



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Emergency Management

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October 17, 2025

Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Steven Robbins, LFO Principal Budget Analyst
Kate Nass, State Chief Financial Officer
Allison Daniel, DAS Policy and Budget Analyst

Dear Ms. Beitel,

I'm writing in response to your communication on October 1, in which the Oregon Department of Emergency Management was directed by the Legislative Fiscal Office and the DAS Chief Financial Office to present reduction options equal to 5 percent of our 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget for General Fund and Other Funds, excluding bond funds and debt service costs. This letter provides additional detail on the mission and programs of our agency and the considerations behind the options being presented to you for consideration.

OEM's mission is clear and uncompromising: to lead collaborative state-wide efforts, inclusive of all partners and the communities we serve. We ensure that every Oregonian has access to help in an emergency and that our local communities are equipped to protect, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies or disasters regardless of cause. OEM is the central coordinator statewide for communications, operational support, training and technical assistance, equipment, and funding for emergencies that exceed the capacity of local governments to respond.

As the OEM Director I am also the State Homeland Security Advisor. This is a role that remains under resourced despite its growing demands. Over the past year we have seen firsthand the important of a well-coordinated and informed Homeland Security program.

Since becoming an independent agency in 2022, OEM has been laser focused on building the right structure and capacity while simultaneously managing an unprecedented volume of emergencies – over 41 statewide disasters in the past five years to include three major disaster declarations in the past two years. Despite these pressures our team has aggressively pursued and secured billions in federal funding to support the response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation of communities impacted by disaster.

While federal dollars support most of OEM's programs, it is the state's investment in OEM's administrative infrastructure that has enabled us to accelerate recovery timelines, ensure fiscal accountability, and deliver high-quality service to our communities. These state funds are not optional – they are essential. They empower us to pursue additional federal resources and to proactively prepare Oregon's communities for the next crisis.

OEM operates with a lean state budget compared to our sister agencies, yet we deliver and outsized return. Every dollar is stretched, every resource maximized, and every action taken with the safety and resilience of Oregonians in mind. The stakes are high and OEM is delivering.

In keeping with our mission, and seeking to balance the needs of our programs, other financial constraints we are aware of, and our role in the statewide emergency management system, OEM used the following guiding principles in considering how to achieve the proposed reduction options:

1. Look for efficiencies or costs that can be deferred to reduce the impact of the reductions on agency operations
2. Preserve the agency's capacity to respond to emergencies and maintain the state's level of preparedness
3. Limit reductions to state funds used to leverage or match federal funds
4. Avoid reductions that would increase costs or open gaps in services for other departments or local governments
5. Avoid reductions to programs facing potential budget challenges in 2025-27
6. Where possible, balance reductions across the agency and avoid reductions that would affect critical positions or administrative capacity

OEM presents reduction options of \$1.3 million General Fund and \$9.3 million Other Funds for your consideration.. OEM's General Fund reductions would reduce administrative capacity, leaving one position vacant for 24 months, reducing a new Special Payment program for the Civil Air Patrol, and fund shift positions from General Fund to Federal Funds. Other Funds reductions would reduce excess Other Funds in the Mitigation program and would also reduce payments to local 9-1-1 operators. The proposed reductions do not impact any filled positions at OEM.

New Programs

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management welcomed two new programs to the agency in 2025-27: the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS), transferred from Oregon State Police, and the Statewide Interoperability Program (SWIC), transferred from Department of Administrative Services (DAS). While these programs are new to us, reductions to them (or in the case of OERS potential changes to the transition date) would not be sustainable and would not result in savings on a statewide basis without creating a gap in service.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal. I welcome the opportunity to provide additional information and context around our proposal and the anticipated effects on our agency during the current biennium.

