



GCFD JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

502 IMPERIAL BLVD., SAND SPRINGS, OK. 74063 NON EMERGENCY #918-241-7204

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE! Please check it out at:

<https://greencountryfd.org> This is the most efficient way to communicate with our community without the expense of printing and mailing department news and notices. Website includes: event calendar, department news, apparatus pictures, call volumes, volunteers names, district map, ISO rating, BOD meeting agendas and much more. All newsletters are being published through the website based on the emails we have on file (from our old membership records and our title 19 campaign). If you have family, friends or neighbors that are not receiving our newsletters please encourage them to visit the website and sign up under Newsletter. If you have received this newsletter and do not wish to remain on our email list please contact us through the website or call us at the non-emergency number listed above.

Thank you for your support and commitment to the Fire Department and our community! As promised during our 2019 campaign to convert department to a Fire Protection District (Title 19) from a Corporate Fire Department (Title 18) we have accomplished the following goals to date:

- Effective 1-1-2020 No More Annual Fire Dues
- No charges will apply for fire runs
- Additional first response emergency medical equipment and training
- Upgrade vehicles and equipment to meet State and Federal requirements

- Completed station expansion, adding 3 additional heavy bays, upgrade dispatch facilities and installation of SCBA fill station (approximate cost \$150,000)
- Added a new communications tower (approximate cost \$18,000) and repeater. **Parts of our Fire District had no radio coverage with our old communications equipment.**
- Original station, replaced roof and exterior siding on southside with metal. Interior of the original station bays has received a facelift as well.
- We have ordered new Turnout gear to upgrade all our personal protective equipment (PPE). It costs approximately \$13,000 per firefighter to properly outfit them in Structural and Wildland gear. This gear is required by the National Fire Protection Association to be replaced every 10 years. We currently are using Structure Gear that is almost 20 years old. This greatly diminishes our ability to rescue those trapped in burning structures and does not adequately protect our firefighters
- Upgraded our structure fire engine (see pictures of TAC 1 on our new website) with an all-wheel drive multi-purpose pumper/engine that has plenty of storage for medical gear, vehicle extrication as well as initial fire attack. Purchased a second pumper engine (see pictures of Engine 1 on our new website) that is a front line pumper. Both engines are short wheelbase enabling us to get in tight areas.

Better equipment and facilities are required to improve our ISO rating, ultimately providing a means for our residents to obtain reduced homeowner insurance rates. This could help offset any increase in taxes. We completed our ISO audit in March 2021 and are anxiously awaiting final results. We will post new ratings on our website and Facebook pages as soon as we receive them.

A goal we were unable to meet involved our volunteers participating in the state Firefighters Pension Fund. We filed applications and sent dues for each of our volunteers that met the age requirement (between 18 to 45 years of age), however, since our Chief is older than 45 the state pension administrators would not allow anyone in the department to join. Our BOD will be exploring some different options. One option is called a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). If a volunteer meets predetermined criteria GCFD would contribute a predefined monetary reward per year of service that the volunteer will receive monthly at entitlement age. More to come as this evolves.

Goals over the next 12 months:

- Fire training area that will include a live fire burn structure that will be two stories and a 40 foot vertical drill tower for ladder and ropes training.
- Make minor changes to our Board/Meeting room so we can open it up to the public to use for monthly/quarterly/annual meetings. Update the kitchen and bathroom facilities in the original station so we can have food events at the station.

Goals beyond 12 months:

- Update our Tender. Our current truck hauls 1800 gallons which helps resupply other apparatus when no fire hydrants are present. Goal is to upgrade to a 2500 gallon tanker/pumper. This helps us with our ISO rating.
- Install Storm Siren for early warning for the northern half of the District

Locked Gates

If your property is gated and has a keypad for entry, please contact us to register your gate code. This information will be held on a secure database with no public access. If we do not have your access code and have to breach the gate in the event of a medical emergency or fire at your residence, we will not be responsible for physical damage.

We have received some calls about the Green Country Firefighter's Association soliciting donations. If they contact you selling tickets or soliciting contributions, **please be aware that we (Green Country Fire District) are not associated with this organization and do not receive any benefits from this group.**

WE HAVE MISSED SEEING OUR SUPPORTERS AT OUR PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND OTHER FUNDRAISERS! Our BOD has given the OK for us to start scheduling events again. So, keep checking the website and Facebook where we will announce dates soon for breakfast and our OPEN HOUSE.

**All the best to you and your family,
Chief Quimby and GCFD Team**