

Apparatus and equipment:

The Lower Valley Fire Protection District provides service through the use of a fleet of emergency apparatus. The average age of our apparatus is 14 years. According to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards front line apparatus should be moved to reserve status between 10 to 15 years and not maintained in a fleet more than 20 to 25 years due to safety concerns, maintenance issues, obsolete parts and cost of ownership.

NFPA Apparatus Evaluation Method

The method selected for the apparatus replacement program is based on a points system. This method will take into consideration the recommendations of NFPA Standards. The point system is the most widespread methodology used for Fire Service Apparatus Replacement Programs. Below is a chart representation of the points and NFPA recommendations for current apparatus.

Unit	Age Points	Mile/Hour Points	Type of Service Points	Reliability Points	M & R Points	Condition Points	Functionality Points	Total Points	Condition	Recommendation
Engine 31	13	2	5	1	1	1	1	25	III	Qualifies for Replacement
Engine 32	12	3	5	1	1	1	1	24	II	Good/Consider Planning for Replacement - Reserve
Ladder 31	34	7	5	1	1	1	3	52	IV	Needs Immediate Consideration - Replacement
Boat 31	21	0	5	1	1	2	1	31	IV	Needs Immediate Consideration - Replacement
Ambulance 31	4	5	5	1	0	1	1	17	I	Excellent
Ambulance 32	9	2	5	1	1	1	1	20	I	Excellent/Good
Ambulance 33	3	4	5	1	0	1	1	15	I	Excellent
Brush 31	18	7	5	1	1	1	3	36	IV	Needs Immediate Consideration for Replacement
Brush 32	19	3	5	1	1	1	1	31	IV	Needs Immediate Consideration for Replacement
Chief 31	13	10	1	1	0	0	1	25	II	Good/Consider Replacement
Squad 31	10	8	1	1	0	0	1	21		Good
Utility 31	5	3	1	1	0	0	1	11	I	Excellent
Tender 31	11	1	5	1	1	1	4	24	II	Good
Tender 32	18	3	5	1	1	1	1	31	IV	Needs Immediate Consideration for Replacement

Factors Affecting Evaluation Points

Unit Number	Unit Type	Year	Age	Mileage	Life Expectancy
Engine 31	Class A Pumper	2005	13	20930	10 - 15
Engine 32	Class A Pumper	2006	12	33709	10 - 15
Ladder 31	75' Aerial Quint	1984	34	76436	15 - 20
Boat 31	Shallow Water Rescue	1997	21	N/A	15 - 20
Ambulance 31	ALS/BLS Transport Ambulance	2014	4	57296	10
Ambulance 32	ALS/BLS Transport Ambulance	2009	9	25899	10
Ambulance 33	ALS/BLS Transport Ambulance	2015	3	40748	10
Brush 31	Type 6 Brush Truck	2000	18	71498	10 - 15
Brush 32	Type 6 Brush Truck	1999	19	36656	10 - 15
Chief 31	Staff/Command Vehicle	2005	13	118998	10 - 15
Squad 31	Staff/Fire Prevention	2008	10	86323	10 - 15
Utility 31	Pick-Up Utility Truck	2013	5	36643	10-15
Tender 31	Water Tender	2007	11	11883	10-15
Tender 32	Water Tender	2000	18	27123	10-15

Please visit our website or contact the administrative offices of the Lower Valley Fire Protection District to obtain additional information not contained within this informational brochure.

Lower Valley Fire Protection District

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**FACTUAL SUMMARY
OF
REFERRED BALLOT ISSUE SEEKING A MILL
LEVY INCREASE**

As part of the May 8, 2018 regular District Election, the Lower Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors has referred to electors of the District, a ballot issue, seeking a 3 mill levy increase from the current levy of 5.313 mills to 8.313 mills, beginning in 2019. By law, the Election will be conducted by mail ballot, with a ballot mailed to each "eligible elector" of the District.

"Eligible electors" include all active, registered Colorado voters who either reside within the District or who or who's spouse, own taxable, real or personal property within the District, in the name of the individual voter or spouse. (Property held in the name of a corporation, partnership or trust does not result in voter eligibility.)



Why is this mill levy increase necessary?

To continue to provide a highly trained and qualified public safety service for both fire suppression and EMS services, as well as comply with all required state and national safety regulations.

