




# Hyalite Rural Fire District

## Board Meeting Synopsis Approval Form

The written synopsis of the November 19, 2024 Hyalite Rural Fire District (HRFD) Board of Trustees Annual Board Meeting was approved by motion of the HRFD Board of Trustees on January 21, 2025.

  
Chair Signature

~~Justin Miller, Chairman~~   
Printed Name EUGENE ADAMS  
VICE CHAIR

  
Secretary Signature

Ken Beideman, Secretary  
Printed Name

**HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
SYNOPSIS**

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2024

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Sourdough Fire Station, 4541 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Rd., Bozeman, Montana

*In compliance with [MCA 2017 2-3-212](#) and the Hyalite Rural Fire District Bylaws, the minutes of HRFD Board of Trustees open public meetings are comprised of an audio recording and a written synopsis. The audio recording is designated as the official record of a meeting. The written synopsis serves to assist the public in accessing portions of the audio recording and is a good faith attempt to provide the public with another method to be informed about the actions of the Board. The minutes are available to the public at [www.hyalitefire.org/board-meeting-minutes/](http://www.hyalitefire.org/board-meeting-minutes/) or at the Hyalite Rural Fire District Administrative Offices, 4541 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Rd., Bozeman, MT, during its standard business hours.*

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**TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE:**

Justin Miller  
Jason Jarrett  
Ken Beideman

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Brian Nickolay, Fire Chief  
Chris Dahlhauser, Assistant Fire Chief  
Colin Prato, Maintenance Captain  
Reid Templeton, Recruiting and Retention Captain  
Sheryl Wyman, Administrative Assistant

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alex Phillips – Vol Firefighter  
Kade O’Brian – Vol Firefighter  
Anna French – Vol Firefighter  
Steve Nash – Vol Firefighter  
Evan Jones – Vol Firefighter

<b>0:00:01</b>	<b>CALL TO ORDER OF HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT</b>  Chairman Miller called the meeting to order and asked for any public comment on non-agenda items. None given.  <b>HYALITE CONSENT AGENDA</b>  Chairman Miller asks if there are any requests to pull anything from the Consent Agenda for review. None given.  <b>Motion: Trustee Jarrett moves to approve consent agenda as presented</b>  Trustee Beideman seconded the motion.
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	<p><b>Vote:</b> Jarrett-Yes; Beideman-Yes; Miller-Yes. Unanimous approval.</p> <p><i>[See October 8, 2024 Board Packet for Consent Agenda items Approved]</i></p>
	<b>REGULAR AGENDA</b>
<b>0:00:35</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item 1 – Promotion Ceremony for Lieutenants</b></p> <p>Chief Nickolay gives background to efforts needed for promotion. The Firefighters are moving from Firefighter status to Lieutenant status. Each firefighter introduces themselves to the board and states how long they have been with the department. Pinning occurs for the following: Brennan Lyle, Chris Leeper; Johanna Ficcadenti; Sophie Smith; Alexi Ness; Tyler Newell.</p> <p>Trustee Jarrett makes comments. Trustees offer their congratulations.</p>
<b>0:07:35</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item 2 – Presentation of Letter of Commendation</b></p> <p>Chief Nickolay recognizes Alexi Ness. Lieutenant Ness volunteered to run the Fire Prevention Program. For the past two years she has taken the initiative to reach out to schools and working with other volunteer firefighters making presentations during Fire Safety Week.</p> <p>She is presented a Certificate of Recognition and a letter from the Chief.</p>
<b>0:11:12</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item 3 – Discussion – SHSP Grant</b></p> <p>Chief Nickolay brought to the boards attention we were awarded a Department of Homeland Security grant to fund our task force equipment. The amount of the grant was \$47,000. This will pay for us to outfit our engines, ambulances and command vehicles with ballistic helmets and ballistic vests.</p> <p>Fire Chief discusses the rescue task force and how this equipment will allow our personnel to accompany law enforcement and be protected when going into a warm zone to help injured individuals.</p>
<b>0:14:44</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item 4 – Discussion and Decision – Sales Agreement with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus</b></p> <p>Chief Nickolay goes over the proposal and sales agreement with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus. We have two engines on order that should arrive March of 2025. Design of the new trucks are identical to the engine we ordered in 2019. We will now have three engines that are the same and make training that more efficient. We will have an odd ball engine in the 2011 Rosenbauer engine. There is a 2014 used Pierce for sale which would be similar to our two new engines. The proposal is to trade Engine 6 (with a value of \$212,000), E-6-2 (value \$41,000) and E-6-3 (value \$38,000). The total trade in value is \$291,000. The remaining balance of the offer is \$199,000. The current price for the 2014 engine is \$490,000.</p>

	<p>Chief Nickolay searched for comps to the retiring engines and he found values between \$20,000 and \$75,000 for engines with similar miles and age. He feels if we tried to sell the engines ourselves, we would be looking at a salvage value between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Comps on the 2011 Rosenbauer would be around \$200,000.</p> <p>Chair Miller asks questions regarding shipping details. Brindlelee will cover all the freight charges.</p> <p>Assistant Fire Chief Dahlhauser and Captain Prato went to Henderson, Nevada to check out the engines. They drove it, pumped it, and found it to be in very good shape.</p> <p>There will be a savings in training time, fuel, and maintenance costs. We will also gain three years of service with the newer truck. There is a one year warranty that exceeds \$3,000 but not to exceed \$12,000.</p> <p>Questions are asked by the board. Chair Miller asks what the price would be for a new engine compared to this engine (\$495,000). Chief Nickolay feels a new engine would be over \$800,000. Chief Nickolay negotiated a decrease of \$5,000 in the total price.</p>
<b>0:36:12</b>	<p>Trustee Beideman makes comments and asks questions. He feels there should be more data to make a decision. He understands the benefit in training and efficiency in operations to have everything all the same. He's not sure we should spend \$200,000 this year for a new engine. Discussion is held regarding the shipping costs for all parties. Chair Miller asks about items that could go bad and if the warrant will cover those potential costs. Trustee Beideman makes comments regarding information he would like to see on the engines we are trading in vs the engine we are receiving. He has concerns regarding our resources. Chief Nickolay assures Trustee Beideman we have the resources to make this purchase. Trustee Jarrett points out that Trustee Zidack's position is although we fall under \$100,000 in the capital replacement fund, Hyalite does not have any large planned expenditures in the capital replacement plan for a couple of years. Trustee Jarrett makes comments.</p>
<b>1:04:17</b>	<p>Chair Miller asks for any public comment. Volunteer Firefighter Nash introduces himself and his background. He presents to the board the value of consistency across apparatus at Hyalite. Volunteer Firefighter Nash hands out information showing the differences in the apparatus and what it takes the amount of training needed for each apparatus. He discusses the amount of time spent on training and what that looks like for a family. The time saved allows a volunteer more flexibility in what they can offer to the department. Standardizing apparatus fosters consistent training habits, reducing reliance on memorization and enhancing operational efficiency.</p> <p>Chair Miller asks for any more board discussion. Comments are made by the trustees.</p> <p><b>Motion: Trustee Jarrett moves to approve the proposal as presented.</b></p>

