

DORSET FIRE DISTRICT No. 1

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL PRESENTATION

MAY 11, 2026



FIRE DEPT. YEAR IN SUMMARY

Fire Chief Jacob Gribble continues to do a great job

- recruiting and retaining firefighters
- replacing old equipment
- firehouse renovations and cleaning

Responded to 144 calls in calendar-year 2025

1,697 hours of firemen in-house

4 firefighters took 32 hours training at FDIC

20 firefighters in the department

NEW FIRE ENGINE: 512

Ferrara Inferno Pumper-Tanker

- was delivered this past fall, after a series of delays
- 3000 gallons of water and 1500 GPM pump
- 2004 KME pumper-tanker was traded-in
- \$816,848 cost
- \$100,000 downpayment, 15-year loan @ 4.49%

Issues with chassis welds have been fixed and reinforced (under warranty)

FIRE DEPT. FUNDRAISING

This year's fundraising campaign raised over \$30,000

These funds enabled the fire dept. to purchase:

- heavy-duty washer and dryer for fireman's gear
- 2 thermal imaging cameras

Thank you to all who donated

FY 2027 FIRE BUDGET

This year's fire budget: \$209,250

- a 3% increase from last year
- full budget is in the Dorset Fire District 2026 annual report

Fire tax is included as a line item in your property tax bill

SERVICE LINE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Replace galvanized service lines

- galvanized pipe has a short lifespan (if not leaking today, they will be soon)
- thousands of small leaks in services were very difficult to detect and fix
- a consistent 50 GPM of water was being “used” during the middle of the night (now 40 GPM)

Meters and shutoff valves installed in all homes and businesses

- metered usage will promote equitable billing and water conservation
- functional curb-stops and shutoff valves will aid future leak detection in service lines

Small mains replaced long shared services

- shared services required cooperation of multiple homeowners in order to perform fixes
- new small mains are owned and maintained by the district

Key valves installed throughout the system

- key valves will decrease the number of users affected during system maintenance
- this work was done upfront to decrease water disruption during the project

SERVICE LINE PROJECT: PHASE 2

Casella Engineering was awarded contract

- partial service line replacements – sections under Rt. 30
- sleeves are currently being installed
- contract work should be complete sometime this summer
- funding is included under DWSRF loan

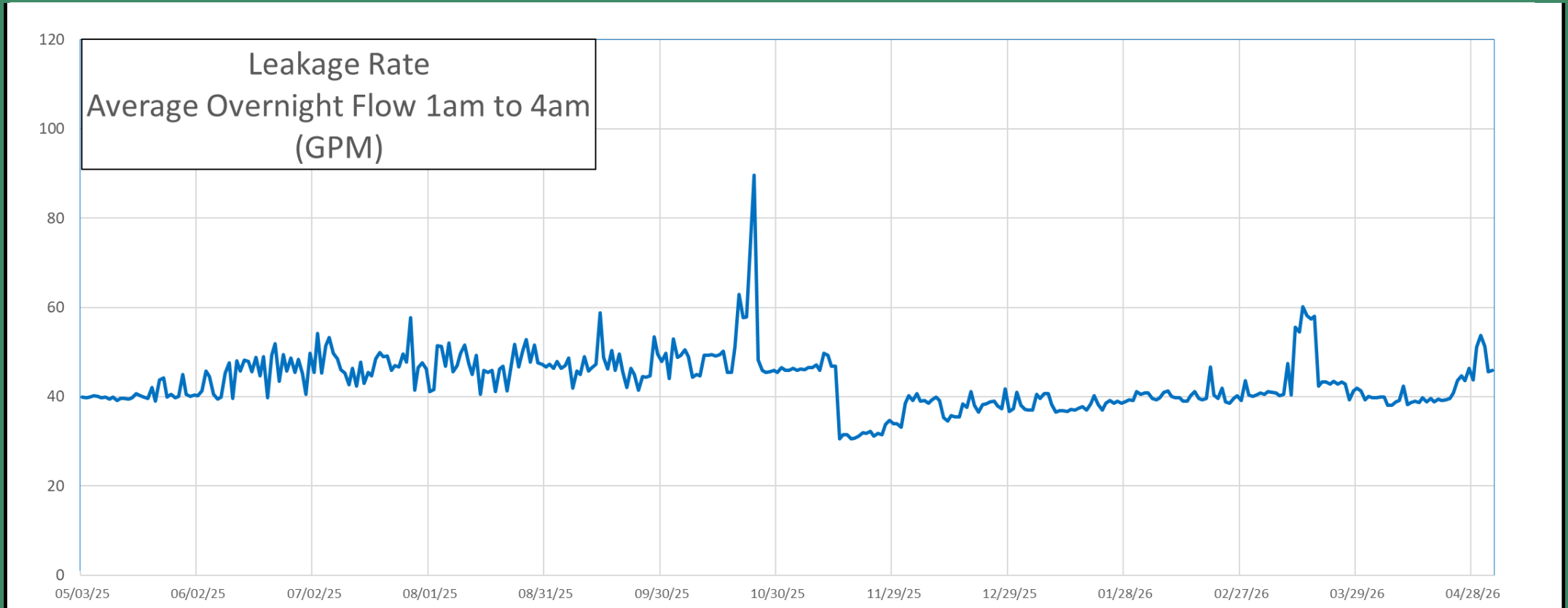
Currently negotiating with a local vendor to replace...

