



**YOUR Community, YOUR Neighbors**  
**OUR RESPONSIBILITY**  
get involved today

# ***Columbia Neighborhood Watch***

**March 2025**

## **Board of Directors**

Herb Watchinski Jr—President  
Jeff Hempstead— Vice President  
Susan Dickerson—Secretary  
Keith Caldwell—Treasurer  
Rod Perry—Development  
Ibrahim Ajiserere—IT/Social Media  
Larry Kirschner—Captain Liaison  
Paul Corbin—Captain Liaison  
Nancy Corbin—Public Safety  
Officer Jason McClintic—Police Liaison  
Officer Brad Anderson—Police Liaison  
Irwin Schneider—Past President  
Spring Walton—Legal Advisor

## **Spring into Safety!**

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Columbia Neighborhood Watch Newsletter! As the weather warms and we spend more time outdoors, it's a great time to refresh our safety habits and connect with our neighbors. This newsletter is packed with important information, upcoming events, and helpful tips to keep our community safe and thriving.

## **With Spring comes an increase in crime.**

Spring is a time of renewal, and that includes renewing our commitment to community safety. Let's continue to work together to make our neighborhood a safe and welcoming place for everyone. Remember,

**"See Something, Say Something!"**

COLUMBIA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

### **In This Issue:**

<b>CPD Liaisons Corner</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tax Fraud</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Report</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CPD Citizens Portal</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Support our Blue</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Crime Stoppers</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Smartphone apps</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Columbia Police Dept</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>Columbia Fire Dept</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Boone County Sheriff</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>BCFPD</b>	<b>16-18</b>
<b>Humor</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Our Partners</b>	<b>20</b>



## Highlights from Officer McClintic

*THEFT PREVENTION TIPS RELAYED FROM THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION:*

**#1 thing to protect yourself is to lock your car doors and close your garage doors.**

Groups of people (mostly juveniles) walk around at night and check car doors and enter open garage doors. If the doors are locked, they usually keep moving until they find easier targets.

Scammers often trick their victims into sending gift cards, itunes cards, or Google play cards. They claim the funds can be used to pay for missed jury duty, taxes, bail, debt collections, or towards fees to pay for computer virus protection. Scammers also contact their victims via email, text, or facebook and pretend to be a friend and ask for gift cards.

The scammers express the need for quick action. They tell their victims not to tell anyone what they are doing, and that they will be arrested if they hang up or don't cooperate.

If a friend has asked you to buy them gift cards, please talk to that friend in person or over the phone before you purchase any.

Government agencies will not ask for gift cards as payment for fines or bail.

If you think someone is trying to steal your money with one of these scams, please call 311 to have an officer contact you for more potential report details.

---

---

## Tax Fraud Prevention Measures

### 1. **IRS Priorities and Initiatives**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has several initiatives aimed at detecting and preventing tax fraud. The IRS Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI) unit focuses on investigating various types of fraudulent activities, including money laundering, misuse of COVID-relief funds, and phony cryptocurrency investment schemes. The newly established Office of Fraud Enforcement (OFE) works to improve fraud detection and develop new enforcement streams.

### 2. **Protecting Yourself from Tax Scams**

To protect yourself from tax scams, it's essential to be aware of common tactics used by fraudsters. Scammers often impersonate IRS agents or tax preparers, claiming that you owe more taxes or are entitled to a larger refund. They may ask for personal information or threaten arrest if you don't pay immediately. Always verify the legitimacy of any communication claiming to be from the IRS and avoid sharing sensitive information with unknown sources.

### 3. **IRS Recommendations**

The IRS provides a list of the "Dirty Dozen" tax scams that are most common each year. These scams tend to peak during tax-filing season and include phishing schemes, fake charities, and identity theft. The IRS urges taxpayers to use reputable tax professionals, avoid signing blank tax forms, and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.

