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Building Has Termite Problem

PROPERTY HOUSES
LIBRARY PROGRAM

By Rose Ann Pearce
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GREENLAND — A building more than 80 years old on the Greenland campus has developed a termite problem that needs to be fixed, the School Board was told Thursday.

Fixing the problem will be considerably cheaper than replacing the building, Superintendent Charles Cudney told board members.

A preliminary estimate to repair the damage to the wood floor, caused by termites and poor ventilation, will probably be \$100,000. Cudney said replacing the building could cost more than \$1 million, using \$120 a square foot as an estimate.

The building, at the back of the campus, houses the high school library, the Environmental and Spatial Technology classroom and lab and another classroom. EAST students cleaned out an accumulation of stuff in the basement and now use that area for storage of old computers.

Cudney said the building was built sometime between 1925 and 1930. It was renovated in 1990.

It is a small space by today's school standards with 9,800 square feet of space. Cudney said school board members observed the floor moving up and down during a facilities tour about two months ago.

Since then, he has worked with James Burke, a structural engineer, to determine what repair is needed. The engineer has said the building poses no safety hazard to students or teachers but would be a hazard if repair is not made.

The board approved hiring Burke at a cost of \$2,500 to develop bid specifications and estimates.

That information will have to be submitted to the state for approval. Work will probably begin in late spring.

In response to a question from board member Todd Bohannan, Cudney said the job likely won't qualify for any state assistance because it is a maintenance problem rather than a repair.

If the district pursues state

SEE BOARD PAGE 2A

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Officials Mull Expansion

CHIEF: AMBULANCE UNIT ON EAST SIDE WILL IMPROVE RESPONSE

By Tony Hernandez
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FAYETTEVILLE — Officials from Central Emergency Medical Services, the ambulance company covering most of Washington County, are considering increasing staff and setting up an ambulance station in eastern Fayetteville because of a growing number of 911 and nonemergency calls.

Central EMS' Executive Committee discussed the growth during its first review of the 2012 budget Wednesday. The committee will adopt the budget later this year.

"We feel like some of these numbers look like it's time to put more resources in Fayetteville," said Becky Stewart, Central EMS chief.

The number of calls have steadily increased through the first three quarters of this year, according to

"We feel like some of these numbers look like it's time to put more resources in Fayetteville."

BECKY STEWART
Central Emergency Medical Services chief

Central EMS reports. Ambulance crews were dispatched 3,311 times during the first three months of this year compared with 3,813 service calls in July, August and September, a 15 percent increase. At its peak this year, dispatch operators took in an average of 33 calls per day in June compared with 24 in 2008.

"That, at some point, can create a problem because you have to add another crew," said Loyd Swope, committee chairman.

Central EMS has four ambulance stations spread out in the northern, southern and western areas

of Fayetteville along with stations in Prairie Grove, Lincoln and West Fork.

A station in eastern Fayetteville will improve response times for that side of the city and county, including Goshen and Elkins, Stewart said. The location for the station has yet to be determined, she said.

The increased call volume comes from higher population numbers in the county, Stewart said.

Central EMS covers Washington County, except for Springdale. The population in Central EMS' coverage area grew to 133,268 in 2010

people from 127,623 in 2008, according to U.S. Census data.

More calls means more revenue and more expenses, said Tony Hickerson, Central EMS' chief financial officer. Revenue is projected to increase by 9 percent next year to \$8.3 million compared with \$7.6 million, the amount adopted for 2011. Hickerson projected \$8.2 million in expenses, a 14 percent increase from 2011's \$7.2 million projection.

Stewart said the budgeting process is early and those projections could change.

Seven new positions will cost \$250,000 in wages and are included in the proposed budget. That will pay for an extra dispatch operator plus three paramedics and three emergency medical technicians to permanently cover eastern Fayetteville and eastern Washington County, Stewart said.

PUMPKIN DECORATING



STAFF PHOTO ANDY SHUPE

Etana Morse, 5, of Fayetteville concentrates Thursday as she paints a face on a pumpkin during a pumpkin decorating workshop at the Fayetteville Public Library. The library is planning a Halloween Story Time for 10:30 a.m. Oct. 29. Children are encouraged to wear a costume for a costume parade and Halloween story reading.

GETTING STARTED

IN THE NEWS

Puppets Take The Park

Kids say things to puppets and through puppets they might never say otherwise.

That's their purpose in play therapy, says Jo Ann Kaminsky, who is an artist, a play therapist and a puppeteer.

FULL STORY, WHAT'S UP



Ortiz Born To Play Part In 'West Side Story'

Evy Ortiz keeps a photo of her grandparents in her dressing room. She looks at it if she needs any inspiration before she goes onstage as Maria, one of the central characters in the classic Broadway musical "West Side Story."

FULL STORY, WHAT'S UP

Springdale Fire Chief Placed On Leave

By Steve Caraway
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SPRINGDALE — Fire Chief Duane Atha has been placed on administrative leave.

Mayor Doug Sprouse placed Atha on leave with pay Wednesday. Atha will be on leave while allegations are investigated by the Police Department, Sprouse said. He declined to say what the allegations are.

"We have to let it go through the process," Sprouse said.

Atha did not return phone calls Thursday. Atha started working for the Fire Department on June 1, 1986, and was named chief March 2, 2003, according to city records.

"We would like to complete

the investigation as quickly and thoroughly as possible," Sprouse said. "That would be the best for all concerned."

Kevin McDonald, assistant fire chief, will be in charge of the department while Atha is on leave, Sprouse said.

An employee may be placed on administrative leave when the nature of the allegation compromises the ability of the employee to perform their duties, according to the city personnel and procedures manual. If the charges are



Atha

found to be true, disciplinary action will be taken according to the nature of the offense. If the allegations are false, the employee will be returned to duty, according to the manual.

Fire chiefs are civil service employees of the city, according to Jeff Harper, city attorney.

Sprouse is the supervisor for Springdale's fire and police chiefs but he does not hire or fire them. The Civil Service Board oversees the hiring and firing of those chiefs.

The section on administrative leave in the city's civil service manual is similar, stating the leave is not considered a disciplinary action.



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