

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
May 5, 2026	4.b

TO: Mayor Benetti, Council President DiNovo and City Councilors

FROM: Jeff Adkins, Fire Chief

THROUGH: Nichole Rutherford, City Manager

ISSUE: Approval of Wildfire Awareness Month Proclamation

SUMMARY:

May is recognized as Wildfire Awareness Month in Oregon, highlighting the increasing threat of wildfires driven by prolonged drought, rising temperatures, and expansion into the wildland-urban interface. In 2025 Coos Bay Fire crews deployed on multiple fires in Oregon as well as 14 days on the Palisades Fire in Southern California; highlighting the year-round need for wildfire readiness. A proclamation supports statewide efforts to promote defensible space, emergency planning, and public awareness while recognizing the vital role of our firefighters.

ACTION REQUESTED:

If it pleases Council, approve the proclamation declaring May 2026 as Wildfire Awareness Month.

BACKGROUND:

May is recognized annually as Wildfire Awareness Month in Oregon, serving as a reminder of the growing wildfire threats to our communities. Prolonged drought, rising temperatures, and the expansion of the wildland-urban interface have all intensified wildfire risk across the state.

The Coos Bay Fire Department plays a vital role in both local and regional wildfire response. In 2025, our personnel were deployed for over 30 days during the summer wildfire season to assist with major incidents in Oregon. Additionally, a strike team was deployed to California for 14 days in January 2025 to support mutual aid efforts. In total, over 2100 hours were logged by Coos Bay Firefighters in active service on the line. These deployments show that wildfires are no longer confined to the hottest months or to a specific geographic area.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal collaborates with fire agencies and communities to strengthen statewide fire prevention and preparedness. Programs like Fire Adapted Oregon aim to reduce wildfire risks through education, mitigation, and resilience-building.

Issuing a proclamation for Wildfire Awareness Month supports public safety by: promoting statewide campaigns, encouraging defensible space and emergency planning, recognizing the work of fire personnel, and affirming the City's commitment to interagency collaboration.

By raising awareness and encouraging proactive steps, we can help safeguard our community against the increasing threat of wildfires.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 2026 Wildfire Awareness Month.pdf