

## **Bond Progress – April 2016**

In 2014, voters in Spokane County Fire District 4 approved \$9.6 million in bond funds to build three fire stations, a training facility and to replace apparatus. We spend a significant amount of time on design detail and developing specifications for each project. This ensures the bids we receive are accurate, and helps complete these important public safety projects on time and on budget.

### **Facilities**

**Station 40** (27515 North Elk-Chattaroy Road) – The new station is open, and Fire District 4 invites the public to celebrate on Saturday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. This new station will improve emergency response times to approximately 500 homes in the area. We are proud to report that change orders accounted for less than 1% of the cost of the project. The normal range for a project this size is 5-8%, according to our architect.

**Station 41** (Deer Park) – The City of Deer Park made land available for the new station at an ideal location in exchange for the fire district removing an old structure on the site. The estimated cost to remove the building, which contains asbestos, came in less than expected. Work on the site will begin in August so that the community has full use of the athletic fields this spring and summer. We will use this time to finalize a cost-effective design for the new facility, issue bid documents, and expect construction to begin next spring.

**Firefighter Training Facility** – We plan to move our headquarters to Station 41 in Deer Park and then turn the current administrative building on East Chattaroy Road into a firefighter training facility. Renovating and repurposing an existing building will save money as opposed to purchasing land and funding new construction.

**Station 48** (Cooper Road and Highway 206) – The fire district purchased land at this location approximately 15 years ago to build a new station. Our facilities committee recently approved the final design, which was put out to bid in early April. We will select a contractor at our first board meeting in May, and intend to have a ground-breaking ceremony this summer. We anticipate having the facility completed by the end of the year, weather permitting.

### **Equipment and Apparatus**

A portion of the bond is dedicated to replacing apparatus and equipment. We also look for ways to save money by purchasing gently-used apparatus, replacing parts of rigs (instead of the whole unit) and reusing other pieces as reserve equipment.

To date, we have purchased five new chassis for brush/medic vehicles and attached them to bodies from old rigs we already owned. We added pumps and tanks to three of the old chassis to serve as brush engines to support our firefighting capabilities during wildland fire season. We also purchased a gently-used support unit vehicle, saving our taxpayers \$150,000.

Recently, we completed design specifications for two new water tenders with an option to purchase a third, if needed. Bids came in less than expected, and we anticipate delivery of two units within six months to a year. This is a normal timeline for apparatus that has to be custom-built to the specifications each fire district provides.

Our next capital purchase will be replacing two fire engines, which can take up to two years from design to delivery. Our apparatus committee has looked at different models to help develop our design specifications, and we anticipate issuing bid documents sometime in June.

Water tenders and fire engines are some of the most significant pieces of apparatus for our fire district. A water tender costs approximately \$250,000 and a fire engine is closer to \$500,000. The life expectancy of each is approximately 20 years.

As a final note, we would like to say thank you for supporting the bond and partnering with us to save lives and property.