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THE FIRST RESPONDER

A South King Fire & Rescue Publication

Serving the citizens of Greater Federal Way and Des Moines

SUMMER 2020

PROP 1 - MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS LEVY

EDUCATION - FACTS & INFORMATION

On August 4th, citizens will be asked to vote to replace an expiring funding measure.

FAQ's:

What is the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Levy?

The Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Levy is a levy used to supplement regular property tax revenues to sustain current emergency response service levels to the community.

Why is the M&O necessary?

The M&O makes up 10% of the total operating revenue for the Fire District. Without the M&O in place, funding would be insufficient and SKFR would be forced to reduce staff and services.

Have the citizens of Federal Way and Des Moines supported the M&O in the past?

Yes. Voters approved the M&O in 2012 for \$3.5M per year and again in 2016 for \$2.75M. Both were approved for 4-year terms.

Why has the amount changed both up and down over the years?

The M&O amount is determined by current and projected Fire District needs. In 2012, the amount bridged a budget gap caused by the recession. In 2016, SKFR lowered the amount to account for improving property values and the voter-approved Safety & Improvement Bond which covered major and delayed capital expenses.

For this period, the proposed replacement M&O includes funding to maintain service levels and additional funding for required capital equipment replacements.

How long is the M&O in place for?

The replacement levy is good for another 4 years and would expire in 2024.

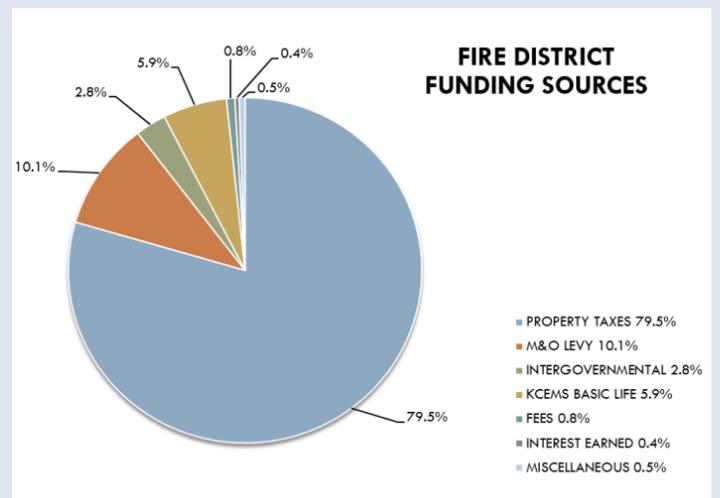
What is the cost of the M&O?

The expiring M&O levy rate has fallen to fourteen cents (.14) per \$1k of assessed value (AV). Restoring the 2017 levy rate of nineteen cents (.19) per \$1k of AV would change the total fire levy rate by five cents (.05) per \$1k of AV.

