

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 11

Lummi Island Fire Department

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The District continued its momentum into 2023 by upgrading our IT equipment and installing new VOIP phones that double as intercoms so that we can work more efficiently in the station, drop less calls, and save a few hard earned tax dollars.

Radio communications have needed much attention for the last couple of years. The District's cache of portable radios began seeing critical rechargeable battery failures in 2021, but we were able to keep them all in service until mid 2022 thanks to our supply of extra batteries. The battery packs became obsolete and were no longer available to purchase through the manufacturer or by any other means, and we limped through 2022 with less and less available radios until we were able to purchase all new upgraded portable radios in early 2023. The new radios are consistent with almost every other agency in Whatcom County and have a unique link to our dispatch center for added responder safety. The new radios definitely have better range and are much clearer. We also added wireless headsets in the three fire apparatus that work hundreds of feet away from the trucks to allow more mobility for pump operators at incidents.

We were also able to "clear the air" in the station. All four of our emergency apparatus underwent an exhaust system upgrade which practically eliminated the expulsion of diesel particulates; in fact, it is now routine to smell dish soap when standing near a running apparatus. These systems provide protection when it is needed most, during periods of low temperature exhaust – cold starts, low idle and on-scene use. It is at these times the manufacturers' ATD is not actively oxidizing emissions. This upgrade will protect the Volunteers, our new turnout gear inside the station, and keep the air clean for years to come.

It was an interesting year for the vehicle fleet. Every apparatus in the fleet required some level of TLC to keep them all in prime operating condition. Technicians from Mt. Vernon made multiple trips to the Island and worked hard to make repairs out here so that we didn't have to take critical equipment off Island. They were able to make all needed repairs while doing our annual DOT inspections and performing annual pump testing. The new frontline engine has been in service for nearly two years now and we are very pleased with its performance. The Volunteers love driving it as it handles almost as well as a small passenger car, and it pumps like a dream.

2022 marked the renewal of the 6-year Countywide EMS Levy. With that, in 2023 we saw a fifth Medic Unit for the County implemented in full, responding from Station 75 in Lynden. By adding another ALS resource, it changed the prime geographic areas that the ALS units were responding to respectively. Our primary first response ALS unit did not change, however our second closest unit moved to a new location. Technically speaking, this increased response times to Gooseberry Point, but I don't anticipate any negative effects due to the logistics of the ferry and our own operational procedures. We strive to move more critical patients to Gooseberry Point quickly as this cuts out a minimum of ten minutes of "ferry time" and gets them to the Medics sooner than bringing Medics to the Island. Response and transport data models showed that as a system it made more sense for three of the five ALS units to be based within the City of Bellingham. The new levy also focused in on supporting agencies providing BLS care so some of those tax dollars from the County's levy are coming back to the Island directly to support our efforts. At least for this first year, the BLS allocation funding will replace the dollars that were lost from our own EMS levy by way of the County levy taking its share first. Taxes and levies can be very confusing, so feel free to call me (Michael) at the station and I will explain how it all works.

Our limited number of responders is also being compounded by paging issues. The cost of upgrading the county wide system is astronomical and is being worked on but we found a less expensive technology that, with collaboration among the other fire agencies to provide funding, has provided a reliable back up paging system that uses our "Smart" phones.

There were 277 individual hours spent on incidents, 170 hours inspecting the vehicles and equipment, and 579 hours of Fire and EMS training. Below are the dedicated professional Volunteers who respond to any type of incident at a moment's notice and spend hours training and work to ensure vehicles and equipment are in a state of readiness.

Years	Member	Training	Rank	Occupation / Company
46	John Granger	Firefighter EMT	Asst Chief	Retired Flight Nurse - Airlift Northwest
19	Michael Lish	Firefighter EMT	Chief	Fire Chief - Whatcom County Fire District 11
19	Gary Poole	Firefighter EMT	Captain	Operator - Whatcom Chief
16	Lisa Lish	Firefighter EMT	Lieutenant	Secretary - Whatcom County Fire District 11
15	Chris Immer	Firefighter EMT	Lieutenant	Pastor - Village Missions
15	Sam Bowman	Firefighter EMT	Lieutenant	Self Employed
10	Dan Ohms	Firefighter EMT	Senior Firefighter	Retired Paramedic / Firefighter - Bellingham Fire
8	Alissa Daschbach	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	Medical Writer / Editor
4	Kjerstin Secord	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	Educator
4	Loren Conroy	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	Housekeeper
4	Leah Paisano	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	Shellfish Biologist
4	Nick Kluge	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	Water Distribution Manager
3	Michael Godshall	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	Creative Director
3	Kelsey McLane	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	Deckhand - Whatcom Chief
2	Jack Wilson	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	Self Employed

Commissioners: Wendell Terry - serving since 2007
 Bill Lee - serving since 2014
 Dan Ohms – serving since 2021

INCOME			
	Budget	Actual	Budget
<u>TAX REVENUE</u>	2019	2019	2020
Fire - Levy	\$352,315	\$356,115	\$355,833
EMS - Levy	\$97,726	\$98,170	\$98,817
Timber Harvest Tax	\$150	\$232	\$150
<u>OTHER REVENUE</u>			
Interest	\$4,750	\$12,365	\$7,190
Burn Permits	\$200	\$450	\$200
Memorials, Grants & Other	\$1,882	\$14,153	\$1,850
TOTAL INCOME	\$457,023	\$481,485	\$464,040

OPERATING EXPENSES			
Legislative Services	\$17,678	\$17,730	\$15,415
<u>FIRE CONTROL</u>			
Administration	\$135,953	\$129,588	\$138,814
Suppression	\$37,912	\$31,796	\$37,182
Prevention	\$300	\$78	\$300
Disaster Preparedness	\$0	\$98	\$500
Training	\$32,323	\$21,198	\$27,610
Facilities	\$9,075	\$8,717	\$8,100
Repairs and Maintenance	\$9,550	\$16,046	\$7,950
TOTAL FIRE	\$225,113	\$207,520	\$220,456

<u>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</u>			
Administration	\$51,905	\$48,791	\$52,786
Rescue & Emergency Aid	\$46,403	\$41,766	\$42,764
Prevention	\$125	\$39	\$125
Training	\$16,224	\$15,728	\$16,513
Facilities	\$4,495	\$4,329	\$3,995
Repairs and Maintenance	\$8,275	\$9,589	\$7,625
TOTAL EMS	\$127,427	\$120,242	\$123,808

CAPITAL OUTLAY			
Equipment	\$132,200	\$91,524	\$442,949
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$132,200	\$91,524	\$442,949
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$502,418	\$437,016	\$802,628

ACCOUNT BALANCES
12/31/2019

EXPENSE	\$149,890
RESERVE	\$128,098
FACILITIES	\$23,566
APPARATUS	\$473,242
TOTAL	\$774,796

2019 Response Data

Average Response Time from Dispatch to On Scene: 12.26 Minutes

Average Number of Responders: 5

“There’s nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.” Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle

“The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.” DeAnn Hollis

THANK YOU to the community at large; your generous donations, baked goods and cards of appreciation help all of us continue doing what we do as we strive to improve the service we are providing you.

Special mention to the families of our volunteers, without your support and commitment also, our volunteer would not be able to give this community such service.

Respectfully Submitted: Duncan McLane, Chief

WHATCOM COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
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POSTAL CUSTOMER
LUMMI ISLAND, WA 98262