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Asotin County Fire District 1 receives \$750,000 grant toward station renovations

Clarkston, Wash. – Asotin County Fire District 1 received a federal grant for \$750,000 to help fund building renovations for a new fire station. The Community Development Block Grant, one of the longest-running programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, funds local community development activities such as infrastructure development. The program is administered in Washington State by the Department of Commerce.

The fire district purchased an 8-acre property in late 2014 on Appleside Boulevard with the intent of remodeling the 22,000 square foot building to accommodate its emergency service operation needs. Fire District 1 informed the community that it was pursuing grant funding for the project in partnership with Asotin County. The application was a multi-year process, and the results were known this week.

“We want to thank everyone for their patience and support during this process,” said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. “Likewise, we are grateful that the selection committee recognized the importance of the new fire station to the safety of our community.”

“This new fire station has the full support of Asotin County,” said County Commissioner Jim Fuller. “We are pleased to have been able to partner with Fire District 1 on securing funding and partnering to save lives and property.”

Fire District 1 will start working with state officials immediately on the station project, which is expected to take 12-18 months to finish. Fire district officials still need to consider other options for the remaining funding required to complete the station.

Fire District 1 originally requested \$1 million toward the project, which was the maximum allowed under the CDBG grant program. However, the Washington State Department of Commerce reduced the total amount of funding for projects to \$750,000 in the middle of the application process.

“We have said all along that community funding might be necessary,” said Chief Hardin. “However, this grant reduces that amount significantly.”

Asotin County Fire District 1 provides fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical service (EMS), river rescue, oil spill response and wildland fire protection to 14,000 people over 120 square miles of land and 35 miles of shoreline. Thirty-two volunteer firefighters, 28 emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and 35 paramedics (through a partnership with Lewiston) respond to an average of 2,600 calls per year. The fire district operates under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits by the state. Learn more about Asotin County Fire District 1 by visiting their web site www.acfd1.org or Facebook page /asotincountyfd1.