

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE
ANNUAL MEETING
OFFICIAL NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING

THE WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON:

Monday, April 27, 2026–7:00 pm

(Alternate date due to inclement weather will be May 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.)

SUMMIT STATION 1110 Victory Highway, Greene, RI 02827

Moderator
WCS Mays III

District Clerk
Mariann Gardener

Treasurer
Sandra Mann

Tax Collector
Annie Driscoll

Board of Directors
Ch. Stephen Bousquet

Members
Richard Holt
Jillian Winemiller
Elizabeth McDonald

THE MEETING WILL BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTION OF TWO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND FOUR DISTRICT OFFICERS (CLERK, MODERATOR, TAX COLLECTOR, AND TREASURER). APPROVING A PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$1,399,469 AND A FIRE TAX LEVY OF \$1,124,954, RESULTING IN A HYPOTHETICAL TAX INCREASE OF 13.91% AND CONDUCTING ALL OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS THAT MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

The annual meeting information packets will be available by Wednesday April 22, 2026 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.wcfid.net>, and available from the district clerk at clerk@wcfid.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 May 21, 2026.

Mariann Gardener
District Clerk

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING

7:00 PM, Monday, April 27, 2026 Summit Fire Station

1110 Victory Highway, Greene, RI 02827

AGENDA

Call to Order	Moderator Skip Mays
Emerg Evacuation Procedures:	Chief Albro
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 Board of Director's Report: Board Chairman Stephen Bousquet Chief's Report: Fire Chief Chris Albro
Member Recognition:	Chief Albro
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, two (2) are open with three (3) candidates applying: Marjorie Drew, Jennifer Lamont, and Elizabeth McDonald. The positions are for a three year term. District Officer positions: Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector are running unopposed and the Moderator will request the Clerk to cast a single ballot for the electors. The positions are for a three year term.
Oath of Office:	Directors will be sworn in by the Moderator or his designee. Waived for the incumbents that have been previously sworn in.

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, 2025 to February 28, 2026

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 \$1,281,989 with a surplus applied of \$85,064. District expenditures were \$1,367,053. The district did appropriate \$23,500 for the apparatus capital fund. The district ended up with a loss \$85,064 as of February 28, 2026.
- Reduced outstanding principal on the mortgage for Summit Station from \$802,386 to \$768,764. The outstanding principal on the rescue was reduced from \$235,813 to \$177,236. The district also received \$160,000. The district received proceeds for the purchase of the used 2002 Ferrara Engine Tanker, which has been designated as Engine/Tanker 9 in the amount of \$194,514, the principle has been reduced from \$160,000 to \$153,960. The district also bought a 2013 Suburban Chevy in the amount of \$12,500 and sold the 2013 International Ambulance for \$9,900.
- At the close of the fiscal year the general fund has a balance of \$428,707 which includes non-spendable prepayments of \$19,609, the fire prevention fund has a balance of \$5,133, and the apparatus capital fund has a balance of \$99,455.

The Western Coventry Fire District used Wadovick & Company, CPAs to audit the financial statements for fiscal year ending February 28, 2025. 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 25/26 fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Mann, District Treasurer

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

February 28, 2026

Unaudited

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	Adjustments (Note A)	Statement of Net Assets	Comparison 2/28/2025 Statement of Net Assets
ASSETS						
Cash on Deposit	246,330		246,330		246,330	323,345
Petty Cash	30		30		30	30
Accounts Receivable	355		355		355	41,432
Taxes receivable(net of allowance for uncollectable taxes of \$5,000)	346,864		346,864		346,864	336,251
Receivable - Pine Acres	14,000		14,000		14,000	-
Interest receivable	0		0		0	-
Prepaid expenses - opioid	0		0		0	38,273
Prepaid insurance	19,609		19,609		19,609	29,648
Internal receivable		104,588	104,588	(104,588)		
Land				134,400	134,400	134,400
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation				2,102,107	2,102,107	2,020,789
TOTAL ASSETS	\$627,188	\$104,588	\$731,776	\$2,131,919	\$2,863,695	\$2,924,168
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	1,262		1,262		1,262	37,759
Wages & benefits payable	41,432		41,432		41,432	27,391
Tax sale costs payable	835		835		835	2,105
Accrued expenses	13,138		13,138		13,138	24,426
Accrued Interest Payable	3,886		3,886		3,886	1,749
Internal payable	104,588		104,588	(104,588)	-	-
Simple IRA payable	5,099		5,099		5,099	387
Fireman Fund	1,922		1,922		1,922	1,922
Firefighter Hardship Fund	6,139		6,139		6,139	6,139
Firefighter Benefit Fund	180		180		180	-
Donation - Restricted	20,000		20,000		20,000	-
Due within one year - ET 9				36,956	36,956	-
Due after one year - ET 9				117,004	117,004	-
Due within one year - Rescue				61,616	61,616	-
Due after one year - Rescue				115,620	115,620	235,813
Due within one year - Mortgage				35,909	35,909	35,345
Due after one year - Mortgage				732,855	732,855	767,041
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$198,481	\$0	\$198,481	\$995,372	\$1,193,853	\$1,140,077
FUND BALANCES:						
Unreserved	409,098		409,098	(409,098)	-	-
Non-spendable-prepayments	19,609		19,609	(19,609)	-	-
Fire Prevention		5,133	5,133	(5,133)	-	-
Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund		99,455	99,455	(99,455)	-	-
Total fund balance	428,707	\$104,588	\$533,295	(533,295)	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$627,188	\$104,588	\$731,776			
Net Assets:						
Invstmt. in capital assets net of related debt				1,136,547	1,136,547	1,116,990
Unrestricted				533,295	533,295	667,101
Total Net assets				\$1,669,842	\$1,669,842	\$1,784,091

