



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Why is Frederick-Firestone Fire District considering placing a general obligation bond measure on the May 2022 ballot?

Frederick-Firestone Fire District (FFFD) seeks to protect response times, protect lower property insurance cost, serve new growth areas, and maintain emergency services by addressing its highest priority equipment, apparatus, and facility needs.

How would the proceeds of the voter-approved bond measure be used?

The Fire District seeks to address its highest priority capital facility needs at its existing fire stations and phase in two new fire stations to address the rapid growth in its service population and call volume.

What are the anticipated benefits of the proposed bond measure?

There are many anticipated benefits, including:

- Protecting response times and maintaining emergency services
- Improving the health and safety of first responders
- Attracting and retaining qualified firefighters and paramedics
- Improving FFFD's ISO rating, which could help reduce property insurance rates for homes and businesses

Every taxpayer in the District would directly benefit from the proposed improvements.

What is the estimated net tax impact of the proposed bond measure?

The estimated net tax impact of the proposed \$19.8 million bond measure is \$3.41 per month, or about \$41 per year, for a home with an actual market value of \$400,000 as determined by the County Assessor. This estimate factors in outstanding bonds that will be paid off next year, which lowers the District's mill levy by 0.467 mills.

Would there be tax relief for seniors?

Yes. For residents who qualify and apply for the Senior Property Tax Exemption, the tax impact associated with the proposed bond measure would be lower.

Do the towns of Frederick and Firestone fund the Fire District?

No. FFFD does not receive funding from either town. Most of the Fire District's revenues are generated by an existing mill levy paid by property owners within the District.

Doesn't my Metro District Taxes pay for fire and emergency medical services and protection?

No. Your Metro District tax goes directly to pay for infrastructure and amenities within the subdivision you live within. The metro district tax in no way funds the fire district and the services provided to you and your family. A metro district tax is related directly to your neighborhood and not the Fire District. Every metro district tax is different and is governed by the Metro District's governing body.

Does the State or County fund the Fire District?

No. FFFD does not receive funding from the State of Colorado or Weld County.

What improvements are proposed for the Fire District's existing fire stations?

FFFD seeks to improve the health, safety, and energy efficiency of its three oldest fire stations by replacing outdated, inefficient HVAC units; updating restrooms; and improving sleeping quarters to meet current standards and code issues. The proposed improvements also include connecting the District's Administrative Building to public sanitation, versus the current septic system, and replacing that building's outdated HVAC system.

Where would the new fire stations be located?

Station 5 would be located in the Wyndham Hill area of Frederick and Station 6 would be located in the Barefoot Lakes area of Firestone. These are both areas of rapid growth. The two new stations would be strategically located to work hand in hand with the four existing fire stations to maintain quick response times to any emergency.

Would the funding proposal address the equipment and apparatus needs at the new fire stations?

Yes. The bond measure would fund needed emergency equipment and apparatus for the two stations.

When would the proposed capital improvements be addressed?

Station 5 would be brought online in 2022-2023 and Station 6 by 2025-2026. Improvements to existing fire stations would be addressed in 2023 and 2024.

Would land be donated for the new fire stations?

It is likely that land for the two fire stations would be donated.

Would the new fire stations benefit all district residents?

Yes. Given the growing number of back-to-back emergency calls received daily, phasing in two new fire stations would benefit all district residents. The new fully staffed stations would allow FFFD to protect response times and maintain emergency services districtwide. The new stations would provide coverage within areas of rapid growth as well as between existing fire stations.

How is this funding proposal different from what district voters previously approved?

The previous proposal in 2019 focused on the District's staffing needs for firefighters and paramedics. This proposal in 2022 is focused on equipment, apparatus, and facilities.

How large is FFFD's service area?

Approximately 36,000+ residents are served in a 36-square-mile jurisdiction. The District provides all-hazards emergency services to the Town of Frederick, the Town of Firestone, Evanston, and portions of Unincorporated Weld County.

To what extent is the Fire District's service population increasing?

Population growth in Frederick and Firestone continues to increase by 4-9% annually. Within the next 10 years, FFFD's service population is projected to grow to nearly 50,000 residents. In fact, there are 30 planned residential development projects within the District that comprise more than 11,600 family dwelling units, including senior citizen housing. There are also more than 90 commercial projects in the District that are currently in the planning phase or being constructed.

How many emergency calls does FFFD respond to each year?

The Fire District currently responds to about 2,500 calls annually, providing direct care and service to more than 19,000 residents each calendar year. As the District's service population increases by about 7% annually, emergency and non-emergency call volume will continue to increase.

Is the Fire District's 911 call volume dominated by emergency medical calls?

Yes. About 58% of FFFD's calls are tied to emergency medical situations, which is expected to increase because of the District's aging population and growth. The Fire District also responds to fire incidents, traffic accidents, calls involving hazardous materials and many other types of hazardous emergencies.

Are response times increasing?

Yes. Response times continue to increase due to the District's increased service population and call volume. While efforts continue to be made to shift apparatus from one station to another to address areas experiencing the largest increases in response times, this is not a long-term solution. The reality is that our understaffed emergency units are currently scrambling to meet proper response times.

Does FFFD have an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the towns of Frederick and Firestone regarding response times?

Yes. The IGA calls for the Fire District to be on the scene within 5 minutes and 30 seconds or less, 80% of the time. (To maintain this response time and service the growing population, additional fire stations will be required.)

Can grants be used to address the Fire District's unmet equipment, apparatus, and facility needs?

The District continues to apply for grants. However, these funds are increasingly difficult to obtain. Furthermore, there are few grant opportunities to address facility needs. And when it comes to grants for equipment and apparatus, much of those funds are directed to more rural and affected departments with less population.

Why is growth not paying its own way?

For 2021, which is an assessment year, FFFD's assessed valuation decreased by 2.30% due to declining oil and gas valuation. For 2022, the Fire District's assessed valuation is projected to stay flat. With current inflation and the rising cost of operations, the District is unable to meet its highest priority equipment, apparatus, and facility needs.

What could happen if I choose not to support the District's initiative or plans?

- Increased response times to you, your family's, or neighbor's 911 call
- Increased loss of life for major medical emergencies – early and quick access saves lives
- Increased property damage of a fire or environmental emergency – fire doubles every 60 seconds
- Increased property insurance cost for your home and business – (ISO Rating)
- Increased risk for your firefighters and paramedics
- Community's emergency and risk reduction needs are not met
- Fire & Life Safety Education, Inspections and Risk Reduction are phased out
- The District will not be able to hire needed firefighters due to operational funding being utilized for capital needs of essential services on the streets
- Improper emergency services within a community = decreased community growth and quality of life, affecting the overall economy of the community
- The District not able to meet its mission: "To enhance your quality of life by always earning your trust, reducing loss of life, preventing harm, and protecting property with compassion and integrity.

How can district residents provide input on the proposed bond measure and capital improvements?

A districtwide public opinion survey will be mailed to registered voter households in late November or early December 2021. The Fire District will also be hosting public information meetings. Following are the dates, times, and locations of the first three informational meetings:

- **Thursday, December 2, 2021, 6 p.m.**
Carbon Valley Regional Library
7 Park Ave., Firestone, CO 80504
- **Saturday, December 4, 2021, 8 a.m.**
The Back 9 at Bella Rosa Golf Course
5830 Bella Rosa Pkwy., Frederick, CO 80504
- **Monday, December 6, 2021, 6 p.m.**
FFFD Administration Building
8426 Kosmerl Place, Frederick, CO 80504