



CENTRAL KITSAP **FIRE & RESCUE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 6, 2020
Contact: Fire Chief John Oliver
joliver@ckfr.org Cell (360) 340-8260 Office (360) 447-3566

Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue Holding Virtual Meetings on Bond Proposal *Facility Improvements Would Improve Health and Safety for Community and Firefighters*

Silverdale, Wash. – Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue is holding two virtual meetings to answer community questions about the bond proposal on the November 3 General Election ballot. The purpose of the bond is to improve its emergency facilities for the health and safety of the central Kitsap community and its firefighters.

The virtual meetings will take place Wednesday, October 14 at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 20 at 12 noon. Fire Chief John Oliver will make a brief presentation before taking questions from the community. Meeting access information is available on the fire district website at www.ckfr.org.

Many of the fire district's stations are 60 years old, and community safety is an issue. None of the stations are up to current seismic standards and some could collapse in an earthquake. Some are located in remote areas, which delays emergency response times. Older stations also are too small to shelter modern emergency apparatus, which leaves expensive equipment vulnerable to weather and reduces its lifespan.

The health and safety of personnel is another reason behind the decision to ask voters to improve emergency facilities. Cancer is a leading cause of firefighter deaths, and stations lack effective diesel exhaust removal systems to eliminate this known carcinogen. COVID-19 also has shown deficiencies with station decontamination areas for firefighters returning from medical calls. Other stations lack effective security systems, sprinklers and fire alarms.

The 20-year bond would fund the community's emergency facility needs for the next 60 years. The projected cost would be 32 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value (or no more than \$96 for the owner of a \$300,000 home).

The fire district timed the funding request after two other taxing levies for emergency services will have expired. If the bond is approved, property owners would pay less in taxes to the fire district for all emergency services than they did in 2019. That is because a maintenance/operations levy and an apparatus bond will have expired.



Here's how a tax comparison looks for property owners. Please note that amounts listed are per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Levy Measure	2019	2020	2021*
Fire & EMS	\$1.90	\$1.76	\$1.73
Maintenance & Operations Levy	\$0.19	0	0
Apparatus Bond	\$0.16	\$0.11	0
Facilities Bond	0	0	\$0.32
TOTAL	\$2.25	\$1.87	\$2.05
			<i>*Projected based on current data.</i>

More information on the facilities bond proposal can be found on the fire district's website at www.ckfr.org. Chief John Oliver also is available to respond to questions at joliver@ckfr.org or (360) 447-3566.

###

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.