

Contact: Chief Kevin O'Brien
Phone: 425. 212.3044
Email: kobrien@lsfire.org

October 5, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Questions about the EMS Levy lid lift?

LAKE STEVENS, WA – Lake Stevens Fire is planning three meetings to share information about a proposed levy lid lift for the community's Emergency Medical Service program. Community members with questions are invited and encouraged to attend:

- Thursday, October 19, 6:30pm (Headquarters Board Room, 1825 South Lake Stevens Road)
- Saturday, October 21, 10am (Station 82 Conference Room, 9811 Chapel Hill Road)
- Tuesday, October 24 12:00 pm (Station 82 Conference Room, 9811 Chapel Hill Road)

During the November election, Lake Stevens Fire is asking voters to restore funding for the EMS program to 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. EMS is the emergency service the community uses most. EMS calls accounted for 76% of all emergencies for Lake Stevens Fire in 2016.

Overall, EMS call volumes have increased 35% in six years for Lake Stevens Fire. However, the fire district is limited to a 1% revenue increase per year. Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien says the demand for service is outpacing the revenue available to provide it.

"We want our community to have the facts about this proposal," said Chief O'Brien. "We've scheduled these meetings on different dates and times to reach as broad an audience as possible."

Voters in the Lake Stevens community approved a 50 cent EMS levy in 2000. Over time, the levy rate falls as property values rise, which limits the amount of revenue for the fire district. Currently, the EMS levy is at 32 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The 18 cent levy lid lift would cost the owner of a \$300,000 home an additional \$54 per year (\$4.50 per month). 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. It also pays for ambulances, medical equipment, supplies, and life-saving medications.

More information about the levy lid lift can be found on the fire district's web site at www.lsfire.org. Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien also is available to answer questions at (425) 212-3044.

Election ballots are scheduled to be mailed on or before October 20. Ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday, November 7 (General Election Day) to count.

###

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



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

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