

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

News and Information for the Residents of Central Whidbey Island



www.cwfire.org

The Avengers!

In 2017, the district's voters passed a bond measure to fund two important capital projects, renovation and expansion of Station 53 on Race Road and purchase of three type one fire engines to replace engines that were reaching the end of their useful life.



Unlike passenger cars, fire engines are not mass produced, but instead are built based on purchaser specifications. These three engines are built on the Rosenbauer Avenger chassis and are designed to allow rotation between stations to equalize mileage. Engine 53, operating out of the Race Road fire station serves as a rescue engine equipped with vehicle extrication and technical rescue tools along with a full complement of structural firefighting equipment. Engines 51 and 54 are equipped as standard structural firefighting engines. These three new apparatus are designed to allow rapid change in equipment configuration so they can be rotated between stations to equalize mileage.

The inspection team decided that since these engines were constructed on Avenger chassis, they should be named after the Marvel Super Hero Avengers; Thor, Valkyrie, and Loki.

The next steps in placing these engines in service will be training our members in their operation and mounting equipment. Stop by Station 53 on Race Road if you would like a closer look!

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CWIFR Headquarters
Fire Station 53
1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239
(360) 678-3602

Be Safe!

Regardless of the age of your home, Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue will check your smoke alarms, install smoke alarms if you do not have them, and help you develop a plan to minimize your risk from fire or injury by conducting a home safety survey.

You can request a home safety survey on the district's website (www.cwfire.org) by clicking on services or by telephone at (360) 678-3602. **Let us be there before you need us!**





Chief's Fireside Chat

The district has experienced a 58.50% increase in calls for service over the last 10 years. July 2021 had more calls for service than in any other month in history. This record number of calls was eclipsed in September, continuing this trend.

COVID-19

COVID-19 continued to challenge our community and the district's members. Late summer and early fall saw a significant increase in the number of incidents in which COVID-19 was suspected or confirmed. The district was fortunate to obtain \$28,042 in Assistance to Firefighters Grants from the Department of Homeland Security for COVID related expenses. While Governor Inslee's COVID vaccination mandate impacted on many other emergency service agencies, CWIFR had no loss of staffing due to this mandate with a vast majority of members being fully vaccinated and several others receiving a religious exemption with protection of fellow members and the public through rigorous testing and use of personal protective equipment.

Facilities Update

In 2017, the district's voters approved a bond measure for the renovation and expansion of Station 53 on Race Road. The district determined that it's more cost effective to replace the existing fire station, rather than expanding the existing building and attempting to bring it up to current seismic code. Throughout 2020 and 2021, the district has worked its way through the Island County permitting process and now hopes to break ground in early 2022. The district was also fortunate to obtain a \$215,143 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Department of Homeland Security to fund purchase and installation of diesel exhaust extraction systems in the district's three fire stations. These diesel exhaust extraction systems will be installed concurrently with construction of the new Station 53.

All Hazards Mobilization

So far in 2021, the district responded to nine mobilization requests for wildland fires in Washington, Oregon, and California. In total, district personnel and apparatus were deployed for a total of 77 days. The expense of mobilization is fully reimbursed by the requesting state and our members gain valuable experience in wildland firefighting and large incident operations.

Marine 5

In September, the district's marine rescue program experienced a major blow. During a marine rescue response, Marine 5, the district's 25' rescue boat, lost steering due to mechanical failure and went aground on rocks against a sea wall at Hidden Beach. The crew was able to escape without injury, but the boat was severely damaged and will need to be replaced. Fortunately, the vessel was insured and work is underway to develop specifications for a new rescue boat and begin the procurement process for replacement in 2022.

Interagency Cooperation

The district has expanded automatic aid, integrating resources from CWIFR, North Whidbey Fire and Rescue (NWFR), and South Whidbey Fire/EMS (SWFE) in response to confirmed structure fires. The district also entered an interlocal agreement for shared information technology services with SWFE. All three fire districts are conducting a joint recruit academy and joint command training. These collaborative efforts improve interoperability, service delivery, and cost effectiveness.

As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at (360) 678-3602 or send me an e-mail at ehartin@cwfire.org.

Sincerely,
Chief Ed Hartin

2022 Budget in Brief

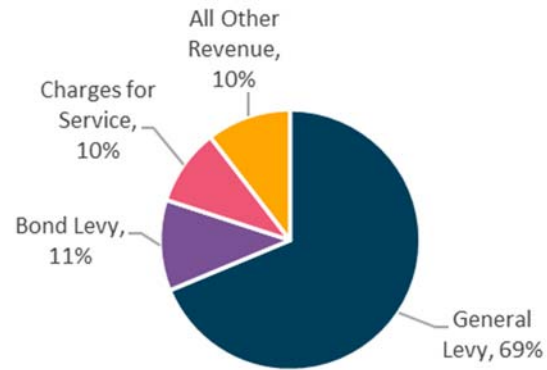
The district's expenses exceed revenue in 2022. However, this was anticipated and beginning fund balances are sufficient to continue current services. The district anticipates a 7.5% increase in assessed valuation (AV) which will lower the general levy rate to \$1.04/\$1,000 AV and maintain the bond levy rate at \$0.18/\$1,000 AV.

