

Contact: Chief Kevin O'Brien
Phone: Office (425) 212-3044 Cell (425) 249-6984
Email: kobrien@lsfire.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Stevens Fire Holds Meetings on Fire Levy

LAKE STEVENS, WA – Lake Stevens Fire reported an 8.33% increase in call volumes for 2017. That makes a 31.5% increase in the last five years.

To respond to the demand for service, the fire district is considering asking voters to authorize a Fire Levy lid lift during the August 7 Primary Election. The Board of Fire Commissioners will hold two public meetings for community members to weigh in on the topic April 12 and 24 at 5:30pm at the Headquarters Board Room located at 1825 South Lake Stevens Road in Lake Stevens.

If approved by voters, the proposal would return the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. That would mean an additional \$7.31 per month (\$87.75 per year) for the owner of a \$325,000 home.

Funding would be used to maintain emergency service levels, which includes providing additional staffing at Station 82 on Chapel Hill Road.

“All revenue from this lid lift is invested back into the community,” said Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien. “It will maintain emergency service levels and the standard of care people expect from our fire department.”

Voters approved an EMS Levy lid lift last year. However, the last time voters approved a Fire Levy lid lift, which provides a majority of funding for emergency services in the community, was in 2007.

The fire district has spent a significant amount of time educating community members about how emergency services are funded. Levy rates for Fire and EMS fall over time as property values rise. This limits the fire district to roughly the same amount of revenue each year plus a one percent annual increase allowed by law. With inflation currently at three to four percent per year, revenue is not keeping up with the cost to provide service.

“We want to hear from our community,” said Chief O'Brien. “Our goal is to maintain service levels and we would like your feedback. Lake Stevens Fire exists to save lives and property, and we are committed to listening to the people we serve.”

Citizens who are unable to make either meeting are asked to send their comments to Chief O'Brien. Comments can be sent to his attention via email at kobrien@lsfire.org or via mail at Lake Stevens Fire, 1825 South Lake Stevens Road, Lake Stevens, Wash. 98258. All communication is welcome and becomes part of the official record.

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LAKE STEVENS
FIRE

Phone: 425.334.3034
Fax: 425.334.6981
www.lsfire.org

“Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow”

Fire Commissioners:
Troy Elmore, Paul Gagnon, Jim Steinruck
Fire Chief Kevin K. O'Brien

1825 South Lake Stevens Road
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Lake Stevens Fire provides fire suppression and emergency medical service (EMS) to 44,000 people over 42 square miles. Our highly-trained emergency personnel responded to 6,126 calls in 2017, an 8.33% increase from the prior year. Our fire district is proud to be debt free, operates under a balanced budget and has a long history of passing its independent audits by the state. More information about the fire district can be found at www.lsfire.org.



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