

**MAR 19 2020**

## **Explanatory Statement**

Responding to over 1,100 calls for service per year, Stayton Fire District provides firefighting, rescue, hazmat, and emergency medical service to residents within 107 square miles of Marion and Linn Counties. The District provides service to the communities of Elkhorn, Mehama, Marion and the City of Stayton as well as the Little North Fork recreational area and thirteen miles of Hwy. 22/North Santiam Hwy.

### **How would the money be used?**

The District has 5 paid Fire Fighters (FF) that work 8 to 5 Monday thru Friday to support the District in functional positions such as IT, maintenance, training, and administration as well as responding to calls while our volunteers are at their regular jobs. Evenings, weekends, and holidays, our highest call volume times, are covered by our volunteers. Although we have a great group of volunteers, the high call volume puts a considerable amount of stress on them, which is compounded by the growing challenges of recruiting new volunteers. This levy for five years will provide enough revenue to assist our volunteers with the equivalent of three full time FF positions, seasonal and part-time help. These positions will be scheduled in a way to assist our volunteers with response as well as provide quicker response times to our community.

### **Why is there a need?**

The District has a group of well trained volunteers that are dedicated to their community, but over the years, despite increased recruitment efforts, our numbers have continued to decline while calls for service have increased. This places even more strain on our remaining volunteers and causes burn-out. Given the current declining interest in volunteering, we can ill afford to lose any of our volunteers to burn-out.

### **What is the cost to property taxpayers?**

As stated in the ballot title, this levy would replace the existing bond levy that will end in June of 2020. The bond measure that is ending in June had an overall tax rate of \$.2420 per thousand. The new levy would have a fixed rate of \$.25 cents per thousand for five years. This means for a house with an assessed value of \$250,000.00, it would cost around \$62.50 per year or \$5.21 per month.

**What if the Levy is not approved?**

The Fire District will continue its efforts to recruit additional volunteers. If the number of volunteers continues to decline, our ability to provide reliable, timely service will diminish.

**Marion County Clerk**

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