

## **Bond Progress – February 2016**

In 2014, voters in Spokane County Fire District 4 approved approximately \$9.6 million in bond funds to replace apparatus, equipment and build three fire stations and a training facility. We are pleased to report that these important public safety projects are on coming in on time and on budget.

### **Facilities**

**Station 40 (Elk-Chattaroy and Hamilton Road)** – The new station is nearly complete and ready to serve the community. We are planning a ribbon cutting ceremony sometime in March, and look forward to reporting back on how this station is improving emergency response times to approximately 500 homes in the area.

**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 structure came in less than expected. Removal will begin as soon as the purchase agreement is completed with the city and the contractor is available. In the meantime, design work is in progress for the new station, and our goal is to break ground sometime in mid-2016.

**Firefighter Training Facility** – We plan to move our headquarters to the Deer Park Station 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 in anticipation of building a new station. Our facilities committee has approved the final design and it will be put out for bid the first week of April. We anticipate inviting our community to a ground-breaking ceremony sometime in June. The station is expected to take six months to complete.

### **Equipment and Apparatus**

A portion of the bond is dedicated to replacing apparatus and equipment that is more than 20 years old. It is important to have fire engines and other emergency vehicles in good working order. However, we 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 five new chassis for brush/medic vehicles this year, and attached them to bodies from the old rigs we already owned. These five “new” brush/medic vehicles are in service.

We have added pumps and tanks to three of the old chassis to extend their usable lives. These three units will serve as brush engines that will add firefighting capacity for the fire district and support our efforts around the state during wildland fire season.

We purchased a gently-used support unit vehicle, which saved our taxpayers \$150,000. This type of vehicle carries tools, generators, lights and compressed air for firefighters responding to accidents and fires. This unit is now in service and is an important addition to our fleet.

We are still on track to take delivery of two new water tenders in 2016, and will complete the design and specifications necessary to order two new fire engines.

Spokane County Fire District 4 will continue to report back to you as we make progress on these important projects. We couldn't do this without your support – so thank you!