



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST MILL LEVY INCREASE IN 20 YEARS REQUESTED FOR GUFFEY FIRE/EMS

Increase Is Needed To Meet Growing Demands

GUFFEY, CO, October 3, 2019

The Southern Park County Fire Protection District (SPCFPD) is asking District voters to approve Ballot Question 6A, an increase in the current mill levy of 7.846 mills to 12.270 mills. The request is based on an in-depth analysis of the condition of the district's existing facilities and equipment. The analysis uncovered significant deficiencies that, if not addressed, could impact the District's ability to provide essential fire and Emergency Medical Services capability. The increased mill levy will fund anticipated budget shortfalls, maintain response capability and promote an enhanced EMS program.

The District works diligently to:

- Provide timely and high-quality emergency medical services to the community
- Maintain a safe working environment for team members
- Train volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs)
- Exercise strict fiscal discipline and judgement with limited budgets

The District submits the following reasons for the mill levy increase:

- There has not been an increase to the mill levy rate since 1999, and current revenue is not keeping pace with the call demands.
- The District now provides year-round fire, rescue and EMS services, including a transporting ambulance service, based on a 2002 mill levy that was designed for "fire-only" response services.
- Annual call volume has grown from a total of 68 responses in 2009 to 187 in 2018.
- As part of population growth in Park County and increase in tourism, the District has experienced a 210% increase in EMS responses in past 10 years.
- Due to an aging fleet of vehicles that average 23.5 years, outdated equipment and long-deferred facility maintenance, the budget shortfall, which will have a negative impact on its ability to provide critical fire response and emergency medical services.

The condition assessment and analysis resulted in development of a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that is comprised of 34 prioritized projects designed to address District deficiencies. The 5-year CIP includes cost estimates totaling \$888K to:

- Fund needed capital improvements
- Purchase needed medical supplies and equipment
- Ensure that local fire/rescue can keep pace with increasing response demands

If voters would like more information about this topic, they can call 719- 689-9479, visit SPCFPD.org/6A or guffeyfire.net/6A.

The Southern Park County Fire Protection District was formed in 1987 as a fire response organization servicing 242 square miles in southern Park County. The District operates with one full-time position and part-time paid call employees. Of the 20 volunteers on its roster, five are licensed Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Since the District was established it has grown from a single station in the center of Guffey, to three fire stations placed strategically throughout its response area. Each station houses a fire engine, a brush vehicle, squad vehicle and an ambulance. In addition, we have two water tenders, a mini-pumper and a rescue ATV. This equipment allows us to respond to structure and wildland fires and make rescue and emergency medical calls.

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