

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 11

Lummi Island Fire Department

3809 Legoe Bay Road * P.O. Box 130 * Lummi Island, WA 98262

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2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 was the driest on record for many decades. Aside from a few minor incidents, there were no fires that got out of control. This is a direct result of each resident in this community being careful in the extreme conditions and alerting us early when a problem existed. Way to go Lummi Island residents and THANK YOU!

We purchased two portable radios and two pagers with the help of a 50% matching grant from The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These radios and pagers replaced obsolete and unreliable equipment. We purchased two 6" intake valves for the tanker to simplify the pump operator's duties. Our medical response bags in both the ambulance and initial response truck were replaced and set up identically to standardize the equipment.

Our initial response apparatus (little red) has served this community well for sixteen years but the time has come to retire her from frontline service. It has been struggling with the loaded weight, and too many cold starts and go-right-now has taken its toll. Specifications to replace the initial response truck were developed this year. Its purchase was delayed as we waited word about our Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant application. Unfortunately it was denied, but another grant through DNR was approved for \$20,000 to assist in the purchase. We must have a signed contract by June 1 of this year to receive the funds. The specifications are for a similar vehicle with the following improvements: a diesel engine, increased weight capacity, Compressed Air Foam and increased hose storage.

A long & short term planning session took place on May 7, 2003 with the Commissioners, Assistant Chief and myself. Facilities were a major topic because: we have more vehicles than bays, public restrooms are inadequate, new response standards being proposed at the state level, ever increasing administrative requirements, and the need for improved training facilities. We concluded that it was unlikely the department could provide for all future needs and requirements on its current one-acre. At the regular May meeting of the board, the process for acquiring additional real estate began and continued through the year. In November, a contract was signed to purchase Lot 3 of Hale's Pass Addition, the 5 acres across the street from the current Legoe Bay Road fire station.

Three members were removed from the roster in 2003 and I sadly accepted Bryan Thurber's resignation. Bryan had 16 years of active duty as a First Responder and Firefighter 2. His calm manner will be missed at emergency incidents. Two new residents joined our ranks; Kent Dixon and Mark Cross. Fire Commissioner David Harmoney did not seek reelection, ending his 12 years of service as a Fire Commissioner. In those years this department has advanced significantly in both its financial position and the equipment used to respond to emergencies. These advancements are in no small part due to David's outlook for the safety of the citizens and volunteers in this community. I would like to welcome Pete Cameron as the "freshman" commissioner and look forward to working with a member with no previous fire department involvement.

The Countywide EMS transportation issue continued into 2003. The Board and I were very active in the decision making process which recommended a levy amount that would continue funding Whatcom County Medic One and maintain the system as it has been for the past 30 years. The failure of the Levy in November raises many uncertainties and questions. I would like to thank all who exercised their right to vote, the decision was yours to make. What is going to happen in the future is

tough to say but the Board & I are still active in the process to ensure that reliable and quality ground transportation will be available for our taxpayers.

The state auditor's office reviewed the district books for 2001 & 2002. We are pleased to report they found everything in order and had no recommendations. I am pleased to present the 2003 & 2004 actual expense and budget details at the end of this report. Barb Wallace became the new District Secretary in March. She has done a superb job in her duties and wanted me to let everyone know that a financial book is available at the fire hall. Please call for an appointment to review it.

The Board of Commissioners conducts its regular business at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month at the Legoe Bay Rd Station. These meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. For everyone's information, each commissioner waived his right to compensation set by state law at \$70.00 per meeting attended. Last year at the regular business meeting alone, they volunteered 60 hours collectively. Their duties do not stop there. As previously mentioned they attended many meetings on EMS alone, county fire commissioners meetings and other training and informational activities.

Thanks to all who attended the annual open house / safety fair. Your participation made it a big success for the second year. Washington State requires many hours of medical and fire training. In addition to that, we continue to train on operations specific to this department and isolated community. The medical topics last year included CPR, strokes, rapid extrication, chest pain and soft tissue injuries. Airlift comes out once each year and talks about patient packaging, landing zone set up and overall safety. On the fire side, we covered wildland response, crime scene awareness, residential sprinklers along with driving practice and pump operations. Bill Boyd from Bellingham Fire came out with an awesome fire simulation program incorporating the Beach School, Church, Islander, Beach Condos, and The Beach Store. A dispatcher visited and provided us with a new awareness of what happens at their end of the radio when we are out in the field. Volunteers spent 630 hours at our Thursday night training sessions and spent 212 hours inspecting the apparatus ensuring our state of readiness. Those dedicated unpaid professionals are listed below.

