

2024 Operational Levy

Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District



5 Year Levy Proposal

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Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District Levy Effort

The Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District Board of Directors working with the Fire Chief and his staff, have approved an effort to ask the citizens of the Mohawk Valley for a 5-year operating levy for additional staffing. Currently the district is staffed by 4 paid employees assisted by 24 Volunteer Firefighters. 15 of these Volunteers live within the district boundaries and another three are Firefighter Cadets.

It has become increasingly difficult to find Volunteer Firefighters as the demands of this job are very high. They require an immense amount of training, and the requirement to respond to calls for service 24 hours a day. This is all done with no pay. In addition, the fire district has seen an ever-increasing number of calls, with a majority of those being medical related.

With the passage of this levy, we hope to help take some of the pressure off our volunteers and staff while providing a higher level of service to the citizens of the Fire District. Our current equipment bond is set to expire in 2024, and this levy would continue your current tax rate with a modest increase of approximately \$20 a month for the average homeowner to support the new purposed staffing levy.

If the levy is successful one of the four current staff will be moved to shift work with the two additional that would be hired. These three employees would work a 48 - 96 schedule placing a paid employee on shift 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This would ensure a response from the district even if the volunteers of the district were unavailable.

One of the three shift employees have already been funded through a position added by the district in 2023 due to improved budgeting. The other two shift employees would be funded by the levy if successful. The two employees would cost the district a total of \$155,239.00 per year. (See the attached breakdown for more details in job duties and cost breakdown).

In addition to the added paid staff, the levy would also fund a competitive student program with preference being given to students that are residents of the fire district and those that are going to school for a career in the fire and EMS field. The district would be able to fund three students at one time and they would be assigned to a 48- 96 shift along with our shift employees. Thus always providing for a minimum of two responders on duty in addition to the 3-day time employees working Monday thru Friday, as well as the volunteer staff.

In exchange for the student's time, they would receive housing at station 4 while not on shift, up to \$400 a month in reimbursement for food and other required expenses, and up to \$10,000 a year in tuition assistance for credited college classes. All students would be sent to an accelerated EMT course in their first few months if not already licensed.

The projected cost of the student program is estimated to cost the district \$56,400 per year for all three students. Attached is a document outlining the student program in greater detail.

The levy would also have a built-in carryover of the first year of \$17,027.19 the first year and going down each year after to help adjust for cost of living, increases in insurance, and other required fees associated with the positions.

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General District Information

Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District provides fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, and Advanced Life Support services to the residence of the Mohawk Valley. MVRFD operates out of 5 fire stations, which support career, resident, and volunteer members. The fire district has an area of 27 square miles but is spread over an area of 19 miles in length. MVRFD also provides wildland fire, EMS, and rescue response over the Mohawk River Watershed which is an additional 150 square miles.

The Mohawk Watershed is part of the McKenzie Watershed, from which the City of Eugene acquires its drinking water. The Mohawk Watershed area outside of MVRFD is under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Department of Forestry. MVRFD also provides automatic aid to three adjacent fire districts and is a participant of the Lane County Mutual Aid Agreement, which encompasses 23 fire departments over an area of approximately 3000 square miles.

Resident Student Program Goals

The intent of the Resident Student Program is to provide knowledge of the operating principles of the fire and emergency medical service through day-to-day operations, hands-on experience, and classroom

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time. Resident students learn the principles of firefighting, fire prevention, fire control, rescue, and emergency medical services.

Resident Student May:

- Respond to medical emergencies and motor vehicle accidents in district apparatus.
- Actively engage in structural and wildland firefighting as a part of a team
- Drive and operate emergency equipment, including:
 - Fire engines
 - Brush Rigs
 - Water tenders
- Receive training and certification in structural and wildland firefighting.
 - Certification is provided through DPSST and transferrable throughout the State
- Be assigned to shift rotation working 48 hours on with 96 hours off.
 - Resident students are excused from their shift requirements to attend classes.
 - A limited amount of time off is allowed.
- Have opportunities for promotion, supervision, and leadership within the resident student's program.

The Resident Student experience begins:

Students are chosen through a recruitment process administered by Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District. Recruits selected will then participate in a comprehensive firefighter academy that teaches the basic components of structural and wildland firefighting as well as emergency vehicle driving.

Housing:

Resident Students are expected to live in district housing starting at the beginning of the recruit academy. The district provides private bunkrooms with plenty of storage space and comfortable common living quarters. Common spaces include a kitchen, dining area, day room with big screen TV, both male and female bathroom facilities. Students will also have access to the training room and library, as well as the gym located at station 1.