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.

**Western Coventry Fire District
Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2026**

	2025/2026 <u>Budget</u>	2025/2026 <u>YTD Actual</u>	Comparison 2/28/2025 2024/2025 <u>Budget</u>	Comparison 2/28/2025 2024/2025 <u>YTD Actual</u>
REVENUES:				
Fire Taxes	987,540	989,303	950,463	951,209
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	17,000	19,210	16,000	19,047
Interest Income	8,000	5,972	13,000	15,144
Miscellaneous Income	3,400	1,339	0	2,108
Grants	4,000	2,310	4,000	6,368
911 Sign Program	15	30	0	30
Rescue Recovery	220,000	249,695	140,000	237,925
Donations	0	130	0	0
Income - Pine Acres	0	14,000	0	0
Surplus Applied	0	85,064	60,000	36,450
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$1,239,955</u>	<u>\$1,367,053</u>	<u>\$1,183,463</u>	<u>\$1,268,281</u>
EXPENSES:				
Compensation and Payroll Taxes	833,938	891,944	852,279	861,937
Training	9,300	10,266	15,350	9,913
Administration	1,350	3,052	5,506	640
Insurance	74,822	80,763	73,180	67,434
Legal and Professional	46,306	42,084	25,300	41,822
Truck and Equipment Maintenance	57,063	60,135	44,500	81,664
Building and Facility Maintenance	55,595	56,761	47,470	62,292
Office Supplies	6,000	4,391	5,000	4,249
Rescue Supplies	12,000	9,690	10,000	11,291
Rescue Equipment contracts	3,075	2,307	1,575	1,575
Gear and Equipment	24,034	13,957	22,000	21,135
Telephone	4,596	4,857	4,594	4,390
Detail-Pine Acres	0	12,386	0	0
Miscellaneous	500	2,331	500	1,605
Depreciation Expense	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$1,128,579</u>	<u>\$1,194,924</u>	<u>\$1,107,254</u>	<u>\$1,169,947</u>
Clinic	0	0	0	0
Apparatus Capital Funds	10,000	0	0	0
Rescue Supplies-Opioid Monies	0	810	0	0
Mortgage Payment	85,479	85,479	71,209	75,966
Rescue Lease Payment	10,897	69,474	0	17,368
Engine Tanker 9 Lease Payment	0	11,366	0	0
Fire Alarm Capital	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTALS	<u>\$1,239,955</u>	<u>\$1,367,053</u>	<u>\$1,183,463</u>	<u>\$1,268,281</u>

Capital Asset Fund
2/28/26

Apparatus Capital Equipment Fund Beginning Balance 3/1/25	\$273,069
Funds transferred from general fund	\$23,500
Funds Received	\$9,900
Funds Expended	<u>\$207,014</u>
Apparatus Capital Equip Fund Ending Fund Balance 2/28/2026	<u>\$99,455</u>

Fire Prevention Fund Activity
2/28/2026

Fire Prevention Fund Beginning Balance 3/1/25	\$4,077
Smoke Detector Inspection Revenue	\$1,340
Blue Print inspection Revenue	<u>\$450</u>
Total Fire Prevention Fund Revenue	\$1,790
Fire Prevention Expenditures	<u>\$734</u>
Fire Prevention Fund Balance 2/28/2026	<u>\$5,133</u>

Unresered Fund Activity
2/28/2026

Unreserved Fund Beginning Balance 3/1/25	\$389,955
Prior period adjustments from audit 2/28/2025	-\$12,684
Income	1,281,989
Expenses	<u>(1,367,053)</u>
LOAN PROCEEDS	160,000
Funds transferred to apparatus fund	<u>(23,500)</u>
Unreserved Fund Balance 2/28/2026	<u>\$428,707</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCES AT 2/28/2026	<u><u>\$533,295</u></u>

Tax Collector's Report

March 1st, 2025 to February 28th, 2026

The gross assessed value within the district as of December 31st, 2024 was \$589,830,926 for real estate and tangible property.

