

Selah Fire Department



2023 Year End Report

Prepared By: Fire Chief James Lange and staff

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Message from the Chief

On behalf of all paid-on-call and career members of the **Selah Fire Department**, it is my privilege to present the 2023 Annual Report. The Selah Fire Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of our community. We protect lives and property through Public Education, Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression, and Emergency Medical Services. Each member of our department is dedicated to serving our community with honesty, integrity and respect for each other and all we serve. We are grateful for the continued support from our community, city and district administration, elected officials, and all of the city departments that work to make our community great. Without your support, it would not be possible for us to meet our mission.

As we looked to the future, we recognized several challenges for the operation and maintenance of the department. The first being funding to maintain our current level of service and second, staffing to meet the needs of a growing community. Over the last couple of years, we have endured steep cost increases due to inflation, just as all of you have. Our current levy is supporting the operation of the department, but we will need to monitor expenditures over the next couple of years to evaluate when our need to go back to the voters will be.

Due to the support of our community, I am proud to announce that the insurance rating of the area we serve has improved. Effective February 1, 2022, Washington Survey and Ratings Bureau improved the Protection Classification in the city from PC 5 to PC 4, and areas of the district were also improved. This has a direct, positive impact on business and home owner insurance rates.

Our organization is focused on providing the safest work environment possible for your Fire/EMS responders. We diligently strive to be the most effective and efficient public safety organization, while giving consideration to the ever changing environment and the necessary evolution of our service. As our community continues to grow, we embrace our responsibility of providing the highest level of care and service to meet the challenges and demands of our community.

Finally, I express a sincere “thank you” to all of the members of the Selah Fire Department. I take great pride in representing such an outstanding group of individuals that continually demonstrate a commitment to the success of this department.

I would like to thank the commissioners of Yakima County Fire District 2 and the City of Selah Mayor and council for allowing me to serve as your fire chief.

Respectfully,

James R. Lange

DEPARTMENT HISTORY

On January 8, 1940, the Selah Town Council signed Ordinance #90, which provided for the organization, maintenance and regulation of a fire department in the Town of Selah, Washington. Thus was born the Selah Fire Department.

S.C. Justice was appointed as the Fire Chief of the new department consisting of 1 truck, 5 officers and 14 volunteer firefighters.

In 1946 a Rural Fire District (RFD) later to be known as Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 was formed and manned by the Selah Fire Department. This includes the area North of Lookout Point between Selah Heights and the Yakima River, North to Adobe Hill and the hill tops South of Wenas Lake Dam.

East Selah was annexed into Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 in 1960 and the upper Wenas Valley in 1975 creating a combined area 26 miles long and 7 miles wide at its widest point.

The City of Selah and Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 legally combined their fire departments in 1966 creating the department that now exists.

This move was one of the most progressive actions taken since the creations of both fire departments. It has saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars by eliminating duplication in administrative cost, equipment and building needs, operational costs and utilization of manpower.

From this simple beginning, the department now serves an area of 65 square miles and an estimated population of just over 20,000.

