

STFD#3

Special meeting

July 17th 2024



The Fire Protection Districts intend to consider “rolling up” millage and increase taxes.

- Are we considering “rolling up” the millage and increase taxes – we are considering rolling up the millage to the point approved
- Voters have approved the Fire Department to get a total of 34.95 mills
- After a reassessment, the assessor must (by law) reduce the millage to a point that your tax bill stays the same, it is called being revenue neutral.
- The assessor rolled back the millage down to 32.36 mills (2.59 difference)
- We are not considering increasing taxes; we are simply putting the millage to the amount you approved by a vote.
- The Board of Commissioner's must consider three things.
 1. Can we **continue** to provide **adequate services** with the roll back for all reassessed property.
 2. With the **new growth** can the **new money** provide **adequate services** to those new properties.
 3. Will the roll back millage and new growth money provide for **strategic planning**.
- If additional funding is needed the Board of Commissioner’s must decide if we should roll up to the amount the citizens have approved.

The final decision to roll up or not will be made at a public hearing scheduled for July 31st 4:00pm at Koop Drive

Total increase and list hearing dates

- Specifically in Lacombe we are not rolling up \$1,457,620
- In fact the maximum amount we can roll up is \$260,256
- The only money that can be roll up is old money not new money in our case the new money comes from
 - New construction
 - Folgers (who has been tax exempt for the past 20 years)
 - Inventory Folgers has at the warehouse on Hwy 434 (have not paid in 20 years)
- If we roll up to the maximum of 34.95 mills the cost to the owner of a \$250,000 home with a homestead exemption would cost that homeowner about \$45.33 per year or \$3.78 per month.

DISTRICT	TOTAL INCREASE		HEARING DATE
Fire District No. 1	\$5,728,654	23.08%	July 23, 3pm
Fire District No. 3	\$1,457,620	71.31%	July 31, 4pm
Fire District No. 4	\$2,508,679	14.35%	July 30, 6pm
Fire District No. 7	\$ 270,962	26.45%	July 31, 5pm
Fire District No. 9	\$ 227,338	21.47%	July 31, 6pm
Fire District No. 12	\$1,224,503	16.15%	July 31, 2pm

New Money \$1,457,620.00

- This number reflects the gross amount generated from new homes and businesses
- Its not the amount of money that lands in the bank account.
- Of the \$1,457,620 6% goes to other agentices and for other services not the Fire Department
- So the new gross is \$1,370,162
- This year the assessor has decided to build into your taxes a cushion of 8% so \$109,613 goes somewhere, but not here.
- This leaves \$1,260,459 net that may or may not land into the bank, we still have to consider Folgers warehouse

The effects of Folgers

- Folgers has been operating tax free for 20 years, this year they are new to the tax rolls.
- Folgers is bringing an estimated \$600,000 in new taxes to the fire department
- Of that money \$150,000 in taxes is from the land and the building, the remaining \$450,000 comes from inventory
- Inventory changes, it could go up or it could go away
- Of the Folgers \$600,000 only \$150,000 can be used for budgeting
- After all of the deductions (6% and 8%), the uncertainty of Folgers inventory the maximum amount of new money that STFD#3 can use for budgeting is \$810,549

Unelected Boards Collecting Taxes

Unelected boards for each fire district will vote to determine whether or not to roll up their millages and increase your taxes.

- Weather or not the Assessor agrees with the laws of Louisiana specific to the duties of Boards, the Board of STFD#3 takes the duties seriously and we follow the laws of Louisiana that we swore to uphold.
- We have the responsibility to consider rolling forward or staying neutral

Legal action taken

Please take a couple of minutes to review and we will attempt to answer any questions you may have

Can we provide adequate services?

Earlier we discussed what the Board of Commissioner's must consider concerning our millage we spoke of providing adequate services and strategic planning

Fire and Emergency Response Apparatus

- Tanker/Pumper 31 – 2010, 14 years old
- Rescue 31 – 2007, 17 years old
- Engine 35 – 1999, 25 years old
- Tanker/Pumper 32 – 1992, 32 years old
- Rescue 32 – 2002, 22 years old
- Engine 33 – 2006, 18 years old
- Tanker 33 – 2007, 17 years old
- Rescue 33 – 1983, 43 years old
- Water Rescue 33 – 1988, 26 years old

4 of 9 or 44% of the fire suppression and rescue vehicles qualifies as an antique

Staffing and Quarters

Company Staffing

- NFPA Standard 1710
 - Engines minimum of 4 firemen per engine
 - Could go up to 6 given conditions
 - Other trucks minimum of 4 firemen
 - Could go up to 6 given conditions
- Excluding the ambulance staff, we **average 2 firemen per station**

Initial alarm (fire fighters plus officers)

- Low hazard = 15 (structure fire)
- Medium hazard = 28 (commercial structure fire)
- High hazard = 43 (high occupancy building like a hospital)

On an average day we have 7 to 8 fire fighters on duty of which 2 are assigned to ambulance operations