

BENTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[PHOTO: Commissioner David M. Jenkins, Benton County Fire District #1]

New Commissioner for Benton County Fire District #1

The Board of Fire Commissioners met on April 16, 2019 with its newest member

KENNEWICK, WASH. — Benton County Fire District #1 welcomed a new commissioner at its Board of Fire Commissioner meeting on April 16. David M. Jenkins was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board left by the passing of Commissioner Jerry Sleater.

Commissioner Jenkins has over 25 years of experience in business and operations. He started Country Masonry in 1998, which he still owns and operates today. A graduate of North Mason High School, in Belfair WA, he started working as an assistant superintendent at Lake Land Village Golf Course. After high school, he attended Ricks College to study agronomy crops and soils. As a young adult he also spent summer months with his father – a DNR excavation contractor – on wildland fires.

In 2006, Commissioner Jenkins married his wife, Cherie. They are settled in Badger Canyon with their four kids. He has served locally as a Boy Scout leader and a Little League baseball coach. In 2007, Commissioner Jenkins volunteered his time to the construction of the Morrow County OHV Parks medic building. He enjoys spending time with his family, racing dirt bikes, and attending sporting events.

Commissioner Jenkins' appointed term will expire on December 31, 2019. He will be up for election to the position later this year.

At its April 16, 2019 meeting the Board of Fire Commissioners for Benton County Fire District #1 voted unanimously to place its levy and bond that are up for renewal on the August 2019 ballot.

Benton #1 funds daily operations through a fire levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (AV), which voters renew every six years. Capital projects – such as stations and apparatus replacement – are funded through voter-approved bonds. In the last two years, the fire district paid off two such bonds averaging 11 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The levy would last for six years and cannot exceed \$1.50/\$1,000 AV. The fire district also is asking citizens for a replacement bond to continue funding facility renovations and apparatus replacement. This bond would last for 20 years and be an estimated 10-cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This is one cent less than the bonds it is replacing.

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Benton County Fire District #1 is a combination fire department with approximately 90 volunteer, part-time and full-time firefighters serving 18,600 people over 320 square miles. In 2018 it responded to 1,519 calls for structural and wildland fire suppression, emergency medical service, technical rescue, and hazardous materials response. The fire district operates under a balanced budget, and has passed all financial and accountability audits with the state. More information about the fire district can be found at www.bentonone.org.