

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Nov 19

# Budget 2020 begins with battalion chief additions

By Allison Robenstein  
Donald Wescott Fire Protection District

(DWFPD) Chief Vinny Burns presented the 2020 budget to the board and asked

for an appropriation of \$300,000 of 2019 funding to purchase a new vehicle. Board Secretary Mark Gunderman led the Nov. 19 meeting. Attorney Michelle Ferguson filled in for the district's attorney Matt Court.

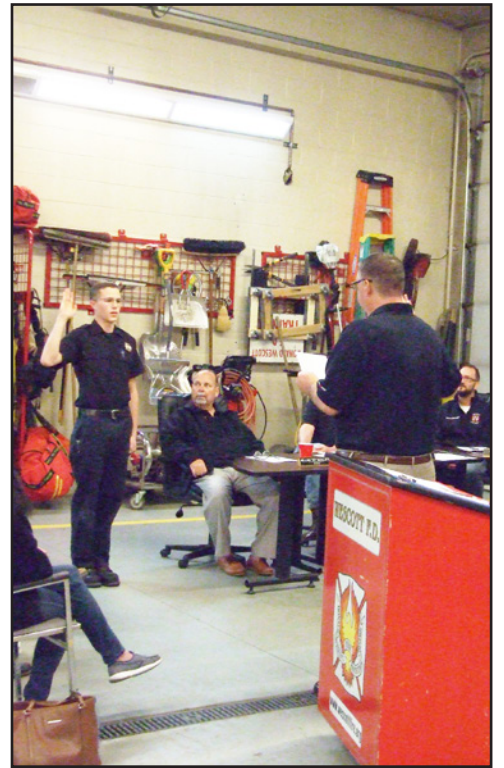
### 2020 budget presented

Burns asked the board to consider approving a new staffing plan for 2020. If approved, he would continue as chief but add three full-time battalion chiefs, eliminating the assistant chief position and all captain positions. Assistant Chief Scott Ridings would be the senior battalion chief and two internal staff members would be appointed to the other positions.

The battalion chiefs would take on some of the current chief's work including Insurance Services Office planning and some of the training requirements. The chiefs would be in charge from day to day and arrive at calls prior to the other vehicles. That way, they could determine command needs for each call based on manpower. Director Larry Schwarz asked if that would be top-heavy, but Burns said this way "we can keep eyes on each other."

Burns also requested \$250,000 in the 2020 budget for a new diesel generator. During the March 2019 bomb cyclone, the chiefs were surprised to find that the Station 1 generator only functioned in the southern portion of the building that houses the main office, kitchen and sleeping quarters.

The northern addition, built in 2005, acts as the emergency command



**Above:** Volunteer firefighter Anthony Mayes was promoted to a full-time position during the Nov. 19 Wescott board meeting. Board Secretary Mark Gunderman swore him in while board members looked on. Photo by Allison Robenstein

post and houses stranded travelers if they aren't able to get home, so it needs to be put onto a generator. Because the current generator isn't sufficient to cover the entire station's electrical needs, the chiefs suggested moving the



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