	<p>He asks for any public comment on the motion. None given.</p> <p>Trustee Beideman seconded the motion.</p> <p><b>Vote:</b> Jarrett-Yes; Beideman-Yes; Miller-Yes. Unanimous approval.</p> <p><i>[See Attachment B-Proposal; Attachment C-Contract; Attachment D-Trustee Zidack's Comments; Attachment E-Volunteer Firefighter Nash's Handout]</i></p>
<b>1:14:50</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item 5 – Discussion – Possible Partnership with the Fort Ellis Fire Service Area</b></p> <p>Chief Nickolay states Fort Ellis reached out for another meeting. Possibly the best solution within a year out would be an interlocal agreement similar to what Rae and Sourdough were under. The interlocal agreement will protect Hyalite financially through a legal agreement.</p> <p>Trustee Beideman would like to see financials from Fort Ellis. We haven't received anything to date. Discussion is held regarding what would need to happen for Fort Ellis to contribute to Hyalite for working together. They have approximately \$400,000 after their loan is paid per year in their budget.</p> <p>Discussion is held between the board members. Both the board and the Chief agree this won't negatively affect Hyalite.</p>
<b>1:23.34</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item 6 – Replacement of Rae Fire Station – <i>Standing Agenda Item</i></b></p> <p>Chief Nickolay met with ThinkOne and they provided five different proposals for station design on the lot. The staff preferred Option 1. Chief Nickolay goes through the plusses and minuses for each Option.</p> <p>Discussion is held amongst the board members and Chief regarding the design of the station. Housing would include six studio apartments and the Station itself would have six dorms. Chair Miller asks for any further discussion. None given.</p> <p><i>[See Attachment F – Five Proposals Provided by ThinkOne]</i></p>
<b>1:32:19</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item 7 – Volunteer Firefighters Association Report - <i>Standing Agenda Item</i></b></p> <p>Volunteer Firefighter Allie Kuntz presents to the board that the Volunteer Firefighter Association is being revived. She provides background and a preliminary meeting showed about a 65% volunteer participation interest. They felt this was enough to move forward. By-laws and articles of incorporation were drafted and submitted to the State for 501(3)(c) status. They are also applying to the IRS for tax exempt status. Directors and representatives were elected. Representatives are present and introduces themselves. Reid Templeton has agreed to help and will be the ex officio. The directors will be the voice for the volunteers.</p>

	<p>Currently there are two committees formed (Wellness Committee and Community Outreach). Their intentions are to take over the Pancake Breakfast and the Wildland BBQ as their fundraising activities with more volunteer involvement. The group will have a standing agenda item for board meetings.</p> <p>Trustees and the Chief makes comments.</p>
<b>1:37:40</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item 8 – Fire Chief’s Report</b></p> <p>Chief Nickolay discusses the Fire Chief’s report. We had 60 incidents in October. At the end of August, we had a yearly total of 602. The current roster has 47 members. Chief talks about command and the help we have received with Lieutenant Pemberton taking on shifts. This has helped keep the overtime budget in check. The resident program is full. The training academy will wrap up in December. Six members were able to go to the Montana Fire Convention October 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> and represented us well.</p> <p>We helped both Big Sky and Fort Ellis with structure fires in October.</p> <p>No new developments with the county EMS program.</p> <p>Money is coming in from the ambulance transport program. All apparatus are in service due to the work of Captain Prato.</p> <p>Chair Miller asks about additional FTEs. Chief Nickolay is working on the project and will be bringing it to the board</p> <p><i>[See Attachment G – Fire Chief’s Report]</i></p>
<b>1:42:14</b>	<p><b>Trustees’ Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>1:42:26</b>	<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holiday Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Night with Santa – December 4, 2024 – 5-7pm, Sourdough Station</li> <li>• Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, December 17, 2024</li> </ul>
<b>1:43:55</b>	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>



**Hyalite Fire District**  
4541 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Road  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
Phone: (406) 586 – 3770

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**Letter of Commendation**

November 1st, 2024

Alexi Ness, Firefighter  
Hyalite Fire District  
4541 S. 3rd Road  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Firefighter Ness,

I am writing to commend you for your outstanding dedication to fire prevention education in our schools. Your commitment to fostering fire safety awareness among our youth has made a significant impact on our community.

Over the past few years, you have gone above and beyond your regular duties, engaging with young children in a way that is both educational and enjoyable. You have successfully conveyed essential fire safety information, ensuring that children not only learn about fire prevention but also understand how to respond in emergencies. Your enthusiasm and passion for fire prevention shine through in every session, inspiring children to take what they've learned home and share it with their families.

Your contributions go beyond education; they embody the spirit of community service and leadership. Your commitment to protecting our children and educating them on fire safety is commendable, and I am proud of your efforts.

I wholeheartedly recommend Alexi Ness for recognition for exemplary service. Your work is not only vital but also a testament to the positive impact one individual can have on the lives of many. You are a true asset to our community, and we are grateful for your dedication.

Sincerely,

Brian Nickolay, Fire Chief

Hyalite Fire District





## **Hyalite Fire District**

4541 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Road

Bozeman, MT 59715

(406) 586 – 3770

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### **Proposal for purchase of used 2014 Pierce Saber Custom Engine**

#### **Purpose:**

The purchase of the proposed 2014 Pierce engine would bring uniformity to our structure fire engine fleet and provide efficiency, simplicity and cost savings to our training and operating program. This purchase would also bring cost savings in maintenance for the remainder of the apparatus life. This would simplify our staff and volunteer need and demand for driver/operator training as well as make our operations more efficient.

We currently recruit and train at a minimum 14 firefighters each year. At the end of both the spring and fall recruit academies the new firefighters go directly into driver/operator training. After completing training and testing on our ambulances our new firefighters go on to our structure fire engines. On average it is currently taking our firefighters 20-30 hours to train and test on each of our engines. Each engine has a task book in which each firefighter must train and test on driving skills and different pump operating scenarios. This training is required by VFIS, our insurance provider. Our volunteer lieutenants and captains coach training when available. A lot of the coaching falls on our three paid captains position due to volunteer availability and the demand for training. It is then the job duties of our three paid captains to test each firefighter on each engine.

We currently see the benefit of having two very similar engines. This allows our firefighters to only train and test on one of two (twin) engines. This benefit will improve even more when we receive our two new engines from Pierce in the spring of 2025. The two new engines are 2024 Pierce Enforcer PUC custom engines and will be identical in pumping operations to our current Engine 6-1. Engine 6-1 is a 2019 Pierce Enforcer 4x4 PUC custom engine. The driving of our new engines will be very similar and take a reduced amount of training time. Mainly learning the 4x4 system of Engine 6-1. The proposed 2014 Pierce Saber PUC custom engine is nearly identical to the pumping operations to our soon to be three other engines. The driving is very similar and will take a very minimal amount of training time to learn.

This proposal would reduce the needed amount of training time by nearly 20 hours per firefighter per year. When it is considered we train 14 firefighters per year that is a reduced training amount of 280 hours per year. This savings is huge on our volunteers' time commitment to the fire department. This will also free up paid staff to focus on more needed training such as officer development including the



development of incident commanders. This will also bring a huge savings in our fuel cost for training. By reducing our needed hours of training we will reduce the amount of fuel we use.

This proposal would also bring efficiency to our operations. With this used engine, all four of our engines would be set up identical in compartment and equipment layout. It would not require our staff and volunteers to remember where different equipment was stored on different apparatus as it would be all the same. We currently see issues with this during training and on calls.

