

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

May 23, 2022

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:30pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Peterson, Barron, Spicerkuhn, Duron, Davis, Primmer, and Myers. Also in attendance was Municipal Court Judge Creasing (arrived at 7:41pm), as well as staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Richard Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Finance Director Mark Krawczyk, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Youth Advisory Members Elizabeth Doherty, Julissa Gonzales Mendoza, and Manuel Salazar were also in attendance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube.

Presentation- Umatilla County Fire District #1 (UCFD1) Updates

UCFD1 Fire Chief Scott Stanton gave updates (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding: staffing, volunteers, Board of Directors, service area, services provided, statistic information, budget and bond information, and more.

The Mayor and Council thanked Chief Stanton and UCFD1 for all of their work keeping the community safe.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

None given

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-D, to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Recommendation to the Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center Advisory Committee: Position #6, representing the At-Large Community, Luke Swanson, term from 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2025
- C. Minutes of the April 25th, Public Safety Committee Meeting
- D. Minutes of the May 9th, work session and regular City Council meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2221- N 1st Water Line Materials Award

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated if approved, this Resolution will award a procurement contract to Consolidated Supply to provide all piping materials to replace water mains on North 1st Place, between Hermiston Ave and Elm Ave. This project was included in the 2019 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

After some discussion, Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Duron seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2221 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

April 2022 Financial Report

After some discussion, Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Spicerkuhn seconded to accept the April 2022 Financial Report as presented by Finance Director Mark Krawczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation Committee- Councilor Davis stated Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan took the Committee on a tour of the proposed Hayfields property.

Public Infrastructure Committee- Councilor Spicerkuhn stated the Committee met prior to the Special City Council meeting, but were unable to get through the entire agenda as the agenda was extensive and time was limited. The Committee heard updates regarding Hermiston Energy Services, the Regional Water System, Amazon projects, GRATE project, optional layouts for NW 11th Street, and more. It is obvious to see that City staff have been busy working hard for its constituents.

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Hispanic Advisory Committee- Councilor Barron stated the Committee heard presentations from Stepping Stones Homeless Shelter and County Commissioner Candidate Bob Barton.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding:

- Thanked Council President Primmer for conducting the last City Council meeting in his absence
- Participation in the LOC Strategic Planning for the next five years

Council Reports

Councilor Davis congratulated the newly elected and reelected Council members.

Mayor Drotzmann agreed and reminded the public that the final election results have not been tabulated.

Councilor Duron thanked the men and women in law enforcement as last week was National Police Week, and stated she would like to take advantage of the Ride-A-Long program very soon. Councilor Duron thanked all those who organized and participated in the I Love My City weekend.

Mayor Drotzmann echoed Councilor Duron sentiments and stated there were over 400 I Love My City participants.

Youth Advisory Report

Advisor Gonzales Mendoza gave information regarding: Parks and Recreation and the Hermiston School District's 2nd Grade swim lessons and drowning prevention events, drowning statistics, and the new Life Jacket Exchange Program at the Aquatic Center.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Advisor Gonzalez Mendoza for working as a life guard.

Advisor Doherty gave information regarding a Memorial Day Assembly to thank Veterans for their service, as well as District and State information for various clubs and sports.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith spoke regarding:

- Thanked everyone who attended the Special Meeting with the Umatilla City Council and County Commissioners regarding the homeless shelter project, and stated their will be opportunity for continued public participation on this subject
- City Hall Construction progress

Adjournment

There was no other City business and Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:38pm.

SIGNED:

Dr. David Drotzmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder



Dr. David Drotzmann, Mayor

Councilors – Lori Davis, Roy Barron, Jackie Myers, Phillip Spicerkuhn, Maria Duron, Rod Hardin, Nancy Peterson, & Doug Primmer

City Manager, Byron Smith

Thank you for allowing me to present an overview of the fire department. Although on occasion, we have been referred to as the “hose draggers” and or the guys across the street always asking for money for “shiny new toys” – I am proud to say that your department is recognized by the top Emergency Services Official in the State, the Oregon State Fire Marshall as:

The most highly trained paramedic, structure fire, wildland, and hazmat response team providing emergency services to constituents in Eastern Oregon with an ISO Rating of 3, of which only 8% of all fire departments in the United States have such an insurance rating.

Of importance to you as City elected officials - of the 5,607 calls for help the department responded to in 2021, **79% were in the City of Hermiston. Of all the 911 calls, 4585 were Emergency Medical Service requests that were responded to by paramedics and EMTs utilizing the department's 6 ambulances.** As it has been in previous years, the department's call volume increased again last year. This time by 12%, which puts further strain on our emergency personnel, our equipment and of course on the budget.

