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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Board of Fire Commissioners to consider resolution for EMS levy lid lift**  
*Public invited to attend and comment*

LAKE STEVENS, WA – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Lake Stevens Fire will consider a resolution asking voters to approve a levy lid lift for emergency medical service (EMS) during the November General Election. There will be two meetings for the public to attend and provide comment on the proposal.

The meetings will take place on June 1 and June 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the fire district's Administrative Headquarters at 1825 South Lake Stevens Road, Lake Stevens (98258). Those who are unable to attend, but would still like to provide comment are encouraged to contact Chief Kevin O'Brien at (425) 212-3044 or [kobrien@lsfire.org](mailto:kobrien@lsfire.org). All communication is welcome and becomes part of the official record.

Consistent with growth in the Lake Stevens Community, EMS call volumes have increased 35 percent in six years. In contrast, the fire district is limited to a one percent revenue increase per year. Costs for medical supplies, equipment, maintenance, personnel, and utilities have increased by more than that one percent cap.

The levy funding the EMS program that voters approved in 2000 has fallen from 50 cents to 32 cents per \$1,000 as assessed property values have risen. An 18-cent "lid lift" would restore funding to 50 cents per \$1,000 and cost the owner of a \$300,000 home an additional \$54 per year (\$4.50 per month).

"EMS is the emergency service our community relies on most," said Chief O'Brien. "We hope people will join us to learn more about how this program saves lives every day."

In 2016, Lake Stevens Fire responded to 5,655 calls – 76 percent were EMS-related. 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. In addition to emergency personnel, funding is used to replace ambulances, maintain existing apparatus, training and certifications, medical equipment, and first aid supplies.

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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](http://www.lsfire.org).*

**LAKE STEVENS**  
**FIRE**

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*"Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow"*

Fire Commissioners:  
Troy Elmore, Paul Gagnon, Jim Steinruck  
Fire Chief Kevin K. O'Brien

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