With this purchase we would also see a cost savings in maintenance of the used engine. We currently have all our engines serviced at Best Rate Diesel Repair. All of our engines receive an alternating 500 hour and 1000 hour service each year. Our current engine 6-1 is costing us approximately \$950.00 for a 500 hour service and \$2,800.00 for a 1000 hour service. Currently Engine 6 is costing us \$1500.00 for a 500 hour service and approximately \$5000.00 for a 1000 hour annual service. This is mainly due to the fact Engine 6 has an additional diesel engine to operate the pump separate from the chassis motor. Over the next 10 years we would see an approximately \$14,000.00 savings in maintenance cost for this one engine. We would also save money on tires with this purchase as well. On average currently we are replacing the rear tires on our tandem axle trucks about every three years. The weight of our trucks and road surfaces really wears out our tires. Current prices for our rear axle tires are \$655.00 per tire. Since the proposed engine only has one rear axle we would see approximately \$4000.00 savings over the next 10 years.

#### Proposal:

The Hyalite Fire District has located a used 2014 Pierce Saber PUC custom engine for sale from Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus. The used engine has passed all needed inspections including an annual pump test. The used engine has 46,664 miles on it with 2674 engine hours. The water pump has 375 pumping hours. The engine was originally purchased by a fire department in western Oregon and is now owned by Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus. As a comparison Engine 6 currently has 43109 miles, 3941 engine hours and 2143 pumping hours.

Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus is asking \$490,000 for the 2014 Pierce Saber PUC custom engine.

- Included in this price -
  - 1 year warranty beginning with date of delivery.
    - Warranty will cover any single component repair due to catastrophic failure in which the cost exceeds \$3,000.00 unless repairs are due to operator error, equipment misuse, or substandard maintenance. Apparatus must be maintained to manufacturer's recommended standards or warranty is voided. Total warranty costs paid by Seller to Buyer in the one (1) year warranty period shall not exceed \$12,000.00 (Twelve Thousand dollars and no cents). Apparatus components are engine, transmission, pump, electrical system, axles, and body structure.
- Hyalite Fire District decaling on apparatus.
  - Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus will decal the used engine to our departments specifications.

- Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus will cover all transport fees for apparatus.

Once we receive our Pierce order of two new engines this spring of 2025 we will put our two oldest engines up for sale. These are our two current twin engines (Engine 6-2 and Engine 6-3). It is estimated that we would be able to sell these engines locally for around \$20,000 - \$25,000 a piece. We would advertise the sale of these engines in the state of Montana/Wyoming/Idaho through the FSTS daily newsletter. We do not need to pay for this advertisement or pay a broker fee. Any type of national advertising will require a broker fee and does not guarantee any higher salvage value of our older engines. Similar aged engines with close to similar features as our two oldest engines have sold through auctions for \$15,000 - \$20,000. Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus is offering a higher price than the salvage value of our oldest engines at \$38,000 for Engine 6-3 and \$41,000 for Engine 6-2 for a total salvage value of \$79,000. This would also eliminate the need for storing our old engines while we go through the selling process. We are able to keep both engines in service until our new Pierce engines arrive.

This proposal includes the trade value offered by Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus for three of our current structure fire engines.

- Engine 6 - 2011 International 6x6 Rosenbauer - Brindlee Mountain is offering \$212,000
- Engine 6-2 - 2002 International 6x6 Montana FireWorks - Brindlee Mountain is offering \$41,000
- Engine 6-3 - 2003 International 6x6 General Fire Equip - Brindlee Mountain is offering \$38,000

Total trade in value - \$291,000

The remaining balance of the offer is \$199,000.00. We can cover this cost with available capital replacement funding.



## Sales Agreement

Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus (Seller) hereby agrees to sell 2014 Pierce Saber Custom Pumper to Hyalite Rural Fire District, MT (Buyer) for the sum of \$199,000.00 (One-Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Dollars and no cents) and the following three trade-ins: one 2011 Rosenbauer / International 6x6 Pumper, one 2003 General Fire / International Tanker, and one 2002 Montana Fire Works / International Tanker.

**Apparatus:** 2014 Pierce Saber Customer Pumper, Stock #18538, VIN: 4P1CS01A9EA014504

**Trade In Apparatus #1:** 2011 Rosenbauer / International 6x6 Pumper

**Trade In Apparatus #2:** 2003 General Fire / International Tanker

**Trade In Apparatus #3:** 2002 Montana Fire Works / International Tanker

**Buyer Info:** Hyalite Rural Fire District, 4541 South 3rd Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

**Seller Info:** Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, 15410 Highway 231, Union Grove, AL 35175

### Terms and Conditions of Sale:

**(1) Services Included:** Seller will complete all items listed on the attached Addendum.

**(2) Warranty:** Apparatus will have a one (1) year warranty beginning with date of pick up. Warranty will cover any single component repair due to catastrophic failure in which the cost exceeds \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand Dollars and no cents) unless repairs are due to operator error, equipment misuse, or substandard maintenance. Apparatus must be maintained to manufacturer's recommended standards or warranty is voided. Total warranty costs paid by Seller to Buyer in the one (1) year warranty period shall not exceed \$12,000.00 (Twelve Thousand dollars and no cents). Apparatus components are engine, transmission, pump, electrical system, axles, and body structure.

**(3) Payment and Title:** Buyer will submit payment in full to Seller with 30 days of the executed sales agreement. Seller will provide title free of lien to Buyer following receipt of payment.

**(4) FOB Seller, Freight Prepaid:** Buyer assumes the responsibility of the Apparatus upon pick up by carrier or other designated representative. Seller is responsible for all freight charges.

**(5) Jurisdiction:** This contract shall be governed by, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of Alabama. The undersigned by execution and delivery of this Agreement do hereby submit to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the state and federal courts of Marshall County, Alabama.

Revised: 02/24/2022

This agreement is valid for execution by October 31, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sales Representative  
Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative  
BUYER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



### **Addendum A to October 10, 2024 Sales Agreement**

Addendum for the contract between Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus (Seller) and Hyalite Rural Fire District, MT (Buyer). This addendum names the specific items to be completed on the Apparatus (Stock #18538) by the Seller.

1. Full chassis service of all fluids and filters.
2. Current pump service test.
3. Paint Apparatus, per department specifications.
4. Lettering, per department specifications
5. Cab heating working intermittently. Repair as needed.
6. Cab AC inoperable. Repair as needed
7. Verify siren brake is in proper working condition. Noted as needing adjustment.
8. Seatbelt minder light inoperable.. Repair as needed.
9. Replace any worn seatbelts. Multiple seatbelts noted as excessively worn.
10. Verify all DOT, emergency, scene, compartment, and ground lighting is in proper working condition. The following were noted as in need of repair: Driver's side rear compartment, Officer's side scene light
11. Verify light tower is in proper working condition. Noted as turning off during rotation.
12. Replace all blue emergency lighting with red.
13. Replace missing drip pan for multiple compartment roll up doors.
14. Yellow fluid dripping from foam system. Inspect and repair source of leak.
15. Repair the broken tube in the rear tool compartment.
16. Verify On-Spot chains are in proper working condition.
17. Modify hard suction hose tray to hold 6" hard suction. Currently set for 2.5".
18. Install pump heater and heat pan.

