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Corbett Fire Upgrades Four Wheel Drive Equipment

Corbett Fire District-Corbett, Oregon

 After two significant wildland fires (2017 and 2020) and one severe winter storm (Feb. 2021), the Fire District decided to purchase three used one ton four wheel drive rigs. These are equipped with utility bodies, and winches. Two of the rigs will be have “slip in” pump units that carry two hundred gallons of water, hose, and foam fire retardant. The utility bodies will allow the rigs to carry axes, shovels, and battery powered chain saws in the summer. In the winter these can be replaced with medical equipment, so that patients can be accessed when the roads and driveways are blocked with snow and ice.

 The three rigs are from six to seven years old and will replace three rigs that are all over twenty years old. Additionally, the department only had to purchase one “slip in” pump unit because it utilized a unit from one of the rigs that is being sold. The third unit will be used as a utility rig and used primarily for non-emergency service. The total cost will be around $60,000.

 Fire Chief, Dave Flood says, “These rigs will expand our capacity, allow us to be more flexible, and to be more proactive.” He points out that during the Sept. 2020 Fire the department staffed fire patrols to watch for fire and other hazards. These patrol units used smaller rigs, equipped with chain saws and winches to remove trees that had fallen across the road. In the meantime the department answered eighteen calls for assistance in a three hour time span.

 In the winter one of the units will be equipped with a used snow plow so that homes can be reached. In the Feb. 2021 storm, delays occurred because people abandoned their cars on the roads. The plow will help to handle this kind of situation and to deal with long driveways that have not been plowed.

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