

KEIZER FIRE DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence, Dedicated to Service

Permanent Tax Base

Keizer Fire has a permanent tax rate of \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Current Operating Levy

Keizer Fire currently relies on a Local Option Levy at the rate of \$0.59 per \$1,000 to fund emergency operations in addition to the permanent tax rate. This levy rate was set 10 years ago and is no longer sufficient to fund operations.

Funding Needed for Future Operations

The current levy rate was established in 2013, and the rate has remained unchanged. To continue our current level of service and to grow with our community, we need to establish a new levy.

A local option levy of \$0.99 per \$1,000 will support our current operations and allow growth to address increasing costs, population and increasing call volume.



Response Times Matter

- Fires can double in size every 30 seconds and quickly become unsurvivable in a matter of minutes.
- Cardiac arrest survivability decreases 10% each minute, the sooner care is initiated, the greater the chance of a positive outcome for the patient.

Increasing Costs

In the 5 years since the last levy renewal, we have endured a pandemic, record inflation, and rising costs of fuel, medical supplies, and supply chain shortages.

Permanent Tax Rate is Insufficient

To maintain operations, allow growth and respond to needs of our community, our local option levy needs to increase. The current levy rate is insufficient to maintain operations. A levy rate of \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value will ensure we can continue to provide professional service and quickly respond to your emergency.



Fiscal Responsibility

Keizer Fire strives to be good stewards of your tax dollars. We continuously look for ways to provide better service to the community while working within our resources.

- Staffing an ambulance at Marion County Fire Station 6, providing better fire and medical response to all areas of Keizer at no increased cost.
- Working with area fire agencies on cost sharing and other collaborations to decrease costs of required materials, training, and other shared resources.
- Working to be proactive and plan for the future needs of the community.

Increasing Calls for Service

When the current levy rate was set in 2012, Keizer Fire responded to 3739 calls for service. In 2022, Keizer Fire responded to 6469 calls for service. This represents a 73% increase in calls for service. Calls for service are up 10% YTD compared to last year.

New Levy Rate

Keizer Fire will be able to account for the increasing call volume, the increasing costs of essential supplies and continue to respond to your emergency in 6 minutes or less, 90% of the time. We will do this by adding 4 Firefighter/Paramedics to staff additional apparatus. We will also fill a vacant Community Risk Reduction Specialist position to focus on our school and community risk reduction efforts.

The new levy rate of \$0.99 will allow Keizer Fire to:

- Sustain current levels of service
- Maintain our response time standard of 6 minutes or less
- Retain all current positions
- Keep pace with the growth of the city and prepare for the future needs of our citizens

Levy Cost

The average assessed value of a home in Keizer is \$230,000 as provided by the Marion County Assessor's Office. The cost to an average homeowner for the new levy rate of \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value would be an additional \$7.50 per month.

Comparable Fire Agencies

Keizer Fire uses comparable fire agencies in the State of Oregon as a basis for wages, benefits and contract negotiation. Of these 8 comparable agencies, Keizer Fire has the lowest permanent tax rate, with the next lowest being Hermiston Fire at \$1.75 and the highest being Douglas County Fire District #2 at \$3.16.

For more information, please visit: www.keizerfire.com/levy

