

2016 Annual Report



Headquarter Station 91



**600 NE 267th Avenue
Camas, WA 98607**

Mission

We provide quality and timely EMS and Fire Response. We serve our community by reducing risk, mitigating hazards, and effectively responding to requests for assistance. We are public servants protecting the quality of life for all in the district through professional fire and emergency response, prevention, and education. We serve with integrity and trustworthy behavior, being mindful of efficiency and cost, both now and in the future.

Statement from the Fire Chief

To the Board of Commissioners, Staff, and Citizens of East County Fire and Rescue:

It is my pleasure to present to you East County Fire and Rescue's 2016 Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to keep our elected officials and community members informed on the activities conducted by their fire district during the previous calendar year. ECFR experienced significant change in 2016, but due to the professionalism and dedication of our career and volunteer staff, these challenges were surpassed with no impact on the level of service we provide to the community.

ECFR was legally formed in January 2006 as the result of a merger between Clark County Fire Protection Districts 1 and 9. These districts were originally authorized and created per Washington State statute. The District is currently governed under the policy-making direction of a five-member board of fire commissioners. Commissioners are elected every two years to serve six-year terms. The Board employs the services of a fire chief who is responsible for administering all District business. The organizational structure consists of 1 paid fire chief, 1 one paid deputy chief, 1 volunteer assistant chief, 3 career Captains, 6 career firefighters, approximately 6 part-time firefighters, and several volunteer firefighters. Additionally, the District employs two office support staff. The District serves the emergency medical and fire/rescue needs of approximately 10,000 citizens from five strategically located fire stations.

Leadership of the District for most of 2016 fell to Interim Fire Chief Al Gillespie. One of the biggest projects Chief Gillespie oversaw in 2016 was an effort at increased partnership with the neighboring Camas-Washougal Fire Department. The agencies have always had a close working relationship. Since 1978, CWFD has provided paramedic response and transport

for all District residents. In the interests of providing the highest level of service and promoting fiscal responsibility, however, elected officials in both agencies have long sought closer ties. Whether these efforts would take the form of a full scale merger or not had been a major discussion for several years.

In 2011, the Washougal and Camas Fire departments began a trial merger in an effort to improve efficiencies and reduce costs through elimination of duplication of effort. This effort provided for many improvements to the level of service enjoyed by the citizens of East Clark County, including a paramedic transport unit being located in the Washougal fire station.

In November of 2016, CWFD and ECFR embarked on a new partnership when elected officials on both sides approved a one year consolidation of their fire department administrations. This agreement allowed for the CWFD fire chief to simultaneously serve as the ECFR fire chief. It will allow the District to save money by avoiding hiring another full time fire chief. CWFD will benefit by having some salary costs reimbursed by ECFR in recognition of the hours their fire chief will spend tending to District business.

Despite the complex nature of the arrangement, the true winners are our citizens that we are all sworn to protect. The partnership between ECFR and CWFD now protects our communities with the coordinated efforts of 8 fire stations, over 60 career personnel, and numerous volunteer and part-time firefighters.



ECFR Interim Fire Chief Al Gillespie and CWFD Fire Chief Nick Swinhart

Statement from the Fire Chief

As emergency calls increase for most departments nationwide, agencies have begun to explore service mergers or other partnerships as a way to maintain or improve levels of service in an atmosphere of tight operational budgets. Such partnerships can take on many forms. The Camas and Washougal merger was implemented as a 10 year contract for service. The administrative sharing arrangement between ECFR and CWFD was enacted through an interlocal agreement that must be re-evaluated and renewed (if the parties so choose) after one year. While different in scope and structure, the intent is the same: to maintain levels of service, to harness efficiencies, and to save money where possible. This in turn leads to direct benefits for our communities through reduction or elimination of duplication of effort, cost avoidance, and perhaps even a decrease in expenditures. We will continue to explore methods by which our agencies can work more closely in partnership in 2017.

