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ALERT

FEATURED

Norman Fire Station No. 7 expected to put new fire engine in service next month

By Jacob McGuire | Transcript Staff Writer 13 hrs ago



Norman Deputy Fire Chief Mike Wilson explains the capabilities of the new fire engine at Station No. 7. He said it is expected to go into service sometimes next month.

Kyle Phillips / The Transcript



As the saying goes, “out with the old, in with the new.”

The 10-year-old fire engine at Norman Fire Department Station No. 7, 2216 Goddard Ave., will be replaced with a newer version next month, said Norman Deputy Fire Chief Mike Wilson.

“All of the guys [at station 7] are very excited,” Wilson said.

The custom-designed Pierce Velocity heavy rescue pump truck features a 1,250-gallon-per minute pump and a 750-gallon water tank. But that’s not all.

According to Wilson, with the new engine's added rescue capabilities, Norman firefighters will have a plethora of rescue equipment at their disposal including a 5,000-pound winch system, as well as the ability to establish an anchor point or anchor system for rescue operations.

"We have everything we would want in a heavy rescue engine, in this new engine," Wilson said. "It will be able to do everything the other engines can do, but adds a rescue element. It's going to be a great asset not only for the department, but the Norman community as well."

Wilson said they received the engine July 30, but it will take about a month for it to be ready to respond to calls.

The fire department has nine fire stations spread throughout the city. Wilson said Station No. 7 has about a 13 square-mile coverage area in north Norman starting east of Interstate 35, to 12th Ave. NE, and south to Robinson Street.

Wilson said the rapid intervention team (RIT) at station 7 responds to every structure fire, with the exception of the ones that occur in rural Norman. He said Stations No. 5 and 6 have their own RIT teams which respond in the fires in those rural areas.

The \$573,000 engine was paid for by funds of the permanent half-cent public safety sales tax that passed in April 2014.

Norman Fire Department Station No. 5 also received a new fire engine from the Public Safety Sales Tax II last year. The tax included funding for the new engines and added 71 police and fire personnel.

Wilson said once the new engine is ready, the old engine will move into the reserve fleet. He said the department has four engines in the reserve fleet right now.

Wilson said the next addition will be a pumper tanker at Station No. 6.

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