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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**BCFD4 highlights service challenges ahead of August levy vote**  
*Community members invited to learn more during July sessions*

WEST RICHLAND, Wash. – Benton County Fire District 4 continues to face growing service demands and rising operational costs as it prepares for a proposed fire levy lid lift on the Aug. 4, 2026, primary election ballot.

Like fire districts across Washington, BCFD4's funding is impacted by state-imposed limits that cause levy rates to decline as assessed property values increase. Voters last restored the district's fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2022. Today, that rate has fallen to approximately \$1.31 per \$1,000.

At the same time, the district continues to experience significant increases in the cost of equipment, training, technology, apparatus maintenance and firefighter safety gear. Recent cost increases include cybersecurity upgrades, emergency apparatus parts and maintenance, and personal protective equipment for firefighters.

If approved by voters, the levy lid lift would restore the fire levy rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Funding would help the district maintain emergency services, hire six firefighters, replace an aging fire engine, and strengthen water rescue and fire prevention programs.

"Fire and EMS services remain an essential safety net for our community," Fire Chief Paul Carlyle said. "We're committed to providing residents with factual information about the district's funding, service demands and future needs so they can make an informed decision."

Community members are invited to attend one of two public question-and-answer sessions about the proposed levy lid lift. Both sessions will be held at Station 420, 2604 Bombing Range Road in West Richland. The sessions are scheduled for Thursday, July 23, at 6 p.m. and Saturday, July 25, at 10 a.m.

Additional information about the levy lid lift is available at [bcfd4.org/levy-info](http://bcfd4.org/levy-info).

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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 2,350 calls annually, 69 percent of which are EMS-related. Visit [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org).*