The department's projected \$10.6 million-dollar operating budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023 has been presented to and approved by the appointed Budget Committee comprised of District constituents, as well as by the District's elected Board of Directors.

Additionally, the District's Board of Directors reviews and approves every operating and capital expenditure at their monthly Board meeting. I am pleased to report to you that last year's projected budget versus the District's approved expenditures came to be within 1% of one another.

As you are aware, The District's constituents passed a \$13.1 million Bond last year which is being overseen by a Citizen's Oversight Committee that reviews and approves all Bond money expenditures.

With the combined Bond Funding of \$13.1 million and the State's \$2,7 million in seismic retrofit funding, major portions of the long-term Strategic Plan developed by the department's executive team in 2020 will become a reality. Thus, we look at 2022-23 as a “Transition Year” when we finally have the opportunity to:

1. Replace badly needed emergency response equipment due to age, condition, or extensive mileage that will enable the department to maintain its Insurance Rating of Class
2. Seismically retrofit and upgrade the downtown station plus 3 additional stations for earthquake compliance and to make them co-inhabitable for male and female emergency response personnel to occupy on a 24-hour basis.
3. Purchase:
 - 5 new Paramedic ambulances to replace old ambulances with extensive mileage.
 - 1 Structure Fire Engine to replace engines past their compliance dates.
 - 1 Ladder truck to replace the department's existing 25-year-old truck.
 - 2 wildland/brush rigs to replace vehicles that are long past their life span.

With 41.5 paid staff and 30 volunteers, and with the district's chief officers having over 160 years of combined emergency service expertise, the department continues to implement programs, like the first Community Paramedic Program in Eastern Oregon and reach goals that have been unattainable for most departments of our size that is also constrained with a very tight budget.

The major concerns of the Department continue to be:

1. The ever-increasing number of medical responses in Hermiston for the elderly, the under privileged and economically challenged constituents with inadequate Medicare and state funding reimbursements to the district, leaving the department with approximately a million-dollar short fall per year.
2. Enterprise Zones that increase our response demands and equipment needs without obtaining the required funding given directly to the department from those Zones to adequately support those Enterprise Zone with required and requested services.
3. The inability of the department to attract needed personnel to properly staff the department due to our budget constraints and competition from other higher paying Emergency Services Departments for qualified firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics.
4. This increased call volume, with limited emergency personnel on staff has resulted in more than usual personnel absences due to injury and or Post Traumatic Stress Disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to give an update on your Emergency Services Team. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have questions on any of the information presented.

Sincerely,



Scott Stanton - Chief Executive Officer

UMATILLA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

EASTERN OREGON'S LARGEST, MOST HIGHLY-TRAINED FIRE, PARAMEDIC & HAZMAT TEAM



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Scott Stanton

- Bachelor's Degree - Fire Service Administration
- Graduate of Executive Fire Officers Program
- 36 years of Emergency Services Experience
- President - Oregon Fire Chief's Association
- Director – Special Districts Association of Oregon

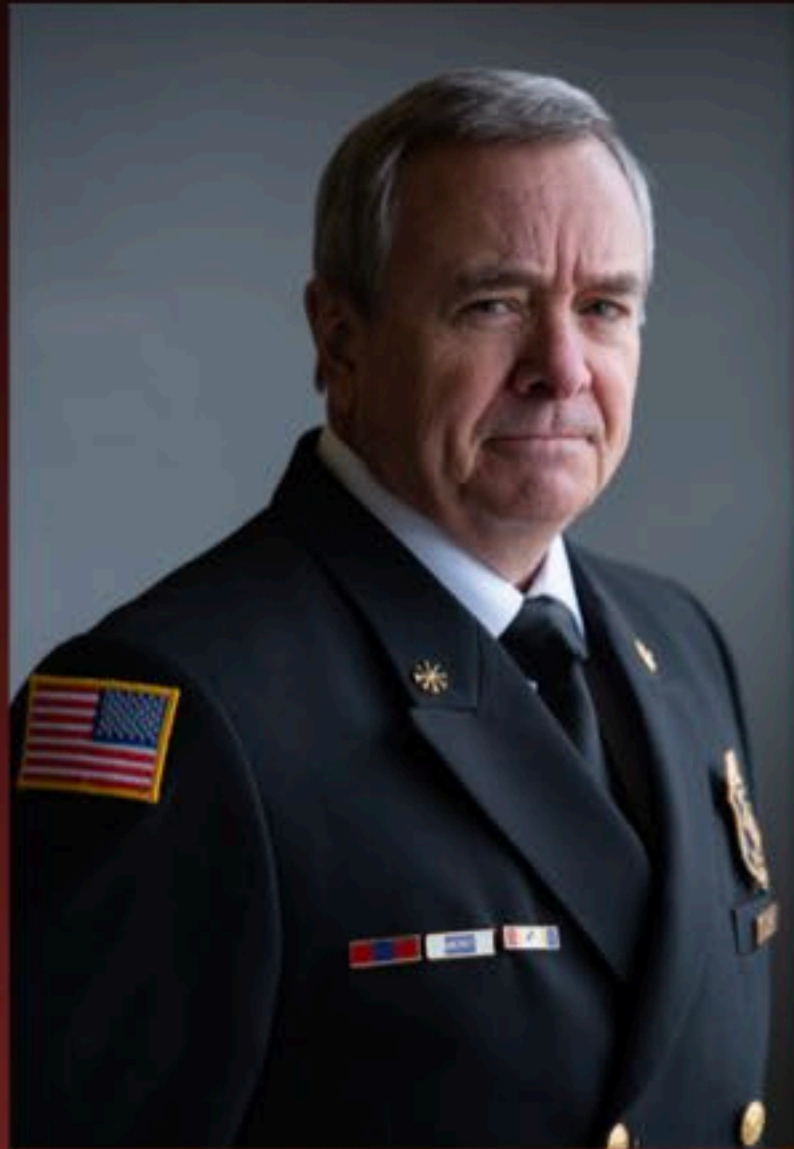
Manages:

