



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Fire Commissioners to Meet on Bond Resolution

Public Invited to Participate

Silverdale, Wash. – At the regular July study session, the Board of Fire Commissioners for Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue will consider a resolution that would place a bond to improve facilities on the November 3 General Election ballot. The virtual meeting will take place on July 27 at 4:00 p.m.

To access the meeting, visit the Fire District’s website at www.ckfr.org. Community members who would like to provide public comment should email Serena Prince sprince@ckfr.org by 3:00 p.m. on July 27 with their name, address, and the phone number they will use to join the meeting.

The Fire District delayed its plans to ask for a facilities bond on the Primary Election ballot this August because of economic uncertainty due to COVID-19. A November election would mean the bond would not start being collected until the spring of 2021.

To address the unprecedented growth in our community, the Fire District worked with the public over several years to develop a capital facilities plan to renovate or replace community fire stations to reduce response times and improve firefighter health and safety.

None of the Fire District’s stations meet current seismic standards, which means they could collapse in an earthquake. Some are located in remote areas which increases response times. Most are too small to shelter modern apparatus, which leaves these expensive pieces of equipment exposed to weather. Stations also lack effective diesel exhaust removal systems and decontamination areas to reduce firefighter exposure to cancer-causing carcinogens and infectious diseases.

An additional benefit of the station construction projects would be to stimulate the local economy as it recovers from the pandemic. Several of the station projects are considered “shovel-ready,” which means the building design, environmental impact studies and site planning work has been completed ahead of time.

The Fire District also timed the funding request for facility improvements after two other taxing levies for emergency services will have retired. This helps keep the combined tax rate for the Fire District stable for taxpayers. Here’s how the taxes property owners pay to the fire district compare since 2019:

Levy Measure	2019	2020	2021*
Fire & EMS	\$1.90	\$1.76	\$1.86
Maintenance & Operations Levy	\$0.19	0	0
Apparatus Bond	\$0.16	\$0.11	0
Facilities Bond			\$0.32
Total	\$2.25	\$1.87	\$2.18

**Projected based on current data.*



“We have the opportunity to meet our facility needs for the next 60 years for less than property owners were paying in taxes to the Fire District in 2019,” said Chief John Oliver. “These construction projects also will aid in economic recovery efforts for the local economy as we climb out of COVID-19”. “As the Fire Chief of one of the fastest growing areas on Peninsula, I believe strongly this is a positive investment in our future as we emerge into the new normal.”

More information on the facilities bond proposal can be found on the District’s website at www.ckfr.org.

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Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue has provided fire and life safety services to residents and businesses since 1942. Today, it is one of the largest emergency service providers in the county, responding to over 8,000 emergency calls per year. CKFR operates under a balanced budget, and has passed all its financial and accountability audits with the State of Washington.