

Brian Lee

From: Jerry Clark <jerry1800@peoplescom.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:44 PM
To: Lee Brian
Subject: Judge Lee, County Commissioners,

This is a advanced copy of the 3 minute prepared statement I will request time for tomorrow at Commissioners Court. If more than one asked to speak on the same topic, I would ask that I be given the last position to speak.
Jerry Clark

Judge Lee, County Commissioners,

For more years than I can count Mount Pleasant Fire Department has responded to the county with men and equipment necessary to handle whatever the incident called for. As many as 6-10 firefighters on structure fires and as many as 4-6 firefighters with Brush trucks, Bull dozer and command vehicles for wildland fires. This significantly reduces the number of firefighters in the city to respond to city calls.

With the increased population growth and annexation by the city, need to hold more firefighters in the city is the new norm.

After over a year of fact gathering by the appointed Fire Committee and another several months spent by a paid consultant gathering and reviewing all the data, out of 5 choices, a consensus was reached that a third fire station at the south end of the city with additional equipment and firefighters, was needed to support MPFD and Titus County.

Last October the city of mount Pleasant presented Titus County with the 1st proposal toward funding said third station, as negotiation started in reference to the addition of a third station. With no return reply to date from Titus county we are hearing the possibility of Mount Pleasant Fire Department, honoring the original contract agreement of 2 men and 2 trucks. What this means in firefighting terms is 1 command vehicle and 1 Engine with one driver to assist the county in structure fires and 1 command vehicle and one Grass truck for county wild-land fires.

Should MPFD respond according to the current contract in the county;

(1) The County VFDs will be going to a defensive attack on a majority of Structures as we would not have the trained manpower required for 2 in and 2 out staffing requirements to make entry. The county only has 30 structural firefighters total and of that number, more than half are unable to fight structures for a variety of reasons. This could result in loss of life and extensive damage to homes.

(2) Wild-land fires , the possibly of small grass fires becoming larger fires and more damage to property and buildings because VFDs don't have the personal to make the initial response during critical times of 7am to 7 pm.

(3) MVA.....Cookville Vfd and Talco Vfd have the only working set of extrication tools in the County. Without such tools and MPFD Engine Crew response, we will have many problems trying to free folks from trapped vehicles.

Many reasons contribute to slow or lack of response from County VFDs such as work, church functions, school, children commitments, or age. Vfd membership is decreasing along with training needed to to make up for MPFDs lack of response.

We urge the Commissioners court to please engage with the City in meaningful negotiations to prevent the possibility of loss of life or major property loss in the county.

Sent from my iPad