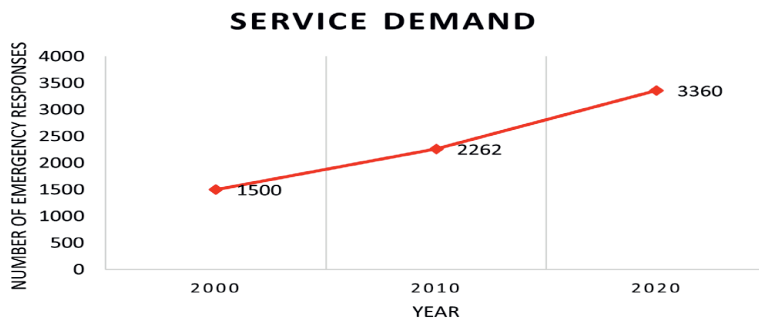




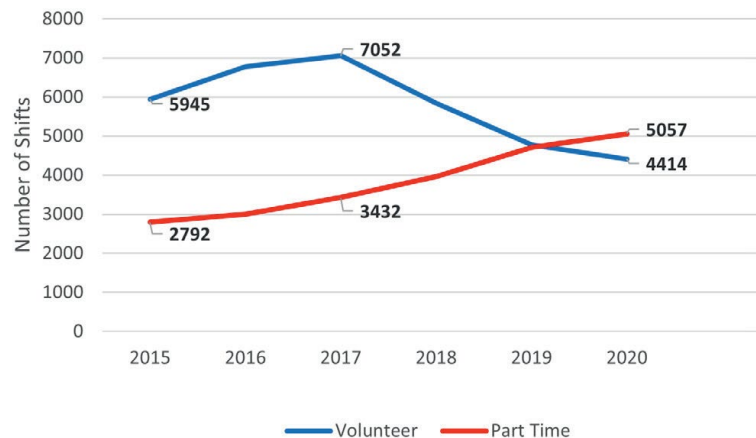
## A Word about the Regular Fire Levy Lid Lift

Fire District 4 currently funds all daily operations through regular operating levies. The fire levy is the primary funding source for fire and emergency services provided in the district. This means that the fire levy helps to pay for staffing, equipment, and operating expenses to provide emergency response, fire prevention, and other essential services to the citizens in our district. Fire District 4 has seen significant increases in service demands with more than a 124% increase in the last 20 years with 33% of that since the last voter approved levy lid lift 10 years ago. The increase in service demands, together with the increase in operating expenses, is why we are asking our voters to consider this Fire Levy Lid Lift.



Demand for emergency services in our District increases steadily every year. Additional staffing and operational funding are needed to be able to meet those demands at the level we currently supply.

The availability of Volunteer Staffing is another critical issue. Historically volunteers provided up to 60% of our staffing, today that volunteer support has declined to approximately 24%. This change in staffing availability creates the need to draw from other staffing sources resulting in the need to hire additional part-time and full-time staff.



**Does Fire District 4 receive money from the state or county?** No. Fire District 4 is separate from Spokane County or State of Washington governance and receives no money from them or any sales tax. The fire levy is the primary funding source for fire and emergency services provided within the Fire District.



### What is Fire District 4 doing to make tax dollars stretch further?

Fire District 4 has strong management and financial practices; passing all State of Washington financial and accountability audits.

The District is always seeking grant opportunities to supplement daily operations and continues to explore and apply for grant opportunities. We have applied for SAFER; AFG; DNR and CARES grants. We have been awarded approximately \$150,000 over the past several years.

### Why a levy lid lift?

RCW 84.55 limits Fire District 4 to a 1% increase in revenue regardless of the increase of a property's assessed value. This means that if a home increases eight percent in assessed value, the district can still only collect 1% more than the previous year. We have seen the average cost of labor, goods and supplies increase approximately 3% each year.

### Why now?

*The timing is based on several critical factors in our needs and projected needs, as well as the financial climate.*

#### Logistical Factors:

- ◆ Increased demand for service.
- ◆ Age and conditions of some of the existing facilities.
- ◆ Staffing needs due to declining volunteer support.

#### Financial Factors:

- ◆ The District will have a stable funding source.
- ◆ Improving/increasing the facilities and equipment helps maintain or improve the District's current insurance rating.

### How much will my taxes increase if this levy lid lift is approved?

If the levy lid lift is approved, the regular levy rate will increase by \$.41 per \$1,000 of assessed value, resulting in an increase of approximately \$10 per month to an owner of a \$300,000 assessed home.

**What can I do to help?** It is very encouraging to see the high-energy, positive responses coming from our members and constituency. Let's keep up that forward momentum! Informational brochures are available to share with friends and neighbors. Check out what's posted on our web- site and Facebook too!

### What if I have other questions?

Now is the time to get your own concerns and questions addressed and to understand the significance of the fire levy lid lift request.

Feel free to contact any of our Fire Commissioners, our Fire Chief, or any of the District 4 leadership at 509-467-4500.

