

Watchmen Voter Guide for Kootenai County Fire & Rescue Seat 4
*** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire ***

	Pam Houser	Tommy LaPonsey
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	Tommy LaPonsey, Kooteani County Fire and Rescue Fire Commissioner, Subdistrict 4. I am running because I feel a calling to come back into service for my community.
2. How could your fire district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	No Response Received	KCFR could be improved with increased transparency, focus on fire prevention programs, and strategic planning to scale responsibility.
3. What are your views on the rapid growth of North Idaho?	No Response Received	Growth is outpacing the infrastructure so there needs to be a balance between growth, community services, and reasonable sustainability for paying for the services.
4. As development continues the fire districts resources are stretched. How would you increase financial resources so that the department is properly funded?	No Response Received	HB389 limited the fire district's ability to access certain funds that are now diverted to an Urban Renewal District. The legislation also made it impossible to merge a smaller fire district into KCFR. I would work to fix the legislative issues that are hampering the financial resources of the fire district.
5. In what ways should the Fire District protect the public's best interests to insure scalable growth?	No Response Received	Stop URDs from siphoning money away from the fire districts, as well as push for impact fees that will go directly to the fire district so we can scale responsibility to meet the additional demand for services.
6. What are your suggestions to balance the budget for your fire district?	No Response Received	KCFR budget is currently balanced, however there are several multi million dollar capital improvement projects that need close oversight by the board to keep on top of every phase of construction so the project budgets don't spiral out of control.
7. Should there be any changes to the role that Fire Districts have in the design and authorization of new developments?	No Response Received	There should be fire district input on community growth in relation to the impact the growth will have on emergency services, resource allocation, and ability to maintain safe service level response.
8. Do you believe access to city managed water should be increased to rural communities and why?	No Response Received	For the rural areas, they usually have their own water systems and have a right to maintain control of their water rights. However, there is a place for city water reserves to the rural community during a drought to be used for fire protection only.
9. In your opinion, what areas can be improved with forest management in your fire district?	No Response Received	Collaboration with the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management is a critical component to maintaining public safety.
10. What should be the role of the fire district be in working with local governing authorities (county commissioners, city planners, etc.) and why?	No Response Received	The fire district is not an enforcement agency, however, we do public education, community outreach, and interagency training and operation.

	Pam Houser	<u>Tommy LaPonsey</u>
11. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	I have over 30 years of Fire and EMS service and experience as a frontline first responder. I retired as a Fire Captain Paramedic, and am uniquely qualified to serve as a fire commissioner. I began my firefighting career as a volunteer EMT firefighter for a small city while working in the construction trades. I was eventually hired by the Santa Monica Fire Department, and I served the department in many skill sets which included being a paramedic, hazardous materials specialist, rescue systems specialist, and a disaster preparation instructor, as well as being aircraft rescue certified. I am certified as a fire officer, chief officer, fire boss in wildland firefighting, strike team leader, and first aid CPR instructor. I was the Paramedic Coordinator for our department and worked with both County and State agencies to develop innovative programs for fire based EMS programs.

Watchmen Ministry North Idaho

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