

# SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025

## Annual Report

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## *Message from the Chief*

On behalf of all paid-on-call and career members of the **Selah Fire Department**, it is my privilege to present the 2025 Annual Report. The Selah Fire Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of our community. We protect lives and property through Public Education, Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression, and Emergency Medical Services. Each member of our department is dedicated to serving our community with honesty, integrity and respect for each other and all we serve. We are grateful for the continued support from our community, city and district administration, elected officials, and all the city departments that work to make our community great. Without your support, it would not be possible for us to meet our mission.

As we look to the future, we recognize several challenges for the operation and maintenance of the department. The first being funding to maintain our current level of service. Second, staffing to meet the needs of a growing community, and third, future organization and structure of our expanding department. Over the last few years, we have absorbed steep cost increases due to inflation and additional cost increases for a growing department. Our current levy is nearing end of life, and we will need to go back to the voters for support soon.

Because of the support of our community, we are proud to announce that the insurance rating of the area we serve has improved. Washington Survey and Ratings Bureau improved the Protection Classification in the city from PC 5 to PC 4, and areas of the district were also improved. This has a direct, positive impact on business and homeowner insurance rates.

Our organization is focused on providing the safest work environment possible for your Fire/EMS responders. We diligently strive to be the most effective and efficient public safety organization, while considering the ever-changing environment and the necessary evolution of our service. As our community continues to grow, we embrace our responsibility of providing the highest level of care and service to meet the challenges and demands of our community.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all members of the Selah Fire Department. I take great pride in representing such an outstanding group of individuals that continually demonstrate a commitment to the success of this department.

I would like to thank the Commissioners of Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 and the City of Selah Mayor and City Council for allowing me to serve as your fire chief.

Respectfully,



James Lange, Fire Chief

## ***DEPARTMENT HISTORY***

On January 8, 1940, the Selah Town Council signed Ordinance #90, which provided for the organization, maintenance and regulation of a fire department in the Town of Selah, Washington. Thus, was born the Selah Fire Department. S.C. Justice was appointed as the Fire Chief of the new department consisting of 1 truck, 5 officers and 14 volunteer firefighters.

In 1946 a Rural Fire District (RFD) later to be known as Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 was formed and manned by the Selah Fire Department. This includes the area North of Lookout Point between Selah Heights and the Yakima River, North to Adobe Hill and the hill tops South of Wenas Lake Dam.

East Selah was annexed into Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 in 1960 and the upper Wenas Valley in 1975 creating a combined area 26 miles long and 7 miles wide at its widest point.

The City of Selah and Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 legally combined their fire departments in 1966 creating the department that now exists.

