



Jackson County Sheriff
Nathan Sickler

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February 5, 2026

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for state capital funding for the Evans Valley Community Resource Center (EVCRC), a project that is essential to public safety, emergency response, and community resilience in Jackson County.

The EVCRC is a 4,136-square-foot expansion and modernization of the existing Evans Valley Fire District #6 facilities. Once completed, it will provide the first fully ADA-accessible public meeting and service space in Evans Valley and serve as a critical emergency coordination hub during disasters. From a law enforcement and emergency management perspective, this facility fills a long-standing gap in our rural response infrastructure.

Evans Valley is a rural, unincorporated area with limited access to public facilities typically available in incorporated communities. The area currently lacks an ADA-accessible meeting space, a centralized emergency coordination facility, and appropriate locations for preparedness training, evacuation support, or recovery operations. In Southern Oregon wildfire risk is real and extreme weather, smoke events, and power outages are frequent, these deficiencies pose real risks to public safety and livability.

The Evans Valley Community Resource Center strengthens emergency preparedness not only for the Valley but for Jackson County as a whole. During emergencies, the Center will provide a centralized location for evacuation coordination, recovery services, and interagency operations. With resilient infrastructure and backup power, it will support effective coordination among law enforcement, fire services, emergency management, public health, and partner agencies when timely communication and collaboration are critical.

Accessibility and equity are also key public safety concerns. Evans Valley currently has no ADA-accessible public gathering space, which limits participation by seniors and residents with disabilities in safety training, emergency planning, and community services. The EVCRC removes these barriers and ensures that all residents can access information and resources that are essential to preparedness and response.

This project reflects responsible use of public funds and is ready to move forward. The total estimated cost is approximately \$2.2 million, leveraging state support alongside local and philanthropic investment. The project is shovel-ready and coordinated with a State of Oregon seismic rehabilitation

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timeline requiring completion by Fall 2027. Aligning these efforts now maximizes efficiency and reduces future risk and cost.

I urge the Legislature to prioritize funding for the Evans Valley Community Resource Center. This project enhances countywide emergency readiness, strengthens public safety coordination, and delivers critical infrastructure to an underserved rural community. It is a necessary and forward-looking investment in the safety and resilience of Jackson County.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of public safety across Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Sickler', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Nathan Sickler

Sheriff

Jackson County, Oregon