



# SPOKANE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Fact Sheet

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## Maintenance & Operations Replacement Levy

**On February 12, 2019, Spokane Valley Fire Department voters will be asked to replace the expiring four-year Maintenance & Operations (M&O) levy approved in 2015.**

The four-year M&O levy provides essential funding for the continued delivery of high-quality fire, rescue and emergency medical services to a growing population of more than 125,000 citizens across the greater Spokane Valley including Liberty Lake, Millwood and Otis Orchards.

### At a Glance: M&O Replacement Levy

- **Provides essential funding** – the M&O levy funds 54% of the Department’s annual operational budget including firefighters and training needed to continue providing the high level of service our community has come to expect.
- **Keeps up with growth** – projected call volume and population increases as well as inflation are factored into the M&O levy dollar amounts.
- **Pays for capital needs** – including fire engines and facilities. Careful planning for future capital improvements using levy dollars means no bonded debt for taxpayers.
- **Replaces expiring M&O levy** – this is not a new tax. It replaces the expiring four-year M&O levy approved by voters in 2015.
- **Requires 60% approval** – the M&O levy requires at least 60% voter approval to pass.

### Planned Capital Projects: 2020-2023

- **Replacement of aging fire vehicles** – continue replacing emergency response vehicles as they reach the end of their useful life.
- **Alternative Response Unit (ARU)** – place at least one more two-person ARU into service to support our new medical service delivery model, providing cost-effective service for non-life threatening emergencies.
- **Equipment** – essential emergency equipment including defibrillators, thermal imaging cameras, spreaders (“jaws of life”) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs).
- **Sullivan Fire Station #5 Remodel** – minor renovations include the addition of a lobby to provide citizens with 24/7 safe zone, a feature in all other SVFD fire stations.
- **Replace aging Maintenance Facility** – built 25 years ago, vehicle service volume now exceeds the 2.5 service bays currently available in our maintenance and training facility. We need to double the size to meet our vehicle service needs for the next 20-25 years. Our plan is to build a new maintenance facility in a different location which will free up space to expand our existing training facility.
- **Growth** – based on growth trends and projections, a new fire station (#11 – near Barker & Euclid), ladder truck and the firefighters to operate them will be needed in the next four years to continue to provide exceptional service to our community.



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### M&O Replacement Levy Approved by Voters on Feb 2015 Ballot:

Collection Year	M&O Levy Amount	M&O Levy Tax Rate
2019	\$19,900,000	\$1.80/\$1000

### Proposed Four-Year M&O Replacement Levy (2020-2023)

Collection Year	M&O Levy Amount	M&O Levy Tax Rate*
2020	\$26,150,000	\$1.90/\$1000
2021	\$27,500,000	\$1.90/\$1000
2022	\$30,000,000	\$1.97/\$1000 ( <i>Major capital expenditures planned</i> )
2023	\$30,000,000	\$1.88/\$1000

\*estimated levy tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation

### What will the M&O Replacement Levy cost me in 2020\*?

Assessed Valuation	Per Year	Per Month
\$100,000	\$190	\$15.83
\$200,000	\$380	\$31.67
\$300,000	\$570	\$47.50

\*estimated levy tax rate \$1.90/\$1000

### What is at stake if the M&O Replacement Levy fails?

- **Service cuts in 2020** – Emergency response services will be cut by 54%, the funding gap created by the failed levy in 2020. This funding gap will grow in subsequent years.
- **Station Closures** – Six of 10 fire stations will close in 2020, leaving 4 stations to respond to 18,000 annual calls covering a 75 square mile area with more than 125,000 citizens.
- **No Paramedics** – Advanced Life Support (ALS) services provided by paramedics will be eliminated. Remaining firefighters will continue providing basic life support medical services.
- **Increased response time** – fewer fire stations spread out over a larger geographic area will mean longer wait times for citizens who have called 911. In the event of a fire, all SVFD units will respond, leaving no available units to respond to any other emergencies.
- **Reduced availability** – with only four stations (12 firefighters per shift) responding to 18,000 annual calls for service, that's about 4,500 calls per station per year. This means firefighters will be busier and not available to quickly respond to emergencies when they are in service on another call.
- **Increased insurance premiums** – Diminished emergency services will result in an increase in SVFD's Fire Protection Rating from a Class 2 to a Class 5 or 6. This will result in higher fire insurance premiums for property owners.

For more information about the M&O Levy, visit [www.spokanevalleyfire.com](http://www.spokanevalleyfire.com)