



Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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Fire District 4 delivers improvements in 2025

Conservative budgeting enables safety upgrades without a tax increase

WEST RICHLAND, Wash. – Benton County Fire District 4 is improving emergency services in 2025 without asking voters for a tax increase. Thanks to past community support and conservative budgeting, the district will complete several key projects this year that have a direct impact on saving lives and property.

“We’re grateful for the trust our residents place in us,” said Fire Chief Paul Carlyle. “The upgrades planned reflect our commitment to operating within our means while prioritizing the community’s safety.”

Key initiatives include adding training space at Station 420, upgrading exhaust systems at Stations 410 and 420, and completing interior updates at Station 410 with fresh paint and new flooring. A new SCBA compressor and fill station (used to refill breathing air tanks) will better protect the health and safety of firefighters and emergency personnel.

The district will expand its emergency vehicle fleet with a new ambulance and a remounted ambulance. This will be Fire District 4’s second ambulance remount, which offers significant cost savings by reusing the existing ambulance box and replacing the chassis. Staffing levels will also increase with the hiring of three full-time firefighter/EMTs to address rising call volumes.

Fire District 4 has not requested a funding increase in three years, despite the Consumer Price Index rising nearly 14% over that time. Through careful financial stewardship, the district continues to stretch tax dollars further, ensuring vital service enhancements are made without additional burden on taxpayers.

“Our firefighters and safety programs exist for one reason: to serve the community,” said Chief Carlyle, “so we pride ourselves on stretching tax dollars further.”

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Benton County Fire District 4 provides fire and emergency medical service to approximately 20,000 people over 52 square miles. While the service area includes the city of West Richland and its immediate unincorporated areas, BCFD4 is a separate taxing district. BCFD4 firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics respond to an average of 2,200 calls annually, over two-thirds of which are EMS-related. More information available at www.bcf4.org.