



Ozark Fire Protection District

Proposition: FIRE - Fact Sheet



Ballot Language: *Shall the Ozark Fire Protection District issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of Ten Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$10,500,000) for the purpose of improving emergency services and meeting current safety standards by constructing, renovating, improving, equipping, and furnishing fire stations, a training center, and related facilities, acquiring real property necessary therefor, and acquiring, replacing, or repairing vehicles, emergency medical and rescue equipment, fire protection and firefighting gear, apparatus, and auxiliary equipment? The authorization of the bonds will authorize the levy and collection of an annual tax in addition to the other taxes provided for by law on all taxable tangible property in the District sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as they fall due and to retire the same within twenty years from the date thereof?*

- **Zero Rate Change to Current Property Tax Levy**
 - Renews and Continues Prior General Obligation Bond Initiative from 2021.
 - Assessed Value Increased 35% since 2020.
 - Total Bond Capacity is \$27,500,000.
- Current Property Tax Levy per \$100 of Assessed Value:
 - Operating Levy = \$0.5891 Resulting in Operating Budget of \$4.4 Million.
 - Debt Services Levy = \$0.1700, Which is Applied to Current and Future Bond Payments.
- 2021 General Obligation Bond Progress:
 - Paid Off Station 2 Debt of \$1,443,516. (Completed)
 - New Station 1 Land for \$700,000. (Completed)
 - 2012 Aerial Apparatus for \$500,000. To Become Reserve Apparatus (Completed)
 - Remodeled and Expanded Station 3 for \$1,500,000. (Completed)
 - 2023 Pumper/Tanker for Station 3 for \$722,000. (Completed)
 - 2023 Brush Truck for \$350,000. (In Progress - Fall 2025 Completion)
 - 2024 Aerial Truck for \$1,500,000. (In Progress - Summer 2025 Completion)
 - New Station 1 Construction \$6,500,000. (In Progress - 2026 Completion)
- 2025 General Obligation Bond Projects/Purchases (Estimates Based on Current Cost Analysis):
 - Training, Maintenance, and Storage Facilities with Station 1. (\$4,000,000)
 - Land for Future Fire Station. (\$500,000)
 - Pumper/Tanker Apparatus. (\$1,000,000)
 - Engine Apparatus. (\$1,300,000)
 - Aerial Apparatus. (\$3,000,000)
 - Brush Truck (\$250,000)
 - Rescue Equipment (\$450,000)
- The increased cost and timeframe of building construction and fire apparatus since 2020, along with the continuous growth and demand for emergency services requires the need to renew and continue the existing general obligation bond to achieve the capital purchasing plan.
- Bond funds can only be used for capital projects, which reduces the strain on operating funds that can be used for staffing increases, salaries, and benefits. Because of the 2021 Proposition Fire, the following strides have been achieved:
 - Total Staffing Increased From 34 to 41 members.
 - Starting Firefighter pay Increased 22% Since 2021.
 - ISO Community Insurance Rating Improvement from 4 to 3.
 - Enhanced Equipment Purchases from Reserve Funds (PPE, SCBA, Tools, Water Rescue Boat, Command Vehicles)

