

within about 12-15 months for a total cost of \$631,554. Rebitski said the team volunteered to research the apparatus, and he was not part of the committee. Jones and the team worked long hours to figure out the specifications and find the right engine—this rig will last a long time—and they have done a tremendous job, said Rebitski.

Treasurer Jack Hinton said 1st National Bank has offered a 10-year fixed rate loan at 3.5%. See [www.ocn.me/v21n4.htm#bfffprpd](http://www.ocn.me/v21n4.htm#bfffprpd).

The board unanimously approved the production and purchase of the new apparatus.

#### Vehicle update

Rebitski said the following:

- The custom designed 2019 Spartan engine was driven to SVI Trucks, Fort Collins, for a two-day inspection to find a resolution to the pump engagement issue.
- SVI stated that the engagement issue is quite normal for four-wheel-drive vehicles due to the mechanisms being operated through the transfer case.
- After a conference call with the Darley engineers while the Spartan was on the lift at SVI, it was determined that the pump engagement issue was a result of the gears not blending and

moving too slowly.

- The engineers at Darley in the past have had the exact opposite problem and are interested in observing the engagement issue in person.
- Chief of Operations Capt. William Kraus also visited SVI when the inspection was complete and is now aware of the fix. Kraus has instructed the drivers to increase the revolutions per minute from 800 to 850 rpm and by tapping on the gas to get to 850 rpm, the gears slip right in and the engagement issue is resolved.

Rebitski said that at a cost to the district, SVI confirmed during the visit that the four-wheel-drive chassis could be replaced with a two-wheel-drive chassis to lower the Spartan engine by 8.5 inches, allowing easier access to the hose bed. The process is estimated to take about four to six weeks, and SVI is confident the four-wheel-drive chassis would eventually be purchased by another department and BFFRPD could recoup some of the cost. See [www.ocn.me/v21n4.htm#bfffprpd](http://www.ocn.me/v21n4.htm#bfffprpd).

Hinton said that before the board can approve the chassis replacement on the Spartan, the board would need to know the total cost. He recommended using

funds from the Capital Improvement Fund to pay for the chassis replacement.

Rebitski said he would request “hard numbers” from the SVI president for the two-wheel-drive chassis conversion on the Spartan and get the ball rolling.

#### Training update

Rebitski said the recently hired staff will begin an aggressive hard-and-heavy three-week mini training academy on April 26 to understand the workings of BFFRPD, to include physical training, fire-fighting skills and daily testing.

He also said:

- Axis Business Technologies has installed a Samsung Interactive Display digital canvas with an audio sound bar and surround speakers in the training room. The screen replaces the old pull-down screen and white board.
- The streamlined learning system can pair computers, laptops, and smartphones and

will provide greater access to digital study resources and meet the demands of modern education.

- The district is excited to incorporate this state-of-the-art technology into the BFFRPD training programs.
- As the district continues to grow and hire personnel, the

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