

The Hubbard Fire Protection District (HFD) is seeking approval of a local option levy in the amount of \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

What Services does the District provide?

Hubbard 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?

Hubbard Fire District serves an approximate 7 square mile area that includes the City of Hubbard and the surrounding area.

How is the District Funded?

Hubbard Fire is funded through a permanent property tax base rate of 80 cents per thousand assessed value. In addition, voters approved a 10-year bond measure in 2016 for the purchase of fire vehicles and other emergency response equipment. Oregon tax law prohibits the use of bond funds for equipment maintenance and other operational expenses.

How would levy funds be used?

If approved, the levy funds would:

- **Hire Additional Firefighters** - HFD currently has two (2) full-time career firefighters. Weekend, night and holiday coverage is provided by volunteer firefighters. Only 5 of the 27 volunteers live within the fire district. The proposed levy would add two (2) additional career firefighters and ensure firefighter staffing at the fire station at all times. The need for more career firefighters is a result of the increase in 9-1-1 calls. HFD has experienced a 72% increase in emergency calls since 2012. With projected growth in Hubbard, the number of emergency calls is expected to continue to increase.
- **Provide Required Maintenance of Emergency Equipment** - Lack of sufficient budget funds have created a backlog of maintenance needs. Many of the needs are associated with maintenance that is required for compliance with state and federal laws and national safety standards. These expenses include the replacement of tires that are more than 10 years old on fire vehicles, the replacement of aging fire hose and firefighter protective gear, the required testing of self-contained breathing apparatus that supplies firefighters with clean air when working in toxic environments, the update of emergency medical equipment and much more.

Marion County Clerk

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- **Allow 24/7 Mutual-Aid Back-up Coverage** - During 2019, HFD was not able to respond to eight (8) emergencies due to overlapping 9-1-1 calls or the lack of volunteer responders. The increase in career firefighters provided by the levy will allow HFD to enter into agreements with the neighboring fire districts for the automatic dispatch of back-up coverage for all emergency incidents.

What is the cost to the taxpayers?

The levy cost for property assessed at \$162,400, about average for residential property in the Hubbard Fire District, would be approximately \$161 per year or about \$13.40 per month.

What if the levy is not approved?

While maintaining emergency response services would remain the top priority for HFD, if the levy is not approved, the fire district will not be able to fully meet the increasing emergency response demand or fully comply with equipment maintenance requirements.

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