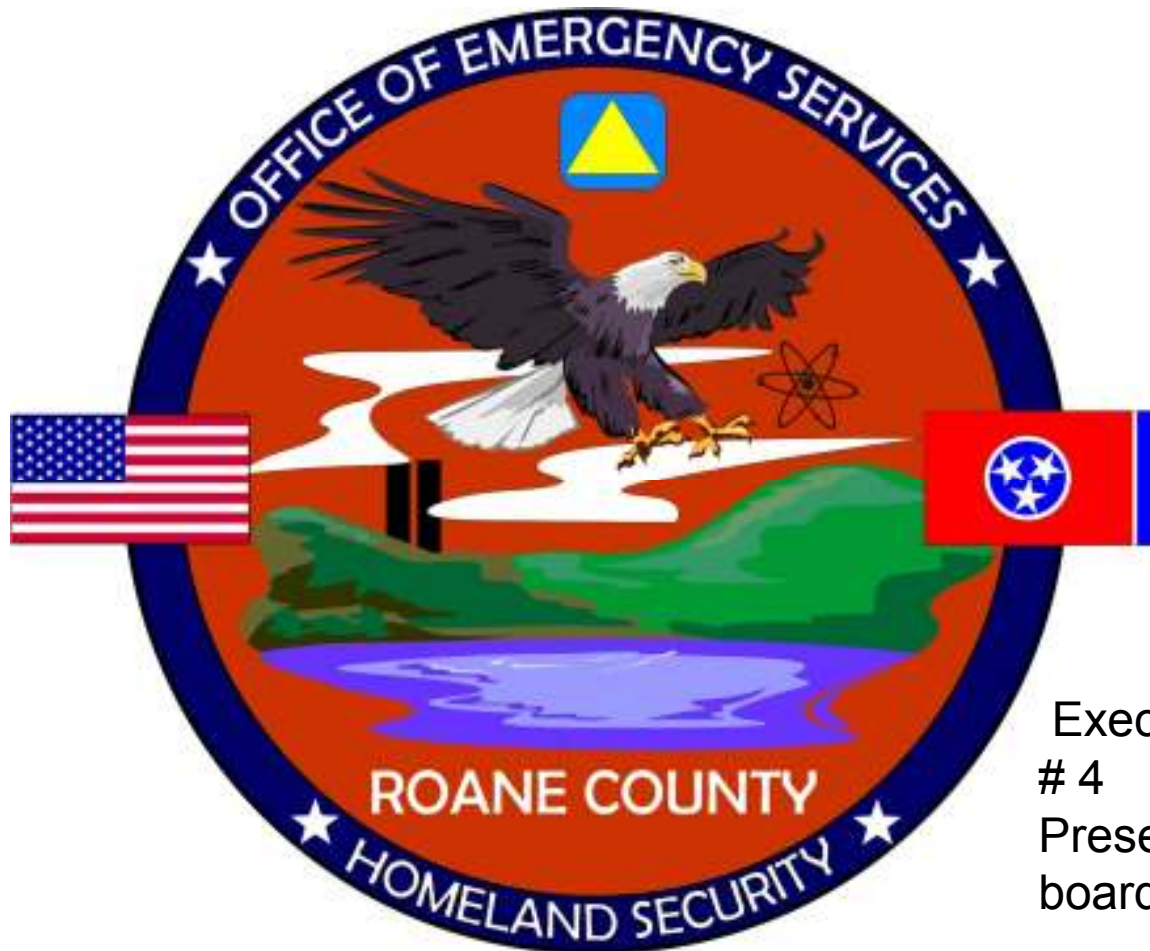
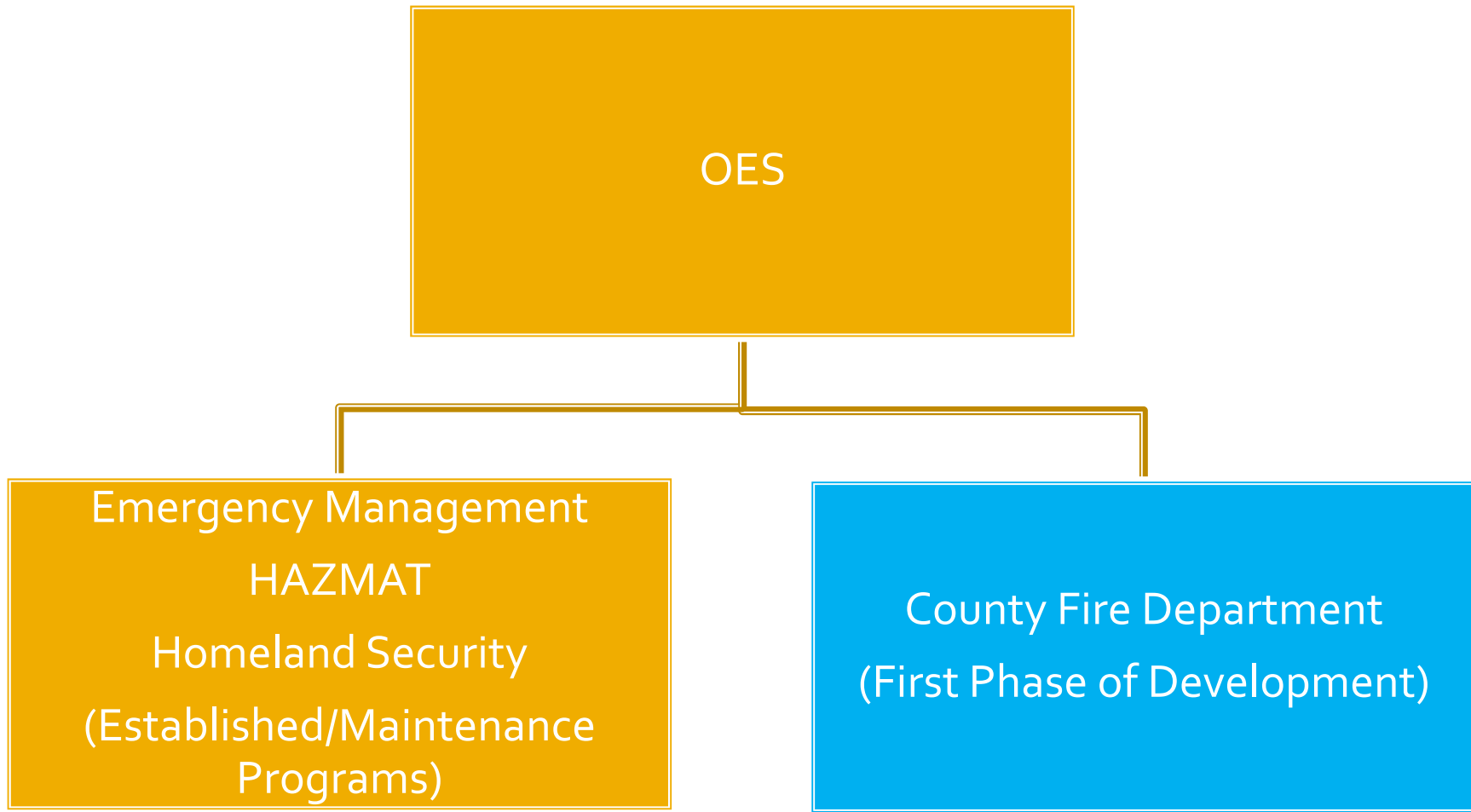


