

April 2, 2001

Joe M. Allbaugh
Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727-8998

Dear Mr. Allbaugh,

Thank you for this opportunity to apply for funds to protect a historic town while increasing firefighter safety in a small rural community in northern Oregon.

We have been striving to protect our firefighters by educating them on specific building construction used in the area as well as techniques for firefighter survival. In addition to the training, an extensive pre-fire plan program has been implemented. If funded, we will be able to provide adequate and efficient fire protection to our community's historic buildings and landmarks.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (541) 386-3939, extension 11.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Willis
Fire Chief
Hood River fire Department

**PROTECTING HISTORICAL
HOOD RIVER, OREGON**

HOOD RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION
ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM**

HOOD RIVER, OREGON

Discovering the Oregon Trail

The first settlers in the Hood River area arrived in late 1852. Establishing a small community and village along the Oregon Trail attracted many settlers. As the community grew, many buildings and businesses were established. In 1895, the City of Hood River was officially incorporated. The first session of the "Hood River Common Council" was held and several ordinances were created. "Ordinance 12" was a fire prevention ordinance that required builders to comply with specific fire safety building regulations. This progressive City Council set standards that carried Hood River through its first building boom from 1901 – 1913.

Need for Fire Protection

This growth stimulated the need for a fire department to be organized. In 1904, the Hood River Fire Department was created. For 97 years, a sense of pride and honor has grown within the citizens and fire department members. At community functions, fundraising events, and during times of need, Hood River residents have followed and supported the fire department in numerous ways.

The department gives back to the community every time they are able. Installing the Christmas lights on the city light poles, providing fire safety education to the entire Hood River County School District's 1000 school children in grades kindergarten through second, and responding to emergency situations are a few of the community services that the Hood River Fire Department strives to offer.

Mission Statement

Our mission statement reads "We, the members of this department, are committed to providing emergency services and prevention education to the community we serve." The department will be able to continue to provide this exemplary service with the addition of new safety and firefighting equipment.

The Hood River Fire Department prides itself on community involvement. Protecting what we value most, our historic past, is a large part of our commitment.

PROTECTING HISTORICAL HOOD RIVER

Past Meets Present

Historical buildings and high traffic, tourist occupancies combine to create tragedy waiting to happen. In Hood River, Oregon, a small farming town turned recreational destination, it is important to protect what we value most.

History reveals a deep tradition of agriculture and family business. Along with these traditional occupations come many buildings with grand historical significance. Protecting these structures from the destructive forces of fire is not only important, it is a priority. Proper equipment needs to be utilized in order for this protection to occur efficiently and effectively.

Near Miss

Many old buildings are designed without modern considerations for corridor width, access and egress, and fire separations. In addition, structural stability is a concern with many of the buildings being nearly 100 years old.

In 1994 a fire started in an old packing facility that was being decommissioned. The fire rapidly spread and overwhelmed the City's resources. An interior attack was attempted, but thick smoke and high heat conditions hampered firefighters. The firefighters decided to retreat when sounds of metal fatigue echoed throughout the building. Minutes after the firefighters exited the building, complete roof collapse occurred. Modern firefighting equipment can be used to increase the opportunity for the Hood River Fire Department to protect and defend its history.

History Lost

Expansion of Hood River into the Urban Growth Area adds rural locations without adequate water. Also, the existing water system is very old and requires hydrant access from multiple areas. An example of this occurred in 2000 when a large commercial building was destroyed by fire in the middle of the afternoon. Poor hydrant location and inadequate main sizes stopped fire apparatus from receiving the necessary fire flow to extinguish the blaze. Large diameter supply hose and additional 2 ½-inch attack lines could have been used to provide adequate water supply to apparatus from surrounding hydrants. This would have preserved a historic building that used to house a horse-drawn carriage manufacturer and fruit packing shed.

Fire Technology

Another advancement in firefighter safety and efficiency is the Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC). A TIC allows the fire department to search buildings quicker to save life and to locate the seat of the fire quicker. Old buildings are synonymous with fire fatalities, something that the Hood River Fire Department wants to change if not eliminate. According to the US Fire Administration's "Notice of Firefighter Fatality" reports, 9 out of the 29 fatalities that occurred from January through March of 2001 were attributed to overwhelming fire conditions, lost or trapped firefighters, and structural collapse. These fatalities could have been avoided with proper use of a Thermal Imaging Camera. One victim was located with the aid of a TIC, but his injuries were too substantial to survive.

