



Questions about the fire levy lid lift?



North Whidbey Fire and Rescue is asking voters to consider a fire levy lid lift to replace emergency apparatus and equipment. This request will be on the November 3 General Election ballot. Here are answers to some questions we are receiving.

If you have others, please contact Fire Chief John Clark (360-675-1131 or chiefclark@nwfr.org) or visit our website at www.nwfr.org. Thank you for considering our proposal.

Why is my Fire District asking for this?

Emergency call volumes have increased 45 percent in 10 years. More calls mean added wear and tear on emergency apparatus and equipment. Having adequate, working apparatus and equipment is important for the safety of our community and its firefighters.

What would the lid lift fund?

The lid lift would replace two fire engines that are at the end of their usable lives, and at risk of being unreliable to respond to calls. Likewise, it would replace emergency radios and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the safety of our firefighters.

Who pays a fire levy lid lift?

Property owners in the fire district pay a fire levy for emergency services through their property taxes.

How will the fire levy change? What would it cost?

If approved by voters, the 15-cent lid lift would change the fire levy from 62 cents to 77 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Here is a chart to help property owners understand the additional cost:

Property Assessed Value	Additional Monthly Cost	Additional Annual Cost
\$100,000	\$1.25	\$15.00
\$200,000	\$2.50	\$30.00
\$300,000	\$3.75	\$45.00
\$370,000	\$4.63	\$55.50
<i>(Average for NWFR)</i>		
\$400,000	\$5.00	\$60.00
\$500,000	\$6.25	\$75.00

What else should we know about the lid lift?

Our fire levy is currently the lowest in the county. The lid lift would enable our fire district to pay cash to replace apparatus and equipment instead of financing these purchases, which would cost taxpayers more due to interest payments. It also will maintain our community insurance rating, which is linked to the amount some home and business owners pay in premiums.