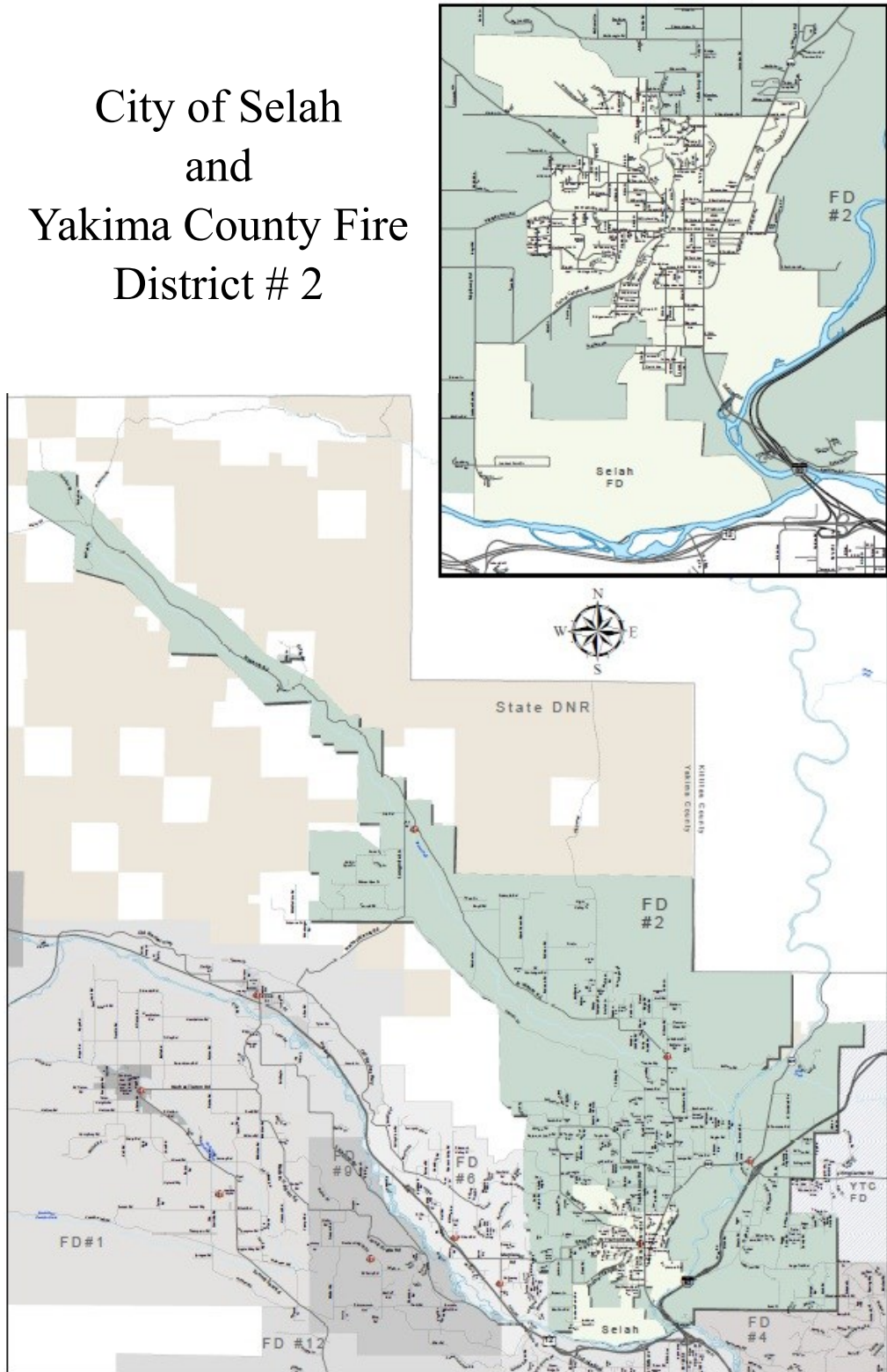
In 1940 the Selah Fire Department responded to 6 fire alarms, 4 of which were actual fires, with a total property loss of \$75.00. In 2023, the Selah Fire Department responded to a total of 2,049 calls for service.

SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE AREA

City of Selah
and
Yakima County Fire
District # 2

The Selah Fire Department response area covers approximately 65 square miles.

Roughly 5 square miles and a population of 8,450 within the city limits of Selah and 60 square miles and a population approximately 12,700 within Fire District #2.



YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2 COMMISSIONERS

Chairman.....Dan Boyle

Commissioner.....Brad Helms

Commissioner.....Rex Reed

Secretary.....Christine Willis

The Fire Commissioners form a board elected by the public to represent their fire district.

Yakima County Fire District 2 commissioners serve six-year terms staggered every two years. Any resident, 18 years or older, who lives within the district boundaries are eligible to run for an open position on the board.

All regular meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Station 21, 206 W. Fremont Avenue. Meetings are open to the public and offer residents an opportunity for public comment.

SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT STATIONS



STATION 22
1830 Harrison Rd.
Yakima, WA 98901

STATION 24
4251 N. Wenas Rd.
Selah, WA 98942



STATION 26
121 Fink Rd.
Selah, WA 98942

CITY OF SELAH MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor

Roger Bell

**SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT'S
CITY STATION**

City Administrator

Richard Huebner

Council Members

Kevin Wickenhagen

Jared Iverson

Elizabeth Marquis

Clifford Peterson

William Longmire

Michael Costello

David Monaghan



Station 21

206 W. Fremont Ave

Selah, WA 98942

**Selah has a strong Mayor, council
form of government.**



SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION, VISION AND MOTTO

OUR MISSION IS THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY, AND TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY AND MAGNITUDE OF PERSONAL TRAUMA AND PROPERTY LOSS. TO EFFECTIVELY MITIGATE THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN EMERGENCIES THAT WILL OCCUR.