Revised: 02/24/2022



### **Addendum B to October 10, 2024 Sales Agreement**

Addendum for the contract between Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus (Seller) and Hyalite Rural Fire District, MT (Buyer). This addendum names the specific items to be completed on EACH Trade-In Apparatus by Buyer:

1. Buyer shall provide a current annual pump service test completed within 30 days of release to Seller.
2. Buyer shall provide front and back copies of each title, free of lien, within 30 days of release to Seller.
  - a. Buyer shall provide each title to Seller after delivery of Apparatus.

Revised: 02/24/2022

Based on my current schedule, I will not be able to attend the meeting.

I would like to throw my two bits of comment for the public record into the board discussion and decision item that is on the agenda regarding the proposal to purchase the used apparatus from Brindlee Mountain. Brian briefed Sheryl and I on the proposal that he and staff have developed, and I came away with the following points:

1) The market for used apparatus of this age and level of use is thin. The department that this apparatus came from has a relatively short window capital replacement program (they apparently have a well funded capital replacement program); 2) It would likely be challenging for Hyalite to realize sales revenue that is greater than what Brindlee Mountain is offering for Hyalite apparatus included as trade-in; 3) Timing of the trade-in of the older machines should be close to alignment with the delivery of the new replacement apparatus; 4) The additional cash required beyond trade-in reduces our capital apparatus reserve account to less than \$100K, however, Hyalite does not have any large planned expenditures in the capital replacement plan for a couple of years. We should be able to rebuild the fund; 5) Reduction in maintenance costs with a single powerplant apparatus vs dual powerplant; and 6) If we assume that the apparatus purchase deal is at fair market value for the purchased machine as presented by Brindlee Mountain and the condition of associated trade-in machines, the most significant benefit of the Brindlee proposal to Hyalite would be realized in having a more universal set of pump controls that would greatly reduce operator training requirements. This aspect of the deal alone has significant value to the department when considering how our training resources can be allocated.

If I am not correctly characterizing an aspect of your presentation Brian, please feel free to comment.

With that being said, this Trustee would like to express support in the public record for the discussion and decision item on the November 19th Hyalite Board meeting agenda.

Thanks,  
Walt

## Consistency across Hyalite Apparatus

Prepared by: Steve Nash (Driver/Operator, EMT), Anna French (Firefighter, EMT)  
 Participants: Evan Jones (Firefighter, EMT), Nick Blommel (Firefighter, EMT), and  
 Tyler Palmer (Firefighter, EMT Candidate)  
 Date: 11/19/24

### Executive Summary:

Substantial differences in apparatus layout and operation exist among the current Hyalite engines (E6-3, E6-2, E6, and E6-1). These discrepancies increase the time required for new driver/operators to obtain clearance on Hyalite apparatus and may reduce overall proficiency during calls. Standardizing apparatus layout and operation would streamline training, enhance on-call efficiency, and improve driver/operator confidence.

### Objective:

1. Review the operational differences in required tactics across current and proposed/purchased Hyalite apparatus.
2. Estimate training time requirements for driver/operators and gather volunteer perspectives on the impact of operational inconsistencies.

### Key Findings:

Hyalite apparatus training manuals were examined to determine the differences across apparatus for all required operational tactics, which were compiled in color-coded matrices (Fig. 1). Even the “twin” engines (E6-2 and E6-3) differ in certain operations. Comparisons of E6, E6-1, and the twins show nearly all tactics vary (Fig. 1a). Anticipated differences for a proposed reserve engine are minimal, primarily limited to drivetrain operation (Fig. 1b). Operational differences were studied across all Sourdough Station apparatus to contextualize the current driver/operator training load on those residents (Fig. 1c).

Informal interviews were conducted with current Hyalite Fire Department volunteers. Based on these conversations, a conservative estimate for driver/operator training is 30 hours for the first engine, after which the time commitment is approximately 10 hours per apparatus. Time commitment for all Sourdough apparatus is approximately 70 hours. Training includes reading through task books, walking through procedures, locating similar items in alternate areas, practicing tactics under supervision/coaching, testing each tactic under supervision without coaching, and completing a driving test. Volunteers consistently expressed that standardizing layouts would enhance their confidence, enabling more effective performance on the fireground.

### Implications:

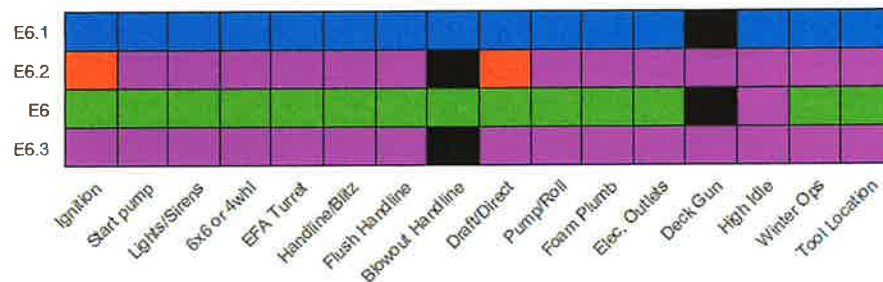
Increased time commitments due to the variability in tactics across engines lead to a higher demand on the driver/operators who are training as well as the paid staff and senior volunteers who are conducting the training and testing. If the Hyalite Fire District were to purchase the reserve engine, training time could reduce by up to 20 hours per volunteer (10 hours for both the trainer and trainee), which is substantial given the high number of new volunteers seeking driver/operator training each quarter. This reduction alleviates the burden on driver/operators, paid staff, and senior volunteers



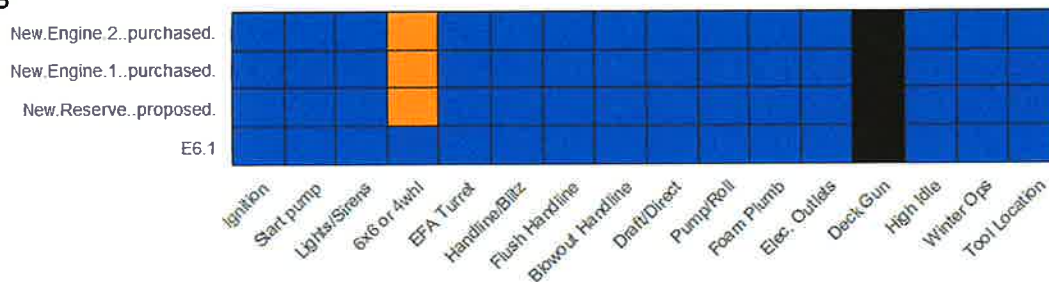
involved in training and testing, translating to direct cost reductions for paid staff trainers and an increased capacity for other department priorities.

Standardizing apparatus layouts fosters consistent training habits, reducing reliance on memorization and enhancing operational efficiency. Simplified training requirements would boost driver/operator confidence and effectiveness, contributing to improved retention. Firefighters would also benefit from greater uniformity through standardized SCBA donning procedures and consistent tool placement, enhancing proficiency and on-scene performance. Overall, aligning apparatus layouts across Hyalite engines offers a valuable opportunity to streamline training, lower costs, and elevate operational readiness. These enhancements would support both driver/operators and firefighters while advancing the district's mission of delivering safe and effective emergency services.

