

**Western Coventry Fire District
1110 Victory Highway
Greene, RI 02827
(401) 397-7520**

Moderator
WCS Mays III

District Clerk
Mariann Gardener

Treasurer
Sandra Mann

Tax Collector
Annie Driscoll

Board of Directors
Ch. Stephen Bousquet

Members
Richard Holt
Joe Gigliotti
Jillian Winemiller
Elizabeth McDonald

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
ANNUAL MEETING
OFFICIAL NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING**

THE WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON:

Monday, April 14, 2025–7:00 pm

(Alternate date due to inclement weather will be April 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.)

SUMMIT STATION 1110 Victory Highway, Greene, RI 02827

THE MEETING WILL BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTION OF THREE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS. APPROVING A PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$1,239,955 AND A FIRE TAX LEVY OF \$987,540, RESULTING IN A HYPOTHETICAL TAX RATE INCREASE OF 3.64% AND CONDUCTING ALL OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS THAT MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

The annual meeting information packets will be available by Wednesday April 9, 2025 at the following locations: Summit Fire Station, 1110 Victory Highway, Greene, RI; Greene Public Library, 179 Hopkins Hollow Road, Greene, RI; and Koszela Lumber, 1284 Victory Highway, Greene, RI; also available electronically on the WCFD website located at <http://www.wcfd.net>, and available from the district clerk at clerk@wcfd.net.

ADVERTISED IN THE REMINDER; POSTED AT THE SUMMIT FIRE STATION, GREENE PUBLIC LIBRARY, KOSZELA LUMBER, THE DISTRICT WEBSITE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE WEBSITE.

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 17, 2025.

**Mariann Gardener
District Clerk**

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING

7:00 PM, Monday, April 14, 2025, Summit Fire Station

1110 Victory Highway, Greene, RO 02827

AGENDA

Call to Order	Moderator Skip Mays
Emerg Evacuation Procedures:	Chief Fratantuono
Pledge of Allegiance:	Moderator
Invocation:	Rev Reppa Cottrell
Call to Meeting:	District Clerk Mariann Gardener
Minutes of Previous Meeting:	Stenographic Report on file with District Clerk
Reports:	Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sandra Mann
	Tax Collector's Report: Tax Collector Annie Driscoll Driscoll
	Board of Director's Report: Board Chairman Stephen Bousquet
	Chief's Report: Fire Chief Peter J Fratantuono
Member Recognition:	Chief Fratantuono
Old Business:	None
New Business:	RESOLUTIONS: Board Chairman Stephen Bousquet
Election of Officers	Board of Directors: Of the five (5) Board of Director's positions three (3) are open with four (4) candidates applying
Oath of Office:	Directors will be sworn in by the Moderator or his designee.
Adjournment:	

Notes: 1. In order to qualify to vote on matters of this meeting, persons must be a qualified voter of the Fire District.
2. To assist the Moderator and Tellers in recognizing WCFD qualified voters, all non-qualified audience participants will be requested to sit in a designated area set aside for guests.
3. At the Moderator's option or by a majority vote of qualified voters present, votes on motions and resolutions may be by written ballot. Unless otherwise noted or voted, all votes will be by voice vote.

**Western Coventry Fire District
Treasurer's Report
For the Fiscal Year
March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025**

I am pleased to present the annual treasurer's report for the Western Coventry Fire District for the fiscal year.

Financial Highlights

- District revenues were \$1,231,831 with a surplus applied of \$36,450. District expenditures were \$1,268,281. The district did not appropriate any dollars for the apparatus capital fund. The district ended up with a loss \$36,450 as of February 28, 2024.
- Reduced outstanding principal on the mortgage for Summit Station from \$839,430 to \$802,386. The district also received \$250,000. The district received proceeds for the purchase of the new rescue in the amount of \$250,000, the principle has been reduced from \$250,000 to \$235,813.
- At the close of the fiscal year the general fund has a balance of \$389,955 which includes non-spendable prepayments of \$29,648, the fire prevention fund has a balance of \$4,077, and the apparatus capital fund has a balance of \$273,069.

The Western Coventry Fire District used Wadovick & Company, CPAs to audit the financial statements for fiscal year ending February 28, 2024. Copies of the audit report are available upon request. Please review the following pages for further information regarding the financial performance of the Western Coventry Fire District during the 2024 and 2025 fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandra Mann,
District Treasurer

**WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET**

February 28, 2025

Unaudited

Comparison
2/29/2024
Statement of
Net Assets

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	Adjustments (Note A)	Statement of Net Assets	Comparison 2/29/2024 Statement of Net Assets
ASSETS						
Cash on Deposit	323,345		323,345		323,345	594,329
Petty Cash	30		30		30	30
Accounts Receivable	41,432		41,432		41,432	3,155
Taxes receivable(net of allowance for uncollectable taxes of \$5,000)	336,251		336,251		336,251	324,440
Deposit on Tax Collector Software	-		-		-	-
Interest receivable	-		-		-	-
Prepaid expenses - opioid	38,273		38,273		38,273	-
Prepaid insurance	29,648		29,648		29,648	17,395
Internal receivable		277,146	277,146	(277,146)		
Land				134,400	134,400	134,400
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation				2,020,789	2,020,789	1,759,034
TOTAL ASSETS	\$768,979	\$277,146	\$1,046,125	\$1,878,043	\$2,924,168	\$2,832,783
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	37,759		37,759		37,759	13,988
Wages & benefits payable	27,391		27,391		27,391	27,243
Tax sale costs payable	2,105		2,105		2,105	665
Accrued expenses	24,426		24,426		24,426	47,003
Accrued Interest Payable	1,749		1,749		1,749	1,749
Internal payable	277,146		277,146	(277,146)	-	-
Simple IRA payable	387		387		387	-
Fireman Fund	1,922		1,922		1,922	1,922
Fireman Fund	6,139		6,139		6,139	-
Loan payable-Rescue				235,813	235,813	-
Due within one year - Mortgage				35,345	35,345	35,345
Due after one year - Mortgage				767,041	767,041	804,085
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$379,024	\$0	\$379,024	\$761,053	\$1,140,077	\$932,000
FUND BALANCES:						
Unreserved	360,307		360,307	(360,307)	-	-
Non-spendable-prepayments	29,648		29,648	(29,648)	-	-
Fire Prevention		4,077	4,077	(4,077)	-	-
Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund		273,069	273,069	(273,069)	-	-
Total fund balance	389,955	\$277,146	\$667,101	(667,101)	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$768,979	\$277,146	\$1,046,125			
Net Assets:						
Invstmt. in capital assets net of related debt				1,116,990	1,116,990	1,054,004
Unrestricted				667,101	667,101	846,779
Total Net assets				\$1,784,091	\$1,784,091	\$1,900,783

NOTE A-Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.

NOTE B-Not adjusted for current year depreciation.

Capital Fund Activity

2/28/2025

Apparatus Capital Equipment Fund Beginning Balance 3/1/24	\$657,907
Funds Added	\$0
Funds Expended	<u>\$384,838</u>
Apparatus Capital Equip Fund Ending Fund Balance 2/28/2025	<u>\$273,069</u>

Fire Prevention Fund Activity

2/28/2025

Fire Prevention Fund Beginning Balance 3/1/24	\$7,999
Smoke Detector Inspection Revenue	\$1,200
Blue Print inspection Revenue	<u>\$600</u>
Total Fire Prevention Fund Revenue	\$1,800
Fire Prevention Expenditures	<u>\$5,722</u>
Fire Prevention Fund Balance 2/28/2025	<u>\$4,077</u>

Unreserved Fund Activity

2/28/2025

Unreserved Fund Beginning Balance 3/1/24	\$180,873
Prior period adjustment for FEMA grant owed	-4468
Income	1,231,831
Expenses	<u>(1,268,281)</u>
LOAN PROCEEDS	<u>250,000</u>
Unreserved Fund Balance 2/28/2025	<u>\$389,955</u>
 TOTAL FUND BALANCES AT 2/28/2025	 <u><u>\$667,101</u></u>

**Western Coventry Fire District
Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2025**

	2024/2025	2024/2025	Comparison 2/29/2024 2023/2024	Comparison 2/29/2024 2023/2024
REVENUES:	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Fire Taxes	950,463	951,209	897,603	901,629
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	16,000	19,047	20,000	19,126
Interest Income	13,000	15,144	5,000	20,224
Miscellaneous Income	0	2,108	450	86
Grants	4,000	6,368	2,500	4,000
Brush Fire Reimbursement	0	0	0	661
911 Sign Program	0	30	30	0
Rescue Recovery	140,000	237,925	140,000	113,925
Sale of Rescue	0	0	0	0
Reimbursement for Clinic	0	0	0	0
Surplus Applied	60,000	36,450	30,000	75,080
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$1,183,463</u>	<u>\$1,268,281</u>	<u>\$1,095,583</u>	<u>\$1,134,731</u>
EXPENSES:	<u>2024/2025 Budget</u>	<u>2024/2025 YTD Actual</u>	<u>2023/2024 Budget</u>	<u>2023/2024 YTD Actual</u>
Compensation and Payroll Taxes	852,279	861,937	756,467	782,262
Training	15,350	9,913	6,200	8,802
Administration	5,506	640	6,723	9,168
Insurance	73,180	67,434	65,800	68,473
Legal and Professional	25,300	41,822	23,840	26,573
Truck and Equipment Maintenance	44,500	81,664	45,344	48,310
Building and Facility Maintenance	47,470	62,292	43,436	45,625
Office Supplies	5,000	4,249	4,400	4,072
Rescue Supplies	10,000	11,291	10,000	9,830
Rescue Equipment contracts	1,575	1,575	4,086	40
Gear and Equipment	22,000	21,135	29,728	29,980
Telephone	4,594	4,390	2,750	5,170
911 Sign Program	0	0	100	0
Miscellaneous	500	1,605	500	206
Depreciation Expense	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$1,107,254</u>	<u>\$1,169,947</u>	<u>\$999,374</u>	<u>\$1,038,511</u>
Clinic	0	0	0	0
Apparatus Capital Funds	0	0	20,000	20,000
5"Supply Hose from AFG Grant	0	0	0	0
Rescue Lease Payment	0	17,368	0	0
Mortgage Payments	71,209	75,966	71,209	71,220
Fire Alarm Capital Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTALS	<u>\$1,183,463</u>	<u>\$1,268,281</u>	<u>\$1,095,583</u>	<u>\$1,134,731</u>

