

Agenda Item No.:	I
Work Plan:	Board of Forestry Standard Business
Topic:	ODF Equipment Pool Report
Presentation Title:	Equipment Pool Update, ORS 526.144 Overview
Date of Presentation:	June 3, 2026
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Board with an informational update of the Equipment Pool program to include:

- Statutory establishment of pool under ORS 526.144,
- BOF authority,
- Current operations with Fleet and Communications,
- Agency evaluation and realignment.

CONTEXT

The equipment pool is a centralized support function that manages the agency’s vehicles and field equipment used for forestry operations, wildfire response and administrative travel. The pool exists to ensure Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) staff have reliable, cost-effective transportation and equipment across the state. The pool supports everything from daily field inspections to large-scale wildfire mobilization.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

It is the policy of the Forester and the State Board of Forestry to operate an Equipment Pool to furnish transportation and equipment.

ORS 526.144 through ORS 526.152 grants the authority to establish and operate the equipment pool. The equipment pool is an Internal Service Fund (ISF) with ORS 283.395 and Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Oregon Accounting Manual providing rules for management of ISF’s and interagency fund transfers. Internal service fund activities do not count towards overall revenue and expenditures of the agency as doing so would overstate total revenues and expenditures.

Board of Forestry authority over the equipment pool is defined within each section of the statutes.

ORS 526.144 Equipment Pool; participation.

(1) The equipment pool operated by the forester and the State Board of Forestry, which furnishes transportation and equipment for the various activities and programs of the board, is for the acquisition, operation, storage, maintenance and replacement of equipment. Notwithstanding any other law, the forester, under the direction of the board, may:

(a) Determine each activity or program of the board that shall participate in the equipment pool, and in so doing, cause the transfer of moneys from the account representing such activity or

program in an amount determined advisable for equipment pool purposes. However, in each instance the transfer of moneys must be based on the proportionate use of the equipment pool, or the proposed use thereof, by the activity or program.

(b) Transfer equipment to the equipment pool, which items of transfer are owned by the State of Oregon and under the jurisdiction of the board or forester. In such event the records shall reveal the cash value of the transferred items as of the date of the transfer.

(2) Forest protective associations or agencies under contract or cooperative agreement with the board pursuant to ORS 477.406 may, with the approval of the board, participate in the equipment pool for the purposes of the contract or agreement. Participation by such an association or agency shall be on the same basis as an activity or program of the board that participates in the equipment pool.

ORS 526.146 Charges

1) All items transferred under ORS 526.144, together with any equipment purchased from moneys transferred to the equipment pool, are available for all activities or programs participating in the equipment pool. However, upon use of such equipment for any activity or program, a reasonable use charge shall be made against such activity or program. The charge shall be based upon the maintenance and replacement costs for the equipment used, including operational expenses.

(2) At the end of each month the forester, under the supervision and direction of the State Board of Forestry, shall render a statement on a basis of mileage or rental against each activity or program for transportation or equipment used or furnished for such activity or program. Administrative costs in connection with the operation of the equipment pool shall be included in the computation of the mileage or rental statement. The forester shall at all times keep records showing the mileage and rental charges, and against which activity or program the charges are a claim. The amount specified in the statement shall be a charge against the moneys available for such activity or program. All amounts so charged shall be credited to the State Forestry Department Account and, notwithstanding ORS 291.238, are available and shall be used exclusively for:

(a) The acquisition, operation, storage, maintenance, repair and replacement of equipment by the forester;

(b) Administrative expenses of the forester and the board in connection therewith; and

(c) The payment of insurance premiums for such equipment.

ORS 526.148 Leasing communication equipment.

(1) The forester and State Board of Forestry may lease communication equipment owned or acquired under ORS 526.144 to any forest protective association or agency under contract or agreement with the board for the protection of forestland against fire. However, the communication equipment may be used only for purposes of the forest protection system designated in ORS 477.005. Any lease so made must provide for a rental at the current rates established for the equipment pool. All amounts so charged shall be credited as provided in ORS 526.146.

(2) At the option of the board, the lease agreements made under this section may be merged under the equipment pool administration and equities set forth in ORS 526.152.

ORS 526.152 Disposition of equipment; termination of the pool.

(1) Any proceeds from the sale or other disposition of equipment of the equipment pool shall be credited to the State Forestry Department Account for equipment pool purposes.

(2) Should the equipment pool be terminated by the State Board of Forestry, each activity or program shall have an equity in the moneys of the pool and in the cash value of the equipment and personalty of the pool. The equity shall be in proportion to the amount of moneys and value of the equipment and personalty transferred to the pool under ORS 526.144. By this subsection, each activity or program participating in the equipment pool has a continuing and recognized interest in the total value of the pool so long as the equipment pool exists unless otherwise such equity is purchased.

Support Operations

The Equipment Pool currently supports operations for Fleet Services and Radio Communications across the agency. Fleet Services has 1100 units in the pool and is responsible for all facets of fleet management including equipment replacement, disposal, fueling, maintenance and compliance with DAS reporting.

Radio Communications oversees statewide project coordination, planning facilitation and implementation of a communications network across 142 radio and detection camera sites with 5900 pieces of equipment in the pool.

Agency Evaluation

The agency recently started a holistic review of the pool to evaluate the program as a whole, looking at operational efficiency, financial sustainability, governance and long-term planning. One of the initial outcomes of the review is the separation of the Fleet and Communications programs. Due to the number of communications sites across the state, it was determined Communications more closely aligned with Real Property within ODF Facilities Capital Management Program. The organizational change was made in January of 2026. The separation between Fleet and Communications allows for greater focus on the individual disciplines. Further review may see additional restructuring reflect an organizational model similar to DAS with a combination of programs under ODF Facilities Capital Management Program.

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is for information only.