

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-4

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUHL SUPPORTING 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 11th day of March, 2024.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Buhl the 11th day of March, 2024.

By: Pamela McClain
Pamela McClain, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen Drown
Karen Drown, City Clerk

**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@co.twin-falls.id.us

March 15, 2024

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



March 6, 2024

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

PO Box 409
Twin Falls, ID 83301

BUHL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 412



920 Main Street
Buhl, Idaho 83316
Angie Oparnico, Superintendent

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

February 27, 2024

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'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'O'.

Angie Oparnico
Superintendent
Buhl Joint School District #412

February 22, 2024

Dear Congressman Simpson

This letter is being written in support of funding being allocated to establish a firehouse for the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District, Buhl, Idaho.

Currently they are housed in an inadequate part of the Buhl City Hall Building.

The proposed firehouse would improve accessibility, response time, and provide more effective training areas that are sorely needed by the fire department and emergency response teams.

It is my hope that your support will help to secure funding needed that would indeed benefit our community.

Please consider this need and any effort you can make to facilitate funding. Your attention to this request will be greatly appreciated by the Buhl Community.

Sincerely



Jeanette Sparks
Administrator



Chamber of Economic Development and Commerce

716 Hwy 30 E

Buhl, Idaho 83316
(208) 543-6682

Dedicated to promoting business and community growth by enhancing the economic, cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities in our community.

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



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

2/27/2024

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



Buhl Police Department

201 Broadway Avenue N. Buhl, ID 83316

Phone: (208) 543-4200 Fax: (208) 543-8331



March 4, 2024

Community Projects Funding

Congressman Mike Simpson,

I strongly support the need for a new fire station in the City of Buhl, Idaho. As our County and City continue to grow, the need for additional emergency services facilities becomes increasingly essential. According to our fire department, in 2016, the fire department responded to 1,005 calls for service and in 2023 they responded to 1,517 calls for service. We expect the call for service will continue to increase as the growth in our city increases.

A new building will allow the Buhl Rural Fire District to have 24-hour coverage, more space for equipment, proper sleeping quarters for on-duty firefighters, ALS crews, regional volunteers, and the potential for resident firefighters. The new fire station would also allow for a professional workspace and an up-to-date training facility, which benefits all citizens living in the city of Buhl and the surrounding area.

Again, as the City of Buhl continues to grow, this new facility will have the ability to serve as a hub for expanding emergency services to the citizens of Buhl and respectfully ask for your support in the form of a resolution of support for this project.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Engbaum
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)

JACK JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER
THIRD DISTRICT

DON HALL
COMMISSIONER
SECOND DISTRICT

KRISTINA GLASCOCK
CLERK
(208) 736-4004

February 27, 2024

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:

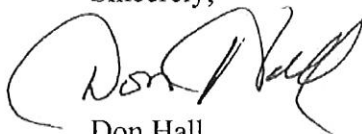
Twin Falls County fully endorses Buhl Rural Fire Protection District's application for a community projects funding grant.

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



Jack Johnson
Commissioner



Brent Reinke
Commissioner



March 6, 2024

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 .

CCB MD



Clerk Buhlfire <clerk@buhlfire.com>

FW: Letter in support of Buhl Rural Fire Protection District grant application

1 message

nealgier <nealgier@gmail.com>
To: Clerk Buhlfire <clerk@buhlfire.com>

Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 9:27 PM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Representative Chenele Dixon <CDixon@house.idaho.gov>
Date: 3/13/24 9:25 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Neal Gier <nealgier@gmail.com>, Linda.Culver@mail.house.gov
Subject: Letter in support of Buhl Rural Fire Protection District grant application

Dear Congressman Simpson,

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider the Buhl Rural Protection Fire District as a potential candidate for a grant to help build a new fire station. As you are probably aware, Idaho is one of the fastest growing states and the city of Buhl is feeling this growth.

Part of the challenge of this growth is being able to keep up with the need for emergency services.

In Buhl, they recently made some changes, and the Buhl Fire District took over the City of Buhl's fire and EMT services.

They are seeking a grant to help build a new fire station. The current location is being rented from the city and is located in a somewhat congested part of Buhl on Highway 30 in their downtown where there is a lot of traffic and not safe for egress and ingress.

In addition to the congestion, the facility itself is too small for their needs as the area continues to grow. They have a need for new and additional equipment and will need a space to house these items. I appreciate all of the effort that the Buhl Fire District has put into making sure they can provide adequate coverage for the Buhl area. Receiving this grant will be an integral part of helping them to continue to offer the service they need to provide. It will go a long way in helping the community as they not only provide the services, but seek to improve their community.

As their State Representative, I appreciate the hard work of the Buhl Fire District and all the citizens of Buhl. I know being a recipient of this grant will not only build moral, but it will make a positive difference as they work through their growth and strive to continue to provide good emergency services.

Thank you so much for your work for Idaho and especially for your consideration to have Buhl be a recipient of this grant.

Again, I appreciate your consideration on their behalf.

Sincerely,

Representative Chenele Dixon

District 24A

Committees:

Health and Welfare

Judiciary and Rules

Local Government





March 14, 2024

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,

Gary Dempsay