Total value for real estate exemptions given was \$5,079,538, resulting fire tax Assessment of 584,751,388.

Total tax billed and to be collected after exemptions and adjustments was \$989,475 of which \$978,058 was for real estate, billed at \$1.693 per \$1000 of valuation; and \$11,417. was for tangible, billed at \$1.58 per \$1000 of valuation.

Subsequent supplemental taxes of \$0; Tax sale fee's of \$7,104; miscellaneous revenue of \$0, and bank fees of \$36; and net abatements of \$211; resulted in final potential tax revenues of \$996,404.

Total tax, interest, and fees collected for deposit from 3/1/2025 to 2/28/2026 was \$1,005,999; which includes \$977,433 in tax, \$20,418 in interest, \$7,876 in tax sale as \$1,469 in prior year tax sale fees. collected balance as of 2/28/2026 is \$351,864 which includes \$334,919 in current year taxes, \$15,476 in prior year taxes, as well

Respectfully Submitted,



Annie K. Driscoll
Tax Collector WCFD

Board of Director's Annual Report
Western Coventry Fire District
April 27, 2026

I would like to begin by extending our sincere gratitude to the men and women of the Western Coventry Fire Department. Your continued commitment, partnership, and support have been critical to the success of this past year. We are especially appreciative of the dedication shown during a demanding year—one that required flexibility, resilience, and a strong sense of community. The level of service delivered continues to reflect the very best of Western Coventry, and we do not take that for granted.

Staffing and Operations

Under the leadership of Chief Christopher Albro and Past Chief Peter Fratantuono, the department has made meaningful progress in strengthening staffing while responding to rapidly increasing service demands. The department has operated with a Chief and 5 full-time members, and importantly, we continue to grow to meet the needs of the community.

Call volume has reached unprecedented levels, placing increased pressure on staffing and operations. District services totaled 1,131 runs this year, with 515 of those calls—46%—occurring out of district. For comparison, in 2021 W.C.F.D. responded to 577 total runs; this year, we nearly reached that number in out-of-district calls alone.

To meet this demand, our goal is to maintain six full-time members and establish consistent Advanced Life Support (ALS) coverage 24/7. This is a critical next step to ensure timely, effective response both within the district and in support of mutual aid.

Overtime continued to be a concern, driven by staffing constraints, operational demands, and unique challenges this past year. Extended severe weather conditions, a State of Emergency, and the need to staff the station as a warming shelter required additional shifts and contributed to overtime costs exceeding budget.

Maintaining 6 full-time member directly addresses these pressures—reducing overtime, stabilizing scheduling, and positioning the department for sustainable operations as demand continues to rise.

Rescue Recovery

Rescue recovery continues to be a critical and evolving component of our operations, driven by increased call volume and changes in regional service coverage. Rescue runs increased to 901 in fiscal year 2025–2026, up from 883 the prior year. As a result, rescue recovery revenue reached \$224,965 against a goal of \$220,000, providing financial support to the district.

While this surplus was beneficial, the increased operational demand also contributed to higher vehicle usage and resulted in the Truck Maintenance budget exceeding projections by \$10,000.

Equipment

WCFD continues to make progress in strengthening its apparatus fleet to ensure reliability and operational readiness. This year, we purchased a 2002 Ferrara Engine Tanker, now designated as Engine Tanker 9, as well as a used command vehicle to enhance on-scene coordination and response capability. These additions represent cost-effective investments that immediately improve operational capacity.

In parallel, we have submitted a FEMA grant application for a new tanker. Given the age and reliability concerns of our older tanker 8, this remains a priority to ensure long-term service capability for both district and mutual aid responses.

Assessment

Your Board of Directors fully recognizes that the proposed assessment represents a tax increase. This was not a decision made lightly. On average, this increase equates to approximately \$71 on a home assessed at \$300,000 in Western Coventry. This adjustment is necessary to support the continued growth of the department, address rising service demands, and invest in the staffing and equipment required to maintain a safe and effective fire district. We remain committed to transparency and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, ensuring that every investment directly supports the safety and well-being of our community.

Budget

As always, the primary objective of the Annual Meeting Packet and Meeting is transparency and ensuring taxpayers can be confident that their fire tax dollars are being spent prudently and decisions are being made wisely. Major financial decisions must involve and be approved by District voters.

