



April 10th, 2023

Caldwell Fire Department Facility Report

Introduction

The City of Caldwell Fire Department is comprised of five primary facilities. These facilities include three fire stations, fire administration, and the fire training facility.

The core function of the fire department is to provide emergency response to calls for service within the community. Understanding and accepting an increased call volume during the past five years has placed considerable strain on current facilities. This is also coupled with increased personnel and fire apparatus that are focused on addressing the needs of the community.

Fire Station One – Blaine and 7th St.

The core downtown Caldwell fire station was built in 1966. The building was constructed from cider block masonry with a tar roof to accommodate six firefighters with fire administration incorporated into the building. The building has been remodeled at least three times to add additional personnel and relocate fire administration to current facilities. This has taxed the utilization level to twice the original plan with twelve personnel using the building. Additional building challenges include; upgrades to infrastructure such as water supply, HVAC, and sewer systems that are in need of replacement and retrofit, rest room and shower facilities that do not meet current needs, construction elements in the building that contain materials no longer recommended for public facilities and vehicle parking for both response apparatus and employee vehicles that have reached over saturation.

Fire Station Two – Ustick and 10th St.

The once rural, now suburban heart of Caldwell is the busiest fire station in the City. The building was constructed in 2000 to address the increased growth on what was then the outskirts of town. Now surrounded by suburban homes and limited retail, this stick frame shingle roof building was designed for a three-firefighter crew assigned to one fire engine. The building is currently being reconfigured to support additional personnel needed to address call volume along the Karcher Road corridor and extended response times. The space constraints in the facility will preclude the ability to add ambulance capability in the structure. Currently, all CFD facilities are intended to house a fire engine, squad, and

ambulance. Canyon County EMS staff ambulances. Recent issues with roof structure, water heater supply, and HVAC are also concerns that will limit capacity at this facility.

Fire Station Three – KCID and Skyway St.

The devolving industrial area of east Caldwell is the newest fire station in the City. Built in 2018 in a modern concrete reinforced model with best practices for all systems in the building, the facility was constructed to house four firefighters including a supervising Battalion Chief. The facility was originally planned to have additional apparatus bays and dorm rooms but due to budget restrictions, the original plans were restricted. The current structure does provide for options to add living space for both firefighters and paramedics as well as additional apparatus storage.

Fire Admin – 403 Blaine St.

The fire admin office is in a building formally occupied by an accounting business. Built in the 1970s, it is a single level cinder block building adjacent to City Hall that features four offices and one conference room. The building has limited HVAC systems, poor insulation and windows, and there are areas of mold coverage in some offices. There are no provisions for security with open access to all offices. Vehicle parking is limited and there is no room for additional staff to accommodate the growth plan.

Fire Training Facility – Chicago and Pond Ln.

The fire training site is located on two acres in a gravel lot adjacent to the Boise River. The site uses metal Conex boxes and props for training. There are no records of design or permitting for this facility and other than a locked traffic gate, there are no security features at this facility. Additionally, there are water run off issues identified in the drill ground due to the proximity to the river.