

24-440

Marion County Clerk

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Jefferson Fire District Explanatory Statement

Elections Division

Jefferson Rural Fire Protection District provides ambulance, EMS and fire response within a 97 square mile area in Marion and Linn Counties. In 2018-19 the Fire District experienced a \$275,000.00 decrease in property tax revenue after the City of Millersburg withdrew from the Fire District. In response the Board made several budget cuts to compensate for the loss of revenue which included reducing one full-time position to half-time, reducing a reserve account, and additional operational reductions.

The Board conducted a review of the facilities, apparatus, and staffing to identify the immediate and long-term needs of the Fire District. It was determined that replacing the aging facilities and equipment would require 14.5 million dollars. The Board of Director's would like to start addressing these needs of the Fire District but realizes it can't be done all at once. A 5-year local option tax provides the most flexibility to address facility maintenance, operational, apparatus and staffing needs. The Fire District wants to replace a 2004 Ambulance, purchase one new tender to replace two 1982 tenders, increase facility and apparatus maintenance, and make improvements to the part-time staffing.

The Board of Director's is asking the voters to approve a \$0.38 per thousand tax increase for the next 5-years beginning July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2024. The measure would raise approximately \$260,777.00 in 2019-20, \$268,600.00 in 2020-21, \$276,658.00 in 2021-22, \$284,958.00 in 2022-23 and \$293,507.00 in 2023-24, for a total of \$1,384,500.00.

Homeowners with average assessed value of \$190,000.00 at the proposed amount of \$0.38 per thousand would pay \$72.20 in property taxes.

The revenue generated will allow the Fire District to continue providing ambulance, fire and EMS services at current levels and upgrade an ambulance and water tender. Without the increased revenue the Fire District will need to make additional reductions in services and staffing.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate.