

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

Board of Fire Commissioners passes EMS levy lid lift resolution

LAKE STEVENS, WA – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Lake Stevens Fire unanimously passed a resolution to place an 18-cent levy lid lift for its emergency medical service program on the November General Election ballot. If approved by voters, the lid lift would cost the owner of a \$300,000 home an additional \$54 per year (\$4.50 per month).

“EMS is the emergency service our community relies on most,” said Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien. “It's the most direct way we touch people's lives in our community every day.”

In 2016, Lake Stevens Fire responded to 5,655 calls – 76 percent were EMS-related. EMS call volumes have increased 35 percent in six years for the agency due to growth and an aging population. More calls mean added costs, and Chief O'Brien says that revenue is not keeping up with the demand for service.

Voters originally approved an EMS levy of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2000. Since that time, the EMS levy has fallen to 32 cents per \$1,000, which happens when property values rise. The fire district is limited to a one percent revenue increase per year. However, costs for medical supplies, equipment, maintenance, personnel, and utilities have increased by more than that.

Crystalle Green, a Lake Stevens resident, had the opportunity to witness EMS in action when her daughter Jasmine went into cardiac arrest at age 12. Mrs. Green performed chest compressions until paramedics arrived four minutes later. They were able to resuscitate Jasmine with a defibrillator and other advanced medical interventions. She was transported to an area hospital where she made a full recovery.

“EMS is vital to our community,” said Mrs. Green. “The fast response, quality of care and professionalism is why Jasmine is alive. I am just so thankful!”

The EMS lid lift would continue to fund Basic and Advanced Life Support with 14 full-time and part-time firefighters and paramedics responding 24 hours a day. In addition to emergency personnel, funding is used to replace ambulances, maintain existing apparatus, training and certifications, medical equipment, and first aid supplies.

More information can be found on the fire district's web site at www.lsfire.org. Community members with questions also are encouraged to contact Chief O'Brien at (425) 212-3044 or kobrien@lsfire.org.

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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.

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