La Grande Rural
Fire Protection District

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The Fire Line

June 2026 Our first edition!



Here's what we've been up to

Welcome to our inaugural edition of The Fire Line, La Grande Rural Fire District (AKA Island City Fire Dept)'s periodic newsletter! We hope you will find this informative and helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@lagranderuralfire.org.

About us:

LGRFPD was founded in 1949 to provide fire protection services to the area surrounding La Grande, Oregon, including Island City. We now provide comprehensive fire suppression, prevention and education, rescue and emergency medical services to an area of 135 square miles and around 6,000 residents. Our Fire District is almost entirely volunteer-based.

We are:

"Neighbors helping neighbors"

Member Spotlight:



This month's member spotlight is our new Fire Chief, Brady Walters!

Following a nationwide recruitment effort, Brady Walters has been selected as the new chief of La Grande Rural Fire Protection District.

Originally from Medford, Chief Walters began his emergency services career in 2005 as an Explorer and EMT with Mercy Flights Ambulance and as a volunteer ski patroller and firefighter in Southern Oregon. He graduated from the paramedic program at Chemeketa Community College while working as a student firefighter for Marion County. A significant part of his early career was 12 years working for the National Park Service in law enforcement and emergency services. Brady was stationed in parks across the country, including the Grand Canyon, Hawaii, and finally Crater Lake here in Oregon.

Over his career with the NPS, Walters served as Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, Volunteer Ski Patrol Director, a Law Enforcement & Emergency Services Instructor, Fire Engineer, Search & Rescue Technician, Acting Operations Supervisor, and Field Training Coach.

Brady left the NPS in 2020 and began working for the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office. As a Patrol Deputy, he developed and implemented a dual-role Paramedic-Deputy program, allowing him to carry rescue gear and provide first response to critical medical emergencies or tactical situations. Additionally, Brady served as a Search & Rescue Coordinator and Cadet Program Advisor. During this time he wanted to keep his fire skills sharp, so he joined Polk County Fire District #1 as a volunteer, rapidly making his way up the ranks to Engineer, Lieutenant, and Captain.

Brady decided to make a career change out of law enforcement and pursue a leadership role in the fire service, as the Deputy Chief and Training Officer for Hoskins-Kings Valley Fire District. At HKV, Chief Walters made significant improvements to operations and the training program leading to increased volunteer involvement, safety and efficiency.

Brady, his wife Jena, and their two dogs are excited to move to La Grande and begin a new chapter. They both look forward to getting to know the community, developing friendships, and exploring the beautiful surroundings.



Brady has a passion for volunteerism and is committed to an inclusive and supportive culture within the department. Brady's goals as Fire Chief include:

- A mission-driven mindset
- Safety and accountability to our community
- Fiscally responsible and transparent management

Chief Walters is very grateful for this opportunity and for the support of the many people who have made this transition possible. He would love to meet with community members to discuss any ideas or concerns you may have.

Recent Calls:

🚚🔥 On May 21, LGRFPD responded to an oil truck on fire near Island Market. Fortunately, an OSP Trooper was nearby and along with the driver was able to contain the fire to the engine compartment with fire extinguishers.

⚠️ On May 27, LGRFPD was called to a natural gas leak at a local restaurant. The building was evacuated and the situation handed off to utility personnel.

🚨 On June 4 LGRFPD, City of La Grande Fire District, ODOT and law enforcement partners responded to a serious injury rollover crash on Hwy 30. The patient was transported to GRH.

🔥On June 8, LGRFPD, ODF and City of La Grande Fire Dept responded to two simultaneous wildland fires near the railroad tracks near Perry and Hilgard. The fires were controlled.



🔥On June 12, LGRFPD assisted Elgin Fire, ODF and USFS with an approximately 2 acre wildland fire off Shaw Creek Rd. The fire was eventually extinguished with work continuing into the next day.

🚨 On June 13, LGRFPD, La Grande City Fire Dept and law enforcement partners responded to I-84 near Ladd Canyon Summit for a rollover motor vehicle crash. The patient was deceased upon arrival.

🔥On June 14, LGRFPD provided automatic aid for a trailer home fire in North Powder. All occupants were evacuated and the fire was controlled.

🔥On June 16, LGRFPD, ODF and many other county fire resources were dispatched to a rapidly growing field fire off Hot Lake Ln. The fire was quickly contained before it could spread further. Preliminary investigation indicated a farming implement struck a rock causing a spark.

