



MEMORANDUM

CORVALLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE: March 16, 2026
TO: Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District Board
FROM: Ben Janes, Fire Chief
RE: Locke Station Facility Upgrade (Emergency Alerting) Proposal

Issue

The CRFPD Board has demonstrated a strong commitment in recent years to maintaining, upgrading, and improving the Locke Station, recognizing it as a critical piece of public safety infrastructure. These efforts have improved service delivery to the community, enhanced the quality of life for Rural Resident Volunteers, and helped the district to attract and retain volunteers.

However, the current emergency fire station alerting system at Locke Station is now failing to meet operational and safety needs. The health and safety of the firefighters assigned to Station 6 is being affected, and the reliability of receiving emergency notifications is decreasing.

This project represents a critical facility improvement that enhances firefighter safety, system reliability, and overall emergency response effectiveness at Locke Station.

Discussion

The Locke Station is currently equipped with a Federal Signal two-tone decoder system that was installed during the initial construction of the facility. This equipment receives dispatch tones via radio frequency and activates the alerting process within the station. The tones and dispatcher announcements are then broadcast throughout the station via an amplifier and speaker system, which also activates the station lighting. There are increasing instances where the alert tones are not properly received, resulting in missed activations. Missed or delayed alerts directly increase response times and create an unacceptable risk to both firefighters and the community. This has occurred multiple times over the past year, and the frequency is increasing.

These failures are primarily due to increasing radio frequency (RF) interference from modern wireless technologies (radio, cellular, and other communications systems), which reduce the reliability of older alerting systems. Additionally, the current system was installed when the station was constructed in 2000 and is no longer designed to meet the demands of modern communication environments or modern fire station facility standards.

The current alerting system also has documented long-term impacts on firefighter health and safety. Studies have shown that traditional alerting methods, characterized by sudden loud tones and bright white lighting, can contribute to increased stress, disrupted sleep cycles, and elevated risk of cardiac-related events. Due to the unique nature of the Rural Resident Volunteer program at Locke Station, both on-duty and off-duty personnel are subject to these impacts.

Modern alerting systems are now considered a best practice in reducing these risks and improving firefighter readiness. Corvallis Fire Department, Albany Fire Department, and Lebanon Fire Protection District have begun implementing the U.S. Digital Designs Phoenix G2 Fire Station Alerting System.

This system utilizes red lighting and a ramped alerting tone to significantly reduce the physiological stress associated with emergency call alerts.

The Phoenix G2 system also integrates directly with the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system at the Corvallis Regional Communications Center (CRCC) using internet protocol (IP)-based alerting. This allows alerts to be transmitted in less than one second. Built-in redundancy immediately notifies dispatch if an alert fails and automatically defaults to a radio-based backup.

Additionally, this system improves efficiency for 9-1-1 dispatchers. Currently, dispatchers must manually initiate alerts and voice announcements through a separate console. The Phoenix G2 system allows alerts to be generated directly from the CAD system using automated text-to-voice functionality, enabling dispatchers to more quickly move on to the next emergency call and improving overall system effectiveness. Additionally, unit numbers and address locations will be displayed digitally on reader boards throughout the facility allowing crews to have a visual reference of the call type and location of the incident. This is particularly beneficial during nighttime responses, when personnel may not clearly hear the dispatched address.

Impact / Recommendation

It is recommended that the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District authorize expenditures not to exceed **\$105,000** to upgrade the fire station alerting system at Locke Station to the U.S. Digital Designs Phoenix G2 system. Pricing is based on a formal vendor proposal dated August 5, 2025. This total includes acquisition of required hardware, installation, programming, and a project contingency fund. The contingency is intended to account for potential price increases, market adjustments, and project unknowns following the expiration of the original quote in November 2025. Any unused contingency funds will not be expended.

Breakdown of Proposed Expenditures:

1. Honeywell / U.S. Digital Designs Phoenix G2 Alerting Package – \$76,442.27 (Nov 2025)
2. Steele Electric Low Voltage Wiring & USDD Installation – \$16,075.00
3. Project Contingency – \$12,482.73

Additional Information

Additional information regarding the Phoenix G2 system is available at the following links:

- Fire departments tackle heart rate increases with new alarm approach | AP News

<https://share.google/SiZdm5bszj6nnyLqE>

- Phoenix G2 Overview Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd8_ZjnXi7o

- Phoenix G2 System Demonstration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rty4QzXHi8o>

Thank you for your continued partnership and support for our shared mission. I look forward to discussing this proposal at the upcoming CRFPD Board meeting

Be well,



Ben Janes

Fire Chief: **“One team, one mission.”**

Corvallis Fire Department