The proposed 2026–2027 budget of \$1,399,469 has been thoroughly vetted. District officers continue to comply with all rules and regulations related to accountability. Treasurer Sandra Mann submits quarterly financial reports to the State’s Auditor General. Director Richard Holt routinely reconciles the accounts of Tax Collector Annie Driscoll and the Treasurer. Clerk Mariann Gardener and Moderator Skip Mays remain current on 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. A collection of Standard Administrative Procedures has been created and is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure administrative tasks are documented and properly addressed.

Town Update

The Coventry Municipal Fire Commission has presented a Fire Services assessment to the Coventry Town Council. According to their proposal, homeowners in Western Coventry could face a 28% increase in fire taxes, while businesses may see an increase of approximately 60%.

The Commission's recommendation calls for uniform staffing levels across the town which would result in the Western Coventry Fire District operating with two ALS providers per shift. This staffing model raises concerns about the district's ability to deploy multiple fire apparatus simultaneously when needed; this could limit effectiveness and our ability to consistently have the right resources available to serve the community. Additionally, the projected costs do not appear to account for existing debt and pension obligations associated with transitioning to a town-run department.

As discussions continue regarding the future and financial implications of a municipal fire department, the Western Coventry Fire District remains committed to meeting the needs of the taxpayers..

Thanks and Appreciation

The Board would also like to express deep appreciation and thanks to the following:

- **Members of the Apparatus Committee**, who were instrumental in researching, coordinating, and securing Tanker 9 from West Virginia. Special thanks to "Water Boss" Deputy Chief Russell Lacaillade, Fire Fighter Joseph Burdick, and Fire Fighter Kevin Lacaillade.
- **The Outreach Committee** for hosting numerous events, including a pasta lunch, Fire Safety Week, and Christmas at WCFD. Members include Elizabeth McDonald, Marjorie Drew, Captain Mann, Skip Mays, Robert Guastini, Bob Hevey, Chief Chris Abro, and Fire Fighter Steven Autieri.
- **Coventry Walmart** for sponsoring Fire Safety week and outing.

The Board would like to thank and remember:

- **Chief Peter Fratantuono**, who left the department in November 2025.
- **Joe Giglioti**, a three-year Board member who greatly supported the district with his IT knowledge and business insight.
- **Kenneth Jackson**, an extremely active community member who served on many Town boards, including WCFD from 2016–2022. WCFD received donations in his memory, and a special flag/lighting project will be dedicated to him in the future.
- **Bernie George**, a longtime active Board member who was instrumental as a grant writer. A longtime Boy Scout leader and retired Army veteran, Bernie made a significant impact on many WCFD members.

Taxpayer Input

We continue to rely on community input to move the Western Coventry Fire District in the right direction. Thank you to all who have participated in our surveys and attended meetings. There is always work to be done to ensure the District's stability and cost-effectiveness of services.

Community-minded residents are encouraged to get involved—whether by assisting with administrative efforts such as reviewing bylaws, attending monthly meetings, participating in discussions, or running for elected office.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the information presented in this annual packet or any other WCFD business, please feel free to contact District officers or members of the Board of Directors. The Board typically schedules a public meeting on the third Thursday evening of each month, in addition to other meetings as needed.

All WCFD public meetings are conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and include an opportunity for public input. Meeting agendas are posted on the Secretary of State's website ([Open Government Center - Rhode Island - Gregg M. Amore](#)) and locally at Koszela Lumber and the Summit Station at least 48 hours in advance.

This Board of Directors' Annual Report is respectfully submitted with the assistance and approval of a dedicated WCFD Board of Directors: Jillian Winemiller, Richard Holt, and Elizabeth McDonald, with appreciation for the many hours of work performed by District Officers—Treasurer Sandra Mann, Tax Collector Annie Driscoll, Clerk Mariann Gardener, Moderator Skip Mays, and Chief Chris Albro.

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 expect.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Stephen Bousquet
Chair, BOD



WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT

1110 Victory Highway
Greene, RI 02827



FY2025/2026 Annual Chiefs Report

Department Overview

The Western Coventry Fire District provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, and support services to approximately 3,500 residents across nearly 50 square miles.

The department operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, utilizing a combination of full-time and per diem personnel to maintain continuous emergency response coverage across a geographically large and diverse service area.

Due to the size of the district and the increasing demand for emergency medical services, maintaining consistent staffing and response capability remains a critical priority.

Your Fire Chief

I have the honor of serving as Fire Chief of the Western Coventry Fire District, a role I assumed in November 2025. I bring over two decades of experience in the fire service, along with deep roots in this community.

