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Mayor Ken Shetter and Fire Chief Gary Wisdom performed the ceremonial uncoupling of the fire hose, then the firefighters, city council members, and city management pushed Engine 3 into the new bay at 245 Lakewood Dr. Wednesday morning. The department's honor guard hoisted the station's American flag for the first time, followed by a special public safety radio dispatch to officially put the station that will serve the south side of Burleson in to service.



Steve Pruitt did the honors on the bagpipes. PH1 Air Medical did a dedication flyover of the station.

Battalion Chief Tom Foster, Mayor Ken Shetter, Fire Chief Gary Wisdom and Battalion Chief Brent Batla.



Captain Stacy Singleton, Firefighter Shane Mobley, Lieutenant Duane Wines, and Firefighter Robert Clarkin. In the background, bagpiper Steve Pruitt.

In his speech, Chief Wisdom quoted Edward F. Croker, chief of the fire department in New York (1899-1911), as saying “our proudest endeavor is to save the lives of men – the work of God himself. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even at the supreme sacrifice.”

Speakers Wednesday included the mayor, City Manager Curtis Hawk, Architect Alan Magee, and a representative from Modern Contractors, the company that built the 9,900-square-foot station.

“This fire station will greatly improve response times to the Mountain Valley area and to others in the southwestern portion of our city,” the chief said. “I not only dedicate this fire station to the citizens of Burleson, but also to the brave firefighters who protect them. You will not find,



Firefighters and city staff push Engine 3 into the new bay at Fire Station #3

anywhere, a group of people who are more dedicated to the firefighting profession. This is shown through their compassion, patience, vision and their willingness to put themselves in harm's way to protect others and to save property.”

Six career firefighters were hired to help staff the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The City's newest station features a workout room, kitchen, sleeping quarters for seven, a

lieutenant's office and an apparatus bay. The additional firefighters bring the fire department's force to one chief, two battalion fire chiefs, an administrative secretary, 30 career firefighters, and six volunteer firefighters.

The residences and businesses in south Burleson are reaping the benefits of the newest fire station, but the dollars are on the shoulders of those who shop in Burleson. The \$2.217 million funding for the station on Lakewood Drive, north of Hwy. 174, is coming from 4A half cent sales tax funds (the station was adopted as a 4A project in 2001; the land was adopted as a 4A project in 2002). That means everyone who eats, shops, and plays in Burleson, has chipped in on the structure. The City's newest station is providing fire and emergency response to the southwest part of the city, which includes North Joshua Elementary and Caddo Grove Elementary, both in the Joshua Independent School District.



Fire Station #1, located on Alsbury Boulevard, was built in 2003 using general obligation bond money. Fire Station #2 and the fire training tower, located on Memorial Plaza, were built in 1995 and expanded in 2003, also courtesy of half cent sales tax funds. The Burleson Fire Department's district includes more than 24 square miles and more than 34,000 residents.

Station 1 is staffed with four firefighters per shift. Station 2 and Station 3 are staffed with three career firefighters per shift. Volunteer firefighters are assigned to Station 1.