



GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE

10222 Bujacich Road NW, Gig Harbor 98332

(253) 851-3111 | www.gigharborfire.org

[f](#) GigHarborFire | [t](#) gigharborfire | [i](#) gig_harbor_fire_medic_one

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 16, 2021
Contact: Fire Chief Dennis Doan
(253) 851-3111 DDoan@gigharborfire.org

Gig Harbor Fire Board Adopts Capital Facilities Plan

Funding Measures Considered for 2022

[Gig Harbor, Wash.] – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One unanimously approved a Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) at its December 14, 2021 meeting. The CFP identifies projects, such as stations, apparatus and equipment, that need completing to improve emergency services for the Gig Harbor community.

Priority projects include building a training facility, replacing one station and renovating two others. The projects, driven by the need to improve public safety and firefighter health and safety, would require bond funding to complete.

Daily operations at Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One are funded by two levies for fire and emergency medical service. Capital needs are usually funded by voter-approved bonds.

“Saving lives and property comes down to three things: firefighters, facilities and apparatus. Some of our facilities don’t support the level of emergency response that our community requires,” said Chief Doan.

For example, the Fire District has no facility for regular live fire trainings. This means firefighters may only train on live fire once every three years and must leave the area to perfect these life and property-saving skills. A training facility would provide a higher level of services for residents.

Replacing Station 51 in Gig Harbor, and renovating Stations 58 (Swede Hill) and 59 (Artondale) also made the list. The stations do not meet ADA requirements, or current seismic standards. The stations lack living quarters to accommodate current and projected staffing levels, and a more diverse work force.

Firefighter health and safety is also a concern. Cancer is known to be a leading cause of death among firefighters. The stations lack appropriate decontamination areas to remove soot, hydrocarbons and smoke from firefighting gear. There also is a need for space to decontaminate medical equipment after emergency medical service calls.

“We have an obligation to provide our firefighters with as safe a working environment as possible,” said Chief Doan. “We can, and must do better.”

The Gig Harbor community has grown by more than 16% since 2010. Call volumes have increased 50% in the same time period. Fire Chief Dennis Doan says that the fire district has needed to assess its facilities and coverage for some time now.

The Board of Fire Commissioners is considering placing two funding requests on the ballot in 2022. The bond for facility improvements is projected to be \$0.24 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$120 per year (\$10 per month) for the owner of a \$500,000 home.

The agency also needs to renew its levy for emergency medical service by the end of the year. EMS accounts for 78% of all emergency calls for the agency. Voters will be asked to renew that at the same previously-approved rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000. The EMS levy provides a 24-hour Paramedic response, and ambulance transport service for Gig Harbor residents.

###

Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 5 (known as Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One) provides fire and life safety services to 53,000 people over 54 square miles. The Fire District responded to a high of 6,685 calls in 2020 – a 33.4% increase compared to 10 years ago. Through community support, Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One has built one of the most advanced emergency response systems in Pierce County with highly-trained personnel and rescue programs.