



1. Skagit Fire District 11 Description and Background

Located on the southern end of Fidalgo Island in the San Juan Islands of Washington State. Skagit County Fire Protection District 11 was officially incorporated October 14, 1959 to protect the area of Dewey Beach. Today the District is known as the Mt Erie Fire Department and covers 15 square miles and approximately 3000 people with an assessed value of over \$950,000,000. The District currently operates on a budget derived from a rate of \$0.42/\$1,000 assessed value. Currently the District is staffed by all volunteers. The District maintains fire stations in Dewey Beach and on Marine Drive. The District is overseen by an elected board of 3 Commissioners and administered by a volunteer Chief and District Secretary.

Annual accrued increase in the District's budget are limited by state statute. Currently non-voted increases in District revenues are acquired in three ways:

1. A 1 % allowable increase in the previous yearly budget
2. New construction taxable revenues
3. A small rental income from the District leasing storage to a community business

A raise in the total assessed value of the District does not allow a comparative raise in District revenue. The levy rate is adjusted downward for an increase in total assessed value in a year. Increases due to new construction have been minor due mainly to the effect of Growth Management Legislation in a rural area.

The District has two fire stations:

Station 1 (Dewey Beach Station, 14809 Deception Road) was built originally in 1959 and added onto in 1970. In 1959 the District acquired the Community center which was an old school constructed in 1913 and had it located adjacent to the original fire hall. In 1999 the District purchased the Superior Systems property adjacent to the old fire hall and converted the 8,870 sq/ft light industrial building into its current fire hall.

Station 2 (Mt. Erie Station, 4214 Wildwood Lane) was built originally in May 1972, and was remodeled in 1999 when the back office and two bays were added to meet the growing response requirements of the time.

2. Scope

Currently the District operates on a budget of \$389,850. This has been adequate in the past but with changing demographics of the District's population and its volunteers it is unlikely to continue. The District also maintains specific apparatus required to respond to all types of critical response including but not limited to: Fire (structural and wildland), Vehicle Accidents, Emergency Medical, Rescue, Hazmat and Community Assistance. This equipment is in constant need of maintenance and scheduled replacement. With an average of 350 calls for help annually, it is becoming apparent that the District is fast approaching the end of Volunteer management.

The past and current commissioners have strived to maintain and operate a rural volunteer fire department in a fiscally responsible manner. We have acquired equipment and buildings on a pay as we go basis and have always operated within our means. The last request from the District for a Levy lift was in 1994, 25 years ago. The Levy rate for the District is the second lowest in the County, the lowest rate being Skagit District 12 at \$0.2969 and the highest being Skagit District 6 at \$1.0500.

3. Requirements and Needs

We believe that it is time that the District prepare to hire a full-time employee. This employee would be designated Chief of the District and charged with overall management of the department and available for 24/7 response, specifically during that critical daytime response period of Monday through Friday between 7:00AM and 5:00PM. This would require an increase of \$84,000 a year. We believe the District needs to increase its equipment fund to cover the increased cost of replacement. The current method of financing trucks with large down payments and twice-yearly payments has been a cost-effective method of acquiring trucks in a timely manner. At our current budget, we would not be able to carry loans for two vehicles at once. This would require an increase of \$50,000 a year.

We believe that the volunteers of the District provide the residents of South Fidalgo Island the best service anywhere, and work hard to answer the call of a neighbor in need. For this dedication they should receive a competitive stipend. This would require an increase of \$20,000 a year for our 30 volunteers.

4. Required Change in Levy

In order to meet future needs of the District, it will be necessary to raise the Levy from \$0.42/\$1,000 of assessed value to \$0.61/\$1,000. This change would cover an increase of tax base income of \$150,000 per year. This amount should be sufficient to cover Expected District Operating needs for the next ten to fifteen years. This increase would not cover any future requirements to remodel or rebuild the District's aging stations. The Board of Commissioners for Skagit Fire District 11 have placed on the November 2019 ballot, Proposition 1 for the increase of the levy rate for Skagit Fire District 11.

