

service creates the report within two hours. The typical time to generate the report via the service is about one hour, and then hospital staff would have access to the district report. See DW-FPD article on page 13.

Grant received

Kovacs thanked Tri-Lakes Monument Women's Club for gener-

ously issuing a grant of \$1,806 at the request of Lt. Jon Bodinsky. The grant was used to purchase three Seek Reveal Fire Pro X handheld thermal imaging cameras for each ambulance, said Kovacs.

Station 1 grand reopening

Kovacs announced the "Grand

reopening of Station 1" scheduled for Saturday, July 30 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The public is invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony, tour the facility, meet the firefighters, and enjoy lunch provided by Emergency Incident Support. RSVP to spopovich@tlmfire.org.

Note: OCN used a recording to

write this article due to a scheduling conflict that occurred after another fire district board meeting was rescheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next regular board meeting

is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For Zoom meeting instructions, agendas, minutes, and updates, visit www.tlmfire.org or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, June 22

Probationary staff take the oath of office; ladder truck approved

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) meeting on June 22, the board administered the oath of office to probationary staff, approved a ladder tower truck purchase, and heard about a communications failure.

Oath of office administered

The district chaplain, Father Brad Noonan led the room with an invitational prayer before the swearing in ceremony.

Fire Chief PJ Langmaid said, "The district waits to administer the oath of office and badge to probationary staff because, in his opinion, the firefighter's oath is to the community and not to an administration, but to the mission, and the community gets to bear witness to that."

Chairman Nathan Dowden welcomed the families and friends of the staff and administered the oath of office to the following former probationary staff: Lieutenants Brandon Jones and Cody Poole and fire-

fighters John Singsheim and Luke Morrone. Family members and friends pinned on the rank badges after the oath of office had been administered.

Probationary firefighters Michael Alverado and Maria Fine were unable to attend the ceremony.

Langmaid said, "Regardless of current events, and what people may think, we are still a nation of laws, and the community must hold the district accountable for maintaining the highest standards."

Ladder tower truck proposal

Langmaid said that for several months the district had been discussing the needs for a ladder truck within the district, and he said:

- If the district were to order a ladder truck by the end of this summer, it would cost no less than \$1.5 million for a basic mid-mount ladder truck, and it would not be delivered for two years.
- The price was not some-

thing that the board and the community members were comfortable with, and a member of the community asked the department to look for a used ladder truck. See www.ocn.me/v22n6.htm#bffrpd.

- Immediately after the May board meeting, Deputy Chief of Operations Chris Piepenburg fortuitously found a 2005, mid-mount ladder tower in pristine condition for \$250,000, with only 25 miles on the odometer.
- The apparatus had belonged to a volunteer fire department in Pennsylvania. At a minimum, it will require repainting to match the department colors. The addition of a LED light package would bring the total cost to about \$390,000 (includes a light package, paint/decals, and transport via hauler to the district).
- Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus of Alabama is the most reputable used dealership in the nation, and the application of paint, graphics and the light package can be done on site.
- Piepenburg visited Brindlee to inspect the ladder truck, and district mechanic Gavin Smith opted out of the visit to save money. After consultations and information received from Piepenburg, Smith could not find any major issues with the truck.
- The maintenance logs are not available, and the cost for a warranty is unknown.
- About 90 days will be needed for the paint/decal completion and the light package would take 60 days, plus transportation to the district.
- A massive spending spree will not be necessary to "out kit" the ladder truck, and the district has extrication equipment, but even though it has a full complement of ladders, they are heavier and Duo Safety Ladders are significantly lighter.
- Paying cash for the ladder truck would allow the district to allocate funds in the 2023 budget to pay for the 2023 tender, or it could be financed when it is received in August 2023.

Hinton said that in the short term, the district has plenty of cash to pay for the used ladder truck and a down payment of \$275,000 for the Pierce engine in August 2023. The district has \$815,480 in the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund, and



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