



Camas Fire Department Newsletter

February 1, 2012

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Our Mission:

To provide the highest quality service to our community through the protection and preservation of life and property



ECFR, Vancouver, and Camas personnel struggle to contain a structure fire

Structure Fire Destroys Home

An early evening fire on January 30 destroyed a home located in the area of NE 222nd Avenue, despite the efforts of multiple agencies. Smoke and flames from the basement were reported by the first arriving engine, and personnel from ECFR, Vancouver, and Camas, immediately began an aggressive interior attack. Clark County Fire District 3 also responded on mutual aid with a water tender. Unfortunately heavy storage in the basement hindered the crews from locating the source of the fire, and within minutes all personnel had to be pulled back to safety. The homeowners got out safely and no personnel were injured. The house was a complete loss.



Camas Ambulance Levy Coming Soon!

The City of Camas anticipates running their EMS Levy in August of 2012. Rigorous work is underway between fire department and city administration, the city finance department, and the City Council and Mayor, to plan on a levy amount that sustains the EMS system for many years to come. Camas Fire Department provides ambulance service to residents of Camas, Washougal, and East County Fire and Rescue. CFD was recently recognized as one of the top 5 EMS agencies in the country in the area of cardiac arrest survival and also boasts the lowest transport costs of any Clark County agency. Approval of the 2012 EMS Levy will help keep CFD and our partner agencies on top for many more years. More information will be coming soon!



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General Fund OT (Fire)	Expended 2009	Expended 2010	Budgeted 2011	Expended 2011	+/- vs budgeted (vs '10)	Budgeted 2012
	\$158,608	\$121,601	\$145,000	\$130,000	-10.30%	\$120,000
EMS Fund OT	\$214,010	\$215,520	\$200,000	\$173,000	-13.50%	\$173,000

Total Call Volume	2009	2010	Change	2011	Change
	3020	3126	+3.5%	3427	+9.6%
Total Ambulance Transports	1587	1697	+6.9%	1788	+5.4%

EMS Budget	2009	2010	2011	2012
Revenue	\$3,343,984	\$3,204,168	\$2,807,629	\$2,841,447**
Expenses	\$3,024,760	\$3,281,113	\$2,856,057*	\$2,841,447**

Washougal Overtime Comparison	2010	2011	2012	Change vs. '10
Budgeted	\$155,614 ***	\$142,500 ***	\$130,000 ***	-16.40%

*: Budget figure is preliminary closing number
 **: Based on adopted budget, including revenue estimates
 ***: Does not include benefits

Final Decision on Trial Consolidation on February 21

Since July of 2011, Camas and Washougal Fire Departments have been engaged in a trial consolidation process. This merger officially ends March 1, 2012. On February 21, 2012, both councils are expected to consider proposals to extend the merger for two years, and to form a Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee. Both fire chiefs support extending this partnership. The numbers above illustrate very clearly the advantage of the partnership thus far. The 2011 EMS Fund budget was originally forecast to come in some \$310,000 in the negative. The 2012 forecast was even darker. These scenarios have not come to pass, due primarily to the extensive partnership with Washougal, teamwork from union officials, and better than projected assessed valuation numbers. Despite ambulance transport call volume increasing over 5%, the combined departments still saved money in every financial benchmark. There have been intangible advantages that don't show up on a budget spreadsheet either, like the doubling of staffing at Washougal Station 171 and significantly decreased response times for citizens living in those areas. Further savings and efficiencies are expected should the partnership continue. This 6 month period of "kicking the tires" has far exceeded the expectations of Chief Schumacher and myself. This success would not have been possible without the help of our entire staff, our city administrations, and our elected officials.

