

## **Bond Projects – June 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-Chattooy Road) –This station was completed on time and on budget. We look forward to improving emergency response times to approximately 500 homes in the area.

**Station 48** (Cooper Road and Highway 206) – The fire district purchased land at this location approximately 15 years ago to build a station. On June 13, our volunteers and members of our Citizen Advisory Group joined us to break ground on the new facility. Our contractor expects to have the building completed by late fall– two months ahead of schedule.

**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. We will finalize the land transfer in August. The estimated cost to remove the building, which contains asbestos, came in less than expected, and will begin mid-August. This was planned so that the community has full use of the athletic fields this spring and summer. Construction is expected 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 Chattooy Road into a firefighter training facility. Renovating and repurposing an existing building will save money as opposed to purchasing land and funding new construction.

### **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. For example, we purchased a gently-used support unit vehicle, saving our taxpayers \$150,000 compared to buying new.

To date, we have purchased five new chassis for brush/medic vehicles and attached them to bodies of old rigs we already owned. We added pumps and tanks to three of the old chassis to serve as brush engines to support our wildland firefighting efforts.

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 this fall.

Our next apparatus project is replacing two fire engines that are approaching the end of their usable lives. It can take up to two years from design to delivery of a fire engine, which is normal for apparatus that has to be custom-built to the specifications each fire district provides. Design specifications will be completed this month, and we anticipate advertising for bids soon after.

As a final note, we would like to say thank you for supporting the bond and partnering with us to save lives and property. Please contact Fire Chief Randy Johnson with any questions at (509) 467-4500 or [randyj@scfd4.org](mailto:randyj@scfd4.org).