

**Granite Falls Fire is asking voters
to consider a fire levy lid lift
on the November 7, 2023,
general election ballot.**



Granite Falls Fire

Snohomish County Fire District #17

PO Box 1049

Granite Falls, WA 98252

360-691-5553

www.gffd17.org



GraniteFallsFire

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found here.

Why is my fire district asking for this? Since 2020, our call volumes have increased 40 percent – 23 percent in the last year alone. We require additional personnel and adequate facilities to meet the emergency service needs of our community.

What will the lid lift fund?

- Up to seven full-time emergency responders over three years to reduce overtime costs and improve response times
- Construction of a new headquarters fire station without the need for voter-approved debt

What do you mean by “without the need for voter-approved debt”? Most fire districts fund daily operations through a fire levy and capital costs through voter-approved bonds. Our fire department can fund both through its operating levy, which reduces costs for taxpayers.

Why do we need a new station? The existing station was built in the early 1900s and is vulnerable to failure in the event of an earthquake. There also is not enough space for firefighters; modern equipment doesn't fit in engine bays; and, it lacks adequate decontamination facilities for firefighters to wash off carcinogens and medical waste after calls.

How much will this cost?* In 2019, voters approved a fire levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000. Since then, the fire levy has fallen to \$0.98 per \$1,000. The fire district is asking for a \$0.30 lid lift that would change the fire levy rate from \$0.98 to \$1.28 and cost an additional \$10 per month or \$120 per year for the owner of a \$400,000 home (considered average).

Why has the levy rate fallen? By law, levy rates fall as property values rise to limit a fire district to roughly the same revenue per year plus a one percent increase in revenue or any other voter approved amount.

Do my property taxes change by the same percent as my home's assessed value? No. A fire district, by law, can only increase its revenue by 1% per year. Voters must approve any higher amount. This means that even if your property value changes by 20%, we can only collect 1% more (or any other voter-approved increase).

Where can I find more information? You can find additional information on our website at www.gffd17.org. Fire Chief Jim Haverfield welcomes your questions at 360-691-5553 or jim.haverfield@gffd17.org.



**Snohomish County Fire Protection District 17
is known as Granite Falls Fire District.**

**Check with the County Assessor's Office to see if you qualify for a tax exemption.*