Scholarship Details:

Resident Students receive a scholarship covering tuition and books at a local Community College. They are required to be enrolled in the Structural Fire Science and / or Paramedic Programs and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours per academic term. Completion of the program generally takes three years depending upon prior college credit earned. Resident volunteers receive a monthly mileage and meal reimbursement of up to \$400 and may be given the opportunity to use a district vehicle to drive back and forth to classes. District uniforms are provided and consist of t-shirts, polo shirts, class-B uniform shirt, Nomex pants, jacket, hat, belt, and boot reimbursement.

Promotional Possibility:

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The district has a fourth-year scholarship opportunity. This scholarship is available to one existing resident student, based on budget conditions, and allows them to remain in the program for one additional year and work towards earning a bachelor's degree in Fire Service Administration or EMS Administration. A promotion to Resident Student Lieutenant comes along with the fourth-year scholarship. While working under the direct supervision of the Training officer, the Lieutenant is responsible for many administrative functions within the Resident Student Program. The Resident Student Lieutenant may also be delegated incident management functions under the direct supervision and mentorship of District Officers.

Resident Student Cost Breakdown

Cost	A Shift Student	B Shift Student	C Shift Student
EMT Training	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Tuition Cost	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Monthly For 12 months	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800
Totals	\$18,800	\$18,800	\$18,800

1 Year Total: \$56,400

Paid Staffing

Current staff members will be moved to A-Shift with funds currently budgeted.

The two additional staff members will be hired with levy funds to fill B and C Shifts.

Cost (12 Months)	B-Shift	C-Shift
Salary	\$45,780	\$45,780
Social Security	\$3,511	\$3,511
Workers Comp	\$90.50	\$90.50
HRA / VEBA	\$4,200	\$4,200
Health Insurance	14,124	14,124
PERS	\$9,914	\$9,914
Totals	\$77,619.50	\$77,619.50

Total Cost for 2 Employees: \$155,239.00

In Addition, there will be a budgeted \$30,000 a year for overtime cost for the three shift employees as well as \$17,027.19 to account for the increase in the cost of insurance and employee cost of living expenses. The following projection accounts for the projected 1.847873% of unpaid tax revenue.

Costs (12 Months)	Employees	Students	Uncollectables
Pay / Benefits / Tuition	\$155,239.00	\$56,400.00	
Overtime	\$30,000.00		
Carry Over	\$17027.19		
Budgeted Uncollected Tax (~1.8%)			\$4869.81
Totals	\$202,266.19	\$56,400.00	\$4869.81

Total for 12 months: \$263,536.00

Shift Employee Responsibilities May Include:

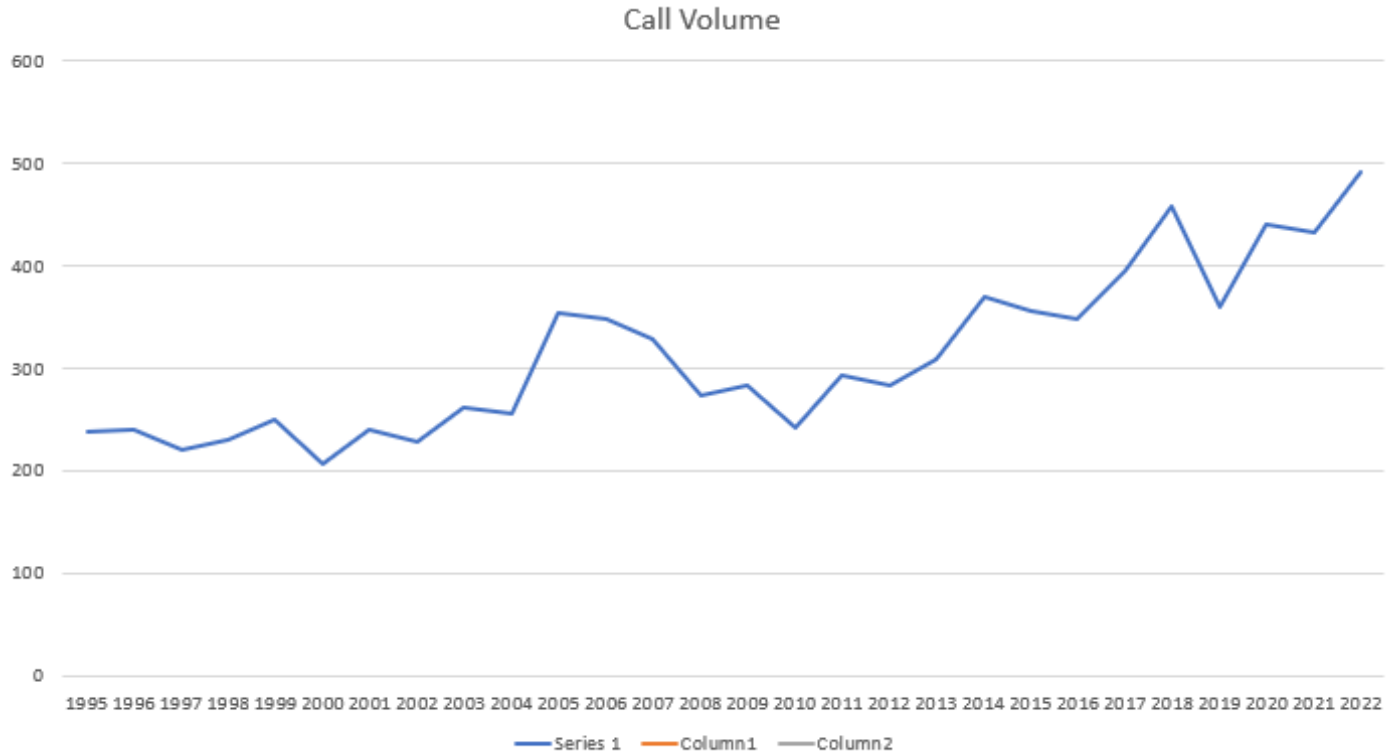
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- Respond to medical emergencies and motor vehicle accidents on district apparatus.
- Actively engage in structural and wildland firefighting as a part of a team
- Drive and operate emergency equipment, including:
 - Fire engines
 - Brush Rigs
 - Water tenders
- Receive training and certification in structural and wildland firefighting.
 - Certification is provided through DPSST and transferrable throughout the State
- Be assigned to shift rotation working 48 hours on with 96 hours off.
- Be assigned Maintenance tasks during their shift to include but not limited to:
 - Daily / weekly / and monthly truck and station checks
 - Yard maintenance
 - Building maintenance
- Be assigned fire prevention tasks during Shifts to include but not limited to:
 - Address marker program
 - Pre-Fire Planning
 - Wildland defensible space assessments
 - Driveway assessments
 - Business inspections
 - Public education
 - Defensible space work as grants allow.
- Participate in public outreach to include but not limited to:
 - Appearing at community events
 - Appearing at and providing medical standby at all High School sporting events when not engaged in response.
 - Appearing at and providing standby for other school events as requested.
 - Assisting the public with other tasks as assigned by the Fire Chief
- Assist with training as assigned by the coordinator to include but not limited to:
 - Assist in teaching training sessions.
 - Assist in planning training events.
- Assisting in other district duties including but not limited to:
 - Inventory of all medical gear and supplies
 - Inventory of all district gear and uniforms
 - Inventory of all district equipment and supplies.
- Help establish and maintain district water supplies to include but not limited to
 - Maintenance of current draft sites
 - Installation and repairs of dry hydrant systems.
- Have opportunities for promotion, supervision, and leadership within the district.

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How Staffing Could Change from Current

As the District call volume continues to rise (over double in the last 12 years), this has become harder for the staff and volunteers to keep up on calls for service during these off hours. This leads to burn out and the loss of these essential personnel. In addition, the ability to recruit new volunteers is becoming more difficult around the county and MVRFD is no different. In 2012 the fire district had a roster of 40 volunteers and today that number lies at about 24. Out of these 24 only 15 volunteers live within the boundaries of MVRFD, and 3 of those are High School Cadets.



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Today's Staffing Model:

Currently MVRFD employs four full-time positions. This includes the Fire Chief, Maintenance Officer, Training Coordinator, and daytime firefighter. The four of these employees work an offset 4 - 10 schedules. The Fire Chief and staff will respond outside of these hours if available to do so. All other response during these off hours is by the dedicated volunteers of the Mohawk Valley Fire District if they are available.

