



Yakima County Fire Protection District No. 5

SERVING 700 SQUARE MILES

TODD LUNNING
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

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BOARD MEMBERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 23, 2023
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Board of Fire Commissioners to meet on bond resolution

Community invited to learn more and provide comment

Zillah, Wash. – The Yakima County Fire District 5 Board of Fire Commissioners will meet Wednesday, July 5, to discuss a resolution to place a bond on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot. The community is encouraged to attend the meeting at 4 p.m. at Fire District 5 Headquarters, 717 First Avenue, in Zillah.

“Our call volumes have increased 22 percent in the last seven years, and we’re struggling to provide adequate facilities, equipment, and staffing to respond to the higher demand for emergency services,” Fire Chief Ken Shipman said. “We have a strategic plan in place that outlines our path forward to improve service.”

The first step is to renovate stations and replace aging equipment. The Fire District has never asked for a tax increase since its formation in 1947. (Fire District 5 is a separate taxing district and independent of the city of Yakima.) This is no longer possible. The capital projects are too expensive to fund through the fire levy. Fire District 5 is considering asking voters for a bond projected at \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The bond would fund the renovation of Station 3 in Harrah, Station 5 in Parker and Station 10 in Zillah, and build and equip a headquarters station with a larger emergency dispatch center. The bond would also fund emergency apparatus that has reached the end of its serviceable life. The bond would cost the owner of a \$300,000 piece of property (considered average) \$84 a year or \$7 a month.

Fire District 5 is the largest fire district in the state geographically and responds to an average of 2,700 calls per year. Once the additional space is created at stations and new apparatus is in place, Fire District 5 anticipates asking voters to consider a fire levy lid lift to hire additional personnel. These funding requests are deliberately staggered to reduce costs for taxpayers.

Learn more about Fire District 5’s funding requests at www.ycfd5.org.

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Yakima County Fire District 5 provides fire suppression, prevention, emergency medical service and a wildland fire response to 36,000 people over 800 square miles from. District 5 is proud to be a “combination department” relying on volunteers, part-time and full-time emergency personnel to respond to calls. Visit www.ycfd5.org to learn more about the fire district. We also welcome volunteer applications online or by contacting our main office at (509) 829-5111.