Best regards,



Erin McMahon
Director, Oregon Department of Emergency Management

<div><div>Oregon Department of Emergency Management</div><div>Agency 25800</div><div>2025-27 Biennium Reduction Options</div></div>																
Detail of Reductions to 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Priority (ranked most to least preferred)		Agency	SCR or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Gov. Reduction Target Yes / No	One-Time Yes / No	Describe the reduction and associated impact on services and outcomes. Please identify the source of Other Funds reductions.
Dept	Prgm/ Div															
1	1	258	258-400	Mitigation Special Payments			\$ 2,262,733				\$ 2,262,733			N	Y	Reduce Other Funds expenditure limitation in the Oregon Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Fund (ORS 401.541) to match cash on hand; reducing this further may hinder future distributions to our external partners, including monies to Wasco County for the Rowena disaster.
2	1	258	258-100	Administration S&S Interagency Charges	\$ 129,981						\$ 129,981			Y	Y	This reduction reflects savings from how we charge our overhead expenditures to our federal awards. Starting in 2025-27 OEM is working to charge more expenditures directly to federal grants which will reduce the use of General Fund and the indirect rate model.
3	2	258	258-100	Operations S&S Other S&S	\$ 114,418						\$ 114,418			Y	Y	This reduction will limit OEM's ability to respond to unexpected expenditures during the biennium, for example, IT equipment replacement for the Administration program.
4	1	258	258-300	Preparedness Personal Service							\$ _____			N	Y	Shift one position from 100% General Funds to 50% General Fund / 50% Federal Funds utilizing grant funds from the Emergency Management Performance Grant. This affects our Preparedness manager position.
5	2	258	258-300	Preparedness Personal Service							\$ _____			N	Y	Shift one position from 100% General Funds to 50% General Fund / 50% Federal Funds utilizing available grant funds from the Emergency Management Performance Grant. This affects our Response and Recovery manager position.
6	3	258	258-300	Preparedness Personal Service							\$ _____			N	Y	Shift one position from 100% General Funds to 50% General Fund / 50% Federal Funds, utilizing available grant funds from the Emergency Management Performance Grant. This affects our ECC manager position.
7	3	258	258-100	Administration Personal Services	\$ 306,320						\$ 306,320			N	Y	Leave one Administrative Specialist 2 position vacant for 24 months and recognizing savings for the position-related Services and Supplies reduces administrative support for the Finance Division and relegate its duties primarily to the Chief Financial Officer.
8	4	258	258-300	Preparedness Other S&S	\$ 41,280						\$ 41,280			N	Y	Reduce General Fund resources for Services and Supplies for the Preparedness Division. Used as a balance to reach the 5% target.
9	5	258	258-300	Preparedness Civil Air Patrol	80,000						\$ 80,000			N	N	Reduces our subsidy payment to the Civil Air Patrol. This will eliminate the second payment of \$80,000 to the CAP, which is anticipated to significantly reducing their budget and readiness to assist on search and rescue missions.
10	1	258	258-200	9-1-1 Program Special Payments			\$ 2,392,741				\$ 2,392,741			N	Y	Reduce special payments to public safety answering points (PSAPs) from the 9-1-1 program; this will hinder the distribution for our 9-1-1 operations across the state.
				TOTAL	671,999	-	4,655,474	-	-	-	\$ 5,327,473	0	0.00			

2.50%	Target 100%	1,343,999	-	9,310,947	-	-	-	\$ 11,161,945		
	Target 2.5%	671,999		4,655,474	-	-	-	5,580,973	-	-
	Target 2.5%	671,999		4,655,474	-	-	-	5,580,973	-	-
	Target 5%	1,343,999	-	9,310,947	-	-	-	11,161,945	-	-