- \$10 Million Annual Operating Budget
- 69 Employees out of 5 Fire Stations
- \$13.1 Million Bond
- Protects \$3.7 Billion in Assets Within the District

EXECUTIVE STAFF



Jimmy Davis
Deputy Chief of Operations



Jim Forquer
Deputy Chief of Administration



Scott Goff
Division Chief of Fire Prevention



Richard Cearns
Division Chief of EMS & Training



Corey Gorham
Battalion Chief of Training

A Combined 130+ Years of Experience
Managing Emergency Services

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION STAFF



Candice Slagel-Osbourne
Finance/Office Manager



Whitney Sitton
Billing Specialist



Nickolas Oatley
Public Information Officer &
Recruiter Specialist



Reta Larson
Board Secretary

Our Administrative Team Is the Cornerstone of
Keeping the Department Functioning Properly

DISTRICT #1 TEAM

69 Paid and Volunteer Emergency Responders

- 41 Paid Staff - 31 With Paramedic Certifications
- 19 Volunteers & 9 Resident Interns



WHAT WE DO

- Medical 911
- Structure Fires
- Wildland Fires
- Inter-Facility Transports
- Community Paramedic
- Hazmat
- Heavy Rescue
- Water Rescue
- Mutual Aid
- Vehicle Accidents



WHERE WE DO IT



- City of Hermiston

- City of Stanfield

- City of Umatilla

- City of Echo

- Fire Response Area - 209 Square Miles

- Emergency Medical Response Area - 620 Square Miles

- Hazmat Response Area - 15,300 Square Miles

UMATILLA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

CALLS FOR HELP IN 2021

5,607

EMS Calls	4,585
Fire/Hazardous Condition	229
Good Intent Call	407
False Alarm/Service Calls	386

79% in City of Hermiston

An Average of 15.3 Calls For Help A Day

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- 31 Paramedics
- 6 ambulances
- Transport Patients To Tri-Cities, Portland, Medford, Spokane, Boise



