



Alfalfa Fire District
25889 Alfalfa Market Rd.
Bend, Or 97701
541-382-2333 Station

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this proposal on behalf of the Alfalfa Fire District for the request of \$150,000 in funds to help complete construction of the Alfalfa Fire District Station 901.

These funds are being requested to help with completion of the Fire Station construction to bring our project to 100 percent completion. As we considered an essential facility by both state and local regulation, we are seeking funds to help with the installation of a well, Our backup generator, and to complete paving around the building. As a newly formed Fire District and the newest one in not only Deschutes County, but in the State of Oregon, we receive tax revenue from the district as our only stream of revenue. As a small district we have imposed the maximum tax assessment we are allowed by the state at \$1.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

This tax rate brings in approx. \$147,000 per year. The smallest of any Fire District in Deschutes County. Our budget consists of the following-

Personnel Services-\$59,000 (Pt Fire Chief, Health ins, Workers Compensation)

Materials and Services-\$46,982 (Operation of building and vehicle maintenance)

Debt Services-\$38,844 (loan repayment for station loan to construct)

Equipment reserve fund-\$5,000 (To replace aging fleet)

Building reserve fund-\$2,000 (Building maint)

Contingency-\$30,000

Capital Outlay-\$122,421 (cost includes Federal Grant which we factor in but may not receive)

Resources-

Available cash on hand-\$53,000

Interest \$70.00

Federal Grant for Equipment-\$104,100

Taxes-\$147,077

The taxes we receive allow for Approx. \$2,000 a year to help maintain the Fire Station. As we are a new Fire District, we have looked at the option for a bond or levy which the community will not support. We have looked at USDA, as well as other loans to help complete the projects needed to finalize and make our building truly and “essential” building. These funds were either not available due to financial constraints, or due to the district being out of the median income requirements because we share the 97701-zip code. The median household income of Alfalfa is represented by the 97701-zip code and has put us well above median incomes for most loans or grants for these types of projects. The Fire Station itself has seen a lot of time and money put into it by the volunteers themselves. As of April 1, 2022, the Volunteers have donated \$22,480 of our own money to complete interior projects such as office space, training room, day use room and grounds maintenance. This does not factor in what we would have paid for labor to have had someone come do the work. The Firefighters are invested in this Department and want to see the continued success we have strived for. This has included help with wildfires in the region, as well as conflagrations around the state to which we have never missed a call for help. This is relatively unheard of with an all-volunteer Fire Department. As well as 24 hr. continued Fire and Ems services to our community.

The funds we are requesting will go to various projects such as a well for a continuous water supply. In the event of a large-scale emergency, we only have 1000 gal of water in a cistern to supply the station. If the building was used by the community to shelter or to be used as a command center for operation, we would have to rely on water delivery to sustain operation. The cost of this well is Approx. \$40,000 based on quotes we are gathering.

Second would be the backup generator installation. We have purchased a backup generator which was funded by both the Fire District, as well as Volunteers pitching in to help purchase. This is a 105 kw generator which would provide backup power to the Fire Station as well as 2 rv spots in the event of power loss. As we are near an aging substation here in Alfalfa, we have lost power 5 times in the last year. This is more than the last 5 years combined. We have spoken with the power company, and they assure us repairs and upgrades are coming. No timeline. In the event we lose power we rely on backup radios, and we manually raise and lower doors which costs valuable time in an emergency. The cost of installation on this generator is \$20,000.

The last project would be the paving around the station. As we currently only have gravel around the station this see’s a lot of maintenance because of the heavy equipment turning and creating ruts. We do not train on water supplies or hose drills as these hydro mines the gravel creating more work to maintain. As we are surrounded by agricultural fields, this brings an enormous number of weeds which seed into the rock. This creates a fire hazard around the station as we have to either spray or burn the weeds to control growth. This is not just a patch of weeds; this is an entire acre around the station where you no longer can see the ground underneath. Paving around the station will not only control the fire hazard but will allow for Firefighters to use the grounds for training rather than going out of the district which creates gaps in coverage. Paving around the building would allow for Firefighters to come in and train on various Fire Response tactics without having to go out of district to a paved parking lot to use Fire Hose. Dragging our hose on the gravel all the time damages the hose and becomes costly to replace. The cost for this is \$90,000 and would greatly improv our ability to train Firefighters within our district rather then sending them outside the district and delaying response.

Short term effects on this project are numerous. The Firefighters who serve this community take pride in this station. They have given blood, sweat and tears to see this station be built. They have donated time away from families, money they worked hard for, and have built a Fire Station they are proud of. They would fund this project themselves if they could. It is just not feasible. They are taxpayers and help fund projects within Deschutes County, and they are asking for a little help back.

The community see's the Fire Station as an essential facility, and a point of pride. Knowing a bond or levy would not pass at this time, if the Commissioners and budget managers could approve funds, it would allow for the building to truly become essential and allow for use during an emergency. As we are an aging community this building has been used as a warming shelter when community members heaters stopped working, and they needed a place to get warm, it has been used during the summer as a place to cool off for a little bit for those who do not have air conditioning. It has been a place where families bring their children to see what Firefighters do, to spray water and to build relationships with those we serve. It allows for the Fire District to continue to foster relationships with its County Commissioners, and to hopefully show them that even small districts can flourish with a little help. We have always answered the call when help was needed, without question, and without hesitation. We are now asking this of our County Government. This is not a yearly ask for this district, this is simply a one time ask for help where critical help is needed.

Short term this project would help bridge the gap between what we need and what we can afford given our tax base. As we see more growth in the community and tax revenues rise, knowing that we have completed the major projects to complete construction would allow for the Fire District to use funds to begin to replace an aging fleet of Fire Apparatus, or to upgrade outdated emergency equipment.

The long-term effects of funding allow for the Firefighters to "take a break" in a sense knowing that they do not have to focus on completing the building. They can then focus on response, use the facility to train, and to continue to be proud of what they have built. The long-term effects would allow us to look at future funding options, like a bond or levy. The community may be more apt to approve a bond or levy for operations and funding of more Firefighters in the future. Completing these projects would allow for us to begin the process of going out for out of district personnel. Right now, with no water source, there is no way to put into use a Fire Sprinkler system. The cistern will not support that. Without a water source, by county code we cannot house Firefighters without a way to help protect them. Even now without a water source if there was a fire inside the building we would have to rely on water in the apparatus. If the apparatus were on Fire the building may be a total loss without an effective suppression system.

These projects were on our master plan but cannot be completed due to lack of funds. As a Fire District we have a lot invested in this Station and in our community. A \$150,000 may not seem like a lot, but is a huge amount to the district, and would greatly help our operations. If these projects are funded, we will see that the projects are completed in a timely manner, within the given budgeted allowance, and that the community knows where this funding came from. And that building strong bonds with not only the community we serve, but the County we serve are extremely important to our continued success.

I appreciate your time in looking over this proposal, and if any questions or additional information is needed, I can be reached at the numbers listed below.

Best Regards,

**Chad LaVallee- Fire Chief
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