

ASOTIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 NEWS

Fall 2017



Chief's Corner

By Fire Chief Noel Hardin

I'm writing this with a sense of relief as wildland fire season is coming to an end. Cooler temperatures and rain mean that most of the fires in the region are on their way to being resolved. Your support means that Asotin County Fire District 1 can fight these large fires, while also being able to provide an adequate emergency response locally.

Fire District 1 is a largely volunteer organization, which saves us an estimated \$1 million in personnel costs per year. However, call volumes have been steadily increasing (13% since 2011), and costs increase with the more emergencies we have.

Emergency services are funded by a fire levy and one for emergency medical service. Our fire district is

asking voters to return the fire levy from \$0.72 to \$1.06 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. (The same amount it was in 1995). Funding would be used to maintain emergency service levels, replace aging apparatus and equipment, and finish our fire station project.

This would be an additional \$5.66 per month (\$68 per year) for the owner of a \$200,000 home. This is not a new tax, and would be the first time in the history of Asotin County Fire District 1 that voters would be asked to approve additional funding.

I am available to answer questions about the fire levy lid lift or any issue at your convenience. Please contact me at (509) 758-5181 or nhardin@acfd1.org. Thank you for considering our request.

Station Project Update

Asotin County Fire District 1 purchased property with a building to serve as a larger fire station for the community. The fire district received a \$750,000 grant to renovate the facility. However, this was \$250,000 less than requested, which makes public funding necessary to complete the project.

The facility represents a good investment for fire district taxpayers. The building and land are valued at more than the fire district paid. Also, renovating an existing building will save taxpayers an anticipated \$3 million when compared to building a new fire station. The fire district also has paid cash for such things as architectural services and

permitting to reduce the amount of public funding that is needed.

The project is on track for a 2018 completion date. Fire District 1 has needed a larger station for some time to meet the growing demand for emergency services. New stations are expensive, and the goal of the Board of Fire Commissioners has been to minimize costs for taxpayers as the project moves forward.

Other emergency service providers also have expressed an interest in renting space at the station, which would reduce operating costs for the facility. We look forward to inviting the community to the ribbon cutting ceremony sometime in 2018!



ASOTIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1

2314 Appleside Boulevard

Clarkston, WA 99403

(509) 758-5181

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Stay in touch!

Have you checked out Asotin County Fire District 1's website (www.acfd1.org) yet?

If you're on Facebook, please "Like"



our page at www.facebook.com/asotincountyfd1 to receive regular updates about your fire district!

What's on My Election Ballot?

Asotin County Fire District 1 is asking voters to approve a fire levy lid lift during the November election. This would change the levy from \$0.72 to \$1.06 per \$1,000 of assessed property value – the same rate it was in 1995.

Call volumes have increased 13% in six years. More calls mean added costs for personnel, training, equipment, apparatus maintenance, and supplies. The fire levy lid lift would meet this increased demand for emergency services, purchase replacement apparatus, and finish renovations to a building that will serve as a larger fire station. These projects are necessary to save lives, but also to maintain our community's insurance rating which impacts premiums paid by homeowners.

If approved by voters, the owner of a \$200,000 home would pay an additional \$5.66 per month (\$68 per year). More information about the ballot measure can be found on our web site at



www.acfd1.org/proposed-fire-levy-lid-lift.html. Fire Chief Noel Hardin is also available to answer questions at (509) 758-5181 or nhardin@acfd1.org.