🚨 On June 24, LGRFPD and other emergency services responded to a tanker truck rollover on I-84 just west of La Grande blocking the entire westbound lanes. The truck was thankfully only carrying milk and the driver was uninjured. I-84 remained closed for several hours during clean-up.



🔥 Also on June 24, LGRFPD, LGFD, ODF and other agencies responded to a two-alarm wildland fire off McAlister Rd. The fire was contained before spreading further. Initial cause determined to be from metal work.

🔥 June 25 we responded with our partners to a wildland fire off Evergreen Dr. The fire was contained quickly before spreadnig into deeper vegetation.



Recent Training & Events:



🚒 Our crews have been preparing for fire season with with wildland-specific



training such as mobile attack with tenders and brush trucks and pre-incident planning.

⛑️ Crews attended heat emergencies and drowning training at EMS drill night with La Grande Fire Dept.

🛩️ Chief Walters attended an aviation emergencies training and Lifeflight orientation, along with the Eastern Oregon Search & Rescue Conference.

🧗 Firefighter Akers attended Rope Rescue Training at the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference in Brooks.



🏫On May 21 we hosted 3rd graders from Island City Elementary for a fire station tour, we had as much fun as they did!



Projects:

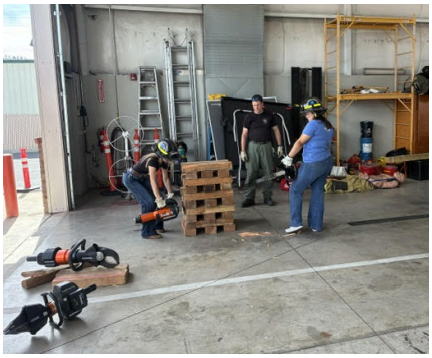
We are very grateful to have been awarded the Wildfire Season Staffing Grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office for another year.



This grant allows us to pay our members to staff the fire station during peak hours, reducing response time and therefore damage and risk from fires to our community.

In addition to call response, personnel use this time to train, maintain equipment and the station, and patrol our area.

Our volunteers assisted the City of La Grande Fire Dept along with other allied healthcare professionals with another year of Medquest.



MedQuest is a foot in the door to healthcare. At this AWARD-WINNING summer camp for Oregon high schoolers, students shadow health professionals, learn real-life skills, and get connected with resources that can help them make the next step in their career—all while meeting others from around the state who are excited about healthcare too. For more info see: https://www.neoahec.org/pathway-programs/medquest/

Future projects around the Fire Station:

Our staff have been working away on operational improvement and safety projects. Some examples include:

- Upgrading scene and emergency lighting on our vehicles.
- Establishing work groups to focus on safety needs, apparatus projects and upgrades, our training program, and strategic planning for the future.
- Focusing on member health and wellness with physical fitness and mental health awareness and support.
- Improving our capability for emergency medical and rescue response.

LGRFPD seeking volunteers for Fire Support and Auxiliary Program:

La Grande Rural Fire District is seeking dedicated community members to join our Auxiliary and Support Group. If you want to serve your community behind the scenes, we have a critical role for you!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Be available to assist with fires and other emergency situations.**
- **Incident Support & Rehab:** Assisting firefighters with hydration and rest.
- **Traffic Control:** Managing safety at incident locations.
- **Driver Only:** Operating support vehicles.
- **EMS Only:** Assisting with medical calls.



- **Administrative & Facilities:** Station maintenance, administrative support and public outreach/education.

WE NEED YOU

We are looking for volunteers who are 16+, possess a valid driver's license, can pass a background check, and are committed to attending training and events.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

- **Contribute to something bigger.**
- **Help your neighbors.**
- **Learn valuable first aid and emergency skills.**
- **Be a part of an awesome group of people.**
- **Training and experience.**

Ready to get started?
Fill out our volunteer interest form or call 541-963-6895

Prevention corner:



Burn Ban in effect

The Union County Board of Commissioners approved the Fire Defense Board's request for early entry into regulated fire season on June 3. The ban which will remain in effect through Sept. 30 unless extended.

Open burning is prohibited during fire season with the exception of regulated agricultural field burning and authorized prescribed fires.

Burning is prohibited on windy days. The county's burn ordinance outlines the regulations:

- Burn barrels are allowed from 6-10 a.m., but must be located in a cleared area with a 10-foot radius free of flammable materials and at least 25 feet away from any structure
- Burn barrels must be fitted with a heavy metal screen
- Burn barrels must be attended at all times with both water and a shovel
- Recreational fires are permitted in approved fire rings, which must be less than six feet in diameter. Fires must be constantly attended until they are fully extinguished.

FIRE SEASON!

All Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) districts are in fire season. This means that to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires, fire restrictions may be in place where you live or at a destination you plan to visit or recreate.



For more information visit:
https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/Pages/Restrictions.aspx

Independence Day Safety:

As we celebrate the 250 birthday of the United States, we ask our fans & followers to celebrate safely.

There are two times as many fires reported on Independence Day than on any other day. 50% of those are from fireworks.

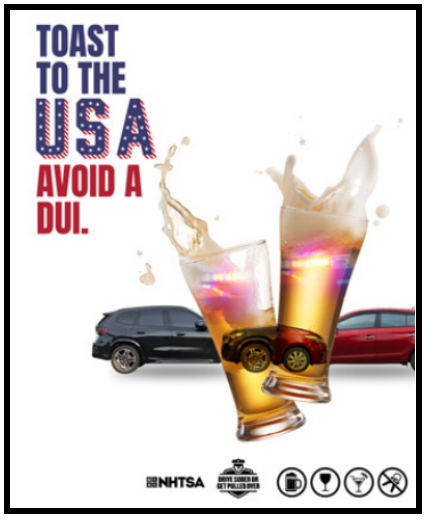
-IAFF

Emergency Department visits in the United States between July 4th-5th jump approximately 21%, with increases in trauma and burns (fireworks accidents), food-related illness (maybe that potato salad wasn't good), heat illness (is it just me or is it hot out here) and alcohol-related injuries ("hold my beer and watch this").

On average, fireworks start 18,500 fires per year causing an average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries, and an average of $43 million in direct property damage [NFPA].



Lastly, please don't drink and drive, and buckle up!!



FIREWORKS INJURIES

Data: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, NEISS

FIREWORK TYPE

2023

700

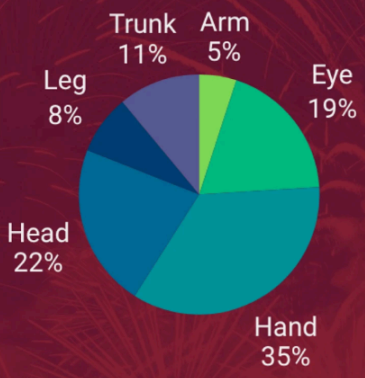
SPARKLER-RELATED INJURIES - U.S.

2023

800

FIRECRACKER-RELATED INJURIES - U.S.

INJURY LOCATION



2023

8

NON-OCCUPATIONAL FIREWORKS-RELATED DEATHS - U.S.

2023

9,700

INJURIES TREATED IN U.S. EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Estimated injury by age



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FIRE RESCUE 1

Become a FireRescue1 Member:
FireRescue1.com/Registration

Board of Directors:

Our citizens elect a five-member Board of Directors to govern the Fire District. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the La Grande Rural (Island City) Fire Station at 6:00pm. The public is always welcome to join!

May and June meetings include our budget hearing. At these meetings the budget committee, which includes our Directors and members of the public review and vote on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-27.

Below is the approved budget from the June meeting:

Your Fire District Board of Directors:

- Jake Hanson - President
- Brett Rudd - VP
- Will Burns
- Tom Blackman
- Kyle Hampton

Form OR-LB-20 — **Resources**

General Fund - Fire Services (Fund) — La Grande Rural Fire Protection District (Name of Municipal Corporation)

