

FEB 01, 2023

Annual Update

Grand Lake Fire Protection District



With Pride and Professionalism, the Fire District will provide the highest level of emergency and public service in response to the needs of our community.

Professionalism
Integrity
Compassion
Honor - Courage
Dedication
Respect
Commitment



STATE OF THE DISTRICT

By Fire Chief Seth St. Germain

For those of you I have not had the opportunity to meet, my name is Seth St. Germain. My wife, kids, and I became members of the GLFPD community when we moved here in March of 2019. Since 2019 I have had the privilege of serving you as the Assistant Chief, Interim Fire Chief and, as of June 2021, Fire Chief of Grand Lake Fire.



When an agency sees a degree of turnover, it is valuable to assess the state of the district. As such, a **SWOT analysis** was conducted in 2021. This analysis highlighted several strengths in the district, but also revealed a list of “threats” to the agency, which we immediately began addressing.

I am proud of the huge successes of this team in addressing those threats over the last two years. A **3-year strategic plan**, with new **long-term replacement plans** for Apparatus, Equipment, and PPE, has been developed and implemented successfully. **Employee retention**, our top priority, has improved drastically and 70% of paid staff now lives within the County. Training and education for staff has progressed and **skillsets advanced**. GLFPD’s relationships with its Grand County emergency services partners has reached new positive heights and **EMS services** to the district are **better than ever**.

Now it’s time to address the **biggest threat**, and Grand Lake Fire **needs your help**. As voters and taxpayers to GLFPD, you trust us to take a hard look at the **long-term financial security** of the District. Following the review of a 10-year budget forecast, Grand Lake Fire predicts... (continues on page 2)

Community Events

GLFPD Station I

February 17th

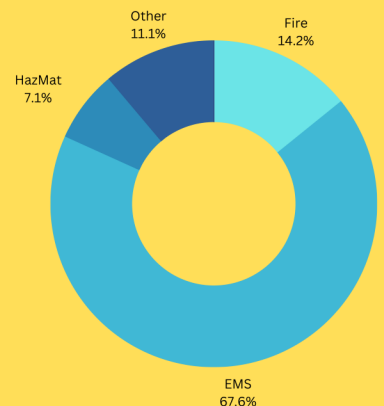
5:00 pm

&

February 25th 11:00 am



GLFPD Incident Breakdown 2022





Grand Lake Fire ANNUAL UPDATE



State of the District cont.

... predicts that the conditions on the current mill levy, inflation, and a possible economic downturn will cause **severe budget constraints**.

To address rising costs, industry changes in wage rates, and an aging fleet, we are asking your support in allowing us an **additional 2.85 mills to our annual budget**. We plan to ask this question in the May 2023 regular district election. Ultimately, this funding is needed to **protect against loss** of staffing, equipment, and apparatus that is **imperative** to our ability to serve our community with mitigation and response to fire and medical emergency incidents.

Thank you for trusting us to protect your interests both as first responders and financial stewards. I hope this newsletter provides you with useful information, and that I may see you at our upcoming community events in February.

Sincerely, Chief Seth St. Germain

2021 SWOT Analysis Highlights

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Wildland & Marshal Divisions	2019 Mill Levy language	Joint Training w/ other GC Agencies	Staff Turn over
2021 Strategic Plan	Aging Fleet & Facility	Phase 2 of GLFPD/ GCEMS Partnership ✓	Aging Fleet & Facilities
Phase I of GLFPD/ GCEMS Partnership	No Fleet or PPE replacement Plans ✓	Strategic Plan template & progress tracking ✓	Decreasing or flatlining budget
Great team, improved employee retention	No Facility repair or improvement plan ✓	Expansion of District Boundaries	Depleting Reserves

Using Mill Levy to Address the Future Threats

Long-term Financial Stability

We have strived to create a culture of fiscal responsibility and ownership at GLFPD. But even a strong culture and penny pinching can't account for rising costs of living, inflation, and the need to keep outdated firetrucks and water tenders in service. A review of the 10-year financial forecast when compared with the long-term replacement plans of fire apparatus, equipment, and personal protective equipment sees the District struggling to retain monies in reserves within in the next 5-10 years. An increase in property tax income would significantly offset these expense areas and create long-term financial stability for the District.

Staff Retention

Recruitment and retention of firefighters with EMT and Paramedic qualifications to maintain emergency response services is a top priority for GLFPD. GLFPD has made tremendous improvements to personnel benefits and now needs to increase salary wages as necessary to retain our staff in a competitive job market.





Grand Lake Fire ANNUAL UPDATE

Prepare for Rising Costs in Fleet Repairs and Replacement

A top identified threat to the success of the agency is an aging fleet. To maintain reliability and protect first responders and citizens, Grand Lake Fire has taken steps to work within the established financial constraints, such as streamlining the fleet and equipment with the sale of outdated or unnecessary apparatus and equipment. The cost for maintenance and replacement of emergency service equipment, fire trucks, and ambulances has increased 18% over the last 2 years. We are proud of the work we have done to update our fleet of response vehicles thus far. This increase in mill levy will provide the financial security the district needs to address the various apparatus and equipment that is at or over 20 years old and in need of retirement and replacement.



Top Achievements '21 & '22

- ✓ Expansion of EMS services
- ✓ Improved relationships with GC EMS
- ✓ Enforced spending disciplines w/ break even year-ends 2 years in a row.
- ✓ Published updated personnel manual with increased focus on benefits
- ✓ Awarded VFA Communications Grant
- ✓ Creation of 3-year strategic plan
- ✓ Established replacement plans for PPE, equipment, & apparatus
- ✓ Established the foundation for a joint wildland program with neighboring Fire Districts.



Why are we a career Fire/EMS Agency?

Historically, countless fire departments across the nation relied on volunteer firefighters, who responded as needed. This model has been used for decades, but a growing number of fire departments nationwide are now transitioning to full-time staff, because they can't find enough volunteers. Historically, fire departments responded to structure fires. Now the work covers structure fires, wildland fires, EMS,

HazMat, specialty rescue, motor vehicle crashes, standby for public events, public education, fire code inspections, and much more, which ultimately leads to higher call volumes. Fire departments across the country have begun to transition from a majority volunteer staff to full-time staff in order to address the increasing demands of the public.





Grand Lake Fire ANNUAL UPDATE

What is the difference between Assessed Value and Fair Market Value?

Fair market value is defined as the price that a property might be expected to sell for in an open market. Your home's tax **assessed value** represents a yearly estimation of the property's value. A government tax assessor will assign your property a valuation each year as a means through which to measure property taxes. The **actual value** as listed on the Grand County Assessor's page most closely represents the dollar value of the most recent sale of the property.

Assessed values are often lower in amount than appraised values or true market values on a property. The tax-assessed value serves a distinct purpose: to help your local government determine how much you should be paying in taxes. These taxes go toward funding public works and services. Note that tax assessors may apply different standards to their work depending on where you reside.

The current Grand County assessment percentage for improved residential properties is 7.15%.

Your property's Assessed Valuation can always be found at the Grand County Assessors webpage in the Parcel Viewer Online Map.

	\$150,000 Actual Value	\$300K Actual Value	\$500K Actual Value	\$700K Actual Value
Assessment Rate 7.15%	\$10,725	\$21,450	\$35,750	\$50,050
Requested 2.85 mills increase	\$30.56	\$61.13	\$101.88	\$142.64

Want to know more?

grandlakefire.org
970-627-8428
admin@grandlakefire.org



Revenues Needed to Cover Operating Expenses 2019 - 2029

(WITH 2.85 mill increase)

