



Onalaska Fire Department

Lewis County Fire District #1

PO Box 100, 1733 State Route 508, Onalaska WA, 98570

(360)978-4182 / Fax: (360)925-3966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lewis County Fire District #1 (Onalaska) named as recipient of Gesa Credit Union's Local Heroes Grant Award

Onalaska, WA. October 6, 2025- Lewis County Fire District #1 today announced it has been chosen by the Gesa Community Foundation as a recipient of Gesa Credit Union's Local Heroes Grant Award, receiving \$14,137.20 in funding. With the award money, Lewis County Fire District #1 plans to buy new Structural Firefighting Helmets to replace aging helmets.

"At Gesa, we are honored to support the Local Heroes who continue to make a positive difference in our communities," said Amber Merrill, Community Relations Manager at Gesa Credit Union. "Organizations like Lewis County Fire District #1 bring that mission to life through dedicated service that makes a direct impact where it's needed most. We're proud to stand alongside them and support the vital work they're doing locally."

Gesa's [Local Heroes Grant Program](#) offers funding to organizations that assist Local Heroes across the Pacific Northwest, including firefighters, healthcare workers, law enforcement, educators and Veterans. This year, 52 organizations were awarded through the program, totaling more than half-a-million dollars in funding. Since 2021, Gesa's Local Heroes Grant Program has provided over \$2 million to more than 200 organizations across the region.

"We sincerely appreciate Gesa's generosity in selecting us for this grant and providing us with the opportunity to upgrade our safety equipment," said Chief Brad Flexhaug. "Our helmets are older and need replacing. This grant enables our department to enhance the safety of our personnel during critical situations,"

"The new helmets are lighter and more comfortable. During training, I experienced no neck strain or headaches, unlike with the old helmets," said firefighter Kim Lawrence.

For more information about Lewis County Fire District #1 and the projects funded by this grant, visit <https://www.onalaskafire.org> or email admin1@onalaskafire.org.

###



Onalaska Fire Department

Lewis County Fire District #1

PO Box 100, 1733 State Route 508, Onalaska WA, 98570

(360)978-4182 / Fax: (360)925-3966

Lewis County Fire District #1 is headquartered in Onalaska (Lewis County), Washington, and has been serving the Onalaska, WA area since the early 1920's. We serve 3,636 people, encompassing 82 square miles of service area. Lewis County Fire District #1 currently has 5 career personnel and 17 Volunteer firefighters/first responders/EMT's. These Volunteers handle the Districts average of 480 calls a year, responding from home, job or sleep to meet the needs of our community. The District hosts: CPR Classes, Blood Drives, Fire Prevention Week in conjunction with the local grade school, live Safety demonstrations at the local Apple Harvest Festival, and participates in Career Day at the local High School. Lewis County Fire District #1 is an all-hazards Department providing structural fire protection, Wildland fire protection, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kim Lawrence

Lewis County Fire District #1

360-978-4182

1733 St Rt 508

PO Box 100

Onalaska, WA 98570