



# FRANKLIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 11, 2023

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### **Board of Fire Commissioners to meet on fire levy resolution**

*Community invited to learn more and provide comment*

(Pasco, Wash.) – The Franklin County Fire District 3 Board of Fire Commissioners will meet April 25 to discuss a resolution to place a fire levy lid lift on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot. The community is encouraged to attend the meeting at 5 p.m. at Station 36, 7809 Road 36.

The public can also attend remotely by joining a Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5436866699> or phoning in at 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 543 686 6699.

Call volumes are up 49 percent and overlapping calls (two or more at the same time) happen 30 percent of the time. The fire district responded to 804 calls in 2022, of which 50 percent were for emergency medical service (EMS). Higher call volumes and overlapping calls are leading to longer response times. More calls are also driving up costs for medical equipment, firefighter protective gear, and other capital projects that are necessary to improve service.

“This is a safety issue for our community,” Fire Chief Mike Harris said. “We require additional personnel and facility improvements to keep up with the higher demand for emergency services.”

If approved by voters, the fire levy lid lift will fund:

- One additional full-time firefighter
- Two seasonal firefighters for wildland fire season
- Firefighter gear, ambulance, and water tender replacements
- Station 33 on Columbia River Road (Block 1) renovations to allow for 24-hour staffing and decontamination facilities to protect firefighter health and safety
- Backup power at the main fire station to continue operations during a natural disaster

These improvements will reduce response times, improve service reliability districtwide and protect firefighters’ health and safety.

The fire district is asking voters to raise the fire levy from \$1.04 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to \$1.34. The \$0.30 lid lift would cost the owner of a \$300,000 home an additional \$90 per year or \$7.50 per month.

More information about the fire levy lid lift can be found at [www.fcd3.org](http://www.fcd3.org). Fire Chief Mike Harris also welcomes your questions at [media@fcd3.org](mailto:media@fcd3.org) or 509-547-9306.

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*Franklin County Fire District 3 (Fire District 3) serves up to 12,000 people over 106.5 square miles. Fire District 3 is a separate taxing district and is not associated with Franklin County. The fire district relies on full-time and volunteer emergency personnel who responded to more than 800 calls in 2022, of which 50 percent are for Emergency Medical Service (EMS). Fire District 3 firefighters and emergency medical personnel are trained to provide quality emergency services for fire suppression, wildland fires, EMS, technical rescue, hazardous material spills, auto extrication, and prevention/safety education programs for adults and children. Fire District 3 relies on volunteers to respond to calls. If you’re interested in volunteering, contact Fire District 3 to learn more.*