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Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 2:51 PM
To: Robert Buesinger <mayor@hilshirevillagetexas.com>; Susan Blevins <susan.blevins@hilshirevillagetexas.com>
Subject: FW: fire commissioners packet

Bob and Susan,

I am trying to get an additional piece of information from the VFD for this report, but I thought I would send it to you. I can talk about this over the next few days if you would like any clarification.

Following up from my last email and for the next city council meeting:

There are 5 on going issues at the Fire Station:

1. The warranty of the roof on the new construction at the Fire Station.
 2. The safety rating of the overhead bay door windows.
 3. Replacement of the roof of the old part of the building and the training tower.
 4. Adding a 3rd ambulance.
 5. Replacing the Turnout Gear that contains PFAS materials.
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1. New Roof
 - a. While the base layer of the roof was installed and tied to the structure the company responsible for inspecting each step of the installation was not called out to inspect the work. While the inspector was called out before the work commenced, they were not called out before the top layer of the roof was installed to inspect the base layer. Review of pictures taken before the top layer was installed, so the wrong installation pattern was used to fasten the base layer to the roof deck.
 - b. The architect was responsible for scheduling the inspector.
 - c. The roofing contractor and the architect are working with the roof manufacturer to develop a method to correct the installation error. The VFD has hired a roofing consultant to assist with this effort.
 - d. Until this is corrected the roof will not be warranted by the roof manufacturer or the VFD insurance company.
 - e. The issuance of the roof warranty is one of the items on the close out list. The VFD cannot close out the project until this is issued and other issues are resolved, so the building is still under the contractor's insurance.
 - f. The VFD commission is to hear proposals to fix the roof at the next VFD commissioners meeting.
 2. Windows on the overhead door
 - a. The windows on the overhead bay door are tempered glass. The specification was to have the doors rated for 150MPH winds with D rated impact resistant glass. A D rated glass will withstand an impact from a 2x4 in 150 MPH wind.
 - b. The specification for the rated glass did not make it in the bid package, thus the windows are only tempered and not rated for impact. Should an object impact the tempered glass, the glass will shatter into pebble size pieces. This would pose a risk to anyone in the bay if the glass should shatter.

- c. The architect admitted he knew of the request for impact resistance glass for the overhead bay doors, The 150 wind rate of the doors was in the spec, just not the D impact rating.
 - d. The quickest solution is to have a film installed on the bay door windows. This can be done within the next 3 weeks. The chief has scheduled this work. This will bring the windows up to a C impact rating. A C rating will withstand a impact of a small stone in a 150 PMPH wind. If the window does break the film and adhesive will retain the pieces of glass.
 - e. The VFD Commission has asked the architect and the Contractor to go back to the overhead door company to get a bid to replace the window panels with D rate windows, and a delivery time and present these numbers at the next VFD Commissioners meeting. During the build process the overhead doors became the critical path as the delivery was pushed back several months.
3. Replacing the roof on the old building and the training tower.
- a. The Commission has been carrying a \$40,000 line item to replace the roof on the old portion of the building and the training tower. This was a ball park number to replace over coat the existing roof, or remove and replace the roof material. On inspection additional work was required. A work plan was developed and it was put out for bid over the summer. The bids came back much higher than expected. The lowest bid was for \$189,000. We are scheduled to get an update at the next VFD commission meeting from the roofing consultant.
4. The Chief was task to provide options for a 3rd Ambulance.
- a. The Chief looked at hiring a ambulance service or running a 3rd ambulance.
 - i. The Chief has spoken to 3 companies, only one company could provide EMS service. The quote was \$1.9M
 - b. Running a 3rd ambulance or the Support Truck with Fire/Fighter EMT Crew
 - i. The VFD will receive new ambulances over the next 2 years to replace the current active ambulances. We can retain one of the 2 active ambulances to run a 3rd. The VFD has a 3rd backup ambulance.
 - ii. The VFD can run the Support Truck in place of an ambulance. Currently the Fire Truck will support the Ambulance for certain emergencies. Sending the support truck with two fire fighters/EMT to assist the ambulance leaves the fire truck at the station for other emergencies. The Support Truck can be staffed using money currently in the 2023 overtime budget.
5. Replacing the Turnout Gear that contains PFAS materials.
- a. The Turnout Gear is the pants and coats the fire fighters wear when responding to a fire or emergency.



- b. The fire department has 39 sets. 10 sets were previously ordered as they are replaced on a rolling cycle. These 10 sets should be delivered soon. The remaining 29 sets were manufactured with the PFAS mentioned in the documents provided by the International Associations of Firefighters and Fire Chiefs. The new equipment must be ordered, this will be done with a PO. The lead time is unknown at this time as other fire departments are in the same situation.
- c. The EMS revenue funds are the funds billed by the VFD for non-village residents transported by VFD Ambulance to the hospital. These funds are currently earmarked as a reserve fund for the building project. The Hillshire Village Council have mentioned they would like this money to be returned to the city, but the funds cannot be released until the building project is finalized. The issues outlined previously with the roof and the bay overhead door, are preventing the building project from being finalized.
- d. This falls under the budget line item "Protective Gear". I think this is currently budgeted for \$26,000 for 2022 and was raised to \$55,000 for 2023.
- e. I attached the information provided by Chief Foster and the VFD.
- f. Here is a link to the EPA site on PFAS: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas>

g. Information on PFAS risks:

Exposure to PFAS May be Harmful to Human Health

Current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. Research is also underway to better understand the health effects associated with low levels of exposure to PFAS over long periods of time, especially in children.

What We Know about Health Effects

Current peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to:

- Reproductive effects such as decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women.
- Developmental effects or delays in children, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes.
- Increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers.
- Reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections, including reduced vaccine response.
- Interference with the body's natural hormones.
- Increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.

Additional Health Effects are Difficult to Determine

Scientists at EPA, in other federal agencies, and in academia and industry are continuing to conduct and review the growing body of research about PFAS. However, health effects associated with exposure to PFAS are difficult to specify for many reasons, such as:

- There are thousands of PFAS with potentially varying effects and toxicity levels, yet most studies focus on a limited number of better known PFAS compounds.
- People can be exposed to PFAS in different ways and at different stages of their life.
- The types and uses of PFAS change over time, which makes it challenging to track and assess how exposure to these chemicals occurs and how they will affect human health.

i.

All the best.

Ron