



Camas Valley Rural Volunteer Fire District

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My name is James Beans, and I'm here on behalf of the **Camas Valley Rural Volunteer Fire District**. We'd like to respectfully request **\$190,000** to help us purchase **18 new sets of firefighter turnouts** and **10 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs)**.

Much of our current turnout gear is up to **20 years old**, even though **NFPA safety standards limit its service life to 10 years**. This gear has been exposed to years of fire, smoke, and heavy use, and in many cases, no longer provides the protection it should.

Our SCBAs—the air packs that allow us to safely breathe in smoke-filled and hazardous environments—are also dangerously outdated. They're **too old to refurbish**, and **replacement parts are no longer available**. Without dependable SCBAs, we can't safely send our firefighters into burning buildings or toxic conditions.

As a **small rural department**, our **annual budget is extremely limited**. We can typically afford to purchase **just one set of turnouts or one SCBA each year**, which makes it nearly impossible to keep up with growing needs and rising equipment costs. At the same time, our **call volume continues to increase**, and our volunteers are responding to more medical emergencies, fires, and rescues than ever before.

We've tried many ways to get the equipment we need—including **relying on hand-me-downs from larger departments**. In the past, that's helped us stretch our resources. But with equipment becoming more expensive and being used harder and longer at all levels, **these donations are harder to come by and often not in usable condition**.

All of our firefighters are **volunteers**, serving our community **at no cost**. That allows our limited funding to be focused on operations, training, and maintenance—but we're still falling behind. **Providing them with this much-needed equipment will allow them to do their jobs safer and more efficiently**, whether it's entering a burning home, performing a rescue, or supporting neighboring departments during large incidents.

These men and women give their time freely, without asking for anything in return. The least we can do is make sure they have the right gear to keep them safe while they protect our community.

Thank you.

James Beans IV
Captain

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