

PAYING FOR GROWTH

Over 500 new homes are anticipated to be built within the Hauser Lake Fire District in the next 10 years. Without additional resources response times are likely to increase for existing residents.

District Commissioners are evaluating ways to fund the stations, fire trucks, and ambulances necessary to meet this increase in demand without relying on existing taxpayers. One funding tool is the use of impact fees.

Impact fees are a one-time payment by new growth to cover a proportionate share of the stations, fire trucks and other equipment necessary to keep levels of service consistent as growth occurs. Impact fees are paid at the point of building permit for new construction only. Fees are not assessed for garages, sheds, or additions to existing structures.

Impact fees cannot be used to repair or replace existing capital, or to fund the District's operations.

In accordance with Idaho law, the Hauser Lake Fire District and Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System (KCEMSS) have prepared a Capital Improvement Plan that outlines the capital investment required to serve new growth. These items include an expansion of Fire Station #1 to accommodate more firefighters, and the purchase of two brush trucks, and an additional ambulance.

The total cost of the growth-related capital is \$2.5 million. To recover these costs the District is proposing collecting an impact fee of \$3,798 per residential unit and \$1.90 per non-residential square foot.

The fees would be collected for the Fire District and KCEMSS by the City of Hauser and Kootenai County.

