

St. Paul Rural Fire Protection District

November 2025 Local Option Levy

Explanatory Statement

The St. Paul Fire District is seeking approval of a local option levy in the amount of \$1.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

What Services does the District provide?

St. Paul Fire District is the first responder for fire, medical, and rescue emergencies in its service area. The District also provides fire prevention, fire investigations, public education and non-emergency public assistance.

Who does the District serve?

St. Paul Fire District serves an approximate 48 square mile area that includes the City of St. Paul and the surrounding area.

How is the District Funded?

St. Paul Fire District is funded through a permanent property tax base rate of 1.0622 cents per thousand assessed value and ambulance transport fees.

How would levy funds be used?

If approved, the levy funds would:

- **Provide 24/7 Paramedic Coverage** – Currently the District is short 24 hours a week in providing part-time paid paramedic coverage and relies on local volunteer paramedics and volunteer first responders to cover those hours. The levy would provide funds to cover all shifts with paid part-time paramedics.
- **Replace Obsolete Apparatus** – The district has aging apparatus with no current plan for replacement. Levy funds would allow the district to develop a replacement schedule for upgraded equipment with safety features and technological advancements promoting firefighter and patron safety.
- **Provide Required Fleet Maintenance** – As the District's fleet ages maintenance cost rise and finding available parts for the equipment becomes more challenging. Levy funds will cover the increased costs in the maintenance budget.

- **Purchase Personal Protective Equipment** – Personal Protective Equipment does have an expiration date. A set of turnout gear, that protects a first responder from fire injury, has a 10-year life expectancy. The District currently has several sets of turnouts outside this 10-year life expectancy.
- **Purchase EMS and Fire Equipment** – The District's EMS and fire equipment is also aging and will be in need of future replacement soon. As an example, the District has a Life Pack Defibrillator model 12 which has reached its end of life and is technologically obsolete with no repair option. When this piece of equipment breaks it will force the District, which experiences a high number of motor vehicle crashes resulting in multiple patients, down to one medic available for response. Multiple patients require multiple medic response units, dispatching a second medic unit from a neighboring agency could result in delayed patient care.

What is the cost to the taxpayers?

The median assessed value for residential property in the St. Paul Fire District is \$ 309,185, the cost for this value would be approximately \$309.19 per year or about \$25.77 per month.

What if the levy is not approved?

While maintaining emergency response services would remain the top priority for St. Paul Fire District, if the levy is not approved, the fire district will not be able to fully meet the increasing emergency response costs or fund the much-needed equipment updates.

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