Tax Collector's Report

March 1st, 2024 to February 28th, 2025

The assessed value within the District as of December 31st, 2023 was \$581,400,530 for real estate and tangible property.

Total value for real estate exemptions given was \$4,828,311.

Total billed and to be collected at \$1.65 per \$1000.00 valuation for real estate and tangible 2023 after exemptions and adjustments \$951,191.42

Subsequent supplemental taxes of \$0.00; net of abatements of \$34.16; miscellaneous revenue of \$0.0, and bank fees \$52.00, resulted in final tax revenues of \$951,209.26

Total taxes, interest, and fees collected for deposit from 3/1/2024 to 2/28/2025 was \$959,725.35; which includes \$940,491.02 in taxes, \$19,047.33 interest and \$135.00 in Tax Sale fees, and \$52.00 in bank fees. Our uncollected balance as of 2/28/2025 is \$341,251.31 which includes \$320,284.22 in current year taxes, \$18,680.10 in prior year taxes as well as \$981.99 in prior year tax sale fees and \$1305.00 in current tax sale fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Annie Driscoll".

Annie K. Driscoll
Tax Collector WCFD

Board of Director's Annual Report
Western Coventry Fire District
April 14, 2025

On behalf of the Board of Directors, The Board, and I, would like to begin by expressing heartfelt thanks to the men and women of the Western Coventry Fire Department. We as a Board and Taxpayers should never take their hard work and dedication for granted as we witnessed a near tragedy when 3 members were struck by a hit and run driver last May. Each year I state how the members of the WCFD district delivered critical services to the Western Coventry community, I guess we can expand this to not only service to Western Coventry, but almost equally to the whole town of Coventry. The need for the district services again reached unprecedented levels with 1137 runs. 509 of those runs were out of the district and mutual aid provided 185 times. 45% of the dispatches were out of district and there was an increase of 411 runs from the previous year. Former Chief Cady and New Chief Peter Fratantuono and their teams worked tirelessly to deliver critical services to the community.

Rescue recovery. Rescue recovery, which has been an increasing area of challenge for us and other fire districts rebounded last year for a few reasons. The Medicare survey was completed, and CCFD shut down Rescue 7, runs increased to 883 in the fiscal 2024-2025 compared to 608 in 23-24. Rescue recovery increased to \$237,925 on a goal of \$140,000. The Surplus was much needed. As a result of all the additional runs, the Truck Maintenance budget was \$40,000 over.

Staffing. Chief Peter Fratantuono Replaced Chief James Cady in November. There have been several improvements in new staffing at the department The department filled 2 vacant fulltime positions and for the first time in years, WCFD is fully staffed with the Chief and 5 full time members. Overtime was an issue, but should be greatly reduced with the current staffing levels.

The Town Council has appointed a commission that is examining the feasibility of establishing a Town Municipal Fire Department. Per the charter, it is clear that the Town may proceed in building one - but it is important to note that the town would also need purchase the buildings and equipment. Recent audits should be discussed as well as an explanation on who would make up deficit of some of the districts. The Board continues to participate in these discussions and will continue to share information with the taxpayers as needed. While the future and cost of a Municipal Fire Department is being discussed, the Western Coventry Fire District will continue to meet the needs of the Western Coventry community.

Equipment: WCFD has begun replacement of key fire apparatus. We have purchased a Rescue Vehicle - new 2023 Dodge/Ram 5500 Cab and Chassis that was delivered in September of 2024 from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles with a purchase price of \$378,287. We did a lease purchase, financed \$250,000 with a 4-year term. Old rescue 8 will be sold most for an estimated \$10,000 which should be placed in the general fund for future Apparatus additionally the Board would like to add \$10,000 to the Apparatus Capital Equipment Fund.

