



Fire Facilities, Fleet, Equipment & Operations Levy

City of Tacoma | Tacoma Fire Department

City Council Study Session
June 11, 2024



OVERVIEW



Levy of \$0.65/\$1,000 of assessed value for Tacoma Fire facility improvements, fleet, equipment, and staffing to improve response capacity and firefighter safety; projected to provide approximately \$30M per year

- Projected to fund over \$80M in TFD facilities investments in the first 10 years
- Adds ongoing TFD fleet replacement and equipment funds to allow for regular apparatus and asset replacements
- Creates dedicated funding for approximately \$10M/year in equipment, operating expenses, facilities improvement and maintenance, roving Firefighter positions, and staff in TFD support functions (these expenses are currently in the General Fund)

Estimated average household impact is \$25 per month for a \$450K home.

PROPOSED BALLOT TITLE



CITY OF TACOMA FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY TAX LEVY INCREASE

The City of Tacoma Council adopted Resolution No. 00000 concerning lifting the property tax levy for the Tacoma Fire Department (TFD).

This measure enhances TFD facilities, fleet, and staffing to improve response capacity and firefighter safety by increasing the regular property tax levy by \$0.65/\$1,000 to a maximum rate of \$2.39/\$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2025; authorizing a limit factor up to 106% for 2026-2030 for the additional rate; authorizing the 2030 levy amount as the basis to calculate future levies (RCW 84.55). Qualifying seniors, veterans and others would be exempt (RCW 84.36.381).

Should this proposition be:

Approved?

Rejected?

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WHY FACILITIES, FLEET & EQUIPMENT



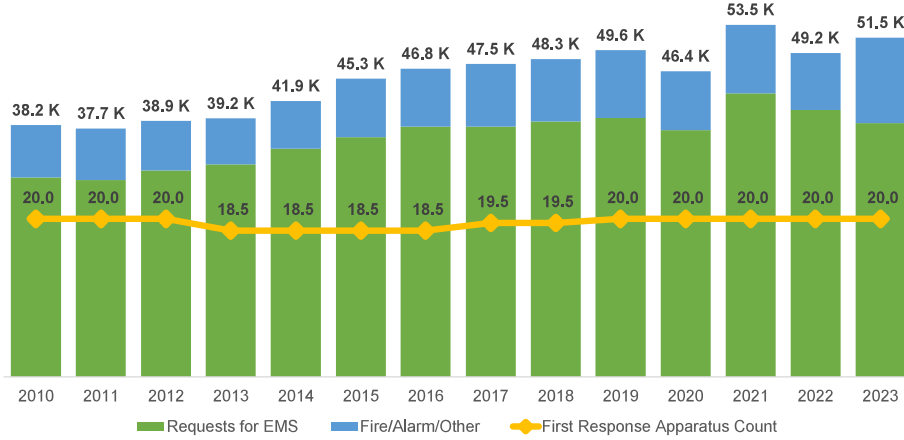
- 85% of TFD facilities were rated in poor or critical condition
- Increasing the system capacity will improve response for the entire community
 - Call volumes for Tacoma Fire response increased by 32% from 2013 to 2023.
- Over 60% of TFD's fleet is at or beyond useful life; many fail to provide adequate safety and reliability
- Assets such as vehicle extrication equipment, thermal imaging cameras (TIC), and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) are not funded for replacement

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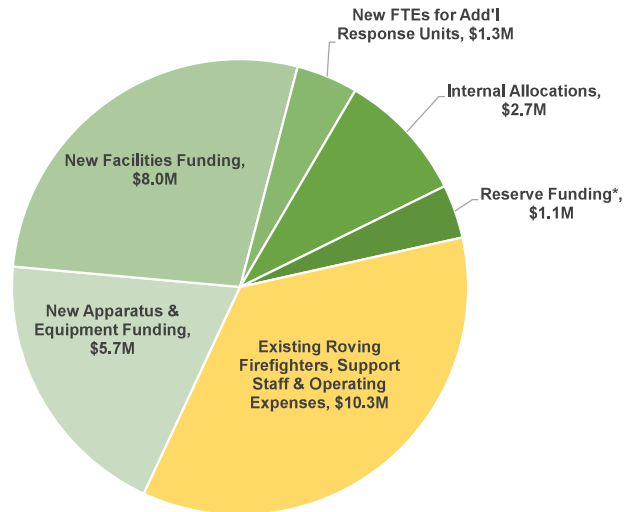
RESPONSE CAPACITY



