



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Beaufort fire station project to open by New Year, on budget and on time

The new Ribaut Road fire station for the Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department is on target for a November completion and it should be filled with firefighters and a new truck before January 1.

“Even with all the rain and rain delays, the construction and site work are on schedule to finish on time, and we are on schedule to finish on budget,” Beaufort Senior Project Manager David Coleman said.

Engineers and crews from Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority helped city leaders resolve a water line issue at the fire station site, located at 1120 Ribaut Road. Additional site work this month is expected to improve drainage issues in the surrounding area, including the adjacent bowling alley parking lot.

A new fire truck being built for the Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department is scheduled for delivery to Beaufort later this fall. It will be housed at the new station to improve firefighting capabilities to that geographic area, Beaufort Fire Chief Sammy Negron said.

The total cost of the fire station project, including land, furnishings and technology, is \$3,299,837. Costs include stormwater improvements for the immediate area. Fraser Construction is leading the work on the new facility.

“For the Town of Port Royal, this new fire station will provide additional support to our residents and businesses,” Town Manager Van Willis said. “It’s great to see it moving ahead on schedule.”

The Beaufort City Council in January agreed to move forward with construction of the new Beaufort Fire Station at 1120 Ribaut Road. The new facility will replace the outdated one beside

Beaufort Middle School and across from Mossy Oaks Elementary on residential Mossy Oaks Road.

When the new station is completed, firefighting equipment will be moved from the Mossy Oaks Road.

“This is a major project that will allow Beaufort and Port Royal to continue to provide a high standard of fire protection,” Beaufort City Manager Bill Prokop said. “Now that we are getting the fire station’s exterior sealed in, we won’t be as much at the mercy of the weather. We’re looking forward to completing the work.”

In the time since the city bought the original property at 1120 Ribaut Road property in September 2013, it also acquired a smaller parcel adjacent the Love House Ministries’ bowling alley. The additional land addresses road access, stormwater management and other site conditions. The fire station will be accessible from Bowling Alley Lane, a street to the rear of the property.

Fire Chief Negrón said the new Ribaut Road location offers:

- Direct access to the main artery between Beaufort and Port Royal
- Easy and efficient travel times to the entire coverage area for this fire station
- Excellent geographical positioning to reinforce and enhance the ISO 2 rating that helps reduce commercial fire insurance premiums
- Limited impact on neighborhoods
- Greater distance from large schools than the current Mossy Oaks station
- Smooth traffic flow for fire vehicles, including direct access to the rear of the facility (eliminating fire trucks having to back into the bays).

END