I began my fire service career with this department in 1995 before continuing my career with the City of Warwick Fire Department, where I served for 23 years and retired at the rank of Lieutenant. During that time, I was assigned to Special Hazards, served as a Hazardous Materials Team Leader for the State Regional Response Team, and was a member of the Technical Rescue Team.

I have been an instructor at the Rhode Island Fire Academy since 2005 and hold multiple certifications, including Fire Instructor II, Fire Officer II, and Master Hazardous Materials Instructor.

Most importantly, I am a resident of this community, where my family and I live and where my children attend school.

My focus is straightforward: ensuring that when someone in this district calls for help, we have the personnel, equipment, and capability to respond immediately and effectively.

Member Recognition

I want to take a moment to recognize the members of the Western Coventry Fire District.

The strength of this department is not in equipment or apparatus—it's in the people. Our members continue to show up, train, and respond when called, often balancing full-time jobs, family responsibilities, and the demands of emergency service.

This past year, members have:

- Completed firefighter and EMS certifications
- Advanced their training and professional development
- Stepped up to cover shifts and respond when needed

These accomplishments are not just personal achievements—they directly improve the level of service we are able to provide to this community.

I also want to recognize the commitment our members show on a daily basis. Whether it's responding to calls, covering shifts, or supporting each other, their dedication is what keeps this department operating.

This department works because of the people in it.

Special recognition is extended to the Truck Working Group:

- Deputy Chief Russel Laccilaide
- Firefighter Joseph Burdick
- Firefighter Kevin Laccilaide

Their work was instrumental in bringing Engine Tanker 9 into service.

Additionally, members demonstrated exceptional commitment during severe winter conditions, maintaining operations during a blizzard, supporting EMS transport operations, and assisting residents in need beyond the emergency response itself. These actions reflect the professionalism and character of this department.

Current Manpower and Certification Level:

The Western Coventry Fire District currently maintains a roster of 30 members, consisting of both full-time and per diem personnel.

Certification Breakdown

- Dual-Certified (Firefighter / EMS): 20
 - 13 EMT-Basic
 - 3 EMT-Cardiac
 - 4 Paramedics
- EMS Certified Only: 5
 - 3 EMT-Basic
 - 1 EMT-Cardiac
 - 1 Paramedic
- Firefighter Only: 3
- No Certifications: 0

Department Call Volume

During this reporting period, Fiscal year March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026, the Western Coventry Fire District responded to 1,131 calls for service.

Incident Breakdown

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Majority of calls
- Fire Incidents: Less frequent, but high-risk and resource-intensive
- Service Calls & Hazard Conditions: Ongoing operational demand

Operational Perspective

The continued dominance of EMS calls reflects the evolving role of the fire service. Today, the majority of responses involve providing emergency medical care rather than fire suppression.

While fire incidents occur less frequently, they require significant staffing and resources when they do occur. At the same time, the steady volume of EMS and service calls creates a continuous demand on personnel.

The demand for service is constant, and in many cases, overlapping—making staffing and availability at the time of the call critical to maintaining reliable response.

Mutual Aid Activity

Note: Mutual aid totals are based on available reporting data and may vary slightly depending on report completion across agencies.

During this reporting period:

- **Mutual Aid Given:** 220 calls
- **Mutual Aid Received:** 178 calls

The Western Coventry Fire District remains a net provider of mutual aid services within the region, assisting neighboring communities while also receiving support when local resources are committed.

Operational Perspective

This level of activity reflects strong regional cooperation and the importance of working closely with surrounding departments to ensure effective emergency response.

At the same time, it highlights the operational reality that:

- Department resources are frequently committed to ongoing incidents
- Additional calls within the district often require outside assistance
- Coverage is sometimes maintained through automatic or mutual aid response

We are proud to support our neighboring departments, but when we are already committed to calls, we rely on them to cover our district.

Department Shift Coverage

The department's current staffing model typically consists of:

- One ALS-qualified firefighter
- One additional BLS-qualified firefighter / or ALS-qualified firefighter

This staffing level provides basic operational coverage; however, it offers limited redundancy during active incidents.

Operational Impact

When the rescue is committed to a call—particularly one requiring transport:

- The engine may not be staffed to respond independently
- The station may be left without immediate coverage
- Additional calls may require automatic or mutual aid response

Given the size of the district and the frequency of EMS-related incidents, units are often committed for extended periods of time. When multiple calls occur simultaneously, this creates gaps in service and increased reliance on outside agencies.

This is not a personnel issue—it is a structural staffing limitation that directly impacts response reliability and consistency.

Station and Apparatus

The department continues to operate an aging fleet, with several apparatus approaching or exceeding their expected service life.

