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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### EMS Levy Lid Lift Update

LAKE STEVENS, WA – Lake Stevens Fire is reporting back on the next steps associated with funding from the levy lid lift for emergency medical service (EMS). Voters in the Lake Stevens community returned the EMS levy to 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value during the November 7 General Election this year.

Funding from the lid lift will be used to maintain service levels in the wake of higher call volumes, increasing costs and inflationary pressures. EMS calls have increased 35% in just six years for Lake Stevens Fire. More calls mean added costs for personnel, equipment, medical supplies, as well as repairs and maintenance on emergency apparatus.

Another issue driving up costs for the program is inflation, which is currently at 3%. This impacts the cost for items needed to provide care, such as oxygen, IV sets, medications, masks, gloves, and catheters. Funding from the lid lift also will purchase equipment, such as laryngoscopes, which aids in intubating patients who are not breathing.

A portion of revenue from the lid lift also is set aside to replace apparatus that have exceeded their service life, such as two ambulances that will arrive in 2018. Paying cash for apparatus instead of financing these purchases saves taxpayers money because there are no interest payments.

EMS currently accounts for 74% of all emergency calls the fire district receives. EMS call volumes are up 8.26% when compared to last year.

“We appreciate the community’s support,” said Fire Chief Kevin O’Brien. “We will continue to report back as to how funding is used for this life-saving program. Thank you again for partnering with us to save lives and property.”

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*Lake Stevens Fire provides fire suppression and emergency medical service to 44,000 people over 42 square miles. During 2016 our highly-skilled firefighters and paramedics responded to more than 5,600 calls, 76 percent of which were for emergency medical service (EMS). Lake Stevens Fire is proud to be debt free, operate under a balanced budget and has a long history of passing independent audits by the state. More information about the fire district can be found at [www.lsfire.org](http://www.lsfire.org).*

**LAKE STEVENS**  
**FIRE**

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*“Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow”*

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