

# Chief: New Westminster fire station meeting 'step in the right direction'

By JESSICA SIBLEY  
jsibley@dailyjm.com

WESTMINSTER — Plans to build a new Westminster fire station are still rolling toward construction.

Following a meeting of Oconee County Council's safety committee and Westminster officials, a consensus was reached to build but plans are still in the preliminary stages.

"A rough draft of a floor plan was presented, but it was put together right before the

meeting," City Administrator David Smith said. "It was a positive meeting, but it was more like a meeting to set up another meeting."

The initial proposal outlines a station that could run around \$2.5 million, but Smith said there is not a date set up to devise further plans.

Westminster Fire Chief Chris Smith said he wouldn't be surprised if more discussion about plans took place in the next week.

"I can't say a whole lot got

accomplished on Wednesday, but it was another step in the right direction, and we're happy about that," Chris Smith said. "It's good to keep this in conversation, and I think you'll see plenty more meetings starting possibly next week."

As the bond deadline for construction nears (April 2010), Chris Smith said the need for a fire station hasn't changed.

"I just want things to get going," he said. "It's a neces-

sity that we get ourselves a fire station. That's all I really care about. We need one, and we need one badly."

The station will incorporate county emergency offices, about a half million dollars in emergency equipment and sleeping quarters for the Westminster Fire Department only. As of now, there are no plans to house Station 21 members overnight.

"Because plans are still being worked out, that could change," Chris Smith said.