While these vehicles remain in service, increased age results in:

- Higher maintenance demands
- Increased risk of mechanical issues
- Potential impact on response reliability

Maintaining a dependable fleet is essential to ensuring that equipment is available when needed and that operations can be carried out safely and effectively.

Apparatus Inventory

A current apparatus inventory is outlined below:

Truck	Vehicle Description	In Service	Replace Date	Engine Hours	Total Mileage	Replace Mileage
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Unit 8	2008 Ford Pick-up F-350	10/15/2007	<u>2024</u>		65720	140000
Brush 1	2002 F-550	4/4/2002	2030		28376	140000
Engine 8	2008 Spartan Pumper	5/4/2010	2030		52179	100000
Tanker 8	1996 Mack Pumper Tanker	6/18/1996	<u>2025</u>	2978	43400	42788
Kubota			2035	212		
Rescue 8	2023 RAM 5500	11/15/2024	2030		31685	140000
Car 91	2013 Suburban	05/2025	2035		135909	200000
Engine Tanker 9	2002 Ferrara	12/30/2025			40254	

Operational Challenges

The department continues to face several equipment-related challenges, including:

- Aging tanker and engine assets
- Increased maintenance and repair costs
- Limited redundancy within the fleet

In particular, the age of certain apparatus—especially Tanker 8—presents ongoing concerns regarding long-term reliability and operational readiness.

Current Efforts and Planning

To address these challenges, the department is actively working to:

- Pursue available grant funding opportunities
- Evaluate apparatus replacement options
- Consider cost-effective solutions, including the acquisition of quality used apparatus

Given current market conditions, new apparatus purchases involve significant cost and extended delivery timelines. As a result, strategic planning and phased replacement remain critical.

When we respond to an emergency, the expectation is that our equipment works every time.

Maintaining that reliability requires ongoing investment and planning

Facilities and Infrastructure

Maintaining a reliable and functional fire station is essential to supporting day-to-day operations and emergency response.

Our facility continues to require ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure it remains safe, efficient, and capable of supporting personnel and equipment.

Areas of Focus

- **HVAC System Improvements**

Ongoing issues with temperature control and system performance continue to impact the overall efficiency and comfort of the station. Efforts are underway to evaluate and implement long-term solutions.

- **Equipment & Technology Upgrades**

Continued investment is needed to maintain reliable administrative systems, communication tools, and operational equipment that support daily functions and incident response.

- **Facility Reliability & Safety**

Ensuring that building systems—including heating, alarms, and infrastructure—remain operational is critical to both firefighter safety and uninterrupted service delivery.

Department Challenges

The department continues to face several ongoing challenges that impact service delivery and long-term planning, including:

- Increasing call volume, particularly EMS-related incidents
- Limited on-duty staffing and coverage gaps
- Extended out-of-service time during EMS transports
- Dependence on automatic and mutual aid for coverage
- Aging apparatus and infrastructure
- Inconsistent availability of ALS-level providers

Addressing these challenges is essential to maintaining a reliable level of service for the community—both now and in the future.

Goals and Priorities

Moving forward, my focus is on strengthening the department's ability to provide consistent, reliable emergency response across the district.

Key priorities include:

- Improving staffing levels to ensure both the rescue and engine can respond effectively
- Enhancing ALS coverage with the goal of providing 24/7 Advanced Life Support with no gaps
- Replacing aging apparatus to maintain safe and dependable operations
- Strengthening training programs to support ongoing professional development
- Always maintaining reliable response capability throughout the district

These priorities are centered on one objective—ensuring that the department has the personnel, equipment, and capability in place to respond when needed.

Closing

The proposed budget increase reflects the real and immediate cost of maintaining reliable emergency services in the Western Coventry Fire District. This proposed increase is significant. I understand that. But it reflects the real cost of maintaining reliable emergency services in this district today—not five or ten years ago.

Current operational challenges—including limited staffing, inconsistent ALS coverage, increasing call volume, extended out-of-service times during EMS transports, and aging apparatus—directly impact our ability to respond consistently and effectively.

This increase is necessary to:

- Improve staffing levels and maintain station coverage
- Expand ALS availability to meet emergency medical demand
- Address aging apparatus and rising maintenance costs
- Sustain reliable response capability across the district

Without these investments, gaps in service will continue and response reliability will be affected.

The mission of the Western Coventry Fire District is to provide reliable, professional emergency services to the community.

I remain committed to that mission and will continue working to ensure that every resident receives the level of service they expect and deserve.