VISION

To position the fire department securely (operationally, financially, and politically) through and beyond our current state of growth, while creating a predictable and sustainable future.

MOTTO

Honesty - Integrity - Respect

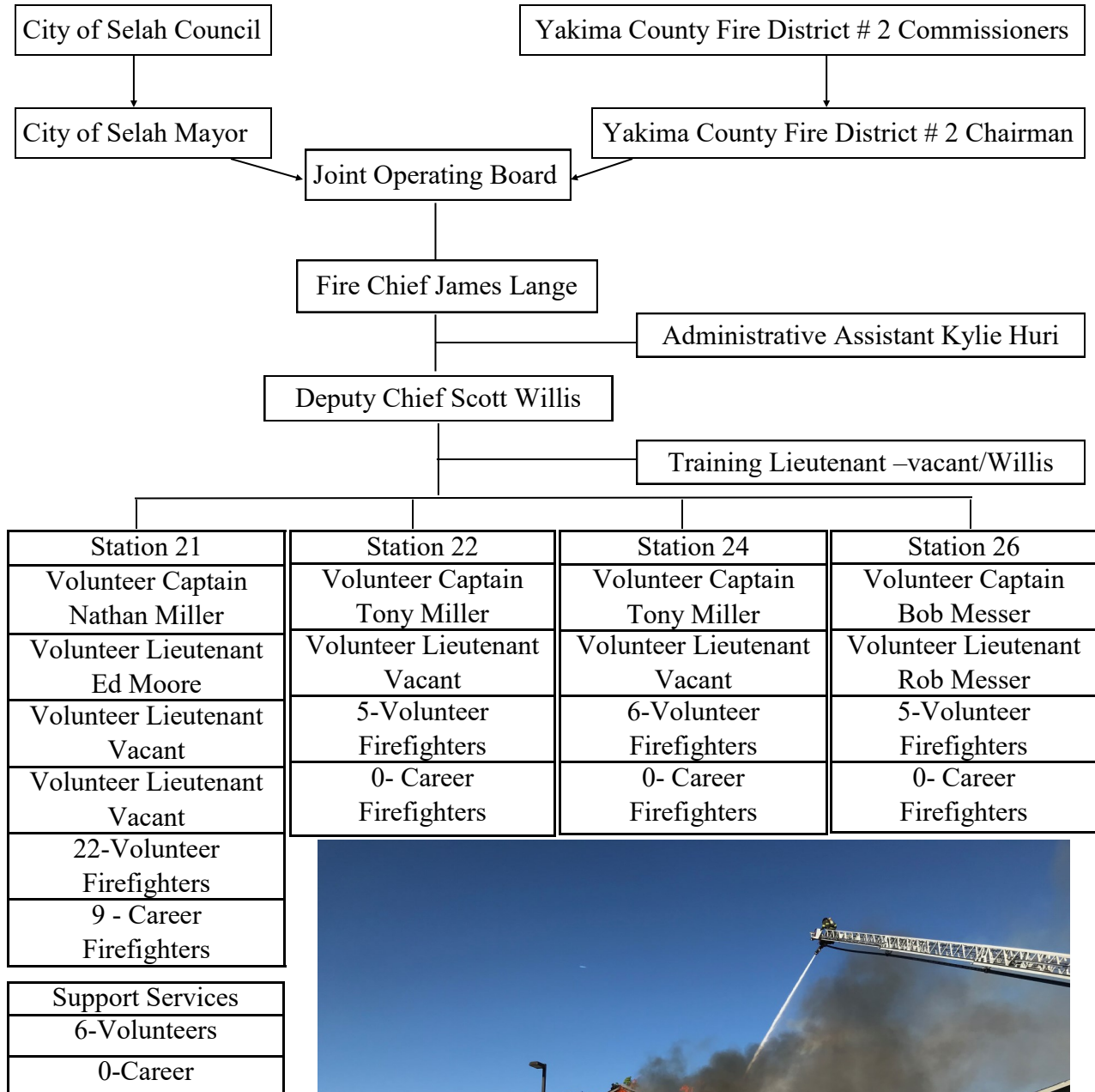
We value the public's trust and are committed to honest and ethical behavior. We hold ourselves accountable to this value. We believe in a personal commitment to the organization and community. Self-discipline is the foundation for managing behavior.

