

sales

- \$10,787—miscellaneous income
- \$1—interest

Total expenses for February were \$135,254. About 15 percent of the budget, \$294,466, has been spent in the first two months.

The final payment to Colarelli Construction for Station 2 will be about \$53,000. There is about \$35,000 of non-construction contract work remaining to be completed which will be paid from the station's contingency fund.

Final budget numbers for 2011 should be available at the April board meeting. The amount of unspent 2011 revenue rolled over to the 2012 budget will be about \$142,000.

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings reported 145 calls in February compared to 116 calls in February 2011.

It is projected that once the new Station 2 is fully operational, 80 percent of calls will have a response time of four to six minutes and 90 percent will have a

response time of six to eight minutes. This is a big improvement for a service area the size of Wescott's. Ridings reminded the board that AMR ambulance response times to calls at Fort Carson will still skew average times for all Wescott calls, because those response times are a minimum of 20 minutes.

Three Wescott personnel will be assigned to the pumper at Station 2, and two personnel plus an AMR medic will be assigned to Station 1 on Gleneagle Drive, with two on the ambulance and one as driver of the ladder truck. Tri-Lakes ambulance personnel will no longer be assigned to Station 1.

Director Harland Baker asked Ridings to provide a performance report using the new software for the past eight quarters to better show how the district's capital investments in apparatus and the new station will improve response times. Ridings said he would prepare this report for the board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on April 25 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Information: 488-8680.

*Jim Kendrick can be reached at
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Above: On Mar. 24, the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District dedicated its new Shamrock Ranch Station 2 to the memory of its late Chief Jeff Edwards to honor his leadership in getting the new firehouse designed, approved, and constructed as he fought terminal pancreatic cancer. The memorial at the front entrance honors Chief Edwards' motto "Never Give Up." The monument was formally unveiled by Chief Edwards' family during the dedication ceremony (from the left): son Brian, daughter Amber, mother Carol, wife Debbie, father Gerry, stepmother Terry Anderson. *Photo by Jim Kendrick. See also the photo on page 1.*

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, March 28

Pocock says mill levy increase might be necessary

By Bernard L. Minetti

At the March 28 meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Board President Charlie Pocock said a mill levy increase might be necessary as the district faces further budget restrictions. He noted that stringency was required in the upcoming budgeting process.

Pocock said discussion of a levy increase of about 8.5

mills would be warranted if costs cannot be covered by property tax revenues even with further tightening of expenditures. He added that the upcoming Supreme Court decision regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act might affect the district's costs and the need for a mill levy increase.

Discussion of sprinkler code issue to continue

Pocock said that cancellation of the sprinkler requirement for residential living by the El Paso County Commissioners means that discussion and interest in the residential sprinkler code issue will continue. While some fire agencies felt that this was an improper move by the commissioners, Fire Chief Robert Denboske said the only way to move forward was to continue discussion and investigation into the experiences and standards in other parts of the country. He indicated that the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District stood ready to enter into negotiations and investigative discussions on the subject.

District expenses remain high

Treasurer John Hildebrandt said the district had received \$89,033, or 3 percent of the annual budgeted property tax revenue through February. Specific ownership taxes received were \$46,159, or 18.5 percent, with the budgeted revenue \$249,360 down \$24,766 from 2011 (\$274,126). For the first time in several months, ambulance revenues were slightly below budget at \$89,840, or 16.33 percent. Hildebrandt said administrative expenses were up because of payment on liability insurance and maintenance contracts. Salary costs were slightly higher because of three paydays in January. Electricity costs for Station 1 and gas for Stations 1 and 2 were also running high.

Overall expenses through February made up 18.58 percent of the annual budget, or 2.25 percent over budget, which was down from 3.1 percent over budget in January.

Denboske advised the board of the revisions to the district's uniform code, which include guidelines on proper uniform appearance, restrictions on jewelry and extra clothing while on duty, and changes in the uniform benefit.

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