

Lacey Fire District 3 Annual Report 2021



Message from Fire Chief Steve Brooks



As I re-read my note from last year's Annual Report, it was striking how many of the same sentiments still rang true regarding the amount of 2021 that did not necessarily go "according to plan" or what we had hoped. It certainly goes without saying that the impacts of the pandemic have lingered much longer than any of us would have anticipated. What also remains true is how proud and thankful I am for the entire Lacey Fire District 3 (LFD3) team and the wonderful community we are privileged to serve.

In the first quarter of the year, staff was largely focused on the rollout of COVID vaccinations to our responders and then to partnering with public health to facilitate distribution to the public. We were able to host multiple vaccination clinics at our facilities and had literally thousands of citizens and other healthcare providers come through to receive their shots. We appreciate the strong partnerships with Thurston County Public Health, Medic One, and the other regional healthcare providers that made this possible.

In the midst of managing the healthcare crisis we were still able to bring on and train six new firefighters through an in-house recruit academy hosted by our Training Division. This was a significant undertaking and the first of its kind for LFD3. The training staff and many other members stepped up to provide first class instruction and experiences for the new recruits. We also continued our efforts to recruit new firefighter paramedics to address a growing shortage in this critical role. We were able to add two new medics to our team in 2021.

Another significant milestone was achieved in mid-2021 as we took delivery of our new ladder truck and two new fire engines. These purchases were the final major equipment items in our five year Capital Facilities and Equipment Plan (CFEP). The new units allowed us to full standardize our fleet of front line and reserve apparatus. This allows for a quick and seamless transition when a vehicle requires maintenance or repair and also streamlines the training necessary to qualify new apparatus operators.

Remodel and repair efforts were also completed to convert the old Station 34 on Steilacoom Rd. to the new Training and Education Center or "TEC". This conversion provided a new home for our Training and EMS Divisions and desperately needed capacity for hosting large training events and regional meetings. The TEC also served as the home base for the Recruit Academy. Design and permitting work also continued for the remaining facility projects in our CFEP. Expansions to our regional vehicle repair facility and the Mullen Fire Station 33 are in the final design phases and we hope to move those projects forward in 2022 and 2023.

We will continue to look for opportunities to reengage on a more personal level with our community as the pandemic restrictions permit. We look forward to hosting an Open House at the new Station 34 and returning to a more active role in community outreach and education activities in the year ahead. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or needs from the LFD3 team. Thank you for taking a few minutes to become informed through our Annual Report!



The LFD3 Way ...

Mission: Service with Excellence

Vision: To be trusted professionals in our community and experts in our field who specialize in emergency preparedness, prevention, and response

Values: Competence - To effectively handle whatever challenge we face
 Character - To preserve our integrity and the public's trust
 Courage - To do what's right, no matter what
 Compassion - For everyone we encounter without prejudice
 Camaraderie - To respect and support every member of our team

Guiding Principles:

- Teamwork is what sustains us. Nothing important is accomplished and no one succeeds in isolation.
- Leadership is a commitment and mindset, not a title or position.
 - ◊ Our leaders are accessible and accountable, guiding others in a trustworthy and disciplined manner with clearly defined expectations that are predictably consistent and fair
- Decisions we make must stand up under inevitable scrutiny; could you confidently read about it in the newspaper?
 - ◊ If there is a policy, follow it.
 - ◊ If there's not a policy but a known past or best practice exists, rely on it.
 - ◊ If there's no policy or practice to follow and you have discretionary time, then seek the guidance of your peers or leaders; THEN take a lead role in developing the needed policy or guide.
 - ◊ If there's no policy, practice, or discretionary time, use your training and experience to make the best decision you can; THEN share your experience so the next person will have a guide to follow.
- Life-long learning is what prepares us for our future. Every day MUST BE a Learning Day and should be conducted as if lives depend on its success, because they do.
- Mistakes are inevitable. Without them, we would never learn the wrong way to do something. Just don't waste the experience by hiding or repeating a mistake.

