



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 24, 2024

SUBJECT: Fair & Expo Center Grant Application for Business Oregon's County Fair and Fairground Operation Loss Support

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move to authorize the submittal of an application for Business Oregon's County Fair and Fairground Operation Loss Support for Deschutes County's Fair & Expo Center.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center seeks Board authorization to apply for Business Oregon's County Fair and Fairground Operation Loss Support for the purpose of receiving funds to rebuild revenue loss between February 29, 2020, and June 30, 2023, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the 2023 legislative session, \$3 million in lottery bond funding was allocated to Business Oregon to provide grants to aid in county fair revenue losses due to statewide health mandates that affected business during the COVID-19 pandemic. All Oregon fair operators are eligible for these grant awards if they experienced a significant loss in revenue during the time period between February 29, 2020, and June 30, 2023.

If granted, the funds would be used for rebuilding the Fair & Expo fund balances after revenue loss due to Covid-19.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

If approved, the application could result in a funding award minimum of \$50,000. The funding awards are anticipated to be disbursed to recipients early spring of 2024. The grant amounts will be determined based on the number of eligible applicants and the availability of funds.

ATTENDANCE:

Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Center Director