

budget already includes a new category that had not been there in the past to set aside extra money for a future equipment fund. President Jake Shirk and Director Jason Buckingham also thought they should just use 6.6 mills this year, since that figure would be enough to generate the revenue to meet the challenges outlined this year to district voters.

The directors will vote to certify the exact mill levy amount at the Dec. 6 meeting.

**Draft of 2018 proposed budget will include additional revenue**

Truty presented the draft 2018 budget, assuming that the board certifies an additional 6.6 mills above the current 11.5 mills. If so, the 2018 proposed budget estimates that revenue will increase from \$6.15 million in 2017 to \$9.08 million, primarily because of the mill levy increase ballot measure approval. Total expenses are then proposed to increase from \$6.19 million in 2017 to \$8.87 million in 2018.

As promised by TLMFPD before the election, draft budget categories with the most noticeable increases included, but were not limited to:

- Wages increase from \$3.48 million to \$4.6 million
- Buildings capital outlay increases from \$35,000 to \$410,000
- Communications expenses increase from \$133,450 to \$231,535
- Three new vehicles (one each: fire, medical, and administrative) for \$360,000
- Creating a separate savings fund for future vehicle, equipment, and communications replacement and depositing \$507,000.

For all the details of the proposed budget, see <http://tlmfire.org/budget> or attend the Dec. 6 meeting when the directors will actually vote. No members of the public spoke either for or against the proposed budget at the public hearing on Nov. 15.

**Wage increase will be decided next month**

Another decision at the December meeting, besides the mill levy assessment resolutions, budget appropriations, and budget approval, will be the exact amount of the 2018 wage increase. Truty said the number in the proposed budget will increase enough so that in 2018 wages will meet the 2017 Front Range average, "rather than being 25 percent below that. It will be a huge, huge leap for us, it will keep and attract more people." Comparable districts listed by the district in the 2017 election materials include Fountain FD, Frederick/Firestone FD, Brighton FD, Colorado Springs FD, Castle Rock FD, South Metro FD, and West Metro FD. Also see [www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#tlmfpd1115](http://www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#tlmfpd1115).

**Chief's report**

Truty publicly thanked some specific people who supported the ballot measure, including resident Dave Betzler who chaired the advocacy group, Micah Coyle, Aaron Wood, Mike and Andrea Keough, resident Michael Winton, and Paul Hanley from George K. Baum. "This was a team effort, not just the chief officers and also the union. None of this would have happened without everybody's participation."

Truty said the move of TLMFPD's administrative offices was complete. "We are back in the district, and it's a step up from what we had before... I think it's a good fit for us." He invited district residents to see the new offices at 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 103, Monument. Note: According to the proposed budget, rent for the new space will cost \$35,525 a year now, which is more than twice the cost of the similar-size office space TLMFPD was leasing on Gleneagle Drive, which was not inside TLMFPD's territory.

Fire Marshal/Administrative Battalion Chief Jamey Bumgarner outlined the improvements in technology since TLMFPD had chosen a new IT contractor. "We wanted to make the system robust to support the organization moving forward," he said, explaining improvements in internet speeds and standardization of internet equipment at all three stations and the new offices. Truty said internet speeds are 25 to 50 times higher than they were, for less expense than before, thanks to the new IT firm, and this would allow video conferencing between the fire stations to help

with training, for example.

Deputy Chief Randy Trost's comments included:

- We have never gotten the quality and character of paramedic and firefighter candidates like this before in a hiring process! Some were also applying to Colorado Springs FD and other bigger districts but considering TLMFPD at the same time.
- All three fire engines, 2211, 2212, and 2213, need some type of service related to age, call volume, or original design. The motors are just tired. 2212 is in the shop with an oil leak, and it doesn't look good. We might need to borrow a rig in the one-year interim between ordering and taking delivery on a new fire engine.
- A superficial remodel of Station 3 is underway, but in the next three years, each station will go through a thorough design and re-envisioning process with ideas from the firefighters now that the mill levy has been approved.
- We are doing research on the right kind of new extrication equipment to buy.
- Staff motivation to serve on research committees is much better now. The money is there, and we can purchase items next year; this changes the momentum.

Trost said that one shift had been able to test-drive a fire engine demo on Nov.13, experiencing driving on different grades with different horsepower motors and suspensions. Truty said "The word's out. (Companies) are dropping by about every week" with demonstration fire trucks.

**Training update**

Battalion Chief of Training Jonathan Bradley, who joined TLMFPD in September, presented an overview of his progress in the last few months. His comments included:

- I spent time with the crews to find out broad categories of training they needed and how to address delivery of training.
- Office Administrator Jen Martin and I have been digitizing training records and creating a records management system so that no one will ever lose a certification due to missing an expiration date.

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- We have established a new pattern of training, first doing company-level training of individual skills and then going out in the field to put it all together in real-life scenarios.
- We have set up a 2018 training calendar, prioritized, so that guys can plan around big events such as wildland refresher training.
- We have applied to have a state-recognized Emergency Medical Service (EMS) training site here so we can do customized continuing education on our own without relying on the hospital site. The hope is to create a confederacy of other North Group districts to share instructors and course content.
- Penrose Hospital won its bid to copy a paramedic training program from St. Anthony's in Lakewood. We will be able to send paramedics trainees there too for six-month turnaround time instead of 1-1/2 years. It is huge for us.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

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Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 484-0911. For upcoming agendas, see <http://tlmfire.org/board>. Lisa Hatfield can be reached at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).

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