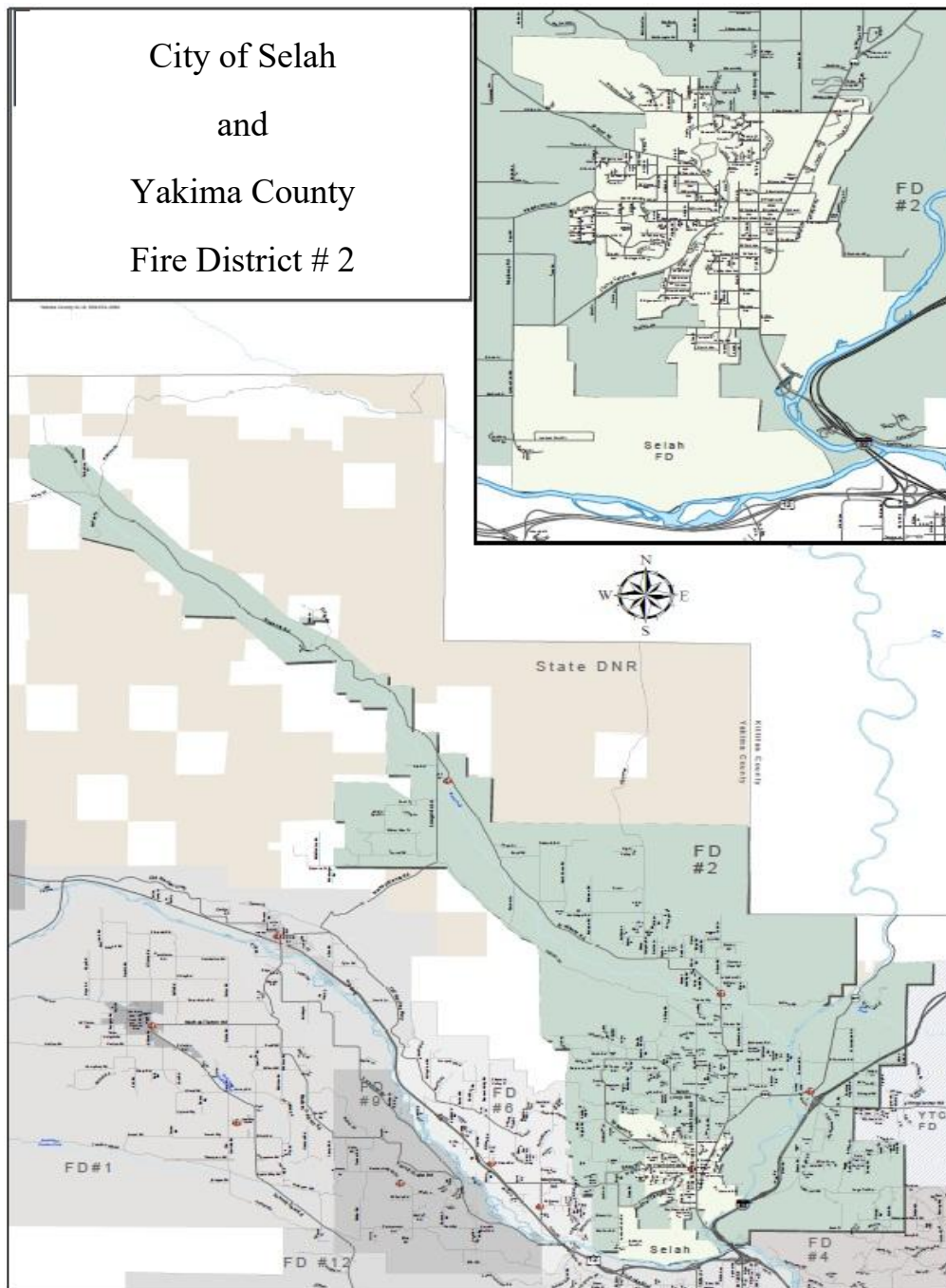
This move was one of the most progressive actions taken since the creations of both fire departments. It has saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars by eliminating duplication in administrative costs, equipment and building needs, operational costs and utilization of manpower.

From this simple beginning, the department now serves an area of 65 square miles and an estimated population of approximately 21,000.

In 1940 the Selah Fire Department responded to 6 fire alarms, 4 of which were actual fires, with a total property loss of \$75.00. In 2025, the Selah Fire Department responded to a total of 1,953 calls for service. Approximately 84% of those calls are medical incidents, and there are multiple calls/overlapping calls 23% of the time. This makes the Selah Fire Department the busiest fire district in Yakima County.



# ***SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE AREA***



The Selah Fire Department response area covers approximately 65 square miles.

Roughly 5 square miles and a population of 8,650 within the city limits of Selah and 60 square miles and a population approximately 12,350 within Fire District #2.

# ***YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2 COMMISSIONERS***

**Chairman..... Dan Boyle**

**Commissioner.... Brad Helms**

**Commissioner.... Rex Reed**

**Secretary..... Ashley Call**

The Fire Commissioners form a board elected by the public to represent their fire district.

Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 commissioners serve six-year terms staggered every two years. Any resident, 18 years or older, who lives within the district boundaries are eligible to run for an open position on the board.

All regular meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Station 22, 1830 Harrison Rd. Meetings are open to the public and offer residents an opportunity for public comment.

## **SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT STATIONS**



### **STATION 22**

**1830 Harrison Rd.**

**Yakima, WA 98901**



### **STATION 26**

**121 Fink Rd.**

**Selah, WA 98942**

### **STATION 24**

**4251 N. Wenas Rd.**

**Selah, WA 98942**



# ***CITY OF SELAH MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL***

## **SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CITY STATION**



**Station 21**

**206 W. Fremont Ave**

**Selah, WA 98942**

### **Mayor**

**Roger Bell**

### **City Administrator**

**Open**

### **Council Members**

**Joshua Redtfeldt**

**Jared Iverson**

**Elizabeth Marquis**

**Clifford Peterson**

**William Longmire**

**Michael Costello**

**David Monaghan**

**Selah has a strong Mayor, council  
form of government.**





# ***SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## ***MISSION, VISION AND MOTTO***

**OUR MISSION IS THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY, AND TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY AND MAGNITUDE OF PERSONAL TRAUMA AND PROPERTY LOSS. TO EFFECTIVELY MITIGATE THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN EMERGENCIES THAT WILL OCCUR.**



