

# Thank You

Your continued support enables us to save lives and protect property in SW Polk Fire District. Stay informed, get involved, and help us keep our community safe.

# How You Can Help

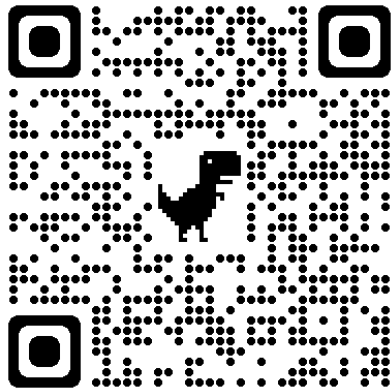
- Vote in the May 2026 election
- Share this information with your neighbors
- Attend community meetings and ask questions

Contact Us SW Polk Fire District

Website: [www.swpolkfd.org](http://www.swpolkfd.org)

Email: [info@swpolkfdor.gov](mailto:info@swpolkfdor.gov)

Facebook: [@SWPolkFire](https://www.facebook.com/SWPolkFire)



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## SW Polk Fire District

**Replacement Local Option Levy  
Protecting Our Community -  
Preserving Our Progress**

Election Date: **May 19, 2026**

Learn more at: [www.swpolkfd.org](http://www.swpolkfd.org)

## Why Is the Levy Important?

In 2022, voters approved a local option levy that developed enhanced emergency services within Polk County. This levy replacement will preserve the vital progress made with response times, staffing and community safety.

Like many, our District expenses have increased over the past four years. Below are a few of the major increases since the original levy.

- 400% increase in sick leave, overtime due to Paid Leave Oregon
- 30% increase insurance premiums
- 40% increase in utility fees

## What's New in the Levy?

This levy replaces the current rate of \$0.81 per \$1,000 on a property assessed value, with new rate of \$1.37 per \$1,000. For a property with an assessed of \$200,000, this means an increase from \$162/year to \$274/year----about \$112 more per year, or less than \$10 per month.

This levy replacement ensures we continue to meet the growing needs of our community.



## What Have We Accomplished Since 2022

### Community Investment Has Delivered Results

- **Response Times Improved:** From over 25 minutes to under 10 minutes across the district.
- **Expanded Ambulance Services:** Assigned Polk County, Ambulance service area in 2024.
- **Staffing Increased:** Full-time 24/7 Fire and EMS staff at our Rickreall and Bridgeport stations.
- **Higher Call Coverage:** Responded to over 99% of calls for service in 2025. 1% covered by our partners.
- **Mutual Aid Strengthened:** Provided over 500 responses to assist our neighbors in need. We are keeping response coverage local, decreasing our reliance outside Polk County.
- **Training Accreditation Achieved:** Provided 1000's of hours of training and certifying members in 11 fire disciplines.
- **Grants Secured:** Awarded over \$1,600,000 in grants, thus saving local tax dollars.
- **Insurance Services Office (ISO):** The Districts ISO rating has improved which lowers your fire Insurance premiums.

## Responsible Use of Your Tax Dollars

- Deploy a combination of full-time, part-time and volunteer responders
- Improved fire and EMS readiness while keeping cost low by pursuing grants
- Invested in personnel, apparatus, and station upgrades

## What Happens If It's Not Passed?

- Suspend station operations
- Increased emergency response times
- Reduced staffing and ambulance services
- More dependence on mutual aid resources coming from neighboring counties
- Loss of progress made since 2022
- Reduced local ambulance coverage

