



LEWISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

ORGANIZATION. The department has 56 full-time and as many as 15 part-time employees. Personnel are divided into five divisions: Administration (fire chief, deputy fire chief, division chief of training & safety and 2 administrative secretaries), Suppression (3 battalion chiefs and 27 firefighters), Emergency Medical Services (18 firefighters), Prevention (division chief and 2 inspectors) and Reserves. There are 16 personnel on duty 24 hours each day serving the public from 4 fire stations; 3 in Lewiston and the Asotin County Fire District #1 station: Station 1 (1 battalion chief, 1 captain, and 4 firefighters) serves downtown, North Lewiston and East Lewiston; Station 2 (1 captain and 4 firefighters) serves the East Orchards; Station 4 (1 captain and 2 firefighters) serves the airport area, West Orchards and Elks area; and the AC Station (2 firefighters) serves Asotin, Asotin County, Elks Addition, Hells Gate area and parts of downtown Lewiston. The three battalion chiefs have their office in the fire administration building.

MISSION. We will respond to each call with courage, conviction and compassion.

CORE VALUES. Value our people; Do the right thing; Lead by example; Give people the benefit of the doubt; Be accountable to yourself and others; Have pride in your job; Look for the positive; Show respect

CROSS-TRAINED AND CROSS-STAFFED. Firefighters are cross-trained to meet the various department missions; all department vehicles are cross-staffed. The on-duty crew takes the vehicles and tools it needs to perform the mission. Suppression and EMS division duties include fire suppression; emergency and nonemergency ambulance service; hazardous materials response; rescue and extrication; disaster response; and public education. LFD is a multi-dimension, multi-function organization. By training and equipping the same personnel to perform numerous missions, the City receives greater return on its investment in personnel. All firefighters are certified EMS providers; all Paramedics and EMTs are firefighters.

Reserve Firefighters are part-time employees who fill in for full-time personnel absent for vacation, illness, injury, training, union business, jury duty, subpoena leave, leaves of absence less than 60 days, public education, awaiting new hires, and special assignments as agreed by both parties of the Collective Labor Agreement. Their activity is limited to either firefighter or ambulance attendant positions. Utilizing Reserve Firefighters greatly reduces overtime costs.

OPERATIONAL CONCEPT. Firefighters operate in teams carrying the tools and equipment needed to perform the various missions on board self-contained fire engines, ambulances and support vehicles. Firefighters function as risk managers; moving people, tools and equipment around to complete the multiple missions of the department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE. LFD has provided emergency and nonemergency ambulance service to Lewiston since 1961, and now by contract to Asotin, Asotin County, Asotin County Fire District #1, Nez Perce County, and Whitman County Fire District #14.

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Effective January 1, 2010 Clarkston passed an ordinance establishing their ambulance service as the exclusive provider for the City of Clarkston. This ordinance does not affect our current practice of responding to Clarkston for out-of-area transfers and trauma verified calls. Out-of-area transfers are a matter of patient choice and are not governed by Clarkston's ordinance; trauma calls are covered under our licensure.

Among the department's full-time personnel, there are 29 Paramedics, 5 Advanced EMTs, and 17 Basic EMTs. Of the 17 EMTs, 10 are specially trained to start IVs IOs and supra glottis airways.

A council-appointed Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (EMSAB), created by ordinance, makes recommendations to the council on medical service issues relating to rules and standards. For FY21 the department collected \$2.6 million in EMS transport fee revenue and over \$1 million in other EMS contracts, supplemental payments and grants.

CALL VOLUME. Regardless of the number of vehicles responding to an incident, a "call" is defined as a single response to an address for assistance. We don't multiply the number of vehicles times the response to ascertain our call volume. In Fiscal Year 2021 the department responded to 7,471 EMS calls and 531 fire responses, totaling 8,002 responses.

FIRE PREVENTION. The Prevention Division provides for the life safety of the public, as well as the firefighters, through the application and enforcement of the International Fire Code. The International Fire Code fits into an entire *family of codes* intended to work as a cohesive unit. It is designed and written as a *minimum code* for the protection of life and property from fire and explosion. Prevention conducts plan reviews and new and remodel construction inspections under the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC); conducts fire cause and arson investigations; conducts business license inspections; issues blasting permits and monitors blasting sites; determines needed fire flow and fire apparatus access requirements per IFC; operates the Juvenile Firesetter Counseling Program; enforces the IFC on commercial use of hazardous materials and processes; and provides operational support to other divisions.

New construction, additions or remodels, as well as changes in occupancy or process, is subject to the City's review process. There are several City entities involved at this level however, only the fire department has maintenance responsibility over the life of the subject property.