The Department under Chief Fratantuono has recently re-submitted for a grant request to FEMA for a 2,500-gallon capacity Tanker. WCFD is one of the few full-time stations that has a Tanker and is often called out of district for anything from brush and forest fires to neighboring districts that don't have fire hydrants. Our current tanker is 29 years old and long-term reliability is in question. We are hopeful that this grant will be accepted as we do not have adequate reserves to cover the purchase of a new tanker.

ASSESSMENT

Your Board of Directors is committed to provide the community with a safe and adequately staffed Fire department. To ensure we meet your needs, we are looking for approval of a \$987,540 Fire Tax Assessment, creating a new tax rate of \$1.71 per \$1,000 of valuation compared to \$1.65 last year. On a \$300,000 assessed home this amounts to \$18.00. per year increase

BUDGET

As always, the major objective of the Annual Meeting Packet and Meeting is transparency in the budget and to ensure the taxpayers of the District can be confident that their fire tax dollars are being spent prudently and decisions are being made wisely. The major financial decisions must be made with the involvement of and approval by the voters of the District. The 2025-2026 \$1,239,955 budget before you has been vetted. The District officers continue to comply with rules and regulations directed at accountability. Treasurer Sandra Mann submits quarterly financial reports to the State's Auditor General. Director Richard Holt routinely reconciles the accounts of the Tax collector Annie Driscoll and the accounts of the Treasurer. Clerk Mariann Gardener and Moderator Skip Mays stay abreast of the requirements of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and Access to Public Records Act (APRA) as defined by the RI Attorney General. Auditing services are provided by Wadovick and Company who were chosen as the department's auditor for the next three years after a competitive bid process. A collection of Standard Administrative Procedures has been created and are regularly reviewed and updated to provide evidence that administrative tasks are documented and addressed.

TAXPAYER INPUT

We continue to rely on community input to continue moving Western Coventry Fire District in the right direction. Thank you to all those who have participated in our survey and attend our meetings. There is always work to be done in order to guarantee that the District's stability and cost

effectiveness of services are maintained. It is important that community minded residents that feel strongly about the continued wellbeing of WCFD become engaged. Options for involvement are varied and include offering assistance in administrative matters such as reviewing and updating by-laws and procedures, simply attending the monthly meetings to participate in discussions and/or run for elected office.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the information presented in this annual packet or any other business associated with WCFD, please feel free to contact District officers, members of the Board of Directors or Chief Fratantuono at 401-397-7520. The Board of Directors typically schedules a public meeting on the third Thursday evening of each month in addition to other meetings on an as needed basis. All WCFD's public meetings are conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act with agendas that include an opportunity for the public to voice concerns or suggestions during an open forum. The meeting agendas are posted on the Secretary of State's web site, <http://sos.ri.gov/publicinfo/openmeetings/> and posted locally at Koszela Lumber and the Summit Station at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting's scheduled time.

This Board of Director's Annual Report is respectfully submitted with the assistance and approval of a devoted WCFD Board of Directors; Jillian Winemiller, Joe Gigliotti, Richard Holt, and Elizabeth McDonald with appreciation for the many hours of work performed by the District's Officers; Treasurer Sandra Mann, Tax Collector Annie Driscoll, Clerk Mariann Gardener, Moderator Skip Mays, and Chief Peter Fratantuono.

In closing, the Board of Directors and I ask all taxpayers to please get involved and help us manage and direct the Fire District in the manner that you want us to.

On behalf of the Board of Directors
Stephen Bousquet
Chair, BOD



WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT

1110 Victory Highway
Greene, RI 02827



Letter to the Community

Dear Taxpayers of the Western Coventry Fire District

It is my honor to address you for the first time as your Fire Chief. My name is Peter Fratantuono, and I have the privilege of leading the dedicated men and women of our fire department following the retirement of Chief James Cady. I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the status of your fire department and the advancements we have made to better serve our community.

One of the most significant developments this year is the acquisition of a new ambulance. This addition enhances our ability to provide emergency medical care, as it is now licensed to deliver paramedic-level services—the highest level of prehospital care available. I am proud to report that we currently have nine paramedics on our roster, ensuring that our community receives the best possible medical attention when it matters most.

While recruitment remains a challenge, we are fortunate to have 47 dedicated men and women who serve with commitment and professionalism. Their unwavering dedication to protecting life and property is the backbone of our department. Additionally, we have made strides in improving our staffing by adding a fifth full-time firefighter position, which has significantly enhanced our shift scheduling and overall service capabilities.

None of these achievements would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our department members, district officers, and the board of directors who oversee the district. Their efforts ensure that we continue to operate efficiently and effectively while maintaining the highest standards of service.

As we gather to discuss and approve the annual operating budget for our department, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support. Your contributions allow us to maintain and improve our ability to respond to emergencies, safeguard lives, and serve this great community. Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to working together to keep our community safe.

Sincerely

Peter J Fratantuono
Chief of Department
Western Coventry Fire District



WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT

1110 Victory Highway
Greene, RI 02827



FY2024/2025 Annual Chiefs Report

I want to take a moment to thank the 45 members of our fire department for their unwavering dedication, courage, and commitment to serving our community. Their hard work and perseverance ensure the safety and well-being of those in need. We proudly recognize Andrew Smith, Breonna Bouthot, Brianna Czarnowsky, and Abygail Cerbarano for successfully completing their firefighting credentials, as well as Vito Vinciguerra for successfully completing his EMT program. We also congratulate Jacob Gault on successfully earning his EMT Cardiac License. Additionally, we commend Vito Vinciguerra, Ryan Tourgee, and Amanda Cairo for their continued commitment as they actively take classes to acquire their firefighting credentials, and Nicholas Brita as he works toward obtaining his EMT Cardiac License.

The department would also like to extend its deepest gratitude to Chief James Cady. Chief Cady's dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to both our department and the fire service have left a lasting impact. His years of service, sacrifice, and mentorship have shaped the department and inspired those who follow in his footsteps. We are truly grateful for his service and wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement. Lastly, in addition to all of my part time members, I must also recognize my full-time career firefighters for their ongoing commitment to the department. Below is a list of our full-time members.

Full Time Firefighters	EMS Provider Level	Firefighter
Cudoni, Alexis	Paramedic	Firefighter II
Mann, Capt. Robert	EMT-Cardiac	Firefighter II
Marcotte, Scott	Paramedic	Firefighter II
Plaziak, Josh	EMT-Basic	Firefighter II
Remillard, Maurice	Paramedic	Firefighter II

Department Call Volume.

The fire department experienced a significant increase in call volume this year, responding to a total of 1,137 incidents. A major factor contributing to this rise was the increased need for mutual aid, as neighboring departments struggled with limited resources. The lack of available personnel and equipment in the area placed a greater demand on the department to assist with emergencies beyond its usual jurisdiction. This surge in calls highlights the growing strain on emergency services and the need for additional support to ensure timely and effective responses to emergencies.

Call Breakdown

Fire Calls	Emergency Medical Responses
254	883

Mutual Aid Provided to WCFD	Mutual Aid Provided to outside agencies
185	509

Department Shift Coverage

Starting in December 2024, the fire department's shift coverage significantly improved following the implementation of a new scheduling model. The updated system has optimized staffing levels, ensuring better coverage across all shifts. As a result, response times have improved, and department efficiency has increased, enhancing public safety and emergency preparedness overall.

Staffing Levels (% of time) for Duty Crews					
Month	ALS	BLS Only	One EMT	No EMT	Two Firefighters
March 2024	78.3%	21.7%	11.4%	0.4%	93.5%
April 2024	99.2%	0.8%	0.3%	0%	85.8%
May 2024	96.5%	3.5%	1.9%	0%	92.3%
June 2024	93.8%	6.2%	3.5%	0%	93.2%
July 2024	89.1%	10.9%	1.2%	0%	89%
August 2024	80.8%	19.2%	8.3%	0.8%	90.9%
September 2024	75.6%	24.4%	5.7%	0.8%	91.5%
October 2024	79.8%	20.2%	9.7%	0.2%	86.6%
November 2024	81.8%	18.2%	5.7%	0.1%	83.6%
December 2024	99.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0%	98.1%
January 2025	100%	0%	0%	0%	95.3%
February 2025	100%	0%	0%	0%	98.9%

Injuries

1. On May 29, 2024, while responding to a call for service, our fire engine was struck by a hit-and-run driver, resulting in injuries to two of our department members. One firefighter has since returned to active duty, while the second remains out on injury. Her absence has been deeply felt within our department, as she plays a vital role in our team's daily operations and emergency response efforts. While we have adapted, her skills, dedication, and presence are greatly missed. Fortunately, we expect her to return to active duty soon, and she is eager to be back serving alongside her team. The entire department looks forward to welcoming her back, as her return will restore a crucial part of our crew. We appreciate the continued support from our community as we focus on her recovery and well-being.
2. Another firefighter remains out on injury following an incident sustained while on duty in May 2023. Their dedication and service to the department have been greatly missed, and we continue to support them throughout their recovery. We look forward to their return to active duty soon and wish them a full and speedy recovery.
3. Chief Cady sustained a shoulder injury while on duty and is still in the process of recovery. Though retired, he continues to work through rehabilitation with strength and perseverance. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him a speedy and full recovery.

Station and Equipment Maintenance

1. The fire department recently purchased new computers to support essential administrative functions, including incident reporting, data management, and other operational tasks. The previous computers had surpassed their expected service life, becoming outdated and inefficient. Frequent technical issues and slow performance hindered productivity, delaying critical reporting and communication. Upgrading to modern systems was necessary to ensure reliability, enhance data security, and improve overall efficiency. These new computers will enable personnel to complete their duties more effectively, ensuring accurate and timely reporting while supporting the department's mission to serve the community.
2. The station fire alarm system had been experiencing ongoing issues that the previous servicing company was unable to resolve despite multiple attempts. Due to the persistent problems and the need for a reliable safety system, a new service provider was brought in to assess and repair the system. The new company successfully identified and corrected the issue, ensuring the fire alarm is now fully operational and reliable for future use.