	Historical data: Actual — Second Year Preceding 20 23 - 24	Historical data: Actual — First preceding year 20 24 - 25	Adopted budget this year year 20 25 - 26		Resource description	Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Proposed by Budget Officer	Approved by Budget Committee	Adopted by Governing Body	
1	156,967	130,000	130,000	1	Available cash on hand* (cash basis), or	250,000	250,000		1
2				2	Net working capital (accrual basis)				2
3	13,805	14,000	14,000	3	Previously levied taxes estimated to be received	14,000	14,000		3
4	7,267	20,000	7,000	4	Interest	8,000	8,000		4
5				5	Transferred in from other funds				5
6				6	Other resources				6
7	0	0	0	7	Proceeds from Equipment Sales	0	0		7
8	30,567	30,000	30,000	8	Miscellaneous/Grant Income	30,000	30,000		8
9				9					9
10				10	Out of District Charges				10
11		2,500	2,500	11	ODOT	2,500	2,500		11
12	24,106		0	12	Conflagration/Fire Response	0			12
13		10,000	10,000	13	ODF Contracts	10,000	10,000		13
14				14	Misc. Incident Calls				14
15		2,400	2,400	15	Hilgard Camp/Service Contracts	2,500	2,500		15
16	24,106	14,900	14,900	16	-Total out of District Charges	15,000	15,000		16
17				17					17
18				18					18
19				19					19
20				20					20
21				21					21
22				22					22
23				23					23
24				24					24
25				25					25
26				26					26
27				27					27
28	232,712	208,900	195,900	28	Total resources, except taxes to be levied	317,000			28
29		430,000	455,000	29	Taxes estimated to be received	455,000	455,000		29
30	435,636			30	Taxes collected in year levied				30
31	668,348	638,900	650,900	31	**Total resources**	772,000	772,000		31

150-504-020 (Rev. 11-16)

*The balance of cash, cash equivalents and investments in the fund at the beginning of the budget year.

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Form
OR-LB-31

Detailed Requirements

General Fund
(Fund)

	Historical data: Actual: Second preceding year 20 23 – 24	Historical data: Actual: First preceding year 20 24 – 25	Historical data: Adopted budget this year 20 25 – 26		Requirements for Fire Service (Name of program or organizational unit)	Budget for next year 20 25 – 27: Proposed by Budget Officer	Budget for next year 20 25 – 27: Approved by Budget Committee	Budget for next year 20 25 – 27: Adopted by Governing Body	
1				1	Personnel Services				1
2	105,575	109,270	111,893	2	Chief 1.00FTE	90,000	90,000		2
3				3					3
4				4					4
5	29,730	45,000	45,000	5	Part Time/Duty Officer Help .25FT	45,000	45,000		5
6	16,380	16,380	16,380	6	Admin. Assistant .35FTE	16,380	16,380		6
7				7					7
8	31,105	31,200	31,200	8	Fireman/Salaried Employees 4.20FTE	31,200	31,200		8
9	3,420	10,000	12,000	9	Fireman Contracted Service	12,000	12,000		9
10				10					10
11				11					11
12				12					12
13				13					13
14	17,499	25,000	25,000	14	Payroll Taxes and Insurance	25,000	25,000		14
15	20,400	20,400	20,400	15	Health Insurance	18,000	18,000		15
16	3,768	3,300	3,300	16	Retirement Expense	16,200	16,200		16
17	1215	2,200	1,800	17	Life Flight Memberships	1,500	1,500		17
18	0	0	0	18	Life Insurance	760	760		18
19	225,492	262,750	266,973	19	Total Personnel Services	256,040	256,040		19
20				20					20
21				21					21
22				22					22
23				23					23
24				24					24
25				25					25
26				26					26
27				27					27
28				28					28
29				29					29
30				30					30
31			5.8	31	Total full time equivalent (FTE)*	5.8	5.8	5.8	31
32				32	Ending balance (prior years)				32
33				33	Unappropriated ending fund balance				33
34	225,492	262,750	266,973	34	Total requirements	256,040	256,040		34

150-504-031 (Rev. 11-16)

*When budgeting for personnel services expenditures, include number of related FTE positions.

Form
OR-LB-31

Detailed Requirements

General Fund
(Fund)

