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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fire Chief Available to Speak on Fire Levy Lid Lift

LAKE STEVENS, WA – Chief Kevin O'Brien of Lake Stevens Fire is available to speak about the Fire Levy lid lift on the August Primary Election ballot to interested groups or organizations. The 27-cent lid lift would return the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (AV) to maintain daily operations.

Lake Stevens Fire puts together a presentation every year that provides an overview of the fire district and current issues. Chief O'Brien regularly visits with organizations in the community to provide an update and answer any questions about the fire district.

In the last five years, the number of emergency calls in the fire district has increased 31.5%. In just the last year calls have increased 8.3%. At the same time, levy rates for Fire and EMS have fallen 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 over three percent, revenue is not keeping up with the cost to provide service.

To keep up with the demand for service and increases in costs, Lake Stevens Fire will ask voters to return the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000AV on the ballot this August. That would mean an additional \$7.31 per month (\$87.75 per year) for the owner of a \$325,000 home. The last time voters approved a Fire Levy lid lift was in 2007.

Lake Stevens has averaged 3.9% annual growth in population since 2010. It's critical that Lake Stevens Fire is able to meet the demand for fire and EMS as our community continues to grow. The Fire Levy provides a majority of funding for emergency services, and all revenue is invested back into the community.

Local community service organizations and homeowner associations are encouraged to contact Chief O'Brien at (425) 212-3044 or kobrien@lsfire.org to schedule a 15-30 minute presentation about these issues.

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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.

LAKE STEVENS
FIRE

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"Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow"

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