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News Release

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Cowlitz 911 Selects Longview Fire Chief Phil Jurmu as Authority's First Executive Director

The Cowlitz 911 Public Authority Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of Phil Jurmu to serve as the new agency's first Executive Director. Mr. Jurmu has served the City of Longview Fire Department for over 25 years, and as its Fire Chief since 2012. Throughout his career in public service, he has worked in all functional areas of the fire department including dispatch center liaison. As a chief officer, he has been deeply involved in the administration function of the agency and has been an active member of the Communication Center's Executive Board as the Cowlitz County Fire Chiefs' representative. Mr. Jurmu also serves as an elected board member for the Longview School District.

"I am very excited for this unique opportunity to serve Cowlitz County's citizens and emergency response agencies in this new role," said Jurmu. "The challenges ahead are complex and will require collaboration and coordination with the agencies and representatives of the new Public Authority Board. I am honored to be entrusted with this key role in emergency services."

The Board completed the interview and selection process and voted unanimously to offer the position to Mr. Jurmu at its August 8th regular board meeting. The Cowlitz 911 transition team will develop and negotiate an employment agreement for consideration and approval by the Board later this month. The Executive Director position will initially be employed through Cowlitz County. The Director will transition to the new standalone public authority along with the current employees of the 911 Comm Center once the operational transition is complete in January 2019.

"On behalf of the Authority Board, I welcome Phil Jurmu to the executive team," said Kelso City Manager and Cowlitz 911 Chair Steve Taylor. "Phil's many years of effective public sector leadership, longtime involvement with the Comm Center, and strong partnerships with public safety agencies have prepared him to step into this role and hit the ground running. We look forward to working with Phil and providing the support necessary to address the Authority's priorities and challenges in delivering quality emergency communications services to Cowlitz County residents."

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