



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Corey Padrón, Emergency Management Department Director
Mike Russell, Chair, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Cc: Ed McGlone, Assistant County Counsel
Date: January 7, 2026

**Subject: Authorization to Submit a Grant Application to the Hazardous Materials
Emergency Preparedness Grant Program in the amount of \$35,000 to Update the
2015 Columbia County Hazardous Materials Response Plan**

Action Requested

Authorize staff to submit a grant application to the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Program (HMEP) to update the 2015 Columbia County Hazardous Materials Response Plan in the amount of \$35,000.

Background

Columbia County Emergency Management submitted a grant application to update the Columbia County Emergency Rail Response Plan in September 2025. We are still waiting to hear if we were successful on that.

The current request is the second part of the County's effort to update emergency related plans and will update the Hazardous Materials Response Plan that is the main emergency response plan for the County and satisfies federal law regarding hazardous materials response.

This is being done in coordination with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to ensure consistency and compliance with the applicable federal laws and regulations regarding hazardous materials reporting and emergency response.

Analysis

The HMEP grant program is an annual grant cycle that is administered by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office. Columbia County has been successful on getting grant awards from the program in the past and have funded the current plans.

Staff would like to update the plans as they are nearly a decade old and need updating. The deadline for submittal is January 16, 2026, so Board action is needed to proceed with the submittal.

Recommendation

Direct staff to submit the application to the HMEP grant program.

Next Steps

Upon the Board's direction, staff will finalize and submit the grant application. If successful, staff will come back with a grant agreement to expend the funds and administer the work.

Attachments

Draft Application