	Historical data: Actual: Second preceding year 20 23 – 24	Historical data: Actual: First preceding year 20 24 – 25	Historical data: Adopted budget this year 20 25 – 26		Requirements for Fire Services (Name of program or organizational unit)	Budget for next year 20 26 – 27: Proposed by Budget Officer	Budget for next year 20 26 – 27: Approved by Budget Committee	Budget for next year 20 26 – 27: Adopted by Governing Body	
1				1	Materials and Services				1
2	4,628	6,000	6,000	2	Office and Station Supplies	7,000	7,000		2
3	19,142	20,000	20,000	3	Minor Equipment	20,000	20,000		3
4	19,115	27,000	42,000	4	Equipment Operation/Maintenance/Repair	42,000	42,000		4
5	5,863	15,000	0	5	Equipment Repairs	0	0		5
6	2,624	5,000	5,000	6	Building Repairs & Maintenance	5,000	5,000		6
7				7					7
8	11,334	15,000	15,000	8	Utilities	15,000	15,000		8
9	24,634	28,000	28,000	9	Insurance & Bonds	32,000	32,000		9
10	5,046	5,600	5,600	10	Dues/Subscriptions/Dispatch	5,600	5,600		10
11	11,627	14,000	14,000	11	Schools/Meetings/Conference/Training	14,000	14,000		11
12	0	1200	1,200	12	Elections	1,200	1,200		12
13				13					13
14		500	500	14	Fire Prevention Services	500	500		14
15	5,555	5,500	2,000	15	Telephone	3,200	3,200		15
16	17,062	35,000	35,000	16	General Operations	35,000	35,000		16
17	987	3000	3,000	17	Medical Supplies	3,000	3,000		17
18	0	100	100	18	Bank Charges	300	300		18
19	121	1000	1,000	19	Licenses & Fees	1,000	1,000		19
20				20					20
21				21	Contractual Services				21
22	4,250	6,000	7,000	22	Audit	7,000	7,000		22
23	0	1000	1,000	23	Legal/Other	1,000	1,000		23
24	0	500	500	24	Accounting Services	0	0		24
25	300	330	330	25	Medical Director	350	350		25
26	4,550	6,130	8,830	26	Total Contractual Services	8,350	8,350		26
27				27					27
28	132,288	189,730	187,230	28	Total Materials and Services	193,150	193,150		28
29				29					29
30				30	Total full time equivalent (FTE)*				30
31				31	Ending balance (prior years)				31
32				32	Unappropriated ending fund balance				32
33	132,288	189,730	187,230	33	Total requirements	193,150	193,150		33

150-504-031 (Rev. 11-16)

*When budgeting for personnel services expenditures, include number of related FTE positions.

Form
OR-LB-31

Detailed Requirements

General Fund
(Fund)

	Historical data: Actual — Second preceding year 20 23 - 24	Historical data: Actual — First preceding year 20 24 - 25	Historical data: Adopted budget this year 20 25 - 26		Requirements for Fire Services (Name of program or organizational unit)	Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Proposed by Budget Officer	Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Approved by Budget Committee	Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Adopted by Governing Body	
1				1	Capital Outlay				1
2	10,597	20,000	20,000	2	Equipment	20,000	20,000		2
3	10,597	20,000	20,000	3	-Total Capital Outlay	20,000	20,000		3
4				4					4
5				5	Transfers To Other Funds				5
6	0	15,000	10,000	6	Building Fund	10,000	10,000		6
7	170,000	15,000	100,000	7	Equipment Fund	100,000	100,000		7
8	170,000	30,000	110,000	8	-Total Transfers	110,000	110,000		8
9				9					9
10	0	136,420	66,697	10	Operating Contingency	198,010	192,810		10
11				11					11
12				12	Summary				12
13	225,492	262,750	266,973	13	Personnel Services	256,040	256,040		13
14	132,288	189,730	187,230	14	Materials & Services	193,150	193,150		14
15	10,597	20,000	20,000	15	Capital Outlay	20,000	20,000		15
16	170,000	30,000	110,000	16	Transfers To Other Funds	110,000	110,000		16
17	0	136,420	66,697	17	Operating Contingency	198,010	192,810		17
18				18					18
19				19					19
20				20					20
21				21					21
22				22					22
23				23					23
24				24					24
25				25					25
26				26					26
27				27					27
28				28					28
29				29					29
30				30	Total full time equivalent (FTE)*				30
31	156,971			31	Ending balance (prior years)				31
32				32	Unappropriated ending fund balance				32
33	695,348	638,900	650,900	33	Total requirements	777,200	772,000		33

150-504-031 (Rev. 11-16)

*When budgeting for personal services expenditures, include number of related FTE positions

Form
OR-LB-10

Special Fund Resources and Requirements

Equipment Fund (Fund)

La Grande Rural Fire Protection District (Name of Municipal Corporation)

