

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUHL REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF THE BUHL RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IN THEIR GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDING GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION TO SUPPORT AND SERVICE THE BUHL AND SURROUNDING AREA**

WHEREAS, the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District administers the fire and EMS services for the City of Buhl and the District's surrounding area, and;

WHEREAS, the total Buhl Fire Department coverage area encompasses 102 square miles and 10,000+ residents, and;

WHEREAS, the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District does not currently own a centrally located fire station in their District, and;

WHEREAS, the currently rented facility does not have the room to house all of the fire department vehicles, or provide adequate facilities for 24-hour coverage with separate sleeping quarters, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED by the City Council of Buhl, Idaho as follows:

Section 1: The City Council supports the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District in their efforts of fire and EMS service.

Section 2: The City Council supports the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District in this application process.

PASSED by the Buhl City Council the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Buhl the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

By: Pamela McClain  
Pamela McClain, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen Drown  
Karen Drown, City Clerk



# Buhl Police Department

201 Broadway Avenue N. Buhl, ID 83316  
Phone: (208) 543-4200 Fax: (208) 543-8331



April 14, 2025

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed construction of a new fire station in the City of Buhl, Idaho. As our city and surrounding communities continue to grow, the need for modern, expanded emergency services infrastructure has become increasingly urgent.

The Buhl Fire Department has seen a significant increase in service demand over recent years. In 2016, the department responded to 1,005 calls for service. By 2023, that number had increased to 1,517 calls—a trend that is expected to continue as our population grows and development expands throughout the region.

The proposed facility would enable the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District to provide 24-hour coverage and meet the increasing needs of our community. It would also offer critical upgrades including:

- Adequate space for apparatus and emergency equipment
- Proper sleeping quarters for on-duty personnel
- Accommodation for an ALS crew, regional volunteer support, and future resident firefighters
- A professional, up-to-date training facility to ensure operational readiness and public safety

This station would not only enhance emergency response capabilities within Buhl but would also serve as a regional hub for mutual aid and expanded emergency services throughout southern Twin Falls County.

Given the clear and growing need, I respectfully request your support in the form of a Congressional resolution or any available funding assistance to help make this essential project a reality. Your continued advocacy for rural communities like Buhl is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Engbaum M.P.A.

Chief of Police

Mike Main  
Lieutenant

Cody Mai  
Detective

Jeremy Engbaum, MPA  
Chief of Police

"Investing in our Community with Service Excellence"

David Katsules  
Sergeant/K9

Haley Brown  
School Resource Officer

**BRENT D. REINKE**  
COMMISSIONER  
FIRST DISTRICT

**TWIN FALLS COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
630 ADDISON AVE. WEST  
P.O. BOX 126  
TWIN FALLS, ID 83303-0126  
(208) 736-4068  
(208) 736-4176 FAX  
(800) 377-3529 Idaho Relay (TTY)

**ROCKY MATTHEWS**  
COMMISSIONER  
THIRD DISTRICT

**DON HALL**  
COMMISSIONER  
SECOND DISTRICT

**KRISTINA GLASCOCK**  
CLERK  
(208) 736-4004

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson  
630 Addison Ave W. Ste. 1700  
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Re: Letter of Support for Buhl Rural Fire Protection District

Dear Congressman Simpson:

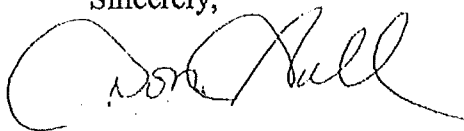
Twin Falls County fully endorses Buhl Rural Fire Protection District's application for a community projects funding grant.

The Buhl Rural Fire Protection District serves an area of over 102 square miles and 10,000+ residents. The facility that they currently operate from belongs to the City of Buhl and the District pays rent for this location. A new larger station would allow the District to be more centrally located to allow for quicker response as well as providing a facility that is large enough to house all of the vehicles inside. Currently the District must winterize vehicles during cold months which delays operational readiness for certain call types. The current station also does not have enough space to support an Advanced Life Support unit. The Buhl District is the only community of this size in our area without an ALS unit.

