



July 11, 2019

News Release

Kneehill County Council invests in Torrington Fire

Through the budget process over the past two years, Council has invested in making Torrington fire a priority. In consultation with the Torrington fire department, the Torrington fire hall has had numerous updates. Painting of the interior and exterior of the hall were completed in June, as well as a racking system for bunker gear to allow for proper storage and drying of the gear. The Torrington Ag Society graciously accommodated the fire apparatus during the project. The fire hall meeting room is almost complete as well with a kitchenette in the works.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) replacement has been ongoing for a number of years, however, we weren't able to keep up with the changing demands and have purchased ten new complete sets in order to ensure firefighter safety.

Capital equipment replacement has also been a priority with the purchase of a new brush truck for wildland firefighting in 2018, and a new top-mount engine has been ordered with expected delivery in late 2020. Engines are on order to be placed in Acme, Carbon, and Trochu's fire halls, as part of the capital replacement plan reviewed annually by Council in an effort to replace large future items as part of our asset management planning.

Torrington Fire is operated by Kneehill County and is part of a fire service encompassing our entire area within Kneehill County borders. The Fire Management Committee, consisting of fire chiefs from all six departments (Acme, Carbon, Linden, Trochu, Three Hills, and Torrington/Kneehill County), have identified training and training resources as a priority. In 2017, Kneehill County applied for the Alberta Collaboration Partnership grant on behalf of the region to build the live-burn training centre located in Trochu. Over 35 area firefighters have been trained to a 1001 firefighting level in the past two years, including fourteen Torrington Fire Department members. Training, including wildland firefighting and vehicle extrication, continues to be a priority for all our volunteers.

As the fire service continues to evolve with new equipment, updates to legislation, and growing expectations, our volunteer departments continue to adapt. Municipalities continue to plan for the future, with sustainability and resident safety in mind.

-30-

For more information, please contact Kneehill County, 403-443-5541.

