



FIRE DISTRICT No. 14

2020-2021

BUDGET PLAN DOCUMENT

*Excellence Through
Commitment to Community Service*



CORBETT FIRE DISTRICT #14

BUDGET MESSAGE 2020-2021

April 2020

Corbett Fire District #14 provides fire, rescue and emergency services to a 40 square mile service area that includes the communities of Corbett, Springdale, Aims, Latourell, Bridal Veil, and surrounding areas with approximately 4,000 residents. This area includes many acres of wildland/urban interface, forest lands, over 2,000 acres of Oregon State Parks, Columbia and Sandy River recreation areas, Interstate 84 and Union Pacific Railroad property. Through a contract with Multnomah County we provide emergency medical services to areas east of the Fire District up to the Hood River County line. We responded to 478 calls for assistance in 2019, including fires of all types, medical emergencies, technical rescue for water and high angle rescue events, public assistance and service calls. We routinely assist our neighboring fire departments in Sandy, Cascade Locks and Gresham. This is done with a volunteer force of 34 firefighters, a paid part-time Fire Chief and a paid part-time Office Administrator. We have fire stations strategically placed in Corbett, Springdale and Aims.

Corbett Fire District #14 strives to provide a high level of service to our residents and visitors. This encompasses training, public education and outreach, fire prevention and community events. Our equipment is well maintained and is always being updated to provide for maximum efficiency and safety for both our firefighters and the people we serve. Apparatus and big-ticket expenses are funded over time through our Capital Reserve Fund.

Funding levels remain stable with a tax rate of \$1.2624 per thousand of assessed value. The projected taxes necessary to balance the budget for 2020-2021 are \$467,000.

This year's budget directly funds new 4" supply hose for our structural engines, replacing our current 3" hose that is at the end of its lifespan, new uniform items, new safety equipment for our larger apparatus and new heating equipment for our Corbett Station and Fire Hall. We are also replacing three of our smaller vehicles that are either at the end of their lifespan (Brush Unit 62 and Utility 62) or outdated (Brush Unit 61).

Education and training remain a high priority. We budget to fund training opportunities on the local, state and national level. We continue to see an interest by our firefighters in attending outside training opportunities; we also bring in outside resources and instructors to our facilities. This speaks well for our firefighters' desire to improve their skills and training to be better able to serve our community when needed.

We continue to see more firefighters become certified as Oregon Emergency Medical Responder and Emergency Medical Technician. This education significantly improves our ability to care for sick and injured patients.

Multnomah County Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission recommends the Fire District abolish the LOSAP Incentive Fund and transfer activity to the General Fund Personnel Services category to more appropriately reflect expenditures in this budget.

The Fire District's legal counsel (Special Districts Association of Oregon) strongly advised us to legally separate the Corbett Firefighters' Association finances from the Fire District. This change is reflected in the 2020-21 budget.

Most accounts will remain at or near current levels with increases where they are expected or ongoing improvements and/or changes. Existing service levels will be maintained with this budget.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated financial impacts may result in lower property tax revenue collections than projected in this budget. One-time expenditures will be delayed to the future in the event of an actual revenue shortfall.

This budget is based on the assumption that \$467,000 in revenue will be available in property taxes for the 2020-2021 budget year. Additionally, it reflects \$70,000 for the Emergency Medical Service contract with Multnomah County EMS for responding east of our District, and \$7,000 for the contract with Oregon State Parks for services to parks in the Western Columbia River Gorge.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Flood, Fire Chief and Budget Officer
Corbett Fire District #14