



# Spring 2025 Newsletter



## *2nd Quarter Update from the Chief*

At West Mason Fire, we focus on our long-term goals and needs at our monthly strategic planning meetings. These meetings are open to the public where we welcome input from our community. One of our long-term needs to provide optimal fire services to the community, is the replacement of older apparatus. Recently we had to make the tough decision to purchase two new fire engines due to numerous reasons. Let me explain...

The commissioners, staff, and I, had some very serious conversations. The primary reason came down to economics of the day. We have a fiscal responsibility to our community. We were able to find brand new engines for lower prices by purchasing today instead of being delayed. The current inflation rates being what they are, the cost of a fire engine is going up \$10 to \$20 thousand per year, with the possibility of tariffs driving up the cost of a fire engine, up to 25%, due to the import of aluminum and steel. Purchasing the engines now saved us a potential of over \$100,000 per vehicle.

The engine we are purchasing is already complete. We should receive this first apparatus (engine) around June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. We will move over the hose from the old apparatus, saving the community additional money. Additionally, we have negotiated and secured the price on the second, engine/tender combo, which will be built throughout the year with delivery closer to the end of 2025 or early 2026.



We will be able to take the two old inefficient engines out of the fleet that are no longer compliant with NFPA Standards and OSHA. These purchases will increase the community response for fires and wildland. This engine adds to the overall amount of water that we can carry to fires on first alarms by about 1,250 gallons. This will additionally help us to maintain the insurance rating of 6 in our district.

The volunteers and staff are excited to finally have some new equipment.

As we move forward with improvements to the district, I personally invite all our residents to come to the Commissioner Meetings. You are also encouraged to go to our website to follow us, and see when other meetings and training are. Your input is taken very seriously.

I cannot thank everyone enough for their support over the years. We will always do our best to make the most of every penny that you trust us with.

Matthew N Welander  
Fire Chief, West Mason Fire

## *EMT Class*

EMT class is winding down. The class is 150 hours of in-class content, with an additional eight hours of clinical field time, and four hours of clinical time at Mason General Hospital. North Mason Regional Fire Authority in Belfair hosted the class. This class is the first step for certification with the WA State Department of Health. The student's next step will be taking a cumulative knowledge test with the National Registry EMT. This test ensures the lessons throughout the course were retained and can be applied to any incident in the field. This is no small undertaking by any of the students. The community is safer for the sacrifices the students have made since the second of January.



*Students are learning to assist ventilations.*



*Crew working on clearing an airway.*

### ***Happy Spring!***

At West Mason Fire, 2025 is already off to a busy start. Our dedicated paid staff and volunteers are actively responding to calls and working on innovative projects to improve our efficiency and effectiveness.

Earlier this year, we submitted a Capital Budget Request to the Washington State Legislature for \$500,000 to expand and modernize our Dayton Headquarters.



West Mason Fire  
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Shelton, WA 98584

The upgrade will help us better accommodate full-time crews and administrative operations. Despite the reported budget deficit at the state level, we remain hopeful that funding will be awarded.

In addition, we are pursuing federal grants, including the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. These programs could help us secure critical equipment and staffing support. Like many in our community, we are also feeling the impact of rising costs. Over time, these increases have significantly devalued our fire levy. This August, we will be asking for your support to restore our levy rate to \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Meanwhile, our volunteers are constantly training to stay sharp and ready to serve. Several are completing EMT class. We are also preparing to host another Wildland Firefighting class this spring in anticipation of the summer fire season.

We deeply appreciate your continued support and remain committed to providing the highest level of service to our community.

Best regards,  
Commissioner Trevor Severance  
Chairman

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