

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 11

Lummi Island Fire Department

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2005 ANNUAL REPORT

This was an interesting year for the department. Our call load increased a tiny bit, and we completed numerous facility, equipment and training projects. There was increased participation in the Firewise program. Voter approval of sales tax funding for Whatcom County's Advanced Life Support Transportation Program (Whatcom Medic One) ensures its existence for a few more years. Natural disasters along the Gulf Coast prompted us to develop a disaster preparedness working group.

With grants of \$56,175 from FEMA and \$9,363 from The Washington State Military Department, your fire station received a major seismic up-grade. This involved strengthening the walls and roof structure to minimize damage from an earthquake. Required changes to the roof structure dictated that new roofing be installed. The old roofing had been a concern for the past 5+ years with heavy condensation problems and leaks occurring during heavy rains. The construction was completed without any major problems or impact on operations. The board and I continued to meet monthly to identify future Fire and EMS needs for the community and the facilities improvements needed to accomplish them.

We had much anticipated the arrival of the new initial attack apparatus ordered in 2004. Unfortunately we had to reject the apparatus because it did not meet minimum performance specifications. In August, we received word that FEMA approved our grant for \$46,805 to purchase bunker gear. Three other county fire districts and the City of Lynden also received funding. The five departments collectively developed a minimum performance specification and jointly submitted requests for bids. The bid request was for over 200 full sets of bunker gear which created a very competitive atmosphere for the bids, allowing all the agencies to get the biggest bang for the buck. The Firefighter's Association purchased helmet lights for the new gear and a rescue wrench for each firefighter.

Fire training focused on the command structure, the first 5 minutes on emergency scenes, and repetitive pump and extinguishment practice. Audio visual equipment for training was upgraded to current technology. We purchased a new VCR/DVD player, projector, and screen, to replace items on loan. This equipment can display the computer screen, presentations, TV, videos and DVDs. The Firefighter's Association paid half the cost of two cargo containers to enhance our training capabilities with live fire and search and rescue. An actual structure fire in which to practice all aspects of operations is a thousand times more beneficial than looking at pictures or drawing it out on a board.

EMS training was highlighted by a mass casualty drill in June and mock trials with an actual attorney in November. The mass casualty drill included a house fire with seven victims ranging with injuries from minor to critical. About 2 minutes into it, a mock vehicle accident was added to the mix. It was challenging enough with the fire and victims but then resources had to be split! It was a very valuable exercise and Airlift Northwest's participation made it more realistic. In mock trials, a few of the volunteers were put on the stand and questioned on past reports. It was an eye opening exercise to say the least. It reinforced the need for well written reports to be completed after all incidents. The 10 new members completed the department's Firefighter One class early in the year. A state approved EMT class was scheduled and delivered on the island early in 2006.

The Firewise program provided a chipper late in the spring and had an unforgiving list of locations to go to. It took a full 5 days to complete the chipping for program participants. The third annual Open House was well-attended with many prevention, safety and awareness materials distributed. Fire Prevention week was a lot of fun. We visited Beach School and talked with all the students about fire safety and accident prevention. After the series of events on the Gulf Coast, disaster preparedness became an important issue. The fire department organized and leads a working group that meets monthly to develop community education and preparedness plans for a range of natural and man-made disasters that could have long term impacts to our community.

Your three elected Commissioners do an excellent job of governing and looking ahead at upcoming issues. It is important to point out they do more than approve the budget and pay the bills. Each one spends as much time as possible getting involved with other district commissioners to address legislative issues and countywide problems. Not one of them elects to receive any pay for their meetings and together they spent over 366 hours on department-related activities. Although the sales tax increase ensures Medic One's existence for a while longer, the county fire commissioners and chiefs continue efforts to find a permanent funding mechanism for this service. The board unanimously agreed not to file for the 1% tax increase allowed by law.

The membership dedicated about 2267 volunteer hours serving you; 1559 training, 228 performing weekly truck inspections and 480 hours on emergency responses. It is impossible to put an exact price on the value of our volunteers' time but it would be accurate to say "a lot". I am proud to list each of those dedicated, unpaid professionals below. Please note the diversity of this group and the years of dedicated service each has given our community. Following the members list is a snapshot of the 2005 financial activity, the 2006 budget and the 2005 emergency response data.