5. Timeline

A levy increase will be on the November 5th, 2019 General Election Ballot under the title Proposition 1 (Prop 1). If approved by the voters, the Levy would go into effect on January 1st, 2020.



Mission Statement

As volunteer firefighters we shall strive to provide high standards of quality care and professionalism in fire protection, prevention, education, and emergency medical services to our community, our neighbors and all who travel within.

Skagit County Fire District 11 is a Fire Protection District under RCW title 52.

A Board of 3 elected Commissioners oversee the financial planning and long term direction of the District. Also known as the Mt. Erie Fire Department, we are staffed with all volunteers from the Fire Chief to the newest Firefighter.

2018 brought continued challenges to the District and our members performed above and beyond. The District responded to 368 dispatched alarms for assistance to our citizens and in mutual aid to other departments. Mutual aid from 11 agencies was used to combat the Thomas Lane woodland fire in July.

We received new members as we lost others keeping the membership steady at an average of 30 members.

Alarm Activity and Response Total Alarms - 368

Fires - 61 Medical Aid - 209
Vehicle Accidents - 28
Public Service - 29
Mutual Aid to others - 41

Average response time for all call types in 2018

11 minutes 50 seconds

Station 1 units

1112 Fire Engine 15.5 minutes
1117 Rescue Vehicle 15.5 minutes

Station 2 units

1121 Fire Engine 8.9 minutes
1124 Rescue Vehicle 14.5 minutes

DAY OF THE WEEK	# INCIDENTS
SUNDAY	58
MONDAY	60
TUESDAY	52
WEDNESDAY	47
THURSDAY	58
FRIDAY	52
SATURDAY	41

TOTAL 368

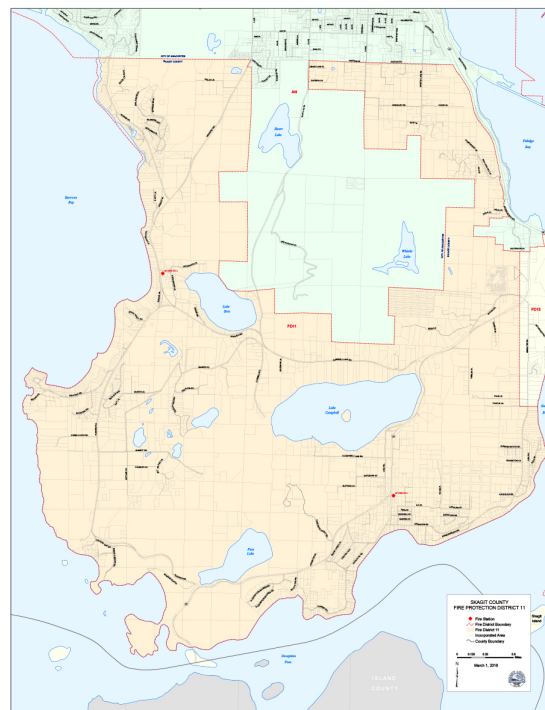
Financial Report Revenue

Our primary revenue is generated from property tax assessment seen on the tax statement of FD11. Currently this rate is at \$.42 cents per \$1,000 assessed value of your property. Additional revenues are generated from leasing out extra space at our Station 1 property not currently used for emergency response or training, charging for outside agencies to attend classes hosted by the District, and miscellaneous grants and reimbursement.

General taxes \$377,736.99
Leased surplus space \$7,526
Training sessions \$4940
Misc Grants / Reimbursement \$4630

Expenditures

Administrative Cost \$70,000
Utilities and Building Maintenance \$35,900
Maintenance/Repairs/Testing & Fuel for Apparatus and Equipment \$127,500



stamps

Mt. Erie Fire Department
14825 Deception Rd
Anacortes, WA 98221



Mt Erie Fire Department

Professional Training | Committed Volunteers

*Proudly Serving the Community
Since 1954*

Station 1
14825 Deception Rd.
Anacortes, WA 98221

360.299.1281
mteriefire.com

Station 2
4214 Wildwood Ln.
Anacortes, WA 98221