

Press Release



Plaquemines Parish orders nine new fire trucks

For Immediate Release – January 29, 2010

Plaquemines Parish ordered nine new fire fighting vehicles for five fire districts in hurricane damaged areas of the parish. Point A La Hache, Woodlawn, Port Sulphur, Buras, and Boothville-Venice will have new trucks in 2010.

The order consists of three commercial mini pumpers, three commercial pumpers, one commercial air support van, one 77 foot ladder truck, and one commercial hose tender. The total cost of the order comes in at more than \$2.6 million, with FEMA expected to fully reimburse the parish. The units are scheduled to arrive between April and August, 2010.

“We were concerned with the amount of money FEMA initially obligated to replace trucks that were completely destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. But after working closely with Tony Russell and his team, Plaquemines Parish was given the okay to move forward replacing our destroyed trucks with new vehicles. This is critical because these new units will be compliant with current fire fighting codes and standards and will be constructed to service the unique needs of the parish,” said Parish President Billy Nungesser.

Four brand new fire stations are scheduled to be completed this year: Buras (February), Port Sulphur (March), Boothville-Venice (April), and Pointe a La Hache (Summer). The O’Brien (Empire), Braithwaite, Phoenix and Lake Hermitage fire stations were completed in 2009. FEMA has currently committed more than \$24.2 million for the fire station rebuilds.

Parish sales tax increased on January 1, 2010 by 1 percent with the additional 1% dedicated to funding a paid fire fighter system for the first time in 20 years. The seven fire districts consist of 12 fire stations parish wide. Under the new system, each station will have two truck operators working around the clock.

“FEMA is helping us replace our fire equipment and stations to help our first rate volunteer firefighters. This, coupled with the paid firefighters, will cut down response time and bring us light years ahead in our ability to protect residents and property in Plaquemines Parish,” Nungesser said.