

Fact Sheet

The **Fort Myers Shores Fire Protection and Rescue Service District** Board of Commissioners has adopted a resolution asking our community to authorize an increase to the District's millage cap from 2.0 mills to 3.0 mills. The question has been placed on the ballot for the August 18, 2020 Primary Election.

- An additional 1.0 mill would increase your fire tax \$100 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value

Why is a millage cap increase needed?

- We want to shorten fire/rescue response times and increase our number of firefighters who are on duty at any given time, and thereby improve the ISO rating and lower current insurance premium rates, by:
 - Hiring 6 new firefighter/EMT positions
 - Building, staffing, and equipping Station 2
 - Replacing aged emergency vehicles and equipment
 - Improving personnel safety and experience through more education, training and equipment.
- We performed an analysis over the last ten years of call volume and then projected our call volumes out into the future. By 2030 the District, with 97% reliability, will see a 53% increase in call volume. It will be difficult to continue to provide the same quality services in the future with our current response configuration and with our current firefighter staffing levels.

Satisfying these needs may help reduce the ISO rating to reduce taxpayer's insurance rates.

The District has done the following to help minimize the District's costs in an effort to maintain the District's current level of services:

- We use financial software to prepare budgets and predict future expenditures
- We apply for grants (Rescue/Fire Boat upgrades, Boat lift, Boat Operator Search & Rescue classes, brush fire equipment are recent awards)

We are Prudent Stewards of Taxpayer Dollars:

- We have operated on 2.0 mills since 1990
- We have no debt
- We own the property where Station 2 will be built
- We have had only one Auditor Comment since 2005
- During the economic downturn we maintained our staffing and services without reducing personnel or services to the community.

We are often asked why does the fire department respond to medical calls?

- All frontline personnel are EMT certified to provide life safety in a timely fashion. Most of the time, your fire department is at your location quicker than the ambulance to provide the initial treatment or aid, so the firefighters provide the first services when seconds count.

For more information about the referendum or about the services the District provides, please visit www.fmsfd.org or call Chief Chris Dowaliby at (239) 694-2833 Ext 1.

SUPPORT YOUR FIREFIGHTERS. THE LIFE THEY SAVE MAY BE YOURS.