When someone in this district calls 911, they expect us to be there. This report outlines what is required to make that happen—consistently and without delay.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Christopher W. Albro
Chief of Department
Western Coventry Fire District

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
Proposed Operating Budget
March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2027

Budget Area	2025/2026 Budget	2025/2026 Actual	2026/2027 Proposed
Compensation & Payroll Taxes*	\$833,938	\$891,944	\$877,996
Training & Administration	10,650	13,318	12,650
Insurance	74,822	80,763	82,500
Legal & Professional	46,307	42,084	44,438
Truck & Equipment Maintenance	57,063	60,135	57,125
Building & Facility Maintenance	55,595	56,761	68,995
Office Supplies	6,000	4,391	5,770
Rescue Supplies	12,000	9,690	12,000
Rescue Equip. Maint. Contracts	3,075	2,307	0
Gear & Equipment	24,034	13,957	22,100
Telephone	4,596	4,857	4,596
Miscellaneous	500	2,331	500
Pine Acres – Duty Crew	0	12,386	0
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,128,580	\$1,194,924	\$1,188,670
Opioid Supplies	0	810	0
Station Mortgage	85,479	85,479	85,479
Tanker/Engine 9	0	11,366	45,846
Rescue 8	10,897	69,474	69,474
Fire Alarm Capital Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000
Apparatus Capital Equipment Fund	10,000	0	5,000
Total Operating Budget	\$1,239,956	\$1,367,053	\$1,399,469

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
Proposed Operating Budget - Continued
March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2027

***Detail of Compensation & Payroll Taxes**

Compensation & Payroll Taxes	2025/2026 Budget	2025/2026 Actual	2026/2027 Proposed
Fulltime Personnel	\$408,669	\$391,234	\$471,520
Health Insurance	64,707	70,252	83,500
Department Officers	5,500	3,874	4,000
Run & Training Pay	25,140	39,286	25,140
Duty Crew	179,402	199,146	161,330
Duty Crew Overtime	2,000	33,664	10,000
District Officers	35,103	35,242	36,516
Overtime Pay	20,000	58,404	15,000
Paid Time Off	21,917	-11,288	0
Payroll Taxes	55,000	59,786	55,090
Clothing Stipend	4,500	2,217	3,900
Simple IRA	12,000	10,127	12,000
Total	\$833,938	\$891,944	\$877,996

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
Operating Revenue Projections
March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2027

Revenue	2025/2026 Budget	2025/2026 Actual	2026/2027 Proposed
Fire Taxes	\$987,540	\$989,303	\$1,124,954
Recue Recovery	220,000	249,695	245,000
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	17,000	19,210	19,000
Interest on Banking	8,000	5,972	6,000
Grant Income	4,000	2,310	1,500
911 Sign Program	15	30	15
Pine Acres Detail	0	14,000	0
Miscellaneous Income	3,400	1,339	3,000
Donations	0	130	0
Surplus Applied	0	85,064	0
Total	\$1,239,955	\$1,367,053	\$1,399,469

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 \$1.693 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 \$1.693 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 \$508.

Based on the proposed and if approved budget contained in this Annual Meeting packet, the fire tax rate will increase 13.91% to \$1.93 per \$1,000 of assessment.

This same home owner's annual fire tax will be \$579.00, an increase of \$71.00 per year.

WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Annual Meeting April 27, 2026

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, 2026, be ratified.

RESOLUTION 2: That a Western Coventry Fire District operating budget of \$1,399,469 be adopted for fiscal year March 1, 2026, to February 28, 2027.

RESOLUTION 3: That the Department's 5 percent (5%) share of an approximate \$900,000 AFG grant request to FEMA for a new tanker, if granted, be paid out of the Apparatus Capital Equipment Fund.

Board Candidate Bio: Marjorie Drew

Marjorie Drew is a dedicated community advocate with a diverse professional background spanning public service, healthcare, historic preservation, and nonprofit leadership. Living in Western Coventry for several years, she brings a strong commitment to service, collaboration, and community engagement to her role with the Western Coventry Fire Department.

Marjorie has over 20 years of experience as a Registered Respiratory Therapist, working in high-acuity hospital settings providing critical care, emergency response, and patient education. Her clinical career required calm decision-making, teamwork under pressure, and a deep sense of responsibility—skills that continue to inform her community leadership work today.

In addition to her healthcare background, Marjorie serves as a Historic Preservation Specialist with FEMA, where she conducts complex project reviews, collaborates with stakeholders, and ensures compliance with federal preservation laws. She also served as a docent at the historic Stephen Hopkins House in Providence, where she educated the public and fostered appreciation for local history and heritage.

Marjorie is deeply involved in nonprofit and animal welfare work. She is a board member and longtime volunteer with Foster Parrots and the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, where she supports parrot care, fundraising, public outreach, and legislative initiatives.