Lacey Fire District Overview

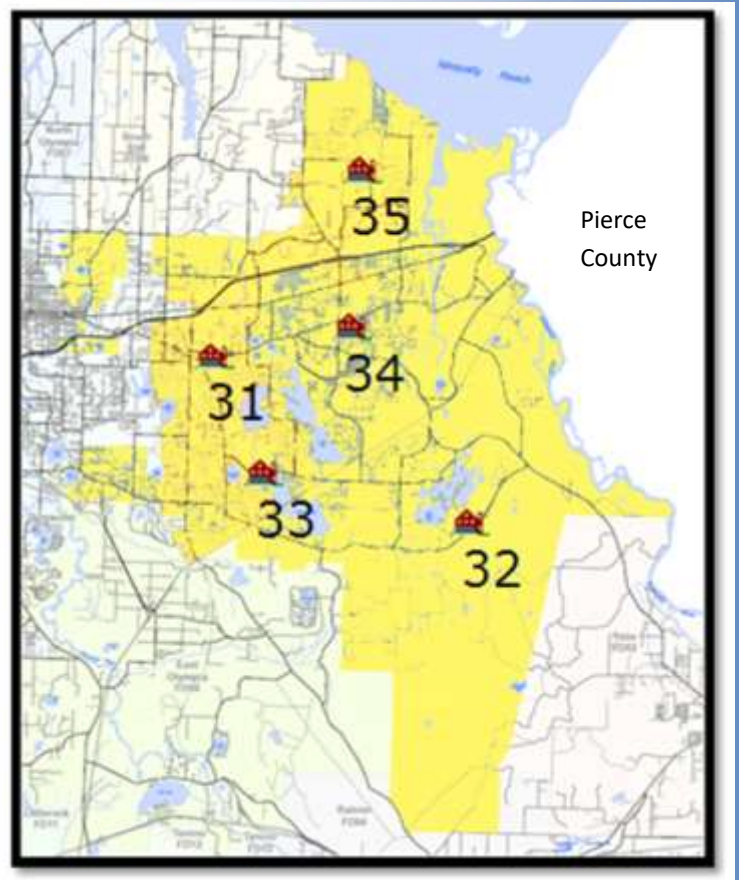
Lacey Fire District 3 began operations in 1948. The current boundaries include the Nisqually River to the East, the City of Olympia to the West, Fire District 8 to the North and Fire District 6 and Joint Base Lewis McCord to the South. Within the District boundaries are the City of Lacey and the Nisqually Indian Reservation. These boundaries encompass about 70 square miles and 104,490 people (TRPC.org).

Lacey Fire District protects an assessed valuation of more than \$15.8 billion, which includes a mix of residential and commercial occupancies as well as agricultural and undeveloped wildland. The District holds a Class 3 rating from the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau throughout most of the District area.

The District area is shown at the right, with our five stations; Station 32 is the resident volunteer station.

Services are provided throughout the District from four 24-hour staffed stations strategically located throughout the community. A fifth station, with volunteer residents, provides additional coverage in the south east area of the District.

Each staffed station has an Engine company of three career firefighters, with volunteer firefighters providing a fourth crewmember on an engine. In addition, Station 33 (Mullen Road) has a staffed Aid Unit, and Station 34 (Steilacoom Rd) has a staffed Medic Unit. Station 31, the headquarters station on Franz St SE, has a staffed Engine, Ladder Truck and Medic Unit, as well as the Battalion Chief.



