

than Qualman's estimate. They said they had adjusted Qualman's estimates with the goal of defining the best option to provide fire and medical services at the lowest projected cost.

Ball and Oesterreich proposed:

- A multi-purpose station that would house both the Fire and the Police Departments.
- Additional staffing.
- An ambulance housed at the multi-purpose station.

As their presentation continued, they added details about each of the three parts of their proposal.

Regarding the station, Ball and Oesterreich said

it might be built on property owned by the Fire Department or on land owned by local developer Kurt Ehrhardt next to the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. Ball said Ehrhardt had proposed an interest-free loan with a balloon payment due in 10 years, for a total cost of \$1.5 million. The proposed building would be 5,500 to 7,000 square feet. Ball said another builder had proposed a pole building for the multi-purpose station, which would be less expensive than Ehrhardt's proposal.

In terms of staffing, Ball and Oesterreich proposed adding a fire chief and four more paid firefighters and EMTs.

During the discussion of

ambulances and other equipment, Ball said grants could possibly defray the cost of an ambulance and other equipment.

Ball said she estimated a tax increase of 16 mills, for a total of 26 mills funding the Fire Department, would be enough to fund the proposed plan.

Following the presentation by Ball and Oesterreich, Kuehster pointed out the town had a fully functioning Fire Department now, with two paid staff supported by volunteers, so the need for changes was not urgent. He supported the proposed tax increase, he said.

Comments show support for PLVFD, concern with the mayor

During public comments, residents made these points:

- Many residents spoke in

support of the Fire Department, recalling instances when firefighters went beyond the call of duty to help them and their families.

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