



# DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TIM FREEMAN

CHRIS BOICE

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Douglas County Courthouse, Room 217  
1036 SE Douglas Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon 97470

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Douglas County Commissioners Issue Veterans Facility Grant to VFW Post #2468

(Douglas County, Ore.) Douglas County Commissioners Tim Freeman, Chris Boice, and Tom Kress are pleased to report that they recently awarded a [Douglas County Veterans Facility Grant](#) of \$41,650 to the [Veterans of Foreign Wars - Patrick W. Kelley Post & Auxiliary #2468](#) (VFW 2468) in Roseburg, Oregon. The Veterans Service Facility Grant Program is a new initiative launched by the Douglas County Commissioners this year.

VFW Post #2468 Commander David Best, submitted an application for his post specifying grant dollars for two projects: one to purchase a backup generator for their meat program and facility and a second for a paving project around their facility and their Veterans Memorial Wall. The first project will allow the Post to purchase a Generac back-up generator in order to provide continuous electricity to their facility and more importantly to freezers storing wild game meat for their **Wildlife Meat Program for Veterans in Need**, which is headquartered in their building. Additionally, Best requested funding to complete paving the parking lot that surrounds the building on their property, as well as the area surrounding their Veterans Memorial Wall. Together with their contractor, Knife River, they anticipate the paving project to be completed by Fall of 2022. The [Veterans Memorial Wall](#) located at 1127 Walnut Street in Roseburg, Oregon was completed in 2013 and was one of the first Remembrance Walls ever created using QR-Code technology. When the QR-Code adjacent to a veterans name on the memorial is scanned, it allows users to access a Veteran's biography and history of service to our country.

VFW Post #2468's **Wildlife Meat Program for Veterans in Need** program all started unexpectedly in May of 2008, when Veteran David Best and current program Executive Director Eddie Ross stepped up to help a local farmer with nuisance deer damaging his crop of plum trees. Best contacted [Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife](#) (ODFW) for assistance and was able to obtain salvage tags to help combat the issue. During the process, they were informed of an ODFW [statute](#) that allows for the option of donating edible salvage or confiscated wildlife meat to a charitable organization if the organization can cover the storage, handling and processing fees, and does not sell the meat. Because wild game is not USDA-inspected, and is therefore not accepted as a donation at local food pantries, Best and Ross decided to create a nonprofit organization called the Wildlife Meat Program for Veterans in Need at VFW Post #2468. The two knew they could help provide a much needed food resource for veterans and their families, and also help local farmers, ranchers, ODFW, Oregon State Police (OSP) and other law enforcement agencies with salvaged or confiscated wildlife meat instead of wastefully disposing the edible game at the landfill. Best and Ross are proud that their local veteran meat program, which according to the National headquarters for [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), is the only program of its kind operating in the United States. The animals are either processed by a group of volunteers who cut and wrap the meat or by a local butcher who helps at a reduced cost. They've processed deer, elk, bear, fish, duck and a few cows; all of which were either salvaged or confiscated by OSP or ODFW or removed by local farmers and ranchers or donated by members of local 4-H/FFA chapters who have offered backup fair animals to the VFW Post to support this invaluable cause. The organization receives referrals for veterans in need from the [Douglas County Veterans Service Office](#), [Glide Helping Hands](#), [Roseburg VA Hospital](#), [UCAN](#), [Douglas County Veterans Forum](#), and many local veterans and other service organizations. To date, the program has provided 7,815 individuals with a two-week supply of meat (complete with cooking instructions and wild game recipes) between May 2008 and January 2022. They fed 101 individuals in April of 2022 alone. While the main focus is helping veterans in Douglas County, Best and Ross have personally delivered meat to veterans from Medford, Oregon to as far away as Shelton, Washington.

*"We are very happy that we were able to award this grant to VFW Post #2468. This award is exactly what we had in mind when we started the program earlier this year. I cannot even begin to express the importance of the programs our local veteran service organizations provide to our veterans and how crucial those services are for our Veterans,"* commented Commissioner Tim Freeman.

The main purpose of the **Douglas County Veterans Facility Grant Program** is to improve the building and site facilities for veteran organizations in Douglas County. A number of the facilities and buildings that house our local Veteran Service organizations are aging and in a state of disrepair. Grant dollars from this program are used exclusively for the restoration, repair and/or replacement of existing facility structures, including but not limited to: heating and cooling systems, electrical and plumbing systems, windows and doors, roofs, floors, walls, foundations and ADA compliance projects. The grant program is open to any Veteran Service organization in Douglas County. Applications are reviewed by a grant review committee and grants are awarded based on available budget and need. Applications are available online at: <https://douglascounty-oregon.us/DocumentCenter/View/21667/03-17-22-Veterans-Service-Facility-Grant-Program-Application>, or by emailing a request to: [boc.assistants@co.douglas.or.us](mailto:boc.assistants@co.douglas.or.us) or by picking up an application at the Douglas County Board of Commissioners Office in Room 217 of the Douglas County Courthouse located at 1036 SE Douglas Avenue in Roseburg, Oregon. In order to be considered, applicants must submit a completed and signed application to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners. If you have questions or need more information, please contact the Douglas County Board of Commissioners Office at (541) 440-4201.

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(Photo attached of check presentation)

