



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 14th, 2025

DATE: Thursday, October 09, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: David Solaro, Assistant County Manager
dsolaro@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Interim County Manager
kathomas@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept the Project Grant for a Slip-on Tanker Unit from the U.S. Department of the Interior in the amount of [\$127,420.00; no County match required] to be used to acquire a slip-on tanker unit for a fleet vehicle assigned to Gerlach Fire. This unit can be quickly converted to be operated as a fire engine. If approved, authorize David Solaro to execute grant award documents on behalf of the Office of the County Manager and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners must accept grants and approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct the Finance Department to make the necessary budget amendments.

This funding is received from the Department of the Interior for a slip-on tanker unit assigned to the Gerlach Fire Station's fleet and is a critical investment in rural fire protection. This unit increases the station's capacity to transport and deploy water quickly, improving the ability to contain wildland fires, protect homes and infrastructure, and safeguard the health and safety of residents and visitors.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:

1. Fiscal Sustainability: Long- term sustainability
2. Economic Impacts: Support a thriving community

PREVIOUS ACTION

No Previous Action

BACKGROUND

Wildfire activity is increasing. Drought and prolonged, increased temperatures are creating conditions that allow wildfires to start earlier in the year, enable them to last

AGENDA ITEM # _____

longer, and make them more difficult to control. Increasingly intense wildfires and prolonged droughts then lead to an influx of invasive species that burn more easily than native vegetation and in turn propel still more extreme wildfire activity.

As a result, wildfires are now occurring in places where they were previously extremely rare, with more land burning, on average, each year.

This is leading to a year-round wildfire season, now referred to as a fire year, throughout the country. The frequency of large wildfires is also increasing, particularly near communities.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted in November 2021, is bringing much-needed support to communities across the country to increase the resilience of lands facing the threat of wildland fires and to better support federal wildland firefighters. The BIL provides funding and authorizes DOI to develop and implement a pilot program to provide local governments with financial assistance to acquire slip-on tanker unit that can be quickly converted to be operated as a fire engine.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: DOI OWF Slip-on Tanker Unit - 2025

Scope of the Project: Acquire slip-on tanker that can be quickly converted to be operated as a fire engine.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: This enhances the resiliency of the county's fire service, ensuring that even our most remote communities have dependable fire suppression capabilities.

On-Going Program Support: 12 months

Award Amount: \$127,420.00

Grant Period: 08/29/2025- 08/28/2026

Funding Source: U.S. Department of the Interior

Pass Through Entity: N/A

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: 15.088

Grant ID Number: D25AP00409

Match Amount and Type: None

Sub-Awards and Contracts: None

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY26 Office of the County Manager, adopted budget will be increased by \$127,420.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Description	Cost Object- G/L Account	Amount Increase/ <Decrease>
Gerlach Fire Service Slip-on Tanker Unit - Federal Grants	19180 - 431100	\$127,420.00
Gerlach Fire Service Slip-on Tanker Unit - Equipment Capital	19180- 781004	\$127,420.00

- No match required
- Indirect costs are not included in the grant budget to allow for all grant funds to be used for programming.
- This award does not fund personnel

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept the Department of the Interior grant award in the amount of [\$127,420.00; no County match required] to be used to acquire a slip-on tanker unit for a fleet vehicle assigned to Gerlach Fire. This unit can be quickly converted to be operated as a fire engine, If approved, authorize David Solaro to execute grant award documents on behalf of the Office of the County Manager and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to accept the Department of the Interior grant award in the amount of [\$127,420.00; no County match required] to be used to acquire a slip-on tanker unit for a fleet vehicle assigned to Gerlach Fire. This unit can be quickly converted to be operated as a fire engine, If approved, authorize David Solaro to execute grant award documents on behalf of the Office of the County Manager and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)