



BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2
District Planning Workshop (5-Year Plan)
MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2025

Open District Planning Workshop: 9:00 AM at Station 210, 1304 Dale, Ave., Benton City, WA.

THOSE PRESENT:

GUESTS: *None*

Barry Orth, *Chairperson*
Steve Rouse, *Commissioner*
Larry Howell, *Commissioner*
Dennis Bates, *Fire Chief*
Todd Dormaier, *Assistant Fire Chief*
Caren Wheeler, *District Secretary*
Shellie Canada, *Financial Officer*

ABSENT: *None.*

AGENDA:

1. Review of the Current 5-Year plan: **5-Year Plan, June 2023**
2. Establish new 5-year plan starting in 2025:

— **Apparatus Replacement**

- Working on replacement boat.
- Staff vehicle replacements to continue annually to catch up.
- Medic units due for replacement around 2028.
- Type 5 replacements planned (twin units).
- EDITH House replacement with inflatable unit (grant-funded).
- Seeking newer dozer and other equipment through FEP to enhance service and reduce costs.

— **Equipment**

- Replacing hydraulic Jaws with battery-powered models.
- Fire hose replacement in progress.
- Ongoing evaluation of current equipment versus new technologies.
- Radio replacement: 800 MHz system transition in effect.
- Maintaining Chandler system with City of Benton City and older radios.

— **Facilities**

- Admin facility: relocating offices and repurposing current space at Station 210.
- Continued Station 210 upgrades: painting, bay floor resurfacing, interior refinishing, kitchen remodel, camera system replacement, and new station signage and flagpole.
- Installing fencing around maintenance facility to secure area and support training props.
- Additional gravel and landscaping for overall grounds upkeep.
- Station 220: cleanup, upkeep, and new signage.



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— **Maintenance**

- Evaluating lift system options (identified by Capt. Pettis at maintenance conference).
- Upgrades to shop tools, storage systems, and tracking software.
- Reviewing fuel and lubricant vendors and storage options.
- PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
- Structural turnout gear set to time out in 2027.
- Wildland PPE being replaced annually using Phase II grant funds.

— **Training**

- Seeking new training ground for live fire props; some props may be placed at Station 210.
- Enhancing training systems for delivery (FETN, Fire Studio, etc.).
- Reviewing and reevaluating training programs to align with personnel, community needs, and current industry standards and technology.

— **Staffing**

- Continuing recruitment for Firefighter/Medic; working with BC4 eligibility list.
- Considering development of Firefighter from EMTP if necessary.
- 2025: Add 1 Day Staff FF/EMT (focus on maintenance support).
- 2026: Add 1 Day Staff FF/EMT.
- 2027: Evaluate FF/EMT position and transition three to shift staffing.
- EMT hires to fill operational gaps.
- Evaluate cost/benefit of seasonal staff for wildland season.

— **Programs**

- **Public Education:** Continue and expand programs (First Aid/CPR, fire prevention, smoke detectors, pre-fire plans, etc.).
- Expand outreach to include Firewise, Red Cross programs, fall prevention, bike helmet, PFD, and car seat inspection initiatives.
- **Special Operations:**
 - Enhance water rescue training internally and with regional partners.
 - Expand boat operator and agility training with BCSO.
- **Excess Equipment:** Continue removing obsolete items and recovering funds where possible.

— **Organizational Structure**

- Promote AC Dormaier to Deputy Chief.
- Conduct internal testing for Volunteer Assistant Chief.



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- Test and promote Captain position.
- Develop future structure for Lieutenants on shift and volunteer positions.
- Maintain current personnel numbers while redistributing workload and duties to align with district needs.

— **Mission – Vision – Values**

- Revisit and refresh current statements to enhance clarity and inspiration.
- Maintain positive direction while updating verbiage, ideals, and guiding principles.
- Use as a motivational tool and standard for performance and pride.
- Continue focus on building positive morale.

— **Regional Collaboration**

- Continue working with the City of Benton City.
- Active participation in the Incident Management Team (IMT).
- Support and collaboration with BCES and SECOMM toward operational independence.
- Participation in regional strategic planning efforts.
- Maintain regional representation on committees and programs.

— **Administration**

- Maintain strong financial responsibility while implementing innovative and efficient processes.
- Identify and pursue alternate funding opportunities.
- Complete a comprehensive district-wide needs assessment.
- Prepare for upcoming retirements through mentorship and succession planning to preserve institutional knowledge.

Actions: No Actions.

ADJOURNMENT: **12:00 PM**

Attested on: _____

CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT SECRETARY

BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER