



CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEASURE Z EXPENDITURES

The Advisory Committee meets on each Thursday in March to review applications and its recommendations will go before the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in April.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Agency Name: Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department and Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Mailing Address: PO Box 762, Willow Creek, CA 95573; PO Box 245, Blue Lake, CA 95525

Contact Person: Samantha Smith, David Vainuku Title: Chief, WCVFD, Chief, BLVFD

Telephone: (707)845-5083, Smith; E-mail address: Wcvfd1959@gmail.com;
(707)672-4117, Vainuku bluelakefire@gmail.com

The estimated amount of Measure Z funding available for FY 2024-2025 is \$4.1 million.

1. AMOUNT OF MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUESTED FOR FY 2024-2025: \$ 216,000

Summary of Expenses:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of total</u>
Salaries (wages)	_____	_____
Benefits	_____	_____
Overhead and Occupancy (Administrative, Rent, Utilities, Phones, etc.)	_____	_____
Equipment/Supplies/Services	\$216,000	100%
Transportation/Travel	_____	_____
Fixed Assets	_____	_____
	<u>\$216,000</u>	<u>100%</u>

2. ENTITY TYPE -- Please check appropriate box.

- Humboldt County Department
- Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- Local Government Entity
- Private Service Provider
- Non-Profit Service Provider
- Other, Describe: _____

3. Is this application a renewal or related to a project that has been funded by *Measure Z* in the past?
(check one) Yes No

If you checked "yes" please include the following:

- 1: a report detailing results from the most recent year the project was funded, and:
- 2: a completed Staffing Report detailing when the funded positions were filled during the most recent year you received funding for this project.

-No positions were being funded by Meas. Z in the past, as these are volunteer departments

**See the Required Attachments section on Page 3 of this application for more details*

4. Describe how the scope of your proposal fits the intent of *Measure Z*. Specifically, how will it maintain and improve public safety and essential services, as described on the previous page?

Emergency services are essential to the residents in the goodwill response area, as well as for the vehicles traveling along the state highway through this area, which averages around 8,000 per day. The Board of Supervisors has stated that this service has been and is still essential. This goodwill response area is currently outside of any fire district boundaries, and even is outside of where CalFire normally responds. This area includes residents of Humboldt County, Federal and Private timberlands, and a major state highway that is the main artery for transporting commerce in and out of the county. Time is of the essence for fire, medical, and rescue services, and dependent on Willow Creek and Blue Lake volunteer firefighters to respond quickly. Being that this is a priority truck route in and out of Humboldt County, these joint fire/medical/rescue services are critical. This funding will assure ongoing collaborative emergency services in the goodwill response area by both Willow Creek and Blue Lake VFDs, coupled with ambulance service that is funded via Meas. Z. Both volunteer fire departments have committed to continue response in their area despite not receiving funds for FY 23/24, however may have to downgrade their response criteria because of the greater need within their funding district.

5. Please provide a brief description of the proposal for which you are seeking funding.

The Willow Creek and Blue Lake Fire Protection Districts are seeking funding to support their volunteer fire departments in responding to out of district calls in the 120 square mile goodwill response area that includes the S/R 299 corridor, Redwood Valley, Bair Rd., Titlow Hill, Lord Ellis, and 3 Creeks Rd., which has been funded by Measure Z since FY16/17. These out of district calls make up approximately one third of total annual call volume for both Blue Lake and Willow Creek, which is 60-90 calls per year. This strains our ability to maintain service in our own districts. Measure Z funding will help offset the cost associated with responding to out of district calls and ease the burden for the tax payers of Willow Creek and Blue Lake. This funding is necessary to continue to maintain emergency services that currently are being provided at no cost to the county, and are putting great strain on the volunteer fire departments. There is no fire district that includes this area within its boundaries, and annexation is not feasible for this large area. If funding is provided, it will ease some of the burden off of these two fire departments, and help maintain emergency services in this area.

Despite our great need for this funding, we feel strongly that if our application was approved, that the amount is not deducted from the amount awarded to the Fire Chief's Association because we do not want to take funding away from other volunteer fire departments. If that is the case, this application should be considered void.

6. How have you developed a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future *Measure Z* funds? Please provide detail of your plan for sustainability here.

The essential services provided by Blue Lake and Willow Creek VFDs ensure the safety of Humboldt County residents, tourists, and commercial vehicles traveling along the state highway. Both departments agree that it is not entirely Humboldt County's responsibility to provide funding for emergency response in this area, and we

feel this is a critical responsibility of the California State Highway system. We have been in discussions with both Senator McGuire's office and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) in concert with Supervisors Madrone and Wilson, CAO Hayes, and Deputy CAO Quincey in drafting potential legislation or a budget control proposal to allocate necessary funds to small rural fire departments so they can adequately respond to adjacent State Highways without adding burden to their low density communities financially. This is active for this state budget year. In addition to this undertaking, both fire agencies have and continue to apply for numerous grants at the local, state, and federal level to ease the financial burden.

7. If this request is for the continuation or expansion of an existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?