### **VISION**

**To position the fire department securely (operationally, financially, and politically) through and beyond our current state of growth, while creating a predictable and sustainable future.**

### **MOTTO**

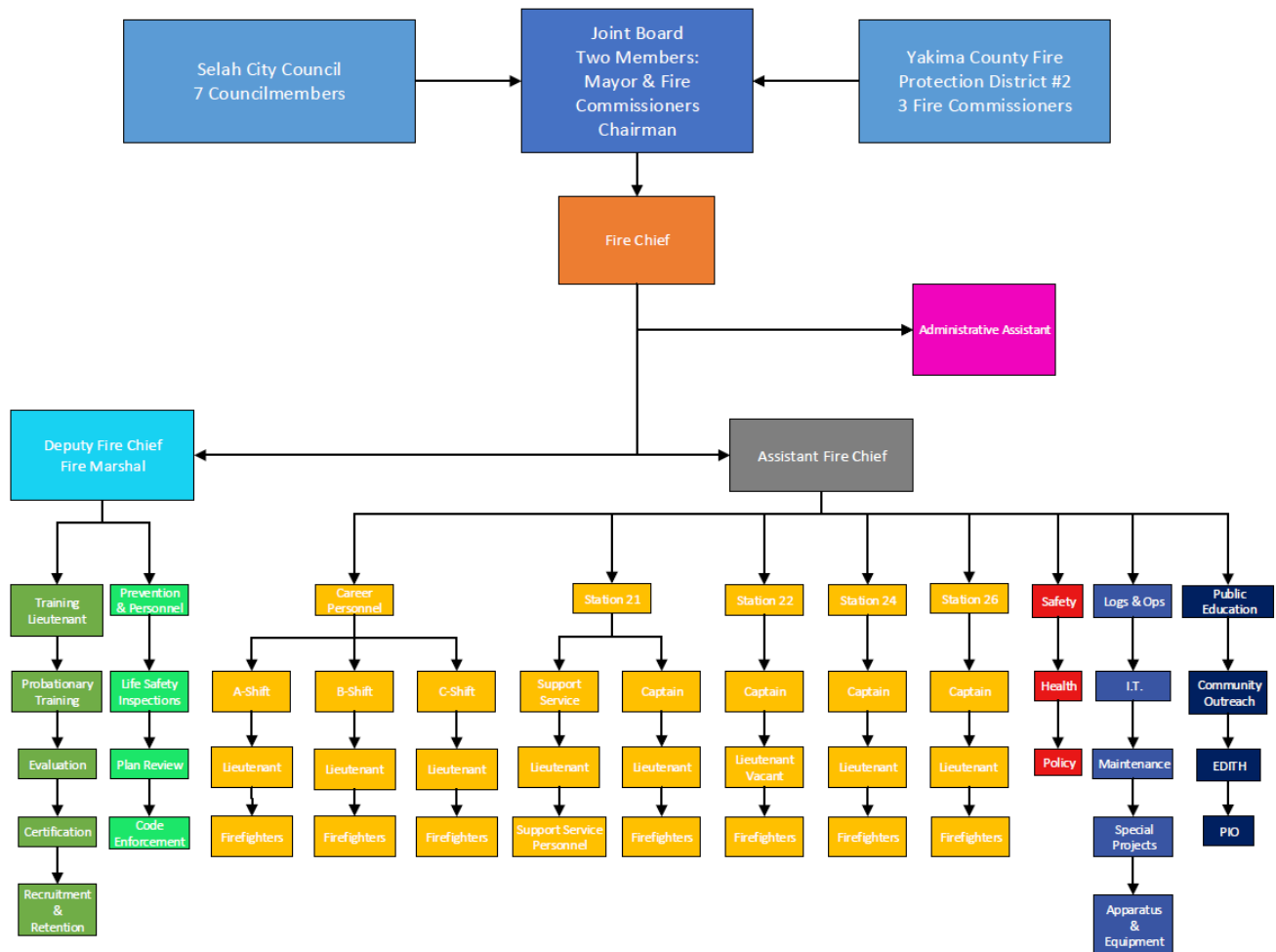
***Honesty - Integrity - Respect***

**We value the public's trust and are committed to honest and ethical behavior. We hold ourselves accountable to this value. We believe in a personal commitment to the organization and community. Self-discipline is the foundation for managing behavior.**