We are a fire department family. We are committed and accountable to each other because our lives depend on it. We value the role each member plays in our organization. We respect those that came before us and will strive to make the organization better for those who follow.

In order to carry a positive action we must develop here a positive vision.

[Dalai Lama](#)

FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AND STAFFING LEVEL



**Only those who have
learned the power of
sincere and selfless
contribution experience
life's deepest joy:
true fulfillment.**

Tony Robbins



CALLS FOR SERVICE

The Selah Fire Department Responded to 2049 Calls in 2023

BREAKDOWN OF MAJOR INCIDENT TYPES

	Emergency Medical	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Fires in Structures	Grass/Brush Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires	All Other Types	TOTALS	
City of Selah	676	32	7	15	4	10	156	900	43.9%
Yakima County Fire District #2	774	75	12	42	14	37	195	1149	56.1%
								2,049	5.61 per day



Public Education/ Community Service



*Prepared
By:
Lieutenant
Ron Cline*



Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

Benjamin Franklin

Public Education/ Community Service

Fire Safety classes and Station Tours

2023 Fire Prevention and Public Education was able to educate 568 children from numerous groups wanting Fire Prevention Education. Light House Preschool, Central Lutheran Preschool, Robert Lince, Yakima Valley School, and two different home school groups visited the Station. With the assistance of fellow firefighters, these children had an amazing time. Pre-school and kindergarten classes learned the importance of never being afraid of firefighter's and that although they can look scary in their bunker gear, firefighters are there to help them in the event of an emergency. All the children loved the tour, loved the trucks and activities that they were able to experience.

Each year in addition to the schools, a local Girl Scout Troop stops by the Station to fulfill their requirements needed to obtain their first aid badges. During their visits they are taught how to make their own first aid kits, how to treat and prevent injuries while outside in the woods. Girls from Selah, West Valley, and East Valley learn the importance of being prepared in the event of a medical emergency. Well Done Ladies!

Exit Drills In The Home (E.D.I.T.H. House)

EDITH House was back up and running! 245 children from John Campbell Primary were able to learn the steps on how to get out of their home in the event of a fire. E.D.I.T.H teaches the kids that when they see smoke or hear their smoke detectors going off that they need to get OUT! Children are taught to always have **TWO** ways out. **CRAWL** under the smoke, and once out, they need to go to their **MEETING PLACE**, and never ever go **BACK INSIDE**.

Between the two schools, and the other groups wanting to visit the fire station, **828** kids and **100** adults learned the importance of fire prevention, and fire safety. Prevention through education saves lives, saves property, prevents injuries and saves money.

Public Education/ Community Service

National Night out/Trunk or Treat

National Night Out was held again in 2023, and Engine 21 was on display. Although there was not an extrication demonstration, the crews still showed off the engine and talked about the fire department. The event was a huge success, great job Selah PD.

Trunk or Treat, the communities Halloween party, where hundreds of pounds of candy is handed out for kids in a safe environment, from all the local businesses and community groups.

The Fire Department again teamed up with the Selah Police Department and handed out candy to the children of Selah and beyond.

The Selah Fire Department looks forward to next year and being involved again with this great event!



Other Activities

Hydrant inspection and testing

The fire department inspects, tests, lubricates and exercises the valves on all of the 429 fire hydrants within the city and private systems within the district on an annual basis. We also conduct fire flow testing every 5 years or as needed when changes are made to the water system. These are necessary to determine the maximum flow the water system can provide in the event of a fire. These calculations are used to determine the maximum square footage of residential and commercial buildings in a given geographical area. They also provide hard data to the cities engineering firm to enhance their computer model of the city's water system. This year we started painting hydrants different colors which represents the flow in gallons per minute. Light blue 1500 + GPM, Green 1000-1499 GPM, Orange 500-999 GPM, and Red is below 500 GPM.

