

- Residents can note important information on the site, for example: resident is using oxygen tank, number of pets in the home, or even a home where a larger fuel load could make entry unsafe for firefighters.
- The program comes with an initial fee based on how many rooftops the district contains and an annual fee.
- The district will evaluate the program to ensure it is working well for the district, and the goal is to roll out the program around mid-April.

Financial report as of January 2022 Treasurer Jason Buckingham said the following:

- The district received \$249 in property tax revenue year to date. The projected annual property tax revenue for the district is \$10.8 million.
- The district received \$90,202 in ambulance fee revenue year to date and has projected \$800,000 will be received in 2022.
- The district received \$85,648

in specific ownership tax and \$10,101 in impact fees year to date.

- Overall revenue received year to date is \$297,187, and the projected 2022 income budget is set at \$12.9 million.
- Overall expenses year to date are \$814,783, about 8% of the projected 2022 total expense budget that is set at \$10.1million.

The board accepted the financial report as presented, 7-0.

**Annual 2021 District Report**

Kovacs presented the board with hard copies of the Annual 2021 District Report and said the DWFPD board members had also received copies. The district thought the project would be fun and highlight all the accomplishments and successes of the fire district, and it will continue to produce hard copies annually, said Kovacs.

Director Tom Kelly thanked all of the staff and said, "It is well put together, easy to follow, and you can nickel and dime things, but to see it all come together speaks volumes."

The report can be viewed at [www.tlmfire.org](http://www.tlmfire.org).

**Station 1 Training Center update**

Bradley said the district is looking at a couple of engineering firms for the Station 1 Training Center, and three have responded and asked additional questions. Once the orientation is finished, site visits will take place. Battalion Chief Kris Mola will lead the project with assistance from Battalion Chief Micah Coyle (recently promoted from lieutenant), Engineer Adam Wakefield and Firefighter Golden Rains. The four-person committee is taking time to plan the project slowly and "do it right" before recommending the purchase of any training props to the board. Site visit dates will be set up to find out the costs of the project and the potential options, said Bradley.

Director Tom Tharnish confirmed the water tank construction project bid for Forest View Acres was awarded on Feb. 22, and construction will probably begin in late March. The pipeline project will follow soon after the emergency water interconnect is

installed, said Tharnish.

**Note:** Station 1 will move from well water and connect to the Town of Monument for its water supply when the pipeline project is completed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

**Correction**

In the February edition of OCN, the TLMFPD article on page 18 read "Castlerock." It should have read "Castle Rock Fire Department." OCN regrets the error.

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Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For Zoom meeting instructions, agendas, minutes, and updates, visit [www.tlmfire.org](http://www.tlmfire.org) or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

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*Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Feb. 15*

**Call volume increases; merger exceeding expectations**

*By Natalie Barszcz*

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) meeting on Feb. 15, the board heard about call volume increases, and received multiple updates on the merger and other district practices and regional events. The board decided to meet at the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) administrative offices but will hold all future meetings at TLMFPD Station 1.

Secretary Larry Schwarz was excused.

**Full service inter-governmental agreement**

District Attorney Emily Powell said that she and TLMFPD District Attorney Maureen Juran are close to an agreement on the legal terms for a full service inter-governmental agreement for provision of emergency services to the residents of the DWFPD area of coverage. The first draft is expected to be ready for presentation to both boards in time for the March board meeting. "It is progressing nicely for a mid-year completion," said Powell. See [www.ocn.me/v22n2.htm#dwfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v22n2.htm#dwfpd).

**Operations report**

Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley said:

- The district planned for a busy year of increased call volume with a higher than usual increase of 7.5 percent, but so far the district is significantly ahead of that estimate.
- The orientation schedule has been edited and changes have been made to the monthly rosters, with the goal of finishing the orientation much sooner than anticipated.
- The Wescott crews "do a few small things a little differently" from the Tri-Lakes crews, but overall it has "gone exceedingly well, and it is a testament to the personnel working together to make the unification a success."
- The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response for mutual aid requests increased significantly in January, and the dis-

trict will have a definitive plan next month to staff a third ambulance from Station 5 (formerly Station 2 Highway 83/Stage Coach Road) to meet the 15% to 16% call volume increase.

- Permanent assignments for the battalion chiefs, etc., will be determined in March.

Fire Chief Andy Kovacs said he had met "one on one" with every employee to ensure their needs are being met, and to get to know each other personally and professionally. "The feedback indicates that everything is going well, and the staff are happy with the process," said Kovacs.

Bradley said, "The district is operating as one organization and it is very cool to see."

**Chief's report**

Kovacs said the following:

- As a combined district, a total

of 169 requests for ambulance transports were received in January.

- The district received 83 requests from American Medical Response, but only half of those mutual aid requests received assistance from TLMFPD and the remainder were turned down at the discretion of the battalion chiefs to avoid leaving the combined district without EMS support. See [www.ocn.me/v22n2.htm#dwfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v22n2.htm#dwfpd).
- A structure fire on Colonial Park Drive on Jan. 9 resulted in a civilian injury. The incident was attended by both districts, and multiple mutual aid agencies also assisted.
- The district assisted in a virtual Town Hall meeting, held at Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church

in response to the Marshall Fire, and although the road conditions were not ideal about 120 people participated either in person or virtually. The district received a lot of "positive feedback" on the information that was shared during the meeting.

- Division Chief of Community Risk/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner is assisting the Town of Monument to develop a Wild-fire Community Protection Plan to encompass the combined district. The district hopes to receive a grant to contract independent services to create the plan.
- Battalion Chief Scott Ridings is working diligently behind the scenes on several projects, to include plotting out the station locations on the district map and the pending future station sites.

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