

FRANKLIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3

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FIRE LEVY LID LIFT

Franklin County Fire District 3 is asking voters to consider a fire levy lid lift in the November general election to keep up with higher call volumes and costs to provide service.



 franklincounty3
 franklinfire3
 @franklincountyfiredistrict1540

CALLS ARE UP

49%

SINCE 2018



HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

We are not part of Franklin County government. We are a separate taxing district. Our daily operations are funded by a fire levy capped at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. In 2018 voters approved a fire levy rate of \$1.27 per \$1,000. Since that time, the rate has dropped to \$1.04 per \$1,000.

WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT?

We are asking voters to consider a \$0.30 lid lift, which would raise the fire levy rate to \$1.34 per \$1,000 on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot. This will help us keep up with higher call volumes and costs to provide service.

WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR THIS?

Since 2018 call volumes have increased by 49%. Overlapping calls – when two or more come in at the same time – are happening 30% of the time. Response times are increasing because current staffing levels are unable to keep up with this demand for emergency services. Medical supplies/equipment and firefighter protective gear costs are up 43% and 18%, respectively.

WHAT WILL THE LID LIFT FUND?

- One additional full-time firefighter
- Two seasonal firefighters for wildland fire season
- Replace firefighter gear, ambulance and water tender
- Renovation of Station 33 on Columbia River Road (Block 1) to allow for 24-hour staffing and decontamination facilities to protect firefighter health and safety
- Backup power at our main fire station so we can continue to operate during a natural disaster

These improvements will reduce response times, increase service reliability districtwide, and protect firefighter health and safety.

DO MY PROPERTY TAXES INCREASE BY THE SAME PERCENT AS MY HOME'S ASSESSED VALUE?

No. A fire district by law can only increase its revenue by 1% per year. Any higher amount must be approved by voters. This means that even if your property value increases by 20%, we can only collect 1% more (or any other voter-approved increase).