



# SOUTH LANE COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

# PROPOSED LEVY 2026

MEASURE #20-383



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is being referred to voters?

The South Lane County Fire & Rescue Board has referred a measure which would authorize a five-year local option levy for the May 19, 2026, ballot. If passed, the current levy of \$0.47/\$1,000 would increase to \$0.94/\$1,000 of assessed property value (not real market value).

### If the measure passes, what would the levy fund?

If passed, the levy would fund critically needed service capacity by adding up to six new full-time positions and one additional apprentice.

### How much would the measure cost if passed?

If passed, the measure would authorize a five-year property tax increase of \$0.47/\$1,000. Property owners would pay \$0.94/\$1,000 of assessed property value. A homeowner with a median home assessed at \$198,639 would pay about \$15.56 per month or \$186.68 per year. The tax would continue for five years beginning July 1, 2026.

### What happens if the measure does not pass?

If the measure does not pass, additional staff will not be added, the District will begin to cut EMS response services, causing extended wait time for emergency response resources to arrive.

### If the measure passes, how would it impact the current fire levy set to expire in 2027?

If the measure passes, the existing property tax levy of \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed property value would end early and be replaced by the new property tax levy of \$0.94 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

### When was the last levy passed?

Voters first passed a five-year local option levy of \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2012. The levy was renewed in 2017 and again in November 2022, which is currently set to expire in 2027.



### Will the proposed levy reduce response times?

The District's call volume has increased by 62% since 2014. In 2025, South Lane Fire had 5231 requests for service which is an average of 14.3 incidents per day. Of the requests for service, 80% of the time there were overlapping calls, meaning more than one request for service at the same time, which can leave no personnel immediately available to respond. Mutual aid from neighboring districts has become harder to secure. Additional staffing through the proposed levy would increase capacity, which is intended to help reduce wait times for emergency response.

### What staffing levels are recommended by national standards?

According to NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Standard 1710, staffing levels should be 4 personnel per engine company and 2 per ambulance. This would require 15 personnel per day for the District. The proposed property tax increase would bring daily staffing up to 10 personnel, which is below the NFPA standard but would increase staffing above current levels.

### How is the District currently staffed?

The Cottage Grove station is typically staffed with five personnel, while the Creswell station is staffed with two personnel. During minimum staffing periods, Cottage Grove has three personnel and Creswell has two personnel. The District operates two of its four fire stations (Cottage Grove and Creswell) 24 hours a day.

### What types of calls does the District respond to?

The majority of the District's calls are medical emergencies, which account for approximately 84% of all calls. About 12% are fire-related, and 4% fall into other categories of emergency response. Roughly three-quarters of calls come from the Cottage Grove station area, with the remaining quarter originating from Creswell. The District now averages 14 calls per day and is projected to reach 15 calls daily by the end of 2026.

### How large is the District's service area?

South Lane County Fire & Rescue serves about 33,000 residents. The fire response area is 132 sq. miles, and the ambulance service area is 800 sq. miles.

### What is the District's ISO Rating?

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) issues ratings that are used by most insurance companies to help determine premiums for fire coverage. South Lane County Fire & Rescue is rated as a Class 2 district in Cottage Grove, placing it among the highest-rated fire protection levels outside of major metropolitan areas. Creswell is currently rated as a Class 4. Improved staffing and resources help the District maintain these ratings, which can directly affect insurance costs for residents and businesses. Any cuts to service may negatively impact the ISO rating resulting in increased costs of insurance premiums.

### Where can I find more information?

More information can be found at [southlanefire.org](https://southlanefire.org) or by emailing [info@southlanefire.org](mailto:info@southlanefire.org).