

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023 Agenda

Police Department - 203 19th Street

4:00 PM December 07, 2023

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Items from the Audience

None Scheduled

Unscheduled (20 Minutes)

Audience members may address the Committee on any issue other than those scheduled for a public hearing or those on which the public hearing has been closed. Prior to commenting please state your name, address, and topic. Please keep comments under 4 minutes.

Committee Items

Fire Department Items

- [1.](#) Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023-LFD Report
2. Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023 - Battalion 76 Rotation Changes -LFD
- [3.](#) Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023-2024 Fire Department permit fee schedule.
4. Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023 - Part-Time Status update -LFD
- [5.](#) Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023 - Whatcom County Resolution for Consolidation Memo & Proposed Resolution-LFD

Police Department Items

6. Public Safety PD Stats - December 7, 2023

Added Items

Adjournment



Monthly Report November 2023



Fire Prevention/Inspection:

11/7 Cover insp & flush test Lynden Commons
11/17 Fuel tank installation new Shell station

Public Education/Community:

11/3 Station tour
11/8 Station tour
11/9 Station tour
11/17 Station tour

Emergency Operations:

Duty Officer Billmire 10/31 – 11/6
11/14 Annual hose and ladder testing
11/15 Air management training

Emergency Responses:

EMS = 150 (163) 83%
Overlapping Calls = 40 (53) 22%
Aid Given = 20 (20)
Aid Received = 7 (12) (2 for no LFD)
Transports = 40 (43)

Total Calls 180 (198)

Average Turnout Time = 1:31 (1:31)
Average Response Time = 4:30 (4:31)
Average Time on Scene = 17:19 (18:28)
Average Transport Time = 26:48 (25:29)
Average at Hospital Time = 21:53 (25:01)

Overtime = 344 (205.5)
Part-time = 395 (264)
Volunteer = 29 (42)



Fallen FF Memorial at NFA



Air management drill



New Storm Stick decon tool



Jim Young and family



Station tour



Annual Fire Situation Report - Summary

Basic Incident Type Code And Description (FD1.21)	Total Fires
100 - Fire, other	1
111 - Building fire	1
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	1
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	146
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	4
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	5
400 - Hazardous condition, other	1
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	1
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1
461 - Building or structure weakened or collapsed	1
500 - Service call, other	1
5311 - Odor Investigation, other than Smoke	1
553 - Public service	2
561 - Unauthorized burning	1
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1
611 - Dispatched and cancelled en route	6
700 - False alarm or false call, other	2
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	3
Total: 180	

Aggregate Function Criteria	
Total Fires:	Is Greater Than 0

Report Filters	
Basic Incident Date Time:	is between '11/1/2023' and '11/30/2023'
Agency Name:	is in 'Lynden Fire Department'



Incident Complaint Reported By Dispatch (eDispatch.01)	Number of Runs	Percent of Total Runs
Falls	38	25.85%
Sick Person	24	16.33%
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	11	7.48%
Breathing Problem	7	4.76%
Convulsions/Seizure	7	4.76%
Traumatic Injury	7	4.76%
Abdominal Pain/Problems	6	4.08%
Traffic/Transportation Incident	6	4.08%
Pregnancy/Childbirth/Miscarriage	5	3.40%
Stroke/CVA	5	3.40%
Unconscious/Fainting/Near-Fainting	5	3.40%
Allergic Reaction/Stings	4	2.72%
Heart Problems/AICD	4	2.72%
Hemorrhage/Laceration	4	2.72%
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion	4	2.72%
Diabetic Problem	2	1.36%
Transfer/Interfacility/Palliative Care	2	1.36%
Assault	1	0.68%
Carbon Monoxide/Hazmat/Inhalation/CBRN	1	0.68%
Choking	1	0.68%
Fire/Non-EMS	1	0.68%
Psychiatric Problem/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt	1	0.68%
Well Person Check	1	0.68%
Total:	147	100.00%

Report Filters

Incident Date: is between '11/1/2023' and '11/30/2023'

Agency Name (Dagency.03): is in 'Lynden Fire Department'

Response Ems Shift (Iresponse.005): is in 'A Shift, B Shift, C Shift'

Response Type Of Service Requested (Eresponse.05): is in '911 Response (Scene)'

Department	Fee Name
Fire	Plan Review Fee (Value Based)
Fire	Inspection Fee
Fire	New Sprinkler System
Fire	Change to Sprinkler System
Fire	Standpipes
Fire	Fire Pump
Fire	Fire Line
Fire	Fire Hood
Fire	Spray Booth
Fire	Fire Alarm System
Fire	Hazardous Materials

Fire

Burn Permit

Fire

CPR

Fire

Fire Extinguisher

Fire

Impact Fees

Fee Description

\$0 - \$2,000
\$2,001 - \$10,000
\$10,001 - \$20,000
\$20,001 - \$50,000
\$50,001 - \$100,000
\$100,001 - \$250,000
\$250,001 - \$500,000
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
Over \$1,000,001

Regular
After Hours

1-100 Heads
101 - 200 Heads
201 - 300 Heads
301 - 400 Heads
401 - 500 Heads
Over 500 Heds

1 - 20 Heads
21 - 40 Heads
41 - 60 Heads
61 - 80 Heads
81 - 100 Heads
Over 100 Heads

Per System

Per Pump

Per Line

Per System

Per System

1 - 50 Devices
51 - 75 Devices
76 - 100 Devices
101 - 125 Devices
126 - 150 Devices
Over 150 Devices

Fireworks Sales
Fireworks Display

Explosives
Flammable Liquids
Install Tank
Remove Tank <1000 gal
Remove Tank >1000 gal

Recreational Fire Pit

Community CPR Class

Fire Extinguisher Training Class

Residential Single Family/Duplex per unit
Residential Multi-family per unit
Non-Residential

Current Fee	Proposed Fee 2024
\$0.00	\$0.00
\$26.00	\$35.00
\$75.00	\$100.00
\$158.00	\$210.00
\$225.00	\$300.00
\$300.00	\$400.00
\$450.00	\$600.00
\$750.00	\$1,000.00
\$750.00 + .075%	\$1,000 + .10%
\$84/hr	\$120/hr
\$126/hr	\$180/hr
\$375.00	\$400.00
\$425.00	\$450.00
\$475.00	\$500.00
\$525.00	\$550.00
\$575.00	\$600.00
\$575 + \$.30 per head	\$600 + \$1.00 per head
\$100.00	\$150.00
\$175.00	\$200.00
\$250.00	\$300.00
\$325.00	\$400.00
\$400.00	\$500.00
\$0.00	\$500 + \$1.00 per head
\$40.00	\$100.00
\$100.00	\$250.00
\$250.00	\$400.00
\$175.00	\$250.00
\$250.00	\$250.00
\$200.00	\$300.00
\$300.00	\$400.00
\$400.00	\$500.00
\$500.00	\$600.00
\$600.00	\$700.00
\$600 + \$1.50 per defice	\$700 + \$2.00 per device
\$25.00	\$150.00
\$50.00	\$200.00

\$100.00
\$100.00
\$250.00
\$75.00
\$250.00

\$0.00

\$10.00

\$0.00

\$517.00
\$389.00
\$.28 per square foot

\$150.00
\$150.00
\$350.00
\$100.00
\$300.00

\$25.00

\$10.00

\$25.00

\$517.00
\$389.00
\$.28 per square foot



MEMORANDUM

TO: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
FROM: COUNCILMEMBER CAROL FRAZEY
RE: **INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF FIRE AND EMS STRUCTURES IN WHATCOM COUNTY**
DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2023

In Whatcom County, there are 13 fire districts and 2 municipal fire departments (Bellingham and Lynden) serving county residents and businesses (see **Exhibit B: Fire District Map**, **Exhibit C: Fire District Information Chart**). In 2022, What-Comm dispatch received over 42,000 calls of which 79% were for EMS, 17% for fire, and 4% for community paramedic (see [EMS Data](#)). The structures of our county's fire districts have changed over time as communities have grown. For example, the North Whatcom Fire District was formed through a functional consolidation of fire districts 4 and 21, each which continues to maintain separate commissions and chiefs. Fire District 8 completed an administrative consolidation in 2019 with Bellingham Fire. The chief and staff of the Bellingham Fire serves as chief and staff of Fire District 8, which retains its own 5-member commission. Other fire districts get assistance with specific elements of operations through the use of interlocal agreements. Each of the fire districts have their own systems set up to meet the needs of recruitings, hiring, training, fleet maintenance, and other needs in addition to emergency response staff, stations, and vehicles. Partnerships can create efficiencies in costs and service delivery, and the collaboration that is already happening between fire districts acknowledges those benefits. Fire districts are already taking steps to consolidate elements of their work, and further consolidation opportunities could have many benefits for Whatcom County citizens. The time is right to hire an independent consultant to evaluate the structure of our county's fire and EMS service providers.