2020 Fire Levy Rate: \$1.76 (current)

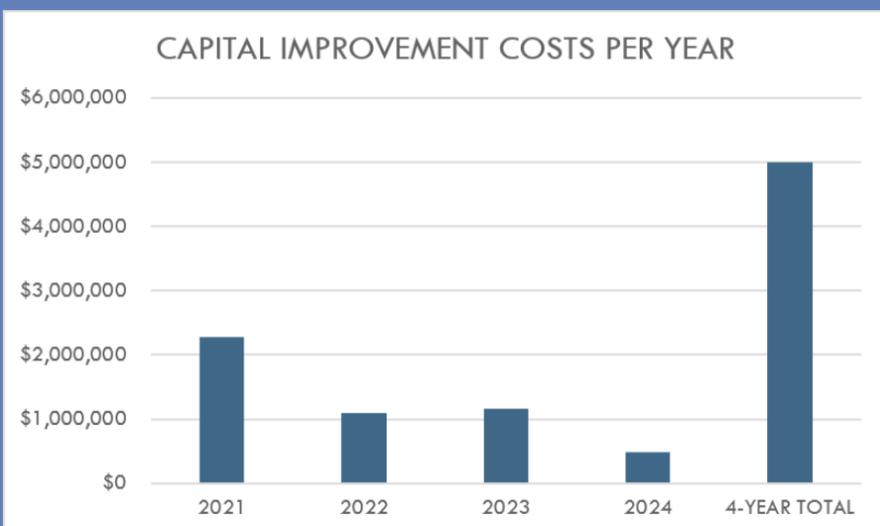
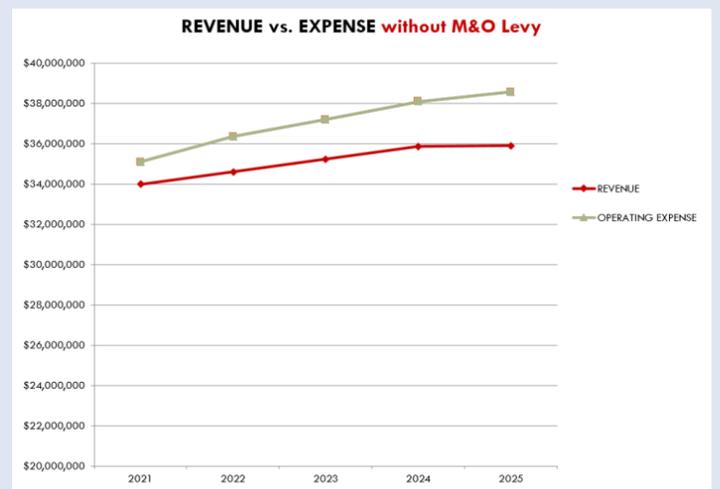
2021 Fire Levy Rate: \$1.81 (proposed)

The cost increase to the owner of a \$400,000 home is approximately \$1.60 per month.



The chart illustrates the primary revenue sources for the Fire District. The M&O Levy accounts for 10% of overall revenue (top).

Without the M&O, revenue falls below expenses required to maintain existing services to the community over the next 4 years (bottom).



SKFR anticipates \$5M in capital expenditures over the next 5 years. This includes 4 fire engines approaching 20 years old. Other costs include rescue tools, personal protection equipment (PPE), radios, and facility and technology upgrades.

KING COUNTY VOTERS CAN MAIL BALLOTS FOR FREE

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE BY AUGUST 4TH

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3	TRI-MED / WELCOME COMMISSIONER BERGER / INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT
4	NEXT GEN RESPONDERS / THANK YOU FOSSOS BOND PROJECTS UPDATE

FIRE CHIEF'S DESK



*Victor (Vic)
Pennington
Fire Chief*

Beginning 2020 as your new Fire Chief hasn't exactly gone as planned. Then again, the year hasn't gone as planned for most of us. Despite its best effort, the virus has not slowed down progress for the SKFR team.

First and foremost, I am extremely proud of our members for their immediate creation of a COVID-19 Response Team at the onset of the pandemic, using the Incident Command System (ICS). Our team also worked tirelessly to activate the Joint Emergency Operations Center in Des Moines, in partnership with the City and Police Department. Our entire organization and the Board of Commissioners have remained fully engaged in the developments related to the pandemic, both internally and externally. These efforts, combined with our proactive approach, are why SKFR has been credited with effectively protecting our staff and community members throughout this crisis.

In May, we made the switch to Tri-Med ambulance for BLS transport services for patients in need of hospital treatment (full article inside). After just a couple months, our firefighters are reporting great response times, excellence in BLS services, and improved patient care data, which allows us to provide a higher level of care to our community members.

In an effort to prepare our staff and our community for the unexpected and ongoing threat of COVID-19, our logistics staff were able to source additional PPE and decontamination supplies, allowing us to honor our commitment to keeping our community safe and healthy. While these expenditures were not planned, they are prudent to ensure the safety of all. Our Business Operations

Team is hard at work submitting grants for possible reimbursement to ensure our community is not only safe, but that we minimize the financial impact the pandemic has on our community members and local businesses.

This year also marks the expiration of our current M&O Levy. Working with the Board of Commissioners, we have proposed a replacement levy that will meet the Fire District's needs, including critical capital equipment replacements, for the next four years. We understand times are tough and many are experiencing hardships. Given this, every measure has been taken to create a proposal for voter consideration that ensures we can continue to deliver exemplary fire and life safety services for the health and safety of our growing community with as minimal financial impact as possible.

