

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE  
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET**

Marion County Clerk

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Elections Division

Measure No. 24-495

Election Date: 5/21/2024

See Attached

Total Words 402 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature Signature redacted Title Fire Chief

Printed Name Joseph Budge

Local Government Unit Woodburn Fire District

## **Woodburn Fire District – Local Option Levy Renewal**

### **Explanatory Statement**

#### **What is on the ballot?**

WFD is asking voters to renew the current 35-cent local option levy that was voter-approved in 2018. This levy provides approximately 17% of WFD's total funding.

#### **What would the levy renewal pay for?**

Levy funds would be used to maintain the current level and quality of emergency services provided to residents and businesses in the district. WFD firefighters and paramedics respond to emergency incidents like fires, heart attacks, car crashes, and hazardous material releases. The levy will continue to fund – at the same rate – additional positions as the population grows.

#### **How much would the levy cost?**

The levy rate stays the same. For a property assessed at \$200,000, about the average in WFD's service area, the cost of the levy would be about \$5.83 per month or approximately \$70 per year.

#### **Why are levy funds needed?**

In 2023, the WFD responded to more than 3,500 calls for emergency service. Since 2010, the call volume has increased more than 80%. More than 2,000 new residences are expected over the next 3-5 years. The fire district is striving to maintain service to all residents and businesses as the district grows. The levy renewal at the same rate will allow the fire district to continue to protect lives and property with the current quality and level of emergency service.

#### **What happens if the levy does not pass?**

If the levy does not pass, the loss of up to two firefighters/paramedics is projected. The fire district's ability to add firefighters and paramedics as the district grows will be significantly reduced. Without additional emergency personnel, response times will increase.

#### **What has WFD done with the levy funds approved by voters in 2018?**

*WFD has delivered on all promises to voters:*

- Ensured that a minimum of four firefighters, including a paramedic, are on-duty every day
- Improved coverage when multiple emergency calls occur
- Provided Advanced Life Support (ALS) training to bring the highest possible level of pre-hospital care to patients
- Purchased ALS medical equipment such as heart monitors, intubation equipment for breathing, and automatic chest compression tools to improve survival rates for heart attacks

**When would the renewed levy be collected?**

The renewed levy would appear for the first time on November 2024 property tax statements.

**Where do I find more information?**

Visit our website to learn more at [www.woodburnfire.com](http://www.woodburnfire.com). Woodburn Fire Chief Joe Budge also welcomes your questions at [joe.budge@woodburnfire.com](mailto:joe.budge@woodburnfire.com) or (503) 982-2360.