



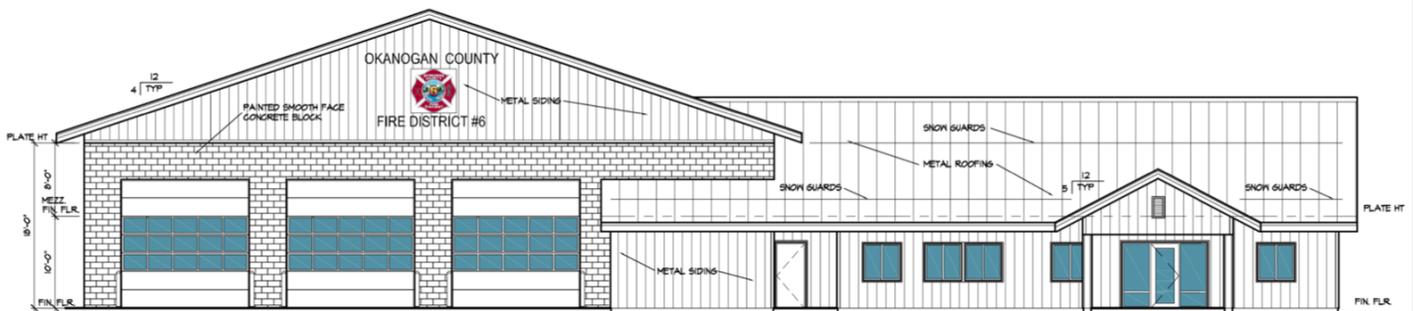
District 6 DISPATCH

Serving the upper Methow Valley from Gold Creek to Lost River – SPRING/APR 2020

Betti Foundation Grant Supports Future Station

The Betti Foundation will give Okanogan Fire District 6 (OCFD6) \$1.8 million if district voters approve a levy increase in April for construction of a District Station and Training Facility. The grant money will pay for training-related space, and equipment, and includes an ongoing endowment to pay for both training staff and a variety of training programs.

Our Current Winthrop Station was converted from a two-bay garage building. It has undergone multiple expansions and no longer has space for growth. **It** does not meet state and federal (L&I, OSHA) nor Nat'l. Fire Protection Association health and safety standards and cannot be upgraded to do so. It requires custom made vehicles as the bays cannot accommodate standard vehicles.



The Planned District Station and Training Facility --- VISION

The OCFD6 Commissioners identified the need for a facility to provide central training, operations support, maintenance, and administrative services. The new building would ensure firefighter safety and meet district needs for the next 50 years

The Planned Facility Includes Operations Support Areas that would decrease exposure to toxins and carcinogens by separating clean areas from contaminated areas, including a dedicated decontamination room. Other features include maintenance areas to service and repair equipment, a dedicated air-bottle fill and storage area, and a radio equipment/emergency communications room.

The New Training Facility will have a study area with storage for manuals and training materials, a meeting room with adequate training space that doubles as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a minimum of 2 acres of paved outside training space.

Firefighter Support Will Include: restrooms with showers for decontamination, a food-prep area/dayroom, limited sleeping quarters for firefighters staged during high fire-risk situations, and a small fitness training area.

Firefighters Value Training and Look Forward to New Facility

Jimmy Cahill moved to the Methow Valley two and a half years ago from New Jersey where he ran a successful construction company. But before he re-launched Cahill Construction he joined Okanogan County Fire District #6 as a volunteer.

Service is a big part of Jimmy's life, and he's enthusiastic about the proposed District Fire Station and Training Facility. "With voter approval of the proposed levy, this \$1.8 million Betti Foundation grant is a gift to the Methow. They are helping to pay to improve our

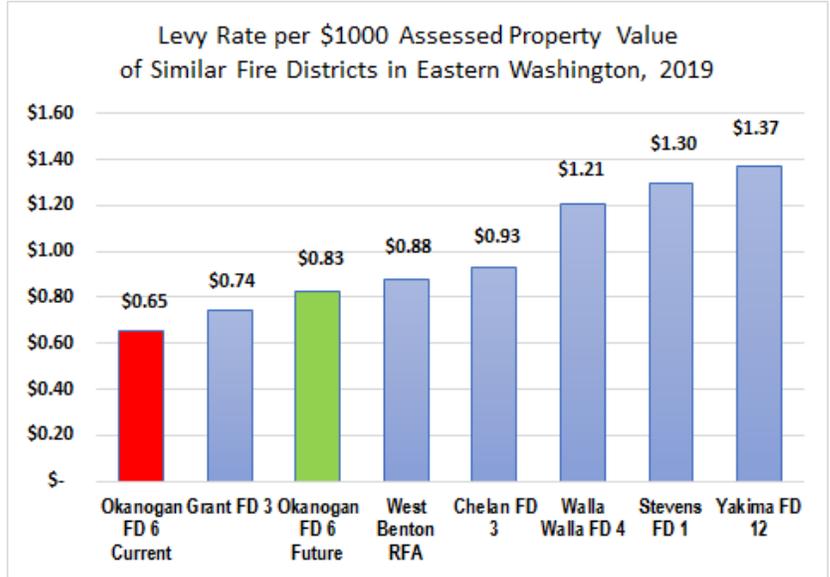


training, to make us better able to fight fires more efficiently and more effectively. I love the prospect of meeting my training goals here in the valley. Right now there are several certifications we can only complete by traveling to North Bend. That's tough when you're running a business or working full time."

As a firefighter in the Mazama station, Jimmy likes the idea of a centralized training facility. "Right now, we don't even have a room big enough for us all to sit in. A training center right here in our valley will save us money, it will bring fire educators and firefighters seeking training into the valley and it will even help some of us to become educators, too."

Ultimately, Jimmy would like to become a certified firefighter trainer himself. "I would absolutely love to do that here in the valley instead of traveling to North Bend. I want to use those skills to train new volunteers. With the new training facility, we'll be able to take new recruits all the way to full state certification, creating career opportunities for our youth right here at home."

Methow Valley residents have traditionally paid less than the Okanogan County average for fire protection, despite protecting far more property value and providing a higher level of service. With the proposed levy, they would still pay less than that average. In addition, as this chart shows, they will continue to pay less than residents of other eastern Washington fire districts of comparable real estate value.



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