

Gresham Fire and Emergency Management



STATE FUNDING REQUEST: \$10,000,000

BACKGROUND

The City of Gresham and the Gresham Fire Department recognize the need to update our Fire Stations and our Fire Training Center. Our current facilities were evaluated in 2019 and again in 2022, which resulted in a recommendation to replace all our Fire Stations, with Fire Station 74 being the highest priority. Constructed in 1966, the unreinforced concrete block structure does not meet any current seismic standards, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, or building codes for a modern Fire Station. This includes Fire Sprinklers, Egress, cancer prevention, and ADA requirements.

STATION 74 NEEDS

Station 74 responds to Gresham's most diverse and economically challenged neighborhoods (Rockwood and North Gresham). Responding to ~5,000 calls for service each year necessitated adding additional firefighters that are now bunking in a converted storage room in the basement of the station that is not seismically sound. As our community and calls for service continues to grow, our internal Strategic Plan, and the recommendations from an outside consultant highlight the need to add an additional aerial ladder truck to this station; as it responds first due to the most significant structure fires in the city. Station 74 has neither the apparatus bay space nor the crew accommodations for another large response apparatus.

CONTEXT

The Gresham Fire Department shares a border with the City of Portland and Portland Fire and Rescue. Through a shared 9-1-1 Dispatch Center and using GPS driven Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL), Station 74 responds first into the eastern city limits of Portland, without regard to geographic boundaries. The Computer Aided Dispatch system does not differentiate between Gresham or Portland fire engines or ladder trucks. The closest appropriate unit is sent to the call, regardless of the department. This is represented by ~1,200 calls for service outside of Station 74's first due response area.

PROPOSAL

The City of Gresham and the Gresham Redevelopment Commission are working hard to develop a plan to replace Fire Station 74 over the next two years. Schematic design and cost estimating are already underway and the new fire station will be designed and constructed to remain operational through a significant seismic event, such as a subduction zone earthquake. Gresham Fire Department facilities are typically used for 40-50+ years. The new station will have a similar life-span and will be designed to ensure the station anticipates future growth needs.

FUNDING INFORMATION

The Gresham City Council, and the Gresham Redevelopment Commission have approved the investment for the initial Schematic Design and Preliminary Costing Estimates for the replacement of Fire Station 74. Using other regional examples, we anticipate the total project cost to exceed \$22 million. We are seeking \$10 million from the State of Oregon for construction costs to complete this important regional project.

