

# Public Safety Planning Update

FALL  
2021



## FREDERICK-FIRESTONE FIRE DISTRICT



### Why is Frederick-Firestone Fire District considering placing a general obligation bond measure on the May 2022 ballot?

Frederick-Firestone Fire District (FFFD) seeks to protect response times and maintain emergency services by addressing its highest priority equipment, apparatus, and facility needs.

### How would the proceeds of the voter-approved bond measure be used?

The Fire District seeks to address its highest priority capital facility needs at its existing fire stations and phase in two new fire stations to address the rapid growth in its service population and call volume.

### What are the anticipated benefits of the proposed bond measure?

There are many anticipated benefits, including:

- ✓ Protecting response times and maintaining emergency services
- ✓ Improving the health and safety of first responders
- ✓ Attracting and retaining qualified firefighters and paramedics
- ✓ Improving FFFD's ISO rating, which could help reduce property insurance rates for homes and businesses

Every taxpayer in the District would directly benefit from the proposed improvements.

### What is the estimated net tax impact of the proposed bond measure?

The estimated net tax impact of the proposed \$19.8 million bond measure is \$3.41 per month, or about \$41 per year, for a home with an actual market value of \$400,000 as determined by the County Assessor. This estimate factors in outstanding bonds that will be paid off next year, which lowers the District's mill levy by 0.467 mills.

**FFFD seeks to protect response times and maintain emergency services by addressing the Fire District's highest priority equipment, apparatus, and facility needs.**

— Jeremy Young, Fire Chief  
Frederick-Firestone Fire District



# Service Area & Station Locations

## FFFD'S SERVICE AREA INCLUDES:

- Highway 52, 119 & 66
- Interstate I-25
- 29 Parks, Open Spaces & Trails
- 81 High-Hazard Occupancies
- 9 Churches
- Recreation Areas

## FFFD'S AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME



6 Minutes and 5 Seconds

## TYPES OF CALLS



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>58%</b>  | <b>42%</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Medical</li> <li>Injuries</li> <li>Strokes</li> <li>Cardiac Arrests</li> <li>Lacerations</li> <li>Convulsions/Seizures</li> <li>Psychiatric Problems</li> <li>Overdoses/Poisoning</li> <li>Choking</li> <li>Other Emergencies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire Incidents</li> <li>Traffic Accidents</li> <li>Hazardous Materials Calls</li> <li>Other Emergencies</li> </ul> |

