

Jackson Foundation donates land for new fire station

The City of Dickson plans to move ahead with construction of a new fire station and training center following a donation of property by The Jackson Foundation.

At its Dec. 1 meeting, the Dickson City Council unanimously approved Resolution #2025-76 to accept The Jackson Foundation's donation of 7.28 acres on Marshall Stuart Drive. Once the transfer is completed, the City will proceed with designing a new fire station to replace Station #2 on Pringle Drive off Old Columbia Road in Pomona.

"Last year sometime, we started looking at renovations to fire hall #2 and decided that it was really beyond renovating," said City Administrator David Travis. "After talking with Chief (Richard) Greer, he'd really like to have a new site and get a little closer into town, a little closer to (Highway) 46. We started exploring options, ran across this and got with The Jackson Foundation. They were glad to donate 7.2 acres over on Marshall Stuart (Drive) in the 400 block there. It's close to where Castings Drive comes out there with Truform Way."

The resolution included a letter of intent from Robert E. Spencer, chairman of the Board of Trustees for The Jackson Foundation, pledging to donate the front portions of two tracts and an appraisal valuing the property at \$630,000. In the resolution, the City agrees to pay for a survey, appraisal and all the closing costs.

Travis said the property transfer should be completed before the end of the year.

Following approval of the resolution, Mayor Don L. Weiss Jr. thanked The Jackson Foundation for its donation.

"I do want to thank The Jackson Foundation for donating this property," Mayor Weiss said. "That is a huge savings to the City by not having to purchase property for another fire station and we certainly appreciate their efforts in making this happen for us."

Opened in 1991, Fire Station #2 was added to improve the department's coverage of the growing south end of the city as well as to the William D. Field-Dickson County Industrial Park and Interstate 40. City officials said the department has outgrown the station, which in recent years has experienced structural issues.

In addition to the new fire station, the City plans to construct a training center that will enable the department to train and certify not only its own firefighters but other departments' as well.

The Jackson Foundation was created in 1995 from the proceeds of the sale of Goodlark Regional Medical Center to Columbia HCA. Named for Drs. Jimmy, Lawrence and William Jackson, the three brothers who founded Goodlark Hospital in 1958, The Jackson Foundation opened The Renaissance Center in 1999, operated the Eagle Squadron flight school for high school students, built a summer camp for children at historic Ruskin Cave and created Dream Mission, a replica of a NASA Space Shuttle that served as a traveling classroom.

The foundation currently owns property east of Highway 46 bordered by Marshall Stuart Drive, Printwood Drive and East Grab Creek Road.

Dickson Fire Department Station #1 at 101 Church St. opened in 1964 and has seen several expansions. The department added Fire Station #3 at 2579 Highway 70 East in November 2024. All three stations are manned 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

No timeline has been announced for the construction of the new Station #2 or what will happen to the current Station #2.