Overview - Leadership & Staffing

Board of Fire Commissioners



Frank Kirkbride



Sylvia Roberts



Liberty Hetzler



Melissa Gamble



Rick Kelling

Executive Staff



Steve Brooks
Fire Chief



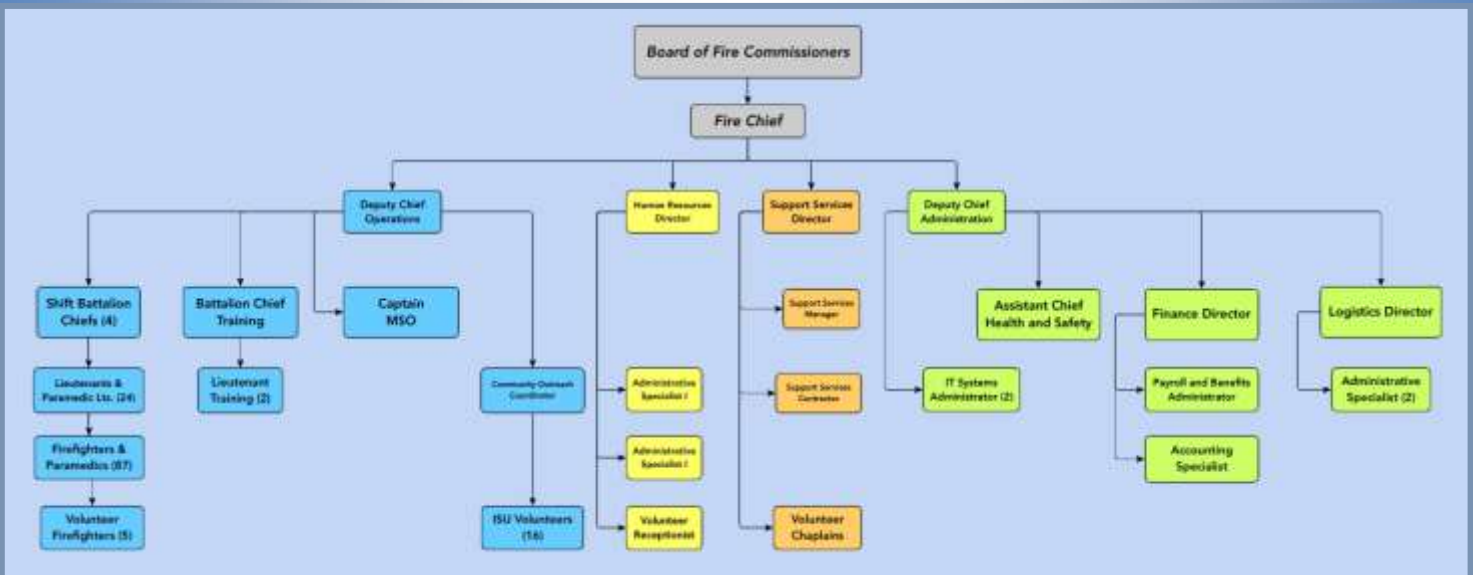
Jennifer Schmidt
Deputy Fire Chief
Operations



Michael Cerovski
Deputy Fire Chief
Administration

The District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Fire Commissioners. The District operates as a combination agency, with both career employees and volunteer members. In 2021, the District had 120 career members, and approximately 25 volunteers filling various roles in operations, administration and support functions, to fulfill the LFD3 mission.

Lacey Fire District 3 - Organizational Chart

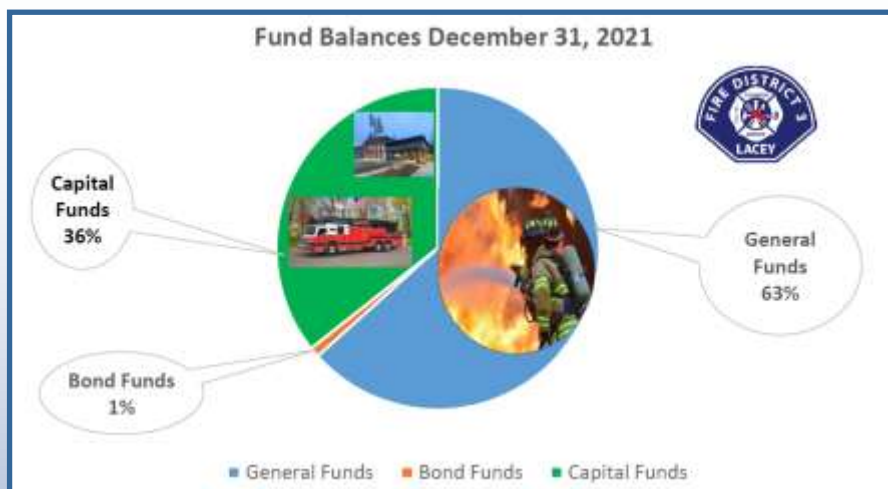


Overview—Budget & Finance

The 2021 General Fund Operating budget for the District was \$31.3 million which included an operating reserve of approximately two months, based on state auditor's "best financial practices".

