

BENTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Benton County Fire District 1 holding public meeting about Bond

Fire Truck and Station Renovation Bond on November ballot

KENNEWICK, WASH. — Benton County Fire District #1 will host a public meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at 1811A S. Ely St. in Kennewick. It will be an opportunity for the community to learn and ask questions about its Fire Truck and Station Renovation Bond on the November ballot.

Those unable to attend the public meeting are encouraged to contact Fire Chief Lonnie Click with any questions at (509) 737-0911 x5 or lonnie@bentonone.org.

“The emergency response we provide is funded by taxpayers, and I welcome questions from community members about their fire district” said Fire Chief Lonnie Click. “We rely on a fire levy to fund our daily operations and voter-approved bonds for capital expenditures like buying a fire truck or renovating a station.”

If approved, funding from the bond would provide significant renovations to accommodate staff at Station 150 (Badger Canyon), and replace a fire ladder truck for Station 120 (Finley).

Renovations to accommodate 24 hour staffing will improve response times district-wide, and improve the fire district’s insurance rating. Replacing the ladder truck will help maintain the current insurance rating for fire district apparatus. As insurance ratings increase or lower, the risk, and related premiums, go up or down for property owners.

The bond would last for 20 years and be an estimated 10-cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value (AV). This is one cent less than the two bonds that were recently paid off. The estimated cost to a homeowner would be \$2.92 per month (\$35 a year) for property valued at \$350,000. A chart of estimated costs is available online at www.bentonone.org, as well as more information about the proposed bond.

Ballots must be postmarked on November 5 to be counted, or returned to one the ballot drop boxes in Benton County. A list of ballot drop box locations can be found at www.bentonauditor.com/Vote-by-Mail.

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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.