Humboldt County has funded this collaborative service through the Fire Chief's Association until this fiscal year. We have agreed with Supervisors Madrone, Wilson, and CAO Hayes that we would continue response in the goodwill area this Fiscal Year, however as of now the cost associated is being funded directly by the two fire districts, which is a huge financial burden that is not sustainable.

8. If you are awarded *Measure Z* funds, how do you plan to leverage these funds to secure additional grants, contributions or community support?

We will continue to pursue state legislation and a budget change proposal, as well as apply for additional grants. These funds will also help support volunteer recruitment and retention, as well as ease the cost of administrative expenses necessary to continue pursuing additional funding sources.

9. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, name that entity and describe what that participation would look like.

This funding will ensure continued support to CHP, HCSCO, CalTrans, Hoopa Ambulance, and Arcata Ambulance by Willow Creek VFD and Blue Lake VFD.

10. Are there recurring expenses associated with this application, such as personnel cost?
(check one) Yes No

If you checked yes, detail those expenses here. Please note, the Citizens' Advisory Committee in May, 2023, adopted a stance that it would not recommend funding for new, ongoing county positions:

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Include the following with your application, making sure to **limit your responses to one page**, per section. Responses longer than the maximum may not be read by committee members or considered as part of your application

Prior Year Results: If your request is a continuation of a program funded with Measure Z in prior fiscal years, please provide the results of implementation. (one page maximum)

Program Budget: Please utilize the template provided on the following pages. This will need to be updated if your agency is approved for funding.

Staffing Report: Please utilize the template provided on the following pages to report on the months that funded positions were filled during the most recent year you received Measure Z funding.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct

DATE 2/23/24

SIGNATURE *Samantha Smith* *David Vainuku*

SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION TO:

Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee on *Measure Z* Expenditures
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Suite 112
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Exhibit E - Proposed Budget

Agency Name: Willow Creek and Blue Lake VFD	Address: PO Box 762, Willow Creek, CA 955
	PO Box 245, Blue Lake, CA 95525
Coordinator/Contac Samantha Smith; David Vainuku	Phone: (707)845-5083; (707)672-4117

Descriptions	Requested Budget	Current Quarter Costs	Total of Prior Quarter Costs	Remaining Balance
A. Personnel Costs				
Title:				
Salary (separate from benefits cost)				0.00
Benefits				0.00
Duties Description:				
<i>Salaries Subtotal</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Benefits Subtotal</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Personnel:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B. Overhead and Occupancy Costs (Rent, Utilities, Phones, Administrative etc.)				
Title:				
Description:				
Title:				
Description:				
Total Overhead and Occupancy Costs:	0.00	0	0	0
C. Equipment/Supplies/Services (Equipment, Supplies and Services should be separate)				
Title: Equipment				
(Please be detailed regarding the equipment you plan to .				
Description: These expenses are generally over \$200, longer useful life)				
Title:				
Description:				
<i>Equipment Subtotal:</i>	0.00	0	0	0
Title: Supplies				
(Please be detailed. These expenses are generally under				
Description: \$200, depleted or consumed within 1 year)				
Title:				
Description:				
<i>Supplies Subtotal:</i>	0.00	0	0	0
Title: Services/Other Operational Costs				
(Please be detailed. These expenses are generally professional or				
Description: contracted services, or other expenses that are not equipment or supplies)				
Title: Willow Creek VFD Standby Fee	112,000.00			
Description: Same amount as FY22/23 payment				
Title: Blue Lake VFD Standby Fee	104,000.00			
Description: Same amount as FY22/23 payment				
<i>Services/Other Subtotal:</i>	216,000.00	0	0	216000
Total Equipment/Supplies/Services:	216,000.00	0	0	216000
D. Transportation/Travel (Local and Out-of-County should be separate)				
Title: Local Travel				
Description: Describe local travel and connection to your project				
Title: Out of County Travel				
Description: Describe out of county travel and connection to your project				
Total Transportation/Travel Costs:	0.00	0	0	0
E. Fixed Assets (According to your agency's definition of a fixed asset)				
Title:				
Description:				
Title:				
Description:				
Total Fixed Asset Costs:	0	0	0	0

Totals	216,000.00	0.00	0.00	216,000.00
Requested Budget		Current Quarter Costs	Prior Quarter Costs	Remaining Balance

Exhibit E - Proposed Budget

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Prior Year Results

Willow Creek and Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Departments
Measure Z Application FY24/25
Friday, February 23, 2024

In Fiscal Year 22/23, which is the last year Willow Creek and Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Departments were compensated for their out of district responses, both departments maintained 24/7 services in the good will response area while ensuring coverage in their own districts. This 120 square mile area includes, but is not limited to, State Route 299, Redwood Valley, 3 Creeks Rd., Bair Rd., Titlow Hill, and many others. Please see the map below. It is to be noted that this map does not show the total area that both departments respond to, and may respond if requested. Also, in the majority of both Blue Lake and Willow Creek's response areas, both departments are paged out and respond.