Significant Factors Requiring a Mill Levy Increase:

- Years of flat or declining property tax revenues, coupled with regularly increasing operational expenses, have left the District with insufficient funds to readily replace worn-out equipment or maintain or improve aging apparatus to necessary levels for safety of the community and District staff, paid and volunteer.
- Changes in Colorado's automobile insurance laws, combined with State and Federal restrictions on Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements for services, permanently (unless amended) reduced the District's revenue from emergency medical and transport services, in half.
- Increasing medical premiums for both, automobile and health insurance, as well as the state of the economy, have left more people unable to afford insurance to cover emergency medical/transport services.
- State and Federal grant monies are increasingly difficult to secure, since more fire departments are applying and lesser amounts of grant monies are available.
- Impacts from the Gallagher Amendment have resulted in a decrease in the amount of tax revenues that can be collected under the current Mill Levy.
- Steadily increasing call volumes are placing a significant toll on the number of personnel on duty each day. It is not uncommon for our crews to respond to 5-12 calls per day. We are frequently seeing back-to-back-to-back calls for service.

ISO Rating:

The LVFD currently maintains a community fire insurance rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) of "4"- "10" (1 being the highest and 10 rated with no fire protection) within the boundaries of our district. Areas within the District which are within 5 travel miles of the Fire Station, maintain an ISO rating of "4" and all other areas beyond that are rated as a "10."



Calls For Service:

In 2017 the LVFD responded to 2203 calls for service, a 74.15% increase from 2004 when the last mill levy increase was approved. In the years spanning 2004 to 2017 LVFPD responded to 24,381 calls for service. Below is a break down of service.

YEAR	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	14 YEAR TOTALS
FIRE RELATED CALLS	296	379	429	369	439	497	510	422	608	554	524	651	644	704	7026
EMS CALLS	969	914	964	1156	1202	1161	1287	1339	1426	1363	1289	1338	1448	1499	17355
TOTAL CALLS	1265	1293	1393	1525	1641	1658	1797	1761	2034	1917	1813	1989	2092	2203	24381
ANNUAL +/-		2.21%	7.73%	9.48%	7.61%	1.04%	8.38%	-2.00%	15.50%	-5.75%	-5.43%	9.71%	5.18%	5.31%	74.15%

What would the revenues from the proposed mill levy increase be used for?

- Implementation of an established Apparatus Replacement Program of aging emergency response vehicles.
- Upgrade and modification to Fire Station #32 (Loma), which was originally built in 1983. Due to the age of the building it is necessary to bring this building up to modern code and safety standards to properly house employees. An additional truck bay needs to be added to accommodate the larger fire apparatus that is needed to protect the west end of our district. We also need to install an emergency generator to protect the station from power outages as required for all protective infrastructures. Due to the increase in responses in this area, we are anticipating staffing this station in the future.
- Replace out dated safety equipment to include self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), protective clothing to include structural turnout gear, and fire hose and nozzles.
- To improve the recruitment and retention of qualified emergency responders. We are continually losing our personnel to larger organizations that provide higher pay and better benefits to employees and their families. Upon approval we would increase the pay for our firefighters in attempts to keep them from leaving our organization for other agencies.
- Increase in the daily staffing level. If approved we will hire an additional 4 firefighters.
- Further development of a community based fire and EMS prevention education programs.

When was the last mill levy increase for fire protection services?

The last mill levy increase the District successfully sought and received was in 2004. The purpose was to purchase 2 pumpers. In 2011, this increase was absorbed into the operations of the organization and used for maintenance costs for apparatus, staffing costs and day to day operations of the district. Below is a comparison of Fire Districts in Mesa County.

Agency	Mill Levy	Square Miles	Residents	Calls 2017	Stations
Central Orchard Mesa	4.035			139	1
Clifton Fire District	11.502	33	33,000	3,771	1
City of Grand Junction	8.000				
Grand Junction Rural	5.938	726	83,000	15,686	5
Grand Junction Redlands	4.904				
DeBeque Fire District	4.000	767	1500	232	1
Gateway/Unaweeep	10.000	815	410	88	1
Lands End Fire District	5.000	193	2,200	186	1
Lower Valley Fire District	5.311	408	25,000	2,203	2
Palisade Rural Fire District	6.242	60	3800	965	1
Plateau Valley Fire	5.169	800	4000	232	2

Calculation of Property Taxes:

Actual Value x Assessment Ratio (Percentage) = Assessed Value . Therefore: **\$150,000 Actual Value x 7.20% (.072) = \$10,800** Assessed Value x Mill Levy Percentage (mill levy divided by 1000) = Taxes **\$10,800 x 8.313 (8.313/1000 = 0.008313) = \$89.78**

What will the additional 3 mills due to my annual residential property tax bill?

\$150,000 Residence would increase \$2.70 per month (150,000 x .072 x 0.003 mills)
 \$200,000 Residence would increase \$3.60 per month (200,000 x .072 x 0.003 mills)
 \$300,000 Residence would increase \$5.40 per month (300,000 x .072 x 0.003 mills)
 \$400,000 Residence would increase \$7.20 per month (400,000 x .072 x 0.003 mills)
 Non-residential property increase:
 \$1,500,000 x .29 x 0.003 mills = \$108.75 per month