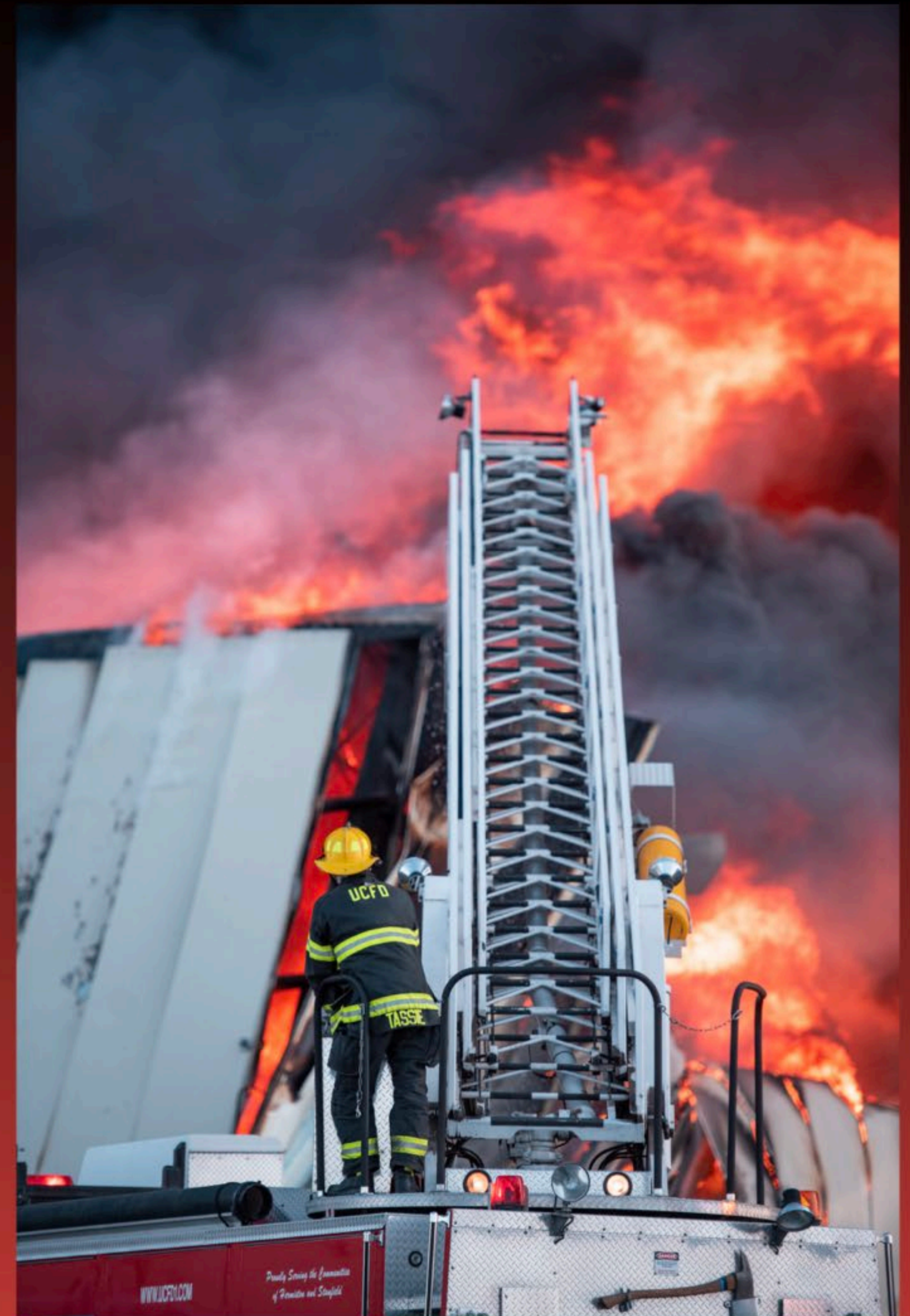
COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC



- Eastern Oregon's First Community Paramedic Program
- Home Visits to Recently Released Hospital Patients
- Decrease Patient's Hospital Readmission
- Partial Funding By Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation

FIRE SUPPRESSION RESOURCES

- Needed to Maintain an ISO Rating - **3**
 - Results in Lower Homeowner Insurance Costs
 - This Rating Puts District #1 in the Top 8% Nationwide
- District Firefighting Equipment:
 - Structure Fire Engines - 5
 - Wildland Engines - 7
 - Water Tenders - 5
 - Ladder Trucks - 2
 - Rescue - 1
 - Dozer - 1



HAZMAT SERVICES

- Eastern Oregon's Designated Hazmat Team
- Funded - Office of the Oregon State Fire Marshal
- 2 Response Vehicles Valued at 1.5 Million Dollars



DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET

- 2022-2023 Operating Budget — \$10.6 Million
- Source of Operating Funds:
 - Property Taxes — \$4.6 Million
 - Emergency Medical Services — \$3.2 million
 - Grants & Reimbursements — \$400,000
 - Capital Reserve & Contingency — \$2,200,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ric Sherman
President



Eldon Marcum
Vice President



Mike Hawman
Secretary/Treasurer



Jim Whelan
Director



Spike Piersol
Director

- Elected to Serve by the Constituents of the Fire District
- Approve the Annualized Budget
- Set District Goals and Policies
- Approve Monthly Operating Expenditures

BUDGET COMMITTEE

- Luann Wolfe
- Rick Rankin
- Monte Ellis
- Kathy Stolz
- Tom Martin
- Cindy Meyers





USE OF BOND \$13.1 MILLION

- Renovate Stations with Co-Ed Living Quarters
- Upgrade & Replace Apparatus
- Replace Outdated PPE
- Replace Rescue Equip/Jaw's of Life