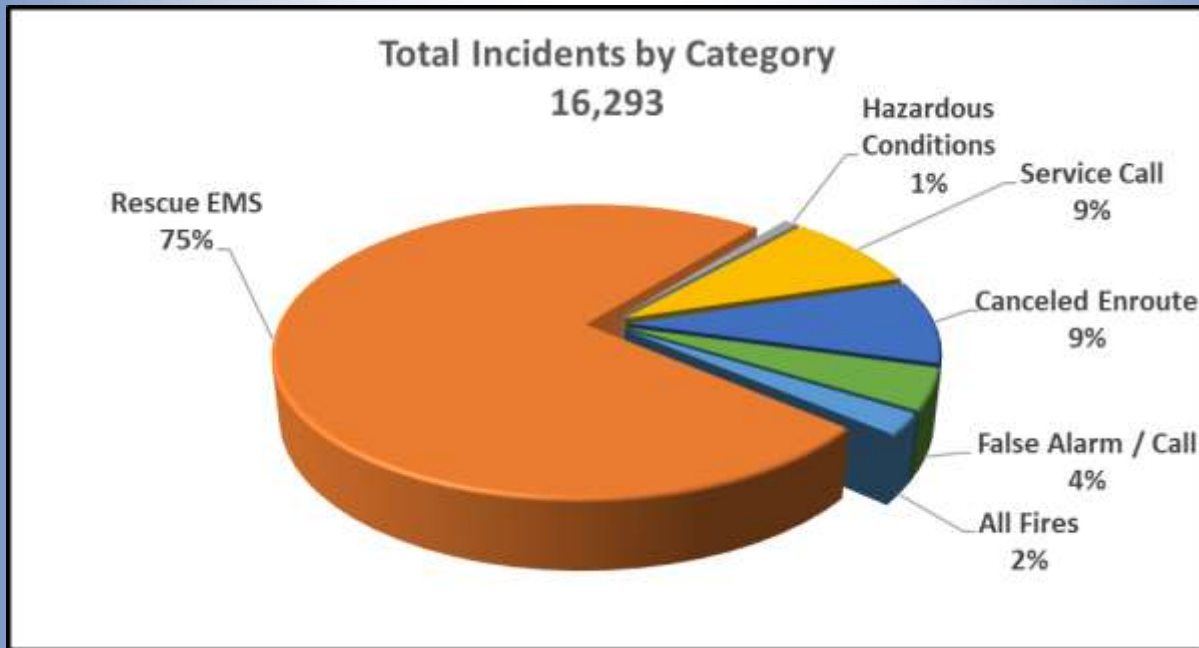


The District's Fire, Rescue and Paramedic services are funded primarily through property taxes and contracts. Property taxes represented 59% of the District's annual revenue. Paramedic services in Thurston County are coordinated through a central administrative office, Thurston County Medic One (TCMO), which contracts with Lacey Fire District 3 to operate three of the seven Medic Units in the County. The District's agreement with TCMO covers approximately 80% of the costs of providing those services.