### 4. **Resources for Taxpayers**

For more information on tax fraud prevention, you can visit the following resources:

Detecting Fraud and Protecting Taxpayers-(<https://www.irs.gov/about-irs/irs-priorities-detecting-fraud-and-protecting-taxpayers>)

- How to Protect Yourself From 2025's Most Dangerous Tax Scams (<https://www.investopedia.com/how-to-spot-and-avoid-the-latest-tax-scams-8771703>)

- IRS Criminal Investigation Targets Tax Fraudsters - (<https://www.irs.gov/compliance/criminal-investigation/irs-criminal-investigation-targets-tax-fraudsters-urges-taxpayers-to-protect-themselves-this-tax-season>)

By staying informed and taking proactive steps, you can help protect yourself from falling victim to tax fraud. If you suspect any fraudulent activity, report it to the appropriate authorities to help combat this ongoing issue.

## How to Report Information to Joint Communications

- \* When you call to report an incident or suspicious activity make sure you stay on the line until the dispatcher ends the conversation.
  - \* Begin by identifying the situation and location of the event.
  - \* Provide your name, a contact number, and your location in case the dispatcher needs to call you for further information or to meet with an officer.
  - \* Provide your telephone number and address in case the officer needs to follow up by speaking to you.
  - \* Give a description of all individuals involved to include: gender, age, race, height (taller or shorter than you), weight (thin, medium, or heavy build), clothing description, scars, marks, tattoos, jewelry, and any other distinguishing characteristics.
  - \* Give a description of any mode of transportation (vehicle or other) involved. This description should include make, model, color and license plate if possible.
  - \* If the individuals are leaving the area, give a direction of travel and location last seen.
-

## “Police to Citizen Portal

to get information on crime and other things here in Columbia. You can access this site by going to: [P2C.como.gov](http://P2C.como.gov)

The Columbia Police Department encourage you to report qualifying incidents through the portal. Their ability to accurately report crime statistics and trends depends on citizens informing them of minor thefts, vandalism, and lost property. Please note that incidents reporting through the online portal are for crime statistics and insurance purposes only; in most instances, no police officer will make contact. Please keep your P2C reference number to use for requesting the official report.

## Nextdoor

Nextdoor permits communities to easily create private websites to help with communication amongst next-door neighbors and build more powerful neighborhoods.

Nextdoor was created based on the idea that the community is among the most important and helpful communities in a person's life.

Nextdoor's objective is to utilize technology to help neighbors construct more powerful and much safer neighborhoods.

Go to the web address to get started: [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com)

**Nextdoor is a great tool to keep a neighborhood up to date on happenings, But incidents and suspicious activities must be reported to the police not just a note on Nextdoor.**

---

Show your support for our Police. To raise awareness we are selling “Back the Blue” signs for your yard or window at a cost of \$20 which is considered a charitable donation to a 502(c)3 organization.



The sign will be delivered and can be purchased on our website or click below.

Control click the button below

[PURCHASE SIGN](#)



The Crimestoppers Board had their last meeting of the year on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. We're off until January. Crimestoppers has been working with the Boone County Coalition Against Violence. These are the mothers who have had a son or daughter murdered in Boone County. This coalition provides moral support to the victims families of homicides. In most cases a suspect has not been charged. Crimestoppers is working with them to let everyone know about calling Crimestoppers with any information that would lead to an arrest and also get paid in the process. The tips that Crimestoppers have received have been mostly drug related or warrants. Unfortunately most people never call back to see if their tip has panned out. We did pay out one tip on an old case for 600.00. Crimestoppers has been working with Jason Berry and his family to bring to justice the person or persons who were involved with the shooting in the alley on 9<sup>th</sup> street downtown during Mizzou Homecoming weekend 2023, that injured Jason. One person had been arrested but was eventually released. The family has put up a \$5,000.00 reward along with the \$600.00 from Crimestoppers. There is still an active \$5,000.00 reward for the double homicide and shooting that occurred on Oakbrook Drive in the county. The Sheriff's Office is preparing to do a media blitz to get some more tips. We were excited to work with Columbia Neighborhood Watch in aiding the police department in getting approval for the use of the FLOCK Camera system by speaking to the city council.

