



# 2022 Annual Report



Pierce County Fire Dist. 16  
Key Peninsula Fire Department

*“Service with Pride and Compassion”*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Key Peninsula Fire Department is a team of professionals working proactively to meet present needs and future challenges with pride, integrity and enthusiasm.*

*We serve the health, welfare and safety needs of our community by providing fire and injury prevention, fire suppression, rescue, community education and emergency medical aid.*

*We pledge to be strong financial managers and responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the community.*

## **Vision Statement**

*We will serve our community with professionalism by promoting individual responsibility, a continuous learning environment, and the practice of respect for ourselves and others. We are committed to timely and effective communication, comprehensive and progressive training, and innovative risk taking.*

# Message from the Board Chair

This past year has been both challenging and rewarding for Pierce County Fire District 16. As we are a service driven organization, people are our greatest asset. Much of what occurred during 2022 centered around our people.

At the beginning of the year, our Board concluded two internal personnel investigations within the organization. I believe our district will be much stronger now and in the future.

We added to our ranks with the hiring of 5 new recruits at the beginning of 2022. They successfully completed their fire academy training in April. We also hired two new lateral firefighters in the spring and two of our existing firefighters entered the yearlong paramedic school. In late spring after a nationwide search, our Board and community welcomed a new Fire Chief in Nick Swinhart, who brings to our district an impressive background and wealth of experience. In the latter part of the year our Citizens Advisory Panel gained 4 additional volunteers, further strengthening its membership and its conduit between our citizens and the district. In the fall, we also hired a new Executive Assistant who is replacing our previous Assistant of over 20 years who decided to accept a position with a neighboring district.

Additional highlights include the much-needed replacement of our older 3 medic units. In February, we took delivery of 3 new, state of the art, units. Throughout the year, we continued discussing and reviewing our Capital Facilities plan. We ultimately hope to replace our outdated and aging headquarters building in the future on land purchased in 2021. If this comes to fruition, it

will allow the district to staff and deploy from Key Center as well as adding much needed community meeting rooms and training facilities. In June, after an exhausting two plus years under COVID, we reopened out stations to the public and began Board meeting in person as well as virtually.

As we move into 2023, we will be replacing our long tenured and much appreciated Assistant Fire Chief as he continues in his next stage of life with retirement. We also will be appointing a new fire commissioner to replace a retiring commissioner.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as Chair of the Board of Commissioners this past year and look forward to exciting opportunities for our district in 2023 and to continue to serve the citizens of Key Peninsula and our great fire district.

-Stanley Moffett, Board Chair



# Message from the Fire Chief

I am very pleased to submit to you the Key Peninsula Fire Department's annual activity report for 2022. The activities and accomplishments contained in this report reflect the quality and dedication of the employees and volunteers of KPFD.

Although our most well-known functions include responding to medical emergencies and fires, this report demonstrates the wide array of other comprehensive services and programs we provide for our citizens. Employees and volunteers of KPFM are dedicated professionals who take tremendous pride in the mission of the agency, that is, to serve and protect our citizens. This report is a summary of our mission to improve public safety through emergency response, prevention, and public education.

I stepped in to the role of Fire Chief of KPFM in May of 2022, almost 6 months in to the year. For the first half of the year the agency had been ably led by Interim Fire Chief Jason Learned. We are all very grateful to Chief Learned for his assistance. As I took over leadership of the District, we were faced with significant financial uncertainty. We implemented an immediate spending freeze which I am pleased to report resulted in the District ending the fiscal year in a safe position. To ensure our financial stability in the future, we have commissioned a financial analysis of the District that will help project our expenditure and revenue needs for the next 20 years. The FCS Group should have this analysis completed by June of 2023.