**We are a fire department family. We are committed and accountable to each other because our lives depend on it. We value the role each member plays in our organization. We respect those that came before us and will strive to make the organization better for those who follow.**



# ***FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AND STAFFING LEVEL***

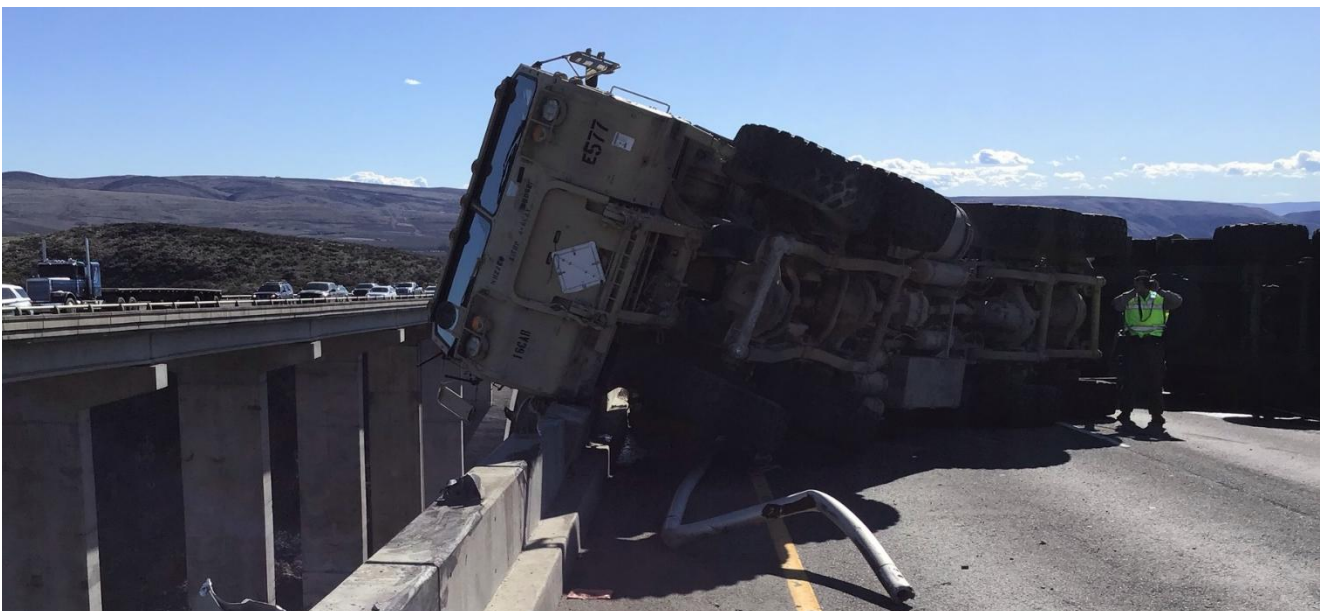


# ***RESPONSE DATA***

The Selah Fire Department Responded to 1,953 Calls in 2025

## BREAKDOWN OF MAJOR INCIDENT TYPES

Selah Fire Department	Emergency Medical	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Fires in Structures	Grass/Brush Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires	All Other Types	TOTALS	
City of Selah	693	34	13	3	2	10	102	857	44%
Yakima County Fire District #2	810	76	16	43	15	52	84	1,096	56%
<b>23% of the time there are multiple calls at once.</b>								1,953	5.35 per day



# ***Public Education/Community Service***

## **Fire Safety classes and Station Tours**

2025 Fire Prevention and Public Education was able to educate almost 900 children from numerous groups wanting Fire Prevention Education. Central Lutheran Preschool, John Campbell Primary, Robert Lince, other groups among the Selah School District, and a home school group visited the Station. With the assistance of fellow firefighters, these children had an amazing time. Pre-school and kindergarten classes learned the importance of never being afraid of firefighters and that although they can look scary in their bunker gear, firefighters are there to help them in the event of an emergency. All the children loved the tour, loved the trucks and activities that they were able to experience.