2010-2023 Dispatched Incidents and First Responding Companies (Engines & Ladders)



PROJECTED EXPENSE BUDGET



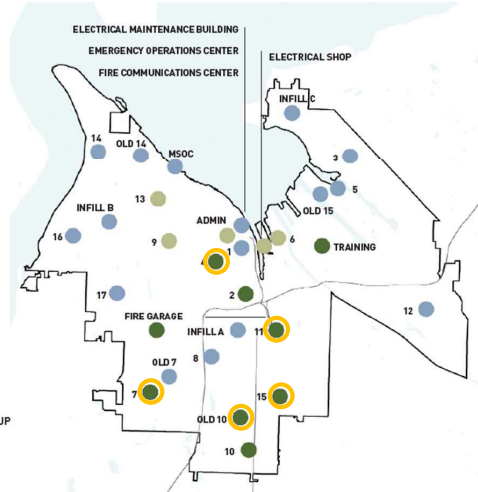
*Initial funding for fiscal sustainability and compliance with reserve policy.

FACILITIES



- Investments will be guided by recommendations from the Fire Master Facility Plan (2024) and Facilities Advisory Committee, focusing on:

- South End
- South Tacoma
- Eastside
- Downtown



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FLEET REPLACEMENTS



- Engines: Two per year starting in 2026
- Ladders: One per biennium starting in 2026
- **All frontline apparatus replaced within first 9 years**
- Specialty/Light Duty: **50 in the first ten years**, including the addition of vehicles for additional response

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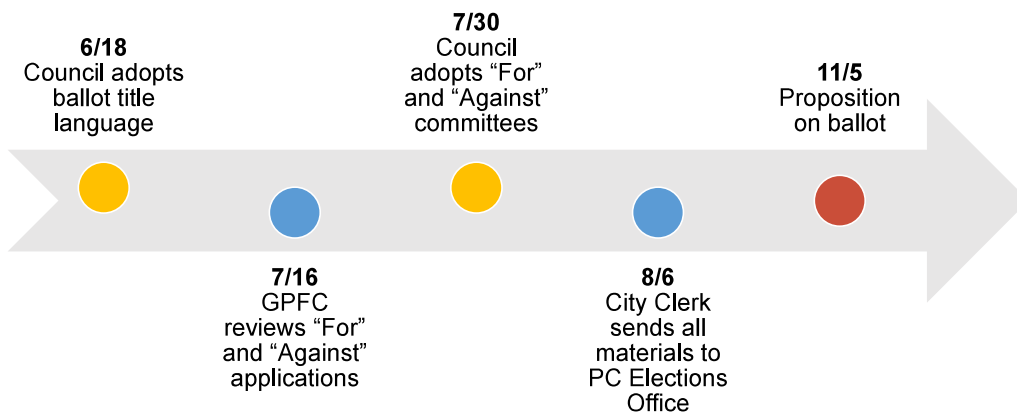
EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES



- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
- Extrication Equipment
- Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs)



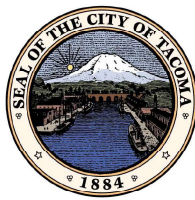
UPCOMING TIMELINE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- Information and FAQs available on our website
 - www.cityoftacoma.org/firelevy
- Social media postings, newspaper & direct mail
- Public Meetings with Neighborhood Councils and Community Budget Meetings
- Open Houses of multiple stations
- We welcome any questions or comments at:
(253) 591-5774 or tfdfirelevy@cityoftacoma.org.



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