As always, be safe. Take care of yourselves and your families and we thank you for your continued support of SKFR.



Emergency responders pay tribute to the support staff at St Francis Community Hospital in Federal Way.

COVID-19 TASK FORCE

When the pandemic hit, Chief Vic Pennington acted quickly to establish the COVID-19 Task Force led by Assistant Chief Dave Mataftin. The team consisted of SKFR personnel who are seasoned leaders in their respective fields and who could provide real-world solutions in these unprecedented times.

Lieutenant Greg Willett is a Hazardous Materials Technician and a leader in the County regarding decontamination procedures, protocols, and research. He has a background in environmental chemistry and is both a private and Zone Three Hazardous Material instructor.

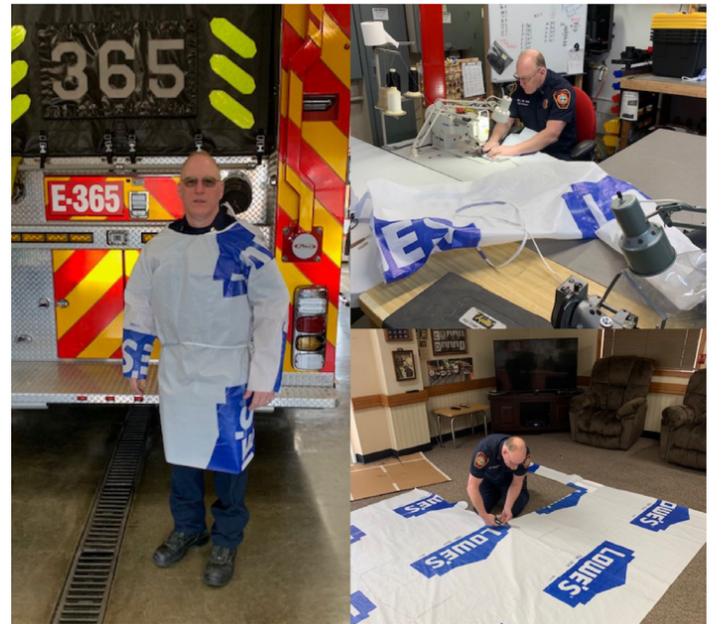
Lieutenant Jan Nielsen is a FEMA USAR Rescue Squad Officer, and a member and instructor of our Rescue Team. He holds a Master's of Science degree in Geophysics. His education proved invaluable and demonstrated his ability to conduct research, perform analysis, and develop short-term and long-term engineering solutions to our COVID-19 response.

Captain Shane Smith is a FEMA USAR Task Force Safety Officer who was deployed to the OSO Landslide in 2014. He is a private instructor and teaches High Angle Rope Rescue across the country. With over 25 years of experience in the fire service, his depth of knowledge in disaster preparedness and his degree in Emergency Management provided incredible insight for long-term solutions.

Working with our Logistics Division, the team was able to forecast potential Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) shortages related directly to the COVID-19 response. Working with Firefighter Jim Wilson, our in-house sewing specialist, the team's innovation and creativity led to the creation of a Tyvek disposable gown made from house-wrap. Coordinating with external stakeholders and business partners, materials were donated by the local Lowes in Federal Way. Using these materials, and our digital template and how-to video, gowns were produced in large quantities by the Women's Prison in Purdy!

SKFR created and opened the first decontamination site in south King County for Public Safety vehicles in need of disinfecting by our Hazardous Materials Team. The task force also led the County in reforming procedures and response protocol to EMS/Aid calls to slow the use of limited PPE supplies and greatly reduce the risk of exposure to patients and personnel.

As our community begins to slowly reopen, daily monitoring is no longer required. For now, we have decommissioned the task force and all members have returned to their normal duties. We are closely monitoring the pandemic and are ready to activate the team again if necessary.



