

# Benton County Fire District **4** NEWS



SUMMER 2018

## WHAT'S ON MY ELECTION BALLOT?

At Benton County Fire District 4, daily operations are funded through two property tax levies for fire and emergency medical service. Capital items – such as stations and apparatus – are funded through voter-approved bonds.

The fire district is asking voters to approve a bond to build and equip a station (including an ambulance) and replace three fire engines that are reaching the end of their usable lives. The cost is 28-cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or approximately \$7 per month for the owner of a \$300,000 home.

Adequate facilities and apparatus are important to community safety. Call volumes have increased 62.5 percent since 2010. This is reflective of an aging community, and population increases in the City of West Richland (25%) and unincorporated areas (30%) in the same time period.

The station and apparatus will balance our emergency response district-wide, reduce response times, and provide additional units to respond during back-to-back emergencies. The fire district is funding architectural and engineering work to reduce the amount of revenue needed for the project. To learn more, visit our web site at [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org). Thank you!

## MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF BILL WHEALAN

Thank you for supporting Benton County Fire District 4. It's an honor for us to come to work every day and serve our community.

In this edition of our newsletter, we introduce you to some very special people. We've had some internal promotions and hired other personnel to replace those who have moved up or on to different opportunities. I am extremely proud of the men and women who serve this great community, and it's a pleasure to share their accomplishments.



On another note, Benton County Fire District 4 is asking voters to consider a bond during the August Primary Election. Ballots must be postmarked by August 7 to count. Regardless of the bond, we hope you will exercise your right to vote. It's an important privilege that many have fought to protect for you.

In summary, the bond would cost the average homeowner \$7 per month. Funding would be used to build and equip a station (including an ambulance) and replace three fire engines approaching the end of their usable lives.

Our fire district has a history of adding a station every 20 years. (We currently have two.) This is in response to population growth and call volumes – both of which have increased significantly. The station will be located in the western part of our fire district and will improve our response district-wide with additional aid units.

There is more information on the bond in this newsletter and on our web site at [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org). I encourage you to contact me personally if you have additional questions at (509) 967-2496 or [wwhealan@bcfd4.org](mailto:wwhealan@bcfd4.org). Thank you for considering our request.

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# Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

2604 Bombing Range Rd.  
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(509) 967-2945

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### Let's Get Social!

Please like us on Facebook @BCFD4 or follow us on Twitter @BCFD4Info!

### Disponible en Español

Este boletín está disponible en español en nuestro sitio de Internet [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org)

### Board Meetings

The Board of Fire Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at 2604 Bombing Range Road, West Richland. All meetings are open to the public!

### Station Tours

We provide station tours on request to anyone who is interested in learning more about their local fire district - all ages welcome!

## MOVING UP

Benton County Fire District 4 is a combination department. That means we have both career and volunteer firefighters serving our community. We are proud to introduce you to some of our best and brightest!



Captain  
Bob Shannon

Bob Shannon has left the volunteer ranks to become a career captain with the fire district. Captain Shannon brings more than 23 years of emergency service experience, including 10 years with BCFD4.

Kyle Jagelski is promoted to Volunteer Training Officer after serving as a volunteer team lead. He brings six years of experience to the position.

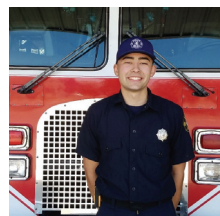


Training Officer  
Kyle Jagelski

The fire district has hired three paramedics to replace others who have departed for new opportunities. Join us in welcoming Paramedics Allen Putz, Grady Winn, and Garrett Premel.



Paramedic Allen Putz    Paramedic Grady Winn    Paramedic Garrett Premel



Res. Firefighter  
Braydon Johnson

Braydon Johnson is our new resident firefighter. The fire district provides housing and a stipend in exchange for service through its Resident Program. More information about the program or other employment opportunities can be found on our web site at [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org).

### Interested in Becoming a Firefighter or EMT?

We'd be happy to discuss your future plans and provide information about volunteer opportunities or career paths in the emergency services industry. Please contact Capt. Bonnie Benitz at (509) 967-2945.