



La Pine Rural Fire Protection District

51590 Huntington Rd
Post Office Box 10
La Pine, OR 97739
Phone 541.536.2935
Fax 541.536.2627
www.lapinefire.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

La Pine Rural Fire Protection District Receives \$2.499 Million Grant for Station 101 Upgrades and Expansion

LA PINE, Ore. La Pine Rural Fire Protection District has been awarded a **\$2,499,000 grant** to complete seismic upgrades and major facility improvements at its main headquarters, **Station 101 on Huntington Road**, enhancing the district's ability to serve the community while improving firefighter safety and emergency response capabilities.

The funding will support critical seismic strengthening of the station, ensuring the facility remains operational following a major earthquake or other disaster. In addition, the district will undertake a significant remodel and expansion project that will add firefighter living quarters, modern contamination-reduction spaces, and additional apparatus bays to meet current and future service demands.

Among the planned improvements are new dormitory accommodations for emergency response personnel, dedicated turnout gear cleaning and storage areas designed to reduce firefighter exposure to carcinogens, and expanded apparatus storage space to house a recently donated aerial telesquirt fire apparatus.

The aerial apparatus will provide enhanced firefighting capabilities for commercial buildings, multi-family housing, schools, and other low-rise structures throughout the district's service area.

"This grant is a transformational investment in the future of public safety for our community," said **Fire Chief Erick Holsey**. "Station 101 serves as the operational heart of our District. These seismic upgrades will help ensure that our firefighters, paramedics, and emergency responders can continue serving our citizens when they are needed most, even following a major seismic event. At the same time, the expansion project allows us to improve firefighter safety, increase our response capabilities, and prepare for the future growth of our community."

District officials noted that many fire stations throughout Oregon were constructed before modern seismic standards and firefighter health-and-safety practices were established. The improvements at Station 101 will bring the facility closer to current best practices while increasing operational readiness.

Board President Michael Vietzke emphasized the long-term value of the project for District residents.



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"This project represents a responsible investment in both community resilience and taxpayer resources," said **Board President Vietzke**. "The Board has worked diligently to position the district for opportunities like this. By securing outside grant funding, we are able to make critical infrastructure improvements that will benefit our community for generations while reducing the financial burden on local taxpayers."

The project will also create the capacity needed to house the district's donated aerial telesquirt apparatus, a specialized firefighting vehicle that provides for firefighting and rescue capabilities on larger buildings not previously available within the district. The district would like to thank Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District for its consideration and future donation to our citizens.

"The addition of this apparatus gives our firefighters another valuable tool to protect lives and property," Holsey added. "Having the facility space to properly house and maintain this unit ensures it will be ready when our community needs it and the facility will have the capacity for any necessary future aerial upgrade."

Planning and design activities are expected to begin in the coming months, with construction timelines to be announced as the project advances.

La Pine Rural Fire Protection District thanks the grant administrators, local partners, elected officials, and community members whose support helped secure this funding. **Grant funds will cover most project costs. If additional funding is needed for the remodel, the district will use its existing capital fund. The project will not require additional taxes or impose any added cost on constituents.**

Media Contact

Chief Erick Holsey

La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
16405 First Street
La Pine, OR 97739
(541) 536-2935

About La Pine Rural Fire Protection District

La Pine Rural Fire Protection District provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue operations, fire prevention, and emergency response services throughout southern Deschutes County. The district is committed to protecting life, property, and the environment through professional service, preparedness, and community partnership. The district operates out of three stations, two stations staffed 24/7, and an administrative building. The district annually responds to approximately 3200 calls for service per year with 78% being EMS Response. Through careful planning, community collaboration and efficient execution, the district continues to drive its mission: **"Promote and protect the health and welfare of our community through excellence in preparedness, collaboration, and delivery of emergency services."**