



## Grant County Fire District No. 8

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### Board of Commissioner Special Meeting Minutes

The special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Grant County Fire Protection District No. 8 (District) was held on March 28, 2024 for the purpose of holding a Strategic Planning Workshop. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom and information for the public to participate was posted on our website and at the main station March 11, 2024 and a date change was posted March 25, 2024. The meeting was recorded by Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Russell Brixey at 16:00 hours.

The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Commissioners present: Russell Brixey, Scott Nesbit, Paul Parker, and Debra Crain. A quorum was established. Commissioner Richard Kummer was absent due to a medical issue. A motion was made to excuse Commissioner Kummer. **Motion: Nesbit. Second: Crain. Motion approved unanimously.**

Others present: Chief Matt Hyndman, District Secretary Barbara Davis

There were no members of the public were present to be welcomed and invited to comment.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion: Crain. Second: Parker. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Strategic Planning Workshop:** Chief presented the Board with slideshows on Facilities, Apparatus, and Staffing (attached). There was discussion on each topic.

1. Facilities – Reviewed current stations and construction projects. Discussed resident quarters at Station 83, a well at Station 83, training facility at Station 81, and options for Station 82 at current location or new location.
2. Apparatus – Reviewed current apparatus in each station and replacement plan schedule. Discussed apparatus that are overdue for replacement, creating an apparatus standard for each type of apparatus, WSRB rating criteria, and future apparatus to be added to the fleet.

Commissioner Brixey called for a break at 17:02 for 10 minutes and the meeting resumed at 17:12.

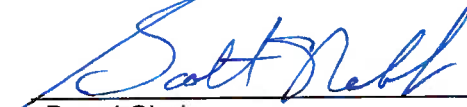
3. Staffing – Reviewed current staffing and vision for future staffing. Discussed community needs and how to meet them, discussed adding paramedics in the future as well as obstacles, wages, supplies, and liabilities. Discussed potential revenue stream of community paramedicine program with clinics and hospitals.

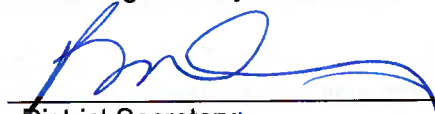
Summary and Timeline – Davis spoke about the general levy and potentially increasing it to the statutory maximum of \$1.50/\$1,000 to support staffing changes, facilities expansions, and apparatus replacement. There was discussion on the topic.

**Additional Business:** Commissioner Parker asked about the Port's fire hydrant system. Chief replied that he didn't know where they were at with bringing it up to the requirements needed for fire suppression to the businesses in the Port. Commissioner Brixey commented about adding paramedics and said that he thought less than 10% of our calls are truly ALS calls. Davis stated

she was tracking ALS transports vs BLS transports and reviewing the data regularly. There was more discussion on the topic.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 18:00 hours.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair  
4/9/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary  
4/9/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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# Strategic Plan Facilities 2024



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# Station 81

Built in 2021

5 drive through bays

Living quarters

6 bedrooms

4 offices, 1 training room



# Property specifics for Station 81



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# Station 82

Original building built in  
1980

Added on to in 1990

5 bays



# Property specifics for Station 82



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# Station 83

Originally built in 1987

Added onto in 2004

5 bays





# Property specifics for Station 83





## In the works

Currently in the process of building a 60' x 120' shop/storage building to include

- 60' x 50' shop with conditioned space
- Storage rooms to include for PPE, Parts and tools
- Reserve apparatus storage
- More area to work out inside during bad weather
- An area to assemble some of our training props to train with that we have built
- A 20' covered roof off the back to have covered outdoor storage
- Fuel tanks to include gas and diesel so we can buy fuel in bulk to save money and fuel up on sight

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# Moving Forward

## Needs:

Lack of storage space, **shop will solve**

No place to build trucks and mechanic, **shop will solve**

No place to store reserve apparatus, **shop will solve**

No place to add apparatus for the future, **shop will solve**

Living quarters for residents

Training facility

Build a new station 82





# Residents quarters

Station 83 resident quarters?

- Would fill a gap in coverage out there
- We have the space to do something
- Would greatly help our WSRB rating
- Would allow us to potentially expand our resident program
- Could do a modular like a triple or quadruple wide with 6 rooms



## Training Facility

Start with a larger open area that has a large concrete pad and drainage for water.

Start with a small training prop and build what we can.

Focus on getting grants to build a larger training facility with a burn room in it. Currently working on a grant for this.