Oregon Department of Emergency Management Agency 25800 2025-27 Biennium Reduction Options																
Detail of Reductions to 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Priority (ranked most to least preferred)		Agency	SCR or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Gov. Reduction Target Yes / No	One-Time Yes / No	Describe the reduction and associated impact on services and outcomes. Please identify the source of Other Funds reductions.
Dept	Prgm/ Div															
1	1	258	258-400	Mitigation Special Payments			\$ 2,262,733				\$ 2,262,733			N	Y	Reduce Other Funds expenditure limitation in the Oregon Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Fund (ORS 401.541) to match cash on hand; reducing this further may hinder future distributions to our external partners, including monies to Wasco County for the Rowena disaster.
2	1	258	258-100	Administration S&S Interagency Charges							\$ -			Y	Y	This reduction reflects savings from how we charge our overhead expenditures to our federal awards. Starting in 2025-27 OEM is working to charge more expenditures directly to federal grants which will reduce the use of General Fund and the indirect rate model.
3	2	258	258-100	Operations S&S Other S&S	\$ 65,600						\$ 65,600			Y	Y	This reduction will limit OEM's ability to respond to unexpected expenditures during the biennium, for example, IT equipment replacement for the Administration program.
4	1	258	258-300	Preparedness Personal Service	\$ 210,714						\$ 210,714			N	Y	Shift one position from 100% General Funds to 50% General Fund / 50% Federal Funds utilizing grant funds from the Emergency Management Performance Grant. This affects our Preparedness manager position.
5	2	258	258-300	Preparedness Personal Service	\$ 210,714						\$ 210,714			N	Y	Shift one position from 100% General Funds to 50% General Fund / 50% Federal Funds utilizing available grant funds from the Emergency Management Performance Grant. This affects our Response and Recovery manager position
6	3	258	258-300	Preparedness Personal Service	\$ 184,971						\$ 184,971			N	Y	Shift one position from 100% General Funds to 50% General Fund / 50% Federal Funds, utilizing available grant funds from the Emergency Management Performance Grant. This affects our ECC manager position
7	3	258	258-100	Administration Personal Services							\$ -			N	Y	Leave one Administrative Specialist 2 position vacant for 24 months and recognizing savings for the position-related Services and Supplies reduces administrative support for the Finance Division and relegate its duties primarily to the Chief Financial Officer.
8	4	258	258-300	Preparedness Other S&S							\$ -			N	Y	Reduce General Fund resources for Services and Supplies for the Preparedness Division. Used as a balance to reach the 5% target.
9	5	258	258-300	Preparedness Civil Air Patrol							\$ -			N	N	Reduces our subsidy payment to the Civil Air Patrol. This will eliminate the second payment of \$80,000 to the CAP, which is anticipated to significantly reducing their budget and readiness to assist on search and rescue missions.
10	1	258	258-200	9-1-1 Program Special Payments			\$ 2,392,741				\$ 2,392,741			N	Y	Reduce special payments to public safety answering points (PSAPs) from the 9-1-1 program; this will hinder the distribution for our 9-1-1 operations across the state.
				TOTAL	671,999	-	4,655,474	-	-	-	\$ 5,327,472	0	0.00			

2.50%	Target 100%	1,343,999	-	9,310,947	-	-	-	\$ 11,161,945		
	Target 2.5%	671,999		4,655,474	-	-	-	5,580,973	-	-
	Target 2.5%	671,999		4,655,474	-	-	-	5,580,973	-	-
	Target 5%	1,343,999	-	9,310,947	-	-	-	11,161,945	-	-

Oregon Department of Emergency Management 2025-27 Biennium															
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Program Status
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
258	25800-300	2025-2027	06.24.2025	SB 234 Chapter Law 408, 2025 Laws	The Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) was established by the governor in 1972 as the primary point of contact for state notification of an emergency or disaster. It provides 24x7 notification/coordination support to all state agencies and county public safety answering points (PSAP) for all-hazards response. The program serves as the primary National Alert and Warning System notification point for the state of Oregon. OERS also provides the State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) with a 24x7 watch function, all-hazards incident monitoring, intelligence analysis, and interoperable communications support.	1,778,007				942,966		\$ 2,720,973	1	(2.50)	Utilized for managing emergencies across the state through coordination & response. This program transferred from Oregon State Police but as a part of Oregon Laws 2021, Chapter 539, Section 155b, OERS was to be transitioned to OEM on 07.01.2025; Senate Bill 234 (2025) delays the transition date to July 1 2026. Packages include Pkg 090; Pkg 801; Pkg 811. This program will be requesting positons for the 2027-2029 biennium. It is unknown at this time, the quantity.
258	25800-300	2025-2027	07.01.2025	SB 826 Chapter Law 412, 2025 Laws	The Office of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator supports the State Interoperability Executive Council and works to implement various interoperable communications initiatives across all levels of government throughout the state. The program primarily focusses on public safety broadband, radio, 9-1-1/NG-911, and alerts and warning. Program work includes developing and implementing statewide policy and guidance around alerts, warnings, and notifications; implementing and maintaining the OR-Alert system; and coordinating efforts with various partners, including state and local government personnel and first responders across the state, critical infrastructure owner/operators, federal counterparts and others.			4,399,352				\$ 4,399,352	3	3.00	This program transferred from Department of Administrative Services State Chief Information Officer to OEAM. The program coordinates emergency communications for public safety and emergency response statewide. Funding for this program has historically derived from assessments of state agencies; Senate Bill 826 includes the statutory language allowing OEM to assess other agencies for the cost of the program. This program will be requesting positons for the 2027-2029 biennium. It is unknown at this time, the quantity.