Remember our motto, "If You See Something, Say Something!" You'll Remain Anonymous and You can receive a reward UP TO \$2,500.00 leading to an arrest on any felony related charge. Call 573.875.TIPS!

Crime stoppers Board Officers:

John Fields, President

Matt Garrett, Vice President

Terry Robb, Secretary

Karen Taylor, Treasurer

---

## **Smart phone apps that can save your life in an emergency**

**( These are presented as information only. Columbia Neighborhood Watch does not endorse any of these products )**

In emergencies there are smartphone apps with a distress signal tool at your disposal. You can download these apps and use now in times of dire need. Here are four:

Important: Most of these apps use your phone's GPS and location tracking, which may impact and decrease its battery life.

### **1. Silent Beacon: Emergency Alert System**

Silent Beacon, available for iOS and Android, is described by its creators as "the emergency alert system for the digital age." It is a free app and service that uses GPS-tracking to send your location to a custom set of contacts, including 911 or emergency services, through a "distress message."

This distress message can be sent with a touch of the app's button during emergencies when the beacon is activated. Silent Beacon is simple, straightforward and for a free app, it does its job well - send a message and your location via text notification in a jiffy. You never know, that may be enough to save you from trouble one day.

### **2. bSafe: Personal Safety App**

bSafe is another emergency alert app system for iOS and Android that will notify up to four selected contacts, called "Guardians" by the app, in an event of an emergency. bSafe's free version lets you send out a distress message by hitting its SOS button. This notifies your "Guardians" of the emergency via text message and provides them with your location. bCall's premium service costs \$20 a year with a special \$30 promo price for a two-year subscription.

---

### 3. Companion: Mobile Personal Safety

If you are looking for a free safety alert app that has real-time location tracking, try the iOS and Android app Companion.

Similar to other safety apps, Companion lets you pick your own contacts as your emergency alert recipients.

These "companions," as the app calls them, will then receive a text message with a link to a webpage showing a real-time map of your location.

If your arrival is delayed or you divert from your trip's path, your headphones get unplugged or if your phone's sensors detect a sudden change in your speed, the app will ask you if everything's OK. You'll have 15 seconds to confirm to the app that you're fine and if not, it will proceed to notify your "companions." The app will also give a quick way to call the police in an event of an emergency.

### 4. LifeLine Response - Panic Button and Safety App

While other emergency alert apps require them to be opened to send out a distress message, Lifeline Response does it a little bit differently - it is activated by holding your finger on your phone's screen. Once the app is activated and your finger is removed from the screen, it starts a series of countdown timers that culminates in a call from LifeLine Response's Verification Center. If the emergency is verified by the center either via verbal confirmation, by a silent alarm code or by non-reply, LifeLine contacts 911 dispatchers directly and provides them your GPS coordinates. Your LifeLine contacts will likewise receive the same emergency information via text and email. LifeLine Response's service is not free. Monthly subscriptions start at \$5 but it offers a free 14-day trial. The app is available for both iOS and Android.

## Speaker is available

Just a reminder, if your organization or neighborhood would like a speaker, we can provide an informative talk on Neighborhood Watch from 20 minutes to as little as 5 minutes. We will answer any questions your members may have. To arrange, please contact us at: [col.neighwatch@gmail.com](mailto:col.neighwatch@gmail.com)

## Columbia Police Training Academy set to graduate first class of officer recruits

In October 2024, the Columbia Police Department made history.

For the first time in its nearly 200-year existence, CPD established the Columbia Police Training Academy. This in-house training facility for prospective police officers is in partnership with Lincoln University's Law Enforcement Training Academy and is located on Seventh Street next to CPD headquarters.

