
Questions and Answers for Levy

- How does the issue appear on the ballot?
 - The ballot language is:
 - *Shall the Board of Directors of the Lake Ozark Fire Protection District be authorized to levy an additional tax of not more than thirty cents (.30) per one hundred dollars assessed valuation for the support of the District's ambulance service.*
 - The title of the issue may appear different in Miller County than in Camden County.
- How do I calculate what the taxes will be on my property?
 - To calculate the taxes that will be assessed on my real estate property, the following formula is used based on a \$200,000 house. *\$200,000 house multiplied by 19% and then multiply that by the levy, .30, and then divide that by 100. So 200,000 x .19 x .30 / 100 = 114.00. The new levy will increase your taxes by \$114.*
 - To calculate the taxes on my personal property based on \$25,000. \$25,000 vehicle multiplied by .333 and then multiply that by the levy, .30 then divide by 100. So 25,000 x .333 x .30 / 100 = 24.95. The new levy will increase your taxes by \$24.95.
- When was the last tax increase for the district/fire district?
 - The ambulance service has never had a tax increase. It is running on the same levy that was approved when the ambulances went in service in 2001.

- How many ambulances do you staff?
 - The district currently staffs 2 Advance Life Support Ambulances. The initial plan was for the district to run one full time ambulance and a second ambulance as a back-up. It did not take long to see the need for 2 full time ambulances. By 2004, the district staffed the second ambulance full time.
 - This additional staffing was done with the same levy amount.
- Will there be an increase in services in the future?
 - In the future the fire district would like to staff a third ambulance. Since the district started the ambulance service, there has been over a 57% increase in emergency medical calls. Within 1 year of the levy, we would like to staff a third ambulance.
- Will these funds be used for the fire protection budget?
 - No. these funds will be used to support the ambulance budget. Currently the fire budget is being used to cover some of the expenditures that the ambulance budget cannot cover. The new levy will allow the ambulance budget to absorb an equal amount of the expenditures which will in turn allow the fire budget to continue to support fire and rescue operations.
- How old are the ambulances the district currently has in service?
 - The two front line ambulances are a 2010 and a 2015.
 - The two reserve ambulances are a 2000 and a 2004.

- How many calls does the district run in a year?
 - In 2017, the district ran 1350 calls of which over 800 were emergency medical calls.
- Where are the ambulances located?
 - One ambulance is located at our station 3 which is located on Welsh Road off of Highway W.
 - The second ambulance is located at our station 2 which is located on Horseshoe Bend Parkway just past Bittersweet Road.
- What are the response zones for the ambulances?
 - The ambulance located at station 3 response zone is the northshore, Highway 54, and the city of Lake Ozark. There is also a reserve ambulance at this location.
 - The ambulance located at station 2 response zone is Horseshoe Bend Parkway. There is also a reserve ambulance at this location.
- What is the cost of an ambulance and some of the major equipment on the ambulance?
 - The cost of an average ambulance is around \$230,000. When the district bought it's first ambulance in 2001, the cost was around \$100,000.
 - The cost of a cardiac monitor is around \$40,000. When the district bought the first cardiac monitor in 2001 it was around \$15,000.
 - The cost of a cot and loading system is around \$35,000. When the district bought it's first cots in 2001, it was around \$5,000.

- What is the annual cost to have an ambulance in service?
 - It takes 6 personnel to staff an ambulance. The crews work a 48/96 schedule and there are 3 shifts to keep the ambulance staffed 365 days a year. This cost is around \$350,000. Each ambulance is staffed by a firefighter/EMT and a firefighter/Paramedic.
 - There is also costs associated with supplies, fuel, maintenance, and insurance to keep the ambulance in service.
- Why is there only one-line item on my tax receipt for Lake Ozark Fire District?
 - This is done on the county level and the district does not have a say in it. The tax receipt shows the combined tax levy for the fire district. When the taxes are received, we use a formula to determine how much of the amount of taxes is designated for the general fund and the ambulance fund.
- How is the billing done for the ambulance service?
 - Residents are “soft billed”. This means that a bill is sent to their insurance for payment. The residents are not required to pay their deductible or co-insurance. The district uses the property taxes paid by the resident in lieu of the deductible.

If you have any questions, please contact the district office at 573-365-3380 and ask for Fire Chief Mark Amsinger or Assistant Chief Matt Birdsley and we will be happy to answer your questions.