- remaining Rt. 30 services (curb-stop to house)
- remaining services not completed in phase 1 (27 in total)
- funding to be determined, but still within voter authorization of \$5 million

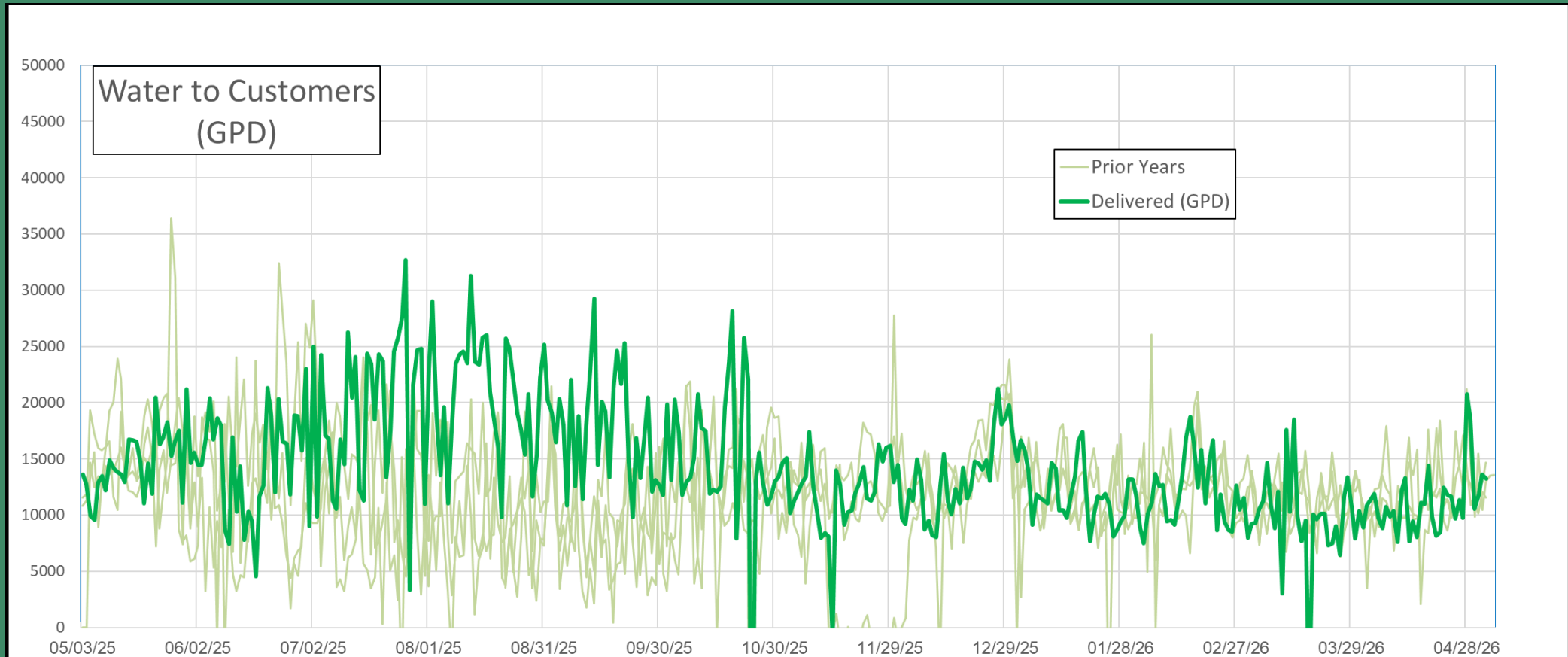
DAILY WATER FLOW (GPD)



