



SPOTLIGHT ON SPLOST “FIRE DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES”

The City of Griffin and Spalding County have developed a list of priorities that will enhance the public safety of our citizens for years to come. With the fire enhancements requested in the 2015 SPLOST, citizens will notice increased effectiveness and efficiencies within both departments.

Opened in 1959, City of Griffin Fire Station #2 has served the Northside business and residential areas as the department’s headquarters, Civil Defense office, and the site of the original 911 Center. With the ever-changing role of public safety in our community, Griffin Fire-Rescue is seeking to grow by constructing a headquarters fire station to better serve a growing business district. The current station is in disrepair with major plumbing, electrical, and asbestos issues. With the growth of Southern Crescent Technical College, responding to calls has become increasingly difficult due to a high-volume of traffic at the intersection of the current headquarters station and SCTC. The station has only two bays, which is insufficient to hold the number of fire engines and ambulances that need to be housed to provide the services that are now required out of this location.

The SPLOST-funded Headquarters building will allow the department to efficiently serve the needs of the community by accommodating up to six fire trucks, special response vehicles, ambulance, and logistical support units to provide fire, medical, and rescue services. The department will be able to meet the requirements of the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA) by facilitating a gear storage room for firefighting turn-out gear that separates it from dangerous truck fumes. The station will feature a state-of-the-art training room and allow the department to better prepare for the risk of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive threats by enhancing its first-tier Hazardous Materials Response Program.

To meet the fire and rescue capacities that accompany taller buildings and large industry, Griffin Fire-Rescue retains a 1995 E-One, 105’ Elevated Platform Ladder Truck (Truck 1) that provides tactical advantages to a host of fire- and life-safety scenarios. The NFPA states that the life-cycle of an Aerial Fire Apparatus should not exceed 20 years for safe and reliable operation. Truck 1 has reached its 20th year of service and has become extremely expensive to maintain in the fleet and provide the important points needed for the City’s impressive fire insurance rating (Class 2). The cost of a new Aerial Fire Truck is over \$1,100,000. By keeping a Ladder Truck in the fleet, Griffin Fire-Rescue can continue to provide rescue access to the hospital, nursing homes, and the downtown historic district.

The Spalding County Fire Department has worked to establish priorities and requests for equipment that will further assist with the safety and protection of our citizens. This includes the update and replacement of equipment that has fulfilled its lifetime and / or needs to be updated due to changing technology requirements beyond the capability of the current equipment. The request for SPLOST items from the Spalding County Fire Department provides essential equipment that will assist our personnel in the



performance of their duties in caring for our citizens. This SPLOST requests consists of: Pumper / Tanker \$295,000; Rescue Squad \$425,000; Two (2) Brush Trucks \$114,000; and Two (2) sets of Etools extrication equipment \$54,000.

Spalding County Fire Department currently has a 1995 Pierce Pumper that will be replaced by the SPLOST funds. This apparatus is stationed at Blalock Fire Station #5 and has a water tank capacity of 750 gallons. This district has the fewest hydrants and water has to be transported to scene by other apparatus, depending on the location. The new pumper/tanker will have the capacity to hold 1860 gallons, which will provide for a more strategic response and greater capability for our response to this area.

The request for the Rescue Squad will provide for a replacement apparatus that is utilized for the rescue operations in the Spalding County Fire Department. The current squad vehicle is a former maintenance vehicle that has been used since the original Rescue Squad vehicle had to be placed out of service due to serious maintenance issues. The new vehicle will have a cascade unit mounted that will allow breathing apparatus bottles to be replenished on the scene, providing immediate capability to be ready for the next alarm, and prevents having to travel across the county to fill these individual bottles at the main cascade unit located at the Headquarters Station. The unit also has the capability to continuously fill the breathing bottles for the protection of the personnel, should we respond to an incident that would require the use of breathing apparatus over a long period of time.

The Spalding County Fire Department is also requesting a brush truck. This brush truck will have the capabilities to suppress fires that are located off the roadway in fields not normally accessible by a fire truck. Additionally, these trucks will be able to gain access to medical emergencies or auto accidents in limited space areas, which would not be accessible by the fire truck.

Advancements in technology has improved equipment not only in the fire service arena, but in the performance of our jobs, and in the safety features of the automobile. There have been numerous safety improvements in the automobile that protect the passengers of the vehicle when the vehicle is involved in an accident; however, these improvements have provided additional challenges to the emergency responder. The current extrication equipment utilized by Spalding County is approximately 20 years old; it has been maintained and works effectively and efficiently on the older technology vehicles. However, when faced with a newer model vehicle, the older technology extrication equipment is usually no match for the new metals and technology. Spalding County is requesting to purchase ETools (The Jaws of Life) that has been enhanced to render the user much more effective. Overall, the Etools provide increased technology for rescue, they are safer to use for rescuers, and provide the additional mobility that assists rescuers in the performance of their duties.

***For additional question please contact the
City of Griffin at 770-229-6408 or Spalding County at 770-467-4242.***

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