Types of Consolidation

[Title 52 RCW](#) authorizes the creation of fire protection districts as well as sets parameters for annexations, mergers, withdrawals, and dissolution. State codes identify several ways that fire districts can work together, from the use of interlocal agreements (RCW [39.34](#)) to full mergers. **Administrative consolidation** is when administrative/staff functions are combined, such as with Fire District 8 sharing a Fire Chief position with the Bellingham Fire Department. **Functional/Operational consolidation** happens when each district remains separate but performs special functions as if they were one district. Interlocal agreements can offer partnerships for training activities, fleet maintenance, or other elements. A **merge consolidation** is when one district absorbs the other. In 2006, [North Whatcom Fire and Rescue](#) was formed when Fire Districts 3 and 13 merged. In 2011, North Whatcom Fire and Rescue completed a functional consolidation with Whatcom County Fire District #4. **Full consolidation** is when two or more districts completely merge into a single legal entity. In 2009, Whatcom Fire Districts 2, 6, 9, and 10 joined to [form the South Whatcom Fire Authority](#), which established a new authority with its own commission and dissolved the fire district entities that formed it. A majority vote of the electorate is required prior to district boards adopting resolutions declaring districts merged or consolidated.

Benefits to Fire District Consolidation

The following is a list of potential benefits to fire district consolidation along with examples:

1. **Cost Savings** to property owners, resource efficiency/elimination of redundancy
Example: Cost savings could be achieved by a reduction in administrative staff as well as consolidation of responsibilities, for example, fleet maintenance services provided through one centralized maintenance building rather than each district providing or contracting out the service. Smaller communities, such as rural areas, may pay more in a consolidation scenario with or without improved services.
2. **Improved response times** and customer service
Example: Response times may be improved with a consolidated district that responds from the closest station, rather than from the district with jurisdictional territory.
3. **Staff expertise**
Example: Centralized training personnel could provide standardized and specialized trainings to emergency personnel across the county, rather than differing training approaches at each district.
4. **Standardization** of internal systems and services
Example: Emergency personnel would benefit from a standardized approach to recruitment, hiring, and training. Members of the public may receive more consistent service in a consolidated system rather than potentially different services from smaller fire districts unable to fund costly equipment purchases to the degree larger districts can.
5. **Less competition for funding**
Example: Fire administrations would be better positioned to seek out and receive funding, with fewer competitors for funding opportunities. Some communities like North Whatcom Fire and Rescue (NWFR) and Fire District #4 continue to vote down levy increases, and a consolidation may reduce inequities between districts.
6. **Reduced administrative costs**
Example: A consolidated administration would reduce staff time and costs, as well as potentially streamline upper level leadership positions.
7. **Consistent costs for property owners**
Example: Fire service costs vary on a cost per household for each district. Administrative costs for smaller fire districts can be a larger percentage of the district's budget. Consolidation could bring down administrative costs for smaller districts and create a more consistent per household cost across the county.
8. **Streamlined annexation** procedures
Example: As cities initiate discussions about annexing urban growth areas, interlocal agreements with fire districts are required to identify changes to service areas and revenues if for example an area will be served by a municipal fire department once annexed. Smaller districts may lose a large portion of their service area (and revenues) through annexation. Negotiations with a centralized system may be simpler.

Potential concerns

Potential concerns with consolidation may include:

1. Loss of local control, autonomy
2. Reduction in promotion opportunities as a result of fewer administrator positions
3. Potentially slower decision-making in a larger organization
4. Concerns with losing institutional knowledge, unique to each community
5. Ten or more fire chief positions could be eliminated and approximately 45-50 commissioner positions would need to agree to change the structure of their district. Implementing a new structure for fire and EMS services in Whatcom County may be a long and arduous process.

Next Steps: Independent Review

Our community can consider more fully the benefits and opportunities for consolidation through an independent review of roles, responsibilities, revenues and costs of fire districts, fire departments, and the Whatcom County EMS administration. A thorough review would include voices of all stakeholders including fire district administrations and staff, unions, commissioners, EMS Oversight Board and Technical Advisory Board members, community members, and community leaders, as well as service providers working in our county. A professional independent review can kick start a community conversation about potential benefits or drawbacks, options for transitions, and how emergency services can best serve Whatcom County citizens and businesses. **Exhibit A: Draft Scope of Work** provides an outline of tasks for an independent review.

For your reference, 2023 annual budgets for fire districts are provided in **Exhibit D: FIRE DISTRICT BUDGETS**.

EXHIBIT A: DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK

Background

Whatcom County area residents and businesses are served by 13 fire districts and 2 municipal fire departments, as well as the County EMS administration. Over time as communities have grown, these agencies have collaborated on varying elements of services. This study will review the structures, budgets, and service delivery of the current systems and identify recommendations for further collaboration and or consolidation. Additionally, the study will identify potential benefits and drawbacks of enhanced partnerships and/or consolidations.