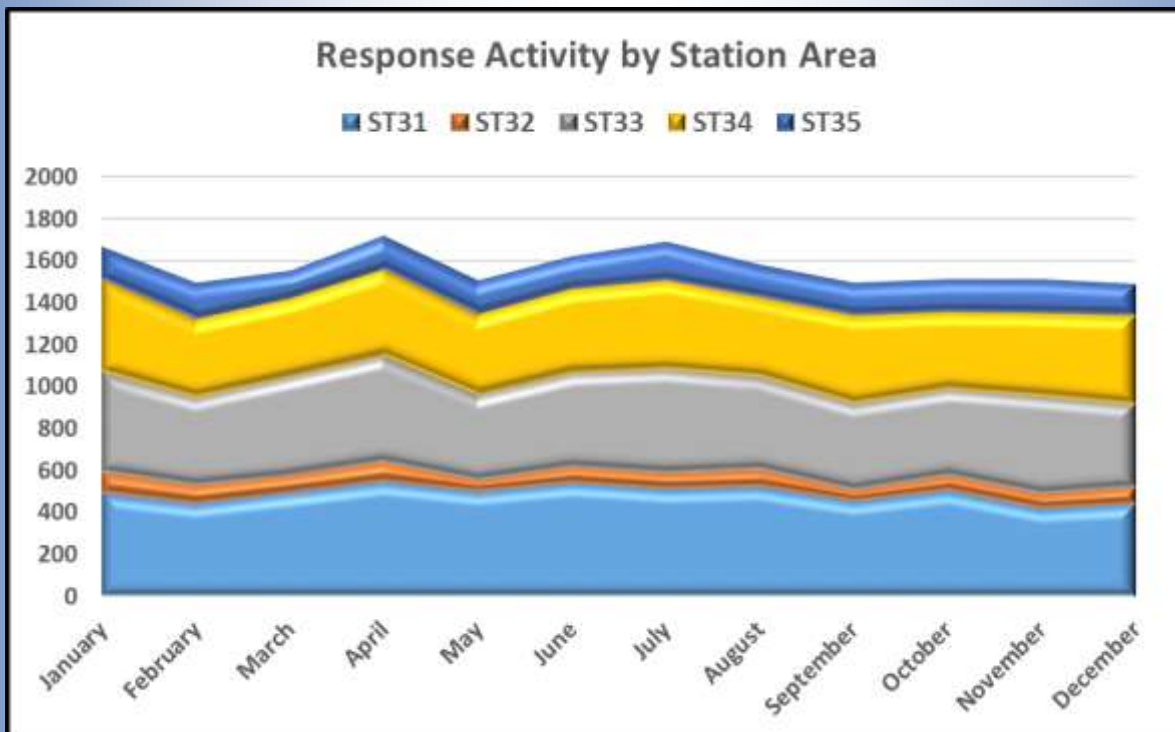


Additional ways the District funds its services is through intergovernmental agreements. The District currently has agreements for vehicle maintenance, training, water rescue and special operations and rescue (SORT). Crews mobilized outside of the District for wildland fire services are funded primarily through the WA State Department of Natural Resources or WA State Patrol. The District also contracts with Tribal, County, and other State agencies to cover the costs of providing services to tax exempt properties. In 2021 due to Covid-19, we were able to seek disaster relief funds from FEMA for some of the many costs associated with the pandemic.