It's all fun and games.... Until you have to pick it up!

Prepared By:
Lieutenant
Cody Roberts



Training

TRAINING IS A NEVER-ENDING
JOURNEY IN A FIREFIGHTER'S
CAREER OF SERVICE.

TO BE KNOWN AS A FIREFIGHTER
IS A TITLE OF PRIDE, BORN OF
ACCOMPLISHMENT, TRAINING,
AND COMMITMENT TO OTHERS.



Prepared By:
Deputy Chief
Scott Willis



Training

In 2023, the members of the Selah Fire Department attended 3,980 hours of training. This training included; 51 Wednesday night department drills, 10 Officer meetings as well as 2 Officer Development drills, 4 quarterly safety meetings, 2 annual department meetings, several certified online trainings, 31 new recruit training classes, and 12 members attended outside training courses.

The outside training consisted of:

4 attending the Yakima County EMT program, 3 obtained their FEMA Incident Command 300 certification, 1 attended the National Fire Academy Leadership series, 7 attended HazMat Command training.

Department, local, state and federal mandates require us to facilitate annual training of 4 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) donning and doffing for time evolutions, SCBA fit testing, 6 EMS OTEP Modules and 3 EMS practical workshops, EVIP classroom refresher with a practical driving road course and rodeo, wildland refresher classroom and shelter throw practical, a fitness pack test for wildland red card holders, minimum of 2 personal protective equipment (PPE) inspections and washes, Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) training, and firefighter rescue (RIT/MAYDAY). All of these trainings were offered and attended. Selah Fire Department policy requires 50% drill attendance by its members. In 2023, 95% of all membership met this requirement.

The department hired 12 new volunteer firefighters this past year. They completed a 200 hour basic firefighter recruit school. This year's recruit school was conducted with online training, classroom lectures, and group practical evolutions.

As volunteer numbers continue to decline nationwide, recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters becomes more and more challenging. We are working hard to improve our recruitment efforts. We are optimistic and encouraged with some new ideas and we are trying such as opening our borders to new volunteers from outside our district, as well as allowing lateral volunteer firefighters from around Yakima County. We've already seen a positive impact with increased recruit numbers in 2023, and have already had several applications turned in for probationary firefight-

Fire Marshal

The Fire Marshal for the City of Selah is located at the Selah Fire Department, Station 21, on Fremont Avenue. Under the direction of this office; Fire and Life Safety Inspections are provided for all of the businesses in the City of Selah, plan review of developments and commercial construction are performed to meet standards of the International Fire Code, fire alarm-detection and suppression system operational tests are conducted, and pre-fire planning and fire department familiarization of our target hazard and populated locations are maintained.

In 2023 there were 248 businesses scheduled for annual Fire and Life Safety inspections within the city. Due to a Fire Marshal vacancy part way through the year, not all inspections were completed. The goal for 2024 is to get all current businesses inspected and up to date. These inspections are completed by the Fire Marshal and Engine Company visits. For new commercial construction inspections, the city's Fire Marshal and Building Inspector coordinate to perform inspections together when available.

Fire department familiarization of target hazard locations are usually scheduled with local businesses during daytime hours on weekdays and attended by career staff and any available paid-on-call members. For a few of our larger facilities, walk-throughs are scheduled during Wednesday evening drills and attended by all department members for preparation in case of an emergency.

These fire and life safety inspections are not only conducted to identify potential fire hazards, but also for the safety of employees and patrons. A few of the things we look at are: have the fire extinguishers been serviced and are appropriately placed, are emergency lights functioning properly, are exits identified and clear of obstacles, and if fire alarm systems and fire sprinkler systems have been serviced and are operational.

Selah Fire Department

Working For a Safer Community



Prepared By:
Deputy Chief
Scott Willis



Apparatus

Our department operates and maintains 22 vehicles out of four stations consisting of:

3 - Command, 5 - Front Line Engines, 1 Reserve Engine, 1 - Rescue, 4 - Combination Brush/Rescues, 2 - Brush, 3 - Water Tenders, 1 - Air Support/Rehab, and 2 - Utility

Revenues obtained through the City of Selah Public Safety Utility Tax and additional funding from Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 have provided us the ability to establish an amortization program for equipment replacement. With a life expediency of 10 to 25 years, depending on the type of vehicle and volume of use, we will need to replace one or more vehicles every 1-2 years to maintain a dependable fleet and stay in compliance with national standards. In 2022 we purchased the department's first ever aerial apparatus (ladder truck). This piece of apparatus will assist us with larger building fire events, rescues in multi-story buildings, and will help to continue keeping insurance costs down. The process of building an aerial is time consuming, but we are excitedly waiting for this truck to arrive. We are currently expecting delivery in late 2023. The department annually updates our vehicle and equipment amortization plan, facility and personnel needs, overall health of the department and completes an assessment of what we anticipate for future needs. This can all be found in our Capital Improvement Plan.



The Selah Fire Department takes great pride in being fiscally responsible and working within the budget we have been entrusted.

We will continue to utilize your money wisely and work within the confines of our budget and provide all services that it allows.

Ultimately the citizens of our community dictate what is important to them and what level of service is acceptable.

Equipment

EMS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Approximately 75% of the emergency calls that the Selah Fire Department responds to are calls for emergency medical help. During these calls there are medical supplies and equipment that need replaced and or repaired. Selah Fire Department was able to help our neighbors with our transport capable rescue apparatus by transporting the occasional patient for them when there were no ambulances available to do so. During 2023 we were able to replace our aging emergency medical bags that we use to carry all of our life saving equipment into calls. We replaced these bags using funding from grants we were awarded.

*Prepared By:
Firefighter
Jacob Stuker*

PPE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Selah Fire Department supplies personal protective gear for 70 members. This gear includes structure helmets, structure coats, structure pants, structure boots, structure gloves and an SCBA mask. Also included is a wildland helmet, wildland shirt, wildland pants, wildland boots, and wildland gloves. It cost roughly \$6,000 a person to fully equip a member with NFPA compliant gear.

The structure gear has to be replaced every 10 years per NFPA standards. Our current replacement plan is 5 sets of structural gear every year. This equates to approximately \$14,000.00 annually.

Some of the things we are doing to make this possible is applying for a DNR 50/50 grant. With this grant, we were able to purchase wildland fire shelters to equip some of our structural fire engines, replace worn out wildland gloves, purchase class A wildland firefighting foam, and provide replacement wildland gear (pants and coats.) This year's focus has been working to prepare for 2026 gear expiration. In 2026, 25 sets of structural gear will expire equating to nearly \$60,000 in replacement to stay in NFPA compliance. We were able to order 6 sets of structural gear totaling \$17,000.

Currently all of our gear meets NFPA standard and we are working hard to maintain that.

*Prepared By:
Firefighter
Cody Roberts*

Awards and Recognitions

The annual Christmas and awards banquet for our members and their families was held in December. We had a great turnout in 2023.

The following awards and recognitions were given.

YEARS OF SERVICE

5 Years – Isaac Cleverly, James Hurlburt, Amy Holbrook, Anna Taylor, Andre Dubois, Jose Choque

10 Years – Jacob Cleveland

15 Years – Shane Suhadolnik

20 Years - Don Sharp, Robert Messer Jr., Cathy Hull

40 Years - John Shipley

45 Year—Robert Messer Sr.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Chosen by the membership at each station.

Station 21 - Colton Holbrook

Station 22 - Anna Taylor

Station 24 - Jose Choque

Station 26 - Aaron Everitt

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Chosen by the officers and given annually to the most outstanding new member.

Taylon Diaz

NEW MEMBERS COMPLETING PROBATION

Cindy Daniels, Nathan Anderson, Hannah Hede, Taylon Diaz, Nathan Sisson, Cameron Ross, Makenna Watson, Kevin Wangler, Dylan Apodaca, Andrew Bigelow, Matt Nadeau, Thomas Southards

TOP RESPONDER

Member that responded to the most incidents.

Bryce Holbrook

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Chosen by the membership for outstanding leadership

Tony Miller

FIRE DOG GYM

Member that used the gym the most.

Shain Scribner



*The Selah Fire Department
sincerely thanks you for your
continued support.*

*We live in a wonderful com-
munity and we strive daily to
be the best fire department to
serve you.*

