



Measure 9-158

BEND FIRE & RESCUE PROPOSED LOCAL OPTION LEVY 2023



If passed by voters, the measure would cost taxpayers \$0.76 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and would focus on the following goals:

- Maintain cardiac survival rates
- Decrease the time it takes to respond to an emergency
- Keep pace with higher call volumes and increasing demands for service through 2029



LEVY FACTS



What is a local option levy?

A local option levy is a funding option that must be approved by voters. A levy is a tax with a rate that is determined by a property owner's taxable assessed value of their structures and land. Levies can last for up to five years before expiration.

Why is this levy being proposed to voters?



Growing Call Volume

More people coming to Bend means more calls for Bend Fire & Rescue. Since the existing levy was passed by voters in 2014, Bend Fire & Rescue's call volume has grown over 60% and is expected to increase another 38% by 2029.



Increasing Response Times

A growing call volume makes it more likely that there will be multiple calls at once. When resources are tied up on one call, it may take longer for crews to respond from another station across town. Quick response times correlate to better patient outcomes for medical calls, and more lives and property saved for fire calls.

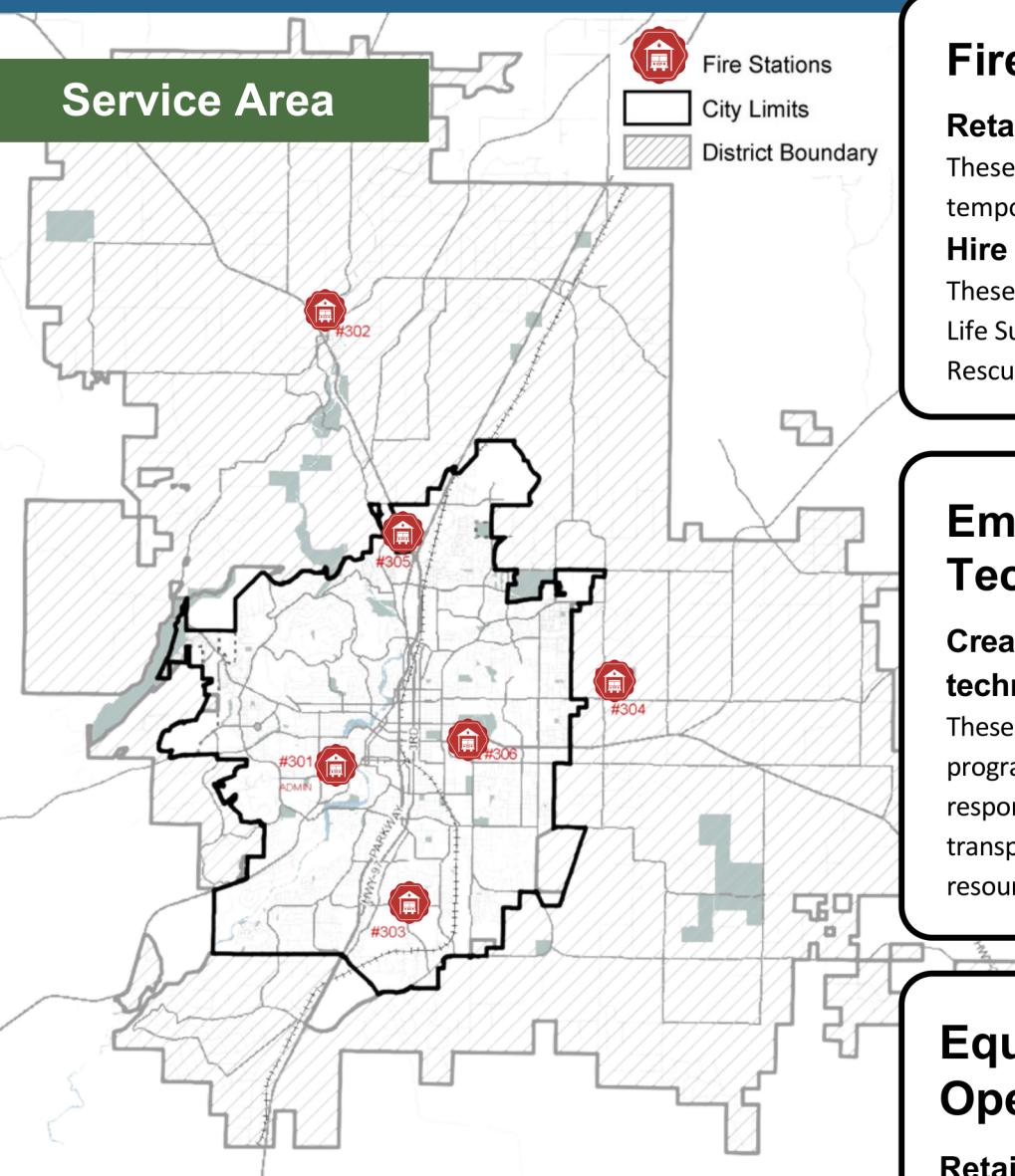


Rising Costs

Inflation and increased expenses have caused Bend Fire & Rescue's costs to outpace revenue. Looking forward through 2029, costs for the department are anticipated to increase at a rate of 5% annually, while revenue for Bend Fire & Rescue is expected to increase at a rate of 4% annually.

If passed, what would the levy fund?

If the measure is passed by voters, Bend Fire & Rescue would use the proposed \$0.76 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to pay for staff and expenses related to staffing such as hiring firefighter/paramedics and emergency medical technicians, purchasing equipment, and providing essential training. Funding would be used to retain 10 positions currently funded by the existing levy and a one-time infusion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and to fund an additional 10 positions to meet growing demands for service through 2029.



If passed, what would the levy cost taxpayers?