# Station 82

We need to increase the size of the station

Add drive through Bays

Add living quarters for the future

Small offices, possibly partnerships with Sheriff's office and WSP

**Problem:** We are limited to the size of the property. 1.25 acres





## Station 82 options

Do we try and make the land we own work?

Do we explore possible other land options?

I feel a town hall style meeting with Desert Aire residents would benefit the planning of this project. What do they feel we need to provide them the service they would like. Would they support a bond?



# Possible land ideas for 82







## **Timeline, What can we afford?**

Grants?

Levy?

Bonds?



# Apparatus Strategic Planning

3/28/2024



# Apparatus Plan

Focused on the needs of our district's coverage area not only for now, but in the future. Keeping in mind influences from our district personnel, tax payers input, and financial resources. Replacing apparatus in a cost effective manner.

# Station 81 Apparatus

- Tender 810, 2012 Freightliner
- Engine 81, 2007 Pierce
- Ladder 81, 2011 Pierce
- Brush 818, 2016 Ford F-450
- Brush 817, 2006 Military 6x6
- Brush 819, 2007 M1083 6x6
- Ambulance 897, 2022 Ford F450, 4x4
- Ambulance 896, 2020 Ford F450, 4x4
- Command 801, 2022 Ram
- Command 8100, 2021 Chevy Tahoe



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## Station 82 Apparatus

- Tender 820, 2012 Freightliner
- Brush 828, 2008 Ford F-550
- Engine 821, 2002 Freightliner
- Brush 826, 1991 Military 6x6
- Brush 827, 1991 Military 6x6
- Ambulance 899, 2013 Ford E-450



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## Station 83 Apparatus

- Tender 830, 1995 Freightliner
- Engine 831, 1994 Ford
- Brush 837, 1985 Military 6x6
- Ambulance 897, 2003 Ford E-450





## Our current replacement plan

Ambulances are replaced at 12 years

Structure engines are replaced at 25 years

Command vehicles are replaced at 8 years

6x6's and Tenders replaced as needed, usually due to cost to operate

Quick responses are replaced at 20 years

# What's Overdue and What's close



- Engine 831 was supposed to be replaced in 2020
- Engine 821 is due for replacement in 2024

## Reserves

- 811 is our first reserve engine





# How do we go about adding or replacing?

- Questions to ask when adding or replacing apparatus.
  - How does this affect our WSRB rating?
  - Does this fit our plan?
  - How does this make what we do better for our taxpayers?
  - What are the long term effects of this piece of apparatus, Pros and Cons?
  - Does the apparatus committee agree on the decision?



## Apparatus standards moving forward

- Command Vehicles should be 4x4 pickups with a canopy and a slider in the back. This keeps gear in the back of the vehicle where it is protected and for safety.
- Ambulances will continue to be 4x4 chassis and after the next build we will go with mounting our existing box on a new chassis.
- Structure Engines will be a minimum of 4 man cabs, be able to carry all necessary tools and equipment which includes EMS response equipment.
- Does it fit the needs for now? Does it fit the needs for the future?



## Apparatus standards moving forward

- 6x6 type 3 trucks, will build in house whenever possible. We will stick as close to our current design in builds to ensure that apparatus stays familiar in the way it functions.
- Tenders will be specific to the needs of the district. We have both road tenders and tactical tenders.
- Quick responses need to be built to go off road. They will need to have the running gear and tires on them to go off road.



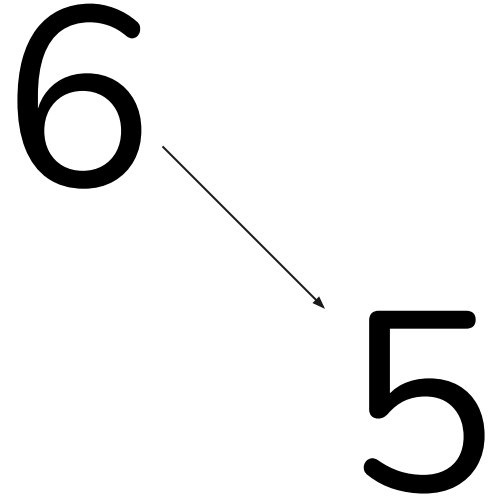
## Additional apparatus needs

- Structure Engines
  - Try to replace 831 next year with an AFG grant.
  - Pumper/Tender for station 83, Dual rated truck
- UTV vs Humvee. We have a Humvee to build for EMS. On hold until the shop is complete.
- Tech rescue Humvee. This build is on hold until the shop is complete.
- More tactical tenders, Trucks would come from DNR and we would have tanks built for them by Randco.
- More 6x6 brush trucks. Would like to be at 8 total. We will be at 6 soon.
- Off road service truck for wildland fires. Currently have the truck and some of the components. Waiting to build until shop is done.
- Smaller ladder truck for station 82, only if we can get through PPMS program.
- Semi truck to pull lowboy trailer with Dozer and disk.
- Semi truck with 10,000 gallon tank trailer.
- Order a new Ambulance in 2025



