



BUDGET MESSAGE

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

This last year, the Fire District saw a change in leadership. Coming in as the new Fire Chief, I have committed to our Board of Directors that I will continue to refine the District's business practices, establish new training goals, and strengthen our emergency response. As we look toward our next fiscal year, we reflect on where we are now and where we have been in the past. It is with pleasure that I share some of the accomplishments from the past year:

- We have seen an increase in our membership numbers this year and continue to have many inquiries into becoming a member of our organization. This is both a pleasure and a challenge. The Board has worked with leadership to set parameters and requirements for potential new members residing both on and off island.
- Alarm volume has been altered over the past two years due to the passage of the alcohol ban on ODFW land which is a good dilemma to have. This continues to change the landscape of incidents during our busy months. The District is adjusting to meet the changes.
- Emergency Preparedness continuing to be a focus for the Island with the current pandemic increasing widespread interest. Preparedness will remain supported by the leadership of the Fire District. A growing number of members are certified to teach Neighborhood Emergency Team training to Island residents.
- The District has been able to complete most of the planned projects from the last fiscal year. These projects include; purchase of a new (used) brush rig as planned from previous fiscal years, sealing on the inside of the tanks on both water tenders, fire station storage updates to include work area storage and added turnout lockers, purchase/ installation of a turnout extractor (washing machine) for decontaminating personal protective equipment (PPE).
- The District had opportunities to add needed equipment to our operations. We purchased 6 additional sets of SCBAs from Corbett Fire District. Corbett had been awarded a grant for new SCBAs and had a number of sets as surplus. The SCBAs are in excellent condition adding needed safety equipment for fire and hazmat response. The District also, added 18 more radios (6 mobile and 12 portable) to our operations. The cost for these radios came as one time configuration cost and a per unit monthly access fees (this fee is consistent with current radios). We were able to get a reduced monthly cost for the majority (14 of 18) of the radios. This will significantly improve emergency scene communications and firefighter safety.
- Our roster has grown with dedicated and active members. Four of our members are attending the Columbia County Volunteer Firefighter academy. This is a 5 month commitment (mainly weekends). Once completed, these individuals shall have completed Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Firefighter 1, and basic Wildland Firefighter training. This training is at no cost to the Fire District.

- We were able to provide 1 CPR/AED course so far this year to the residents of the Island. We had planned additional classes this year but were cancelled due to Governor Brown's Social Distancing Directive.

Looking at next year and the needs for the Fire District, we are anticipating the following budgetary expenses:

- To improve the volunteer notification to alarms, we shall purchase voice pagers to be issued to all members.
- With challenges to provide water during marina firefighting operations or to provide a water source for filling water tenders in one of the remote areas of the island, portable fire pumps will drastically reduce these challenges. The District will purchase one next fiscal year with the goal of purchasing three total over the next three years.
- Currently, the Fire District does not have gas detectors. These detectors measure carbon monoxide, oxygen, natural gas and explosive limit levels in hazardous atmospheres frequently encountered by firefighters. A gas detector is best practice for firefighter safety and its use is strongly encouraged by OSHA. We plan on purchasing one gas detector per year for two years.
- With roads and access on the island often tight, water tender operations become more dangerous due to extra maneuvering needed to get water into a portable tank from the water tender (due to a fixed dump valve). The District plans to purchase swivel dump chutes designed for our water tenders allowing safer operations at fire scenes. We will purchase one per year with a total of two purchased.
- To complete the turnout storage portion of the station storage project, we will purchase the remaining needed turnout lockers this next fiscal year.

The Board of Directors and District leadership reviewed the Strategic Plan for future, anticipated expenditures. Funds continue to be reserved for future purchases such as: replacement of the SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus), replacement of the District apparatus (EMS response vehicle and engine), station updates/ security upgrades and extrication power equipment. The goal is to replace as much equipment with reserve funds as opposed to bonding for capital replacement. The District remains confident in their financial practices and focus on fiscal responsibility and transparency to the residents of Sauvie Island.

On behalf of the Sauvie Island Fire District, I thank you for your support and willingness to allow us to serve your community in this vital role.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Lake". The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a large loop and ending with a long, horizontal tail.

Chris Lake
Fire Chief
Sauvie Island Fire District