



## \*\*GVFD Quarterly Report\*\*

The Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department has been working on reorganizing the fire hall and keeping items organized. We received a conex container specifically for this purpose, which is currently being used to store outdoor sturdy items. Although it is filling up fast, we are making efforts to keep everything organized.

We encountered an issue with the water tender grant being processed through FEMA. While the grant is still operational, it has been put on hold and is under closer scrutiny. The next steps are still unclear. I have received multiple quotes from different vendors, but due to the size constraints of the fire hall, our options are limited. We will end up with a two-wheel drive tender, which will have drop-down chains and hopefully locking rear differentials. I have also applied for a Denali Commission grant to help cover the match for the tender grant, but I have not yet received a response.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped with the school breakfast in January. Additionally, I would like to congratulate the new students who attended the Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) class and passed in March for both the Gustavus School and the Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department classes.

We have switched to a different online training platform. Previously, we used Vector Solutions, but after discovering that the city was already paying for another training platform through our insurance, we canceled our subscription to Vector Solutions and are now using FireRescue1 Academy. I am currently going through the training on this new platform. These platforms allow our responders to supplement their training to help maintain their EMS certifications.

We are also in the process of replacing our air compressor. The last one broke, and after replacing a couple of parts, we could not get it running smoothly again. We have purchased a larger compressor, which we hope will last longer than the previous one.

As you may have heard, Dr. Rod Vaught has retired from the Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department. I want to extend my gratitude to him for his service in supporting our EMS department. Dr. Timothy Peterson is our new medical director. While he does come with a cost, as indicated in our FY26 budget, we are grateful for his assistance.

In preparation for the summer season, we have started discussions with a cruise ship representative in Juneau to gather patient information for billing purposes.

We are also working on updating our technology within the department. We have initiated a new app service, funded by the State of Alaska, called Handtevy. This application allows us to access our medication protocols on our phones and creates a list of medications for infants, children, and adults. It also helps us keep track of the medications administered to patients. Since the app does not contain any names or patient information, we do not have to worry about HIPAA compliance, although it still requires a password for access.

During an inspection of the SCBAs, we discovered that the bottles were overdue for a hydro test. We are currently in the process of transporting bottles back and forth between Juneau and Gustavus.

A quick reminder: it is currently the season when burn permits are required for any fire larger than a campfire. Please feel free to contact the fire hall if you have any questions about obtaining a burn permit.