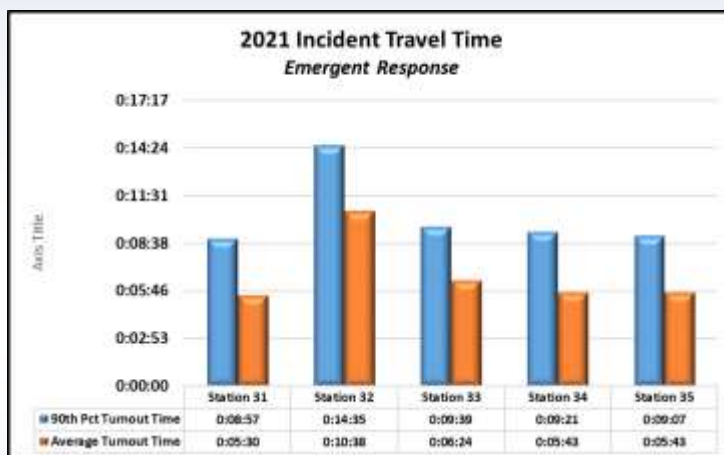
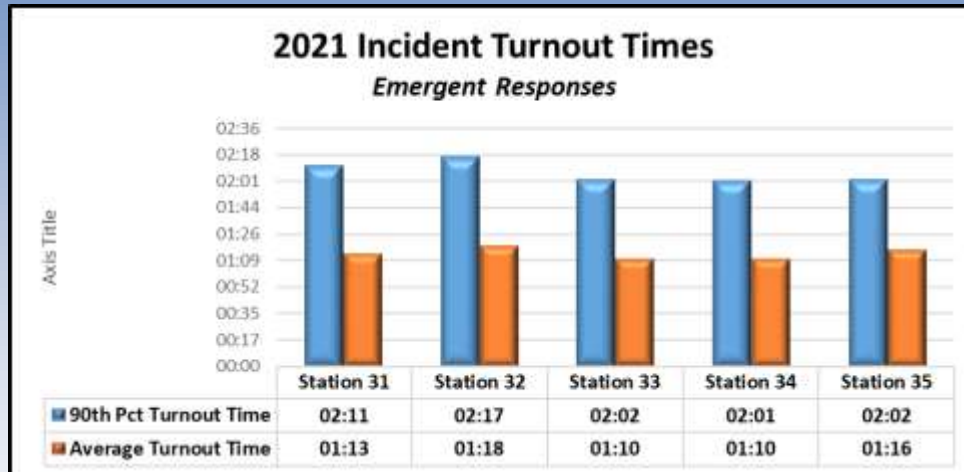
Response Overview



In 2021 the District responded to 16,293 calls for assistance, a 13% increase from 2020. Many incident types require the response of more than one fire apparatus to resolve an incident or emergency. The total number of *responses* in 2021 was 20,069. The graph below shows responses by station area.



Response Overview

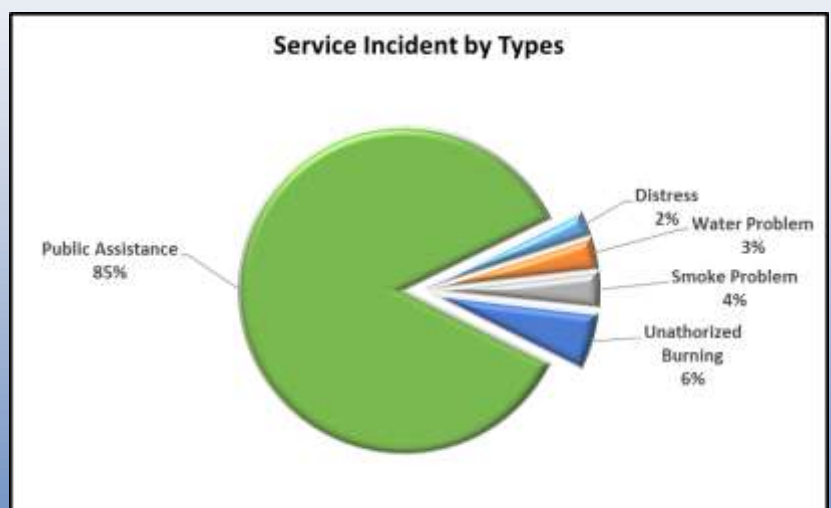


Incident Turnout and Response times references the time that it takes firefighters to don the required personal protective equipment and begin their response to the emergency incident. Represented is the 'traditional' Averaged times. Also represented is the preferred 90th percentile analysis of the data.

Service Calls

Service calls account for the 2nd most prevalent request for help. They comprise a wide range of types of assistance needed by citizens, including patient assists, water leaks or other water related problems, unauthorized burning, and assistance to law enforcement or other governmental agencies.

In 2021, the District responded to 1466 service calls. Across the District public assistance accounted for approximately 85% of all service calls.

