

LEBANON FIRE DISTRICT



#BestFirefightersAround

www.LebanonFireOregon.gov



Local Option Levy on the May 21st Ballot & Construction Update

By: Chief Joseph Rodondi

Local Option Levy on May 21st Ballot

The Lebanon Fire District is currently seeking support for a local option levy, known as Measure 22-202, ahead of the May 21st ballot. First, it's essential to address why the Lebanon Fire District cannot utilize funds from the previous \$16 million station bond to hire more firefighters. State laws prohibit the use of bond funds for purposes other than those specified in the bond language, which was for station construction. Operational and personnel costs, including hiring firefighters, are typically covered through levies, which must be renewed every 5 years.

If Measure 22-202 passes, it will authorize the allocation of tax revenue to fund six additional firefighters and new equipment. This measure is aimed at improving response times, enhancing operational capacity, and broadening non-emergency services.

The rationale behind the Lebanon Fire District's proposal to hire more firefighters stems from the increasing demand for emergency services in our area. Current firefighters are already stretched thin, often working overtime to meet this demand. Paying overtime can be more expensive than hiring additional full-time positions.

Additional firefighters mean shorter response times to emergencies. With increased staffing, the Lebanon Fire District can address emergencies more promptly, preventing delays that may occur when all units are committed to simultaneous calls. This increases the likelihood of positive outcomes in emergencies.

Considering the financial impact on homeowners, if Measure 22-202 passes, it would result in a cost of

\$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For instance, a home assessed at \$200,000 would incur an annual fee of \$150, which is \$12.50 monthly.

For further inquiries or information about the proposed local option levy, please visit www.LebanonFireOregon.gov. Thank you for your attention and support in this matter.

Construction Update

I'm pleased to provide an update on the Station 31/Headquarters construction project, approved by voters in 2019.

When the district sought voters' approval for the bond in 2019, we made two commitments. Firstly, we pledged to eliminate the existing \$800,000 debt on the remaining Station 34 bond—a promise fulfilled in early 2020. This accomplishment was pivotal in upholding our second commitment, which was to limit the new bond cost to 34 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. We are delighted to announce that we have not only met but also surpassed both promises, delivering a bond cost below the anticipated expense at 33 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Two common questions from the community are about the timeline and budget of the construction.

Following the bond approval in November 2019, the fire district promptly began the project by hiring an architect and initiating station design. However, the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 caused disruptions in the construction market, leading to increased material costs and longer lead times. Recognizing these challenges, we decided to pause

Events & Meetings Calendar

Station 31/Headquarters Open House - June 15th
Celebrate with us at the open house and dedication ceremony of our brand new fire station! Enjoy festivities, refreshments, and even take a guided tour of the station! Join us on Saturday, June 15, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at 1050 W. Oak Street.

Fireside Chat - April 17th
Join us at the Lebanon Boys and Girls Club for a Fireside Chat! Meet the Fire Chief, learn about the fire district, and get informed about the local option levy on the upcoming May ballot. Mark your calendars for April 17th at 6:30 pm, located at 305 S. 5th Street.

Coffee with the Fire Chief - April 26th & May 15th
Join us at Hazella's Bake Shop for an opportunity to meet Lebanon's Fire Chief over freshly brewed coffee! Mark your calendars for April 26 & May 15, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am, at 878 S. Main Street.

Board of Directors Meeting - May 14th, June 11th, July 9th
Join us at our board meeting every second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. Stay tuned to our social media and website for location updates!

the project temporarily to await more stable market conditions.

During this time, our team continued to work diligently behind the scenes. We hired a contractor and collaborated closely with the architect to find ways to align the project with our budget. By delaying the project and focusing on cost-saving measures, we were able to stay within the budget parameters outlined in the bond, albeit with a longer timeline.

We are excited to announce that we will be celebrating the opening of Station 31/Headquarters with an open house and dedication ceremony on Saturday, June 15, 2024, from 1pm to 4pm. The event will take place at 1050 W. Oak Street. Join us for this special occasion!



1050 W. Oak Street
Lebanon, OR 97355
(541) 451-1901

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Prevent. Prepare. Protect: Wildfire Awareness Month



Annually, human-caused wildfires make up 87% of all wildfire incidents nationwide.

May is wildfire awareness month! Practicing wildfire mitigation protects you, your loved ones, and your property from fire hazards. Here is a home ignition zone checklist that outlines simple steps from the roof to the foundation, which can significantly enhance a home's safety against embers and radiant heat.

- Clean roofs, gutters, and exterior attic vents to remove debris that could catch embers.
- Repair or replace damaged roofing materials and window screens to prevent ember penetration.
- Install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening on vents and below decks to reduce ember intrusion.
- Clear flammable materials from around your home, such as mulch, plants, and firewood piles.
- Remove stored items from beneath decks or porches.

Discover defensible space tips at www.LebanonFireOregon.gov. Also, don't forget to join us for our defensible space meeting on May 14th at 6:30 pm. Stay updated on the location by following our social media and checking our website regularly.

Open Burning Season: Information and Guidelines



Stay safe during open burning by knowing the rules, checking the weather, and having fire safety gear ready.

Domestic or residential burning is prohibited in special open burning control areas except for burning yard debris between March 1st to June 15th and October 1st to December 15th.

- **Hours:** Open burning is permitted only between 7:30 am and two hours before sunset.
- **Daily Announcements & Restrictions:** Before domestic or residential burning, check restrictions by calling the Linn County Burn Line at (541) 451-1904 or viewing the Willamette Valley Open Burning Announcement at www.smkmgmt.com/burn.php.
- **Materials Illegal to Burn:** It is illegal to burn asbestos, asphalt or industrial waste, automotive parts (including frames), dead animals, plastic and rubber products, tires, waste oil, petroleum treated and related materials, wet garbage and food waste, or any material creating dense smoke or noxious odors.

For more information, guidelines, and safety tips for the open burning season, please visit www.LebanonFireOregon.gov.