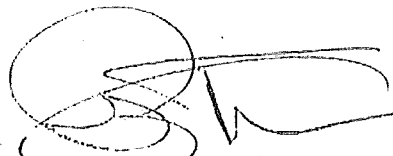
The existing facility also does not have adequate space for 24-hour coverage with individual sleeping quarters for on duty firefighters, ALS crews, regional volunteer, and potential resident firefighters. The new station would contain space to better accommodate female employees and volunteers with private separate sleeping quarters as well as a professional work place.

The Twin Falls County Commissioners ask that you look favorably on the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District's grant application. With your help, we can ensure that this essential service continues to receive the necessary resources to save lives and keep our community safe.

Sincerely,



Don Hall  
Chairman



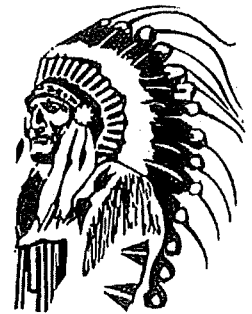
Rocky Matthews  
Commissioner



Brent Reinke  
Commissioner

# BUHL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 412

920 Main Street  
Buhl, Idaho 83316  
*Angie Oparnico, Superintendent*



Phone (208) 543-6436      Fax (208) 543-6360

April 10, 2025

Dear Congressman Mike Simpson;

This letter is in support of the Buhl Rural Fire District's application for the grant to build a new firehouse. Currently, the fire department is renting space in the city and they have outgrown the building. This grant would provide the Buhl Rural Fire District with the means to address our growing needs within the community. The fire department plays an integral part in the safety of our community and our schools. Having a proper facility will have a positive impact on our students, schools and community.

As superintendent of Buhl School District, I give my full support for this application as it will help our community. These improvements will increase opportunities and the safety of our students and the citizens in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angie Oparnico', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Angie Oparnico  
Superintendent  
Buhl Joint School District #412

**TWIN FALLS COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

630 Addison Avenue West  
P.O. Box 126  
TWIN FALLS, ID. 83303-0126.  
(208) 736-4234  
Idaho Relay (TTY) 1-800-377-3529  
Twin Falls County is an Equal Opportunity Employer  
[jfrey@tfco.org](mailto:jfrey@tfco.org)

April 8, 2025

Dear Congressman Simpson:

As the Coordinator, for the Twin Falls County Office of Emergency Management. I would like to support the grant application submitted by the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District.

Over the last 27 years, as the County EM. I have worked with the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District to support all areas of fire management with federal grant funding for the purchase of equipment.

The City of Buhl (population of 4100) contracts for services with the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District to oversee fire suppression services for 5000 citizens for a total of 9100 individuals.

The Fire District addresses fire protection for all of the citizens in the city and county area. This area has a low socioeconomic status, which includes a high population of those who are elderly, disabled, and chronically ill. The district relies upon funding to support communication, EMS, fire prevention, training and building inspections in both the City of Buhl and rural geographical areas.

At this time, the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District needs funding to build a new fire station which will address the following: certification of staff, housing of apparatus, training, exercises sleeping/kitchen quarters, handicap accessible bathrooms for public meeting areas that meet ADA compliance.

In closing, I would ask that you consider this request to enhance the ability for the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District to continue to address and maintain life safety.

Sincerely,

Jackie Frey, Coordinator



**Buhl Chamber of Economic Development and Commerce Inc.**  
**716 US 30**  
**Buhl, ID**  
**83316**  
**(208) 543-6682**  
**[Admin@buhlchamber.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:Admin@buhlchamber.onmicrosoft.com)**

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2083 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Sarah Neyhart, and I am writing to you on behalf of the Buhl Chamber of Commerce in strong support of funding for the establishment of a firehouse for the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District in Buhl, Idaho. Currently, the Buhl Fire Department operates out of an inadequate space within the Buhl City Hall building. This facility does not meet the growing needs of our community, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to effectively serve the public under these conditions.

The proposed firehouse would provide essential improvements in several areas. First and foremost, it would greatly enhance accessibility and response times, which are critical when it comes to saving lives and minimizing damage during emergencies. Additionally, the new facility would offer much-needed space for more effective training, allowing our firefighters and emergency response teams to properly prepare for a wide range of situations. This would not only improve the quality of service but also the safety and well-being of both our first responders and the community they serve.