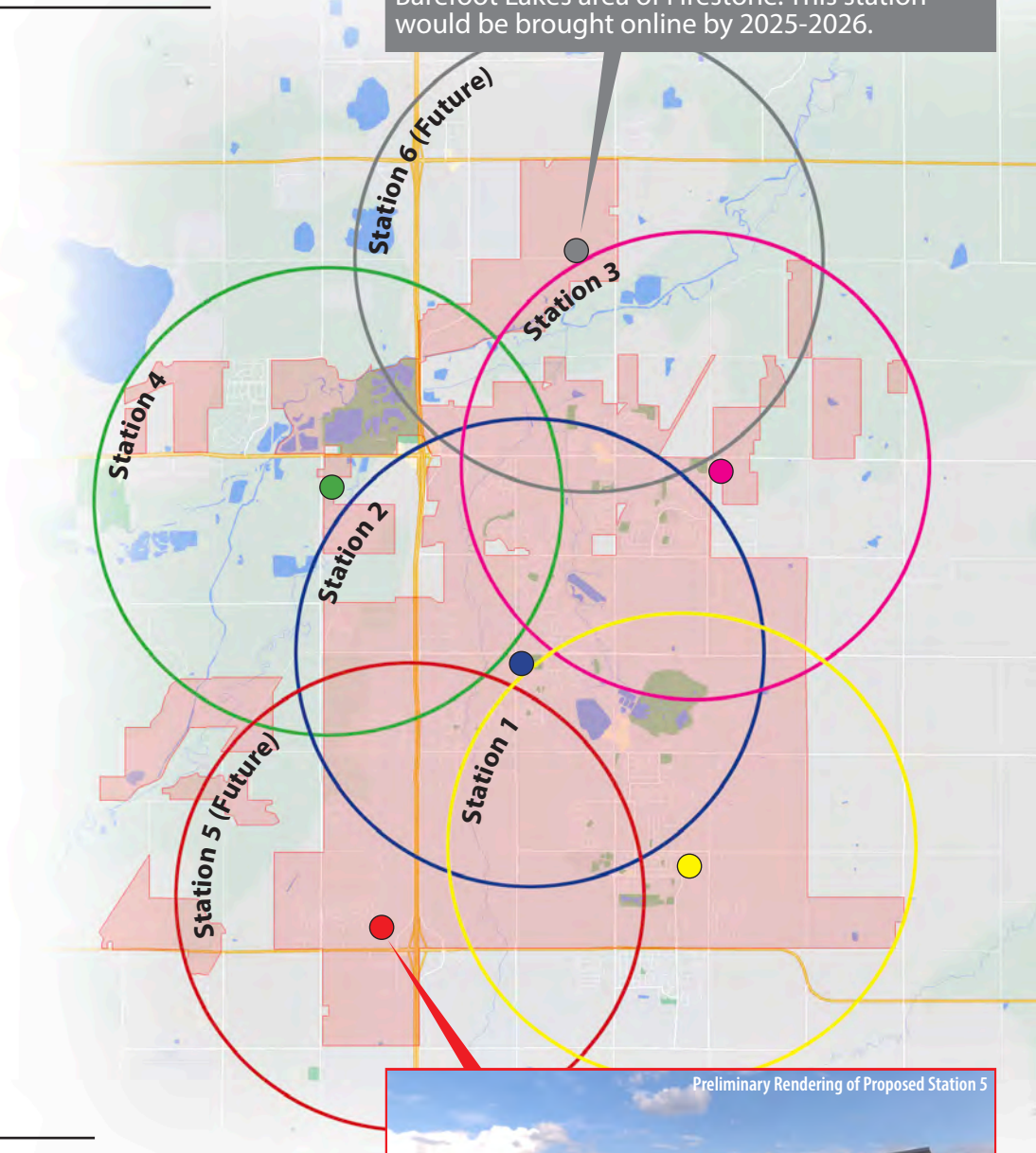
## SERVICE AREA

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <br><b>9,685</b><br>Family Homes    | <br><b>421</b><br>Commercial & Industrial Properties |
| <br><b>62</b><br>Apartment Complexes | <br><b>14</b><br>Public & Private Schools            |



### FUTURE STATION 6

FFFD seeks to open a new fire station in the Barefoot Lakes area of Firestone. This station would be brought online by 2025-2026.



### FUTURE STATION 5

FFFD seeks to open a new fire station in the Wyndham Hill area of Frederick. This station would be brought online by 2022-2023.



# Public Safety Planning Update

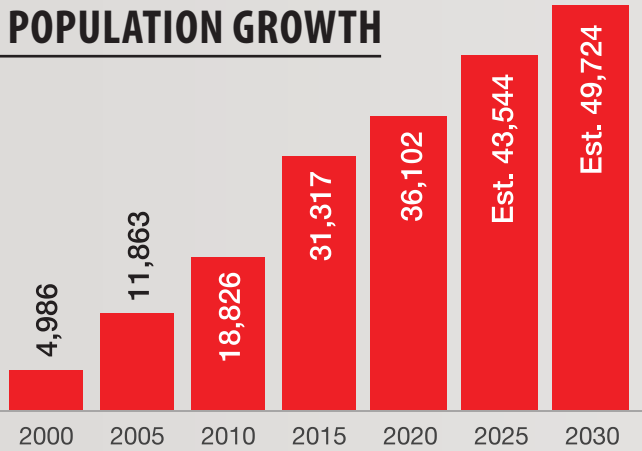
FREDERICK-FIRESTONE FIRE DISTRICT



**With FFFD's service population and emergency call volume rapidly increasing year after year, the only way to protect response times will be to strategically add equipment, apparatus, and facilities.**

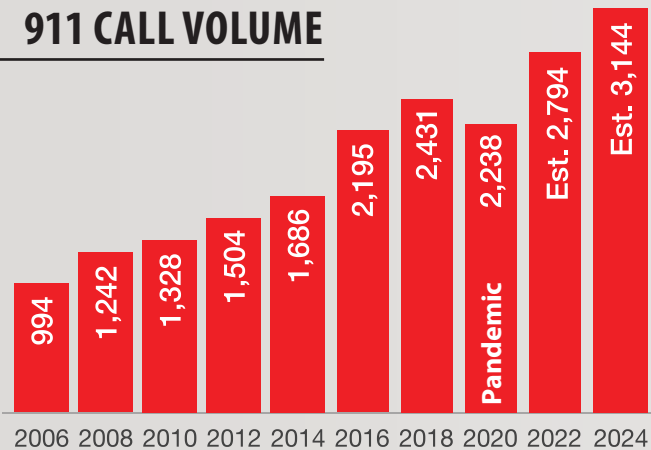
— Butch A. Walb, Board President  
Frederick-Firestone Fire District

## POPULATION GROWTH



In just the past 10 years alone, FFFD's service population has almost doubled. This rapid growth is directly impacting emergency call volume.

## 911 CALL VOLUME



FFFD's call volume has more than tripled since 2006 and will continue to increase as the service population grows.

### Would there be tax relief for seniors?

Yes. For residents who qualify and apply for the Senior Property Tax Exemption, the tax impact associated with the proposed bond measure would be lower.

### Do the towns of Frederick and Firestone fund the Fire District?

No. FFFD does not receive funding from either town. Most of the Fire District's revenues are generated by an existing mill levy paid by property owners within the District.

### Does the State or County fund the Fire District?

No. FFFD does not receive funding from the State or County.

### What improvements are proposed for the Fire District's existing fire stations?

FFFD seeks to improve the health, safety and energy efficiency of its three oldest fire stations by replacing outdated, inefficient HVAC units; updating restrooms; and improving sleeping quarters to meet current standards and code issues. The proposed improvements also include connecting the District's Administrative Building to public sanitation, versus the current septic system, and replacing that building's outdated HVAC system.