Oregon Department of Emergency Management 2025-27 Biennium																
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23																
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Program Status	
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization												
258	25800-300	2025-2027	07.01.2025	SB 5517 Chapter Law 423, 2025 Laws	Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally chartered, federally funded, 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation and serves as the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. Founded Dec. 1, 1941, to mobilize the nation's civilian aviation resources for national defense service, CAP has evolved into a premier public service organization that is a cost-effective force multiplier for Air Force-assigned missions. Civil Air Patrol provides mission-capable aircraft, a national small Unmanned Aircraft Systems fleet, specialized communications networks, imaging capabilities, and a cost-effective force of trained volunteers for its missions. In addition, CAP uses proprietary software for cellphone and radar forensics and geospatial technologies to support missions.	160,000						\$160,000	-	-	OEM's budget increased by \$160,000 General Fund to assume subsidized reimbursement to the Civil Air Patrol. In prior biennia, Department of Administrative Services received funding to provide a grant to support operations including funding for flight time, parts, and maintenance. This program is on the reduction option list for \$80k	
258	25800-100	2025-2027	07.01.2025	SB 5517 Chapter Law 423, 2025 Laws	The finance team consists of Accounting, Budget and Procurement. The finance team focuses on the mission of the agency in ensuring we are in compliance with policies and procedures as part of the executive branch.	408,354					332,966	\$741,320	5	5.00	To grow the maturity and capability of our operations by transitioning away from relying as a client agency on DAS Shared Financial Services for agency Accounting and Budget services, and to make permanent sufficient grants accounting staff to support agency operations, increase payment processing times, and improve the accuracy of compliance reviews. This program will ask for additional positions in the future.	
258	OMD	2017		HB 2687 Resiliency Grant Fund	The State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment (SPIRE) grant program provides equipment to local governments and other recipients for emergency preparedness. The program funds the purchasing and distribution of equipment, including vehicles and other property, to be used during an emergency to decrease the risk for loss of life and property damage. Oregon House Bill 2687 funds the program and became effective in August 2017.							\$-	-	-	The first mention of SPIRE as part of the Resiliency Grant Fund. There was no measure assignment in 2017	
258	OMD	2021		HB 2426 State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment (SPIRE)	The State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment (SPIRE) grant program provides equipment to local governments and other recipients for emergency preparedness. The program funds the purchasing and distribution of equipment, including vehicles and other property, to be used during an emergency to decrease the risk for loss of life and property damage. Oregon House Bill 2687 funds the program and became effective in August 2017.							\$-	-	-	Second mention of SPIRE but not funds.	

<p><i>Oregon Department of Emergency Management</i></p> <p>2025-27 Biennium</p>
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Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23									
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Program Status
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
258	25800-300	2024	04.17.2024	SB 5701 Chapter Law 114, 2024 Laws	The State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment (SPIRE) grant program provides equipment to local governments and other recipients for emergency preparedness. The program funds the purchasing and distribution of equipment, including vehicles and other property, to be used during an emergency to decrease the risk for loss of life and property damage. Oregon House Bill 2687 funds the program and became effective in August 2017.			5,100,000				\$ 5,100,000	-	-	Appropriated \$5.1m used to purchase emergency preparedness equipment and distributed to local governments.
	25800-300	2025-2027	08.07.2025	SB 5505 Chapter Law 630, 2025 Laws	The State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment (SPIRE) grant program provides equipment to local governments and other recipients for emergency preparedness. The program funds the purchasing and distribution of equipment, including vehicles and other property, to be used during an emergency to decrease the risk for loss of life and property damage. Oregon House Bill 2687 funds the program and became effective in August 2017.			10,140,000				\$ 10,140,000			This program continues distributions and purchases for SPIRE recipients. For the 2027-2029 biennium, OEM plans to request continued funding, the amount has not been determined at this time.
258	25800-300	2024	04.17.2024	SB 5701 Chapter Law 114, 2024 Laws	Legislation in 2022 (HB 4068) and 2024 (SB 5701) provided an opportunity for the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) to engage with partners statewide and at the Federal level to develop strategies and purchasing options for the newly formed Statewide Disaster Preparedness Stockpile Program. The \$5 million Joint Emergency Board funding will provide OEM with an excellent foundation to establish the program and craft strategies for long-term success	5,000,000						\$ 5,000,000			OEM did not receive stockpile monies for the 2025-2027 biennium
												\$ -			
												\$ -			
												\$ -			
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												\$ -			
												\$ -			
												\$ -			
												\$ -			
					TOTAL	7,346,361	-	19,639,352	-	1,275,932	-	\$ 28,261,645	9	5.50	

Instructions

Column (5) - Authorization should identify the source of the new program or program expansion, which could include enabling legislation, approved policy option package, or administrative establishment.

Column (16) - Current status of program implementation should be summarized, including any future budget requests anticipated upon full program implementation.