July 2023

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	Jun 25, 2023	26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1
		7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Maintenance 7am Training	
27	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Maintenance 7am Training	
28	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Maintenance 7am Training	
29	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Maintenance 7am Training	
30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Maintenance 7am Training	
31	30	31	Aug 1	2	3	4	5
		7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Fire Chief 7am Firefighter 7am Maintenance 7am Training	7am Maintenance 7am Training	

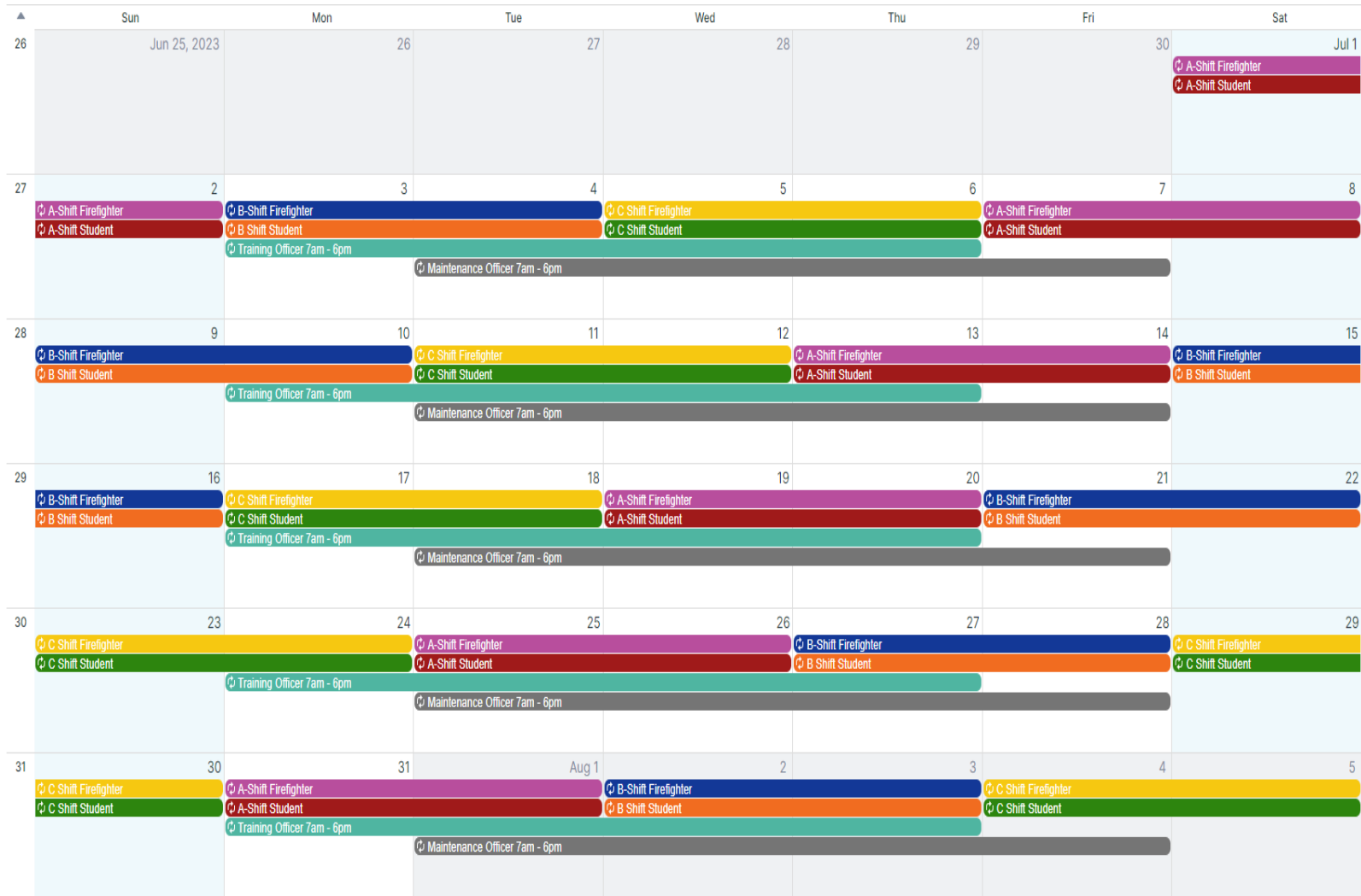
New Possible Staffing model with passing of proposed levy:

If the proposed levy were to pass the staffing model would change to provide 24-hour staffing to the community. In addition, the district would be able to expand and start new programs aimed at serving the community. This new staffing would mean many of the medical calls could be handled by the on-duty crew, giving volunteers a break, and keeping them engaged for large incidents. This would also mean faster response times by the on-duty crew to most of the calls for the service the district receives.

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If passed the daytime firefighter would be moved to shift work along with the two levy funded employees and three levy funded students. Each employee and student would be assigned a 48 hour on and 96 hours off shift. This would place two additional personnel on during the weekdays along with the other three staff members and a minimum of two personnel on during the weekends and evenings. These personnel would be supplemented by the day staff and volunteers of the district. This means the MVRFD would have responders on shift 24 – 7 for the first time ever.

