

of \$992,267.

- The district has a total of about \$1,219,846 million.
- Round four of the COVID-19 state grant fund opened and the district has submitted a requested for a \$12,000 reimbursement.

The board accepted the October financial report as presented, 4-0.

Chief's report

Jones said the following:

- Battalion Chief Scott Ridings submitted the October monthly activity report and it was unremarkable with only a small vegetation

fire on Highway 83.

- The district received a note of thanks for Station 2, "B Shift" for a district response in 2020.
- Driver Engineer Shaun Leonhardt will ensure the Station 1 roof repair is completed when the ordered materials arrive.

Firefighter hired

Jones introduced Firefighter/EMT Maverick Keigher, and said he was formally a volunteer for a few years with DWFPD and will now become a paid firefighter at Station 2, having completed the interview process, background,

medical and psychological checks. Gunderman administered the oath of office in a limited ceremony and congratulated Keigher.

Executive session - unification

The board moved into executive session at 5:01 p.m., with legal counsel pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e) to discuss matters subject to negotiation and receive advice from legal counsel related to the unification with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District.

Note: Popovich notified OCN that when the board moved back into regular session, no motions or decisions were made and the board adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Correction

The caption for the four photographs which accompanied the article on Donald Wescott Fire Protection Dis-

trict in the November edition listed the individuals in the wrong order. The correct order, from left to right is Driver Operator Justin Myers and Firefighter/EMTs Seung Ju Han, Matthew Griggs, and David Bowker. OCN sincerely apologizes for the error in identifying these individuals.

Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr., at 7 p.m. Due to COVID-19 distancing protocols, meetings are held virtually for public attendees. The next regular board meeting scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. For updates, virtual meeting joining instructions, agendas, and archived minutes, visit www.wescottfire.org or call the Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich at 719-488-8680.

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Making a Difference for Youth and Our Community

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Nov. 17
2022 Budget approved early; surprise promotion

By Natalie Barszcz
 At the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) meeting on Nov. 17 the board approved and adopted the 2022 budget and multiple resolutions and schedules. The board also heard about a recent promotion, received an update on the unification process, and held an executive session with legal counsel to discuss the unification with Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD).

President John Hildebrandt attended via Zoom.

Treasurer Jason Buckingham was excused and then joined the meeting at 7:17 p.m., via Zoom.

2022 proposed budget – staffing addition

Fire Chief Andy Kovacs requested the board adopt and approve the proposed 2022 budget one month earlier than usual. He also recommended adding another firefighter position in addition to the proposed two, for a total of three due to a retirement and vacancies created by recent internal promotions.

Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley said:

- Over the past couple of years and particularly in 2021 the district is experiencing how vacancies effect the staff and the additional burden created by overtime.
- Staffing shortfalls also limit education and training and the additions will eliminate a staffing crisis and allow for fire academies, an upcoming military commitment, training and wildland deployments.
- The district will be down seven personnel next year and it is critical to start hiring staff now because the process is lengthy and includes fire academy training.
- Any new hires would not join a shift until June 2022 after fire academy training.

Hildebrandt said a reduction in overtime would come later in 2022.

Secretary Mike Smaldino asked about the additional cost and if the budget could sustain the additional staff.

Kovacs said, it would cost about \$100,000 to the 2022 budget and that includes the salary and benefit increases.

Lance asked if the position was open because DWFPD has some well-



Above: From left, Lt. Micah Coyle receiving the "Firefighter of the Year" award, from Fire Chief Andy Kovacs on Nov. 2, at the first annual Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District awards banquet. Kovacs administered the oath of office in a surprise ceremony promoting Coyle to Battalion Chief during the event, and Christina Coyle pinned on her husband's "badge of office." Multiple awards were also presented to many firefighters and EMS staff during the banquet. The event was held at Hearth House in downtown Monument. *Photo by Christian Leigh Photography.*

trained volunteers, and would they have the opportunity to apply for one of those positions.

Bradley said the district has specific eligibility for hiring and two conditional offers have been made with another two eligible applicants should those initial offers not be accepted.

Kovacs said, there were some significant one-time expenses in 2022 and in the future funding will be available to hire more staff.

Public hearing and adoption of the 2022 budget

Vice-President Roger Lance opened the public hearing for the TLMFPD 2022 budget and hearing no comments on the adoption of the budget the public hearing was closed.

The board adopted and approved the 2022 budget 6-0 by roll call vote. See www.ocn.me/n21v11.htm#tlmfpd.

Hildebrandt requested the board adopt and approve the following:

- Resolution 2021- 01, 2022 Final Budget summarizing the expenditures and revenues for each fund, and adopting a budget for 2022.

TLMFPD (Cont. on 16)



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