

defining the emergency criteria for using the reserve fund in time for the September board meeting.

The board approved 5-0 to create a Reserve Fund separate from the General Fund.

Hinton proposed increasing the reserve fund by another \$100,000 to include \$59,000 plus from TABOR, for a total reserve fund of \$259,000.

The board approved 5-0 to increase the reserve fund in 2020.

**Financial status**

Hinton announced that the 2019 budget would require amending due to the recent unexpected recommendations made by Langmaid –and approved by the board –to include the following:

- New staff positions: three newly hired Firefighter/EMT’s and a Training Captain.
- The installation of a new exhaust ventilation system at Stations 1 and 2 for \$120,000.
- The purchase of new bunker gear for \$21,400.

Hinton said the extra items not previously budgeted for 2019 will push BFFRPD over budget by \$202,000, with

the best case about \$100,000.

Hinton also said 2020 will be the first year revenue from the 2018 mill levy increase will be received, and property taxes are expected to be about \$550,000 in 2020. The full mill levy cannot legally be used until 2021 and cannot be implemented until needed. The yearly operating budget is based on the amount of taxes expected, as projected by the El Paso County tax assessor. The mill levy will be set based on the assessed amount.

**Note:** A mill levy increase of “up to 5.285 mills” passed in the November 2018 election. For more information see [www.bffire.org/voter](http://www.bffire.org/voter) information.

**Operational report**

Langmaid said that BFFRPD logged 89 responses to calls with a 50/50 split between both stations in July and noted the following:

- El Paso County is implementing a new Computer Aided Dispatch over the next few months, and the closest resource will then respond to calls, instead of firehouse-based dispatching. BFFRPD residents might see CSFD units responding

in the district.

- BFFRPD is applying for grant money to assist in sending staff to paramedic school.
- The new engine is in service, and both engines will be fitted for David Clark Headsets designed for safety in high-noise environments.
- New turnout/bunker gear will arrive in September.
- Genesis Rescue Systems Extrication Tools, previously used for demonstration at trade shows, were purchased for \$7,000—50% of the regular cost.
- Engine 712 is being fixed and fitted with extra equipment and will eventually be re-classified as a type 3 vehicle and deployed to wildland fires.
- Internet and phone upgrades will provide a savings of \$200 per month.
- Capt. Chris Piepenburg is building relationships with neighboring districts, in particular with TLMFPD, and staff recently took part in active shooter and wild-

land training. BFFRPD’s investment in hiring the new training captain in July is really paying off.

- State and county wildland teams will visit to discuss staffing models that will allow BFFRPD staff to deploy nationwide.

Since it is so difficult to recruit paramedics, the board will discuss more about the legal details of sending current interested staff to school for paramedic training at the Sept. 25 meeting.

Langmaid also said a pre-annexation agreement for Sterling Ranch to be annexed into Colorado Springs would result in a financial blow to the district with a potential loss of revenue from 5,000 new homes, although BFFRPD would still provide service as dual response. Currently, Colorado Springs has 22 stations but needs 26 to meet its own standards of coverage. However, the potential financial setback could encourage regionalization and interoperability, he said.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. and the board moved into executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b), to consider undisclosed employee matters.

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Meetings are usually held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at BFFRPD Station 1, 11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs. However, the board will hold a budget workshop on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m., and the next regular board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 25. See [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org).

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**Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Aug. 28**

**Labor agreement reached; Station 1 remodel approved**

By Natalie Barszcz

At the regular Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board meeting on Aug. 28, the board approved a labor agreement resolution “promoting the maintenance of labor relations between the district and full-time firefighters employed by the district.” They also voted for a major remodel of Station 1.

TLMFPD announced it is looking for applicants to fill a board vacancy that will be created after Board President Jake Shirk attends his last meeting in September.

Shirk and Director Jason Buckingham were excused.

**Labor agreement**

Chief Chris Truty requested the board approve a resolution for TLMFPD and the Local International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) 4319, to begin a one-year Collaborative Meet and Confer Plus Agreement, effective Jan. 1, 2020. Throughout the process the dialogue has been professional and respectful, and overall a good process, he said.

The resolution specifies that “neither the Agreement nor this resolution shall be interpreted, construed, or enforced as a collective bargaining agreement.” Contents of the agreement

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