



Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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www.bcf4.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Fire Commissioners Passes Resolution for Station, Apparatus Bond Request on August 7 Primary Election Ballot

WEST RICHLAND, WASH. — The Board of Fire Commissioners for Benton County Fire District 4 unanimously passed a resolution to place a bond request on the August 7 Primary Election ballot. Funding would be used to build a fire station, acquire firefighting and EMS apparatus and purchase equipment.

“It is important that we be able to meet the emergency service needs of our growing community,” said Fire Chief Bill Whealan. “These capital projects will do just that.”

Since 2010, the City of West Richland has grown by almost 25 percent and the unincorporated areas of the district have grown by 30 percent. This population growth has resulted in emergency call volumes increasing 62.5 percent for Fire District 4 in that time span.

The bonds will be repaid over a period of 20 years at an estimated cost of 28 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (\$84 per year or \$7 per month for the owner of a \$300,000 home). Funding will be used to acquire land and construct a new fire station in the western part of the district’s service area, as well as purchase firefighting and emergency medical service apparatus and equipment.

The station, vehicles and equipment will balance emergency response times district-wide, reduce response times, and provide additional units to respond during back-to-back emergencies. Currently, it can take as long as 17 minutes for emergency responders to reach the western part of the district.

Benton County Fire District 4 has built a fire station approximately every 20 years to accommodate population growth in its service territory. Station 410 on Harrington Road was built in 1977 and Station 420 on Bombing Range Road was constructed in 1997.

“These are the needs we have identified to serve and provide the community with quality emergency services,” said Chief Whelan. “The proposal is where it belongs – in the hands of our community for consideration.”

Community members with questions about the capital projects or bond are encouraged to contact Fire Chief Bill Whealan at (509) 967-2496 or wwhealan@bcfd4.org. All communication is welcome and becomes part of the official public record.

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Benton County Fire District 4 is proud to provide fire and emergency medical service (EMS) to 18,232 people over 52 square miles, including the City of West Richland. The fire district operates under a balanced budget and maintains adequate reserve funds in case of an emergency. It also has a history of successfully passing financial and accountability audits by the state. Learn more about Fire District 4 at www.bcf4.org, “Like” us on Facebook at /BCFD4 or follow us on Twitter @BCFD4Info.