



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Rural, Bend, Sunriver Chambers Funding Requests

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Chambers of Commerce of La Pine, Redmond and Sisters together submitted a request for an allocation of \$60,000 each from the Video Lottery Fund to support small businesses in their respective areas of operation, thereby promoting economic development.

The Sunriver Chamber of Commerce has requested \$65,000: \$45,000 for continued baseline support and \$20,000 to hire a part-time employee to assist the executive director. The Bend Chamber of Commerce requests \$75,000 to support its workforce housing program.

Finance Department staff will provide a supplemental memorandum with the current Video Lottery Fund balance, and an analysis of revenues and expenditures over the past five years. The analysis will include a summary of Video Lottery and ARPA funds to local chambers.

As the Board considers these requests, it is important to note that the County has a practice of granting one-year funding allocations. There are not any multi-year commitments for Video Lottery funding support.

In addition, the County has a longstanding process of completing Video Lottery allocations for the upcoming fiscal year each spring during the budget development process. That process has already been completed for Fiscal Year 2024. Any allocations the Board makes will require budget adjustments. The Board could consider these requests during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget development process, which will occur in March 2024.

ORS §461.512 provides that video lottery money received by counties must be targeted to "further economic development." ORS §461.547 confirms that monies received by counties must be directed to "economic development activities." ORS §461.540 provides a list of permissible expenditures for economic development:

- Creating jobs;

- Preventing loss of jobs;
- Training and retraining of workers;
- Services or financial assistance to businesses located or to be located in Oregon;
- Services or financial assistance to business or industry associations to promote, expand or prevent decline of business; or
- Services or financial assistance for “development projects” benefitting Oregon’s economy and as authorized by ORS §285B.410 (ORS §285B.410 identifies “development projects” as the acquisition, improvement, construction, demolition or redevelopment of municipal utilities, buildings, land, facilities).

Options:

1. Decline one or more funding requests.
2. Defer decisions to the Fiscal Year 2025 budget process.
3. Supplement existing Fiscal Year 2024 allocations for Sisters and Sunriver and consider new Fiscal Year 2024 funding allocations for Bend, Redmond and/or La Pine Chambers.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

To be determined by the Board.

ATTENDANCE:

Nick Lelack, County Administrator

Laura Skundrick, Management Analyst