



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Lane Fire Authority to place levy renewal and increase on May 19 ballot
Measure relates to staffing and service demand

VENETA, Ore. – Lane Fire Authority will ask voters to consider renewing the current local option levy and increasing the rate to \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in the May 19, 2026 primary election.

Lane Fire Authority is a special district funded primarily through local property taxes and ambulance service revenue. We do not receive operating funds from state, federal, county, or city governments. Funding decisions for services and operations are made at the local level.

The current levy, approved by voters in 2021, supports daily fire and emergency medical services. Since that time, total call volume has increased by nearly 20%, with medical emergencies now accounting for approximately 80% of all 911 responses.

The proposed measure would renew the current levy rate of \$0.35 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and increase it by \$0.20, for a total of \$0.55 per \$1,000. If approved, the funding would support two additional firefighter positions and the installation of a modular staffing building at Station 109 on Spencer Creek Road.

Operational adjustments have been made based on available staffing and funding. Fire Chief Dale Borland stated, “We do not currently have funding to fill six essential vacant positions, and we no longer have dedicated firefighter training staff. If the measure is not approved, we would need to consider additional changes, which may include reducing ambulance service and firefighter staffing.”

If the measure is not approved, Lane Fire Authority would continue operating with its permanent tax rate and without the expiring local option levy. The Board of Directors would determine any changes to staffing, services, or operations based on available funding.

For more information, visit www.lanefire.org or contact Lane Fire Authority at 541-935-2226.



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Lane Fire Authority provides fire suppression, emergency medical, and life safety services to approximately 31,000 people across 282 square miles in the heart of the Willamette Valley. EMS accounts for about 80% of the roughly 7,400 calls responded to each year by full-time and volunteer personnel. Learn more at lanefire.org.