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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grants and Partnerships Help Supplement Funding for Lake Stevens Fire

LAKE STEVENS, WA – Lake Stevens Fire recently completed a grant application for \$68,000 to replace a 23-year old air fill station used to fill firefighter Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) air tanks. Applying for grants is one way the fire district works to help stretch local tax dollars further.

In the past seven years, Lake Stevens Fire has applied for \$1,608,700 in grants to supplement daily operations. This is a competitive process and the agency has been awarded \$48,556 for equipment, supplies, apparatus, training, and personal protective gear for firefighters.

“Grants are not a substitute for regular revenue – it’s an extremely competitive process,” said Larry Huff, Deputy Chief of Operations. “We’re proud of the ones we have received because every bit helps.”

The agency also looks for partnership opportunities with neighboring fire districts to share costs and improve efficiencies for taxpayers. Lake Stevens Fire and Snohomish County Fire District 7 have partnered on a Community Resource Paramedic Program to improve patient care and reduce non-emergency calls to 911. Lake Stevens Fire is currently collaborating with other agencies in Snohomish, Island and Whatcom counties to propose a grant-funded Regional Community Resource Paramedic Program.

Training is another area where Lake Stevens Fire looks to save money for taxpayers. It has entered into an interlocal agreement with Everett and Marysville to share costs and improve the skills of emergency personnel in all three jurisdictions. Instead of sending personnel away for training, the fire agencies can bring a trainer in house at a substantial savings.

The fire district also prefers to pay cash for everything from water heaters to fire engines. Financing these purchases would cost taxpayers more due to interest payments. The fire district developed a comprehensive Capital Replacement Plan that outlines service life and replacement costs for facilities, emergency response equipment and apparatus. Dependable and modern equipment is a vital component in maintaining emergency service levels. Using this “cash payment” philosophy, taxpayers saved \$32,000 on a new fire engine delivered earlier this year.

“Our fire district is sound because of these financial practices,” said Deputy Chief Huff. “We want our taxpayers to know that we really do work hard to make every penny count.”

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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

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