

MOVIN' ON UP!

COAL VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Editor's Note: If you would like to have your District featured in the "Movin On Up!" column of *The Fire Call* magazine, please contact us at 800-524-6620 for more information.

The Coal Valley Fire Protection District has settled into their remodeled fire station completed in early 2004. The station was totally updated from the 1969 version to include administrative offices, board room, kitchen, command room, communications room, decontamination room, day room, handicap accessible public restrooms, and most importantly a large, state-of-the-art training room. The administrative portion of the old station was smaller than the new training room. The old steel building exterior was completely redone to blend with the architecture of our neighborhood and growing community. New telephone and computer systems were also installed to meet our current and future needs. The much needed addition of a large parking lot was also completed.

The project was supported by our voters who approved a bond referendum which will be paid over a 20 year period. The timing for this project was right. Commercial construction in the area was very slow and bids were approximately \$100,000 lower than expected. Interest rates were at an all time low (approximately 4 %) and competition for our business was very keen.

The Coal Valley Fire Protection District was established in 1949 to serve the citizens of Coal Valley Township in Rock Island County with a population of 2,000. Our District currently serves not only Coal Valley Township, but citizens of Rural and Blackhawk Townships in Rock Island County, and, citizens in Colona Township in Henry County as well. Our total estimated population is approximately 8,000 citizens.

Chief Dave Dunham and our 20 active firefighters are second to none and respond to approximately 250 calls per year. We respond to EMS, fire calls, auto accidents, etc. with 2 Spartan pumpers, 1 tanker, 2 rescue vehicles and a brush truck. Bids for a new heavy duty rescue will be taken in 2006 and purchased in 2007. ■