## **Exit Drills In The Home (E.D.I.T.H. House)**

EDITH House was back up and running! 577 children from John Campbell Primary were able to learn the steps on how to get out of their home in the event of a fire. E.D.I.T.H teaches the kids that when they see smoke or hear their smoke detectors going off that they need to get OUT! Children are taught to always have **TWO** ways out. **CRAWL** under the smoke, and once out, they need to go to their **MEETING PLACE**, and never ever go **BACK INSIDE**.

Between the schools and the other groups wanting to visit the fire station, **887** kids and **173** adults learned the importance of fire prevention, and fire safety. Prevention through education saves lives, saves property, prevents injuries and saves money.

## **National Night out/Trunk or Treat**

**National Night Out** was held again in 2025, and Truck 21 was on display. The crew showed off the ladder truck, performed an extrication demo, and talked about the fire department. The event was a huge success, great job Selah PD.

**Trunk or Treat**, the communities Halloween party, where hundreds of pounds of candy is handed out for kids in a safe environment, from all the local businesses and community groups.

Not only did the Fire Department team up with the Selah Police Department to hand out candy to the children of Selah but also had trucks and crews at our local dispatch in Union Gap for their trunk or treat braving the rain.

The Selah Fire Department looks forward to next year and participating with this great event again!

***Prepared By:***  
***Assistant Chief***  
***Jacob Stuker***

# *Training*

TRAINING IS A NEVER-ENDING  
JOURNEY IN A FIREFIGHTER'S  
CAREER OF SERVICE.

TO BE KNOWN AS A FIREFIGHTER IS  
A TITLE OF PRIDE, BORN OF  
ACCOMPLISHMENT,  
TRAINING, AND COMMITMENT TO  
OTHERS.



*Prepared By:*  
*Lieutenant*  
*Jason Wood*





In 2025, the members of the Selah Fire Department attended approximately 4,000 hours of training. This training included; 39 Wednesday night department drills, 9 Officer meetings, 4 quarterly safety meetings, 2 annual department meetings, several certified online trainings, 29 new recruit training classes, and several members attended outside training courses.

The outside training consisted of:

2 attending the Yakima County EMT program, 3 obtained their FEMA Incident Command 300 certification, 1 obtained their FEMA Incident Command 400 certification, 5 career staff obtained IFSAC Firefighter 2 certification, 1 career staff obtained IFSAC Officer 2 certification. 1 member obtained their Single Resource Boss certification under the NWCG. 2 members have task books open for Incident Commander Type 4 under the NWCG.

All career combat staff hired before 2024 now have the IFSAC Firefighter 1 certification, which is the nationally recognized standard for combat firefighters, and the paid-on-call membership is being encouraged to work toward the certification. The two 2025 career hires are working toward their IFSAC Firefighter 1 certification.

Truck 21 training has been well underway. 3 career staff attended a 2-day truck academy hosted by the Yakima Fire Department. A dozen paid on call staff are working through their SFD Truck 21 task book and are becoming proficient in ladder truck operations and have been staffing the truck when responding to calls, including mutual aid responses where elevated master streams are called for.

Department, local, state and federal mandates require us to facilitate annual training of 4 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) donning and doffing for time evolutions, SCBA fit testing, 4 EMS OTEP Modules and 4 EMS practical workshops, EVIP classroom refresher with a practical driving road course and rodeo, wildland refresher classroom and shelter throw practical, a fitness pack test for wildland red card holders, minimum of 2 personal protective equipment (PPE) inspections and washes, Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) training, and firefighter rescue (RIT/MAYDAY). All these training sessions were offered and attended. Selah Fire Department policy requires 50% drill attendance by its members. In 2025, 80% of all membership met this requirement.

The department hired 3 new volunteer firefighters and 3 new support services members this past year. They completed a 130-hour basic firefighter recruit school. This year's recruit school was conducted with online training, classroom lectures, and group practical evolutions, along with attending weekly drills with the rest of the membership.

As volunteer numbers continue to decline nationwide, recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters become more challenging. We are working hard to improve our recruitment efforts. We are optimistic and encouraged with some new ideas, and opening our borders to out of district new volunteers and lateral volunteers has proven to be successful.

# *Fire Prevention*

The Fire Marshal for the City of Selah is located at the Selah Fire Department, Station 21, on Fremont Avenue. Under the direction of this office, Fire and Life Safety Inspections are provided for all businesses in the City of Selah, as well as plan review to meet standards of the International Fire Code. Fire alarm-detection and suppression system operational tests are conducted, and pre-fire plans and fire department familiarization of our target hazards and populated locations are maintained.

