

AUG 18 2023

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

Measure No. 24-487

Election Date: November 7, 2023

Jefferson Rural Fire Protection District provides ambulance, EMS and fire response within an 87 square mile area in Marion and Linn Counties with fire stations in Jefferson, Millersburg, and Talbot. Jefferson Fire District has seen an increase in services used over the last several years. In 2019 voters passed a five-year local option tax levy to cover the increase in cost, but the Local Option Levy expires June 30, 2024.

The Board conducted a review of the facilities, apparatus, and staffing to identify the immediate and long-term needs of the Fire District. It was determined that replacing the aging facilities and equipment would require 14.5 million dollars. The Board of Directors has started addressing these needs of the Fire District but realizes it can't be done all at once. A five-year local option tax provides the most flexibility to address facility maintenance, operational costs, apparatus and staffing needs. In 2019 the voters passed a five-year local option tax and replaced an Ambulance, purchased one new tender to replace two 1982 tenders, increased facility and apparatus maintenance, and made improvements to the part-time staffing. The current five-year local option tax expires June 30, 2024. The Board of Directors wants to continue addressing the needs of the Fire District. Operational costs have increased over the last five years and so have our calls for service.

If adopted the Fire District would use tax revenue to replace a 2004 Ambulance, add additional Firefighter/Paramedics to ensure 24-hour coverage and to help staff the second Ambulance as needed. We will continue to maintain apparatus readiness, facility maintenance, cover the increase in operational costs, and plan for the future of Jefferson Fire District.

The Board of Directors is asking the voters to approve a \$0.81 per thousand tax levy for the next five years beginning July 1, 2024, and expiring June 30, 2029. The measure would raise approximately \$677,017.00 in 2024-25, \$690,557.00 in 2025-26, \$704,368.00 in 2026-27, \$718,456.00 in 2027-28 and \$732,825.00 in 2028-29, for a total of \$3,523,223.

Homeowners with a tax assessed property valuation of \$200,000.00 would pay \$162.00 in property taxes.

Total Words 377 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signatur **Signature redacted** Title Fire Chief

Printed Name Levi Eckhardt

Local Government Unit Jefferson Rural Fire Protection District