Roane County Office of Emergency Services



Executive Summary
4
Presented to Fire
board 12-14-10

Roane County Office of Emergency Services



State of Roane Rural Fire Protection

- Served by County Fire Department (4 from OES and 2 from fund 111)
- Served by 5 independent volunteer fire departments
- Served by Building and Codes Enforcement (new construction)
 - Lack of annual fire prevention inspections
 - Lack of fire sprinkler requirements

Roane County Fire Department (Where We Started)

- 2007 – Directive to Emergency Management by County Executive to assist volunteer fire departments to lower ISO fire rating
- 2008 – Study on rural fire suppression service completed by EMA/CTAS
 - Study findings:
 - Manpower shortage per ISO-NFPA requirements
 - Inadequate response times per ISO-NFPA requirements
- 2008 - Roane County Commission creates Roane County Fire Department and combines with EMA creating the Roane County Office of Emergency Services
- 2008 – Roane County Commission levies fire tax (creates fund 111 total appropriation of \$438529.00)

Roane County Fire Department (Where We Started)

- **June 16, 2008** – Resolution #06-08-08 name change to the Roane County Office of Emergency Services and creation of the Roane County Fire Department.
- Establishes steering committee, Volunteer Fire Chiefs and OES Director
- Established Contractual relationship between Roane County and VFD's

What We've Done/Doing

- Fire Hydrants (54 hydrants since 2008) Average \$3200 each
- Hired 2 full time equivalent firefighters to prop up VFD response (730am-330pm) (Midtown)
- OES Staff respond to all structure fires and are trained firefighters
- Purchased equipment for VFDs'(nozzles, ladders, fire hose)
- Increased contract payments to VFDs' \$35,000 to \$40,000 in 2010
- ISO evaluation assistance to continue for Blair VFD (2011)
- ISO reduction for East/Midtown

Trends/Possibilities

- Trends
 - National, Regional, Local trends are:
 - Decreasing Public Volunteerism
 - Decreasing Public Financial Donations
 - Subscription Service
 - Increased Fire Tax
- Possibilities (Slides 7-11)
 - Do Nothing
 - Expand the Staffing and Funding Support for VFD's
 - Enhance County Fire Presence
 - Subscription Service

Do Nothing

- Trends continue
- Decrease in number of volunteers
- Decrease in donations
- Decrease in services (longer response times, fewer number of firefighters on scene, increase life and property loss)
- Negative ISO ratings (higher insurance cost)

Expand the Staffing and Funding Support for VFD's

- Expand staffing by placing 2 daytime (730am – 330pm Mon-Fri) firefighters in all VFD districts
- What will these firefighter cost? Mon – Fri 730 -330 (\$48,000 per position per shift not including overtime)- for each 24 hours coverage (M-F) \$150,000.00
 - 2 firefighter on duty 24 hours (M-F)= \$300,000
 - 5 districts x 2 firefighter= \$1.5million
- This excludes operational cost and part-time/overtime cost
- Lack of central oversight
- Lack of accountability
- Questionable ISO sustainability

Enhance County Fire Presence

- Review models of successful county fire operations
 - Bradley County 8-24 hour firefighter (2 stations) (8 stations staffed with volunteers)
 - Cumberland County 5-24 hours fighters (1 main station) (volunteers staff other stations)
 - Rutherford County plan in place to move toward Bradley County model.
- Operational analysis for Emergency Services

Subscription Service

- County Government cannot support fire protection with revenue and also have subscription service
- Disproportionate funding
- Profit based service (priority issues)

Where do we need to go?