

BEND FIRE & RESCUE PLACES NEW AMBULANCE IN SERVICE (PHOTO)

News Release from **Bend Fire & Rescue**

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On Monday, Jan. 20 Bend Fire & Rescue placed a new advanced life support ambulance into service. This ambulance is one of four that serve a 1,450 square mile service area in Bend and the surrounding rural community.

In 2024, Bend Fire & Rescue saw nearly 14,000 calls for service – a record year for the department. Of those calls, 75% were medical.

“Last year we responded to the most calls we ever have as a department. That higher call volume means we need more resources on the road to respond to emergencies,” said Fire Chief Todd Riley. “Our goal as a department is to decrease the time it takes for crews to respond to an emergency, and when crews are tied up on other calls, we can’t meet that goal.”

“Today marks an important milestone for our community as we welcome a new ambulance into service,” said Bend Mayor Melanie Kebler. “This resource will ensure that our responders have the tools they need to provide critical care and save lives.”

The new ambulance was brought into service because of funding received from a voter-approved operating levy passed in May 2023. Funding from the levy is also being used by the department to fund additional responder positions, equipment and training.

In addition to adding this ambulance to the Bend Fire fleet, the department recently graduated six new firefighter/paramedics from training academy who have been integrated into stations around Bend.

“Placing this crucial resource in service fully staffed will make a tangible difference in lowering response times and meeting a growing demand for service, which will hopefully lead to more positive patient outcomes for our community,” said Riley.

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