



# GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 7

## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

August 2026

### August

#### 1. Operational Overview

We concluded the month of July with 94 calls for service.

As wild land season continues on we participated in a multitude of wild land mutual aid events and state mobilizations, sending out specialized crews and gear to help fight fires all over. Right now, our teams are on the Little Giant Fire, working hard with smart containment and suppression tactics even with tough conditions. We're also teaming up with our neighbors to help cover staffing requests through a multi-agency company.

Our EMS levy amendment has been formally submitted and subsequently approved by the County authorities. Since the submission, we have not received any negative feedback or concerns from the community regarding this measure. This positive reception indicates strong support as the amendment is scheduled to be included on the ballot for the upcoming general election.

We have submitted the final pieces of information to WSRB, completing all required documentation and data verification processes, and we are anticipating a grading within the next 30 to 90 days. The crews were out finishing Type 1 hydrant tests, which involved rigorous assessments of hydrant flow rates and pressure to ensure compliance with safety standards. Preliminarily, the auditor is pleased with the district's progress, noting significant improvements in operational readiness and infrastructure maintenance, and expects our rating to improve accordingly.

As you can see by our numbers, our EMS call volume and provider engagement are drastically increasing. We have recently added one lateral EMS provider to strengthen our team, and currently, three of our members are actively attending EMT training programs to enhance their skills and certifications. Additionally, we are incredibly excited to announce that three members have been accepted into the prestigious Boston Paramedic training program, which will further elevate the level of care we provide. To support these advancements and improve our operational capabilities, we pulled the trigger on purchasing a refurbished Lifepack 15 defibrillator through the Stryker Payment program. This acquisition will be fully covered through the increase in EMS revenue generated by our expanding services.



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### **2. Apparatus and Fleet**

The new tender is currently nearing completion. We are focused on the final internal and mechanical checks to ensure everything meets our operational standards. A major component of the remaining work involves exterior finishing, specifically the application of reflective striping and departmental decals. Maintaining our brush and wildand fleet has took presidentce over all projects, reflecting our commitment to readiness and reliability across all operational vehicles.

We are extremely pleased to announce that our latest addition to the fleet is the 6x6 M1087. This vehicle, manufactured in 2007, will undergo a retrofit process where it will be equipped with an existing tank and pump system to enhance its operational capabilities.

### **3. Community Engagement**

#### **Tea with Chief**

Each Thursday morning, residents could meet the members of staff at the Cloud View Cafe, a popular local establishment known for its welcoming atmosphere and delicious coffee.

Captain Boldman, myself and Evan attended a problem gambling educational conference which was a requirement for the new grant funding. This conference provided us with in-depth knowledge about the latest research, intervention strategies, and community resources related to problem gambling. Braided funding has been extremely important in developing our prevention/community paramedicine program.

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### 4. Training

We continue to work on officer development and tactical skills during our officers meetings, focusing on enhancing leadership qualities, decision-making abilities, and operational effectiveness. We are methodically progressing through the book and lesson plan of "It's Your Ship" by Captain Michael Abrashoff, which provides valuable insights into leadership, accountability, and fostering a positive command climate.

I am extremely excited about our new training program. Captain Friesen is doing an excellent job developing the comprehensive two-year training curriculum, which is designed to enhance the skills and readiness of our personnel over an extended period. We will be contacting GCFD 13 in an effort to coordinate training schedules between both departments to maximize resource sharing and operational synergy. In the coming weeks, we will also be concentrating on Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) training, focusing on strategies and tactics to effectively manage fire risks in areas where wildland and urban development intersect. Additionally, we plan to implement further joint training crossovers with EMS, with the next scheduled session being a multi-divisional Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) and Extrication training, aimed at improving interdepartmental coordination and response capabilities.

MPD- Update Dr. Hodges presented a detailed proposal along with a draft contract for EMS services to the EMS council. The County EMS council voted to approve the terms proposed by Dr. Hodges, and effective July 1st, he will assume the role of our new MPD. The contract outlines a cost structure estimating approximately \$22 per call for Basic Life Support (BLS) providers and \$44 per call for Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers. This pricing model is intended to cover operational expenses and ensure the sustainable provision of services. I have scheduled a meeting with Dr. Hodges to discuss the strategic objectives of the EMS division. Additionally, we received a request from our neighbors in Coulee City and Hartine to participate in our EMS training.

### 5. Grant Management

Management of all existing FEMA grants is a continuous and meticulous process that requires ongoing attention to detail and proactive oversight. We are diligently monitoring compliance and reporting requirements for each grant, including deadlines, documentation standards, and performance metrics, to ensure optimal utilization of the allocated funds and strict adherence to all federal guidelines.

This comprehensive approach helps prevent any potential issues related to fund mismanagement or non-compliance. Additionally, we have applied for the FEMA Safer grant for another 5 years, specifically targeting recruitment and retention efforts to strengthen our workforce and maintain operational readiness.

## **Looking Ahead**

- Continue to Severity Staffing for Red Flag Events
- Finalize Training Schedule
- Support State Wildfire Mobilization Efforts
- Participate in Summer Chamber Events/ Moonlight Paddle August 29th.