



Yakima County Fire Protection District No. 5

SERVING 700 SQUARE MILES

TODD LUNNING
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

ERNEST W. GASSELING - DAVID R. CHARVET
BOARD MEMBERS

KEN SHIPMAN
DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 6, 2023
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Board of Fire Commissioners passes bond resolution *Measure to appear on the November general election ballot*

Zillah, Wash. – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Yakima County Fire District 5 passed a resolution to place a bond on the November 7, 2023, general election ballot. The purpose of the bond is to renovate stations and fund other essential capital projects to improve emergency services.

“We have never asked for a tax increase since our formation in 1947,” Fire Chief Ken Shipman said. “This is no longer an option – our capital needs are too expensive to fund through the fire levy.”

Call volumes have increased by 22 percent since 2015 and revenue is not keeping up with costs to provide adequate facilities, equipment and staffing to respond to the higher demand for emergency services.

The Fire District’s strategic plan outlines the path forward to improve service. The first step is to renovate stations and replace aging equipment through 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 useful 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.