LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

74 E Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490
(707)459-6271

MINUTES

October 13th, 2026

OPENING: Tony Madrigal called the regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors to order at 5:03 PM.

ROLL CALL: Tony Madrigal, Tom Herman, Skip Lucier, Nancy Stipe and Arnie Mello

MINUTES: Approved by Skip Lucier 1st, Arnie Mello 2nd.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Tom Herman 1st, Nancy Stipe 2nd.

CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: INSPECTIONS: Chief Alvarez reported that Captain So has completed 17/33 apartments. They should complete the remaining apartments by the end of October. Tom Herman asked whether the state will follow through, since this is a state mandate. Chief Alvarez replied they can at any time, and we are required to have inspections on hand. In addition to normal requirements, Captain So also checks for stair safety, cracks from earthquake damage, and any hazards that are out of compliance.

E2 TOOL/120E CUTTER: Chief Alvarez demonstrated the newly purchased safety tools. The tools are compact and assist with breaks and steering wheels. Chief Alvarez also demonstrated the windshield cutter that attaches to a DeWalt impact drill, which is much safer for patients. Nancy Stipe asked

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whether glass shards could get on patients. Chief Alvarez explained that patients are covered with a blanket or turnout gear for protection. The great thing about this new tool is that it cuts in strips and does not shatter the glass. Chief Alvarez also demonstrated the body isolation kit to the board, which was recently approved in the 2026-2027 budget. Captain So brought out the masks and body fluid suits. Each command vehicle will have a kit.

NEW BUSINESS: CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE: Michelle reviewed the Conflict of Interest Code with the board as well as the Biennial Review process. The board would like to continue to review the conflict of interest code before making changes.

BILLS: Motion to pay bills: Tom Herman 1st; Skip Lucier 2nd.

TRAINING REPORT: Captain So reported that the group has completed a combined 495 training hours so far. During the last training, Captain So darkened out Station 541 for a victim rescue. The scenario used the new TICS. Training on 10/16/2026 was canceled due to heat and work projects. This winter season, Captain So will be addressing structure fire training. The next drill, Captain Chad Lesher will assist with HazMat and oxygen cylinder training. Captain So will attend a volunteer retention training in Sonoma on November 6th. Captain So is also looking into an updated fire extinguisher prop that he uses for community education. Lyon makes an electronic prop that allows usage inside of a building. Michelle would like to find a grant for this prop. On November 23, 2026, Captain So will be a guest speaker for a driver education class. All inspections are continuous and improving with buildings.

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FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Association President Captain Chad Lesher was not in attendance. Captain So reported there was a big turnout for Harvest Moon. Muster rides, popcorn, goodie bags and slushies were offered. The association is gearing up for the haunted house for Halloween.

CHIEFS REPORT: Chief Alvarez told the board that they are developing a job description for the new hire and are hoping to fill a maintenance EMT position. Staff is looking for someone to assist with basic mechanical tasks. Tom Herman asked if staff would have better luck finding someone with a mechanical background. Chief Alvarez said it was under discussion. Chief Alvarez said it would help to have experience with oil changes and working on small engines. This Thursday, the City of Willits will meet to discuss the possible El Niño this winter. Attendees will discuss areas of the City of Willits using maps. Chief Alvarez stated it is always good to be prepared. Chief Alvarez asked whether any board members could assist if needed. This could include taking calls or helping with radios. Chief Alvarez and Deputy Chief Thomen recently attended EV and Lithium battery training in Santa Rosa. Do not plug in lithium equipment such as E-Bikes or scooters in the house. EV Vehicles will also auto-lock in accidents, preventing passengers from getting out. Chief Alvarez encouraged anyone with EV Vehicles to learn about the manual lock release. Chief Alvarez also learned that many EV Vehicles have laminated windshields, and passengers would be unable to break them; therefore, they would be breathing in lithium in the event of a fire. Once oxygen is introduced to the lithium leak, an explosion is possible. In 2035, all California school buses will be EVs,

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which could be extremely dangerous in certain conditions. Phones, laptops, iPads, etc. are extremely dangerous as well and can randomly ignite. A representative from ISO visited the fire station today, and our rating jumped from a 3X to a 2Y.

Meeting Adjourned 6:48 PM

Motion to adjourn meeting: Tom Herman 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd.

Tony Madrigal
Tony Madrigal, Chairman

Michelle Schnitzius
Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary

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