The Buhl Rural Fire Protection District provides vital services to both the city of Buhl and the surrounding rural areas. As our community continues to grow, the need for a more suitable, dedicated firehouse has become increasingly apparent. A new facility would provide the resources necessary for our firefighters to be better equipped, more prepared, and more efficient in responding to emergencies.

We respectfully ask for your support in securing the funding needed to make this project a reality. The establishment of a new firehouse would greatly benefit not only the residents of Buhl but also those in the surrounding areas. Your attention to this request and any efforts you can make to facilitate funding would be greatly appreciated by our community.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued service to Idaho. We look forward to your support and the positive impact this project will have on our community.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Neyhart  
Buhl Chamber of Commerce

**BUHL HIGHWAY DISTRICT**  
1500 West Main St.  
P.O. Box 386  
Buhl, ID 83316  
Office: (208) 543-4298  
Fax: (208) 543-9001  
Email: [clerk@buhlhd.com](mailto:clerk@buhlhd.com)



Neal D. Gier, Chairman  
Gary D. Reynolds, Commissioner  
Tim E. Smalley, Commissioner  
Ted J. Beus, Director  
Hailey M. Sears, District Clerk

4/8/2025

Congressman Mike Simpson  
802 West Bannock  
Suite 600  
Boise, ID 83702

RE: Letter of Support for Grant Funding

Dear Congressman Simpson,

The Buhl Rural Fire Protection District of Buhl, Idaho, is applying for a Community Project Funding Grant for the ability to build a new fire station. The Buhl Highway District of Buhl, Idaho, would like to express its support and believes that a new fire station will significantly improve the Fire District's services.

According to the Census Bureau, in 2021, Buhl, ID has seen an increase of 1.57% in population, and Twin Falls County has a 3.4% increase. With continued growth, the Buhl Fire District facilities are inadequate for the needs of the community. The current facility is being leased from the City of Buhl, and its size is insufficient to increase personnel and to add or upgrade equipment. The facility is accessed off Highway 30, where there is a lot of traffic, and has safety concerns for egress and ingress.

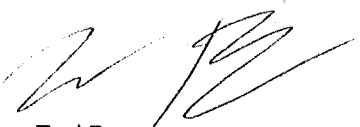
In 2021, Buhl, Idaho's median household income of \$40,765, saw a one-year decline of 2.77%. With the current state of the economy, our citizens are financially unable to afford the costs this project requires.

A new facility for the Buhl Fire District would significantly benefit the growing community and provide a hub for expanding emergency services in the area. A new Fire Station would also set a positive tone for the progress and improvement of Buhl.

The Buhl Highway District wholeheartedly endorses the building of a new fire station by the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District and believes that it has the potential to make a lasting impact on the community in Buhl that we serve. We urge you to support this vital project and invest in the future of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ted Beus  
Director  
Buhl Highway District

April 9, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of Buhl Rural Fire Protection District seeking a Community Projects Funding Grant to help them build a new fire station. Recently, due to financial constraints, the City of Buhl has elected to contract fire services to the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District. With this change, the current Buhl Rural Fire Protection District leases their current building from the City of Buhl.

This is forcing the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District to seek plans to build their own station. Currently the rural fire district only has a single station nearly 10 miles west of the city of Buhl, on U.S. Highway 30, and the leased space at their previous Buhl Fire Department location.

The current fire department also has property available ½ mile west of the populus of the City of Buhl, and if they choose to build on that property would increase their response times to most commercial structures, and a large portion of the new growth of residential properties in their district.

Buhl Rural FPD is seeking to purchase property on the east side of the city of Buhl where access to commercial properties would be preferential, however, with the recent changes they do not have the funding to purchase and build such a structure.

Additionally, Buhl Rural Fire District provides a 911 emergency QRU for medical and trauma patients in their region. Buhl QRU has been providing rapid emergency response to residents and patrons when in experiencing a medical emergency. In 2023, Buhl QRU responded to almost 1,000 EMS calls in their district. We need to keep them strong to provide the necessary services to their community.

As the Medical Director for Magic Valley Paramedics and Buhl QRU, I ask that you consider supporting Buhl Rural Fire Protection District in their quest to fund a new station through available grants.

Supporting Buhl QRU and Buhl Rural Fire Protection District is in the best interest of citizens and commercial property owners in the case of fire and emergency responses, will save endless lives and loss to property owners, and reduce the costs of insurance premiums to the members of the community.

