

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission

April 22-23, 2025

Agenda Item: 6c

Action

Public Comment Allowed: Yes

Topic: 6c - Veterans and War Memorials Grant Awards

Presented by: Matt Rippee, Deputy Director of Field and Community Services

Background:

The Veterans and War Memorials Grant Committee met March 13, 2025, by videoconference, and are recommending projects for Commission approval as identified on Attachment A.

The Veterans and War Memorials Grant Program was established after the passage of House Bill 2739 in 2005. State funding assistance is available to local governments, working in partnership with Veterans' organizations, for the construction and restoration of veterans and war memorials located on public property owned or controlled by a local government. Funding is to be derived from OPRD lottery funds.

Five applications were received in this grant solicitation and evaluated by a review committee based on established criteria. After tabulating and discussing scores and rankings, the committee recommends four of the five projects for the Commission's consideration and approval, as follows: 1) The City of Stanfield proposes to construct a monument in its existing Veterans' Memorial Park honoring veterans from Umatilla County and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. 2) The City of Florence proposes to develop the Oregon Airport Memorial Gateway Park as an entrance to the Florence Airport and connected to the Oregon Coast Military Museum. 3) The City of Keizer proposes to install a Gold Star Memorial in Ryan J Hill Memorial Park to provide a space designated for families of fallen veterans. 4) Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District plans to create a Revolutionary War Memorial within the Beaverton Veterans Memorial Park to honor veterans and patriots of the American Revolution. A proposal received from Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI) is not being recommended for funding at this time because both the grant proposal and budget lacked specificity, and because the project did not demonstrate strong support from a partner veterans' organization or the community. Staff will discuss the committee's comments with CTSI and provide technical assistance to aid in strengthening the application for a future grant cycle.

There is \$300,000 allocated for this program and \$295,195 recommended for funding the four projects, leaving \$4,805 unobligated for the biennium. These are local government grant funds so remaining funds can be folded into grant awards for the Local Government Grant Program.

Prior Action by Commission: Approval of prior year grant awards including approval of 2023 grant awards on June 14, 2023, totaling \$91,794.35 and approval of 2022 grant awards on February 24, 2022, totaling \$169,671.

Action Requested: Staff requests Commission approval of the grant review committee's recommendations to fund the Veterans and War Memorial projects totaling \$295,195 and as outlined in Attachment A.

Attachments: Veterans and War Memorials Grant Project Recommendations

Prepared by: Karen Litvin, Grants Program Coordinator

6c – Attachment A: Veterans and War Memorials Grant Awards

Applicant Name	Project Name	Brief Project Description	Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Project Cost
City of Keizer	Gold Star Memorial at Ryan J. Hill Memorial Park	The project is to build a Gold Star Family Memorial at Ryan J. Hill Memorial Park. Gold Star Memorials are two sided tributes made of granite to families who lost loved ones in war.	\$84,195.00	\$60,000.00	\$144,195.00
City of Florence	Florence Oregon Airport Memorial Gateway	Construct a memorial in Florence to recognize all of America's veterans. The memorial will include an inscribed stone monument, flag pole with emblems of six service branches, walkways, benches, landscaped meadows, and trees.	\$80,000.00	\$170,000.00	\$250,000.00
City of Stanfield	Veterans' Monument	Construct a memorial wall with plaques and flags commemorating the branches of military service and local veterans.	\$70,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$88,000.00
Tualatin Hills P&R District	Revolutionary War Memorial	Construct a memorial honoring America's first veterans and patriots from the American Revolution (1775-1783) in the Beaverton Veterans Memorial Park.	\$61,000.00	\$82,546.00	\$143,546.00
TOTALS			\$295,195.00	\$330,546.00	\$625,741.00