



# GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 7

## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

April 2026

### March

#### 1. Operational Overview

We finished the month of March with total calls for service of 42.

We hope to go live with the new Streamline website by the end of the week migrating all data from the old website into the new ADA compliant format.

Our first draft is finished on our recruitment video. We should expect a finished copy for distribution by the end of this month.

#### Recruitment Video Update

We are pleased to report significant progress on our recruitment video initiative. The first comprehensive draft of the video has been completed and is now in the internal review process. This draft incorporates all the key messaging and visual elements we planned to highlight, focusing on the rewarding nature of service within our department, the camaraderie among our personnel, and the essential role we play in the community.

Captain Boldman and I attended the Washington State Fire Chiefs Officer Development Conference last week in Wenatchee. This was the first time an EMS track was offered, which provided insight on EMS billing as well as community outreach.

We have started testing all our structure hose. This month we will be testing all hose testing as well as pump testing and have been working on the checklist from WSRB in preparation of our June 16th audit.

Testing of all structure hose has commenced. This month, we will complete all hose testing, as pump testing is slated for middle to the end of April, and have been working diligently on the The 2026-2028 strategic plan is now out for review

We are currently collaborating with the State Park on the feasibility study and the application for the land donation intended for the future Station 2. Preliminary planning has begun to relocate Station 2 to the donated parcel within the State Park.



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### 2. Apparatus and Fleet

Work is progressing steadily on the new tender, which is currently nearing completion. We are focused on the final internal and mechanical checks to ensure everything meets our operational standards. A major component of the remaining work involves the exterior finishing, specifically the application of reflective striping and departmental decals. Due to the necessary curing and adhesion requirements for these materials, this work is contingent upon the arrival of consistently warm and dry weather.

Had warranty issues with the alternator on 7130, was dealt with at Freightliner, no cost to the district and under warranty.

#### Apparatus Maintenance and Warranty Update

Tender 7130 recently experienced an alternator failure, which was identified as a warranty issue. The apparatus was taken to Freightliner for the necessary repairs. We are pleased to report that the replacement and labor costs associated with this repair were fully covered under the existing warranty, resulting in no expense to the District.

### 3. Community Engagement

#### Tea with Chief

Each Thursday morning, residents have the opportunity to meet the members of staff at the Cloud View Cafe, a popular local establishment known for its welcoming atmosphere and delicious coffee.

A comprehensive clean-up initiative for the park in Lakeview has been scheduled to coincide with Earth Day. This annual event aims to beautify the park grounds, remove accumulated debris, and prepare the area for increased public use throughout the spring and summer months.

We are pleased to report on two new initiatives aimed at addressing public health and safety within our community.

First, we have successfully installed a Narcan vending machine. This strategic placement is part of a broader effort to increase accessibility to this life-saving opioid overdose reversal medication. By providing 24/7 access, we hope to empower community members to respond



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effectively during an emergency and ultimately reduce the number of fatal overdoses in our service area.

Second, we are actively preparing to host a comprehensive Drug Take Back Day on April 25th. This event is designed to give residents a safe, convenient, and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted or expired prescription drugs, particularly opioids and other controlled substances. Safely disposing of these medications is crucial for preventing accidental poisonings, drug misuse, and protecting our local waterways from contamination.

#### **4. Training**

Our three members have successfully passed the FF1 academy in Ephrata, and now onto FF2 with a track to have all of our officers certified as FF1, FF2, and officer 1.

The implementation of the new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) protocols has necessitated a significant adjustment to our training schedule and requirements. To ensure all personnel are fully compliant and proficient, we have increased our mandatory EMS training from monthly to a bimonthly schedule. This new, more intensive cadence is structured to provide both foundational review and practical application.

This month, a significant effort is underway to ensure our personnel achieve certification in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) processes. This is a crucial step for the department, marking an advancement in our operational capabilities and readiness.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Captain Friesen, whose dedicated work has been instrumental in the development and implementation of our new wildland program. Captain Friesen has volunteered countless hours to build a comprehensive training and certification framework that meets the stringent requirements set by NWCG.

The successful establishment of this wildland program is more than just a training milestone; it is projected to become a vital new revenue stream for the department. By becoming NWCG-certified, we will gain the ability to deploy our specialized units and trained personnel for State Mobilizations. These deployments, where we assist with large-scale wildfire incidents across the state, provide an essential service while also compensating the department for the use of our resources and personnel. This strategic initiative strengthens our financial footing and enhances our reputation as a capable and professional resource within the statewide emergency response network.

We continue to work within our battalions to develop Volunteer Firefighter training needs.



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### 5. Grant Management

Management of all existing FEMA grants is an ongoing and meticulous process. We are actively monitoring compliance and reporting requirements for each grant to ensure we maximize the allocated funds and adhere to all federal guidelines. Due to the recent, significant backlog and operational challenges within FEMA, we have experienced a notable delay in receiving reimbursements for costs already incurred.

### 6. Looking Ahead

- Prepare for upcoming wildland season
- Replace number and test new and existing fire hose.
- Prepare for WSRB.
- Prepare for the upcoming EMS levy.
- Implement Capital Improvement projects- Bathrooms/ Painting Station 2.
- Implement a new website that is compliant with (WCAG) 2.1.



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