

**Sheridan Fire District Request for a Replacement Levy**

The Sheridan Fire District has a long and proud history of serving the communities of Ballston, Buell, and the City of

Sheridan. The fire district currently has 15 dedicated professional volunteers and nine career firefighter/EMS personnel. One ambulance is staffed with a full-time paramedic and an EMT, as an Advanced Life Support vehicle 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Additionally, one more person staffs a brush truck as a first responder when Sheridan’s ambulance is transporting a patient to the hospital; the additional paramedic responds to the additional call to assist the patient until a mutual-aid ambulance arrives for transport.

In 2021, 85% of the calls were ambulance-related. Therefore, a second-staffed ambulance is required. Sheridan Fire

District's annual budget is 52% funded by property taxes; the balance of the annual operating costs is primarily derived from user fees for rescue services, including nonresident service fees and ambulance transport fees. Because we are a "fire district,” the Sheridan Fire District does not receive funds from the City of Sheridan or surrounding communities.

Sheridan Fire District voters approved a renewal request for a Local Option Levy on May 16, 2017. The 2017-2022 levy

was approved for a $0.35 per $1,000 of assessed valuation per year.

The current Levy will expire on June 30, 2022. Therefore, our replacement levy will replace the 2017 expiring levy.

A “yes” vote would maintain and enhance those services by replacing the current Local Option Levy tax rate of $0.35

cents and replacing it with $0.88 cents per $1,000 of assessed value, an increase of $0.53 cents per $1,000 of assessed value. That would equal a $13.08 per month or $157.00 per year increase from the previous Levy for a home at the median assessed value of $300,000.

A “yes” vote on the Levy would:

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Staff a second ambulance 24-hours per day to meet the increasing demand for service.

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Replace Expired/Expiring personal protective equipment (PPE).

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Increase the operational revenue that allows increased services.

A “no” vote on the Levy would:

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Not renew the levy and the current levy of $0.35 cents per $1,000 would end.

Operational funding would be reduced by 31.5 percent.

Leave only one ambulance in-service. Wait times for a trained responder and a second ambulance increase.

The personal protective equipment will not be replaced.

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The proposed Levy is limited to the five-year fiscal period from 2022 through 2027. Future renewals of this Levy would

not occur without voter approval. The money raised by this measure must be used exclusively for the purposes stated in this Ballot Title.

This measure would cost $0.88 cents per $1,000 of assessed value. It is estimated the proposed rate would raise $399,860 in 2022-23, $411,856 in 2023-24, $424,212 in 2024-25, $436,938 in 2025-26, and $459,204 in 2026-27.

Explanatory Statement Furnished by the Sheridan Fire District Board of Directors.

03/11/2022

Harry Cooley, Sheridan Fire District, Board President

Date