



A place where families and businesses thrive.

February 13, 2026

Oregon State Legislature
Attn: Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Co-Chair Senator Girod
Co-Chair Representative Nosse
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FEBRUARY 13, 2026 VIA OLIS

Re: FOREST GROVE POLICE FACILITY CAPITAL APPROPRIATION OF \$3 MILLION

Senator Girod, Representative Nosse, and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express the city's support for a \$3 million appropriation for a new Forest Grove Police Facility.

My name is Henry Reimann. I am the Police Chief for the City of Forest Grove. I have proudly served western Washington County for over 30 years including Hillsboro, Forest Grove, and as a school resource officer for the Hillsboro School District.

Forest Grove is a city of approximately 27,000 residents, located in the Metro region about 25 miles west of Portland. Founded in 1871 and incorporated in 1872, Forest Grove is the oldest city in Washington County.

Forest Grove is home to a historic and vibrant downtown, the second oldest university in the state – Pacific University, and a full range of municipal services including power, water treatment, fire, police parks, library, and more.

Our current police facility was built in 1977. Nearly fifty years later, it no longer meets the essential operational, safety, or legal standards required of a police department.

It is overcrowded, lacks space to properly separate juveniles from adults, has insufficient evidence storage, and is not ADA or seismic compliant.

It is old, worn out, and with each passing day poses operational inefficiencies and elevates the risk for both officers and the public we serve. It needs to be replaced and the sooner the better.

The City has been working on this project for nearly a decade. We have carefully evaluated all the options including remodeling, expansion, and new construction and every analysis has concluded that building a new facility is the most cost-effective, operationally efficient, and long-term solution.

In 2019, the city invested \$500,000 to purchase land adjacent to our Library and Fire Station. The site has been cleared and is shovel ready to construct.

In 2020, the city completed final design and the project footprint was reduced from 26,000 square feet to 21,000 square feet, saving approximately \$5 million.

In May of last year, the city balloted a \$29.5 million bond which narrowly failed 48% to 52%. Exit polling showed strong support for the police, however, the economy and cost were driving concerns that led to its defeat.

Shortly thereafter, the city went back to the drawing board and value engineered another \$1.5 million in savings by reducing exterior and interior finishes. We have trimmed, engineered, and reduced the building as much as possible and cannot do any more without sacrificing long-term operability. Simply put, we have done the work, made the sacrifices, and have a shovel ready plan to build.

The poll noted above also indicated that outside financial participation would be instrumental in the success of a future ballot measure, which the city is looking to do in November of this year.

A \$3 million grant, approximately 10% of the total project cost, would significantly reduce the burden on local taxpayers and send a powerful message that the State of Oregon is a strong partner in ensuring public safety for Forest Grove.

Our police department has a strong, trusted relationship with the community. Through programs like Coffee with a Cop, Chillin' with the Chief, National Night Out, and ongoing collaboration efforts with Pacific University offering forums on community policing, equity, and procedural justice.

To continue delivering the level of service our residents expect and deserve, we need a facility that supports modern policing and protects both the public and our officers.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this critical request. Any assistance you can provide would be sincerely appreciated.

Henry Reimann
Police Chief
City of Forest Grove