***PRESS RELEASE***

The Kiowa Fire Protection District, under direction of its elected Board of Directors and with assistance from paid staff, is regularly working to meet community demands for a 21st century emergency response services. To date, District personnel, paid and volunteer, respond from a 35-year-old pole barn structure originally constructed to house only equipment and fire apparatus. The current Fire Station is a one-story building with tiny offices, a small meeting room and only 425 square feet of living space. This makes it difficult to train and retain volunteers who are critical for provision of emergency response services in the Kiowa area.

As a result, District staff has aggressively pursued various government matching grants in order to upgrade the existing facility for benefit of District personnel and for the health and safety of citizens of the District and others.

One such grant program is the Colorado State Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program, whose purpose is to assist political subdivisions which are economically impacted by the development, processing or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels. Funds for this Program come from the State severance tax on energy and mineral production and from a portion of the State’s share of royalties, paid by private companies to the federal government, for mining and drilling of minerals and mineral fuels on federally-owned lands in Colorado.

After a considerable effort by District staff, the District Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Colorado Department of Local Affairs’ Division of Local Government has awarded to Kiowa Fire Protection District, a grant in the amount of $200,000.00, as part of the Tier I Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program. This grant award is for the purpose of assisting the District in constructing a new addition on the south side of the current Fire Station located at the intersection of Colorado Highway 86 and County Road 45, in Kiowa, Colorado.

The new remodel will utilize a steel-frame design comprising an approximately 4,000 square foot, two-story attachment, to the existing Fire Station. This addition includes a community/training room, a kitchenette and public restrooms on the first floor. On the second floor, will be living quarters for volunteer firefighters. This will include a kitchen, a dayroom, three bedrooms, two restrooms with showers, and a laundry room.

The total cost of this addition is expected to be approximately $475,000.00. The $275,000.00 difference between this cost and the grant amount, will be contributed by the District through means of a Lease Purchase Agreement, payable over a period of 10 years, as part of the District’s regular projected budget.

Planning for the new facility is slated to begin in the Summer of 2017, with construction to begin upon completion of all planning and community approvals. It is anticipated construction will be completed by Summer of 2018.