*Firefighter Jim Wilson creates the prototype gown (top)
SKFR COVID-19 Task Force at King County EOC (bottom)*



NEW TRANSPORT SERVICE

In May of this year, Tri-Med ambulance began providing transport services for Basic Life Support (BLS) incidents within SKFR's response area. Tri-Med, a local company, has been providing transport services to communities in South Puget Sound since 1995. They are a proud organization committed to quality and reliable service within the communities they serve.

Through an agreement with SKFR, Tri-Med will provide locally dedicated units for transportation of patients. This commitment will increase available units in our service area and will result in shorter waiting times for patients. Additional transport units will also allow first responders to return to service sooner, enabling them to respond more quickly to other emergencies.

As an added benefit, Tri-Med's fee structure will likely reduce the financial impacts of our citizens/patients who are transported to the hospital!

Tri-Med uses the same Electronic Patient Reporting (ERP) system as SKFR. This allows firefighters to receive patient outcome reports from hospitals on previously treated individuals. In our industry, this is a valuable tool that improves patient care, educates our firefighters in real-time, and simply makes them better EMT's.

SKFR knows it is in the best interest of our community to establish long-term partnerships with our third-party transport agencies. In just a short time, our firefighters have experienced the many benefits of Tri-Med's BLS service. We know this strong partnership will bring many benefits and improved patient care to our community in the years ahead!

TRI-MED



WELCOME COMMISSIONER BERGER



David A. Berger
Fire Commissioner

David A. Berger was appointed to the SKFR Board of Commissioners on March 23rd, 2020. Seeking to give back to his own community, Dave joined the Board of the Multi-Service Center (MSC) in 2014. As a Board member, he advanced his strong desire and interest in helping people in need of housing, employment, and other assistance provided by MSC to achieve or regain their self-sufficiency.

Dave also serves on the City of Federal Way Parks and Recreation Commission and formerly served on the Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel. He has been a member of Rotary International for over 30 years, and has volunteered and provided leadership on local boards for Rotary clubs, the American Heart Association, and Boy Scouts of America. Before retiring in 2010, Dave was a City Manager, Assistant City Manager or General Manager in several California cities and special districts which included fire districts and city fire departments. He also served as San Francisco Bay Area Regional Vice President/Business Manager for the country's largest civil engineering/environmental services firm.

During his 35-year career, Dave led the conversion of two former military bases to civilian use, and oversaw "mega" projects in the transportation infrastructure, environmental clean-up, and water supply fields.

Now residents of Federal Way, Dave and his wife Donna have been married 40 years. They are pleased to have made Federal Way their home and it allows them to frequently see their two married daughters and two small grandchildren who also live in the Puget Sound region.



Board of Commissioners with Fire Chief Pennington

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I would like to welcome David A. Berger to our Board and to South King Fire & Rescue. In March, just as the threat of COVID-19 was growing, the Board promptly held an interview process to fill an open position created by the unfortunate resignation of Commissioner James Fossos. Upon completion of the process, the Board unanimously approved and appointed him to fill Fossos's vacated seat. Dave brings an impressive wealth of experience and knowledge to the Board and we are honored to have him represent our community and Fire District.

Bill Gates - Board Chair

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT - JADEN HASSELL

We are shining a spotlight on our seasonal hire Jaden Hassell! In 2019, Jaden started as an intern through Central Washington University's (CWU) Cooperative Education and Internship program. Despite Jaden's short 3-month internship, his experience was extensive as he supported the Information Technology (IT) team with daily tasks, functional planning, and strategic projects.

During Jaden's internship, he completed a Capstone project to develop a technology-based Disaster Management Plan for the Fire District. The Capstone was beneficial in aligning business functions, lessening risks, and defining a recovery process after a long-term disruption in IT services. Upon completion, Jaden returned to CWU to finish his academics and NCAA baseball career, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in ITAM, a Cyber Security Minor, and specialties in Digital Forensics and Incident Response.

The timing of Jaden's internship, Disaster Management Plan, and college graduation proved to be beneficial for the District. Given his high competency and contributions as an intern, he was brought back in April on temporary assignment to help with the District's COVID-19 response. As the initial wave of the pandemic hit our community, IT's

role escalated causing immediate strain on resources. Jaden has assisted with the deployment of the District's Joint Emergency Operations Center with the City of Des Moines, supported our elected officials with the transition from physical to virtual meetings, as well as remote work from home initiatives for the business team. He also deployed new mobile devices to all vehicles and support staff all part of the COVID-19 response initiative.