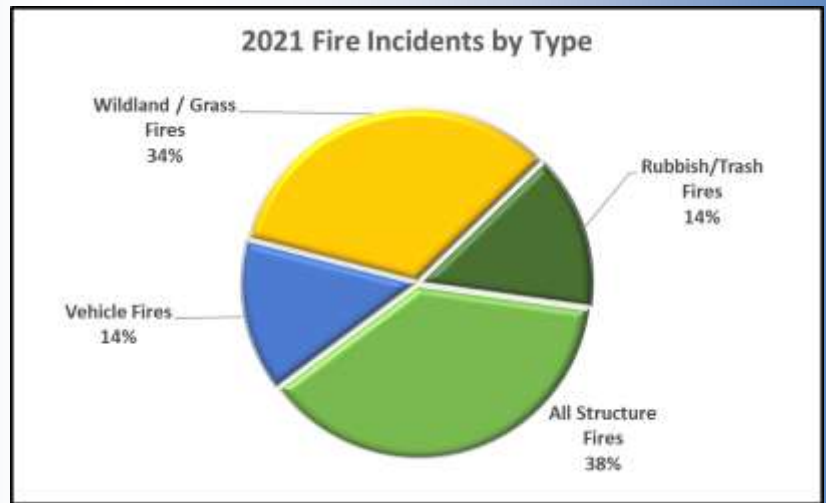


Community Fire Report

In 2021, the District responded to 311 fire calls.

Fire responses include house fires or other structure fires, chimney fires, vehicle fires, wildland fires and other types of fires such as dumpster fires or stove top fires that are kept confined to the stove top.

Structure fires accounted for 117 of the total number fire calls. Brush and wildland fires were the 2nd most prevalent type of incident at 105, followed by 45 rubbish or trash fires and 44 vehicle fires.



Emergency Medical Responses

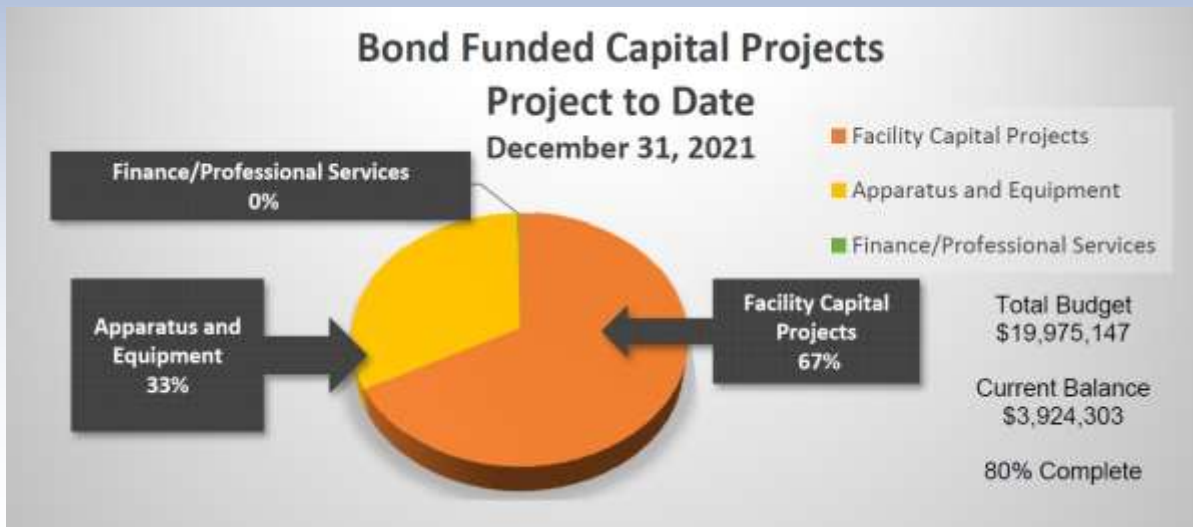
The District provides both advanced life support (ALS) and basic life support (BLS) services. Medical incidents represent 75% of the total incident activity for 2021. Typically, the distribution of BLS to ALS services is approximately 60% BLS and 40% ALS.

In partnership with Thurston County Medic One, Lacey Fire District 3 is one of three fire service agencies in Thurston County that provides advanced life support paramedic services throughout the county. The District supports three units staffed by paramedics: Medic 3, at Station 31, Medic 6 housed at Station 34, and Medic 2 which covers the response area of South East Thurston Fire Authority.