A significant portion of my time at KPFM has been spent ensuring budget sustainability and maintaining the momentum of completing our capital facilities plan. If these weren't significant enough projects, we had two critical staff members leave or announce departures in the latter half of the year. Longtime Executive Assistant Christina Bosch resigned in August. Rather than hire out an executive search firm, we elected to run the recruitment process internally, which we anticipated would not only save money but assist us in finding the best candidates. I was pleased to extend a job offer to Renee Wassenaar back in Oc-

tober. She has proven to be an excellent addition to the KPFM family! I would be remiss if I did not express the District's gratitude to Administrative Assistant Shanon Bills, who kept us afloat and took on a tremendous amount of extra work after Christina departed.

Perhaps the biggest project I had to take on in my first year was trying to "replace" retiring Assistant Chief Hal Wolverton. Chief Wolverton has been an amazing asset to the District in his role for almost a decade and he has faithfully dedicated 32 years of his life to the citizens of Key Peninsula. You do not replace that level of institutional knowledge easily. After a labor-intensive process that lasted several months, we have extended a job offer to new Assistant Chief Chris Beswick, who will start in April or May of 2023. Thank you to Chief Wolverton for his many years of selfless service, and I want to extend a personal "thank you" to Hal for his support, guidance, and mentorship as I navigated a very steep learning curve as the District's new Fire Chief.

As we enter 2023, your KPFM will continue to provide the highest level of emergency services to our community with pride, integrity, and enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone for your warm welcome to the District in 2022. I look forward to my first full year with the dedicated professionals of the Key Peninsula Fire Department!

-Nick Swinhart, Fire Chief



# Apparatus Overview



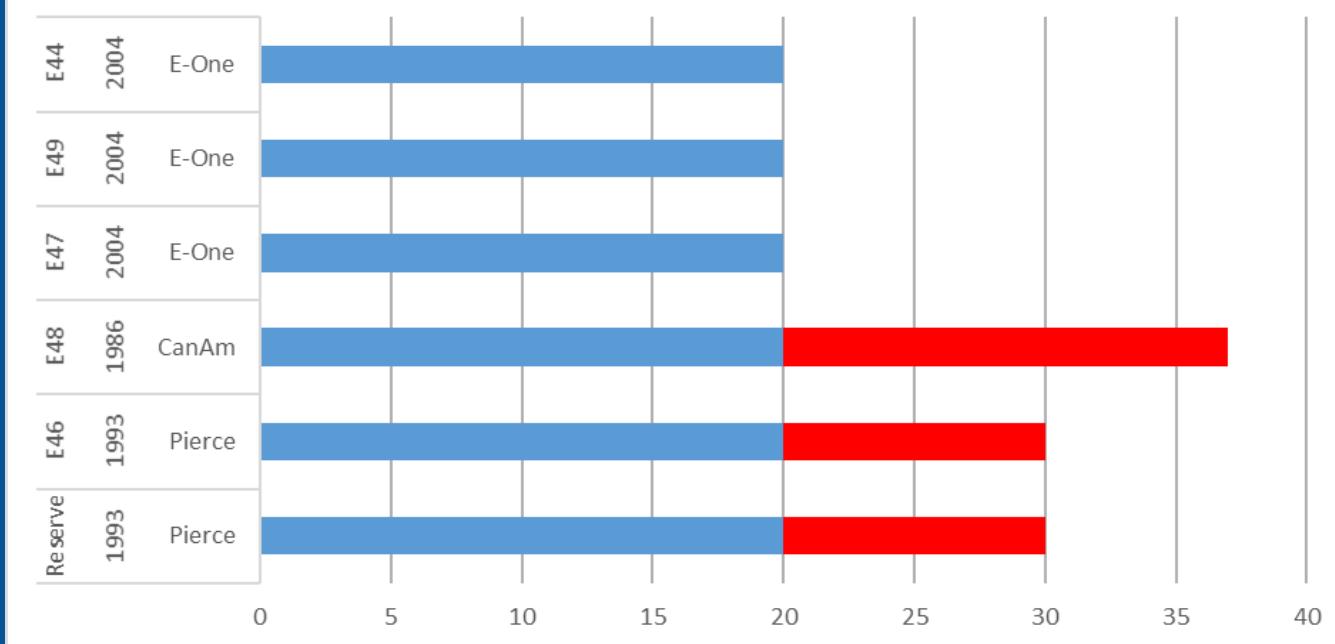
UNIT	YEAR	MAKE	LIFE	PLUS	Mileage
E45	1993	Pierce	20	10	114,501
E46	1993	Pierce	20	10	63,392
E48	1984	Canam	20	19	52732
E47	2004	E-One	20	-1	70,009
E49	2004	E-One	20	-1	97551