The IFC is adopted into law by the State Fire Marshal through the authority granted by state statute (Idaho Code 41-253) as a minimum standard for the State of Idaho. Conversely, cities and counties must take specific action to adopt the International Building Code in their jurisdictions to apply and enforce its requirements. The Fire Marshal and Fire Inspectors are considered assistants to the State Fire Marshal in carrying out the provisions of the IFC (Idaho Code 41-256). This code has been constructed through a process of public hearings and debate with all interested parties, weighing the political, social and economic considerations against the technical and legal requirements found within. Changes made to it on a local level must be more restrictive, not less restrictive, per State law. The City of Lewiston has adopted less restrictive amendments in opposition to this direction; therefore, the City has chosen to assume that liability. The Prevention Division makes every effort to enforce the fire code uniformly, consistently and above all, in a fair and unbiased manner.

The City Code Board of Appeals may review Fire Department interpretations of the IFC but does not have authority to waive the code.

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FIRE LOSS. Fire loss in FY21 was \$2,253,926.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE. LFD is the lead agency in the public-private partnership providing Level A hazardous materials emergency response to a five-county area: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce. The State funded the North Central Emergency Response Team (ERT) with \$97,000 in 1994 for three vehicles and equipment. The State is the lead agency in cost recovery for emergency response.

Training and equipment for the team are provided through the State, although the current grant funds are no longer covering the cost of providing this service to the region. This is due to the increasing cost of replacing equipment and technology.

MUTUAL AID. LFD has mutual aid agreements with Asotin, Clarkston, Moscow and Pullman Fire Departments, Asotin County Fire District #1, Moscow Rural Fire District, Wheatland Fire Protection District and Whitman County Fire District #14. Beginning in May of 2017 the department established an automatic aid agreement for structure fires with Asotin County Fire District #1, Clarkston Fire Department and Wheatland Fire Protection District. The department also has an emergency services agreement that now includes automatic aid for structure fires with Clearwater Paper Corporation and Medcor. We continue to work closely with city, county and state law enforcement agencies in both Idaho and Washington.

VEHICLES. LFD operates 7 ambulances; 5 engines; a 100-foot aerial; a rescue/extrication truck; 2 4WD grass-firefighting vehicles; a utility vehicle; a 30-patient Mass Casualty trailer; portable air bottle filling trailer; public education trailer; 2 state-owned hazardous materials trucks and 4 trailers; 2 pick-ups and 4 SUVs.

UNION. Battalion Chiefs, Captains, Engineers, Firefighters, Fire Inspectors and Reserve Firefighters are represented by the International Association of Firefighters Local 1773. They are affiliated with the AFL-CIO and work under a Collective Labor Agreement that is negotiated to address wages, benefits, working conditions, and all other terms and conditions of employment as provided by state law.

BUDGET. The FY22 is \$9,070,510. Personnel cost is approximately 87% of the budget. Anticipated FY22 revenue is \$3,065,670. 61% of the FY21 budget was funded by property taxes and the remaining 39% was through EMS fees, contracted services, grants, special event stanbys, wildland deployments and permits.

PROGRAMS. Department programs include Fire and Life Safety Education, Community Smoke Alarm Program, Juvenile Firesetter Counseling, Fire Prevention Week, EMS Week, Internal Quality Improvement, Ice and Cold Water Rescue, External Physician Quality Assurance Program, Blood Pressure Monitoring, Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), Emergency Medical Information Cards and Know When to Call 911 campaign.

CLASS 3. Idaho Surveying and Rating Bureau has listed Lewiston as a Class 3 fire protection city.

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THE FUTURE. Continue to replace aged apparatus and equipment, allowing emergency responders to have reliable tools so they can provide excellent medical care and safely suppress fires. Focus on improving the overall health and welfare of the employee, by reducing cancer causing agents and focusing on employee mental health.

The department has been working over the past couple years to develop a plan to replace the 48 year old fire station currently located at 424 Burrell Ave. In June of 2017, the city purchased a little over an acre of land located on the northwest corner of 5th Street and Bryden Ave. This site will become the new location for Station 4. Partial funding of \$2,500,000 was budgeted in the FY22 budget, with the remaining \$1,500,000 budgeted in FY23. A RFQ was completed to select the most qualified progressive design/build team to begin construction in 2022; occupying the station is slated for May 2023. The new location will improve emergency response times to numerous areas of the community that are currently under served according to NFPA 1710 standards.

We will continue to address future staffing needs of the department as our community expands and call volume increases. Staff will review the reserve firefighter program, current and future deployment models, response statistics, community risk analysis and facility needs for the future. This process will involve city leadership, fire department staff and community members. The input we receive will help us address our citizen's expectations from their fire department.

SUMMARY. The Lewiston Fire Department considers itself a premier fire department. We provide a large number of services that are not found in many communities. With cross-trained personnel and cross-staffed apparatus responding to emergency and nonemergency requests, we are able to impact the lives of those calling for help almost immediately. The members of the Lewiston Fire Department recognize that our customers' first impression may very well be their lasting impression; compassion and professionalism are the essential elements we exercise with every customer contact.