



# **Fire District 3**

## **CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Nov. 20, 2025

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### **Clark County Fire District 3 receives clean audit** *Board reviews 2026 budget in response to rising costs*

BRUSH PRAIRIE, Wash.— Clark County Fire District 3 has again received a clean audit from the Washington State Auditor’s Office, reaffirming the District’s long-standing commitment to responsible budgeting and transparent financial management.

As the District prepares its 2026 budget, it is also navigating a tighter financial environment. Several factors are contributing to increased costs, including a 15% rise in employee health insurance premiums, higher dispatch fees, and the need to complete critical facility maintenance—most urgently, a roof replacement at Station 35. While the District remains financially stable, these pressures mean the Board will need to carefully prioritize spending in the coming year.

To comply with state requirements for a balanced budget, the Board of Fire Commissioners has begun reviewing options to adjust expenses and plan for 2026. These discussions are part of the District’s regular public budget process and are conducted in open meetings that community members are welcome to attend.

“Receiving another clean audit shows our commitment to managing public funds responsibly,” said Fire Chief Chris Drone. “At the same time, rising costs in several key areas mean we need to take a thoughtful, transparent look at our budget so we can continue providing reliable emergency services well into the future.”

Residents are encouraged to attend Board of Fire Commissioners meetings to learn more about the District’s financial outlook and participate in the discussion. Meetings take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at Station 31, located at 17718 NE 159th Street in Brush Prairie.

The next meeting, scheduled for **Wednesday, Nov. 26**, will include a public hearing and provide time for community comment on the 2026 budget.

For more information, as well as budget documents and meeting agendas, please visit [fire3.org](http://fire3.org).

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*Clark County Fire District 3 provides fire and life safety services to over 46,000 people in east Clark County, including the City of Battle Ground. Full-time, part-time, and volunteer firefighters respond to an average of over 5,000 emergency calls a year – 70% of which are EMS-related. Fire District 3 operates under a balanced budget and has a long history of passing its financial and accountability audits by the state. More information on Fire District 3 can be found at [www.fire3.org](http://www.fire3.org).*