It has been a long-standing goal of SKFR to support programs that provide access to new talent, and provide real-world experience to students. Funding permitted, the District will continue internship programs with the goal of creating new career opportunities, which in turn helps our local communities as a whole. This initiative proved extremely useful during the pandemic response, and with the shift to a virtual workplace, the District will continue to receive the benefits of Jaden's internship for years to come.

We are fortunate to have Jaden and we look forward to his bright future in the world of technology!



Jaden Hassell
Information Technology
Intern

NEXT GEN RESPONDERS



Timothy Gurule



Steve Ireland



Jason Tady



Matt Travaille



Derrik Waggoner



Amanda Weed

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE COMMISSIONER FOSSOS



After many years of service to the community, Commissioner James A. Fossos (pictured left with Board Chair Bill Gates) resigned from his re-elected Board position due to health reasons. Jim, a retired firefighter himself, spent his career supporting the Fire Service he loved so deeply. We will forever remember his contributions to SKFR and wish him all the best in the years ahead.

SAFETY IMPROVEMENT BOND PROJECTS

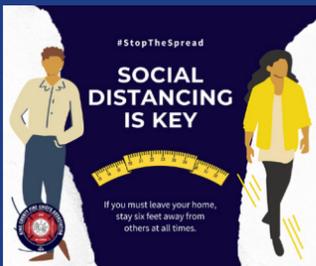
Safety improvements are in the final phase of completion. Last year, community-approved bond funds were invested into our emergency response infrastructure. Several fire stations underwent significant remodels to ensure firefighter safety and to meet seismic codes.

These improvements, coupled with those yet to be completed, ensure we are better equipped to serve the community in times of need.

Response data and economic development continue to highlight a growing need for additional response resources in the south end of the District. The ability to acquire properly zoned land in areas of population growth becomes increasingly harder over time. We were very fortunate to learn of a listing and possible purchase opportunity of an industrial parcel with two buildings to serve as a new Fleet, Facilities and Logistics Headquarters. As part of the Safety & Improvement Bond measure, SKFR was able to purchase this parcel located at South 352nd and Pacific Hwy South in Federal Way. We hope that in the future, with community support, the property will also be home to a new fire station serving citizens in the south.

For now, the District has been busy modifying the existing buildings to accommodate the support divisions that will inhabit them later this summer (construction and move-in delays now due to COVID-19). Like all support divisions, the Fleet, Facilities, and Logistics divisions are critical functions which contribute to SKFR's ability to respond quickly to emergencies. When these projects are complete, SKFR will have modernized support shops far more suitable to meet SKFR's maintenance needs for years to come.

The large service bay is designed for maintenance of District ladder trucks (right). The new maintenance shop can service multiple vehicles (fire engines, aid cars, staff vehicles) at one time (bottom). The old fleet shop could only service one unit at a time.



Feeling sick? Get tested for COVID-19 if you have any of these symptoms:

Fever or chills

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or body aches

Headache

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

SKFR Information:

SKFR provides complimentary blood pressure checks, fire station tours upon appointment, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors. **NOTE DUE TO COVID-19, IN-PERSON SERVICES ABOVE ARE NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL PHASE 4**

STATION 62 - HEADQUARTERS
31617 1st Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003
253-839-6234
Business Hours: 8-4:30 M-F



www.southkingfire.org

Administration:

Vic Pennington, Fire Chief

Kevin Crossen, Assistant Chief - Operations

Dave Mataftin, Assistant Chief - Special Ops

Gordon Goodsell, Assistant Chief - Fire Marshal

Rick Chaney, Assistant Chief - Fleet/Facilities

Joe Ganem, Executive Director

Mary Stevens, Human Resources Manager

Mitchell Lee, IT Manager

Board of Commissioners:

Bill Gates, Commissioner - Board Chair

Mark Thompson, Commissioner - Vice Chair

David Berger, Commissioner

Bill Fuller, Commissioner

John Rickert, Commissioner