

REGIONAL STATION PROPOSAL



Regional Station Proposal

This short report will outline the regional station proposal and the areas we need to look at first and then possible future sites as the fire service and call volume continue to rise in Oconee County. The regional concept is one that will put multiple people on an engine company with a fire station atmosphere within a 3 or 4 volunteer station region of the county. The manned engine company will give us more manpower and quicker response with trained personnel who on arrival of a scene will be ready to deploy to whatever incident they are dispatched to in support of the volunteer stations. Oconee county emergency services currently has 22 personnel with less than 2 years' experience. Part of the new regional concept puts a part time field training officer in the stations 3 days a week to do rotating single and multi-company drills. Much of this training will also be opened up the volunteers to attend within that region on that given day. Having this scheduled training matrix through our training department will also help prepare our people and volunteers for the future.

The regional concept is not new to Oconee. We currently staff South Union fire department around the clock and Rescue 4 in the evenings. Both of these actually respond very similar to the proposal. One of the locations that we feel is on the priority list is the mountain area which encompasses Long Creek and Mountain Rest. Currently the Whetstone station is owned by the County and could be made livable with a minimal investment. Both stations within this region have even offered to offset the building costs to make this happen. Another location to look at for future growth could include the Ebenezer area. This station would serve the Ebenezer, West Union and Picket Post areas along with Salem if needed. Other areas will have also been considered in the future based on County growth and even municipal contract renewals.

Again, the goal of the regional concept is to put highly qualified people closer to volunteer stations to give us quicker medical and fire response on major incidents. The regional concept will also give our personnel a home to call their own. Pride of ownership. We have lacked that ability for years and put people where convenience allowed at that time. Some of those locations have not been the best permanent solutions. Having a permanent assigned home should

hopefully give us less turnover, long term employees and a direction for future growth as the County continues to move forward.