The Fire Chief is a salaried employee and works 40 hours per week that will generally be Monday thru Thursday but may be moved around to accommodate coverage, response, and meetings.



How this effects taxes:

MVRFD's permanent tax rate is set at \$1.9126 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This means for a homeowner with an assessed value of \$400,000 they would currently pay the district \$765.04 in taxes. With the current bond this homeowner would see an additional \$156.00 per year. The 2023 tax year is the last year money will be collected for the repayment of the current bond.

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If the proposed levy were to pass it would be at a rate of \$.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value in addition to the normal taxes paid. This is about \$.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value more than the current bond fees being paid by taxpayers in 2023. For a homeowner with an assessed value of \$400,000 they would pay the district \$240.00 a year more than the standard tax rate. This boils down to an increase of \$84.00 a year more than what the bond was costing the district's taxpayers.

For A Home With An AV Of \$400,000 It Would Cost The Taxpayer \$240.00 Per Year (\$20.00 Per Month)

Currently The Bond Cost A Taxpayer With An AV Of \$400,000 A Total Of \$156.00 Per Year (\$13.00 Per Month)

This Would Be An Increase of \$84.00 A Year (\$7.00 Per Month) Increase Of What They Are Currently Paying

District	Tax Rate	Levy Rate	Total	Comments
McKenzie Fire & Rescue	\$1.6106 / \$1,000 AV	\$.6000 / \$1,000 AV	\$2.2106 / \$1,000 AV \$1,684,506.30	Currently responds out of 5 stations running 825 calls for service. 24/7 coverage with 7 FTE's.
Coburg Fire District	\$1.3277 / \$1,000 AV	\$.2200 / \$1,000 AV	\$1.5477 / \$1,000 AV \$792,439.79	Currently responds out of 1 station running 400 calls for service. Currently has 3 paid employees working 8 hours per day.
Pleasant Hill Goshen Fire	\$2.2000 / \$1,000 AV	None At This Time	\$2.2000 / \$1,000 \$1,869,900	Currently responds from 3 stations combined to 1,200 calls for service. Currently staffed 24/7 with 5 FTE's and 1 part time position.
Dexter Fire District	\$1.4151 / \$1,000 AV	\$.5000 / \$1,000 AV	\$1.9151 / \$1,000 AV \$423,457.20	Currently responds from 1 station to 575 calls for service. Staffed 24 /7 with 4 FTE's and 1 Part time employee.
Lowell Fire District	\$2.6970 / \$1,000 AV	None At This Time	\$2.6970 / \$1,000 AV \$598,239.83	Currently responds from 2 stations to 360 calls for service. Staffed 24/7 with 4 FTE's
Lorane Rural Fire District	\$2.2952 / \$1,000 AV	None At This Time	\$2.2952 / \$1,000 AV \$125,177.66	
Hazeldell Rural F.D.	\$2.7115 / \$1,000 AV	None At This Time	\$2.7115 / \$1,000 AV \$185,881.96	Currently under contract with the city of Oakridge.
Lake Creek R.F.D.	\$3.0757 / \$1,000 AV	None At This Time	\$3.0757 / \$1,000 AV \$141,663.10	Currently responds out of 2 station to 50 calls for service. No paid employees.

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TAX ASSESMENT TABLE

* Assessed Value	Standard Taxes	Levy Taxes	Total Yearly Taxes
\$50,000	\$95.63	\$30.00	\$125.63
\$100,000	\$191.26	\$60.00	\$251.26
\$150,000	\$286.89	\$90.00	\$376.89
\$200,000	\$382.52	\$120.00	\$502.52
\$250,000	\$478.15	\$150.00	\$628.15
\$300,000	\$573.78	\$180.00	\$753.78
\$350,000	\$669.41	\$210.00	\$879.41
\$400,000	\$765.04	\$240.00	\$1,005.04
\$450,000	\$860.67	\$270.00	\$1,130.67
\$500,000	\$956.30	\$300.00	\$1,256.30
\$550,000	\$1,051.93	\$330.00	\$1,381.93
\$600,000	\$1,147.56	\$360.00	\$1,507.56
\$650,000	\$1,243.19	\$390.00	\$1,633.19
\$700,000	\$1,338.82	\$420.00	\$1,758.82
\$750,000	\$1,434.45	\$450.00	\$1,884.45
\$800,000	\$1,530.08	\$480.00	\$2,010.08
\$950,000	\$1,625.71	\$510.00	\$2,135.71

* Assessed Value is not the same as Market Value