3. The steam boiler was inspected and found to have deficiencies that required attention. After a thorough assessment, necessary repairs and adjustments were made to address the issues. The boiler is now in proper working condition, ensuring safe and efficient operation.
4. The fire station has been experiencing ongoing HVAC system issues for an extended period, creating challenges in maintaining a comfortable and efficient indoor environment. These long-standing issues include:
 - a. **Difficulty Setting Temperature** – The system has consistently failed to allow manual adjustments, making it difficult to regulate indoor conditions effectively.
 - b. **Inconsistent Temperatures** – Temperature fluctuations have been a recurring problem, leading to discomfort and inefficiencies throughout the building.
 - c. **Extreme Temperature Swings** – Due to malfunctioning outdoor sensors, the system frequently experiences drastic temperature shifts, further exacerbating the inconsistencies.
 - d. **Conflicts Between Radiant Heat and Air Exchangers** – The in-floor radiant heating system has continually worked against the air exchangers, causing ongoing inefficiencies and compounding temperature control issues.
 - e. **Current Resolution Efforts**

Despite these challenges persisting for some time, our heating contractor is actively working on a solution. A plan and quote is being developed to determine the necessary steps for resolving these long-standing issues.

Ensuring a reliable and functional HVAC system remains a priority, and further updates will be provided as progress is made.

Grants

The fire department has actively pursued grant funding to enhance its operations and improve emergency response capabilities. A FEMA grant application in the amount of \$855,950.00 has been submitted, which, if awarded, will assist in purchasing a much-needed engine tanker. The grant has also received written support from Senators Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, and Representative Seth Magaziner.

The department is also actively benefiting from a SAFER grant awarded to the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs, which provides funding for new turnout gear for two members.

Additionally, grant funds made available through the Town of Coventry, funded by opioid settlement funds, have enabled the department to acquire the essential equipment necessary to upgrade our ambulance to the paramedic level, further improving the level of care provided to the community. The department continues to actively pursue additional grant opportunities, including funding from the Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund, to help offset costs and reduce the financial burden on taxpayers.

Lastly The department is grateful for the opportunity offered by Senators Leonidas P. Raptakis, and Gordon E. Rodgers to apply for a \$1500.00 grant. If we are awarded this grant we will use the funds to purchase a desperately needed multi meter to survey potentially hazardous environments for toxic gases such as carbon monoxide, propane etc.

Firefighter and EMT Training Classes

The fire department is working towards making significant improvements in its training programs. A key step in this effort was the appointment of Chris Albro as the new Director of Training. Albro brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to enhancing training opportunities within the department. One of the major initiatives includes plans to host fire academy courses at the department, which will provide nearby departments with greater access to essential training. Additionally, the department has established a new partnership with Ozga EMS, which will be holding EMT classes on-site. This collaboration will create more local opportunities for those interested in becoming EMTs, ultimately strengthening the department by increasing the number of trained emergency medical personnel available to serve the community. Looking ahead, the department also hopes to offer more opportunities for the community to take classes in first aid, CPR, and similar life-saving topics in the near future. These advancements mark a new era of excellence and preparedness that the fire department is actively working toward

Apparatus

Currently, our fire department's apparatus fleet is aging, with the exception of the new ambulance the department's newest piece of apparatus was built in 2010, while the oldest apparatus in service is from 1996. This highlights the urgent need for proactive planning to ensure the continued reliability and effectiveness of our emergency response capabilities. Additionally, the department is operating without two vital pieces of apparatus, a second tanker, which was stationed out of Greene, and a command vehicle for the chief. The district sold these two vehicles due to their unsafe condition. At this time there is currently no apparatus stationed at the Greene fire station. The lack of this second tanker puts the department at a huge disadvantage due to the loss of mobile water carrying capacity that is provided with a tanker. These vehicles should be replaced to maintain operational readiness and ensure the safety of our personnel and our community.

As discussed earlier, the department is pursuing a grant to assist in the purchase of a new tanker for the department. The cost of new apparatus in today's market has become exorbitant. Additionally, even if funds were available today to purchase a new apparatus, most new vehicles are taking at least 3 years or more for delivery.

Given the significant cost and extended lead times for new apparatus, My recommendation is that the district strongly considers the purchase of high-quality used apparatus. This approach can help bridge gaps in our fleet while ensuring fiscal responsibility. Strategic planning and investment in fleet upgrades will be essential to maintaining a dependable emergency response system for our community. I understand that in 2023 the taxpayers approved a resolution to purchase a used tanker. As the Fire Chief, I recommend that the district allow me to research and move forward with purchasing a quality used tanker to replace the missing asset. Additionally, if financially feasible and approved by the taxpayers, I recommend that the district allow me to research and purchase a quality used command vehicle to replace the missing asset.