## WSRB apparatus information

- We get points against us for aging of fleet. If we get to 2 reserve engines, that goes away and our age of vehicles doesn't matter. We can rebuild instead of replace in often cases.
- Tenders give us more credit for our rating.





# What have we done since the last meeting.

## Apparatus added

- 2011 Pierce Platform
- 2007 Pierce Engine
- 2022 Ambulance
- 2022 Command Vehicle
- 2 humvees
- Telehandler Forklift
- Wrecker for service truck



# Staffing

Staffing Strategic Plan 2024  
We've come a long way

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## **District vision**

Want to be a district that is focused on training. To not only be able to be the best at what we do, but to get everyone to maximize their full potential from paid staff to volunteers. To make staffing decisions that benefit us as a district and to provide the best service possible to our customers. To stand out amongst all the others and develop confident firefighters, EMT's, and leaders for the fire service. All while lowering our WSRB rating.



# Current staffing

- Admin
  - Fire Chief
  - Business Manager
  - Office Assistant
- Line Staff
  - 6 paid Firefighter/EMT's
- Residents
  - 6 residents
- Volunteers
  - 20 Volunteers



# District Needs

- Full time training officer
  - Currently shared between a shift staff person and Chief
- Recruitment retention officer
  - Chief's responsibility
- Mechanic
  - Paid staff does the maintenance services, Chief is doing the repairs and building of trucks
- Increase resident program
  - Paid staff member is the resident coordinator and is doing well at it
- EMS administrator
  - Currently done by Business Manager
- Move to having Paramedics in the future - maybe 2 to 3 years out
- Possibly 3 more line staff once we start reaching 1,200 calls or more.



# **How do we fill the needs?**

Our goal is to maintain wages and benefits at 60% or lower of total budgeted operating expenditures

With that being said, SAFER grants are a possibility to support a position financially

We have applied for one in 2024 for a recruitment retention/training officer

We must wait until our budget can afford to add staff. We don't want to deviate from the 60%

# Problems

Our biggest thing we deal with in paid staff is turn over, 7 in 2 years. How do we fix this?

- Competitive wages
- Benefits
- Shift work
- Great work environment
- Way to advance
- Ongoing education



# Paramedics

Our MPD is supportive of adding paramedics and providing ALS services.  
What are the obstacles?

- Increase in Wages for medic staff
- Liability of having narcotics and a ALS service

How do we get there?

- We have current staff that want to become paramedics
- Put together a tuition assistance program to help pay for medic school with a signed commitment

Benefits

- Provide immediate ALS providers to calls
- Provide Paramedicine to our local community through the clinics and the hospitals, also a source of income.

# In Summary

## Timeline

- 1-3 years
  - Replace 831, with an AFG Grant
  - Training facility with burn rooms, Grant funded
  - Training/recruitment retention officer, SAFER funded
  - Order new ambulance to replace 898
- 3-5 years
  - Have paramedics on staff
  - Build more 6x6's or tactical tenders as time and funds allow
  - Get a residents quarters in place at station 83
  - New Command vehicle to replace 800
  - Keep looking for a Dozer and truck and trailer through DNR
  - Hire a full time Mechanic
  - Pumper Tender to replace 830
- 6-10 years
  - Once we get to 8 6x6 brush trucks start phasing out the old M923 trucks and put tanks on new chassis through DNR
  - Station 82 upgrade or replacement
  - Continue to replace apparatus as timelines warrant
  - Possibly add 3 more line staff if call volume warrants it
  - Complete training grounds at station 81
- 10-15 years
  - Add to station 83
  - Upgrade Engine 821
- 15-20 years
  -

# Funding all of this

Before we try and fund all of this we need to hold multiple town hall meetings on what the community feels like the fire department should look like. Ask all the hard questions and have community buy in to our plan. Instead of making a plan and asking them to join in we should have them help make the plan so they are already invested.

Levy money only goes so far so we have to continue to utilize:

- Grants
  - AFG
  - SAFER
  - DNR
  - Other State and Federal Grants
- Bonds
- PPMS