then the suits are decontaminated at the station. Each call is handled with minimal exposure to staff.

COVID-19 vaccines have been made available to the staff, and individuals that wanted the shot have received it. Should staff decide to take the COVID-19 vaccine in the future, they will need to request the vaccination through the fire chief's office, said Langmaid.

#### Chief's report

Langmaid said the following:

- Spending has been curtailed except for "absolutely needed" items until property tax revenue is received in March.
- The Jan. 19 financial meeting with the accountant was cancelled due to weather conditions.
- The district has engaged a firm with a bio-psychologist to assist with refining the district's recruiting and retention of high-performing team members, which the community of Black Forest needs, considering the extremely minimal staffing.
- Melissa Bottorff has retired after 17 years as the district administrative assistant.
- The Requests for Proposals for the potential purchase of new apparatus were reviewed by the Apparatus Committee. No proposal was recommended since none met design specifications or cost specifications.

#### Financial update

Hinton read the January financial report to the board, however, OCN was unable to hear what was said on the meeting recording due to extraneous noise. For more information, see www.bffire.org.

Langmaid said the state "kicked back" the wildland firefighting reimbursement request of \$127,977 due to discrepancies, and the total reimbursement is now expected to be about \$104,000.

As of Feb. 1, the approved 2021 budget was not available for viewing on the district website, and it has not been made available to OCN despite requests.

The board approved the financial report, 4-0.

#### **Training update**

Langmaid said the state visited the district's Regional Fire Training Center and told the district's training officer, Capt. Chris Piepenburg, that they may be interested in assisting with further development now that the center has been opened up to neighboring fire districts and is seen as a valuable regional resource.

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He gave the following update:

The Manitou Springs Fire Department is scheduled to begin training in early February at the dis-

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