A current apparatus inventory list is provided below.

Truck	Vehicle Description	In Service	Replace Date	Engine Hours	Total Mileage	Replace Mileage
Unit 8	2008 Ford Pick-up F-350	10/15/2007	2024		61637	140000
Brush 1	2002 F-550	4/4/2002	2025		28123	140000
Rescue 8	2013 International Rescue	11/14/2013	2023	7474	161703	130000
Engine 8	2008 Spartan Pumper	5/4/2010	2030		47855	100000
Tanker 8	1996 Mack Pumper Tanker	6/18/1996	2025	2978	42105	50000
Rescue 8	2023 RAM 5500	11/15/2024	2030		8356	140000

Sincerely,



Peter J Fratantuono
Chief of Department
Western Coventry Fire District

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

Proposed Operating Budget

March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026

Budget Area	2024/2025 Budget	2024/2025 Actual	2025/2026 Proposed
Compensation & Payroll Taxes*	\$852,279	\$861,937	\$833,937
Training & Administration	20,856	10,553	10,650
Insurance	73,180	67,434	74,822
Legal & Professional	25,300	41,822	46,307
Truck & Equipment Maintenance	44,500	81,664	57,063
Building & Facility Maintenance	47,470	62,292	55,595
Office Supplies	5,000	4,249	6,000
Rescue Supplies	10,000	11,291	12,000
Rescue Equip. Maint. Contracts	1,575	1,575	3,075
Gear & Equipment	22,000	21,135	24,034
Telephone	4,594	4,390	4,596
Miscellaneous	500	1,605	500
911 Sign Program**	0	0	0
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,107,254	\$1,169,947	\$1,128,579
Station Mortgage	71,209	75,966	85,479
Fire Alarm Capital Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000
Rescue 8 Lease	0	17,368	10,897
Matching Grant Funds	0	0	0
Apparatus Capital Equipment Fund	0	0	10,000
Total Operating Budget	\$1,183,463	\$1,268,281	\$1,239,955

***911 Sign Program hardware expense is covered by the fee charged to the property owner.*

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
Proposed Operating Budget - Continued
March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026

***Detail of Compensation & Payroll Taxes**

Compensation & Payroll Taxes	2024/2025 Budget	2024/2025 Actual	2025/2026 Proposed
Fulltime Personnel	\$349,680	\$302,145	\$408,668
Health Insurance	76,347	45,116	64,707
Department Officers	2,935	1,936	5,500
Run & Training Pay	22,523	25,440	25,140
Duty Crew	228,053	318,315	179,402
Duty Crew Overtime	2,000	22,408	2,000
District Officers	33,916	34,075	35,103
Overtime Pay	27,711	61,051	20,000
Paid Time Off	24,566	-22,577	21,917
Payroll Taxes	68,348	61,523	55,000
Clothing Stipend	4,200	2,589	4,500
Simple IRA	12,000	9,916	12,000
Total	\$852,279	\$861,937	\$833,937

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
Operating Revenue Projections
March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026

Revenue	2024/2025 Budget	2024/2025 Actual	2025/2026 Proposed
Fire Taxes	\$950,463	\$951,209	\$987,540
Recue Recovery	140,000	237,925	220,000
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	16,000	19,047	17,000
Interest on Banking	13,000	15,144	8,000
Grant Income	4,000	6,368	4,000
911 Sign Program	0	30	15
Brush Fire Reimbursement	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Income	0	2,108	3,400
Surplus Applied	60,000	36,450	0
Total	\$1,183,463	\$1,268,281	\$1,239,955

HYPOTHETICAL WCFD FIRE TAX

Note: The following hypothetical WCFD fire tax comparison is based upon the last adopted assessment and the tax rate of last year. Last year's fire tax rate was set at \$1.65 per \$1,000 of real estate and tangible property value to meet last year's voter approved budget. For the purpose of comparison for this report, the following hypothetical WCFD fire tax rate is based on no change in the value of real estate and tangible property.

WCFD net assessed property value after exemptions last year was \$576,668.809.

Present WCFD fire tax is \$1.65 per \$1,000 of assessment.

For this past fiscal year, a home owner owning a home assessed at \$300,000 paid an annual fire tax of \$495.00.

Based on the proposed and if approved budget contained in this Annual Meeting packet, the fire tax rate will increase 3.64% to \$1.71 per \$1,000 of assessment.

This same home owner's annual fire tax will be \$513.00, an increase of \$18.00 per year.

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Annual Meeting April 14, 2025

RESOLUTION 1: That all actions taken by the Officers and Board of Directors of the Western Coventry Fire District during the fiscal year ending February 28, 2025, be ratified.

