



YOUR CITY

THE CITY OF CENTRALIA NEWSLETTER • MARCH/APRIL 2006

Partnering for Progress



For the past several years, operations of the Centralia Fire Department and Lewis County Fire District 12 (FD 12) have become more closely integrated and coordinated through a number of intergovernmental agreements designed to remove boundaries, improve initial response staffing, improve emergency medical service to our citizens and improve training coordination.

One of these agreements established a "Joint Board" composed of representatives from both FD 12 and the Centralia City Council. The Board has guided new strategies and concepts, including a cooperative agreement with American Medical Response.

For the past six months, the Joint Board has been reviewing how a more closely integrated system might provide better service and possibly reduce costs. An advisory group of stakeholders was formed - stakeholders who had an interest in quality fire and life safety services. The group included fire professionals, businessmen, educators and the general public. They met frequently, and worked diligently, to investigate alternatives, reach conclusions and make recommendations to the Joint Board. In January 2006, the Joint Board, with support from the advisory group, presented a proposal to further streamline the operations of the Centralia Fire

Department and FD 12, which was unanimously accepted. The result is a consolidation of administrative management, and the first step toward a potential full merger into one department.

The City of Centralia and Lewis County Fire District 12 are now operating under a one year agreement, which provides for common leadership. New recommendations will emerge toward the end of 2006 to set the strategy for the future.

Thank you to Centralia Chief Richard Small, FD 12 Chief Mike Kytta, the Joint Board and citizens who participated in the stakeholder advisory group for making this concept a reality.

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."