



Mono City Fire Protection District  
PO Box 156 • Lee Vining, CA 93541

Memo: Request for Funding – Expansion of Mono City Fire Facility

To: Mono County Board of Supervisors

From: Mono City Fire Protection District Commissioners

August 19, 2025

In 2025, Mono City will have 110 homes, and our volunteer fire and medical rescue district spans an extensive and challenging rural area. We serve from the top of Lundy Canyon to the Nevada border—a distance of 30 miles—and from Bodie State Historical Park to the Mono Craters and up Highway 120 toward Yosemite. Our team is trained in water rescue, ice rescue, over-the-side rescue, and all types of fire response.

#### Emergency History and Community Response

Mono City was severely impacted during the winter of 2022–2023 when it was stranded by seven avalanches to the south and two to the north. The only east-west road access was buried under 10 feet of snow, and snowplows were unable to reach the area due to the avalanche damage. The situation was further exacerbated when 16 power transmission lines were taken out, leaving the community without power for 12 days. Many residents had no heat and were unable to cook food.

Despite these challenges, our department coordinated with the Mono County Deputy assigned to the community and held daily 10 a.m. status meetings. We opened the fire hall to the public, using our battery backup system to keep the building and fire trucks warm. We also shared our emergency food supplies with residents.

#### Facility Limitations and Need for Expansion

Our current facility only has two bays, with just one inch of clearance above the fire trucks. Due to space constraints, both the medical rescue truck and the water tender must remain outdoors year-round, exposed to extreme winter and summer conditions.

During winter, we are forced to remove medical supplies from the rescue truck to prevent freezing, then reload them before responding to a call—delaying response time by 5 to 8 minutes. With paramedics located 30 to 45 minutes away, we are the first responders for all local emergencies, many of which occur on U.S. Highway 395.

Our water tender must be drained during winter and is currently stored in a heated building in Yerington, Nevada, to prevent pump damage. Had it been housed locally, it could have been deployed to assist with recent Southern California wildfires, and the INN fire.

#### Request for County Partnership and Funding

We are requesting funding for a new building to house all our emergency response vehicles and equipment in a heated environment. This will significantly improve response times, ensure year-round readiness, and extend the lifespan of our apparatus.

The current station will be repurposed as a training and community meeting room. We plan to offer CPR certification, first aid training, and home fire safety education to better prepare and engage our community.

Thank you for considering our request to improve emergency services for Mono City and the surrounding region.

We are seeking a partnership with Mono County to construct a heated building within the Mono City Fire Protection District that will house all our emergency response equipment, including the water tender. The estimated cost of the building is \$382,000. The Mono City Fire Protection District is prepared to contribute \$191,000 toward this project and is respectfully requesting that the County provide a matching contribution of \$191,000 to fully fund the facility.