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There has been quite a bit of publicity in the media this year about Abilene's plans to extend their city boundary southward into the Potosi Community. To set the record straight, regardless of how far the city limits are moved, Potosi Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) will still be serving the Potosi community and will be available to provide mutual aid in the newly annexed area. In fact, PVFD continues to make improvements daily. Keep in touch with us, and you will see an even more prosperous 2008. Please take the time to read the overview of the upcoming changes below. For further details of these upcoming projects visit www.potosifiredepartment.com, the completely revamped and newly relocated official website of PVFD. While you're there, look around, and don't forget to sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter. Check back often for updates, as this new site promises new surprises daily.

Since the last newsletter update, our station received new insulation and a new heater to lower the harsh winter maintenance costs on trucks. It paid off, as the winter grass fire season involved multiple mutual aid events, including a large fire in the city of Abilene near Lake Kirby. Your fire department made upgrades to structural firefighting capabilities as well. PVFD has acquired larger diameter fire hoses to supply water to our two engines. A majority of the cost of these hoses was provided by Taylor County and the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. In addition to station upgrades, PVFD is preparing for the growing community by making plans for a second fire station to be located near the vicinity of FM 1750 and Potosi Road. This station can help with ISO credit for homeowners' insurance and decrease response times. Newer trucks will be purchased to add to the fleet and meet the needs of a growing community. The total need is approximately \$500,000. This project will require solid support from the community as we acquire land and raise funds to construct and outfit this new station. The project will be undertaken in phases as grants and donations become available to cover the construction costs. The initial building phase will cost approximately \$300,000.

PVFD has made improvements over the past three years to make things safer for our firefighters. Since the beginning of 2007, PVFD has received new protective gear and breathing apparatus. We currently have a grant application submitted that, if awarded, would provide a vehicle exhaust ventilation system for our station. This system is used to remove harmful toxins and carcinogens caused by diesel exhaust. This exhaust is a major health risk for first responders and causes premature deterioration of exposed equipment. Continue to check the website for updates on the latest grant awards as well as details of previous grant awards.

While the upcoming projects will be substantial in cost, meeting our current operating costs remains the highest priority. We are facing the same inflated costs for gasoline and diesel fuel as the rest of our community. Without your continued support and donations, we will not be able to pay for these basic operating expenses. Yet another opportunity exists in which an individual of the Potosi community can assist. Presently, we are in need of ten additional firefighting personnel. State certified training personnel will provide in house training during meeting nights. Other needs include emergency medical personnel, mechanics, and business services. Opportunities are listed in detail on the website.

It has become abundantly clear that we need your support to maintain and continue the professional development of your local fire service. Please consider keeping your donations local. PVFD is a 501(c)3 corporation under federal law, so your donations are always tax deductible. Your consistent monthly support could save your neighbor's life...or your own. Please consider consistent monthly support of your fire service. The PO Box is available for donations by mail, or you can now donate securely through the www.potosifiredepartment.com website via PayPal. A nominal fee applies for Paypal.

As a final note, please take a moment to help us during emergency responses. If your address is not clearly marked at the street with a reflective material, it may cause a delay in our response times. Not only will a clearly marked address assist in finding your residence, but it can assist in finding nearby residences as well.

Once again, we **THANK YOU** for your past support and would like to encourage you to continue supporting **YOUR** Potosi Volunteer Fire Department, here to serve you today...and tomorrow!