"Starting day 1 with our recruits, we have the opportunity to instill the mission, vision, and values of the Columbia Police Department and policing in our community," said Lt. Clinton Sinclair, who oversees the academy. "We are excited to graduate our first class and look forward to many more in our partnership with Lincoln University."

The first class of 14 Columbia Police Training Academy recruits will graduate in mid-March after completing more than 730 hours of training, surpassing Missouri's state requirements by more than 130 hours.

Fifteen highly trained instructors, each with decades of law enforcement experience at local, state and federal levels, put recruits through the paces of learning how to enforce the law, keep the peace and maintain safety for the public and for themselves.

A recruit's day typically begins at 6 a.m. with an hour or more of physical training that includes distance running and calisthenics. Classroom instruction fills the morning and the early afternoon. The recruit learns everything from fingerprinting to field sobriety testing.

The rest of the day — often into the evening — involves such hands-on exercises as handgun or shotgun skill development and active defense measures. The recruit is taught how to use a Taser and how to maintain control when assaulted with pepper spray.

Academy training includes Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT), a comprehensive training model developed by the Police Executive Research Forum. ICAT equips officers with essential skills to safely resolve critical incidents, particularly those involving unarmed individuals or persons armed with weapons other than firearms.

ICAT's emphasis on communication and de-escalation is especially valuable when responding to individuals experiencing mental health or other crises. The program is fully integrated into the Columbia Police Training Academy curriculum, ensuring all new officers receive this training from the start of their careers.

By operating its own academy, CPD has the flexibility to incorporate innovative programs like ICAT and remain at the forefront of modern policing practices.

Before the next academy session begins, instructors will evaluate training effectiveness and assess if additional hours would enhance trainee officer development. Through comprehensive after-action reviews, instructors continuously refine the program, which is a distinct advantage for CPD.

## **Columbia Police address recruitment, training and technology in 2024**

The Columbia Police Department made significant strides last year in its ability to protect and serve our community.

“Thanks to the collective efforts of our entire department and the support of the community, 2024 was dedicated to improving operational effectiveness and laying the foundation for a safer and more successful future for Columbia,” said Police Chief Jill Schlude.

Starting with training and recruitment, CPD has increased recruiting across the board. In 2024, the department added 42 new full-time employees in varying positions.

With additional officers on patrol, CPD over the past year increased traffic safety enforcement by more than 200 percent. That number includes only stops for traffic safety, not investigative stops.

The new Columbia Police Training Academy provided a big boost to CPD’s recruitment goals. It is the first in-house academy in the history of the nearly 200-year-old department. The academy is a partnership between CPD and Lincoln University.

In October, the first 14 recruits began more than 730 hours of training over 16 weeks, surpassing Missouri’s state requirements by more than 130 hours. These recruits will graduate in March, and the next class of recruits will begin training shortly thereafter.

CPD also adopted Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) training for all officers. Developed by the Police Executive Research Forum, this program gives officers tools, skills and options to defuse a range of critical incidents safely and successfully. ICAT has been proven to reduce the use of force and injuries both to the community and to first-responding officers.

CPD has made strides in technology as well. Last fall, CPD received approval from the City Council to add Flock Safety cameras to improve safety for all of Columbia. Once installed throughout the city, these cameras will provide real-time alerts to law enforcement when they detect stolen vehicles or suspect vehicles listed in local, state or national crime databases. They also notify authorities if a vehicle connected to a missing person case, such as an AMBER or Silver alert, is identified.

To help decrease gun violence in Columbia, CPD also joined the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) through the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This technology provides cutting-edge ballistics analysis that gives CPD detectives the ability to solve gun crimes faster and more accurately. NIBIN is the only interstate automated ballistic imaging network in the country.

These law enforcement programs and tools introduced in 2024 represent CPD’s commitment to protecting both our officers and community while solving crimes more effectively.

