

Lane County Sheriff's Office

Clifton G. Harrold, Sheriff



February 16, 2024

The Honorable Fred Girod, Senator
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means – Capital Construction Subcommittee

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Representative
Co-Chair, Joint Committee Ways and Means – Capital Construction Subcommittee

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Sub-Committee:

I am writing today in support of Lane County's request for Emergency Communications Equipment. This project request is \$900,000 and would leverage \$1.1M of federal funding.

There are two elements to the federal award:

- Replacement of an existing, and practically antique, communications tower on Bear Mtn in central Lane County. As one of our higher towers, it provides line of sight microwave signals that connect to a variety of other towers not only in Lane but also Linn County and Douglas County.
- Purchase 100 radio sets for 10 rural fire districts in Lane County. Radio technologies are continually evolving, and it is important that fire and police agencies have interoperability. Each summer seems to bring additional wildfire to Lane County and my Deputies must have clear communications with our fire partners.

The \$1.1M project is Congressionally Directed Spending that was sponsored by Congresswoman Val Hoyle. USDA Rural Development is the agency that will have these dollars, named for Lane County specifically, once the federal fiscal year 24 budget lands on President Biden's desk. While that budget has been delayed significantly, it does appear that Congress is working towards finalizing the budget prior to March 1, when the current Continuing Resolution runs out.

Lane County, with its diverse and forested topography, offers a challenge for emergency service providers to effectively communicate. These two projects will help us keep our technology up to date and ensure fire and police agencies are able to communicate when we most need to. I hope you will find a way to fund this request.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Clifton G. Harrold.

Clifton G. Harrold
Lane County Sheriff