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Bernalillo County Fire Station 36 Renovation

The Bernalillo County Fire Department (BCFD) is a paid professional fire department in North-Central New Mexico. Bernalillo County encompasses 1,160 square miles with a population of approximately 675,000. Bernalillo County is an equal opportunity employer. BCFD operates 12 full-time paid fire stations throughout the county with 248 paid professional firefighters. One of those stations is aging, and in need of remodel to accommodate an increasingly diverse workforce.

Fire station 36 (located at 501 Bear canyon Ln. NE) was incorporated in 1984 as a volunteer fire department. Since its inception, BCFD has grown from a combination department with only 1 to 2 paid firefighters at each station working from 7 am to 5pm Monday thru Friday to its current level of a fully career department which staffs anywhere from 5-9 career firefighters per station 24 hours a day 365 days a year. With the anticipation of future growth, station 36 should house up to 12 career personnel.

Station 36 was initially designed to accommodate volunteer firefighters with the primary goal of providing office space, storage and classroom facilities. As the department has grown BCFD's priorities have shifted to provide more living space to accommodate the workforce. With an increase in the number of female firefighters being hired by BCFD, a need for facilities to accommodate them has become necessary. Station 36 is currently limited in lavatory space, which makes it a high priority for remodel.

Fire Station 36 is outdated in many ways. It was built in the late 1970's and does not conform to energy efficiency standards employed in most of the fire stations in Bernalillo County. This capital outlay will help renovate the station to bring it into compliance with current energy efficiency standards. Renovation will also bring station 36 into compliance with current firefighter life safety standards identified by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These standards address living quarters and apparatus bay initiatives, which ensure that firefighters are not breathing in harmful exhaust fumes from the apparatus within the fire station.

A decline in gross receipts tax in Bernalillo County has placed constraints on planned capital improvement projects including the remodel/renovation of our last two fire stations. This capital outlay request for the renovation of station 36 will ensure that the firefighters of both genders have adequate lavatory facilities, and reasonable living quarters.

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