In March of 2013, the Black Diamond Council elected to explore the options available for the long-term provision of Fire and Emergency Medical Services in the City. This exploration of options is not a commitment to change, but simply an exploration of available options.

Currently under an agreement first signed in 2006, Mountain View Fire and Rescue provides emergency services to the City operating the District and City Fire Departments as one Department.

In August of 2013, this decision for a study was formalized in Resolution 13-883 and established the Ad Hoc Committee to explore long-term Fire and Emergency Medical service models, available to the City. The Committee consists of the Black Diamond Public Safety Committee (Council members Taylor and Deady) and Mountain View Fire and Rescue Board Commissioners Farrell and Valentine-McKinney. Also serving on the Committee are Fire Chief Greg Smith and Deputy Chief Mike Barlow.

Under the current laws of Washington State, there are four primary methods of providing these emergency services. Each of these are included in the study.

- Stand Alone City Operated Fire Department
- Interlocal Agreement Contract for Services
- Annexation of a City into a Fire District
- Regional Fire Protection Services Authority

The Committee’s scope of work is to explore and study the viability, sustainability, and financial impact of these various models to provide fire protection and emergency medical services within the City. The Committee has no authority to act upon any action to change the current method of protection. At the end of this study, the Committee will provide the Council recommendations related to a long-term service model for the City.

Two of these methods for protection can be decided upon by the Council. The Stand Alone and the Interlocal Agreement (as currently being utilized) do not require a vote of the Citizens. Both the Annexation of the City into the District and Regional Fire Authority options would require a simple majority vote of the Citizens of the City. There is no existing urgent requirement for any change to the current method being utilized. The marching orders of the Committee are to explore the “long-term” Fire and Emergency Medical Service models that the Council may wish to consider and further study. The Committee hopes to wrap up the study and provide the Council with a list of recommendations by the end of the year. Any change to current methods of fire service delivery in Black Diamond would not take place until after further studies, public hearings and in some cases as identified above, a vote of the Citizens. All of these meetings are open to the public and posted on the City Web Page Calendar in advance.