



Bullhead City Fire District Bond Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions

Isn't the fire department part of the city structure? Many people believe that the Bullhead City Fire District is governed and administered by the City of Bullhead City and derive its funding from the same resources. While the boundaries served are essentially identical and the relationship between the City and Fire District are exceptional, the District is in fact a completely separate governmental entity that was organized in 1947 under Title 48 of the Arizona Revised Statutes and is governed by a separate five-member elected board of directors. While the City of Bullhead City does not collect a property tax, property taxes are the primary source of revenue for the Bullhead City Fire District.

What is a bond? General obligation (GO) bonds are debt instruments issued by local governments to raise funds for public works. GO bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing entity which means that the entity commits its full resources to paying bondholders, including general taxation. GO bonds give certain government entities a tool to raise funds for projects that will not provide direct sources of revenue—fire stations, capital improvements, fire engines, and the like. As a result, GO bonds are typically utilized to fund projects that will serve the entire community.

Why is the Bullhead City Fire District calling on voters for a bond election? Bullhead City Fire District primarily relies on property taxes to fund its operation. Since the recession, the value of the District, from which property tax is derived, has decreased over 50%. This fact, combined with Prop 117 limiting future growth has restricted the ability of the District to add, maintain, or replace critical infrastructure and equipment.

The Bullhead City Fire District maintains 5 fire stations with 2 of them approaching the half century mark. In order to provide an equitable service level to the developing area along the Parkway and Industrial area near the Laughlin-Bullhead International Airport, an additional fire station is required.

How will the money be spent? If approved, proceeds from the bond are expected to be used to build a fire station in the Laughlin Ranch area on property already

owned by the District, repair and/or replace Fire Station #2 on Highway 95, and provide improvements to training facilities. These funds are also expected to be used to replace aging fire engines and critical equipment used in fire fighting, rescue, and emergency medical service (EMS) operations, upgrade obsolete communications equipment, and replace a number of inadequate fire hydrants.

What amount is the Bullhead City Fire District asking for in the bond election? The total amount being asked for is \$16.7 million.

How much will the bond cost the average homeowner? It is estimated that the maximum cost for the bond would be about \$.46 per \$100 assessed value. Therefore, on a residential home assessed at \$100,000, the average annual cost of the bond would be approximately \$46.00, or a little less than \$4 per month over 20 years.

How do I know the money will be spent as indicated? The Bullhead City Fire District is committed to responsible stewardship of bond funds. A number of community members assisted the Department determining what and how much should be asked for and if approved, a bond oversight committee of community citizens will be appointed by the Fire Board to ensure the funds are expended as intended.

When will the bond measure be on the ballot? The bond election will be by mail. Ballots will be mailed out by the Mohave County Elections Department on October 11, and must be in by 7:00 pm on November 7, 2017. If a ballot replacement is needed, contact Mohave County Elections Department at (928) 753-0733.

What will happen if the bond is not approved? It is important to understand that the Bullhead City Fire District will continue to serve the community as efficiently as possible with available resources. However, BCFD will not be able to build or make significant improvements to the fire stations as desired and the District will have to defer monies from current resources to make necessary repairs to current facilities and replace equipment as they become obsolete in order to remain compliant with current standards. This will necessarily result in an overall decrease in service levels to the community.