If the measure is passed by voters, the proposed levy would cost taxpayers \$0.76 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for five years. This is a 56 cent increase from the existing levy, which expires in June 2024.

Firefighter/Paramedics

Retain nine firefighter/paramedics

These existing positions are funded with temporary, one-time ARPA funding.

Hire six firefighter/paramedics

These new positions will staff a fourth Advanced Life Support ambulance to help cover Bend Fire & Rescue's 1,450 square mile service area.

Emergency Medical Technicians

Create three emergency medical technician positions

These positions support the Ambulance Operator program, a Basic Life Support staffing model that responds to non-emergent calls for service and transport and keeps Advanced Life Support resources available for life-threatening emergencies.

Equipment, Training + Operations

Retain one business manager + hire one ambulance biller

These positions support growing staff administratively.

Support essential training

Maintain fire and emergency medical care training for Bend Fire & Rescue first responders.

Purchase materials and equipment

Like medical supplies, fuel, personal protective equipment and vehicles.



BEND FIRE & RESCUE
1212 SW SIMPSON AVE
BEND, OR 97702

5 things to know about the proposed levy



Learn more!
bendoregon.gov/fire-levy

1

Bend Fire & Rescue is the only provider of essential fire and emergency medical services to Bend and the surrounding rural community, a 1,450 square mile service area.

2

Bend Fire & Rescue has not asked for a levy increase since 2014. The department has been working with a funding rate set a decade ago.

3

Bend Fire & Rescue's call volume has increased by 60% since 2014. This means more demand for service and more resources are needed to respond. This call volume is expected to increase another 38% through 2029.

4

If the measure passes, the proposed levy would fund increased staffing levels that will decrease response times now and into the future. Quick response times mean better patient outcomes and more lives and property saved for both fire and emergency medical calls.

5

If the proposed levy is not passed by voters, the staffing and services would not be provided as proposed and property taxes would not increase.

This information was reviewed by the Oregon Elections Division for compliance with ORS 260.432.



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Makayla Oliver at (541) 323-8571 or moliver@bendoregon.gov.