

## LWFR COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES January 15, 2026 10:00 AM

**In Attendance:** Chairman Lamar, Commissioner Gibbs, Commissioner Payne (via Zoom), Chief Walker, Secretary Wiley

**In Audience:** DC Steve Foley, Mike Piroto, Rebecca Olson, Laurie Aholt, Lisi Ott, Deb Wadkins

I Call to Order. Chairman Lamar called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

II Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Chairman Lamar made some general remarks including:

- A. Reminding people they should get vaccinated for the flu,
- B. Be watchful driving due to the US 2 detour, and
- C. Requested adding RiverCom to new business

III Approval of Agenda. Chairman Gibbs moved to approve the agenda, Commissioner Payne seconded, agenda approved.

IV Public Input - Lisi Ott stated that she was shocked and disappointed that her written remarks were not included with the November minutes. (See attachment.)

V Correspondence -Written-None

Chief Walker met with Cascade Medical Center and LWFR would continue to have two ambulance rigs in the District and was looking at options for shortening response times.

VI Consent Agenda - All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue's Board of Commissioners for reading and study. They are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Commissioners with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request. Chairman Payne moved to approve the consent Agenda as presented, Commissioner Gibbs seconded motion, consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting

Approval of Monthly Vouchers:

- A. AP December 12: \$16,859.98
- B. AP December 26: \$24,298.71
- C. Property Payment: \$18,383.63
- D. January 5 Payroll benefits/deductions: \$22,106.39
- E. January 5 Payroll: \$59,478.85

IX. Departmental Reports

- A. Finance Reports: Budget Position & Monthly Position. Chief Walker summarized the December and end of year financial reports. He highlighted a \$477,000 carryover from 2025 into 2026. Also, LWFR is expecting \$136,000 from USFS in reimbursements. Overall spent 92 % of 2025 Budget.
- B. Incident Report-See attached
- C. Department Reports - /Chief's Report -See attached.

X. Old Business-

- A. Strategic Planning - Station Officers will meet on January 29th with the Chief and 1 Commissioner to discuss Station Upgrade needs.
- B. Fuels crew job announcement went out to the public; received considerable response back, but will be hard for those from out of the area to afford local housing. Commissioner Lamar asked about position descriptions for the Fuels Crew, Community Outreach Staff, and the Wildfire Coordinator.
- C. The Fire Chief job vacancy went out to the public; waiting for it to close. A Special Meeting with the Commissioners and the Fire Chief will be held on January 27 at 10:00 am to go over submitted applications and decide on future actions.
- D. During the past month, several of our job descriptions were reviewed by Chairman Lamar and Commissioner Payne; many of them were rewritten. Chairman Lamar thanked Commissioner Payne for his review and comments.
- E. Chairman Lamar said DNR will be in the area for a listening session in February for wildfire mapping; The mapping can have a significant effect on property insurance rates. At the request of a public member, the date will be advertised on our website.

XI New Business -


- A. Resolution 2026-01-for annexation of Standing Rock property. Motion by Commissioner Gibbs and seconded by Commissioner Payne to approve resolution. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Deferred Compensation Plan – Recent Legislation that will allow deferring some compensation was discussed. The mechanics and process needs to be better defined. Chairman Lamar and staff will seek clarification through the County.
- C. Chief Walker reported RiverCom will be asking for a vote to raise sales tax 1/10th of 1% on the February Ballot. Chairman Lamar reviewed the need for upgrading RiverCom's infrastructure to meet the needs of the fire service. He mentioned that Rivercom has been understaffed and experiencing considerable turnover.
- D. Chairman Lamar thanked the district for the dedicated turnout in response to the flooding and other issues last month. Lisi Ott also thanked the department for what we do.

XII Announcements - None

Executive Session - Yes, performance of a public employee. The Executive Session started at 11:05AM and concluded at 11:24 AM.

Concluded regular session at 11:24 AM.

Attest:

  
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Kim Wiley  
District Secretary



## Fire Chief's Report

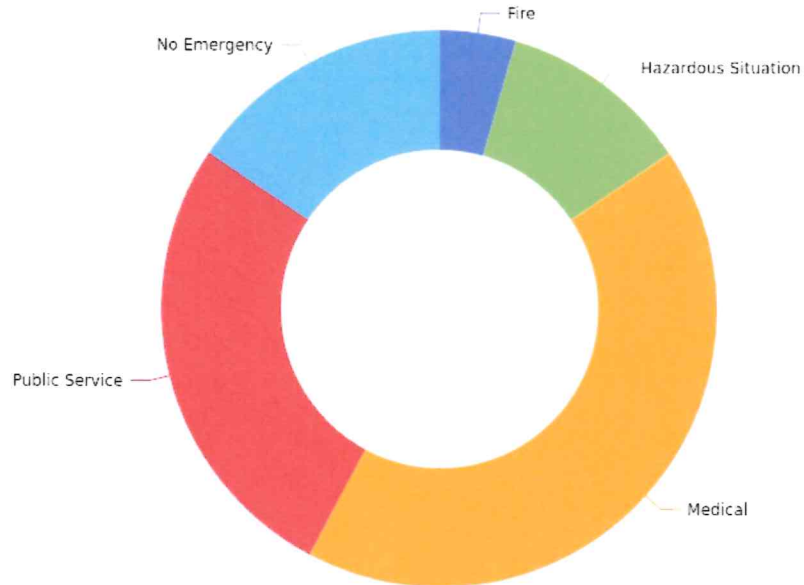
January 15th, 2025

- LWFR has responded to multiple critical and fatal events in recent weeks. These exposures receive attention for the health and well being of our responders. Thank you to Chico for not just his presence on scene as our Chaplain, but for assisting with critical debriefs, and to our PEERS members that provide support and feedback to their fellow responders. Nobody responds alone. Nobody carries the weight alone.
- LWFR has started the review and interview process for seasonal fuels crew. Six positions are available. All applicants have previous fire and fuels experience and we are seeing applicants from as far away as Florida. The start date will depend on the season but onboarding is expected by May 1st.
- LWFR is developing an after action report of the 2025 flood and weather event. The effort is to identify and memorialize successes, vulnerabilities, and unmet needs of both the department response and the broader community.
- Winter snowmobile and avalanche training have finally been completed with the availability of adequate snow onto the landscape.
- With Highway closures and elongated response times, LWFR continues to work with our partners to adapt our responses. Without local 24 hour staffing we have increased on-call shifts for aid responses and work to coordinate rendezvous between advanced life support and basic life support units.
- LWFR has been awarded a F550 type 5 brush truck as part of the DNR surplus engine program that supports rural fire departments. The engine will be in service for the 2026 fire season. *2016 1 of 12 agencies*
- LINK transit has donated a Dodge van with a wheelchair ramp to the LWFR community outreach program. The van will be utilized to assist with appointments and deliveries associated with the local program.
- New Fire Chief applications are open with the first review on January 27th.
- LWFR station officers are attending a strategic planning exercise January 29th to prioritize critical repairs and future needs at the department's 5 stations.
- DC Foley will be attending the WA legislative session with other Fire Chiefs from Chelan County. The governor's initial budget only includes 35 million for wildfire protection statewide.



**LWFR: Incident type summary by month-NERIS**

December  
 2025



PRIMARY INCIDENT GROUP	COUNT	PERCENT
Fire	2	4%
Hazardous Situation	5	11%
Medical	19	42%
Public Service	12	27%
No Emergency	7	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Description:** This report counts the number of incidents within each NERIS primary grouping