



Orleans Volunteer Fire Department

April 28, 2021

MEASURE Z QUARTERLY REPORT, 3rd QUARTER, FY 20-21

BACKGROUND

The Orleans Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) has been the grateful recipient of two sources of funding through Measure Z. The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association (HCFCA) was awarded funding FY17-18 for several simple “barns” or buildings to house additional fire apparatus for several rural fire departments throughout Humboldt County, and we were awarded \$85,000 of that allocation. With the support of the HCFCA, we applied for Measure Z additional funding for FY 19-20 and were awarded \$140,000 of a total request of \$200,000 towards a complete fire station. The extension for use of the funding through FY 20-21, which we signed in November 2021, was approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 11, 2021. We have still not received a fully executed copy of the MOA or full reimbursement for expenses incurred in the first two quarters of the fiscal year, though we hope that will occur soon.

In addition to those two welcome awards of funding, there has been an outpouring of support, some financial but most in terms of donated materials, labor, and expertise. Our small local businesses have helped out tremendously. The building continues to be constructed using volunteer labor with some additional skilled labor from a local contractor who also donates some of his time to the community.

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

FY 20-21 3rd Quarter (January 2021 through March 2021) was characterized by steady progress on the new fire station interior. We were privileged, as first responders, to be prioritized for vaccination in Orleans. The Karuk Tribe generously provided vaccinations for all first responders in this quarter, helping us to be safer and keep our community safer.

Along with nearly weekly work on the fire station, we continued to respond to medical, traffic collision, and fire- related emergencies.

- TVCE provided pro bono engineering and a set of drawings for the addition of an office space with a small kitchenette, a locker room, and a second-story mezzanine for storage.
- OVFD submitted permit application for the “Tenant Improvements” to Humboldt County building department. TVCE and OVFD are working on requested plan changes to complete the permit application.
- Received fill material without charge for the entry and exit areas from CalTrans, allowing for the continuing leveling of the site and its increasing utility.

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- Received base rock and heavy equipment work without charge from TT Construction, improving the level and accessibility of the areas around the fire station. This is essential for being able to pave the entrances and exits and complete the required ADA-accessible sidewalks around the office side of the building as required by Humboldt County Building Permit.
- Purchased and installed interior electrical wiring for lights and outlets, including exterior lights and outlets. Humboldt County Building Inspector signed off rough electrical this quarter. Provided service needed for future electric car charging station as required by Humboldt County Permit.
- Worked with Whitson Inc. to install a tankless hot water heater and to complete the plumbing for an emergency ADA-accessible shower, also sized to allow a volunteer in full turnouts to rinse off after exposure to contaminants on a fire scene. Completed rough plumbing for future kitchen and laundry areas.
- Contracted with California Heating to install a small split-unit heat pump to heat the future office space. California Heating had originally bid over \$6,000 for a new furnace to heat the apparatus parking area to avoid freezing the water in the pumps during the winter, but decided instead to donate an unused furnace and charged only for parts necessary for its installation. Final cost, including installation labor, was \$691, representing a donation of over \$5,000 from California Heating.
- Purchased and installed insulation for entire building.
- Completed the finish trim for the bay doors, person doors, and windows.
- Purchased and installed gutter covers, a CalFire requirement for the building, to avoid accumulation of leaves or needles and improve the fire safety of the building.

PEOPLE SERVED AND BENEFITTED

When the new fire station is complete, it will provide a safe, clean, and central location from which the OVFD volunteers can continue to respond to our local emergencies, including fire, accident, and medical calls. The OVFD serves a first-out response area of over 1,000 people scattered over 198 square miles, and will continue to serve these communities. The new fire station will also serve as an ADA- accessible command center, with power, water, communications, and meeting room space that can be used during local incidents including fire, rescue, etc. Beneficiaries include not only the entire extended community from Somes Bar to Weitchpec and including Orleans and outlying properties, but our fellow responders in law enforcement including the CHP, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, and the Forest Service.

INFLUENCE OF MEASURE Z FUNDING

The OVFD is a tiny, all-volunteer department that depends on local fundraising to cover our basic operating costs of around \$20,000 annually that in turn allow us to keep the doors open. Our fundraising has been severely constrained due to COVID and we must continue to dip into our savings to keep the doors open, the support of Measure Z is absolutely essential. There is no way that we could ever have afforded to build a new fire station to current building standards without the Measure Z funding. This new fire station already provides us a meeting area and storage for our new water tender (that does not fit in our old fire hall). It will soon also provide us a safe, clean building in which to store and maintain apparatuses and PPE and provide for prompt, efficient, and safe first response in our area.