## Service Life of a Fire Engine

When it comes to the life expectancy of a fire truck, there are a few things that need to be taken into consideration. The first is the type of fire truck, second is how often the fire truck is used, as this will obviously have an effect on its longevity. And the third is how well the fire truck is maintained, as this will also play a role in how long it lasts.

Our current fleet on average is 20 years old with our oldest engine located on Herron Island being 37. Since the update to district run cards back in 2019, our deployment model has a staffed engine responding on all fire and EMS related calls. This increase on demand has put a remarkable increase to the wear and tear on our already ageing fleet. Over the 2022 year, on average, this increase for demand is putting 2,000 miles per month on E47 which has currently 69,825. Forecasted out, by the end of 2023 this unit will have very close to 100k miles on a 20 year old chassis.

Average Engine Service Life 20 years



# Apparatus Overview



UNIT	YEAR	MAKE	LIFE	PLUS	Mileage
E45	1993	Pierce	20	10	114,501
E46	1993	Pierce	20	10	63,392
E48	1984	Canam	20	19	52732
E47	2004	E-One	20	-1	70,009
E49	2004	E-One	20	-1	97551
E44	2004	E-One	20	-1	105,175
R46	1993	Pierce	20	10	26,942
BC47	2018	Ford	10	-5	63998

## Maintenance

NFPA 25 requires annual pump testing for all fire pumps. While the pump runs, technicians record pressure gauge readings, check packing glands for discharge, adjust gland nuts, listen for unusual noise etc. to ensure your fire pump is running properly. On average, the annual cost for fire pump testing is \$7,800 for diesel pumps. Items such as the packing and valves require replacement if the fire pump isn't run for a long time. Replacing fire pump packing and valves can cost between \$2,000-\$3,000.

## Yearly maintenance increase cost for Front Line Engines

	2020	2021	2022	
E-44	\$15,673.20	\$17,564.84	\$20,248.28	
E-47	\$21,751.87	\$22,702.38	\$5,199.87 (incomplete service for 2022)	

Type	# of Front Line	# of Reserve	Age
Engines	5	1	20 +
Tenders	3	0	15, 6, 6
Rescue	1	0	30
Medic	2	1	1
Staff	8	0	6 +
Squad	1	0	3
Brush	2	0	24 & 15



# Volunteers, Public Education and Milestones

## Key Peninsula Volunteer Corps

The Key Peninsula Fire Department is fortunate to have an active volunteer program. Members are trained to firefighter 1 standards and often work alongside career members on calls.

The Key Peninsula Volunteer program after losing some members to the District for career positions persevered during a lean year in 2022. Due to budget constraints there was no volunteer recruit academy for the second year in a row. The members are resilient and dedicated and were still able to drill once a week logging a total of 1062 training hours. Firefighters, tender operators and support staff responded to 521 calls and were the face of the department for the Farm Tour Breakfast, Livable Fair, Fireman Rain events, Fourth of July Parades, Trunk or Treat and the Santa Sleigh. 2022 boasted a roster of 17 which can be broken down into 10 firefighters, 5 dedicated tender operators (2 on Herron Island), and 2 Chaplains. Among this group two were red card qualified and two were on the district water rescue team. By December the corps had one member on leave, a lieutenant step down to the rank of tender operator and one person on the water rescue team. We also lost a member to Harvard Law School.