---

## **The Hidden Fire Hazard: Proper Disposal of Lithium-Ion Batteries**

Lithium-ion batteries are used in many everyday items, from smartphones and laptops to power tools and electric scooters. These batteries store a significant amount of energy in a compact space, making them efficient but also potentially dangerous if not handled correctly. Improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries can lead to serious fire hazards, putting homes, businesses, and waste facilities at risk.

### **Why Are Lithium-Ion Batteries a Fire Risk?**

When lithium-ion batteries are damaged or improperly disposed of, they can overheat and release energy in an uncontrolled manner. This generates heat, which may ignite internal components, producing flammable and toxic gases. If a battery is thrown into the trash or recycling bin, it can be crushed or punctured, leading to dangerous fires in waste collection trucks and recycling facilities.

### **How to Safely Dispose of Lithium-Ion Batteries**

To protect our community and prevent fires, always dispose of lithium-ion batteries properly:

- Do not throw them in the trash or regular recycling bins. This increases the risk of fire and environmental contamination.

- Use the City's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. This facility is equipped to handle hazardous materials safely.

- Check the City's Waste Wizard app. This tool can help you find designated drop-off locations for battery disposal near you.

- Store damaged or old batteries safely. If a battery is swollen, leaking, or damaged, place it in a non-flammable container until it can be properly disposed of.

By taking these simple precautions, you can help prevent dangerous fires and keep our neighborhoods safe. Spread the word and encourage others to dispose of lithium-ion batteries responsibly!

For more information, visit the City of Columbia's website or contact the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. Together, we can reduce fire risks and protect our community!

## Stay Safe This Spring: Flood Safety Tips for Our Community

As we enter spring, the changing season brings warmer temperatures, blooming flowers, and, of course, increased rainfall. With heavy rains comes the risk of flooding, which can pose serious dangers to our homes, roads, and personal safety. The Columbia Fire Department wants to remind everyone to stay prepared and practice caution during flood events.

### Turn Around, Don't Drown

One of the most critical flood safety messages is simple: Turn Around, Don't Drown. Flooded roadways are extremely dangerous, even if they appear shallow. Just six inches of moving water can knock a person off their feet, and only a foot of water can sweep away a vehicle. Never attempt to drive through floodwaters—your life is worth more than the risk.

### Know the Risks and Be Prepared

Flooding can happen quickly, and being prepared can make all the difference. Here are some key safety measures:

**Stay Informed:** Monitor local weather alerts, especially during heavy rain. Sign up for emergency notifications from the city and follow trusted sources like the National Weather Service.

**Plan Ahead:** Identify alternative routes to avoid flood-prone areas. If your home is in a floodplain, have a preparedness plan and an emergency kit ready.

**Move to Higher Ground:** If flooding is imminent, evacuate immediately to higher ground. Never wait until it's too late.

**Avoid Contact with Floodwater:** Floodwaters may be contaminated with debris, chemicals, or sewage. Keep children and pets away, and never wade through standing water.

**Secure Your Home:** If time allows, move valuables to higher levels, unplug electronics, and turn off utilities if instructed to do so.

### Post-Flood Safety

Even after the rain stops, dangers may still be present. Avoid returning to flooded areas until officials confirm it is safe. Watch for structural damage, downed power lines, and weakened roadways. If your home has flooded, use caution when cleaning up—wear protective gear and be mindful of mold growth.

Flooding is a serious hazard, but with the right precautions, we can keep our community safe. By staying aware and prepared, we can protect ourselves and our neighbors. Stay safe, Columbia!

## ***Don't Be the Next Victim!***

This was the title on a flyer recently posted on the Sheriff's Office Facebook page. The flyer went on to briefly summarize various scams that are being used to steal your money. My guess is that as I write this article, someone in Boone County is having their money stolen by one of these scams...it happens almost every day.

That brings us to the point of this article. What can you do not to become the next victim? What can you do to help your neighbor not to become a victim? The most important step you can take is to educate yourself and be aware. So, let's get educated!