## QUICK FACTS...



**FFFD's service population has almost doubled the past 10 years**



**The Fire District's 911 call volume has more than tripled the past 15 years**



### Where would the new fire stations be located?

Station 5 would be located in the Wyndham Hill area of Frederick and Station 6 would be located in the Barefoot Lakes area of Firestone. These are both areas of rapid growth. The two new stations would be strategically located to work hand in hand with the four existing fire stations to maintain quick response times to any emergency.

### Would the funding proposal address the equipment and apparatus needs at the new fire stations?

Yes. The bond measure would fund needed emergency equipment and apparatus for the two stations.

### When would the proposed capital improvements be addressed?

Station 5 would be brought online in 2022-2023 and Station 6 by 2025-2026. Improvements to existing fire stations would be addressed in 2023 and 2024.

### Would land be donated for the new fire stations?

It is likely that land for the two fire stations would be donated.

### Would the new fire stations benefit all district residents?

Yes. Given the growing number of back-to-back emergency calls received daily, phasing in two new fire stations would benefit all district residents. The new fully staffed stations would allow FFFD to protect response times and maintain emergency services districtwide. The new stations would provide coverage within areas of rapid growth as well as between existing fire stations.

### How is this funding proposal different from what district voters previously approved?

The previous proposal focused on the District's staffing needs for firefighters and paramedics. This proposal is focused on equipment, apparatus, and facilities.

### How large is FFFD's service area?

Approximately 36,000 residents are served in a 36-square-mile jurisdiction. The District provides all-hazards emergency services to the Town of Frederick, the Town of Firestone, and portions of Unincorporated Weld County.

### To what extent is the Fire District's service population increasing?

Population growth in Frederick and Firestone continues to increase by 4-9% annually. Within the next 10 years, FFFD's service population is projected to grow to nearly 50,000 residents. In fact, there are 30 planned residential development projects within the District that comprise more than 11,600 family dwelling units, including senior citizen housing. There are also more than 90 commercial projects in the District that are currently in the planning phase or being constructed.

### How many emergency calls does FFFD respond to each year?

The Fire District currently responds to about 2,500 calls annually, providing care and service to more than 19,000 residents each calendar year. As the District's service population increases by about 7% annually, call volume will continue to increase.

## QUICK FACTS...



**Building and equipping two new fire stations is needed to protect response times**



**The plan calls for an additional fire station in both Frederick and Firestone**



**FFFD's three oldest fire stations have health and safety issues that need to be addressed**



**Voter approval of a \$19.8 million bond measure would fund FFFD's highest priority equipment, apparatus and facility needs**



## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

Summer Campos  
Community Outreach Specialist  
(720) 484-3367  
scamos@fffd.us

### Is the Fire District's call volume dominated by emergency medical calls?

Yes. About 58% of FFFD's calls are tied to emergency medical situations, which is expected to increase as a result of the District's aging population and growth. The Fire District also responds to fire incidents, traffic accidents, calls involving hazardous materials and many other types of emergencies.

### Are response times increasing?

Yes. Response times continue to increase due to the District's increased service population and call volume. While efforts continue to be made to shift apparatus from one station to another to address areas experiencing the largest increases in response times, this is not a long-term solution. The reality is that our understaffed emergency units are currently scrambling to meet proper response times.

### Does FFFD have an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the towns of Frederick and Firestone regarding response times?

Yes. The IGA calls for the Fire District to be on the scene within 5 minutes and 30 seconds or less, 80% of the time. (To maintain this response time and service the growing population, additional fire stations will be required.)

### Can grants be used to address the Fire District's unmet equipment, apparatus, and facility needs?

The District continues to apply for grants. However, these funds are increasingly difficult to obtain. Furthermore, there are few grant opportunities to address facility needs. And when it comes to grants for equipment and apparatus, much of those funds are directed to more rural and affected departments with less population.

### Why is growth not paying its own way?

For 2021, which is an assessment year, FFFD's assessed valuation decreased by 2.30% due to declining oil and gas valuation. For 2022, the Fire District's assessed valuation is projected to stay flat. With current inflation and the rising cost of operations, the District is unable to meet its highest priority equipment, apparatus, and facility needs.

### How can district residents provide input on the proposed bond measure and capital improvements?

A districtwide public opinion survey will be mailed to registered voter households in late November or early December 2021. The Fire District will also be hosting public information meetings. Following are the dates, times, and locations of the first three informational meetings:

- **Thursday, December 2, 2021, 6 p.m.**  
Carbon Valley Regional Library.  
7 Park Ave., Firestone, CO 80504
- **Saturday, December 4, 2021, 8 a.m.**  
The Back 9 at Bella Rosa Golf Course  
5830 Bella Rosa Pkwy., Frederick, CO 80504
- **Monday, December 6, 2021, 6 p.m.**  
FFFD Administration Building  
8426 Kosmerl Place, Frederick, CO 80504

## QUICK FACTS...



The estimated net tax impact would be \$3.74 per month for a \$400,000 home



Funds are already available to staff the new fire stations



No action will be taken until the Fire District gathers additional public input