### Stats at a Glance

Volunteer Roster .....	17
Firefighters .....	10
Tender Operators.....	5
Support .....	2
Training .....	1062
Responses and Events .....	512

### Volunteer Events

- Livable Fair
- Trunk or Treat
- Farm Tour
- Santa Sleigh
- Fireman Rain
- Fourth of July Parades

## Public Education



Programs	Number served
CPR	166
Stop the Bleed	166
SafeSitter	25
Peninsula School District Classroom Lessons	1371
PSD Partnership Disaster Prep Training	155
Mental Health and Suicide Awareness (High Schools)	508
Self- Care and Resiliency (High Schools)	503
Middle School CPR, Choking	60
Distracted Driving Lessons	15
Traffic Vest Program	12
Smoke Alarm Install	17
Hand Rail Installs	5

The Prevention (Public Education/ Public Information) Division is powered by one individual. 2022 was a banner year as the community opened back up to pre COVID conditions. Schools were in session, local businesses were welcoming customers and community partners where in full swing with events and activities. This Division is the source for community education and fire and life safety lessons. In addition to classroom ,the Fire Prevention Educator is involved in the community and works with community partners to support community and district needs. 2022 had the district busy in the community resulting in many in person opportunities.



*Capt. Dale Heidal Retired after 33 years*

## Milestones

### Retired

Dale Heidal                    33 years Career

### Career Milestones

Gerald Marsh                    49 years Volunteer

Robert Fisher                    25 years (volunteer and career)

Tim Davis                        20 years (volunteer and career time)

Kaci Corrigan                    15 years Career

Vanessa Taylor                    15 years Admin

Jason Learned                    15 years Career

Laura Soares                    5 years Volunteer

### Hired

Amy Shipp EMT (hired from volunteer ranks)

Brady Blue EMT (hired from volunteer ranks)

