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**CITIZENS OF PAULDING COUNTY TO EXPAND FIRE SERVICE**

Construction of Fire Station #12 Approved by Board of Commissioners

**Dallas, Georgia – February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** Paulding County Fire & Rescue announced today that construction of its newest station has been approved by the Board of Commissioners. Planning, design and construction is scheduled to begin in March with anticipated completion in late 2020.

Fire Station #12, which will be located at 310 Wayside Lane near the intersection of Spring Road, greatly improves emergency response times in a fast growing part of Paulding County area. The station will be staffed 7x24 with highly trained professional fire and emergency medical personnel and is being funded through SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax).

According to Chief Joey Pelfrey, “It is exciting to see Station 12 construction approved. This new facility will greatly benefit of our citizens in in central and western Paulding County area. Station 12 has been in our comprehensive plans for years so it’s great to have the support of our leadership to move forward. The number one benefit of this new station is faster on-scene times for both fire suppression and emergency medical calls. Additionally, it compresses the geographic area Station 1 (Dallas) and Station 7 (unincorporated Rockmart) currently cover. That means the likelihood of a first-due emergency vehicle already being on a previous emergency is reduced. That’s particularly important because Station 1 in Dallas is the busiest in Paulding County and frequently has several 911 emergency calls happening simultaneously.”

“One other important byproduct of Station #12’s is potentially lower insurance premiums for some citizens in our County. While we can’t control insurance companies and their premiums, it is customary that residences within 5 miles of a fully staffed fire station, and 1000’ from the nearest fire hydrant, have lower premiums. The Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating system is a tool insurance companies utilize to measure risk and corresponding premiums. This will not happen until Station 12 is completed and the independent rating bureau conducts their official review and reclassifies the area, but it is imminent.”

**ABOUT PAULDING COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE:** Founded in 1980, the department provides fire protection, suppression, rescue, and emergency services and employs 172 paid professional personnel. In 2019 the department responded to 16,259 calls through the 911 system for fire and emergency medical service. Paulding County is 313 square miles in size, with a population of ~150,000. Further information is available at <http://www.paulding.gov/index.aspx?nid=70>