Sincerely,

Dr Charles Burtis.

C. Burtis MD  
(435) 770-6434



April 9, 2025

To whom it may concern,

**Situation:** Buhl Rural Fire Protection District is seeking a community projects funding grant from to acquire property and build a new fire station in Buhl, Idaho.

**Background:** Buhl Fire Department and Buhl QRU have a long history providing fire protection and medical response to the community of Buhl Idaho, they have operated out of their station at 201 Broadway Ave North in Buhl and maintain several fire apparatuses, two QRU vehicles, and extrication equipment for heavy rescue and entrapped patients.

Additionally, Buhl Fire Protection District provides a 911 emergency QRU for medical and trauma patients in their region. Buhl QRU has been providing rapid response to residents and patrons when in experiencing a medical emergency. In 2023, Buhl QRU responded to nearly 1,000 EMS calls in their district.

Buhl Rural Fire Protection District also maintains fire protection for the rural community from their leased facility, formerly Buhl Fire Department and their own remote location nearly 10 miles west of the city.

**Assessment:** Recently, due to financial constraints, the City of Buhl has elected to contract fire services to the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District. With this change, the current Buhl Rural Fire Protection District is required to lease their current building from the City of Buhl, at a reported cost of \$30,000 per year. This is forcing the Buhl Rural Fire District to seek plans to build their own station. Currently the rural fire district only has a single station nearly 10 miles west of the city of Buhl, on U.S. Highway 30, and the leased space at their previous (now leased) Buhl Fire Department location.

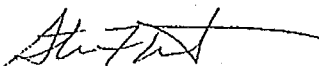
This leased facility does not provide adequate space for apparatus, personnel, and training requirements. It does not provide adequate sleeping quarters for 24-hour coverage, nor does it provide male / female separation facilities for sleep, locker/dressing rooms, and shower facilities. It does not provide adequate separation of contaminated and clean areas of operation, which is a health risk to the fire personnel.

The current fire protection district also has vacant property available ½ mile west of the populus of the City of Buhl, and if they choose to build on that property would increase their response times to most commercial structures, and a large portion of the new growth of residential properties in their district.

Buhl Rural Fire Protection District is seeking to purchase property on the east side of the City of Buhl where access to commercial properties would be preferential, however, with the recent changes they do not have the funding to purchase and build such a structure.

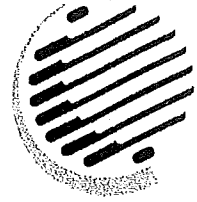
**Recommendations:** As the Manager of Magic Valley Paramedics, I ask that you consider supporting Buhl Rural Fire Protection District in their quest to fund a new station through available grants. Supporting Buhl Rural Fire Protection District is in the best interest of citizens and commercial property owners in the case of fire and emergency responses, will save endless lives, loss to property owners, and reduce the costs of insurance premiums to the members of the community.

Stan Flint



Manager EMS, Magic Valley Paramedics

April 9, 2025



Congress Mike Simpson  
630 Addison Ave W. Ste. 1700  
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Re: Letter of Support for Buhl Rural Fire Protection District

Dear Congressman Simpson:

Wilbur-Ellis Nutrition (Rangen) fully endorses the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District's application for a Community Project Funding Grant for the ability to build a new fire station. We believe that a new fire station will significantly impact the Fire District's capabilities and services. As you know, Idaho is growing at a rapid pace, and therefore the infrastructure needs to grow and expand as well to service the citizens of that community. We appreciate your vision for creating this Community Project Funding Grant opportunity.

We (Wilbur-Ellis Nutrition) purchased the Rangen feed mills in Buhl in the fall of 2019. Since this acquisition, we have spent millions of dollars revamping and expanding the operations. Our current project is adding an additional feed mill in Buhl with a budget of \$12 million dollars. So, we have an interest in expanding and improving the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District capabilities and readiness. A new larger fire station would be a benefit to the citizens and businesses of the community. This new fire station would be a positive feature for people and businesses relocating or expanding in the Buhl area.

Wilbur-Ellis Nutrition asks that you favorably consider the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District's grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Dempsay", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Gary Dempsay



**WILBUR-ELLIS**  
NUTRITION