As our community continues to grow, many new commercial buildings are being planned or are under construction, and others are planning remodels. Also, some new residential developments are in the planning stages or under way, as well as alarm monitoring companies updating many of the commercial alarm systems of local businesses to keep up with changes in federal standards. These are all positive signs that show growth and progress in our community but also require review and approval from the Fire Marshal.

Fire & Life Safety inspections are completed by the Fire Marshal and Engine Company visits. For new commercial construction inspections, the city's Fire Marshal and Building Inspector coordinate to perform inspections together when available.

Fire department familiarization of target hazard locations are usually scheduled with local businesses during daytime hours on weekdays and attended by career staff and any available paid-on-call members. For a few of our larger facilities, walk-throughs are scheduled during Wednesday evening drills and attended by all department members for preparation in case of an emergency.

Fire and life safety inspections are not only conducted to identify potential fire hazards, but also for the safety of employees and patrons. A few of the things we look at are if the fire extinguishers been serviced and are appropriately placed, are emergency lights functioning properly, are exits identified and clear of obstacles, and if fire alarm systems and fire sprinkler systems have been serviced and are operational.



***Selah Fire Department***  
***Working For a Safer Community***



***Prepared By:***  
***Deputy Chief***  
***Scott Willis***

## *Other Activities*

### **Hydrant inspection and testing**

The fire department inspects, tests, lubricates and exercises the valves on all the 429 fire hydrants within the city and private systems within the district on an annual basis. We also conduct fire flow testing every 5 years or as needed when changes are made to the water system. These are necessary to determine the maximum flow the water system can provide in the event of a fire. These calculations are used to determine the maximum square footage of residential and commercial buildings in each geographical area. They also provide hard data to the city's engineering firm to enhance their computer model for the city's water system. This year we continued painting hydrants in different colors which represent the flow of gallons per minute. Light blue 1500 + GPM, Green 1000-1499 GPM, Orange 500-999 GPM, and Red are below 500 GPM.



It's all fun and games.... Until you have to pick it up!

*Prepared By:*

*Lieutenant*

*Cody Roberts*

## *Apparatus*

Our department operates and maintains 22 vehicles out of four stations consisting of:

3 - Command, 4 - Front Line Engines, 1 Reserve Engine, 1 - aerial, 1 - Rescue, 4 - Combination Brush/Rescues, 2 - Brush, 3 - Water Tenders, 1 - Air Support/Rehab, and 2 – Utility

Revenues obtained through the City of Selah Public Safety Utility Tax and a portion of the funding from Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 have provided us the ability to establish an amortization program for equipment replacement. With a life expediency of 10 to 25 years, depending on the type of vehicle and volume of use, we will need to replace one or more vehicles every 1-2 years to maintain a dependable fleet and stay in compliance with national standards. In 2022 we purchased the department's first ever aerial apparatus (ladder truck). This piece of apparatus will assist us with larger building fire events, rescues in multi-story buildings, and will help to continue keeping insurance costs down. The department annually updates our vehicle and equipment amortization plan, facility and personnel needs, overall health of the department and completes an assessment of what we anticipate for future needs. This can all be found in our Capital Improvement Plan.

*Prepared By:*  
*Chief Lange*



The Selah Fire Department takes great pride in being fiscally responsible and working within the budget we have been entrusted.

We will continue to utilize your money wisely and work within the confines of our budget and provide all services that it allows.

Ultimately the citizens of our community dictate what is important to them and what level of service is acceptable.



# *Equipment*

## **EMS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

Approximately 84% or 1613 calls that the Selah Fire Department responded to in 2025 were calls for emergency medical services. These calls include everything from cardiac arrest, vehicle accidents, allergic reactions, diabetic issues, lift assists and many other medical incidents. To manage these emergencies our department must carry a large array of consumable medical supplies along with many instruments and tools which begin to show their age with every call. In 2025 Selah Fire Department along with many other Yakima County EMS responding agencies experienced a downward trend in overall calls for the first time in many years. These slower years don't come very often and help us shift our EMS budget spending more toward replacing aging equipment and less toward consumable supplies. This year Selah fire department was able to purchase new higher quality stethoscopes to replace our aged and repaired ones. We were also able to revamp and organize all our station's medical supply cabinets with color-coded and labeled bins. This helps keep inventory organized and ensures we have the needed supplies even after a busy holiday weekend.



