

Langmaid's goal to hire all three eventually with one applicant receiving a full-time offer in October.

**Policy Manual update**

The board voted 4-0 to approve Treasurer Jack Hinton's Policy 910, which includes the following policy changes:

- BFFRPD will always set aside a minimum of \$550,000 in its General Fund at the end of the fiscal year to offset income versus expenditures for the first quarter of the following year.
- TABOR Fund—the board will provide an emergency reserve fund equal to at least 3% of the fiscal year spending for 2019, as defined under TABOR.
- The BFFRPD board has set aside \$200,000 in reserve funds to be used in an emergency, as directed by a majority of the board.
- The TABOR Fund and Emergency Fund will be held in savings accounts separate from the General Operations Fund and will be adjusted by the treasurer as required by law or a majority vote of the board.

**Note:** At the end of the fiscal year any overages will be transferred into the General Fund. See [www.ocn.me/v19n9.htm#bffrpd](http://www.ocn.me/v19n9.htm#bffrpd).

**2018 audit accepted**

Hinton requested the board accept the 2018 audit report after confirming all board members had read the report that was presented by Dawn Schilling of Schilling & Co. Inc. Certified Public Accountants at the August board meeting.

The 2018 audit report was accepted 4-0 for filing with the state.

**Chief's report**

Langmaid said the following:

- Newly purchased extrication equipment is now in service.
- Headsets are now installed on all rigs to improve communications during calls.
- New bunker/turnout gear has been received and will be issued after the live fire training.
- The Plymovent exhaust system refit at both stations is now complete.

Deputy Chief James Rebitski said, "BFFRPD is 100% fully operational."

Langmaid said a tremendous amount of training is occurring, with some staff attending the following courses:

- Hazmat Technician School.
- Firemanship Conference in Portland, Ore.
- Echelon Front leadership development class.
- Live fire training for all shifts with TLMFPD and Wescott at the Air Force Academy.

**Note:** Live fire training in the field is a critical part of the instruction and certification process for firefighters. It teaches them how to safely and effectively fight fires in a controlled setting under supervision.

**Colorado Special District Association update**

Rebitski and Director Nate Dowden attended the Colorado Special District Association Annual Conference in Keystone on Sept. 18-20 and reported the following:

- Labor law updates for 2020 would not affect special districts, but a proposed statewide minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour

could mean BFFRPD personnel deployed to another area, i.e., Denver, could see a temporary wage increase. BFFRPD staff are salaried by position and are eli-

gible for overtime.

- BFFRPD is doing a good job in recruitment and retention, which is an ongoing problem for most special districts.

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# 4A Bond Information

**WHAT:** D38 will place a \$28.985 million **Single Purpose Bond question (4A)** on the 2019 ballot asking Tri-Lakes area voters to fund a new elementary school.

**WHY:** Area **growth** continues. Lewis-Palmer Middle School is at **capacity** and some elementary schools are nearing capacity. According to Metrostudy, D38 is expected to enroll an additional 693 students in the next 5 years and an additional 1539 students in 10 years.

**HOW:** If voters approve this bond, the tax impact would be **cost neutral** for an average Tri-Lakes area homeowner (\$400,000) due to D38's decreasing debt on Prairie Winds Elementary School and Palmer Ridge High School, more homes in the area creating a larger tax base, increased assessed valuation of area homes, and a fiscally responsible bond debt structure. An average area business (\$400,000) owner's monthly investment would be approximately \$35.

**WHERE:** A new elementary school would be built on **D38 land west of Bear Creek Elementary School.** (BCES would be converted back to a middle school and once again fill the role of D38's second middle school serving grades 6-8. Elementary schools would return to serving grades pK/K-5.)

**WHO:** Students, teachers, and this community **all benefit** from a top notch education system. Homes in neighborhoods with quality schools sell for up to 25% more than surrounding areas (September 2018, <https://www.metrostudy.com/top-school-districts-see-higher-home-prices/>).



Learn more about 4A (including pros and cons) at [www.lewispalmer.org/2019bond](http://www.lewispalmer.org/2019bond).