Her commitment to community engagement is further demonstrated through her active role with the Western Coventry Fire Department's Outreach Committee. Marjorie has helped plan and support numerous department events, including the spaghetti dinner, open house, "Burning of the Greene," holiday celebrations for staff, and upcoming community initiatives such as Bingo Night.

Marjorie is passionate about service, public safety, and building strong, connected communities. She brings a thoughtful, hands-on approach to leadership and is honored to support the mission and members of the Western Coventry Fire Department.

Board Candidate Bio: Jennifer A. Lamont

Jennifer A. Lamont is a seasoned operations leader and lifelong Coventry resident with more than 26 years of experience at AAA Northeast, where she currently serves as a District Branch Manager. In this role, she oversees daily branch operations, leads high-impact customer service initiatives, and manages the Rhode Island DMV Partnership—guiding strategy, operations, equipment oversight, and comprehensive staff training. Jen is widely recognized for improving service delivery, streamlining processes, and developing high-performing teams capable of delivering consistent, community-focused results.

Her leadership extends beyond her professional responsibilities. Jen has coordinated a wide range of community engagement efforts, including food drives for local action programs, warm-clothing collections for area charities, family-friendly events such as Trunk or Treat, and public awareness advocacy around impaired driving. Her commitment to service is deeply rooted in her own family history: her father served as a volunteer firefighter and later as Chief of the Hope Jackson Fire Department, and her son became the youngest paid firefighter/EMT in his department at age 19. These experiences have given her a lifelong appreciation for fire service and the individuals who dedicate themselves to protecting their communities.

A Coventry resident of more than 40 years, Jen is committed to strengthening the Western Coventry Fire District and supporting its long-term sustainability. She brings a blend of operational expertise, strategic thinking, and community-driven leadership—along with a deep personal connection to the fire service. Jen is dedicated to ensuring public safety remains a top priority and to supporting the firefighters and EMTs who serve the town with professionalism and courage.

Elizabeth McDonald

I am a proud resident of Western Coventry, having moved to the community in 2017 with her husband and two daughters. She has dedicated her life to serving Rhode Island, particularly during times of crisis and community need.

Elizabeth began her service at the age of 18 as a volunteer with the American Red Cross. She went on to serve in multiple leadership roles across Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, including Disaster Recovery Manager and later Senior Disaster Director with the American Red Cross. In these roles, she recruited and managed more than 400 volunteers and supported communities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. She also assisted military members and their families during times of deployment.

As Disaster Recovery Manager in Massachusetts—while continuing to volunteer in Rhode Island—Elizabeth helped ensure that families and communities received millions of dollars in disaster recovery funding following major events. The Recovery Department was responsible for securing federal disaster declarations and ensuring that communities, nonprofit organizations, and residents were able to access all available federal assistance and recovery resources.

Elizabeth also served in an executive role with the Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers, an organization representing emergency management professionals across the state, including fire chiefs and emergency managers from both public and private sectors. After more than 30 years of service, Elizabeth chose to step back from her professional career to focus on her family as a homeschool mother, supporting her two daughters. Now, as her daughters grow older, Elizabeth is eager to continue serving her local community. She has worked closely with fire departments, police departments, and emergency management professionals throughout her career, gaining experience that directly benefits the Western Coventry Fire District.

Since joining the Board of Directors, Elizabeth has been dedicated to strengthening the capabilities of the fire department and ensuring it has the resources needed to effectively serve its residents. She has also established an Outreach Committee to improve communication between the department and the community, increase engagement, and help build a stronger pipeline of future responders to meet the growing needs of the district.

Elizabeth looks forward to continuing her service and contributing to the future safety, strength, and resilience of the Western Coventry community.

Elizabeth McDonald

401-829-1885

Mcdonald.fam2@outlook.com

Western Coventry Fire District

Official Ballot

APRIL 27, 2026

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS (two positions)

Two (2) -- 3 Year Terms

CHECK BOXES --- (Listed In Alphabetical Order)

VOTE FOR TWO

Marjorie Drew
720 Perry Hill Rd
Coventry, RI 02816

Jennifer Lamont
275 Hopkins Hollow Rd
Greene, RI 02827

Elizabeth McDonald
247 Nicholas Rd.
Greene, RI 02827

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT OFFICER—Uncontested—3 yr term

District Clerk (uncontested)

Mariann Gardener
488 Weaver Hill Rd
Coventry, RI 02816

Moderator (uncontested)

WCS Mays, III
710 Perry Hill Rd
Coventry, RI 02816

Treasurer (uncontested)

Sandra D. Mann
5150 Flat River Rd
Coventry, RI 02827

Tax Collector (uncontested)

Annie Driscoll
2 Brenda Drive
Coventry, RI 02816