Morgan Sagdahl PM

Cameron Bell PM

Devon Leonardo PM

Volunteer Laura Soares Hired at Boeing

### Babies

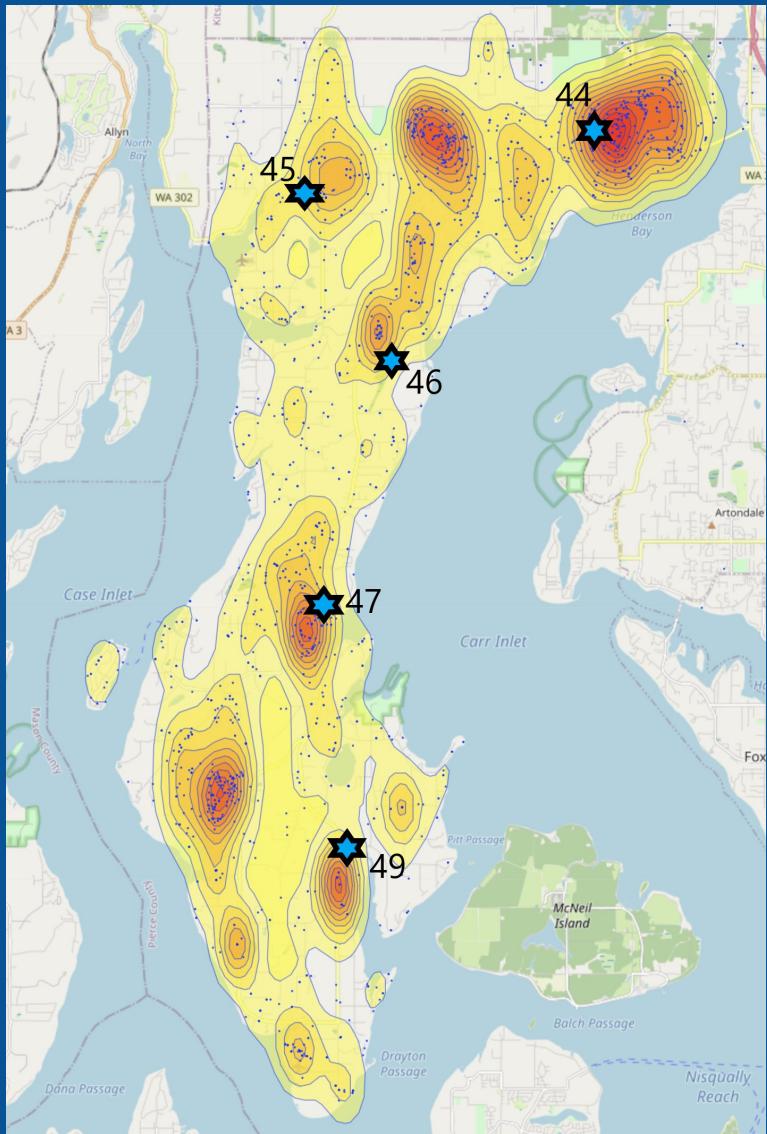
Baby Boy to the Leonardo Family

Baby Boy to the Brogan Family

Two Grandbaby Girls to the Corrigan Family

# Staffing

We have had many questions throughout the year asking about KPFD's staffing levels and how we deploy personnel. Fire departments deploy personnel based primarily on statistical need.



To the left is what we call a “heat” map of our emergency responses on the KP. As can be seen our largest call volume on the KP for emergencies is in the Wauna area. The next “burst” of red we see is in Home, followed by more dark red areas in Longbranch and on the west side of the peninsula between Joemma and Herron Point. Having only a finite number of personnel resources, we (like all fire departments) aim to deploy them in the areas where they are most needed. Hence our stations that are currently staffed 24 hours a day are located in Wauna, Home, and Longbranch. On the days when we have “full” staffing, we deploy those additional personnel to the Wauna station because statistically that is where they are going to be needed. We do have plans to staff Station 45 at Wright Bliss with live-in volunteers in 2023 but currently the station has no response-ready fire engine or ambulance.

So, what do our daily staffing numbers look like? We presently have 11 personnel assigned to each shift, and there are three shifts. That's a good number of personnel, but keep in mind we almost never have a day where all 11 would be working at the same time due to vacation, sick leave, injuries, etc. I will highlight a typical staffing day from 9/29/22:

# Staffing

9/29/22—A-Shift working

Wauna Station (Medic 44):

Kyle C.

Brandon H.

Home Station (Battalion 47 and Engine 47)

William S (Battalion Chief)

Robert B.

Jeff G.

Ami S.

Longbranch (Medic 49)

Daniel H.

Edward S.

Employees Off:

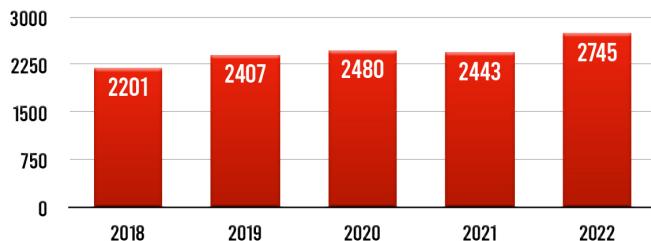
1. Vacation usage
2. Long-term injury
3. Long-term injury

So what this shows is that on 9/29 A-Shift was working, and even though they normally have a complement of 11 personnel on their shift, only 8 were working because one was off on vacation and two others were off due to injury. National safety standards dictate we can have no less than 2-personnel on a front line unit. This is why you see personnel deployed in a minimum of twos. September 29 was actually a good staffing day. There were times in 2022, especially during the summer, where we had as few as 5 personnel on duty. Much depends on the health of our firefighters or how many are using vacation. During much of 2022, due to long-term injuries and personnel in paramedic training, we had 4 vacant positions.