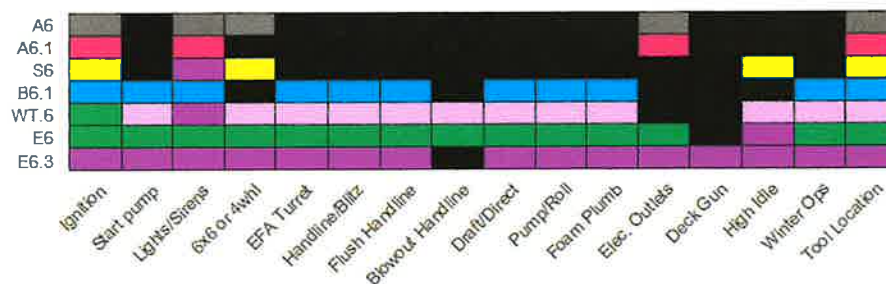
A



B



C



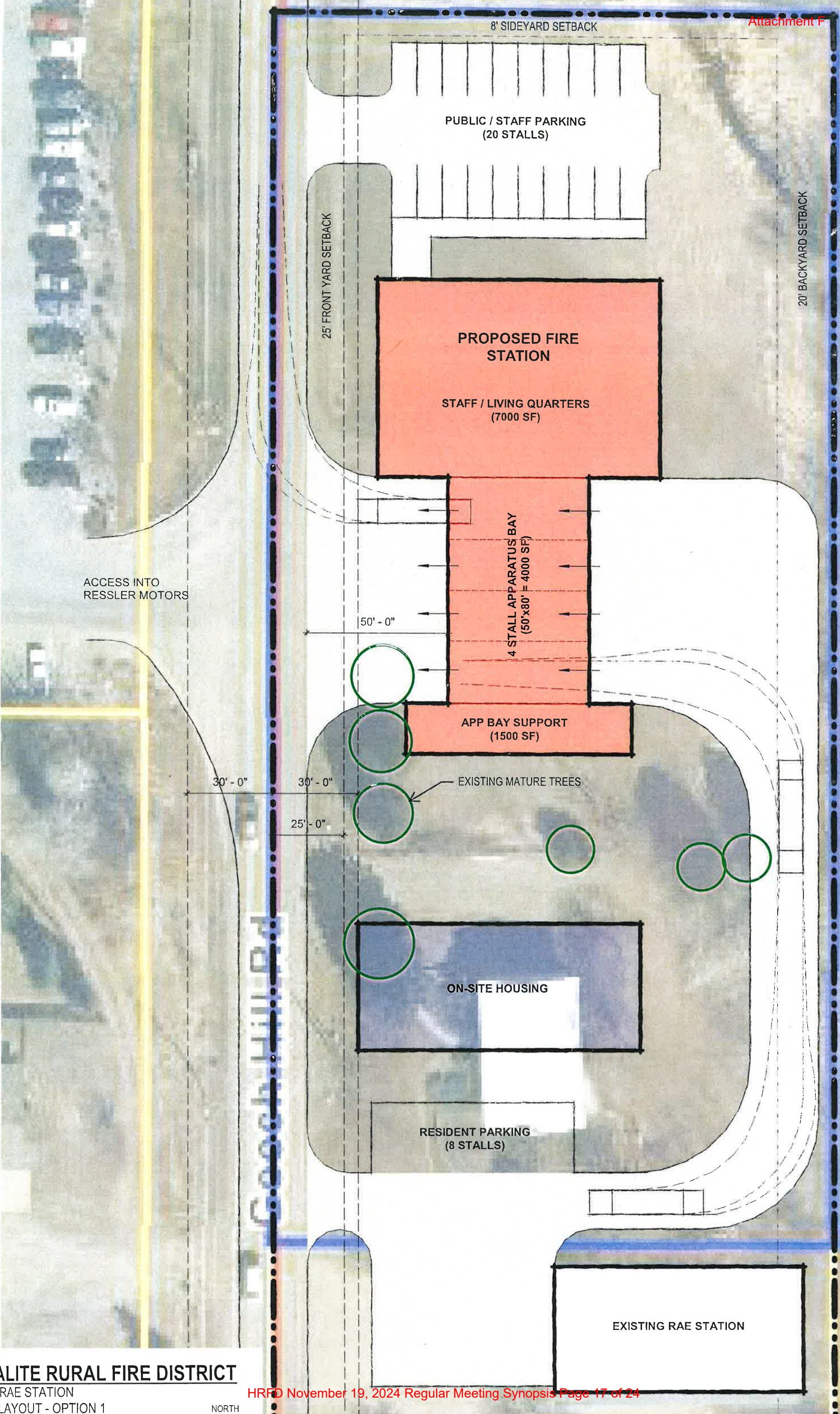
**Figure 1:** Operational differences across Hyalite Fire Department apparatus. Matching colors for two or more apparatus for a given tactic (e.g. starting the pump tactic for E6-2 and E6-3) indicates the tactic operation is consistent for those apparatus. A difference in colors between apparatus for a tactic (e.g. handline tactic for E6 and E6-3) is indicative of a difference in operational procedures for that tactic. The color black indicates a tactic is not required for that apparatus. Panels depict operational differences across engines currently (a), with proposed purchases (b), and across all Sourdough Station apparatus (c).

HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT - RAE FIRE STATION

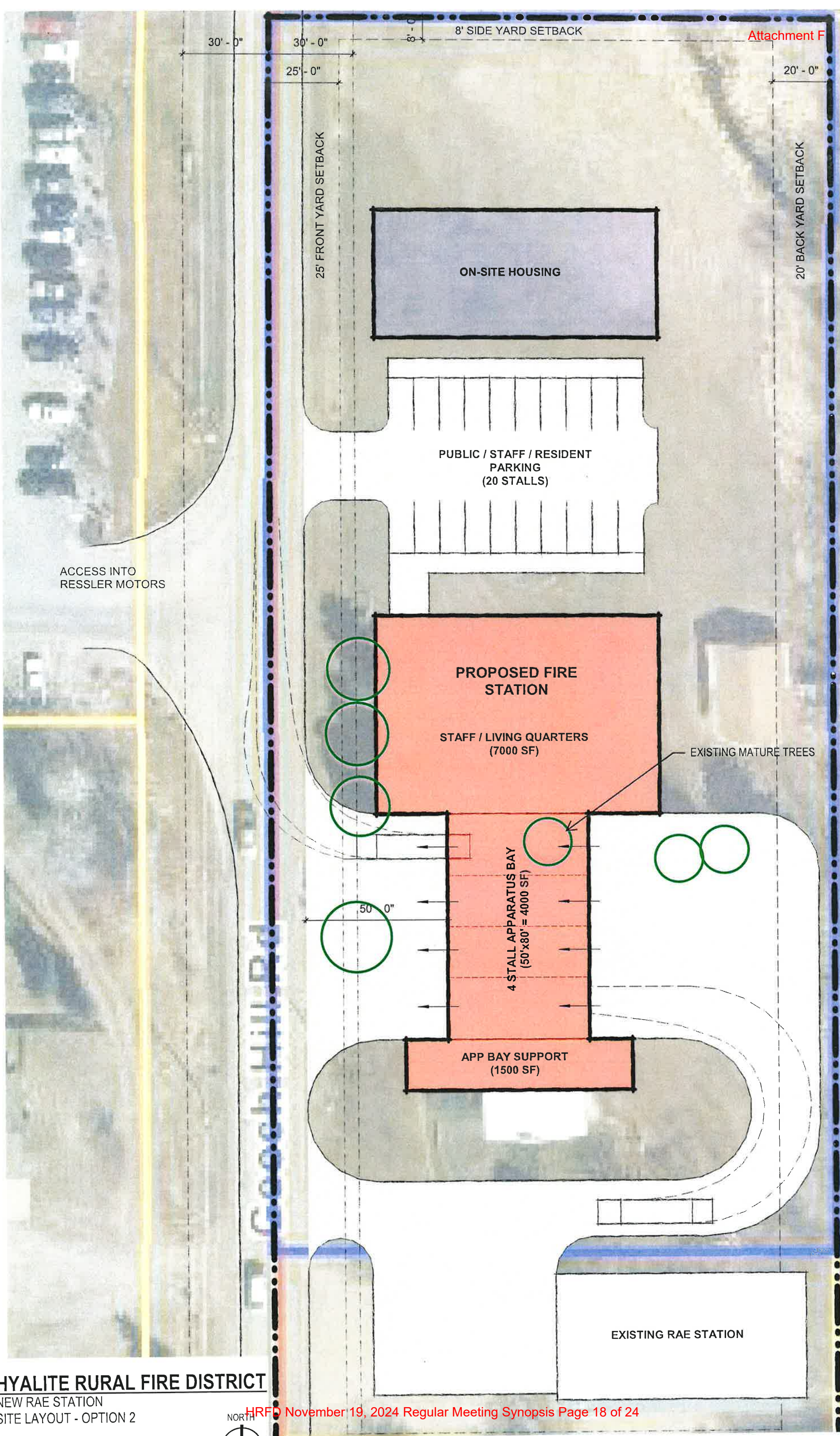
APPARATUS				
	WIDTH(FT)	LENGTH(FT)	AREA(SF)	
BAY 1 Apparatus: TBD	22	80	1760	
BAY 2 Apparatus: TBD	18	80	1440	
BAY3 Apparatus: TBD	18	80	1440	
BAY 4 Apparatus: TBD	22	80	1760	
	Subtotal	80	50	4000 Could reduce length by 4-6 feet depending on door type
	PROGRAM VALIDATION			NOTES
	NUMBER OF ROOMS	ROOM SF	NET SF	
1.000	PUBLIC AREA			
1.001	Entry Vestbule	1	60	60
1.002	Lobby/Waiting	1	150	150
1.003	Multi-Purpose Room	1	900	900 49 Occupants / Kitchenette / EOC
1.004	Table and Chair Storage	1	100	100
1.005	Public Restrooms	2	90	180 Mens/Womens
1.006	First Aid Room	0	120	0 Adjacent to EMS Stor./App. Room.
	Subtotal			1390
2.000	ADMIN. OFFICE AREA			
2.001	Reception	1	120	120
2.002	Battalion Chief's Office	1	200	200
2.003	Admin. Offices	2	120	240
2.004	Print Room	1	80	80
2.005	File Storage	1	80	80
2.006	Conference Room	0	300	0
2.007	Restroom	1	60	60 Single use
2.008	Breakroom	0	120	0
	Subtotal			780
3.000	FIRE FIGHTER OFFICE AREA			
3.001	Firefighter Work area	1	250	250
3.003	Captain's Office	1	140	140 Close to FF work area
	Subtotal			390
4.000	CREW LIVING AREA			
4.001	Kitchen/Dining	1	400	400
4.002	Dayroom	1	400	400 Should Accommodate 10 FF for watching game
4.003	Laundry	1	100	100
4.004	Custodial	1	100	100 Supply storage and mop sink area
4.005	Fitness Room	1	450	450
4.006	Resident Sleeping Rooms	6	150	900
4.007	Toilet and Shower Room - FF	3	100	300
	Subtotal			2,650
5.000	APPARATUS ROOM / BAY SUPPORT AREA			
5.001	Apparatus Bay	1	4,000	4000 4 Bays, 50'x80'
5.002	Wash Bay	0	1,000	-
5.003	Air lock	2	80	160
5.004	Wash Alcove	1	40	40
5.005	Bay Toilet / shower Room	1	80	80
5.006	EMS/ALS Storage	1	120	120
5.007	Decontamination/Cleaning	1	250	250 Really Like how COB Station #1 Decon Flow works
5.008	Tool Room/Shop	1	150	150
5.009	Bunker Gear Storage/Drying	1	350	350 Should provide for 18-20 gear lockers (plan on 30 inch wide units)
5.010	Operational Storage	1	200	200
5.011	SCBA	1	130	130
5.012	Cascade Bottle Fill	1	120	120
5.013	Boot Wash/Hand Wash	1	35	35
5.014	Hose Storage	1	75	75
	Subtotal			5,710
6.000	SYSTEMS			
6.001	IT/Server	1	120	120
6.002	Electrical Room	1	120	120
6.003	Mechanical Room	1	600	600
6.004	Fire Sprinkler Riser	1	150	150
6.005	Stairs	1	150	150 To be determined, mezzanine access
	Subtotal			1140
	NET SQUARE FEET			12,060
	FIRE STATION GROSSING FACTOR			1.3
	GROSS SQUARE FEET			15,678
	PARKING / SITE AMENITIES			
	Visitor Parking			verify with Local Codes
	Accessible Parking			verify with Local Codes
	Crew Parking			
	Solid Waste / Recycling enclosure			
	Exterior Generator			To be determined
	Outdoor Patio (Covered?)			
	Outdoor Storage			

ADDITIONAL NOTES (7/24/24 Kick-Off Meeting)

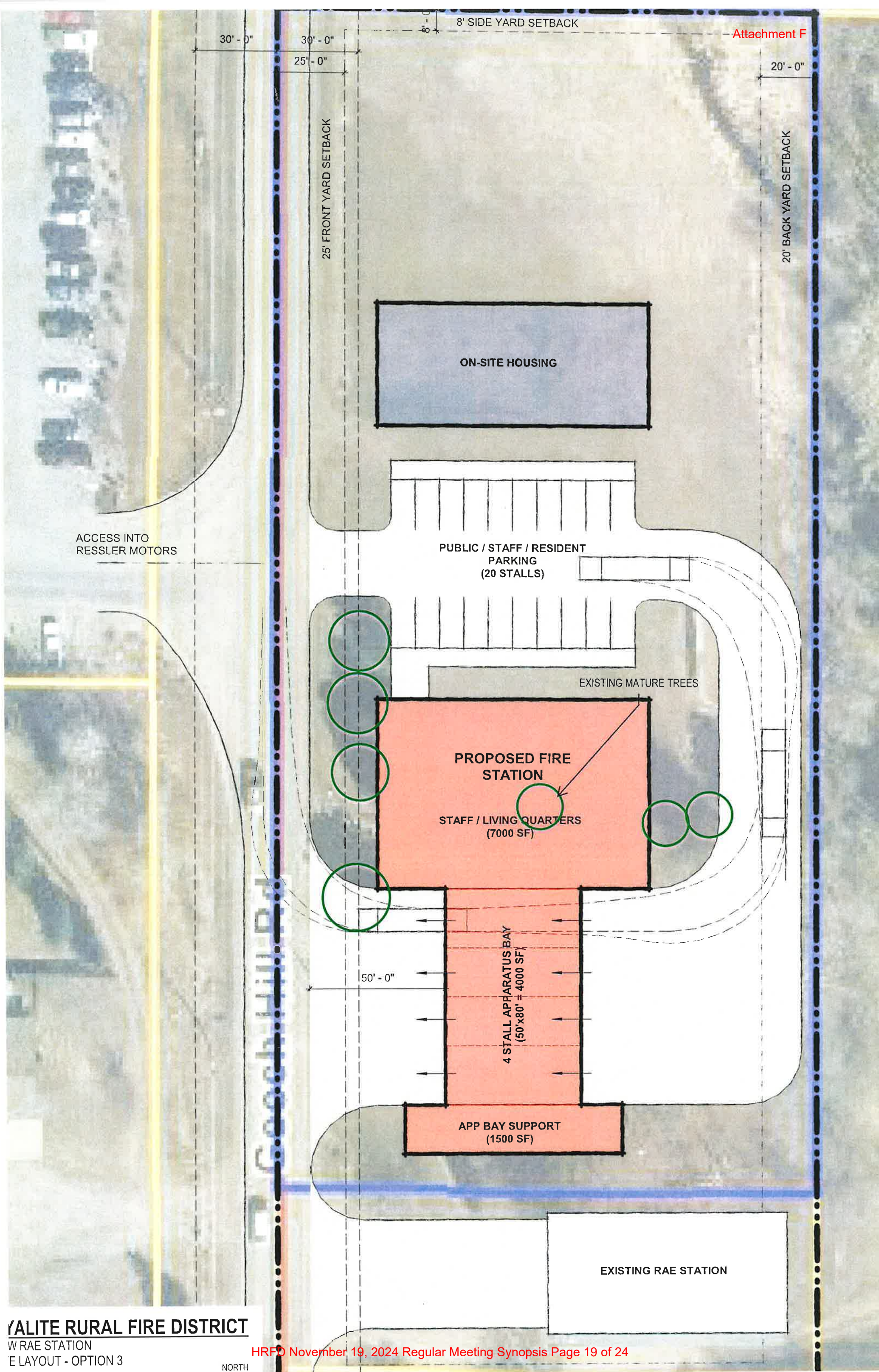








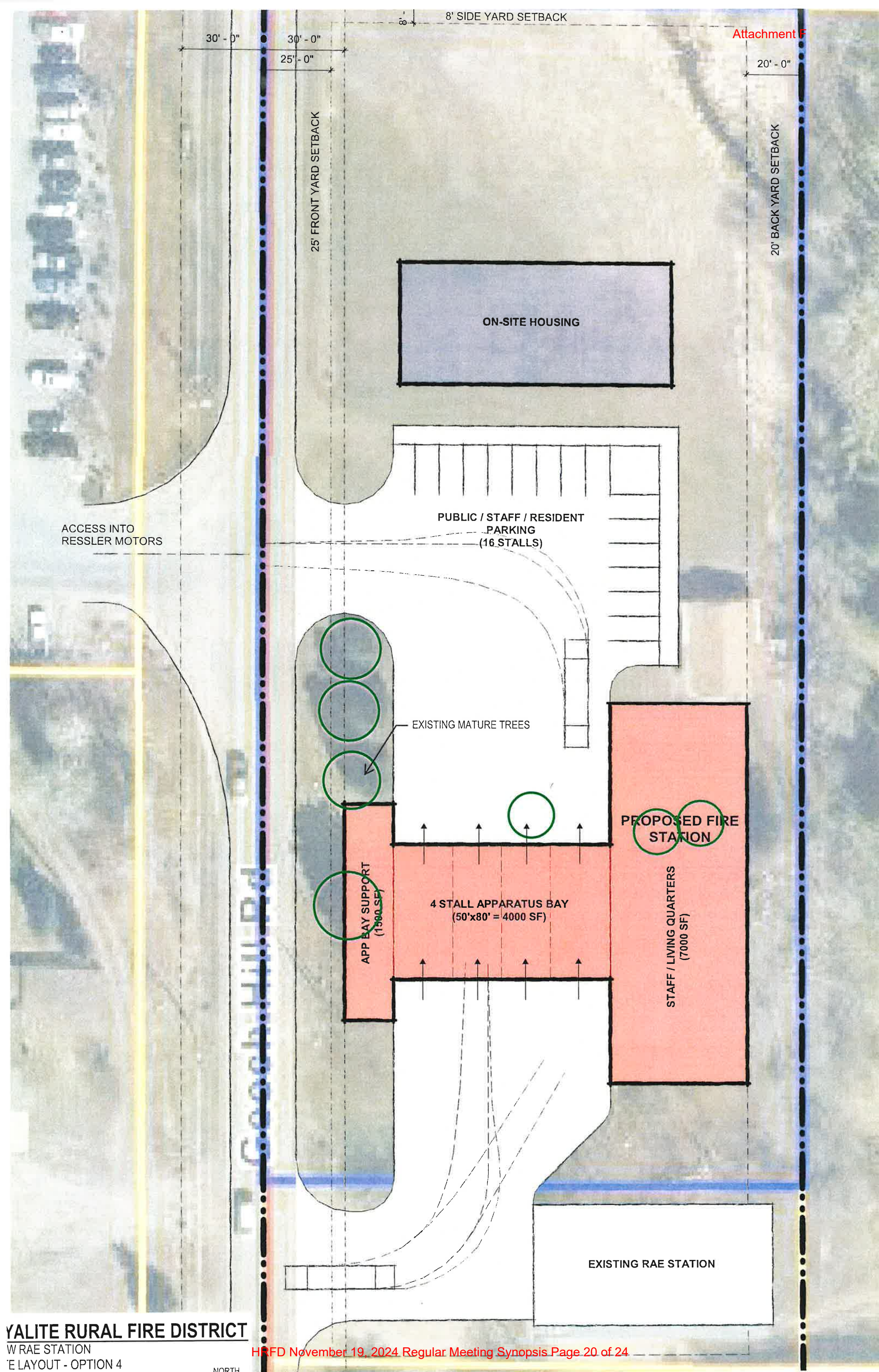




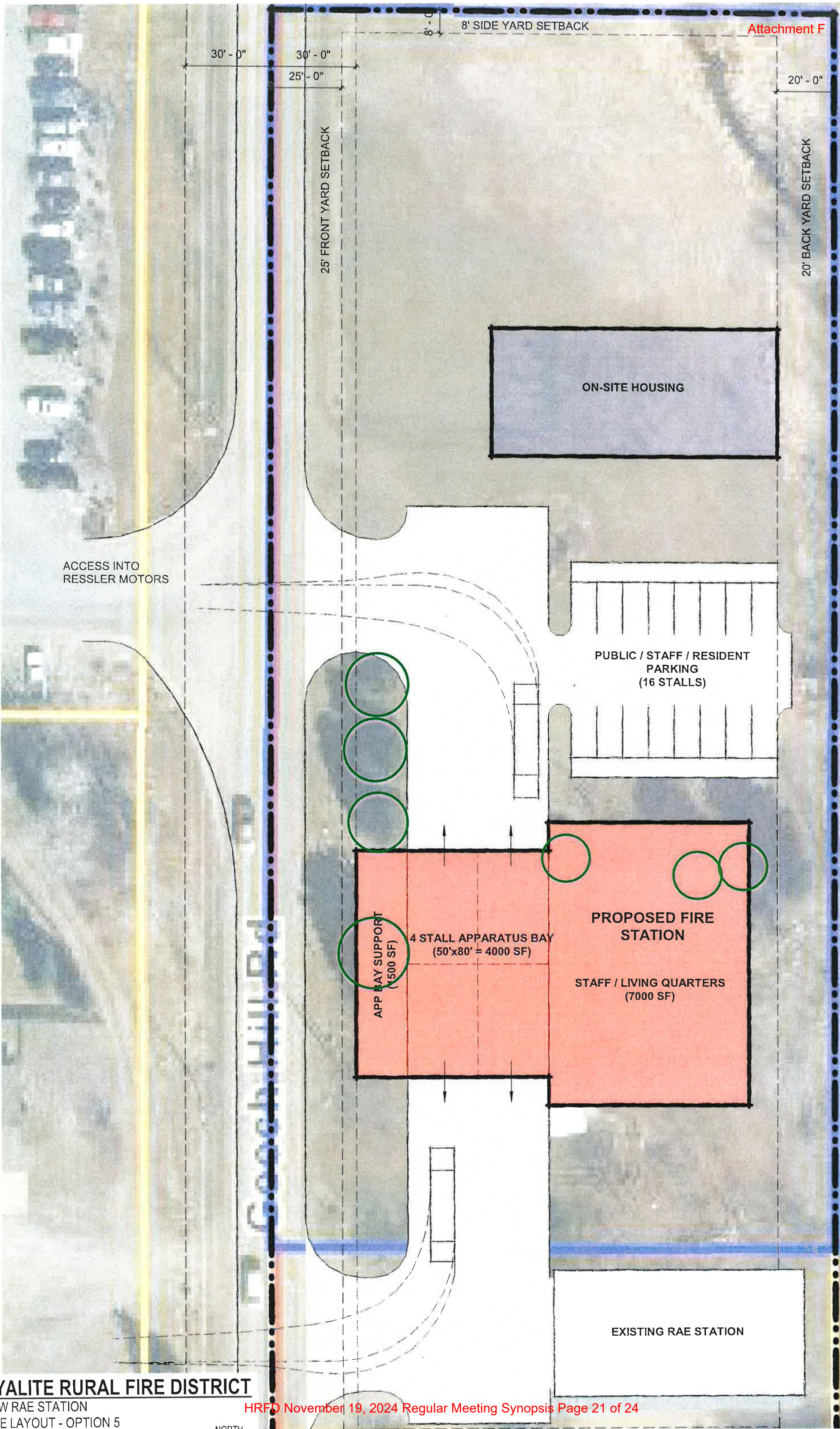
YALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

W RAE STATION  
E LAYOUT - OPTION 3













## Hyalite Rural Fire District

### Fire Chief's Report

November 2024

Prepared by: Fire Chief, Brian Nickolay

1. The Hyalite Fire District responded to a total of 60 incidents in October 2024. This brings our calls for the year to date to 602.

- Total Calls October 2023 - 50
- Total Calls October 2022 - 63
- Total Calls October 2021 - 56
- Total Calls October 2020 - 51
- Total Calls October 2019 - 58

2. Our current roster is at 47 members (effective 11/1/2024).

- 1 Career Fire Chief
- 1 Career Assistant Fire Chief
- 3 Career Captains
- 3 Volunteer Captains
- 1 Volunteer Reserve Captains
- 3 Volunteer Lieutenants
- 10 Volunteer Firefighters
- 14 Volunteers Apprentice Firefighters
- 2 Volunteer Driver/Operators
- 2 Volunteer Reserve Firefighters
- 6 Volunteer Recruit Firefighters
- 1 Volunteer Recruit Driver/Operator

3. We are continuing to work on our overnight command coverage shortages. We are at 3 of our needed 7 volunteer captains. We have Volunteer Captain John Pemberton on a contract at the Rae House to cover 2-3 nights per week in exchange for rent. We have started a volunteer captain academy. We have 5 new captains working their way through the training process. The new captains are progressing well through their training and are beginning to shadow on calls as command. We continue to implement overtime shifts for our 3 non exempt paid captains. Myself and Assistant Chief Dahlhauser are continuing to work extra to provide coverage at night where we lack availability. Overtime pay has been kept within what we budgeted for the fiscal year.

4. We currently have 8 resident firefighters living at the Sourdough Fire Station.

- Current Sourdough Residents -
  - Allie Kuntz, Sophie Smith, Riley Wilson, Tyler Palmer, Nick Blommel, Kade O'Brian, Jack Vincent, and Evan Jones
  - Sourdough resident firefighters continue to fill weekend shifts Friday 7pm – Monday 7am.
- 5. We currently have 4 resident firefighters living at the Cottonwood Fire Station.
  - Current Cottonwood Residents –
    - Brennan Lyle, Tyler Newell, Robert Bole, and Zakkar Tusken.
  - Cottonwood resident firefighters continue to fill weekday night shifts Monday – Thursday 7pm – 7am. Non-resident volunteers have stepped up to fill the open shifts when needed.
