

## **BUDGET MESSAGE KIOWA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

The Kiowa Fire Protection District submits its budget for 2013. The District is using the modified accrual basis of accounting for budget purposes.

In addition to regular fire suppression, EMS and fire code enforcement services, additional activities will include ongoing yearly upkeep of firefighting equipment such as bunker gear, communications equipment, etc., and continuing training programs for paid and volunteer staff as well as community members. The Kiowa Fire Protection District has a full-time paid Fire Chief and Deputy Division Chief, as well as a part-time paid Administrative/Finance Officer and Maintenance Mechanic. The District is also served by 22 dedicated volunteers and continues to recruit additional volunteers to satisfy the needs of the District and has integrated a shift work schedule with the volunteers for faster response times. In addition, to the paid and volunteer staff, the District has automatic/mutual aid agreements in place with surrounding agencies. All of these systems are the backbone of public safety services provided to residents of the District.

The Elbert County Board of County Commissioners closed the Communications Center effective September 1, 2010. With that closure, the E911 Board was disbanded and a new Elbert County Communications Authority was formed with 10 agencies, including the Kiowa Fire Protection District. This Authority entered into an agreement with Douglas County Sheriff's Department to perform dispatch functions for these agencies that are signors of the Elbert County Communications Authority. With the closure of the Elbert County Communications Center, the Kiowa Fire District has budgeted to pay for 37% of the cost of dispatching emergency calls with the other 63% to be paid by the Elbert County Communications Authority from the 911 funds it receives.

The District has complied with FCC mandates for the narrowbanding of all VHF radio frequencies considerably ahead of the January 1, 2013 deadline. The narrowbanding allows the District a consistent and coherent radio system for communication with all agencies while improving the overall usability of VHF radio frequencies. The District continues to explore grant funding for critical emergencies infrastructure such as vehicle acquisition and additional fire suppression equipment. A decrease in federal and state grant funding availability has led to increased competition which has resulted in fewer awards being granted to small rural agencies.

The Kiowa Fire Protection District had a lease purchase agreement with Wells Fargo. The original Wells Fargo Lease Purchase Agreement was executed in 2003 with the principal amount of \$254,375.00 for a 10 year period at an annual interest rate of 3.70%. The final payment was scheduled to be made in August of 2013. The Board of Directors budgeted for an early pay-off of this lease purchase agreement and that payoff was executed in August 2011.

The Kiowa Fire Protection District has seen a slight increase in assessed valuation from 2012 to 2013 by \$1,564,180 which equates to \$13,591 in revenue. Property taxes and

