

Fire substations to stay on schedule

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Breed

WALHALLA — Oconee County Administrator Scott Moulder intends to keep to a timetable of building two fire substations annually, although there appears to be money in the budget to do more.

Moulder said there is \$300,000 set aside in the budget that ends June 30 to build the first two substations.

However, a fund balance breakdown circulated

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by Moulder at this week's pre-budget workshop showed there is more than \$2.1 million in the fire fund.

That news prompted County Council Chairman Joel Thrift to suggest that more substations be built. Thrift said this is a good time to get better prices on construction projects.

Moulder said he would rather hold steady.

"I'd rather put it in a periodic schedule and do two a year," Moulder said. "I don't want that number to go down to zero and then we need a \$500,000 truck. I just want to make sure that you have a cushion b

in."

Glenn Breed, Oconee's assistant administrator of emergency and external services, is putting together a list, prioritizing where the substations will be built.

Breed said the first substation would be on property being donated by Foxwood Hills.

He said substations in the Salem area and Long Creek would be next in line.

The substation strategy is part of Moulder's fire plan that includes increasing the number of paid firefighters to lower insurance costs.