



Hillsboro Fire Protection District

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Hillsboro, MO 63050
Phone: 636-797-3619
www.hillsborofire.org



Questions and Answers/Short Version

What are we asking for?

The Hillsboro Fire Protection District is asking our citizens to approve a \$0.3500 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation to ensure 6 full time firefighter position which are currently funded by a temporary grant become permanent positions to bring our staffing level from 2 firefighters on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days year only at station 1, to 4 firefighters on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with 2 firefighters being at station 1 and 2 firefighters at station 2. Currently only having 2 firefighters on duty is not safe for our residents or firefighters. Having 2 stations staffed will greatly increase our ability to respond to your emergencies.

How much does it cost to fund 6 full time firefighters?

Approximately \$441,000.00 annually, including wages and benefits.

Are you building a new firehouse?

No. We lowered the amount of the tax increase we were asking for from \$0.5000 to \$0.3500 and eliminated the plan for a new firehouse. Staffing is more important.

How much will this tax increase generate for the district

A rough estimate is \$520,000.00 annually.

How much is the SAFER grant for?

\$337,000.00 annually, for 3 years only

Why does it cost \$100,000.00 more for full timers than the grant?

The grant was applied for in 2019 and was only to pay firefighters a base salary and some benefits. The increase cost is due to raises, increase in benefit costs, increase in retirement costs and the overall increase in general of the district taking over the employees.

Won't there be extra money the from the grant for the first year the tax increase is implemented?

Yes, there will be. Any extra money will be allocated to capital purchases. We may be faced with \$250,000.00 in radio equipment costs and the district needs to replace about a \$150,000 in fire hose. A complete overview of our capital improvement plan is available at www.propfulltimestaffing.com.

When was your last tax increase?

The district last passed a real and personal property tax increase in 2001, 20 years ago. The district received a sales tax in 2015 and reduced our citizens real and personal property by half of what the sales tax brought in.

How much will this cost me?

Based on a home with an assessed valuation of \$150,000.00:

Current Taxes Paid to the Hillsboro Fire District – \$138.00 per year

Cost after the increase is fully implemented - \$226 per year

An extra \$88.00 per year.