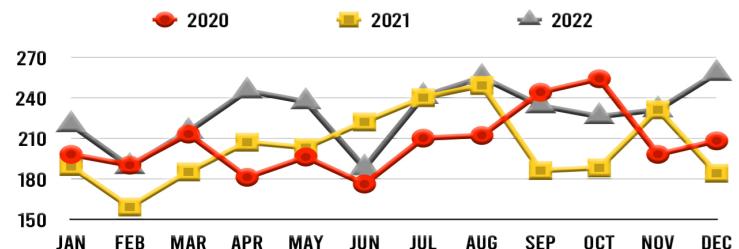


# Statistics

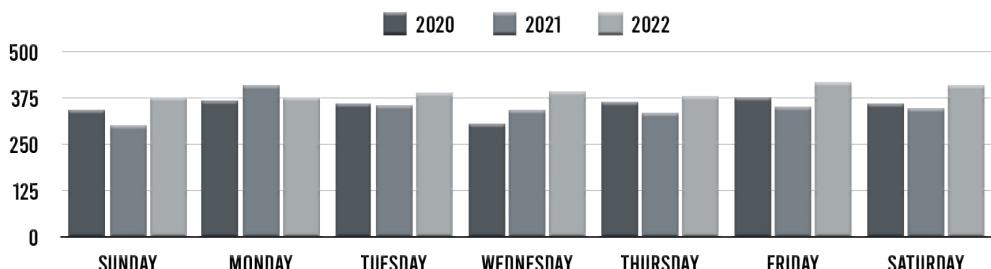
## Annual Call Volume



## Calls by Month



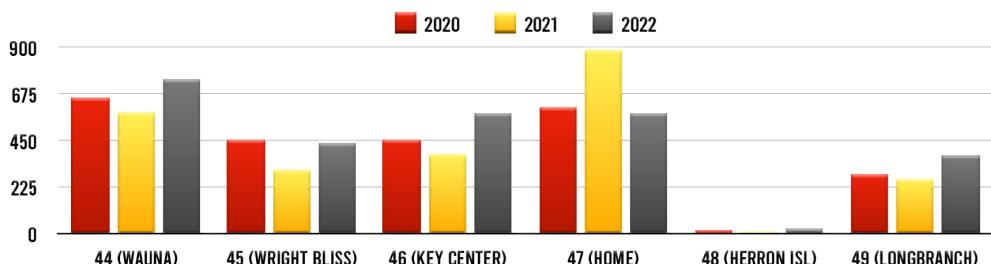
## Calls by Week Day



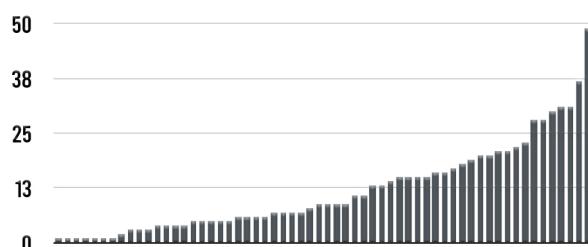
## Unit Hour Utilization

HOUR	E47	M44	M49
0	16%	14%	8%
1	18%	13%	10%
2	22%	13%	13%
3	16%	14%	6%
4	17%	10%	11%
5	18%	11%	8%
6	19%	13%	12%
7	24%	18%	11%
8	33%	22%	17%
9	31%	28%	17%
10	35%	30%	20%
11	38%	30%	23%
12	35%	29%	18%
13	38%	26%	21%
14	31%	24%	17%
15	35%	27%	17%
16	43%	31%	21%
17	33%	24%	15%
18	36%	29%	19%
19	35%	25%	16%
20	40%	26%	17%
21	27%	18%	14%
22	30%	20%	16%
23	21%	14%	15%
OVERALL AVG	28%	21%	15%

