



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Fire Chief Paul Carlyle
Benton County Fire District No. 4
509-967-2945
pcarlyle@bcfd4.org

Benton County Fire District 4 receives clean state audit
Review confirms compliance with standards and reporting requirements

WEST RICHLAND, Wash. – Benton County Fire District 4 has received a clean audit from the Washington State Auditor’s Office (SAO) for the 2024 accountability audit and the 2023–2024 financial statements audit. The SAO reported no findings, no material weaknesses, and no areas of noncompliance in the sections reviewed.

Auditors reviewed the District’s 2024 accountability period and 2023–2024 financial statements, examining payroll, disbursements, credit card use, compliance with open public meetings requirements, financial condition, and follow-up on prior recommendations. In all areas reviewed, the District was found to comply with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies.

The SAO also confirmed that earlier audit recommendations have been fully addressed. The District strengthened internal controls, increased oversight, updated financial procedures, and hired experienced administrative and finance personnel to support these improvements.

“Our community relies on us in emergencies, and they expect us to handle public funds responsibly,” Fire Chief Paul Carlyle said. “This clean audit shows that our staff and Board are doing that work.”

The Auditor’s Office also noted that prior recommendations have been fully addressed. The District strengthened financial oversight, enhanced internal controls, improved documentation and review processes, and implemented updated financial procedures—steps that the SAO acknowledged as effective and complete.

The State Auditor conducts routine examinations of all local governments in Washington to ensure compliance and accountability. Benton County Fire District 4’s next scheduled audit will occur in 2027.

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Benton County Fire District 4 provides fire and emergency medical service to approximately 25,000 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. Visit www.bcf4.org.