CITIZEN-BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

\$13.1 MILLION DOLLARS

- Josh Burns
- Cindy Meyers
- Luann Wolfe
- Jim Whelan
- Bruce Jones
- Steve Eldridge
- Bill Elfering



SEISMIC RETROFITTING

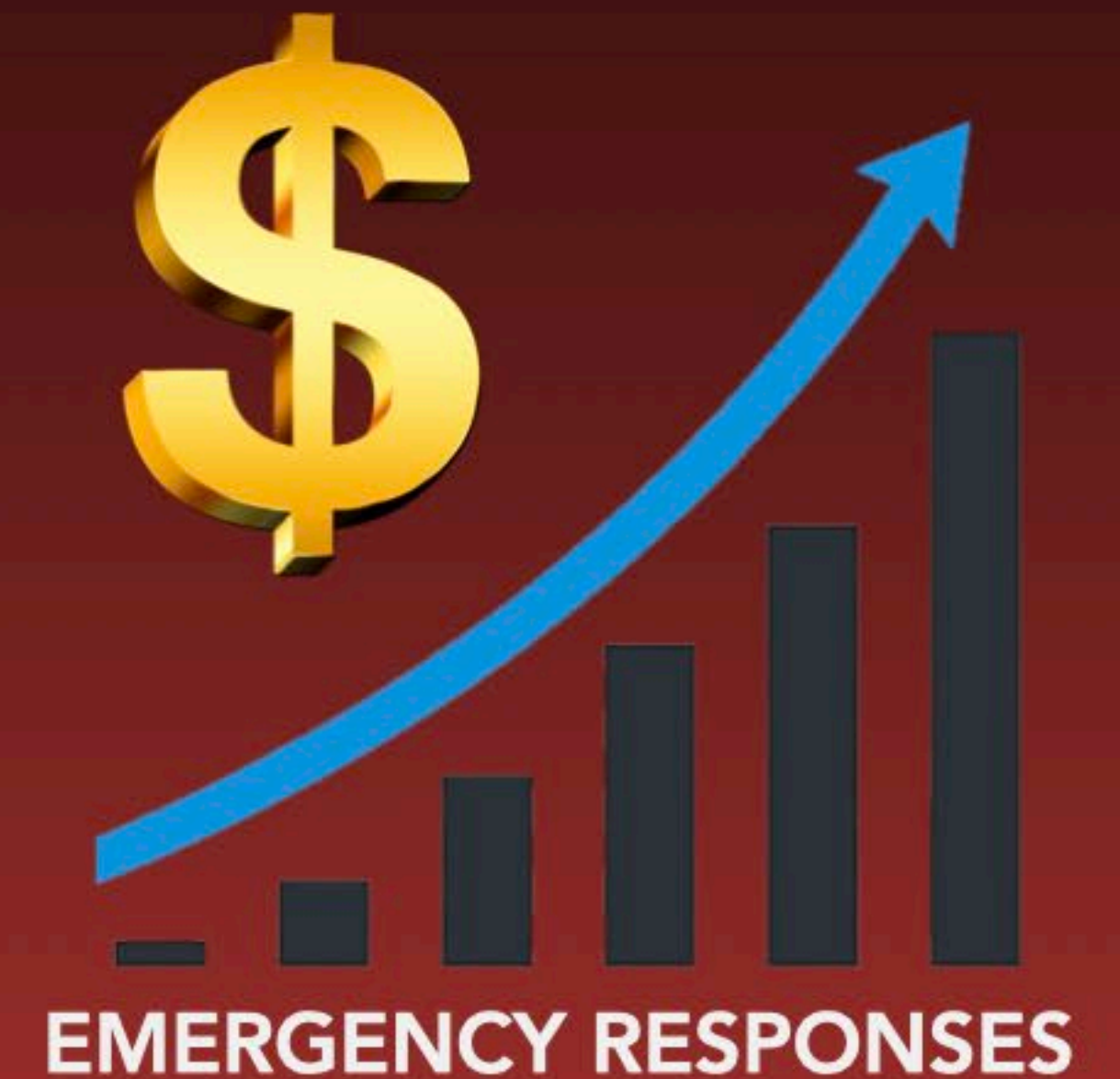
Hermiston Safety Center



Three Additional Stations

DISTRICT CHALLENGES

1. Ever Increasing 911 Medical Calls
2. Insufficient Minimum Staffing
3. Medicare/Medicaid Rates capped
4. Minimal Revenue From Enterprise Zones
5. Employee - Post Traumatic Stress Disease



OUR MISSION



UMATILLA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1 IS DEVOTED TO PROTECTING THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE BY PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF COMPASSIONATE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.