Chelan County Fire Protection District No. 5
250 West Manson Blvd.
Manson, WA 98831
Workshop Meeting of Commissioners
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 @ 3:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Chris Willoughby, Fred Weiss, and Dan Baker.

Others Present: Chief Baker and District Secretary Reggie Trusel.

Call to Order: Chairman Chris Willoughby called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Workshop Topic's:

- Budget
    - Chief Baker: Displayed the budget model and explained the budgeted expenses for top priority equipment needed.
    - Commissioner Weiss: Asked if the Commissioners could receive an updated budget; listing date revised.
    - Commissioner Willoughby: Discussed the model reflecting the projected expense amount along with the actual expense, creating two columns side by side.
    - Chief Baker: Agreed to create a simpler format and display the different budget columns so they are easier to follow and printable.

- 5 Year Plan
    - Chief Baker: Discussed with the Commissioners the possible plan for purchasing replacement engine for our current E-51. The new engine will be a structure protection engine with wildland capability. The department will plan to keep the old Engine 51 as a backup engine and will be stored temporarily. Commissioners viewed the model and option of doing a 5-year Bond from WA State Treasure's Office at approximate interest of 2.92%. The Chief discussed annual payment amounts with a $1,000,000 loan versus a $1,500,000. If the Commissioners agree, he would like to see the loan closing by November 2025 as the engine should be completed by January 2026.
      ST52 Training Center: Suggested extending project to start in year-2027.

- Project Prioritization-
  Chief Baker: The Officer's prioritized the department's future projects from 1-10 at their last Officer's Meeting.

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Project Prioritization

1. Engine-51 - $1,000,000
2. International chassis to build E-55 - $134,327.86
3. Buildout E-55 - $267,992
4. SCBA Replacement - $327,659
5. Breathing air compressor replacement - $95,000
6. Extending (2) S-51 bays – zoning restriction, frontage setback
7. Purchasing old E-51 additional equipment (E-59) – 87,525
8. Command truck replacement - $180,000
9. Training Center - $500,000
10. Brush truck replacement - $100,000 to $175,000

- New E-51 Truck: Custom build should be completed by the end of 2026. Current E-51 will be stripped down to help outfit the new replacement. Commissioner Weiss asked if the new E-51 truck would need to be finished in Yakima at SeaWestern. Chief Baker advised, yes but should be included in the price.
  Possible loan amount options: $1,000,000.00 or 1,500,000.00.
  A $1.5 million loan: Annual loan payment would be approximately $326,784.00.
  A six-year plan ending 2030 with interest of a possible 2.92%. Chief Baker suggested if we go this route, to have loan paperwork submitted by November 2026.

  Once the new E-51 is in service we could possibly store old Engine 51 at building Kermit McClellan's is using. It will need to be re-outfitted before adding it back into the fleet. The new E-51 will be kept at ST51.

- International Chassis for E-55 Type 3 Interface
  Chief Baker discussed with the Commissioners the original quote he gave the Commissioners was $116,000 before tax. $127,587.84 includes the 10% sales tax for the 2024 model.
  The new quote reflects the 2026 model and includes the current tax and tariff fee, which brought up the cost. The new amount is $134,627.68 w/tax and the projected completion date is by the end of this year 2025.
  The consensus from the Board is to have Chief Baker sign the new *updated* contract with RWC Group for chassis. Commissioners acknowledged the one thing that could change is the tariff fee amount.

- E-55 Build Out-Estimated cost: $267,992.00.

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- SCBA Compressor Replacement
  The Board discussed the existing compressors, PC computer issues. The Chief stressed, it is just a matter of time before the computer crashes and the compressor will not work. The hope was to utilize the warranty, but it has been several years of attempted repair for the same repeated issues. The Board discussed the quote received from MES for a compressor replacement. He explained to the Board, MES would "scrap down" the existing unit and build a new one, also adding another cylinder. The cost estimate is $95,559.53. The new unit would be stationary and would be kept at ST52 utilizing the existing bay and next bay over. The Chief expressed his disappointment with the existing compressor and acknowledged how it gave the department only eight years of life and should have been twenty-five. He hopes to get some type of dollar compensation for the problem never being resolved.

  Commissioner Weiss asked if the cost for replacement would fit in with our current 2025 budget. The Chief displayed the 2025 budget and explained there are funds available to help cover equipment as we have now put the ST52 Training Center on hold. The consensus from the Board is to move forward to purchase a replacement compressor from MES.
  The Chief added the department will be receiving used SCBA's for minimal cost. He noted the need for additional air bottles and mobile rack to transport bottles. Another suggestion from Chief Baker was to investigate portable racks to store the firefighter gear at both stations. Divider between the engines.

- ST52 Training Center-The Chief reiterated most of the cost was mitigating the contaminated soil issue (capping soil). He recommended going back to Mary Monahan at the Department of Ecology to inform them we have had to postpone the project until sometime in 2026.

- DNR: New Program will help provide aviation needs in case of area Wildland fire. Commissioner Baker asked if allotted funds had been pulled, Chief Baker stipulated, no.

- ST52-Separate Garage
  Discussion made among Board members to where the new engines will be stationed. Commissioner Willoughby brought up the idea of building a basic-separate 3-bay garage at Station 52. The Chief agreed he will try and work with our two current accommodations until we can look at other options.
  There is also a need to have a mobile trailer like the Hazmat trailer to house and transport all of our marine and water rescue equipment. The trailer would be kept behind the new fence at Station 51.

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- Deputy Chief Position
  Stakeholder Interview Dates

    - GMP Consultants have been provided a list of department contacts along with local community members. The consultants are to do research to formulate a salary guide. Chief Baker suggested establishing base lines. Fifteen percent between positions, similar to RiverCom.

    - Chelan Fire & Rescue-Boat
      The Commissioners will be attending the May 28th Chelan Commissioner Meeting to discuss Boat response and management.

    - Seasonal Summer Crew: Commissioner Willoughby suggested researching seasonal crew wage. Chief Baker noted he would like to hire 2-3 people to cover MOBE responses. He suggested the crew could help with "First Due" Fire prevention and doing assessments in the wildland areas when they are not on calls.

Adjournment: Commissioner Willoughby closed the workshop meeting with no additional business before the Commissioners, the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Chelan County Fire District 5 Board of Commissioners:

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Commissioner Chairman Chirs Willoughby

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Commissioner Fred Weiss

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Commissioner Dan Baker

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Attest: Reggie Trusel
District Secretary