



Yachats RFPD Request 2021

Chief Frankie Petrick
YRFPD Board of Directors



The Yachats RFPD is requesting the financial assistance of our district patrons in assisting with the addition of 2.5 Firefighters with EMT or Paramedic capabilities and the necessary replacement of an aged Fire Response Pumper.

Request Scope

- For approval this request will require the official request by the Fire Chief and the support of the YRFPD Board of Directors
- The purpose of this request is to provide additional trained personnel to eliminate our gaps in service which increase during the wildland fire season in the Pacific Northwest as well as limits our response and firefighting capability. We have on average two Firefighters with an EMT or Paramedic on duty 24 hours a day.
- As overseers for the community, it is important we increase our personnel and upgrade equipment to continue to provide a competent level of public safety response.

Calls for Service Increase

2010

▪ 445 calls

2020

▪ 905 calls

Three Objectives



- To provide funding for 2.5 additional Firefighter Positions with an EMT or Paramedic.
- To provide funding to replace a 1970's era Pumper
- To increase our outreach to enlist volunteers to assist in our mission
- To provide funding for a Fire Chief position.

Deliverables

- With the addition of 2.5 trained Firefighters with EMT or Paramedic certifications **we will increase our response personnel by thirty five percent.**
- We will fulfill obligations to assist our county during the hot summer season when fire danger is increased county wide.
- We can maintain our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating for the entire district.
- We will avoid unnecessary overtime and limit the scrambling to fill positions due to sick time, vacation time or emergencies.
- If the ambulance is out on a call, we have to ask another agency to cover our fire district until they return. We have mutual aid agreements however we should not be relying on these agencies on a daily basis. We don't have staffing for multiple calls.

Success Factors



WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE A SUPPORTIVE DISTRICT PATRONS AND PAST BALLOT REQUESTS HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE

- There is a connection to the community
- We have an advanced capable station, EMS and Fire/Rescue, as well as a gathering point for our community in times of need.
- Basically, we are ground zero in a critical incident. However we need more personnel to be successful.

Let's look at the Financial facts

- The YRFPD tax base is based on the 2020-2021 total assessed value of \$628,223,240
- The assessed value is calculated at \$584,072 175. The Urban Renewal District in Yachats adversely affects our revenue.
- What really hurts us is the operational rate of .2896, which is lower than **ALL FULL SERVICE fire districts in Oregon.**
- Presently our current tax rate is at \$2.15 because it includes two local option rates.
- The District also has a bond rate for the new station.
- There is only one Fire & Rescue District which is higher on the Oregon Coast, Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue District in Waldport is at \$2.34.

More Financial & Ballot Facts

- If we choose to approve our new initiative for additional personnel and new apparatus, we need to look at the assessed tax rates.
- A Local Option Tax on the May ballot will provide funding in November of 2021.
- Our two remaining ballot measures go to the voters in May of 2022 and 2023.
- The positive note is that property values will increase by 3% and new construction helps increase revenue from taxes. However, personnel costs typically out pace these revenues.
- YOUR NEXT QUESTION IS THEN HOW MUCH DO WE ASK FOR TO MEET OUR GOALS?

Funding Request Options

- Let's look at what different rates will achieve:
- .70 cents per thousand will raise approximately \$ 381,866
- .60 cents per thousand will raise approximately \$327,314
- .50 cents per thousand will raise approximately \$272,762
- .40 cents per thousand will raise approximately \$218,209

What does that mean for a home owner?

- Let's look at a residential property assessed at \$400,000.
- This will add \$280 to their bill at .70 cents.
- This will add \$240 to their bill at .60 cents.
- This will add \$200.00 to their bill at .50 cents.
- This will add \$160.00 to their bill at .44 cents.
- This ranges from .44 to .76 cents a day.
- Deducting Property taxes on your Federal and State tax returns remains an option and reduces this amount by your tax rate.

So what do we need to meet our goals?

- The current average cost per Firefighter EMT or Paramedic including benefits and PERS is \$96,461.00 per Firefighter.
- \$7,000.00 per firefighter for uniforms and equipment
- The cost of a new pumper and equipment is about \$650,000.
- But remember not everyone pays their taxes each year and some folks may have hardships. We all can accept this through our Pandemic times, but our services are now more needed than in prior years.

Strengths

- YRFPD district patrons have been very supportive of ballot initiatives in the past.
- The new station has shown that YRFPD is upgrading its abilities and this upgrade in staffing & Equipment is in line with this upgrade philosophy.
- We have an aging population that requires additional ambulance response. This is a strong and necessary requirement for our aging population.
- Our EMS is our primary strength, our ASA response times are among the best.
- The majority of Yachats owners/residents can manage the financial increase.

Weaknesses

- YRFPD does not have the ability for an ambulance and Fire/Rescue response on the same call with out additional aid from surrounding fire districts.
- Turnover in personnel
- Active volunteers are few and far between, which seems to be consistent/typical in across the country.
- Small communities will always have a higher burden in tax responsibility, due to the limited tax base.
- A need to progress to 2021 technology and ability

Opportunities

The ability to continue to be a full-service Fire & Rescue Service.

The ability to provide a higher degree of service to the community.

The ability to attract volunteers both as Firefighters or citizen project volunteers.

The continuing world pandemic and the increase in wildfires in our area is both a strength and a weakness for the Yachats community in their decision making. Service vs Cost?

Schedule and Milestones

