

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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Montana Aeronautics Board Awards Funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

The Montana Department of Transportation's (MDT) Aeronautics Board approved over \$3.2 million in funding during their January 2024 meeting in Helena. The requests were for a variety of airport infrastructure improvement projects.

A portion of the money awarded in grants and loans each year goes to leverage 90/10 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) match dollars for large airport construction projects. Almost \$3.9 million of funds were requested by 44 public-use airports across the state. The Board awarded funds for 81 out of 84 different project requests for 42 of Montana's public airports, to include federally and non-federally funded projects.

The airports funded for FY 2025 listed as follows:

Airport	Grant	Loan
ANACONDA	\$127,500.00	\$0.00
BIG SANDY	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
BRIDGER	\$11,000.00	\$7,000.00
BROADUS	\$160,000.00	\$0.00
BUTTE	\$161,695.00	\$59,805.00
CHESTER	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
CHOTEAU	\$95,000.00	\$0.00
CIRCLE	\$81,000.00	\$0.00
COLSTRIP	\$40,000.00	\$0.00
CONRAD	\$2,000.00	\$167,823.00
DEER LODGE	\$128,105.00	\$0.00
DILLON	\$24,250.00	\$2,500.00
EKALAKA	\$36,100.00	\$0.00
ENNIS	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
FAIRFIELD	\$18,016.00	\$0.00
FORSYTH	\$37,000.00	\$0.00
FORT BENTON	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
GERALDINE	\$11,000.00	\$2,500.00
GLASGOW	\$25,318.00	\$0.00
GLENDIVE	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
GREAT FALLS	\$109,500.00	\$0.00
HAMILTON	\$15,000.00	\$0.00

Airport	Grant	Loan
HARLOWTON	\$31,500.00	\$0.00
HAVRE	\$150,000.00	\$0.00
HELENA	\$75,408.00	\$0.00
JORDAN	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
LAUREL	\$74,600.00	\$0.00
LEWISTOWN	\$138,000.00	\$0.00
PHILIPSBURG	\$65,000.00	\$0.00
PLAINS	\$100,250.00	\$2,500.00
RED LODGE	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
SHELBY	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
SIDNEY	\$117,600.00	\$0.00
ST IGNATIUS	\$133,333.00	\$66,666.00
STANFORD	\$14,000.00	\$0.00
SUPERIOR	\$80,000.00	\$0.00
THOMPSON FALLS	\$91,100.00	\$0.00
THREE FORKS	\$24,166.00	\$0.00
TOWNSEND	\$617,000.00	\$0.00
TURNER	\$56,500.00	\$0.00
TWIN BRIDGES	\$8,000.00	\$2,500.00
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
Total Awarded:	\$2,899,941.00	\$331,294.00

Distinguished Montanan Recognized

In December of 2023, William W. "Bill" Galt was awarded the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to honor his 50 years of flying. Jeff Vercoe, from the Helena Flight Standards District Office, presented the award. Bill is a third-generation Montana rancher.

Bill's love for aviation started when he was in high school when he took a 6 month vocational education class on aircraft maintenance, where he got the opportunity to take his first few flights in a Cessna 150. After high school he joined the US Army and finished his private pilot training at the Fort Knox flight club.

Bill owns and operates Galt Ranch Aviation, LLC and has served as its Chief Pilot since 2003. He currently has over 5,500 hours of flying experience, with over 4,000 helicopter hours (700 hours in the 2008 Bell 206L4). Most of his hours have been in mountainous terrain. Bill maintains a Commercial Pilot Certificate Land and Sea, Certified Flight Instructor, and a Montana Pilot Registration.

He holds certificates for 135, 133, and 137 and was US Forest Service carded for many years.

He is a Bell Helicopter certified pilot and has received recurrent training bi-annually for the past twelve years from a Bell instructor. For the past 10 years, he has received mountainous terrain flight training as well as long line vertical reference and external load training.

Bill is also a member of the following organizations: Montana Quarter Horse Association; American Quarter Horse Association (Life Time Member); Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Montana Pilots Association; National Agricultural Aviation Association; Montana Stock Grower Association, National Cattleman's Beef Association and Montana Farm Bureau.

Yellowstone Airport: Free Surplus Airport Fire Truck

Yellowstone Airport is looking to dispose of a Surplus Index B Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Truck. The truck is a 1993 E-One Titan 4X4. It was acquired from Fort Hood in 2014 and has been stored indoors since. It has a 1,500 gallon water capacity which can be discharged from the roof and bumper turrets. The other water systems and some instruments in the cockpit are not functional. The engine is mechanically sound, and the vehicle drives and runs really well. The truck must be given to a city, county, state, airport authority, or other government municipality.

Please contact Yellowstone Airport Manager, Jeff Kadlec, jkadlec@mt.gov 406-459-9825 if your airport is interested!



