

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
November 18, 2025	3.c

TO: Mayor Benetti, Council President DiNovo, and City Councilors

FROM: Jeff Adkins, Fire Chief

THROUGH: Nichole Rutherford, City Manager

ISSUE: Acceptance of Oregon SPIRE Grant Awards

SUMMARY:

The City of Coos Bay applied for and was awarded equipment through the Oregon SPIRE Grant Program to strengthen local emergency response and community safety. The grant provides access to three key assets that will support multiple City departments and community events:

- 108 kW Towable Generator - for backup power during emergencies or planned outages.
- Off-Road Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) - for use by Police, Fire, and Public Works departments, including patrol and response at John Topits Park, Mingus Park, and large community events such as the Fun Festival and Blackberry Arts Festival.
- Vehicle Barrier System - to protect pedestrian areas during community events by preventing intentional or accidental vehicle intrusion.

The SPIRE program is designed to enhance statewide emergency preparedness by distributing state-owned emergency equipment to local jurisdictions. The City will maintain, insure, and operate the equipment, while ownership remains with the State of Oregon.

ACTION REQUESTED:

If it pleases Council, accept the Oregon SPIRE Grant Awards.

BACKGROUND:

The State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment (SPIRE) Grant Program was created by the Oregon Legislature to strengthen statewide resilience and improve local disaster readiness. The program provides equipment to local jurisdictions to support emergency response, recovery, and continuity of operations during large-scale incidents. Rather than providing cash awards, SPIRE supplies critical equipment that can be deployed locally and shared regionally when needed.

The City of Coos Bay applied for this grant to fill identified gaps in operational capability across several City departments. The application focused on equipment that would increase flexibility during emergency operations and improve safety at large community events.

Through this grant, the City was awarded:

- 108 kW Towable Generator - to provide mobile backup power for critical facilities, command posts, and shelters during utility outages or disasters.
- Off-Road Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) - to give responders better access to parks, trails, and event areas that standard vehicles cannot reach. The UTV will support operations for Police, Fire, and

Public Works, and can also be used for medical transport or logistics during events such as the Fun Festival and Blackberry Arts Festival.

- Vehicle Barrier System - to enhance public safety at community gatherings by preventing vehicles—whether accidental or intentional—from entering pedestrian zones. This replaces temporary wooden barricades that offer little real protection.

The SPIRE program operates differently from traditional grants. Ownership of the awarded equipment remains with the State of Oregon, but the City of Coos Bay is responsible for maintaining, operating, and insuring the assets. The equipment is considered a regional resource and may be requested for use by other governmental or critical infrastructure partners through an intergovernmental agreement managed by the State.

In addition to strengthening local response capabilities, the equipment enhances regional coordination and readiness across Coos County and the southern Oregon coast. The generator and UTV can be deployed for storm response, wildfire support, or other emergencies, while the barrier system directly improves community safety during public events. Together, these resources represent an important addition to the City's emergency management and public safety toolbox.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Expenditures can be maintained within current budget appropriations.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- SP25-191 Coos Bay Vehicle Barriers.pdf
- SP25-142 Coos Bay Generator.pdf
- SP25-187 Coos Bay UTV.pdf