	Historical data: Actual — Second preceding year 20 23 - 24	Historical data: Actual — First preceding year 20 24 - 25	Historical data: Adopted budget year 20 25 - 26		Description resources and requirements			Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Proposed by Budget Officer	Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Approved by Budget Committee	Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Adopted by Governing Body	
1				1	Resources						1
2	425,306	325,000	192,000	2	Cash on hand* (cash basis), or			300,000	300,000		2
3				3	Working capital (accrual basis)						3
4				4	Previously levied taxes estimated to be received						4
5	15,325	2,000	8,000	5	Interest			9,000	9,000		5
6	170,000	15,000	100,000	6	Transferred in from other funds			100,000	100,000		6
7	29,900	0	0	7	Proceeds from Sale of Assets			0	0		7
8				8							8
9				9							9
10	640,531	342,000	300,000	10	Total resources, except taxes to be levied			409,000	409,000		10
11				11	Taxes estimated to be received						11
12				12	Taxes collected in year levied						12
13	640,531	342,000	300,000	13	Total resources			409,000	409,000		13
14				14	Requirements**						14
15				15	Org unit or prog & activity	Object classification	Detail				15
16				16			Materials and Services				16
17	0	0	0	17			Bank Charges	0	0		17
18	0	0	0	18			Total Materials and Services	0	0		18
19				19							19
20				20			Capital Outlay				20
21				21							21
22	404,397	342,000	300,000	22			Fire Equipment	409,000	409,000		22
23	404,397	342,000	300,000	23			Total Capital Outlay	409,000	409,000		23
24				24							24
25				25							25
26				26							26
27				27							27
28				28							28
29	425,306			29	Ending balance (prior years)						29
30				30	Unappropriated ending fund balance						30
31	236,134	342,000	300,000	31	Total requirements			409,000	409,000		31

150-504-010 (Rev. 11-16)

*The balance of cash, cash equivalents and investments in the fund at the beginning of the budget year.

**List requirements by organizational unit or program, activity, object classification, then expenditure detail. If the requirement is "not allocated", then list by object classification and expenditure detail.

Form OR-LB-10

Special Fund Resources and Requirements

Building Fund (Fund) — La Grande Rural Fire Protection District (Name of Municipal Corporation)

Historical data: Actual — Second preceding year 20 23 - 24	Historical data: Actual — First preceding year 20 24 - 25	Historical data: Adopted budget year 20 25 - 26		Description resources and requirements	Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Proposed by Budget Officer	Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Approved by Budget Committee	Budget for next year 20 26 - 27: Adopted by Governing Body	
			1	**Resources**				1
125,893	85,000	93,000	2	Cash on hand* (cash basis), or	100,000	100,000		2
			3	Working capital (accrual basis)				3
			4	Previously levied taxes estimated to be received				4
5,044	1,000	4,000	5	Interest	4,000	4,000		5
0	15,000	10,000	6	Transferred in from other funds	10,000	10,000		6
			7					7
			8					8
			9					9
130,937	101,000	107,000	10	Total resources, except taxes to be levied	114,000	114,000		10
			11	Taxes estimated to be received				11
			12	Taxes collected in year levied				12
130,937	101,000	107,000	13	**Total resources**	114,000	114,000		13
			14	**Requirements****				14
			15	Org unit or prog & activity / Object classification / Detail				15
			16	Materials and Services				16
0	0	0	17	Bank Charges	0	0		17
0	0	0	18	Total Materials and Services	0	0		18
			19					19
			20	Capital Outlay				20
37,806	101,000	107,000	21	Building Projects	114,000	114,000		21
37,806	101,000	107,000	22	Total Capital Outlay	114,000	114,000		22
			23					23
			24					24
			25					25
			26					26
			27					27
			28					28
125,893			29	Ending balance (prior years)				29
		0	30	Unappropriated ending fund balance	0			30
93,131	101,000	107,000	31	**Total requirements**	114,000	114,000		31

150-504-010 (Rev. 11-16)

*The balance of cash, cash equivalents and investments in the fund at the beginning of the budget year.

**List requirements by organizational unit or program, activity, object classification, then expenditure detail. If the requirement is "not allocated", then list by object classification and expenditure detail.

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The Board can be reached at board@lagranderuralfire.org or by mail at 10200 S. McAlister Rd La Grande, OR 97850



Questions, comments or concerns...reach out to us!

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