



La Pine Rural Fire Protection District

Pride - Service - Dedication

This May, voters will determine if La Pine Rural Fire Protection District will be able to hire more Firefighter / Emergency Medical Personnel to keep up with the demand of protecting and serving the communities within the District.

FREQUANLTY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the La Pine Fire District Budget?

La Pine Fire District Budget is \$5.4 million for the current 2022/2023 year

Where does the money come from within the annual budget?

- A majority, about 80% comes from property taxes.
- The remaining 20% comes from medical billing, and misc. income

What are the voters being asked to consider?

The request on the May ballot for voters within La Pine Fire District is to consider a NEW five-year Local Option Levy at \$.64 per 1000 of Taxable Assessed Value in addition to the existing levy.

How much does the existing fire levy bring in?

The existing levy of 0.64 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value brings in about 1.2 million annually.

When is the last time the levy rate has been changed?

The first levy was established in 1998 and the rates have remained the same through renewals since inception. 25 Years unchanged!

How much will the additional fire levy bring in?

The NEW levy will bring in approximately an additional 1.2 million annually.



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Why is the increase necessary?

To respond to the number of increasing calls, rising costs and the most critical factors, providing staff to respond to calls within average response time goals.

Why is response times and availability critical?

La Pine Fire District wants to keep response times to below 6 minutes within the city, below 15 minutes in suburban areas, and 45 minutes in rural areas.

Minutes and even seconds count in the survivability of patients experiencing cardiac arrest, stroke, and traumatic incidents.

What is happening with calls for service?

- Emergency calls for service has increased 22% in the past two years, with emergency medical calls increasing 44% in the same period.
- The increased emergency medical calls for transports to the hospital effectively has doubled (100% increase) in the past 6 years.
- Over 600 times in 2022, the district was requested to responded to multiple emergencies, an increase of 56% in the past two years.
- Multiple and major emergencies result in no immediate or extended response times to those in need.

Why go out for an additional tax levy now and not wait to request an increase on the current Levy in 2024?

The La Pine Fire District Board of Directors has determined that it is important to immediately respond to the number of increasing calls, rising costs, and the most critical factor of maintaining staffing to respond within average response time goals.

Asking for an increase on the current five- year levy, which is set to expire in June of 2024, is too long to wait to respond to the increasing needs of the community.



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What will the community get from passing the new five-year Local Option Levy?

- 9 additional firefighter and emergency medical staff
- 3 on-duty crews 24 hours/ 7 days a week

Why has increases in population and housing not provided enough to cover the costs of growth?

There are state limits on taxable value of homes from measures 5 & 50. There is also a state cap on how much property taxes can increase year over year at 3%.

Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance medical reimbursement rates do not meet the costs of providing service which is an indicator that our medical services cannot transport and bill our way to sustainability.

The District has projected costs to increase and revenues to decrease annually.

What if the levy fails?

The District will continue to answer emergency calls for service, but will be unable to keep up with call demands resulting in extended wait times for service, potential drop in staffing, and decreased response effectiveness to medical, rescue, and structural/wildland fires.