Calls For Service

ECFR's primary mission is to serve the emergency medical and fire/rescue needs of our District residents. As with most agencies, our 911 call volume continued to increase in 2016:

Medical	574
Good Intent	214
Calls for Service	48
Fire	39
False Alarms	22
Hazardous Conditions	21
Other	1
	919

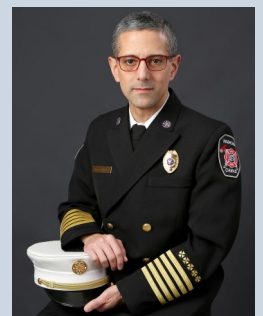
2016 Budget Overview

District residents provide the primary funding that allows our district to operate and respond to their emergency needs. This is accomplished via the District's EMS Levy, which is currently .35/\$1000 valuation, and the Fire Levy, which is set at \$1.50/\$1000 valuation. The District takes very seriously its responsibility to use the public's money in a responsible and transparent manner. The District's detailed budget is always available for public viewing and downloading on our website at www.ecfr.us. Due to this, I will not take up space in this report to copy our entire 2016 budget but will rather just report our year end balances:

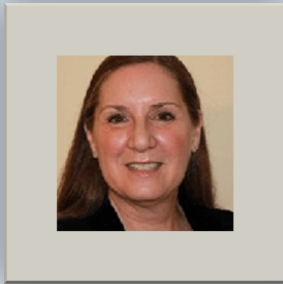
2016 Budget Snapshot	Budgeted	Actual
Revenues	\$2,863,912	\$2,704,847.77
Expenditures	\$2,779,867	\$1,999,749.16
Transfer to Reserve	\$468,568	\$468,586.00

It has been my pleasure to serve the citizens of ECFR in 2016. The continued support of our elected officials and citizens is what allows us to respond at a moment's notice to the emergency needs of our community. I look forward to a successful 2017 as your fire chief!

Nick Swinhart, EFO, CFO
Fire Chief
East County Fire and Rescue
Camas-Washougal Fire Department



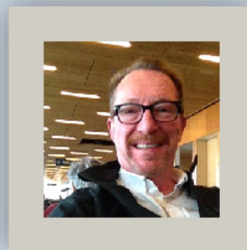
ECFR Commissioners



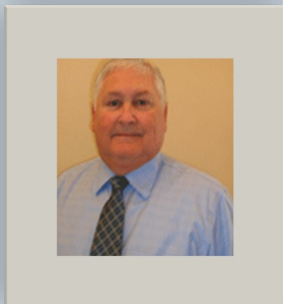
Martha Martin



Sherry Petty



**Mike Taggart
Board Chair**



Tom Gianatasio



Mike Berg

Board Of Commissioners:

Per State Law, Fire Commissioners are elected to set Agency policy, adopt an annual budget and oversee the Fire Chief.

A five-member Board of Commissioners administers East County Fire & Rescue. The board meets twice each month, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 PM—usually at Station 91 (next door to Grove Field). Commissioner Meetings are open to the public. The Board of Commissioners allows public comment on matters before them. All public comment should be made in accordance with the published.



2016 Operations

2016 Operations experienced a few personnel changes in the line and management staff for the organization. Captain Wes Long left the agency to take a fire chief position with Klickitat County Fire District 3 and Captain Mike Carnes was promoted to Deputy Chief of the fire district. The District promoted two new shift captains to fill those vacancies. Firefighter/EMT Danny Burch was promoted to "A" shift Captain and Firefighter/EMT Matt Hazlett was promoted to "C" shift Captain. They join "B" shift Captain James Troutman as the middle managers for our fire district.

There was also some additional movement to fill open positions at the line level this past year resulting in two new full time firefighters and three new part-time firefighters. They are as follows: Full-Time FF's Nicole Aden, and Adam Webster, Part-Time FF's Michael Reamer, Damon Bullard and Denis Verkhodomov. The District also added two new volunteer firefighters, Michael Hongel and Zach Hougan. District staff will continue to work to improve recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

Staff also worked on evaluating the District fleet to ascertain whether it is being utilized as effectively and efficiently as possible. One major change this last year was the elimination of the rehabilitation (Rehab) bus. The Rehab Bus has been a part of the fleet for many years and was becoming expensive to operate and maintain. The District was able to replace the Rehab unit with a surplus ambulance to serve as a less expensive rehabilitation vehicle that will keep our firefighters safe and our citizens out of the elements at the scene of a fire or emergency. Staff will continue to review the operational fleet needs and make suggestions for possible change in the coming year.

CRESA (911) continues to make improvements to the dispatching system used by the District. This past year, there was new software purchased and installed by CRESA that made improvements to the mobile dispatch computers (MDC's) on first out engines. These computers provide more detailed information to the firefighters while they are enroute to an emergency.

