Mason County Fire District #4

FAST, FOCUSED, FLEXIBLE AND FRIENDLY

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy?

An EMS levy is a voter approved levy providing taxpayer funding that can only be used to provide emergency medical care or services.

What is the purpose of the proposed EMS levy?

EMS services are financially supported through an EMS property tax levy. In 2015, you showed your support and voted yes on a 6-year EMS levy request. With your help, we were able to implement the strategic plan, which included the purchase of a much-needed ambulance, ensure we had the equipment necessary for community safety and funding personnel to ensure full staffing to meet community needs. That funding expires at the end of 2021.

On February 9th, Mason County Fire District 4 is asking you for a 6-year levy renewal to secure your fire district's ability to meet your needs now and into the future.

Is this a new tax?

No, this would be a continuation of the previously approved property tax levy from 2015. If approved, this levy would continue at the exact same rate of 50 cents per $1000 of assessed property value.

What is the current levy rate?

The current EMS levy rate is 50 cents per $1000 of assessed property value.

What will voting "yes" cost me?

Since this is a continuation of an existing voter approved levy, there is *no increase to you*. The current EMS levy of 50 cents per $1000 costs the owner of a $200,000 property parcel $100 per year, or $8.33 per month. The renewed levy would cost that homeowner the exact same amount in 2021 forward, with *no increase*.

Does the EMS levy fund all EMS services provided by Mason County Fire District #4?

No. Mason County Fire District #4 has continued to seek additional funds to cover the gap between the levy and total cost of services. This includes community partnerships, ambulance transport billing and grant opportunities. The EMS levy covers approximately 68% of the EMS costs, creating stability of services.

Can the levy rate be increased later?

No.