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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board Passes Resolution for Fire Levy Lid Lift
Voters will see proposal on August 7 Primary Election ballot

LAKE STEVENS, WA – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Lake Stevens Fire held two public meetings to take input on a proposed Fire Levy lid lift to maintain emergency service levels. At the second meeting, fire commissioners voted unanimously to place the measure on the August 7 Primary Election ballot.

The fire district has seen a significant increase in emergency call volumes – 31.5% in five years. To respond to this demand, Lake Stevens Fire is asking voters to 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.

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 over three percent, revenue is not keeping up with the cost to provide service.

Voters approved an EMS Levy lid lift last year. However, the last time voters approved a Fire Levy lid lift was in 2007. The Fire Levy provides a majority of funding for emergency services, and all revenue is invested back into the community.

The Lake Stevens area has seen a period of rapid growth, which is reflective of call volume increases for the fire district. Funding from the Fire Levy lid lift would be used to maintain emergency service levels, which means adding staff at Station 82 on Chapel Hill Road.

“As our community continues to grow, we must be ready to respond,” said Fire Chief Kevin O’Brien. “Additional staffing will meet the demand for higher call volumes throughout the fire district.”

Chief O’Brien is available to speak to community groups about the lid lift or answer questions at any time. He can be reached at (425) 212-3044 or kobrien@lsfire.org. All communication is welcome and becomes part of the official record.

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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

LAKE STEVENS
FIRE

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Lake Stevens, WA 98258

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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