



**Jefferson County Fire & EMS**

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**April 6, 2025**

**To the Honorable Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee**

**Jefferson County Fire District #1 – Capital Funding Request**

Jefferson County Fire District #1 has long been committed to serving our community with dedication and integrity. However, our growing list of critical needs continues to outpace our available resources. For the past three years, we have been working diligently on expanding and modernizing our facilities to better serve the public and protect the health and safety of our personnel.

In May 2024, we reached a major milestone: the successful passage of a bond measure to help fund our long-overdue station expansion and remodel. While we are grateful for the community's support, rising pre-construction and construction costs have increased the total cost of the project to \$1.8 million—exceeding the bond's funding capacity. As a result, we are facing a shortfall that not only jeopardizes the completion of the full project but also limits our ability to replace our 25-year-old fire engine, which has been on order for over two and a half years and is scheduled to arrive in October 2025.

The remodel of the existing station is critical. It will bring the facility into compliance with ADA standards, provide equitable and appropriate facilities for our increasingly diverse workforce, and meet essential seismic safety requirements. Unfortunately, the seismic grant we received is restricted to the new engine bays and cannot be used for the remodel portion, even though both areas are structurally connected. It is fiscally prudent to complete all necessary seismic upgrades at once, avoiding additional mobilization costs and construction delays.

We are also seeking an additional \$100,000 to upgrade our engine bay ventilation system. This important improvement would significantly reduce firefighter exposure to harmful carcinogens—a known occupational risk in our profession.

This marks our third time applying for capital funding, and we are proud to share that we are now well underway in the construction process. The foundation has been poured, the framing is up, and exterior work is progressing steadily. By the time this request is reviewed, we anticipate that interior

finishes for the new expansion will be largely completed, and we'll be ready to begin the remodel of the original structure. We anticipate the full project to be completed by March 2026.

We appreciate your continued consideration of our request. Your support would enable us to responsibly and efficiently complete this vital project while maximizing the impact of both local and grant funding. Most importantly, it would help ensure the health, safety, and readiness of our firefighters—and the safety of the community we serve.

Sincerely,

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