

# NEWS RELEASE

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Unit Chief  
John Owens



**Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

## AVILA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$10,000

**Avila Beach, CA** — The San Luis Obispo County Fire / Avila Community Services District Fire Department is proud to announce the receipt of a \$10,000 grant from the Avila Community Foundation. This generous funding will support the department's initiative to retrofit existing emergency access Knox Boxes with updated electronic key-locking Tumblers, enhancing emergency response capabilities across the community.

Knox Boxes are secure, wall-mounted key safes used by first responders to access buildings quickly and safely during emergencies. The new retrofit will replace traditional mechanical systems with modern electronic key-locking Tumblers (E-key), allowing for faster, more reliable access and improved accountability through key tracking technology.

*"This project represents a significant step forward in ensuring rapid and secure access for our firefighters and paramedics when seconds count,"* said Fire Captain Woodman of the San Luis Obispo County Fire/Avila CSD Fire Station. *"We're deeply grateful to the Avila Community Foundation for recognizing the importance of this upgrade and for their ongoing support of public safety."*

The retrofit project is expected to be completed by early 2026 and will cover high-priority access points throughout the Avila Beach area. This initiative also aligns with regional efforts to modernize infrastructure and increase operational efficiency for emergency services.

The Avila Community Foundation continues to play a vital role in funding initiatives that benefit the well-being and resilience of the Avila Beach community. This latest grant reflects their commitment to enhancing public safety and supporting the first responders who protect local residents and visitors year-round.

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For more information or media inquiries, contact our Public Information Office at [www.calfireslo.org/pio](http://www.calfireslo.org/pio)

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