



# Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District

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P.O. Box 718, Marcola, Oregon 97454

541-933-2907

[www.mohawkvalleyfire.com](http://www.mohawkvalleyfire.com)

## MOHAWK VALLEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND 2018 FACT SHEET

In May 2018 the voters will vote on a ballot measure which proposes a 5-year general obligation bond for \$750,000 at an estimated rate of around \$0.49 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Beginning in 2019 and ending in 2024 the proposed bond would cost taxpayers an estimated \$0.49 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

If passed, the bond would be used towards the funding of the following:

### **Emergency Apparatus:**

#### 1. Two Rescue Units

Current rescue units were purchased from a bond in 1999. The rescues are 20 years old and significantly larger than what the district needs. If the bond were to pass the old rescues would be replaced with crew cab pick-ups equipped with a canopy and slide out tray. These new units would be capable of carrying the same equipment as current ones while being smaller. This would allow them better access to areas within the fire district. The new units would also be a fraction of the price of what the district is currently using. Replacing the rescue units with the same type we currently have would cost around \$110,000 per unit. If we were to have the new type of rescues it would cost around \$50,000 per unit. This allows the district to replace these units in the future using budgeted funds.

#### 2. Fire Engine

The district currently has three 1999 fire engines as part of the fleet. These fire engines were purchased from the same bond as our current rescue units. Since then the district has been able to replace two other fire engines through the use of a lease purchase program. The current fire engines cost around \$425,000 a unit with about a 12% price increase per year. If all three of the 1999 fire engines come up for replacement at the same time it would cost over 1.5 million dollars.



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The district hopes to continue to plan for the future by replacing one fire engine now with the help of the bond, another in 2021 using the lease purchase program, and the last around 2025, again using the lease purchase program. This will help by spacing out replacement costs in the future and allowing the district to only purchase one fire engine at a time.

In addition, the district is looking to buy fire engines that are slightly different. The new fire engines are on commercial chassis unlike the custom chassis that we currently have. (SEE ATTACHED PHOTOS) One benefit to these new fire engines is the overall price. The new fire engines cost around \$350,000 - \$375,000. The lower price also helps the district budget the future apparatus replacements into its annual budget. In addition to the lower cost of the new fire engines, there will be a savings in maintenance costs as well. These fire engines also have easier access to parts and repair facilities. This all helps the district save money and better prepare for the future.

The new fire engine serves both a structure firefighting need as well as a wildland firefighting need. The majority of the fire district is in what is called the urban interface; this means homes are build next to, or in the wildland setting. The current fire engines are not designed to fight fire in the wildland setting and are more designed to be in a city setting. The new fire engines would allow better access to homes up steep, narrow driveways or roads and to gain better access to areas than the current fire engines.



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## Emergency Response Equipment:

### 1. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA a.k.a. air packs)

Currently the District has SCBA's that were purchased in 2006 and currently do not meet standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Administration. The SCBA air bottles also have a service life of 15 years which is coming to an end. If the district were just to replace the bottles we would be looking at a cost of nearly \$58,000 and would still not bring the SCBA's up to the current safety standards.

In addition, these SCBA's are no longer being built and repairing current SCBA's when one fails will soon not be an option. This means if an SCBA were to fail we would have a fire apparatus short that piece of life saving equipment. All current SCBA's will not last the life span of the next set of bottles meaning we will have to replace the packs before the life span of the new air bottles are up. The new packs use different bottles and we would not get the full use out of the new bottles.

The overall cost of replacing the current SCBA's with new units complete with new bottles will be around \$235,000. These new SCBA's meet the current safety standards allowing us to provide our volunteers with the equipment to keep them safe. In addition, replacing all the current SCBA's will ensure the district will have equipment that can be repaired in the future. The purchase of this equipment also gives the district time to ensure funds are set aside for replacement in the future.



This is one of the current 1999 custom fire engines. These custom fire engines are built from the ground up.



This is an example of the type of fire engine we would replace the current fire engines with. These commercial fire engines are on a standard chassis that are readily available.



This is a current rescue unit. This unit is much larger than what is needed by the district and has higher replacement and maintenance cost.



This is an example of the new type of rescue unit that we are looking at. The future replacement of these would cost much less than the current type.



Current SCBA's that were purchased in 2006 and do not meet current standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Agency.



The bond would allow us to purchase these SCBA's that meet current safety standards and would allow our volunteer the best equipment to stay safe in the field.