

rental property owner to post signs stating that recreational fires are prohibited on the property.

- The district staff has been instructed not to issue recreational fire permits to vacation rental properties, and the district is working on compiling a list of vacation rental property locations.
 - The EPCSO is working to solve the problem of illegal recreational fires at vacation rental properties, and they met with the rental property owner to ensure signage is posted on the door prohibiting recreational fires.
 - EPCSO has instructed its deputy patrol officers to issue citations if vacation renters fail to comply.
- Langmaid also said in response to concerns of the board directors and residents:
- Black Forest usually has stronger fire restrictions than the rest of the county with the exception of Tri-Lakes, but Black Forest has fewer resources.
 - The permanent residents of Black Forest are very compliant with the fire restrictions and permitting laws, it is the out-of-town vacation renters that pose the greatest wildfire risk to the community.
 - Fire permits are free and available from the Fire Department when fire stage restrictions allow.
 - Any property owners will be legally, criminally, or civilly responsible if a fire should leave their property.
 - For current fire restrictions, rules, regulations and permits information, visit www.bffire.org.

Vice Chairman Nate Dowden thanked Langmaid and said, "It was a job well done."

"The Sheriff's Office did a good job," said Langmaid.

9-1-1 dispatch

Langmaid said that recently, members of the public had called the administration office after hours and a non-emergency Sheriff's Office to gain assistance for a motor vehicle accident on Burgess Road. In the case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1, said Langmaid.

Financial report

Langmaid said he and the district accountants had looked over the financial report and everything appeared to be in order, and according to Hinton the total district assets at the end of January were about \$1.7 million, and out of that, \$560,000 will be used for operating funds until the first installment of property tax revenue is received on March 10. The transactions for January were reviewed by Hinton, and due to the spending moratorium imposed since November 2021, there was nothing remarkable to report, said Langmaid.

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

Revenue and expenses

Langmaid said revenue and expenses as of Jan. 31 were as follows:

- Ambulance revenue was \$33,299, and that fluctuates monthly depending on whether ambulance bills are paid.
- The district received \$9,325 in Wildland deployment revenue, \$4,216 in COVID-19 grant revenue, and \$84,740 in combined county tax revenue (includes specific ownership and property taxes).
- The district paid \$57,891 for workers compensation in January.

2022 mill levy— neighbor comparisons

Langmaid said BFFRPD has the lowest property tax mill levy at 14.5 mills in comparison to its neighboring districts, and the comparison information will be posted at www.bffire.org.

Note: Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) (northern sub-district) is set at 14.9 mills, and those

residents currently pay 21.90 mills (which includes the 7 mills set for the residents in the southern enclave), Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) is set at 18.4 mills, and Falcon Fire Protection District (FFPD) is set at 14.886 mills. The current BFFRPD mill levy was set for 2021.

Apparatus purchases

Langmaid said he and Hinton had met with the 1st Bank president to discuss a loan for \$357,000 to pay for the remaining balance on the Pierce Enforcer Pumper/Type 1 Engine. The apparatus is due to be delivered in May. See www.ocn.me/v21n5.htm#bffrpd.

Langmaid said the relocation and reorganization of TLMFPD and DWFPD has the district examining the need for a ladder truck and a tender. Although no action was requested, the board received a document that listed several proposed ladder truck options, and he said:

- The figures for a future ladder truck were discussed during the 1st Bank meeting, and a five- or 10-year loan at a 3.15% fixed rate was available, based on the current trends.
- Hinton had suggested an initial down payment of \$500,000 on the purchase of a new ladder truck, rather than a loan for the

full \$1.5 million.

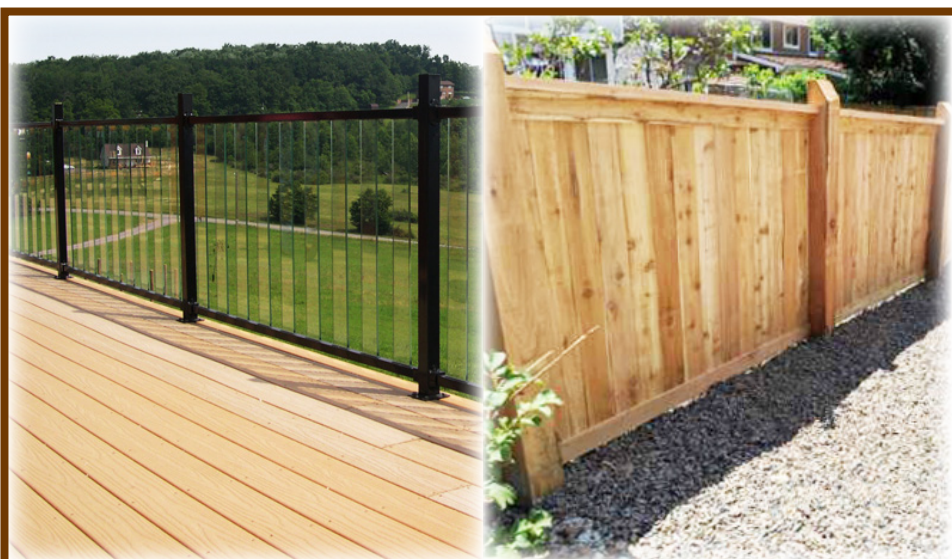
- In January, TLMFPD ordered a new ladder for about \$1.6 million, and the Colorado Springs Fire Department ordered an almost identical ladder truck for about \$1.5 million (similar to the one the district is hoping to purchase).
- The cost of apparatus is becoming outrageous, and planning accordingly to be fiscally responsible will avoid missing the opportunity to lock in a price before the next cost increase.
- A 6% manufacturing cost increase occurred at the end of January.

Note: The board approved the purchase of a 2,000-gallon Pierce commercial cab tender in February for a total of about \$360,000. The tender will likely take 18-24 months to build. See www.ocn.me/v22n2.htm#bffrpd.

Chief's report

Langmaid said the following:

- In January, the district responded to 19 fire calls and 73 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls, up 62% for 2022 (EMS calls were up 58% at the same time in 2021).
- Personnel completed over 1,000 hours of training in January, and FFPD trained with BFFRPD on auto stabilization.



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