*Prepared By:*  
*Assistant Chief*  
*Jacob Stuker*

# *PPE and Safety*

## **PPE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

Selah Fire Department supplies personal protective gear for 70 members. This gear includes structure helmets, structure coats, structure pants, structure boots, structure gloves and an SCBA mask. Also included is a wildland helmet, wildland shirt, wildland pants, wildland boots, and wildland gloves. It costs roughly \$7,000 a person to fully equip a member with NFPA compliant gear.

The structure gear must be replaced every 10 years per NFPA standards. Our current replacement plan is 6 sets of structural gear every year. This equates to approximately \$18,000.00 annually.

Some of the things we are doing to make this possible is applying for a DNR 50/50 grant. With this grant, we were able to purchase wildland fire shelters to equip some of our structural fire engines, replace worn out wildland gloves, purchase class A wildland firefighting foam, and provide replacement wildland gear (pants and coats). This year our focus has been working to prepare for 2026 gear expiration. In 2026, 25 sets of structural gear will expire equating to nearly \$60,000 in replacement to stay in NFPA compliance.

Currently all our gear meets NFPA standard, and we are working hard to maintain that.



*Prepared By:*  
*Lieutenant*  
*Cody Roberts*



## *Awards and Recognitions*

The annual Christmas and awards banquet for our members and their families was held in December. We had a great turnout in 2025.

### YEARS OF SERVICE

**5 Years** – Bill Bena, Chloe Goodwin

**10 Years** – Kylie Huri

**15 Years** – None

**20 Years** - None

**25 Years** – Marc Scherzinger

### FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Chosen by the membership at each station.

Station 21 – Kyle Glaspie

Station 22 – Anna Taylor

Station 24 - Cameron Ross

Station 26 – Aaron Everitt

### ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Chosen by the officers and given annually to the most outstanding new member.

**Conor Schmidt**

### NEW MEMBERS COMPLETING PROBATION

**Zack Kloock, Jennifer Rodgers, Kaelee Rodgers, Conor Schmidt, Brandon Rodgers, Pete Herrera**

### TOP RESPONDER

Member that responded to the most incidents.

**Dylan Apodaca**

### OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Chosen by the membership for outstanding leadership

**Chase Tucker**



## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The past year has been transformative for Selah Fire. We have successfully navigated through various challenges and achieved significant milestones. Our focus on enhancing our services and reducing call volume has produced positive results. The introduction of a new Assistant Chief position and the ability to maintain our current level of 24-hour staffing has been pivotal in providing quality emergency services and operational efficiency.

### **Key achievements**

- **Organizational Position:** The new Assistant Chief position provides for better management and division of duties within our department. Over the years, the department has grown with operational employees (Firefighters) but hasn't increased the number of administrative personnel to keep up with the growth. The division of duties between all administrative staff will improve our efficiency and allow for time and effort to be spent on long-term needs and goals.
- **Emergency Response and Dispatch:** All the departments in the county, and our dispatch centers, have worked together to assist in reducing call volume for non-emergent responses that cost taxpayer dollars. So far, the programs that have been implemented have proven to be of value in reducing emergency responses to non-emergent type 9-1-1 calls, thus saving tax dollars. We hope to keep finding ways to improve this process and continue this course.

### **Financial performance**

Despite some economic uncertainties, Selah Fire Department has demonstrated resilience and growth, for now. Our revenues have maintained a stable budget this past year, but there will be a need soon (next few years) to communicate with the voters about levy proposals. Fire departments are limited by law to a 1% increase annually, and costs currently rise at a much higher rate than that, so eventually we will not be able to keep up with the increases.

### **Future outlook**

Looking ahead, we are committed to further enhancing our department to meet the needs of the community that we serve and finding ways to best provide our services with responsible budgeting. Our focus is maintaining the appropriate level of service for our residents and following our 5-year, 10-year and Capitol Improvement Plans to the best of our abilities. We are confident that our strategic planning will position us for sustained growth and success.



## Conclusion

The achievements of the past year are a testament to the dedication and hard work of all the members of the fire department. We are grateful for the support of our stakeholders and look forward to continuing our journey of improvement and growth.

*The Selah Fire Department  
sincerely thanks you for your  
continued support.*



*We live in a wonderful  
community, and we strive daily  
to be the best fire department to  
serve you.*