ECFR received a \$20,000 grant to replace all outdated firehose at very little cost to the fire district. ECFR staff also participated in the application for a FEMA regional grant to purchase new SCBAs for the department. The grant awards will start being announced in the spring of 2017. Being awarded the grant would be a tremendous benefit to the District and would significantly decrease costs passed on to our citizens.

We continue to pursue volunteer firefighters for our College Intern program and were fortunate to consistently keep one Intern per shift throughout this last year. The District also gained a Station 91 resident volunteer firefighter in 2016. The Intern Program greatly assists and supplements our current staffing model as needed and saved the District and its citizens over \$43,000 in 2016.

The District had a review of its rating with the Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) this past year. The rating has dropped from an 8 to a 5 (lower is better) with a water tender credit. This could benefit District residents with lower fire insurance premiums. ECFR held it's annual Open House in conjunction with the Port of Camas-Washougal's Wheels and Wings event at the Grove Field Airport this past fall that was well attended by community members.

ECFR's 2016 apparatus fleet consisted of 5 engines, 4 water tenders, 4 squads, 1 air unit, 1 rehab unit, 2 utility pickups and 2 command vehicles. The 2016 maintenance requirements on all apparatus were completed to the NFPA standard and stayed within the apparatus maintenance budget.



2016 Training

ECFR had a good year of training programs in 2016 with a total of 47 members who attended training classes within the fire district. There were 1,077 different training sessions throughout the year. In 2016 we recorded 2,445 hours of Fire and EMS training. We continue to train with our neighbors to the south (CWFD). This primarily consists of monthly multi-company drills that cover a wide range of firefighting disciplines. We continue to hold monthly EMS OTEP training with a paramedic as the lead instructor. The District is also committed to enhancing IMS "Blue Card" training with all combat firefighters and support personnel. We plan to certify our combat firefighters as "Blue Card" holders/commanders starting with the shift captains this next year.

ECFR members attended several training sessions outside of the district and also attended classes at the Washington State Fire Academy. Some of the out-of-district training included classes and testing for IFSAC certifications, live fire training, forcible entry, hosemanship/advancement and Hazmat Operations. We had several opportunities throughout the year to train on vehicle stabilization and extrication by utilizing junk vehicles donated by a local vender. We will be moving to web-based firefighting training (for classroom work) this next year. This web-based training will help us cover and manage a wide range of required training and will also assist the District in maintaining accurate and proper documentation. This web-based training will allow our volunteer firefighters to complete the mandated training when it is most convenient for their busy schedules.

Firefighter Safety & Emergency Support Team

ECFR's 2016 Safety Committee Members

Chairperson— Assistant Chief Robert Jacobs

Captain James Troutman

Volunteer Firefighter Tad Crum

Volunteer Firefighter Tyler Redmond

Commissioner Mike Berg

Safety Committee meetings are held every other month to address any safety concerns, to review and investigate accident, incident and near miss reports. Actions and/or recommendations are forwarded to the Health and Safety Officer for further review. The Safety Committee will hold special meetings for any serious incident/accident for immediate review.

Two projects in 2016 that were headed up by the committee were the installation of extra vent fan in the truck bay at Station 94 and modifications of the flag pole at Station 91 to make it safer to raise and lower the flags.

Emergency Support Team

Assistant Chief Robert Jacobs

Volunteer Rick Knapp

Volunteer EMT Aleda Coffman

Volunteer FR Linn Jacobs

The Emergency Support Team (EST) completed all of their scheduled training for 2016. Our team provides refreshments and rehab to firefighters at fires and at scenes of other emergencies. They can provide temporary shelter for displaced residents until other resources are available. They also support our crews at training burns. EST members are trained to provide traffic control when needed. The EST team helped support community events such as "Relay for Life," "Hike the Dike," and CRESA's open house.

5 Stations

Station 91



Engine 91
Tender 91
Squad 91
Unit 91
Unit 92
Unit 93

600 NE 267th Ave
Camas

Station 92



Engine 92
Squad 96

4909 NE 292nd Ave.
Camas

Station 93



Engine 93
Tender 93
Squad 93
Rescue 93
Air 93

121 NE 312th Ave.
Washougal

Station 94



Engine 94
Tender 94
Squad 94
Unit 94

1808 SE 352nd Ave.
Washougal

Station 95



Engine 95
Tender 95

211 39th Street
Washougal

Updated 2/17/2017

