



2314 Appleside Boulevard
Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 758-5181
acfd1@cableone.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Chief Noel Hardin, Asotin County Fire District 1
Office (509) 758-5181 Cell (208) 790-3379 nhardin@acfd1.org

Architect selected for station project at Fire District 1

Chief says project is approximately a year away from completion

CLARKSTON, WASH. – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Asotin County Fire District 1 selected Brotnov Architecture & Planning to design the plans to renovate a building into a fire station. Fire District 1 purchased the building with plans to turn it into a larger fire station to serve the needs of the community for the next 60 years.

“Renovating an existing building is saving taxpayers an estimated \$3 million compared to building a new facility,” said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. “We’re also paying for as many of these project costs upfront to reduce the amount we need to ask from taxpayers.”

Four proposals were received: two from the west side of the state, one from the Tri-Cities area, and the last from Brotnov Architecture & Planning, located in Clarkston, Wash. Brotnov Architecture & Planning designed the original building on the site, and has extensive experience with projects funded by public grant dollars.

Last September, Fire District 1 received a \$750,000 grant from the federal government for renovations. The new fire station is considered a critical infrastructure facility, which is why it was awarded funding. Brotnov Architecture & Planning, which has been in business since 1996, did the drawings that accompanied the successful grant application.

The grant, while still substantial, was less than the fire district requested. As a result, taxpayers likely will be asked to fund the remainder of the project as part of a fire levy lid lift on the ballot this fall. Funding also will be used to replace aging apparatus and equipment instead of financing these purchases, which costs taxpayers more.

If approved by voters, the fire levy would return to the same rate it was in 1995 – \$1.06 per \$1,000 of assessed value. (It has fallen to \$0.72 cents per \$1,000 since that time.) This would represent an additional \$5.66 per month (\$68 per year) for the owner of a \$200,000 home. The fire levy is not a new tax, and would be the first time in the history of the district that voters would be asked to approve a lid lift.

Once plans are approved, the new station will be approximately one year from completion. Chief Hardin welcomes the opportunity to visit with community groups about the building project and proposed lid lift. Please contact him at Office (509) 758-5181 Cell (208) 790-3379 nhardin@acfd1.org

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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.