LEAKAGE RATE (GPM)



WATER TO CUSTOMERS (GPM)



WIRELESS WATER METERS

188 meters have been installed

- 3 remain to be installed

Meter data is actively being recorded

Billing based on meter data will not occur until 2027

- more data needed to calculate proper billing rates
- commercial vs. residential rates need further study

When the switch is made...

- a connection fee will still exist, regardless of water usage

METERING STATION

A system-wide meter was installed downhill of reservoir several years ago

- meter allows use to measure total system usage
- meter also allows us to estimate total system leakage (usage in middle of night)

We are in process of switching to a new metering system

- requires AC power – which will be run soon
- \$43,000 cost (power and meter system)

New metering system will allow for automatic daily chlorine readings

- water operator will no longer need to take daily chlorine readings
- over the course of a few years, this will result in a net savings in cost

SPRING YIELD STUDIES

- water flow from Kellog Springs into reservoir was measured over 4 seasons
- process took much longer than anticipated
- final report concluded that 68 GPM water is generated in worst of times
- report was submitted to ANR in February
- initial response from ANR:
 - “we have reviewed the study and agree with the conclusions”
- still waiting for official acceptance, in form of a spring source permit
- this is the critical data needed for ANR to lift the water moratorium
 - we anticipate the moratorium being lifted when the source permit is granted

WELL PROJECT OVERVIEW

Goals for the well

- provide additional water supply to allow ANR to lift moratorium
- provide backup water supply for water emergencies

Test wells on 194 Cheney Rd.

- well #1 had poor quality water (excessive sediment)
- well #2 had inadequate water supply
- well #3 - a shallow gravel-layer well (only 30' deep), was drilled in fall 2024
 - produces abundant water supply – 150 GPM
 - water quality testing meets all state and federal requirements
 - PFAS testing yielded trace levels (state & federal standard do not require treatment)

WELL #3

Completed work

- public hearing with ANR and water users
 - input from some users received that water from well should be treated for PFAS removal
 - ANR reiterated the strong possibility that they may lift the system moratorium in May or June
- Preliminary Engineering Report was submitted in February
 - treatment building and equipment cost around \$1.5 million
- Source Permit for the well has been received
- Source Protection Plan was submitted last week
 - report that analyzes well's potential effects on surrounding wells

WELL #3 – PENDING

Decision to move ahead with well is conditional on:

- ANR decision on our water moratorium
- leak rate after Phase 2 of Service Line Project
- retesting of well #3 at approved pump rates
- strategy for well usage
 - emergency usage only vs. supplemental usage
- funding sources for treatment building and equipment

FY 2027 WATER BUDGET

This year's water budget: \$168,000

- 2.4% increase from last year (last year's budget was \$164,000)
- no payments of service line project bond until project is completed
- full budget is in the Dorset Fire District 2026 Annual Report

Water bills continue to be...

- based on number of bedrooms (residential)
- various business-related criteria (commercial)
- invoiced quarterly

Average water rates

- \$938 per user (178 users)

MORE INFO

Get more info at our website: www.dorsetfiredistrict.org

- meeting agendas and minutes
- approved budgets and water rates
- audit summary documents
- delinquent fire and water customers

Attend our monthly meetings

- prudential board meetings are open to the public
- we cover fire and water issues at every meeting
- 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm at Dorset Town Office