



Gwinnett County Government Communications Division NEWS RELEASE

Heather Sawyer
Deputy Communications Director
Office: 770.822.7035
Fax: 770.822.7189
www.gwinnettcountry.com

Story contact: Tommy Rutledge
Gwinnett Fire PIO
678.518.4824

tommy.rutledge@gwinnettcountry.com

FIRE TRAINING TOWER COMING TO MAXWELL HIGH SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

(Lawrenceville, Ga, Dec. 20, 2016) – A four-story fire training tower will be built on the campus of Maxwell High School of Technology at 990 McElvaney Road in Lawrenceville. The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved an intergovernmental agreement Tuesday with the Gwinnett County Board of Education that spells out the details of the plan.

The County will fund up to \$530,000 using SPLOST funds and the balance will be paid by the school district. “We’re excited by this partnership that will benefit both students and firefighters,” said Fire Chief Casey Snyder. “And the central location makes it ideal for routine firefighter training.”

Maxwell High School of Technology currently offers courses in both fire service and emergency medical service. Crews from nearby Fire Station 20 often help teach Maxwell students. The tower will allow both students and firefighters to practice skills in response and mitigation of emergency situations in multi-story buildings. Those skills include search and rescue operations, emergency medical care, hose advancement, fire sprinkler and standpipe systems, ground and aerial ladder placements, and hoisting techniques.

Maxwell Principal Jeff Hall says the fire tower will offer another key training piece to the school’s fire services program. He explains, “The fire tower is an incredible learning tool that will allow us to sharpen and hone the skills of our students as they enter the field. The tower is multi-story and provides the opportunity for students to take part in activities such as ladder training, zero vision training, and rescue and recovery training. In addition, I am excited about the joint and cross-curriculum activities we can create between our Fire Services, Law and Justice, Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), and Healthcare Science programs. I have discussed with our teachers how we can create a crisis situation within the fire tower building that requires all four of those programs to work together to resolve the situation.

“Also, I am elated to continue our solid relationship with the Gwinnett County Fire Department. Chief Casey Snyder and Assistant Chief Russell Knick are great ambassadors for

our programs at Maxwell and do a tremendous job of creating opportunities for our students to work with current employees in the fire department. The three of us believe we are creating a steady pipeline of employment for our students.”

According to Snyder, the fire department has already hired students who successfully completed Maxwell’s emergency medical service program. “I expect the tower will help the newer fire service program to be an equally valuable recruitment tool for the department,” Snyder said.

The County and the school district will share responsibility for tower maintenance and will work together to set a project timeline and select a vendor for construction.

###