### **Initial Contact**

Scammers usually start their scam by throwing a wide net to elicit a response from potential victims. Email, text, phone calls, or internet is how these initial contacts usually take place. Once someone responds, the real scam starts. If you are contacted by someone you do not know and have not ever met in real life for any of the following, you are being scammed:

- To put money into an investment
- To repair a virus on your computer
- To protect a "hacked" account
- To pay bail or avoid arrest
- To move money or make money deposits
- To go to a crypto currency ATM (Bitcoin)
- To buy gift cards for an unusual reason
- To send money to a potential love interest you have never met in real life - commonly called a romance scam

### **Your Money Will Be Gone Forever**

Some scams will develop more slowly over multiple contacts, and some will move quickly with one contact. However, the end goal is always the same. That goal is to steal your money. The scam process will involve the scammer lying to you about some problem or issue to build trust and always ends with you providing money or information to the scammer. You are in control here! If you do not provide the money and/or information the scam will fail.

Because of the complex nature of these scams, it is very rare for law enforcement to successfully investigate and recover victim funds in these cases. For example, scammers often use crypto currency because the transactions cannot be reversed. They will also often ask you to move the conversation to smart phone apps like Telegram and WhatsApp because they cannot be traced. Scammers will use high pressure tactics to make you doubt yourself and overcome your resistance. Believe this article not the scammer. Do not be fooled!

Remember, you are in control! If contacted by email, text, phone calls, or internet, do not provide information or money to anyone you do not know in real life. If you fall for one of these scams your money will be gone forever! It is up to you to prevent these scams by being educated and aware!

Additionally, help each other. If you hear or become aware of a neighbor, relative, or friend (especially the elderly) being involved in something that sounds like one of these scams, try to educate them and provide some guidance.

### **Prevention Is Up to You**

- Stop all contact with the scammer immediately.
- Be extremely skeptical of any online contacts that involve money and someone you have not met in real life.
- Use unique and long passwords on all financial accounts.
- Use two-factor authentication on all financial accounts.
- If you own cryptocurrency, NEVER provide private keys or wallet passwords to anyone.
- Help educate your neighbors, relatives, and friends.
- Call 311 to report suspicious incidents.



# DON'T BE THE NEXT VICTIM



If you are contacted by email, text, phone, or internet by someone *you do not know...*

To put money into an investment

To repair a virus on your computer

To protect a “hacked” account

To pay bail or avoid arrest

To move money or make money deposits

To go to a crypto currency ATM (Bitcoin)

To buy gift cards for an unusual reason

You are being scammed!!

- Scammers use crypto currency because the transactions cannot be reversed.
- They use phone apps like Telegram and WhatsApp because they cannot be traced.
  - Scammers will use high pressure tactics to make you doubt yourself.

**Your money will be gone FOREVER!**



- **Stop all contact with the scammer immediately.**
- Be extremely skeptical of any online contacts that involve money and someone you have not met in real life.
- Use unique and long passwords on all financial accounts.
- Use two-factor authentication on all financial accounts.
- Call 311 to report suspicious incidents.

## **Boone County Fire Protection District Announces NO TAX INCREASE Bond Election**

**Boone County, Missouri** – The Board of Directors for the Boone County Fire Protection District has officially called for a **NO TAX INCREASE** bond election to be held during the general municipal election on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. The measure, if approved by voters, will provide the necessary funds to address crucial needs within the district and support its efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

The question that will appear on the ballot is as follows:

**“Shall Boone County Fire Protection District, Boone County, Missouri, issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of \$6,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring real property; constructing, improving, renovating, repairing, furnishing and equipping new and existing fire stations and additions thereto; and acquiring fire trucks, vehicles and other fire-fighting and emergency apparatus, equipment and communication systems and technology?”**

The bond will not result in any increase to current tax rates for residents, ensuring **no additional tax burden** while allowing the fire district to enhance and modernize its operations.

