Contract for 1st fire substation gets

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WALHALLA — Oconee County Council approved a contract worth slightly more than $157,000 to build Oconee County's first fire substation under a fire plan approved 16 months ago.

County Administrator Scott Moulder rolled out the plan in December 2010 just six months into his new job at the direction of council.

A major component of the plan is to build a total of eight substations that would help pull in more homes and businesses within a five-mile radius of a fire station.

Officials awarded the $157,195.24 contract to Joel Davis Construction of Westminster at a council meeting Tuesday night.

Glenn Breed — the county's assistant administrator for emergency services, a position created by the fire plan — answered council's questions regarding the first substation.

Council also approved a resolution to formally accept a small parcel from the Foxwood Hills Property Owners Association on which the first substation is to be built.



Breed

"I'd like to reiterate the fact that we've done all the due diligence on the property ... everything came back positive," Breed said.

Breed described the design of the building as "basic" with space for three bays to accommodate trucks and equipment from South Union Fire Department (SUFD) personnel who provide service to the southern end of the county.

Bob Jones, of SUFD, told council members at the meeting that plans for the new substation include putting a fire truck at the substation as a first-response vehicle. Future plans call for adding a tanker truck and possibly a boat to provide fire coverage in that area.

Responding to a question from Councilman Reg Dexter, Jones said that the ISO rating would be about 8 or 9 within a five-mile radius

ball rolling again

of the substation and SUFD.

The ISO rating determines how much homeowners and businesses pay for insurance, and the lower the number the better.

Breed said that the ISO rating is 10 for properties located outside the five-mile radius.

"This will have a pretty good impact on (the ISO rating)," Breed said of the substations.

Breed said the design of the Foxwood Hills substation would be a prototype of the other seven to be built with minor changes depending on location.

No timetable was given on the construction work.

The county set aside $300,000 in the current budget to build the first two substations. Breed said that money left over from the construction of the new Westminster fire station will be used to make up any difference between actual and budgeted costs.

Moulder said about $100,000 was left from the Westminster project.

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