

newer Station 2 generator here. It runs on natural gas and is able to operate 95% of the secondary station located along highway 83. Ridings said they are asking to replace it with a diesel generator in 2020.

It appears the district may be closer to contracting with American Medical Response for their ambulance services, so Burns suggested including \$25,000 for 2020. He said Wescott has had to assign three firefighters from Wescott to AMR and hopes to regain those employees to supplement staffing on rigs in the following year.

Burns asked the board to consider pulling tuition costs for specialized schooling and for higher education classes to be placed into the reserved budget.

The chief asked for \$300,000 from 2019 reserved funding to purchase a new Tender. The truck, also called a tanker, will hold 3,500 gallons of water that can be hauled to rural parts of the district that lack fire hydrants. Director

Duane Garrett asked how many developments are lacking hydrants, to which Burns said half the geographic area of the district and roughly 1,000 homes.

Director Larry Schwarz said he isn't opposed to the purchase as long as three people are assigned per rig before this additional truck is put into the rotation. Citing National Fire Protection Association standard 1710, Schwarz said engines, rescue and aerial vehicles each require three people per rig, for a total of 14 firefighters on scene for a typical 2,000 square-foot residential structure fire.

Schwarz also asked the chiefs to consider adding requirements for a Tender to their mutual aid agreements with local agencies that have the apparatus. Burns said Wescott could "knock down a fire" using the existing 1,500-gallon Tender, but waiting for automatic aid to arrive on scene is too long, sometimes as long as 15 minutes. He said his teams "should have the tools we need" to do their jobs.

Ferguson asked about obtaining bids for the project, to which Burns said his intention is to have multiple companies bid for the vehicle. The board unanimously approved his request.

Chief's Report

- Ridings said DWFPD had 70 calls for service in October and there has been a 35% increase in call volume for this year over 2018.
- Please drop off new, unwrapped toys to Station 1 for Toys Unlimited.
- The captains and chiefs are working to create a week-long officer training program in conjunction with the two-year leadership program through Colorado State Fire Chiefs Fire Leadership Challenge. Burns said the in-house school will allow everyone "to get the same message at the same time," regarding fire safety practices.

- Santa Claus will join the Wescott crew on Saturday, Dec. 21 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. He'll be riding atop the ladder truck through the neighborhood. For a map of Santa's run, go to wescottfire.org/2019-wescott-santa-patrol-map/. See the notice on page 28 requesting toy donations by Dec. 20.

Donald Westcott Fire Protection District meetings are usually on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. However, the next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 3 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. For information, call Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich at 488-8680. Or, you can go to www.wescottfire.org.

Allison Robenstein can be reached at allisonrobenstein@ocn.me.

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D38 thanks everyone who cast a vote regarding 4A.

Now, our work continues. Just because 4A did not pass does not mean the need diminished. D38 still has a capacity issue. The recent historical pattern of anti-education tax sentiment in our community is also a real issue that we have to better understand and address. We need to better understand the core rationale for why so many in our community continue to vote no. We need to better understand what divides us, as well as what can bind us. We need to work together to meet the needs of D38 students and prioritize real support for our talented and dedicated staff.

We need your help.

Through collaborative community efforts, we will develop a strategic long-term plan that meets the needs of both current and future generations of learners. We will host community events in the upcoming weeks inviting everyone in this area to participate in finding solutions. We will place information on our website, our social media platforms, and in local newspapers regarding opportunities.

You may inquire or volunteer at info@lewispalmer.org. It will take our collective community commitment to our students to provide the very best educational experiences we can.

One Team ^D38 Our Team