



MEMORANDUM

Date: Nov. 29, 2023

TO: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce Finance Committee

RE: Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 Budget Request

The Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce kindly requests the continued financial support of the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners for the 2024-25 fiscal year. The chamber appreciates the grant it received for the current fiscal year and has taken great care to use the funds to benefit the Sunriver community.

In 2023, the chamber created new programs and events, and built and reestablished partnerships to benefit the businesses, nonprofit organizations and community members in South Deschutes County.

Highlights of the chamber's work in 2023 include:

- Hosts two networking events a month except in the summer
- Publishes two weekly newsletters
- Promotes businesses and nonprofit organizations via its social media
- Meets individually with businesses to discuss their concerns or provide assistance
- Partnered with several businesses to host Sunriver Solar Soiree in October
- Started the Sunriver Saturday Market, held once a month from June to October
- Created the content and published the Sunriver Magazine
- Worked with businesses to have a canned food drive to benefit Care & Share
- Held a pumpkin carving contest with The Village at Sunriver with the winner receiving a check to its favorite charity
- Hosted a career exploration and inspirational lunch for the middle school girls at Three Rivers School
- Partnered with the La Pine Chamber of Commerce to host the annual State of the County Breakfast
- Supported many nonprofits as a volunteer including the Sunriver Music Festival, La Pine Chamber of Commerce, Sunriver Women's Club, Care & Share and SLED
- Serve as a committee member for the Newberry Regional Partnership

- Currently hosting the second annual Ornament Quest – a Shop Sunriver event

None of this work would be possible without the support of Deschutes County. While great strides have been made to increase membership and many businesses are returning as members after a hiatus, the chamber requests continued support to meet its goals to serve the businesses and nonprofits in South Deschutes County.

The chamber’s plans for 2024-25 include hosting the annual breakfast, a career exploration lunch for middle school students and networking events; serving on the Newberry Regional Partnership committee; having a fundraiser; and continuing with the events established in 2023 including the canned food drive and Sunriver Saturday Market.

The chamber’s finance committee has carefully reviewed its financial needs and developed a budget request of \$65,000 for the fiscal year 2024-2025, an increase of \$15,000 from the previous fiscal year of \$50,000. This would allow us to maintain our basic operations while having funds to hire a part-time employee. Currently, the chamber only has one employee – the executive director.

The chamber has worked diligently to show businesses there is a value in being a chamber member. In order for the chamber to continue to make strides, an additional employee needs to be hired.

For our baseline operations, we are requesting \$45,000. This will allow us to continue to offer the services mentioned earlier, including business development, education and training, and advocacy. We also could continue to offer traditional services that our local businesses, visitors, and our community have come to expect from our chamber, such as business referrals, and providing promotional information about Sunriver’s special amenities, recreational opportunities, and events and activities.

We are requesting an \$20,000 to hire a part-time employee to assist the executive director.

In summary, the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce total budget request is as follows:

Continued Baseline Support:	\$45,000
Hire a part-time employee	\$20,000
TOTAL REQUEST:	<u>\$65,000</u>

We are available anytime to discuss this proposal in additional detail and to answer any questions you might have. Our chamber office number is 541-593-8149 or you can email Executive Director Kristine Thomas at exec@sunriverchamber.com. Thank you for considering this request.

Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Finance Committee:

Ryan Duley, Sunriver Brewing, Chamber Board President

Aaron Schofield, Branch Manager, First Interstate Bank, Chamber Board Treasurer

Keith Kessar, Assistant General Manager, Sunriver Owners Association

Thomas Samwel, Area Director of Finance, Sunriver Resort Limited Partnership, Chamber Board Member