- 6. We currently have 4 residents at the Rae house.
  - Current Rae Renters -
    - John Pemberton, Caitilin Fueg, Sam Chui and Kate Brownell.I
- 7. Non-resident volunteer firefighters continue to cover 6 hour shifts at the Sourdough Fire Station on Monday – Friday 7am – 7pm. With our current level of staffing we are able to cover 7 of our 10 day shifts with at least 2 volunteers.
- 8. We continue our regular multi company fire and EMS training every Wednesday night and command training twice a month.
- 9. Our fall 2024 recruit firefighter academy has been ongoing. Captain Templeton and Malone are working with our new recruits. Our new recruits will begin to respond to calls soon. The academy is predicted to be completed in December.
- 10. Six of our members attended the Montana Fire Service Convention in Missoula, MT. The convention ran from October 9th - 12th. Four of our volunteers were able to attend this years convention through a scholarship program through the Montana State Fire Chiefs Association.
- 11. On October 19th we assisted the Big Sky Fire District with a commercial structure fire.
- 12. On October 29th we assisted the Fort Ellis Fire Service Area with a residential structure fire.
- 13. In the month of October we were notified we have been awarded a Homeland Security grant for \$47,000.00. This money will go towards purchasing rescue task force equipment for our personnel.
- 14. The fire district is continuing to be involved with an EMS discussion going on in Gallatin County.

15. I am still on the Board of Directors with Montana State Fire Chiefs Association as a combination section director.
16. I am still on the Montana State Fire Chiefs Wildland Fire Committee.
17. I continue to sit on the board of the Gallatin County Fire Council as Vice President. I also continue to chair the Gallatin County Fire Council communications committee.
18. Assistant Chief Dahlhauser continues to chair the training committee with the Gallatin County Fire Council.
19. I am still a Gallatin County Deputy Fire Warden as well as a Gallatin County Deputy Emergency Managements Officer.
20. Our ambulance transport plan is complete and we are actively transporting patients to the hospital. Income continues to come in from Pintler Billing for our transports
21. We had no firefighter injuries in the Month of October.
22. All apparatus are in service,