

FIRE STATION #3 GROUND BREAKING

Ground breaking for Laramie Fire Department Station #3 is planned for Friday, May 1, 2009, at noon by the City of Laramie. The new fire station will be located at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Snowy Range Road in West Laramie. Actual construction is slated to begin in May with occupancy in December 2009.

Planning began for this fire station more than fifty years ago upon annexation of West Laramie into the City. Fire Chief Blake Fanning was then quoted saying, “The time will come when West Laramie will need a fire station.” A Citizens Fire Master Plan Committee established criteria for determining when need justified action in the late 1970s. In-fill development, Wyoming Technical Institute expansion and annexation of an additional six square miles in 2004 increased both call frequency and risk in the area justifying the need to take action.

Currently, construction funding is from two State Land and Investment Board grants that received broad support from the City Council, the board of Fire District #1, the Town of Rock River and the County Commissioners.

Land upon which to locate the fire station was donated on Colorado Street by Wyoming Technical Institute. This land was swapped for land located more

advantageously for rapid fire responses with Habitat for Humanity. The construction process began with a series of public meetings in West Laramie, including a Council work session in the last year. The meetings determined support for the project and gathered input on what the community would like to see in their fire station. Recommendations identified in the process included a meeting room with hospitality kitchen and audio/visual equipment for training and community use and a hose tower museum to house memorabilia and historical artifacts of the Laramie Fire Department accumulated over its 136 year history. The museum will be named for Fire Chief Blake Fanning using memorial funds donated by his estate and contributions from citizens and school children accumulated for the purpose.

Current design includes four bays for apparatus and equipment, including an ambulance. Fire equipment currently housed at the county shop and drill ground, including the Regional Emergency Response Team hazardous materials unit, reserve fire engine and brush quick attack rig, will be consolidated at the new station. The fourth bay was added to accommodate our 72 year old contract with the Fire District, whereby the LFD houses their engine allowing volunteer firefighters working in Laramie during the day to respond to their home communities in an emergency. A majority of the five Fire District support trailers will also be housed at this facility.

The living quarters are designed to accommodate the crew needed to staff the apparatus. These quarters include bedrooms, kitchen and dining facilities, office and training areas, work out space and a watch room. Housed in the basement will be the City/County Emergency Operations Center with future plans to operate as a completely independent redundant back-up for combined emergency communications and dispatch.

In 2007 the City Council authorized a request for qualifications process to select an architect. Nine firms submitted proposals and four were selected for interviews.

The Fire Department project team includes the Finance Director, Fire Operations Chief, a City Council Member, City Engineer and Fire Chief. The project team recommended the design firm of Short, Elliot and Hendrickson to Council.

Upon completion of design, a request for proposals solicited for a construction manager at risk. Delta Construction was recommended by the team last fall and approved by the Council. The construction contract, including a guaranteed maximum price, will come as an agenda item at the April 21st Council meeting.

Please call for more information or visit the city's website at:

<http://www.ci.laramie.wy.us/cityservices/fire/westLaramieSubstation.html>

