

City of John Day Newsletter

March 31, 2011

John Day Police Department to receive new Radios

City County Insurance Services (CIS) has awarded the City of John Day \$5,525.53 through their Risk Management Incentive Program. For the past two years CIS has offered Risk Management Grant to entities that meet specific criteria. New safety equipment was purchased, trainings were conducted and facility and community safety improvements were funded through the grants. Because the initial programs have been successful, the CIS Board of Trustees has authorized expanding the funding and access and decided to give the program a new name entitled Risk Management Incentive Program.

Risk Management Incentive Program better describes the newly expanded program and CIS removed the word "grant" which helps clarify that the funds don't need to be paid back and applying for them doesn't require administrative time or expense.

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Visit our website at www.cityofjohnday.com; send us your comments at grayp@grantcounty-or.gov.

City signs MOU with John Day Rural Fire Protection District

At their March 8, 2011 council meeting the John Day City Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the John Day Rural Fire Protection District.

The John Day Volunteer Fire Department and the John Day Rural Fire Protection District house their fire equipment and apparatus in the City's fire station. The building is outdated and requires significant and costly structural and nonstructural repairs, additions, and replacement work.

The City of John Day and the John Day Rural Fire Protection District desire to work collaboratively to investigate funding opportunities for the construction of a new fire station. The investigative process will include, among other things, determining the manner and method by which the cost of the fire station will be equitably shared by both parties.

The memorandum of understanding will assist both parties in our efforts to work collaboratively towards researching funding opportunities for the construction of a new fire station.

The City of John Day is currently negotiating a contract with BBT Architects, who understands the financial situation the City is in and is willing to work with the City to adhere to the City's budget.

The Citizens Fire Station Advisory Committee will begin meeting with BBT Architects once the City has a signed contract. Open houses and public hearings will be scheduled as the project moves forward.

Would you like to become a volunteer fire fighter?
Please contact Fire Chief Ron Smith for more information at 541-575-0028

Members who had General and Auto Liability Coverage in 2009 with CIS are eligible. The City will use the money to purchase six (6) new narrow band compliant portable radios for the John Day Police Department.

As the FCC requires everyone to be narrow band compliant by the end of 2012; the Police Department currently has only three (3) narrow band compliant portable radios and currently employs four (4) full time police officers and ten (10) reserve police officers. Police Chief Richard Tirico would like his officers and reserves equipped with narrow band portable radios for officer safety. John Day has several dead spots within the city limits; the narrow band radios receive and transmit better than the current radios used and will hopefully eliminate most of the dead spots. Police Chief Tirico stated officer safety will be greatly improved with the new radios because of the officer's greater ability to communicate with dispatch during emergency situations.

In 2007 the John Day Volunteer Fire Department received a Federal Homeland Security Grant equipping the John Day and Canyon City Fire Departments with new narrow band compliant radios. The Homeland Security Grant also updated the Police Department's mobile car radios at that time.

Winter Gravel Cleanup

Within the next couple of weeks the John Day Public Works Department will begin the process of cleaning up the winter gravel on the city streets.

Public Works Director David Holland stated every effort will be made not to interfere with Main Street business operations. Gravel removal on Main Street will be done either early in the mornings or late in the evenings. Residential street clean up will be done during the daytime hours. Vehicles left on city streets interferes with the cleanup process, we ask residents to please try to keep their vehicles off the city streets as much as possible during the spring cleanup. The City appreciates everyone's patience during this time.

John Day Main Street project moves forward

The City of John Day received word from Oregon Department of Transportation that our state Transportation Enhancement grant application has moved forward to the final round in this year's application process.

The Transportation Enhancement Advisory Committee is now scoring the projects. On April 4, they will meet to discuss the projects, score and make a funding recommendation to the Oregon Transportation Commission. Final approval by the Oregon Transportation Commission is expected at the May 18, 2011 meeting in Salem.

The City's request is for approximately \$1.23 million to improve sidewalks and lighting and put major utility lines underground along Highway 26 and 395 in town.

The City of John Day is one of three proposals in Region 5; the others are from the City of Boardman for \$1.53 million; and the City of Ontario for \$1.48 million.

There are 31 projects statewide competing for this funding, with at least three in each ODOT region. These 31 projects represent about \$37 million in requests, which is more than twice the available funding.

City receives chip sealing grant

The City of John Day received a Small Cities Allotment grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the Oregon Department of Transportation. The funds will be used to chip seal NW Bridge Street beginning at NW 7th Street to the end of Charolais Heights and 800' of Valley View Drive.

Included in this section is the infamous Charolais Heights intersection that, due to safety concerns, the City would like to realign. The intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the City and Grant County has expired. As the City does not have the equipment or the funds to do the necessary construction alone; the City continues discussion with the County to renew the IGA.