



Frequently Asked Questions About the Local Option Levy Renewal and Increase

Lane Fire Authority provides fire suppression, emergency medical, and life safety services to 45,000 people over 282 square miles in the heart of the Willamette Valley. EMS accounts for approximately 80% of emergency calls.

Full-time and volunteer emergency personnel respond to approximately 7,400 calls per year.

What's on my ballot?

Lane Fire Authority is asking voters to renew the local option levy and increase it by \$0.20 per \$1,000 of assessed property value during the November 4, 2025 general election.

Why is my fire authority asking for this?

Costs to provide emergency services are higher than the amount of revenue collected. We have been using reserve funds, which is not sustainable long-term.

How about more details?

Call volumes have increased almost 20% since the last local option levy was passed in 2021. The fire authority requires additional firefighters to respond to calls and reduce response times. More calls also mean added costs and these costs have skyrocketed due to inflation. These costs are out of the fire authority's control, but must be paid to continue providing emergency services.

How have costs "skyrocketed"?

Here are examples of how costs have increased since the last local option levy passed in 2021:

- Ambulance licensing fees – 220%
- Overtime – 72% (This is necessary so there are enough firefighters to respond to calls.)
- Maintenance and repair costs for fire and EMS equipment – 79%
- Federal and state mandates (FICA, Workers Compensation, PERS, Paid Leave Oregon) – 60%
- Insurance – 48%
- Health care costs – 27%
- 911 Dispatch services – 19%

How has the fire authority tried to save money?

The fire authority regularly applies for grants, shares resources with neighboring agencies, and relies on volunteers to respond to calls.

We have cut costs by delaying apparatus replacement and facility maintenance as well, but it has reached a critical point. Last year, we had to replace two ambulances to provide reliable emergency medical service to our community, and that exhausted our savings account.

Why can't we fund what we need through grants?

Grants are temporary funds and usually require the grant recipient to pay a percentage of the cost. This percentage can be as low as five percent or (we've seen) as high as 50 percent. Currently, LFA is using all funds to operate the district and is unable to provide grant matching funds if those programs even exist. Most grant programs have been eliminated at the state and federal level due to budget cutbacks by those levels of government.

How much will the increase cost?

Property owners already pay a local option levy of \$0.35 per \$1,000. The requested increase is \$0.20 per \$1,000, which would be an additional \$20 per \$100,000 of your property's assessed value. For example, a property valued at \$400,000 would pay approximately \$6.67 per month, or \$80 per year.

What will the money fund?

The levy would fund two full-time firefighters and a modular building to provide staffing quarters at Station 109 on Spencer Creek. This will reduce response times and improve our ability to respond to multiple emergencies throughout the fire authority. The levy will also fund ongoing increasing costs to provide service.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Fire Chief Dale Borland welcomes your questions at 541-935-2226 ext. 203 or daleborland@lanefire.org.