



## ***International Association of Fire Fighters***

### ***Local 3340-Kingsley Fire Fighters Association***

Oregon State Employees, Kingsley Fire & Emergency Services, Funding

Who we are: State of Oregon employees protecting the Oregon Air National Guard, Team Kingsley, Klamath Falls, Oregon. Our total installation property and resources are valued at one billion dollars (1,000,000,000), for which Kingsley Fire & Emergency Services is the sole provider of emergency response services.

Background on state funding and our department's staffing request follows:

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) Fire & Emergency Services Command Fire Chief Loveday and Mr. Dixon, CA24 Program Manager, informed our management at Kingsley Fire & Emergency Services (KFES) that NGB was defunding six (6) Fire Fighter positions from Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The underlying reason is to rebalance Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) staffing over three years to fund all fifty-seven (57) Air National Guard (ANG) fire program units to a Reduced Level of Service (RLS). The impact on our departments will take time. Reductions are said to occur through attrition until the end of FY26, which will allow the state to be reimbursed for the associated costs until FY27 (October 1st, 2026). The focus here is to recognize the importance of Staffing as it relates to the safety and efficiency of the department and those it protects.

We responded to one thousand (1000) calls in 2024, of which three hundred and fifty-six (356) were mutual aid calls in our local community, two hundred and fifty-two (252) EMS calls, forty (40) motor vehicle accidents (MVA), twenty-nine (29) structure fires, twenty (20) wildland responses, and fifteen (15) public assists.

Wildland response: As the largest county in Oregon, we have only four (4) career staff departments: Kingsley Fire and Emergency Service (KFES), Klamath Fire Dist. #1, Chiloquin Fire & Rescue, and Crescent Fire District. If funding is not secured for KFES, we will not be available for in-county Wildland responses or State configurations. We have an avenue to have two (2) Type six (6) resources stationed at KFES during the fire season for immediate response. We had twelve thousand (12,000) Fire Fighters who responded to Oregon to fight the wildfires in 2024, and only four thousand (4,000) positions were filled by Oregon Fire Fighters.



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The State's cost to fund the six positions is \$2,395,080 for the biennium. These figures are for the top step of a fire fighter engineer after eight (8) years of service with the department. The funding must be added to the Oregon Military Department (OMD) budget, Kingsley Fire, Appendix 24 Master Cooperative Agreement (MCA) program.

We are the sole provider at Crater Lake Regional Airport. Reducing Staffing within our organization will significantly reduce the availability of water and Fire Fighters, limiting our ability to respond safely to F-15 emergencies.

Mutual aid elements and secondary airport fire departments were not a factor in the manning decision, which was based solely on the assigned airframe, vehicle set, and level of service standards. NGB unilaterally made enormous changes to Fire Fighting resources throughout the Air National Guard, with no consideration given to the availability of civilian Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) resources at airports and within local communities.

Due to Klamath Falls's rural nature, we do not have access to initial support outside of Klamath Falls or Firefighting equipment, including Hazardous Material Operations and Explosive Ordnance Disposal. It is common only to have our resources available for emergency operations.

The decision to reduce Staffing from rural bases with limited mutual aid resources is not in anyone's best interest. KFES's current Staffing enables an Optimum Level of Service (OLS) when all authorized resources are available for emergency response within established response time standards.

When the realignment is implemented, the Critical Level of Service (CLS) will become Kingsley Field's new steady state. Under the CLS, firefighters are expected to revert to defensive operations (IAW NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program) when the emergency cannot be quickly contained. The property involved is expected to be severely damaged.



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The Department of Administrative Services, the Labor Relations Unit, and the Oregon Military Department are responsible for all expenditures outside the Appendix 24 program funding. Our CBA was bargained in good faith with the State of Oregon. We are the sole providers of services at Kingsley Field and Crater Lake Regional Airport, and the current restraints from NGB have put us in a safety, funding, and staffing crisis.

Our program is not 100% federally funded. Many provisions of the Appendix 24 Master Cooperative Agreement (MCA) allow for State funding, as we are state employees. The requested funding is critical to the success of our department and our future F-35 mission.

Our Oregon State Fire Fighter Council (OSFFC) President, Karl Koenig, is well-informed about all particulars and has been working on this issue at the state level.

Eight years ago, we lobbied the Ways and Means Committee for funding to cover expenditures not covered by the MCA. The State Legislature allocated the required funds. After we were given the money, OMD decided this was unnecessary. Subsequently, \$1.3 million was removed from OMD's budget, specifically from the Kingsley Fire, Appendix 24 Master Cooperative Agreement (MCA) program.

In Solidarity.

Ryan M. Barnes

President  
Kingsley Fire Fighters Association (KFFA)  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
Local 3340  
541-749-0876  
[presidentkffa@gmail.com](mailto:presidentkffa@gmail.com)