

# ESD 1, ESD 2, Round Rock Station 9, and EMS

Fire and EMS support are needed on the North side of Brushy Creek and West of I-35.

Williamson County's former EMS director, Kenny Schnell, and the Williamson County Commissioners Court agreed to share space in a potential new station and acquired \$300,000 in capital budget earmarked for construction of this station.

ESD 2 purchased vacant land on the West side of Great Oaks Drive just north of the Brushy Creek Water Treatment Plant.

ESD 2 desired to build a station on that Great Oaks Drive parcel and contracted with architect to develop building plans which included space for an EMS bay, office and 2 bedrooms for EMS.

ESD 2 added a small office/bathroom to accommodate any of the Sheriff's department members, if needed.

ESD 1 (Jollyville) notified current EMS Director, Mike Knipstein, in August 2017 that they had a need for the space being used for EMS at their station on Anderson Mill Road.

Williamson County had contributed \$175,000 towards construction costs of the ESD 1 station. Using a 30 year State Comptroller building life estimate which translated to \$5,833.33 depreciation/year of the County's contribution for a total of \$46,666.67 depreciation, it was agreed that ESD 1 would repay the County \$128,333.33 of their contribution.

Due to the situation with ESD 1, Mike Knipstein worked with various fire departments to relocate the ambulance, equipment and staff.

Round Rock Fire Department purchased a home for a new station on Sam Bass Road, ~1.1 miles from ESD 2's property for the proposed new ESD 2 station.

Round Rock Fire Department offered Williamson County EMS bedrooms for their staff and land on which Williamson County EMS could add an ambulance bay.

Mike Knipstein established that the construction of a bay at the Round Rock Station 9, when done in conjunction with the larger bay needed for the Round Rock fire truck, would cost up to \$120,000.

Williamson County EMS vacated the ESD 1 location under friendly terms.

Williamson County EMS established residence at the Round Rock Fire Station 9 in November 2017.

Williamson County now has EMS support for the NW area of Round Rock and its ETJ with no impact to the County's budget, and in fact, the surplus of \$8,333.33 was added back to the County. The bays have not yet been constructed; both fire truck and ambulance are currently parked in the open.

ESD 2 has not broken ground on a new station, but asserts that they are ready to do so.

Commissioner Terry Cook, Mike Knipstein, and John Sneed met with Thomas Nanninga, President of ESD 2, ESD 2 Chief David Kieschnick, and another member of the board on the afternoon of November 7 at the fire station next to the Brushy Creek Community Center.

The funding and ongoing cost expectations for Williamson County were discussed. The building layout plan showing the spaces designed for EMS' and the SO's use were reviewed. ESD 2 stated that not only did they expect \$300,000 in capital funds, but also quarterly payments for 1/3 of expenses in gas, electricity, insurance and other operating and maintenance expenses (space dedicated to County was roughly estimated to be 1/3). Williamson County does not pay utilities when a portion of the construction fees have been paid.

The County does pay a portion of expenses quarterly to ESD 2 at another station. However, the County did not contribute to the construction costs of the fire station that EMS crews occupy.

The events involving ESD 1 and the Round Rock station were presented to ESD 2.

The change has no impact on the current county's budget and provided EMS with a base from which to service NW Round Rock and the ETJ. Further, Commissioner Cook stated that the current status was the best economic solution for the taxpayers of Williamson County. In addition, she questioned the need for that station now that the Round Rock station was ~1.1 miles away. ESD 2 stated their new station would provide better response time to Vista Oaks (ESD 2 is currently under contract with ESD 9 to Vista Oaks) and Sendero Springs.

Commissioner Cook promised to do research, take this up with the Commissioners Court, and asked for time before they broke ground.

Commissioner Cook contacted Round Rock City County Member Tammy Young as to their plans for annexation of Vista Oaks or any other lands around 1431. Her response was that none were planned.

Round Rock Fire Chief Isbell visited with Commissioner Cook and commented on their plans in the next bond election to build a fire station in the FM1431 water tower area just south of Vista Oaks. This is anticipated for 2019 (unknown whether May or November Election).

The participation in the building of a new fire station with \$300,000 of the taxpayer money with additional quarterly charges does not make good business sense for Williamson County with the changes which have occurred. Williamson County's current arrangement for EMS' ambulance team in the Round Rock area is appropriate for area coverage and represents the best value for our taxpayers.

The accommodations for EMS is best at the Round Rock Station 9 on Sam Bass Road to cover current regions of Round Rock (west of I-35, North of Brushy Creek) from both a regional and an economic perspective.