Member	Training	Rank	Years	Occupation / Company
Dave Barker	Firefighter / FR	Firefighter	14	Environmental Tech. - Nooksack Salmon Enhancement
Shawn Bass	Firefighter/ EMT	Firefighter	5	Self Employed
Bob Busch	Firefighter / FR	Firefighter	10	Engineer Retired
George Chidester	Support / IFA	Apprentice	2	Engineer - Boeing
Mark Cross	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Mortgage Broker - Security First Mortgage
Kent Dixon	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Carpenter
Jud Elkes	Firefighter / FR	Captain	23	Tooling Specialist - Wright Brothers
John Granger	Firefighter / Nurse	Medical	26	Flight Nurse - Airlift Northwest
Todd Granger	Firefighter / FR	Firefighter	10	Commercial Fisherman
David Harmony	Support / EMT	Driver	22	Sales - Consolidated Electrical Distributors
Jim Lane	Paramedic	Medical	4	Paramedic / Firefighter - Bellingham Fire
Tom Lutz	Support	Apprentice	2	Contractor
Duncan McLane	Firefighter EMT	Chief	14	Welder / Fabricator - Colonial Metal Works
Joan Moye	Firefighter FIR	Safety	25	Tree Cutter / Logger - Self Employed
Mike Moye	Firefighter FR	Captain	28	Tree Cutter / Logger - Self Employed
John Mulhern	Firefighter EMT	Captain	11	Deckhand - Whatcom Chief
Ernie Pearson	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	18	Operator - Whatcom Chief
Aaron Rupp	Firefighter FR	Firefighter	14	Fire Instructor / Financial Advisor - Waddell & Reed
Janet Rupp	Firefighter FR	Lieutenant	10	Deckhand - Whatcom Chief
Rob Seckinger	Support / EMT	Apprentice	2	Owner - Elakah! Expeditions
Vince Spucces	Firefighter FIR	Firefighter	6	Technician - Culligan
Curt Stocker	Firefighter FIR	Asst. Chief	11	Home Inspector - C&S Home Inspections, Inc.
Judy Thomas	Support / EMT	Medical	13	Teacher - Ferndale School District

TAX REVENUE	INCOME		
	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004
Fire - Levy	\$114,131.31	\$117,328.37	\$120,904.95
EMS - Levy	\$25,571.11	\$26,227.30	\$27,064.27
INVESTMENT INTEREST			
Fire Interest		\$5,461.51	
EMS Interest		\$578.77	
DONATIONS			
Memorials & Other		\$1,065.00	
MISC			
Burn Permits		\$575.00	
Grants		\$3,895.08	
Ferndale School		\$45.76	
Misc.		\$920.74	
TOTAL INCOME	\$139,702.42	\$156,097.53	\$147,969.22

EXPENSES			
LEGISLATIVE			
Legislative Services	\$5,600.00	\$6,813.25	\$9,940.00
FIRE CONTROL			
Administration	\$17,300.00	\$11,239.51	\$10,600.00
Operations & Suppression	\$26,000.00	\$14,973.31	\$31,310.00
Prevention	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Fire Training	\$10,250.00	\$2,739.14	\$12,775.00
Fire Facilities	\$20,555.00	\$3,647.01	\$7,800.00
TOTAL FIRE	\$79,705.00	\$32,598.97	\$72,675.00

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES			
Administration	\$10,975.00	\$7,095.53	\$6,125.00
Operations & Ambulance	\$11,375.00	\$9,876.19	\$0.00
Training	\$5,950.00	\$4,222.69	\$8,275.00
Facilities	\$8,510.00	\$3,446.01	\$6,925.00
Rescue & Emergency Aid	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,075.00
TOTAL EMS	\$36,810.00	\$24,640.42	\$32,400.00

CAPITAL OUTLAY			
Land	\$0.00	\$28,758.17	\$16,000.00
Other improvements	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$24,700.00
Machinery & Equipment	\$155,000.00	\$0.00	\$162,750.00
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$155,300.00	\$28,758.17	\$203,450.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$277,415.00	\$92,810.81	\$318,465.00
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ACCOUNT BALANCES 12/31/03		
Cash Expense Account	\$673.51	\$33,987.25
Expense Investment Account	\$184,533.51	\$220,556.06
EMS Investment Account	\$21,035.76	\$21,493.96
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	\$206,242.78	\$276,037.27

48 Incidents in 2003

Fire	4	8.33%
Rescue & EMS	33	68.75%
Hazardous Conditions (No fire)	3	6.25%
Service Call	3	6.25%
Good Intent Call	1	2.08%
False Alarm & False Call	2	4.17%
Special Type	2	4.17%

- Average Response Time: **9.65 Minutes**
- Time on Incidents: **45.07 Hours**
- Volunteer-Hours: **311.5**

I cannot thank each volunteer enough for their dedication and time spent training and helping friends and neighbors when their day has gone bad. An even bigger thank you to the families of the volunteers, who put up with their absences on Thursday nights and the times when they are called to duty, be it in the wee hours of the morning, holiday dinners or any other time. An initial Fire Fighter 1 program is being planned for this fall on the Island. If anyone has is interested in joining the emergency response team now would be an opportune time. Our roster has declined slightly in the past few years so we would welcome more volunteers to help out. You can give us a call or show up on one of the first three Thursday evenings of the month at 7:30. I would also like to thank the businesses, organizations and individuals on the Island for the continued support as well as the various baked goods and donations. It means a lot.

Respectfully Submitted: Duncan McLane, Chief

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