Increasing our ability to deliver large amounts of water quickly and use thermal imaging technology will allow to better serve our community. Hood River is proud of their fire service and their history. By protecting what we value most, our firefighters and the community they serve, we can continue to build a town centered on history and tradition.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Goal

To provide better fire protection to historic buildings in Hood River while increasing firefighter safety.

Objectives

In order to meet the goal, we will:

- 1) Purchase 3500 feet of 4-inch large diameter hose
- 2) Purchase all needed appliances for 300 hydrants in the city
- 3) Conduct training on the use of large diameter hose and associated equipment
- 4) Purchase 1000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose
- 5) Purchase a hose testing device to ensure the safety of firefighters using the hose
- 6) Conduct training on the proper use of the hose testing device
- 7) Purchase one thermal imaging camera with remote receiver
- 8) Conduct training on the proper use of thermal imaging cameras

PROJECT TIMELINE

Within 30 days of approved funding, purchase 2 1/2-inch hose, 4-inch hose, hose tester, and appliances.

Within 30 days of approved funding, contact various equipment distributors for demonstration of thermal imaging cameras.

Within 90 days of approved funding, submit RFP's for the purchase of one thermal imaging camera from the desired manufacturer.

Within 120 days of approved funding, purchase the thermal imaging camera.

Within 8 months of approved funding have 2 1/2-inch hose, 4-inch hose, hose appliances, and thermal imaging camera in-service and all personnel trained on safe use.

EVALUATION

To evaluate the effectiveness of our new hose and thermal imaging camera we will conduct various application tests. We will first examine our current firefighting abilities at our historic structures. This examination will include fire flow capabilities, hand line positioning, building search techniques, and ability to make an interior attack. Following the requisition of the new hose and thermal imaging camera, we will again perform these tasks. The effectiveness of the equipment will be measured by the efficiency of performing the tasks, the gallons per minute of fire flow capable, and the safety of firefighters during interior operations. The information gathered will be formatted into a report and distributed to the funding sources, City Manager, and City Council.

PROJECT BUDGET

Item	FEMA	Local Grant	HRFD	Total
3500 feet of 4-inch large diameter hose @ \$650 per 100 foot section	\$22,750	\$0	\$0	\$22,750
1000 feet of 2 ½-inch hose @ \$3.50 per foot	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500
300 Quick-Connect adapters for fire hydrants @ \$150 each	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$45,000
4 Large diameter intake valves for fire apparatus @ \$1200 each	\$4,800	\$0	\$0	\$4,800
4 Large diameter hydrant valves @ \$750 each	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
6 Adapters from 2 ½-inch hose to 4-inch hose @ \$150 each	\$900	\$0	\$0	\$900
Hose Pressure Tester	\$0	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500
Thermal Imaging Camera with Remote Receiving Station	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Total	\$93,450	\$3,500	\$6,500	\$103,450

Budget Descriptions

4-inch hose will be double jacketed, high-pressured rated with Quick-Connect adapters on each end. 100-foot sections.

2 ½-inch hose will be double jacketed; high-pressure rated with NST threads. 50-foot sections.

Quick-Connect hydrant adapters will change hydrant 6-inch NST ports to Quick-Connect fittings with caps.

Large diameter intake valves will be permanently mounted on fire apparatus to provide efficient hydrant-to-engine connections. Automatic valves and pressure relief valves will be specified.

Hydrant valves will attach to the 4-inch hose in the hose bed of the fire apparatus to allow hydrant shutdown with interrupted flow to other apparatus.

4-inch Quick-Connect to 2 ½-inch NST adapters are used to work with surrounding fire departments on mutual aid responses.

Hose pressure tester will be used to conduct annual in-house hose hydrostatic tests. These tests provide information on the safety of the hose being utilized.

The Thermal Imaging Camera will be selected from various manufacturers after sufficient field tests. The camera will be capable of transmitting the image seen by firefighters to the command vehicle for additional safety monitoring and recording.