

Town of Rico Memorandum

Date: January 29, 2025

TO: Town of Rico Board of Trustees
FROM: Chauncey McCarthy, Rico Town Manager
SUBJECT: January Board of Trustees Special Meeting

Consideration of a letter of support for the Rico Fire Protection Districts provider grant application to purchase a quick response vehicle

Included in the packet is a letter of support for the Rico Fire Protection Districts grant application to purchase a quick response vehicle.

Recommended Action: Approve the letter of support for the Rico Fire Protection District grant application

Consideration of the acquisition of the Rico Community Church with financial support from the Rico Historical Society

At the December Board meeting, Deanna Drew and members of the Rico Historic Society (RHS) presented a conceptual plan to purchase and repurpose the Rico Community Church as a community center. RHS initially sought town support and a potential partnership for the operation of the community space. Since that meeting the RHS listed the Engle house with the hopes to sell the property and fund the purchase of the church outright. The RHS have entered into a contract with a private party to purchase the Engel house for \$360,000. RHS was considering offering \$425,000 for the church and Mantz House but faces a potential \$100,000 shortfall depending upon the final sale price and closing cost.

Multiple solutions were discussed between staff and the RHS on how to fund this shortfall and acquire the property for the purpose of the community center and an employee housing unit for Town staff. The RHS is now proposing that the Town purchase the property with a donation from the RHS and funding from the Town's general fund. The Board of Trustees is requested to consider this proposal and provide direction to staff.



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1/30/2025

To the Provider Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Town of Rico Board of Trustees, I am writing to express our full support for the Rico Fire Protection District's application for funding to acquire a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV).

The Rico Fire Protection District (RFPD) serves as the primary emergency response agency for the Town of Rico and a 35-mile remote section of Colorado Highway 145—a mountainous corridor that is a major thoroughfare through the San Juan Mountains. This highway experiences a significant volume of traffic, including residents, tourists, and outdoor enthusiasts. Unfortunately, it also sees frequent and often hazardous motor vehicle accidents, requiring rapid and efficient emergency response.

Currently, RFPD carries essential EMS, extrication, and rescue equipment on its first-line fire engine. This limits operational efficiency and delays response time in emergencies. The addition of a dedicated Quick Response Vehicle would:

- Improve response times by allowing first responders to reach accident scenes faster.
- Enhance rescue operations by consolidating extrication and rope rescue tools in one organized vehicle.
- Reduce roadway congestion and risk by limiting the number of large emergency vehicles parked on narrow and hazardous roads.
- Provide a critical resource for a department that serves a large, rugged, and remote area with mutual aid, often more than an hour away.

The Town of Rico Board of Trustees strongly supports this funding request, as it aligns with our commitment to the safety and well-being of our residents and visitors. A Quick Response Vehicle

will provide the Rico Fire Protection District with essential resources to better serve our community and enhance public safety.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and urge you to approve this grant to support the life-saving efforts of our first responders.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fallon, Mayor

On behalf of the Town of Rico Board of Trustees