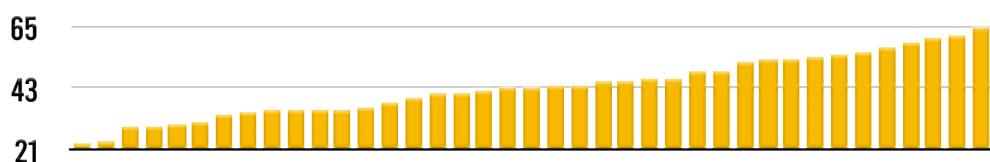
## Calls by Station



## Years of Service



## Age of Firefighters



90th Percentile Turn Out Time

2m:19s

Median Chute Time

1m:15s

90th Percentile Response Time

17m:47s

Median Response Time

9m:47s

90th Percentile Total Call Time

1h:35m:54s

Median Call Time

1h:5m:40s

# Citizen's Advisory Panel

The Citizen's Advisory Panel ("CAP") Committee is a group of Key Peninsula citizens who provide the Key Peninsula Fire District with input from our community regarding the goings-on of the Key Peninsula Fire District. The CAP Committee was created as a way for the Fire District to gain advice as to what the community's needs and desires are. It is the community's opportunity to give feedback to our Fire District leaders. As it is so aptly worded in the Committee's Bylaws, "The CAP provides an invaluable service to the Fire District in advising on a wide variety of subjects which aids the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) and the Fire Chief in their decision-making process."

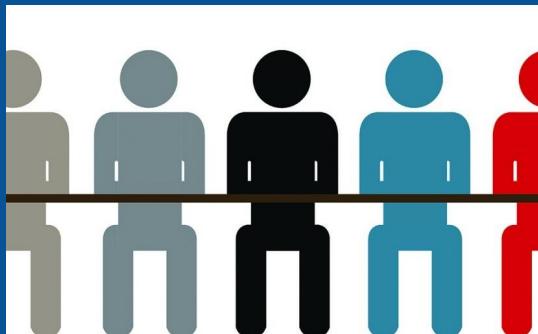
CAP members meet once per month (the third Wednesday of every month) at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is attended by Fire Chief Nick Swinhart, Commissioner Shawn Jensen, and Commissioner Stanley Moffett, who provide updates from the Fire District to the CAP members for discussion. The CAP members are then able to go into the community to inform citizens and gain citizen's insight into the happenings of the Fire District, which are reported back to the Fire District at the following CAP meeting. All meetings are open to the public, and all members of the community are welcome to attend.

The Committee's Board is made up of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. Voting for board positions on the Committee occurs annually during the January meeting, and each Board member holds their position for one calendar year.

Over the 2022 calendar year, CAP members reviewed and provided feedback on the Fire District's Capital Facilities Plan, toured several of the district's current fire stations to see first-hand the conditions of those locations, and offered a citizen's perspective of how the Capital Facilities Plan should be adjusted and implemented. Additionally, members of CAP assisted with and took part in the interview process for fire fighters and EMT personnel, attended the Meet-and-Greet for the potential fire chiefs, and provided feedback on the various candidates for the positions.

Several new members have joined CAP, and some members have left over the past year. We as a committee look forward to continuing to grow and gain more members. If you are interested in joining, please go to the Key Peninsula Fire District's website for additional information on how to join. The more members from our community, the more advice and input can be given to help our Fire District help us as a community.

-Cambria Queen, CAP Chair



## Assistant Chief Hal Wolverton

In late 2022, Assistant Chief Hal Wolverton announced his retirement, effective March 31, 2023. Chief Wolverton started his career with KPFD over 32 years ago, spending almost a decade as Assistant Chief. He was an early member of the rope rescue team and was recognized as “Firefighter of Year” among the 21 awards he has received over his career. Chief Wolverton has mentored countless firefighters throughout the years and has continued to teach at the Washington State Fire Academy in North Bend right up until retirement.

While Hal spent some of his early years in Blaine, Washington, he’s lived most of his life on the Key Peninsula serving our community and will still make his home here in retirement with his wife Monica. While I’ve only had the privilege of serving with Hal less than a year, I want to thank him for his mentorship and invaluable assistance as I navigated a steep learning curve as the new fire chief. Thank you for your 32 years of selfless dedication to the members of this department and the citizens of Key Peninsula. You’ve earned the right to take a break. We’ll take it from here, Chief.

- Nick Swinhart, Fire Chief

