



Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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www.bcf4.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Fire Commissioners adopts 2016 budget

[West Richland, Wash.] The Benton County Fire District 4 Board of Fire Commissioners unanimously approved a \$3.4 million operating budget for 2016 at its meeting last month.

The fire district continues to operate under a balanced budget and maintains a healthy reserve fund for emergencies. Revenues for 2016 are slightly higher due to an increase in assessed valuations and new construction for the district.

The fire district balances its budget by making cuts where possible and aggressively maintaining its facilities, apparatus and equipment to extend their usable lives. In 2014, the fire district cut costs by nine percent instead of asking voters for a tax increase. This year, the fire district has been able to temporarily fund new personnel with grants.

The top sources of revenue for the fire district are from a fire levy, a levy for Emergency Medical Service (EMS), a temporary grant for funding personnel, and reimbursements for providing wildland fire services to the state. The fire and EMS levies are paid through property taxes, and account for 75% of expected revenue in 2016.

The vast majority of funding is used for personnel, equipment and supplies to provide emergency services for the community. Additional expenses include supplies and professional services needed to support daily operations.

The fire district responds to an average of 1,200 calls per year, approximately 62 percent of which are for Emergency Medical Service. The EMS levy expires in 2016, and voters likely will be asked to renew it at the same amount

A copy of the 2016 budget can be found on the district's website at www.bcf4.org.

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Benton County Fire District 4 provides Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 17,000 people over 52 square miles, including the City of West Richland. Approximately 36 volunteer and career Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and six Paramedics respond to an average of 1,200 calls per year.