

November 2024

## Washington Terrace Volunteer Fire Department Receives Fire Engine - Within Weeks of Their Old Fire Engine Failure



*Washington Terrace has a unique “ribbon cutting” with a fire hose ribbon and the jaws-of-life scissors.*

*Left to right: County Commissioners, Sharon Bolos and Jim Harvy, Council members Michael Thomas and Zunayid Zishan, Mayor Mark Allen (ribbon cutting), Council members Cheryl Parkinson and Jill Christiansen, Representative Rosemary Lesser and Representative Katy Hall.*

WASHINGTON TERRACE, UT — As Mayor Mark Allen spoke, his energy continued to ramp up. It’s likely he was excited to play with the fire equipment at the ribbon cutting event in honor of the new fire engine. On Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, Washington Terrace City Hall hosted a ribbon cutting like no other – for a community that couldn’t be more appreciative.

Washington Terrace had received [USDA Rural Development Community Facilities](#) grant funds from a congressionally directed spending allocation of \$468,000. Congressman Blake Moore and other leaders had given Washington Terrace the support they needed to obtain the funds.

Through the hard work and persistence of City Manager, Tom Hanson, the funding was included in the 2024 budget – and they knew they needed to act fast. The current fire truck used by the town was nearly 30 years old, and limping by, at best. “The lack of dependability [in the current fire engine] put us all at risk, while responding to an emergency.” This was an unnecessary risk, not usually found in firefighting.

Washington Terrace City maintains the Volunteer fire department; their service area includes 2 miles, and 9,200

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT

#### Washington Terrace Award Info:

- \$468,000.00 grant funds
- Fiscal Year 2024 CDS
- Funds obligated August 9, 2024
- Ribbon Cutting November 5, 2024
- Program Benefits 9,200 Residents

residents. The volunteer station houses a 3-person crew for 24 hours, 7 days a week. It's a lot to ask community members to contribute their time, but to multiply the risk with unreliable equipment is too much. The grant



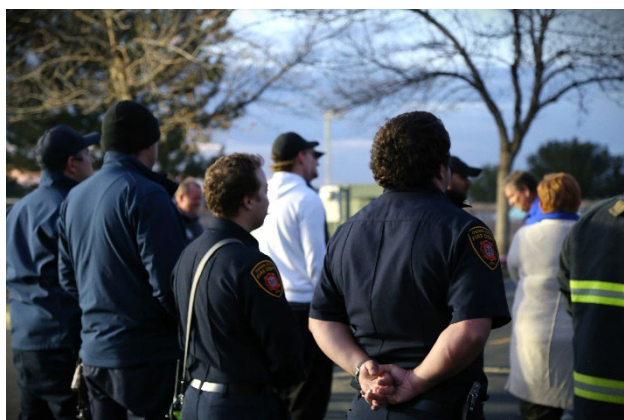
*USDA Rural Development Specialist, Molly Najarro, presents the mayor with a Rural Partnership certificate*

funds combined with an applicant contribution to pay the balance, empowered them to provide a reliable fire engine – and they needed it as soon as possible.

Molly Najarro is the USDA Community Facilities Specialist assisting Washington Terrace in the eligibility and closing for the fire engine. As Tom scrambled through the paperwork, Molly was expediting the process in record time. Tom explained, "Molly was absolutely instrumental in helping us through the process." He laughed about the many times he would call Molly to find what form was needed next. Sometimes it was a signature and certification, other times it was financial documents and audits.

As they sped through the necessary forms, the inevitable happened; their current fire engine broke down. They had bought the engine years ago, and it was used when they received it. "I remember the city manager calling almost daily to see where we were in the process," Molly noted; "I'm so grateful they didn't tell me then that their old truck broke down!" At that time, the fire department was responding to all calls in a 20-year-old ladder truck that was approximately 50 feet long, which delayed their response time navigating through narrow streets.

As luck would have it, Washington Terrace was approved for obligation and was able to obtain a floor-model engine that expedited the delivery by 2 to 4 years! Tom said the team effort between USDA RD, the city employees, mayor, auditor, and countless others is the only way it could have all come together.



*Fire & EMS Personnel attending the ribbon cutting*



*New Washington Terrace City Fire Engine*

[USDA Rural Development, Community Facilities Programs](https://www.rd.usda.gov/ut) offer direct loans, loan guarantees and grants to develop or improve essential public services and facilities in communities across rural America. These amenities help increase the competitiveness of rural communities in attracting and retaining businesses that provide employment and services for their residents. To apply, contact your local Rural Development Utah office, or visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/ut> for more information.