



BUDGET MESSAGE
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

I believe most local government organizations will be talking about last year's COVID 19 pandemic and it's impact on operations and overall services in their budget messages. I would say our community was lucky in comparison to the rest of our county as to how much the pandemic impacted our organization. The different mandates and restrictions imposed by the state has permanently changed how we will operate in the future. The high of the pandemic impacted our ability to train for and respond to emergencies. Add to this one of the worst fire seasons in Oregon State history and we end up with an unforgettable year. State leaders forecast we will not see the true impact from last year's pandemic for another year or two.

Some of last year's opportunities and impacts which affect the budget were mainly related to equipment and vehicles. We had the opportunity to acquire more SCBAs from Columbia River Fire and Rescue through a donation. We were given 12 complete SCBA packs and 12 spare cylinders which matched our current equipment. This is a huge donation as each pack to replace new would be approximately \$7,500. Our fleet needed annual inspections and testing to maintain response readiness. This came at a cost as many needed repairs were found during the inspection. We can now say our fleet is in much better condition for its age, but will still need additional repairs during the next budget year. We currently only have one vehicle in our fleet that we purchased new with all others vehicles being bought or donated to us after at least one service life. We remain diligent in attempting to update our fleet while balancing the replacement costs. The Multnomah County Sheriff's office requested use of the station last year due to the Covid outbreak and health concerns related to their current building on the island. The sheriffs office changed their operations requiring deputies to be response ready while remaining socially distanced. This became an opportunity for a partnership with the sheriffs office and facilitate law-enforcement availability to our community. We are planning to maintained this partnership indefinitely. This does impose a higher use to, but also provides more security to our facilities.

We have applied for grant opportunities (AFG, OSFM, SAFER) that if awarded, will affect the next fiscal year. The most significant of these would be to hire a 30 hour Recruitment & Retention Officer. This position would be fully funded by the grant. We also have applied for funding to replace all the fire hose, purchase 10 new sets of structural personal protective equipment (turnouts). The request is for roughly \$80,000 worth of equipment. This grant would require a 5% match from the Fire District. Another grant opportunity we have applied for is through the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office. This too, is for fire fighting equipment such as; portable pumps, gas detectors, firefighting equipment & PPE, radio equipment and training adjuncts. This grant request is for approximately \$45,000 worth of equipment and requiring 0% match from the Fire District.

Throughout this past year we have seen our membership remain constant. We currently have approximately 25 active members of the organization. The beginning of 2020 we lost our Operations Chief to a job opportunity out of state and lost our office assistant due to COVID restrictions. Our training attendance has remained high with a number of our firefighters attending the firefighter academy in Columbia County. Our goal is to keep this upward trajectory for training through this next year.

The number of alarms we responded to last year increased from the previous year. This increase is not only in quantity but also in number of resources needed to manage these alarms. We had a large wildland fire during mid summer impacting are wildland season, we saw an increase in significant motor vehicle accidents on the east side of the island, and we saw an increase in water related incidents. These events have lead to better opportunities in serving our community. One change in operations occurring from the large wildland fire was to implement a seasonal patrol program. This started due to the ongoing smoldering from the large fire, concerns from the community related to the fire season, and larger than normal visitor influx to the island related to the pandemic restrictions. This year, the seasonal patrol program will be trialed for a longer period in partnership with the Sauvie Island section of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Some of the spending we are planning for this next year includes improving station security with a security camera system, repair our kitchen appliances that are currently not working, repair and update window coverings in the station, repair and update station furniture including office furniture, continue updating the station lighting to LED lights, add an external storage building for our yard maintenance equipment, and purchase a staff vehicle to help with non-emergency transportation of equipment and people.

Funds continue to be reserved for future capital purchases such as: fleet replacement (EMS response vehicles and engine), station updates, station security upgrades, and new equipment or apparatus that will help with responses to our communities needs. The Board of Directors and Fire Chief maintain the goal of replacing as much equipment and providing facility updates with grants, donations, trades and unforeseen opportunities in addition to using 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', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chris Lake
Fire Chief
Sauvie Island Fire District