RESOLUTION 2: That a Western Coventry Fire District operating budget of \$1,239,955 be adopted for fiscal year March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026.

RESOLUTION 3: That the proceeds of the sale of the old, out of service, Rescue 8 be added to the Apparatus Capital Equipment Fund.

RESOLUTION 4: That the excess of the 2024/2025 budgeted "Surplus Applied" of \$60,000 over the actual deficit amounting to \$23,550 be added to the Apparatus Capital Equipment Fund.

RESOLUTION 5: That the Department's \$40,760 share of an \$855,956 AFG grant request to FEMA for a new engine/tanker, if granted, be paid out of the Apparatus Capital Fund.

WCFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE INFORMATION

KENT NOVAK

I have lived in Western Coventry since 1960 and am a product of the Western Coventry Elementary School and Coventry High School. At the age of fourteen I rode my bike to the Summit Fire Station to respond to fire calls. I did rise to the rank of Lieutenant as a volunteer in the Western Coventry Fire Department. Later I was on the Board of Directors as a member and eventually became the Chairperson. During my tenure as Chairperson and as a member of the new station Building Committee, with the support of the District residents and taxpayers, we built and moved into the new Summit Station in 2009!

I graduated from URI in 1970 and worked for 37 years teaching mathematics in the North Kingstown School System and finishing my career in their Central Office, writing grants, developing curriculum, participating in human resource activities, and coordinating professional development activities. After retiring from teaching, I worked as a mathematics consultant in developing mathematics curriculum, developing testing and measurement instruments, and new mathematics textbook development. My consultant activities took place in the United States, Pakistan, and Egypt.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my candidacy for the WCFD Board of Directors. (knovak311@yahoo.com or 401-965-1610

Jillian Winemiller

Hello, my name is Jillian Winemiller and I have been a Coventry resident for almost a decade. I grew up in a more urban setting of Rhode Island and have found Western Coventry to be a very peaceful rural setting that I am looking forward to eventually raising my children in. I have been a member of the WCFD Board of Directors for the last couple of years with most recently being the Vice Chair. I have enjoyed my time on the Board and would like the opportunity to continue this rewarding experience. In addition to being on the Board, I also sit on the Coventry Municipal Fire Commission as the Western Coventry representative to ensure that our voices are heard and our questions and concerns are validated in this pivotal time.

I graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a degree in Fire Protection Engineering. I have been able to use this in my career at a local consulting firm working with and helping fire departments, building owners, and other clients with the goal of making the community safer while also presenting cost effective solutions to needs and problems. I have found that these skills have been very beneficial with the interworking of the WCFD and I would be excited to continue to have the opportunity to assist in making the community safer while also keeping in mind financial and geographic considerations.

Thank you for your consideration!

WCFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Elizabeth McDonald

I am a proud resident of Western Coventry, having moved here in 2017 with my amazing husband and two beautiful daughters. I have always been dedicated to serving Rhode Island, especially during times of great need.

My journey in service began at just 18 years old as a Red Cross volunteer. I later became a paid staff manager for the Red Cross in Rhode Island and Connecticut, a Disaster Recovery Manager in Massachusetts, and eventually the Senior Director of the Red Cross, where I recruited and managed over 400 volunteers. In this role, I helped Rhode Islanders prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters while also supporting our military members as they served away from their families.

As the Disaster Recovery Manager of Massachusetts (while continuing to serve as a RI volunteer), I ensured that families and communities received millions of dollars in disaster recovery funding after disasters that impacted Massachusetts communities.

After 30 years of dedicating myself to Rhode Island communities in their times of need, I made the decision to become a homeschool mom to support my two favorite Rhode Island residents—my daughters. Now that they are growing up, I am eager to continue serving, this time right here in my own backyard.

I have worked closely with fire departments, police departments, and military families for many years, gaining valuable skills and experience that I know can benefit our District. Serving as a Board member this past year has been an incredible experience. I have identified many areas where my knowledge and skills can help support the families of Western Coventry.

I look forward to continuing to serve as we move toward the future.

Elizabeth McDonald

401-829-1885

Mcdonald.fam2@outlook.com

Western Coventry Fire District

Official Ballot

APRIL 14, 2025

VOTE FOR THREE

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS (two positions)

Two (2) -- 3 Year Term and One (1)-- 1 year term.

CHECK BOXES --- (Listed In Alphabetical Order)

VOTE FOR THREE

☐

Stephen Bousquet
8 Raven Blvd.
Greene, RI 02827

☐

Elizabeth McDonald
247 Nicholas Rd.
Greene, RI 02827

☐

Kent Novak
246 Camp Westwood Rd.
Coventry, RI 02816

☐

Jillian Winemiller
6783 Flat River Rd
Greene, RI 02827