A detailed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been provided, outlining the district’s needs, the planned projects, and how the funds from this bond will be used. This will serve to explain to voters how the improvements will benefit the community and help maintain the high standards of service the Boone County Fire Protection District is known for.

### **About Boone County Fire Protection District**

The Boone County Fire Protection District is dedicated to protecting life, property, and the environment by providing professional and efficient fire and emergency services to the citizens of Boone County, Missouri. The district is committed to ensuring public safety and improving its infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the community.

# Frequently Asked Questions: Boone County Fire Protection District 2025 Bond Issue

## 1. Why is the Fire District asking its voters to pass a bond issue?

The bond issue continues the Fire District's rolling 10-year capital improvement plan. The plan seeks voter approval for **NO TAX INCREASE** bond issues every two years to fund fire truck replacements, equipment upgrades, and facility improvements. This plan aims to avoid larger future bond issues that would increase taxes.

## 2. What is the amount of the proposed bond issue?

The proposed bond issue is for **\$6 million**.

## 3. What is a bond issue?

A bond issue asks voters to approve additional spending for purchasing apparatus, equipment, and improving facilities. It is presented as a ballot measure.

## 4. Will there be a property tax increase?

No, this bond issue is a **NO TAX INCREASE** bond. It is a continuation of the 2014 25¢ bond tax approved by voters.

## 5. What will the money be used for?

The \$6 million will be used for:

**\$2,030,000** for purchasing fire apparatus (fire engine, air and light truck, traffic control trucks, and gear vehicle).

**\$3,570,000** for purchasing firefighter equipment (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, APX8000 Tri Band Radios, and on-demand bunker gear).

**\$400,000** for facility enhancements, including commercial bunker gear washers and dryers at stations, training centers, and headquarters.

## 6. How will the bonds be paid?

The bonds will be paid using the continuation of the 25¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation on real and personal property taxes, approved in 2014.

## 7. How long will it take to pay off the bonds?

The bonds for apparatus and equipment will be paid off in **10 years**, while the bonds for facility construction will be paid off in **20 years**.

## 8. Can the bond money be used for personnel or salaries?

No, state law restricts bond funds to be used for facilities, land, equipment, and apparatus, but not for personnel costs.

## 9. When was the last bond issue passed?

The last bond issue was in **2023** for \$8 million, which was used to replace fire apparatus, upgrade equipment, and build a new fire station.

**Why is there a need for these items now?**

Some apparatus have exceeded their life expectancy of 20 years (e.g., 1992 and 2007 models), and maintenance costs are rising. Additionally, there is a need for better highway safety measures (attenuators for blocking) and firefighter safety (bunker gear washer/dryers for cancer prevention).

**11. How much does a new fire truck cost today versus in the past?**

Fire truck prices have risen significantly due to technology advancements and national regulations. For example, a new fire engine costs around **\$880,000** today, compared to **\$178,000** in 1999.

**12. How many firefighters does the district have?**

The district has **180 volunteer firefighters** and **28 career support staff**.

**13. How many fire trucks does the district operate?**

The district operates **59 fire apparatus** and **4 boats**, including frontline fire engines, tankers, brush trucks, rescue squads, and specialty units.

**14. What would it cost to fully staff the fire department with career personnel?**

To fully staff the Fire District with career personnel, the estimated cost would be **\$33,566,446**, with annual volunteer savings around **\$28,137,446**.

**15. How many calls does the Fire District respond to annually?**

In 2024, the Fire District responded to **3,902 calls for service**.

**16. What types of calls does the Fire District respond to?**

In 2024:

**1,594** were fire-related calls.

**2,308** were rescue, emergency medical, and motor vehicle accident calls.

**17. How many volunteer hours are logged annually?**

Volunteers contributed nearly **250,000 hours** in 2024, including response, training, public education, investigations, and continuing education.

CX303298



"HEY, I MAY HAVE BEEN WEAVING- BUT NO WAY DID I CROSS THE ROAD."