Facilities & Equipment Improvements

A number of successful Bond and Capital Projects were implemented in 2021. Lacey Fire District 3 took delivery of two 2021 Pierce Velocity Engines to service Stations 34 and 35. In addition, Truck 31 arrived and went into front line service. We also received Rescue 31, enhancing specialized rescue capabilities of the District and greater Thurston County.



Station 34 was opened in late 2020 which facilitated the remodel of Old Station 34 to become the Training and Education Center (TEC) for the District. TEC facilities have proven to be an invaluable venue for Fire Academy instruction, on-going EMS training sessions, as well as a variety of District and partner agency training space needs. Station 34's first year in operation was completed in 2021, including the structure's construction warranty compliance.



Training

The Training Division continued a robust schedule in 2021 in spite of on-going pandemic challenges.

Training personnel designed and implemented an in-house Fire Training Academy which was attended by 6 new LFD3 recruits, plus two additional recruits representing partner agencies. In addition to facilitating the 2021 Academy, the Training Team spend many additional hours in rebranding and building the South Sound Recruit Academy in preparation for its launch in 2022. This body of work was completed to accommodate a Fire Academy for a significantly larger class size to support the training needs for internal members and partner agencies.



An additional Lieutenant was added to the Training Division staff to support these ongoing projects. All Division staff relocated their office space from Station 31 Headquarters to the new Training and Education Center (TEC).

Other training events conducted include:

- ◆ Truck 31 Operator Training
- ◆ Vehicle Extrication Training
- ◆ Water Rescue Training for SORT (Special Operations Rescue Team) members



Faces of LFD3

A number of personnel changes occurred in 2021.

Lacey Fire bid retirement farewell to two long term members, Deputy Chief of Administration Kathy Dickson, and Lieutenant A.J. Paulsen. Each retired with 30 years of service to LFD3 and during their tenures, each contributed significantly to the District.



After an extensive search, the vacated position of Deputy Chief of Administration was filled by Michael Cerovski, previously with Loveland, Colorado Fire & Rescue Authority, where he served as the Division Chief of Administration.

Paramedic Hillory Flowers was promoted from Lieutenant to Assistant Chief of Health & Safety, to assume the duties previously managed by Chief Dickson.

To fill a mid-term opening on the Board of Commissioners, citizen Rick Kelling was selected to fill the vacated position, effective April 2021.



The newly formed division of Support Services was implemented to provide behavioral health resources for members, and for chaplain and related support for citizens. This team is represented by Director Chris Gorman, and Manager Jordyn Richardson.

Two new administrative members, one career and one volunteer, joined the LFD3 team to provide administrative and receptionist support to the team.

To accommodate for promotions and retirements, and to meet the demands of increasing call volume, a total of seven new Operations personnel were hired, consisting of four Firefighter/EMTs and three Paramedic Firefighters.



Community Engagement

Throughout 2021, Covid-19 restrictions eliminated many community events and limited usual outreach opportunities. LFD3 rose to the challenge in continuing the mission of community outreach by finding alternative methods to engage, assist and educate citizens.

- ◆ SeniorSafe@Home, a new fall and fire prevention program for seniors was implemented further our mission of providing risk reduction and safety programs for members of our community.



- ◆ Virtual Fire Prevention Month for Kindergarten through 2nd grade was offered to all elementary schools. Grade specific videos were created and produced by LFD3 members providing continued commitment to enforcing fire safety messages even though in-person teaching opportunities were not possible.

- ◆ Car seat inspections and installations did not slow throughout the year, as we were able to provide the service in both in-person and virtual formats.
- ◆ On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, a special ceremony was held in remembrance and to honor the fallen and injured.



- ◆ The continuing tradition of the Santamobile to spread holiday cheer, made rounds for 12 evenings in December throughout District neighborhoods.

2021 in Photos



Service with Excellence



Lacey Fire District 3
1231 Franz St SE
Lacey WA 98503
360.491.2410
www.laceyfire.com



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