Tasks

1. Discovery
Review and compile complete profiles on fire districts, fire departments, and County EMS administration including budgeting, staffing, interlocal agreements, administration, roles and responsibilities and other critical elements of the fire service structure in the county.
2. Outreach & Engagement
Provide opportunities for feedback and discussion about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the current systems and structures. Identify the benefits and barriers to consolidation
3. Draft Recommendations
Provide recommendations and options for how our community could move forward to re-envision fire and EMS structures. Include potential cost savings and other benefits projected for each option. Include specific information on potential staffing changes and jobs retention.
4. Final Report
Summarize all tasks in a final report.

Stakeholders

- Fire District Administration, staff, and first responders
- Bellingham and Lynden fire departments
- Whatcom County EMS Administration
- EMS Oversight Board, Technical Advisory Board
- Whatcom County EMS & Trauma Care Council
- Private emergency service providers
- What-Comm Dispatch
- Elected officials
- Unions and Guilds
- Community leaders

Deliverables

A final report document (PDF) summarizing findings and recommendations, including all tasks described above.

Timeline

Approximately 12 – 18 months.

Cost

Estimated \$275,000.

PROPOSED BY: FRAZEY
INTRODUCTION DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF
COUNTYWIDE FIRE AND EMS STRUCTURES**

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WHEREAS, Whatcom County residents and businesses are served by thirteen fire districts and two municipal fire departments; and

WHEREAS, fire districts levy property taxes in their jurisdictions as well as receive revenues from the countywide EMS levy; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County EMS Administration manages EMS levy funds for the ALS (advanced life support, paramedic) system and portions of the BLS (basic life support, EMT) system as well as the data management system for EMS services and all EMS dispatching fees; and

WHEREAS, the structures of our county’s fire districts have changed over time as communities have grown and agencies have identified benefits to collaboration; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between fire and EMS agencies have formed over time to capture cost efficiencies and improvements in service delivery; and

WHEREAS, North Whatcom Fire & Rescue was formed through a functional consolidation of fire districts 4 and 21, and each continues to maintain separate commissions and share one chief; and

WHEREAS, Fire District 8 completed an administrative consolidation in 2019 with Bellingham Fire, and the Bellingham Fire Chief serves as the fire chief for District 8; and

WHEREAS, some fire districts rely on interlocal and mutual aid agreements to get assistance from other districts with elements of operations; and

WHEREAS, many fire districts and departments have their own staff for training, human resources, and other staff services; and

WHEREAS, partnerships can create efficiencies in costs and service delivery, and the collaboration that is already happening between fire districts acknowledges those benefits.; and

WHEREAS, further consolidation opportunities could have many benefits for Whatcom County citizens in terms of cost savings and improved service delivery; and

WHEREAS, fire agencies have their own administrations and hiring practices, as well as staffing structures comprised of full-time, part-time, and volunteer fire fighters; and

WHEREAS, through partnerships or consolidation, fire agencies may provide more consistent recruitment, hiring, and training practice for staff and first responders; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council represents the people of Whatcom County and looks out for their best interests; and

1 **EXHIBIT A: SCOPE OF WORK**

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3 Background

4 Whatcom County area residents and businesses are served by 13 fire districts and 2 municipal fire
5 departments, as well as the county EMS administration. Over time as communities have grown, these
6 agencies have collaborated on varying elements of services. This study will review the structures, budgets,
7 and service delivery of the current systems and identify recommendations for further collaboration and or
8 consolidation. Additionally, the study will identify potential benefits and drawbacks of enhanced
9 partnerships and/or consolidations.

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11 Tasks

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1. Discovery

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administration including budgeting, staffing, interlocal agreements, administration, roles and
responsibilities and other critical elements of the fire service structure in the county.

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2. Outreach & Engagement

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Provide opportunities for feedback and discussion about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities,
and threats to the current systems and structures. Identify the benefits and barriers to consolidation

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3. Draft Recommendations

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Provide recommendations and options for how our community could move forward to re-envision
fire and EMS structures. Include potential cost savings and other benefits projected for each option.
Include specific information on potential staffing changes and jobs retention.

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4. Final Report

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Summarize all tasks in a final report.

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26 Stakeholders

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- Fire District Administration, staff, and first responders
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38 Deliverables

39 A final report document (PDF) summarizing findings and recommendations, including all tasks described
40 above.

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42 Timeline

43 Approximately 12-18 months.

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45 Cost

46 Estimated \$275,000, to be confirmed through a request for proposals (RFP) process