Laser Strikes On The Rise

FAA data shows that laser strikes are on a significant rise in the United States. In 2006, 384 strikes were reported. In 2023, the number of strikes reported had increased to 13,304. Montana is no exception, and has also experienced an increase in laser strike events.

The FAA may take enforcement action against people who violate Federal Aviation Regulations by shining lasers at aircraft, and can impose civil penalties of up to \$11,000 per violation. The FAA's guidance for agency investigators and attorneys stresses that laser violations should not be addressed through warning notices. The FAA seeks moderately high civil penalties for inadvertent violations, but maximum penalties for deliberate violations. Violators who are pilots or mechanics face revocation of their FAA certificate in addition to civil penalties.

Laser strikes to aircraft must be reported to the FAA.

To report a laser strike go to:

<https://www.faa.gov/aircraft/safety/report/laserinfo>

Or scan the QR Code:



FAA Gains Law Enforcement Officer

The Helena Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) gained a special law enforcement officer last year. The officer investigates a broad range of issues including illegal operations such as drug smuggling with aircraft.

The Helena FSDO oversees Montana and Idaho, and is responsible for airmen, air carriers, aviation maintenance technicians, certificated FAA operators, aviation safety, and more throughout the region.

The officer travels throughout the district conducting ramp checks to ensure proper documentation of airmen and aircraft in operation.

Last fall, a ramp check training was conducted by the officer for a wide cross section of law enforcement agencies across the state. Since any law enforcement officer can conduct a ramp check on a civil aircraft, this training focused on how officers can safely approach an aircraft, and what documents are required to be in possession by the pilot(s) and aircraft, and how to make reports of illegal activity to the FSDO.

2024 Aviation Awareness Art Contest

Categories:

Category 1: Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Category 2: 6th - 8th Grade

Category 3: 9th - 12th Grade

1st Place in each category receives:

1. A roundtrip flight to Helena for the winner and two guests (weight restrictions may apply due to aircraft limitations) for the awards ceremony on May 23rd. in the capital building's Rotunda. In case of inclement weather, backup date will be May 29th.
2. All three first place winners will be presented with a trophy, certificate, and their framed artwork during the awards ceremony by a state official.
3. Following the ceremony, the winners and their guests will be treated to lunch.

2nd and 3rd Place in each category receives:

A trophy and Certificate of Achievement.

**Previous first place winners are welcome to submit, but are not eligible for 1st prize.*

Entry Requirements:

1. Artwork must have an aviation theme.
2. Artwork can be color or black and white in any medium.
3. Entries must be submitted no later than **Friday April 14, 2024.**
4. All Montana students in grades K-12 to 12 are eligible to enter.
5. Size of Poster should not exceed 11" x 14".
6. All submissions must be original artwork (no tracing, etc.).
7. All artwork **must** have the following information written on the back:

- Student's name.
- Student's mailing address.
- Student's phone number.
- Student's email address.
- Art teacher's name, email and phone number.
- Student's school name.
- Student's grade.
- School name.
- Do you want your artwork returned? Yes or No.

Mail Artwork & Cover Sheet to:

MDT Aeronautics Division
Art Contest
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

For more information contact:

MDT Aeronautics Division
mdtad@mt.gov
406-444-2506

Do You Know of an Aviation Event in Montana?

The Montana Aeronautics Division relies on aviation community about upcoming events. Events will added to the Montana and the Sky calendar of events (below).

Please submit content at least **30 days before** the first day of the month you want your event included in. Email event information to mdtad@mt.gov.

Calendar of Events

February 29 - March 2 - Montana's 39th Annual Aviation Conference . Copper King Hotel, Butte.

March 2-3 - Aircraft Mechanic Inspector Refresher Seminar. Copper King Hotel, Butte.

March 1 - Montana Aircraft and Pilot Registration renewal due date.

May 18 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 to 11a.m.

May 25 - Spotted Bear Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. Lunch provided by the Flathead Montana Pilots Association hangar. For more information contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

May 31 - June 2 - The Cub Doctor Seminar. Roundup, MT. Clyde Smith, Jr., aka "The Cub Doctor," will offer his Standard Seminar. Contact Clint Worman at 406-209-1802, or visit www.cubdoctor.com for information and registration. Seating is limited.

June 8 - Big Timber Fly-In Breakfast. Hosted by Yellowstone Air Service. Donations accepted for breakfast. Short takeoff and landing (STOL) competition and car show. For more information, contact Gabriel Chandler at 701-339-5843.

June 15 - Meadow Creek Airstrip Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. If you're handy with a chainsaw, bring one along as we have a lot of downed trees to cut and stack for firewood. Lunch will be provided. For more information contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

July 20 - Schafer Meadows Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. Dinner provided Saturday night, so come help out and camp for the weekend. For more information contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

July 27 - Lincoln Fly-In. Potluck will start at 11 a.m.

September 21 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m.

MDT Aeronautics Division

PO Box 200507

2630 Airport Road

**Thank you for
reading
*Montana and
the Sky.*
Fly Safe!**

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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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