus/articles/wave-of-the-future-electric-fire-pumpers-are-more-than-simply-green-technology-EMnQvN3wonDMVRfh/> Rochester (MN) Fire Department Displays Fuel-Efficient
Apparatus <https://www.fireapparatusmagazine.com/fire-apparatus/rochester-mn-fire-department-displays-fuel-efficient-apparatus/#gref>

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