Member	Training	Rank	Year	Occupation / Company
Mike Moye	Firefighter / FR	Captain	32	Tree Cutter / Logger - Self Employed
John Granger	Firefighter / Nurse	Medical	29	Flight Nurse - Airlift Northwest
Joan Moye	Firefighter / EMT	Safety	28	Tree Cutter / Logger - Self Employed
Jud Elkes	Firefighter / FR	Captain	26	Tooling Specialist - Wright Brothers
Ernie Pearson	Firefighter / IFA	Firefighter	22	Operator - Whatcom Chief
Judy Thomas	Support / EMT	Medical	18	Teacher - Ferndale School District
Duncan McLane	Firefighter / EMT	Chief	17	Welder / Fabricator - Colonial Metal Works
Aaron Rupp	Firefighter / FR	Firefighter	17	Fire Instructor / Financial Advisor - Waddell & Reed
John Mulhern	Firefighter / EMT	Captain	14	Deckhand / Operator / Purser - Whatcom Chief
Curt Stocker	Firefighter / FR	Asst. Chief	14	Home Inspector - C&S Home Inspections
Bob Busch	Firefighter / FR	Firefighter	13	Retired Engineer
Shawn Bass	Firefighter / EMT	Firefighter	8	Self Employed
Mike Rawley	Firefighter / IFA	Firefighter	8	Economic Development Director - The Lummi Nation
Jim Lane	Paramedic	Medical	7	Paramedic / Firefighter - Bellingham Fire
Tom Lutz	Firefighter / EMT	Firefighter	4	Contractor
Mark Cross	Firefighter / EMT	Firefighter	3	Mortgage Broker - Security First Mortgage
Alucia Taylor	Firefighter / EMT	Firefighter	2	Nanny
Larry Roteman	Firefighter / EMT	Firefighter	2	Retired - Electrical Engineer
Ed Scott	Firefighter / IFA	Firefighter	2	Retired - United States Coast Guard
John Fincke	Firefighter / EMT	Firefighter	2	Retired - US Army
Gary Poole	Firefighter / IFA	Firefighter	2	Deckhand / Operator / Purser - Whatcom Chief
Mike Lish	Firefighter / EMT	Firefighter	2	Electrician - Gateway Controls
Terry Terry	Firefighter / EMT	Firefighter	2	Director/Producer - Terry Terry Productions

	INCOME		
TAX REVENUE	Budget 2005	Actual 2005	Budget 2006
Fire - Levy	\$121,405.31	\$124,880.06	\$122,700.94
EMS - Levy	\$31,453.25	\$31,745.36	\$31,453.25
INVESTMENT INTEREST			
Fire Interest		\$4,224.77	
EMS Interest		\$580.14	
DONATIONS			
Memorials & Other		\$259.10	
MISC			
Burn Permits		\$500.00	
Ferndale School		\$56.16	
Misc.		\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$152,858.56</u>	<u>\$162,245.59</u>	<u>\$154,154.19</u>
	EXPENSES		
	LEGISLATIVE		
Legislative Services	\$8,850.00	\$8,463.83	\$11,555.00
	FIRE CONTROL		
Administration	\$32,882.00	\$22,757.79	\$27,025.00
Operations & Suppression	\$35,000.00	\$16,199.16	\$31,545.00
Prevention	\$250.00	\$90.40	\$400.00
Fire Training	\$12,450.00	\$5,218.62	\$7,800.00
Fire Facilities	\$14,470.00	\$14,058.93	\$11,279.00
TOTAL FIRE	<u>\$95,052.00</u>	<u>\$58,324.90</u>	<u>\$78,049.00</u>
	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES		
Administration	\$16,040.00	\$12,664.23	\$14,800.00
Training	\$9,800.00	\$3,960.27	\$17,400.00
Facilities	\$6,535.00	\$5,596.35	\$5,610.00
Rescue & Emergency Aid	\$13,200.00	\$8,949.53	\$11,320.00
TOTAL EMS	<u>\$45,575.00</u>	<u>\$31,170.38</u>	<u>\$49,130.00</u>
	CAPITAL OUTLAY		
Land	\$16,000.00	\$15,909.84	\$16,000.00
Other improvements	\$12,500.00	\$51,581.83	\$0.00
Machinery & Equipment	\$136,500.00	<\$54,458.00>	\$183,000.00
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	<u>\$165,000.00</u>	<u>\$13,033.67</u>	<u>\$199,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$314,477.00	\$110,992.78	\$337,734.00
	ACCOUNT BALANCES 12/31/05		
Cash Expense Account		\$92,225.32	
Expense Investment Account		\$254,678.57	
EMS Investment Account		\$22,533.22	
TOTAL CASH ASSETS		<u>\$369,437.11</u>	

Incidents in 2005

Fire	6	9.84%
Rescue & EMS	43	70.49%
Hazardous Conditions(No fire)	8	13.11%
Good Intent Call	1	1.64%
False Alarm & False Call	2	3.28%
Series-Special Type	1	1.64%

Grand Total: 61

- Average Response Time: 11.56 minutes
- Incident Hours: 53
- Volunteer-Hours: 480

Thank you to the families of the volunteers who put up with their absences on Thursday nights and when they are called to duty, be it in the middle of the night, holiday dinners or other inopportune times. A bigger thank you to each volunteer for their dedication and time spent training and responding to our community's call for help. Without them, our community would be in dire straits. If anyone is interested in joining the emergency response team, please call us or show up at 7:00 pm on one of the first three Thursday evenings of each month. I would also like to thank the businesses, organizations and individuals on the Island for their continued support as well as the various baked goods and donations. It means a lot.

Respectfully Submitted: Duncan McLane, Chief

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