**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Fire Commissioners propose EMS levy lid lift for August ballot**

*Measure aims to fund 24/7 emergency medical response*

CLARKSTON, Wash. – The Asotin County Fire District 1 (ACFD1) Board of Fire Commissioners has approved a resolution to place an emergency medical services (EMS) levy lid lift on the August 5, 2025 primary election ballot. The measure seeks to fund additional personnel, replace aging ambulances, and purchase life-saving medical equipment.

The current EMS levy, set at $0.36 per $1,000 of assessed property value, is no longer sufficient to meet the rising demand for emergency services and increasing operational costs.

“EMS now accounts for more than 90% of all calls we receive,” said Fire Chief Noel Hardin. “With call volumes increasing, we need enough personnel to respond quickly and the ability to replace critical equipment as it wears out. This funding is essential to maintaining reliable emergency medical care for our community.”

Since voters last approved the EMS levy in 2016, call volumes have increased by 50 percent, while the cost of emergency services has surged due to inflation. An ambulance that once cost just over $200,000 now exceeds $300,000, and expenses for staffing, medical supplies, and equipment have also risen.

To address these challenges, the Board is asking voters to restore the EMS levy to the previously approved rate of $0.50 per $1,000 of assessed property value. State-imposed revenue limits have caused the levy rate to drop over time, despite increasing property values.

If approved, the lid lift would provide funding to hire additional personnel to meet growing call volumes, replace two aging ambulances, and purchase critical medical equipment, including cardiac monitors and defibrillators.

The proposed 14-cent lid lift would cost the owner of a $300,000 home an additional $3.50 per month or $42 annually. Residents who meet income and eligibility requirements would continue to qualify for property tax exemptions.

For more information, visit www.acfd1.org or contact Asotin County Fire District 1 at 509-758-5181.

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*Asotin County Fire District 1 provides fire suppression, emergency medical service, and river rescue to 15,000 people over 120 square miles in the Southeast corner of Washington. ACFD1 is the only fire district in the county to guarantee a fire and EMS response 24‐hours a day. The department relies primarily on volunteers to respond to an average of 3,000 calls per year, over 90% of which are EMS-related. Learn more at* [*www.acfd1.org*](http://www.acfd1.org)*.*