

**Testimony of Kim Stout, Director  
on Behalf of Jefferson County Fire & EMS Board of Directors**

**In Support of Capital Fund Request for Jefferson County Fire and EMS**

**To the Oregon State Legislature  
Ways and Means Committee**

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Kim Stout. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the board of directors for Jefferson County Fire & EMS. As a representative of the board, I am writing in support of Jefferson County Fire and EMS's Capital Funding request for \$2.5 million to assist in the expansion and remodel of its existing fire station.

The current fire station was built over 33 years ago as primarily a volunteer station with limited housing space. In July of 2022, the fire district combined operations with the Jefferson County Emergency Medical Services District. This enabled our organization to improve our efficiencies, decrease response times, and establish a shift schedule that provides 24/7 coverage to our community. We are pleased that this change has improved the safety and well-being of the citizens in our community by providing higher quality emergency services when they need them most. However, the additional personnel at one location has escalated the need for expansion of our current station.

The current fire station facilities are insufficient in meeting the needs of our current workforce and growing community. Our current staff happens to be 50% male and 50% female. This contributes to the need for additional sleeping space and updated bathroom facilities to accommodate both male and female personnel. In addition to the living facilities, the chief and his staff have been having to creatively find ways to share needed office space with space originally designed and essential for other meeting and training purposes. This is not sustainable in the long term. The proposed expansion and remodel will provide the necessary space to ensure that Fire and EMS can continue to serve our community effectively and efficiently.

As a board, we understand concerns about the cost of such a project in addition to other needs across the state. Jefferson County Fire and EMS is ambitious in its goals, but has also been responsible in its spending and management of its resources. Our hope is to use funds from the Capital Funding request, a Business Oregon financing package, and also funding from our own budget to achieve these goals. The department has already started the permit, contract, and design process and is ready to get started. We believe this proposed project is critical to Jefferson County Fire and EMS's ability to continue serving our community now and into the future. We urge you to consider this Capital Funding request and support this important investment in our community's safety. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Rob Galyen, President

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Ryan Boyle, Vice President

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Chris DuPont, Secretary

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Dustin Miller, Director

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Kim Stout, Director