The 2022 district budget increases general fund expenditures by 3.96%. The increase above 3% is largely due to expenses related to all-hazards mobilization which is fully reimbursed by the requesting state (e.g., WA, OR, CA).

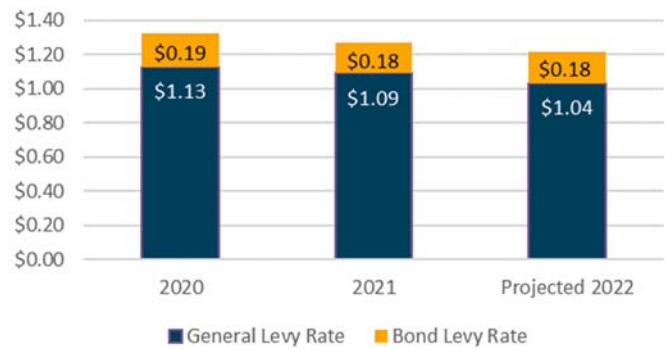
Beginning Balance	Proposed 2022
General Fund	\$3,207,556
Capital Fund	\$1,684,864
Bond Fund	\$5,433,691
Debt Service Fund	\$4,368
Compensated Absences Fund	\$100,289
Total Beginning Balance	\$10,430,767
Revenue	
General Levy (Property Tax)	\$2,506,514.68
Bond Levy (Property Tax)	\$411,600.00
Charges for Service	\$347,000.00
Other & Miscellaneous Revenue	\$382,262.66
Total Revenue	\$3,647,377.33
Expenditures	
General Fund	\$2,835,853
Capital Fund	\$389,026
Bond Fund	\$5,515,196
Debt Service Fund	\$411,600
Compensated Absences Fund	\$50
Total Expenditure	\$9,151,725
Transfers from the General Fund	
Capital Fund	\$157,032
Compensated Absences Fund	\$31,837
Total Transfers	\$188,869

A more detailed Budget in Brief and the district's complete budget document can be downloaded from the district's website (www.cwfire.org).

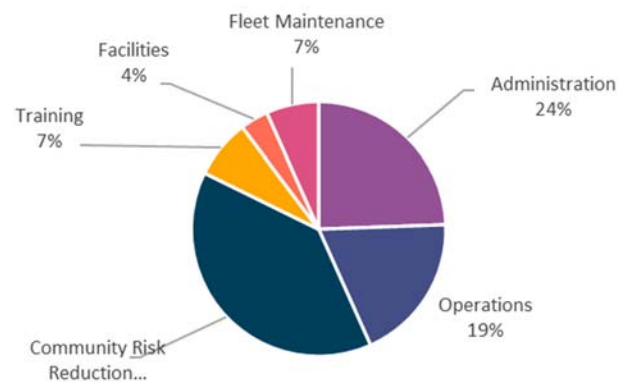
2022 Revenue Distribution



Property Tax Levy Rates



2022 General Fund Expense Distribution



**Government Finance Officers Association
Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

Central Whidbey Island Fire Rescue
1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 1327
Seattle WA

2021 Santamobile

Santa will visit Central Whidbey this December! However, we will be taking special care that he does not catch COVID-19. We ask that you mask up and do not gather in large groups to greet Santa. Our elves will be masked up and collecting non-perishable food items for the food bank during Santa's visit.



Town of Coupeville (North of SR 20)	12/6/21
Town of Coupeville (South of SR 20 & Crocket Lake)	12/7/21
Parker Road, Long Point, Rhodena, Harrington	12/10/21
Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive	12/13/21
Holmes Harbor, North Bluff	12/16/21
Lagoon Point, Dines Pont, Honeymoon Bay	12/17/21
Race Road ,Shangri La, Admirals Cove	12/20/21

Check out our Facebook page for Santa's route and follow us on Twitter for any late breaking changes.



Calendar of Events

December 9, 2021 Commissioners Meeting
5:00 pm at Station 53

January 13, 2022 Commissioners Meeting
5:00 pm at Station 53

January 22, 2022 CPR & First Aid Class
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

February 10, 2022 Commissioners Meeting
5:00 pm at Station 53

February 26, 2022 CPR & First Aid Class
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

March 10, 2022 Commissioners Meeting
5:00 pm at Station 53

March 26, 2022 CPR & First Aid Class
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

April 14, 2022 Commissioners Meeting
5:00 pm at Station 53

April 23, 2022 CPR & First Aid Class
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

Station 53 is located at 1164 Race Road in Coupeville, just east of the intersection of State Routes 20 and 525.