



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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70-year-old Fife fire station prompts August ballot measure *Pierce County Fire District 10 board sends bond proposal to voters*

FIFE, Wash. – The Pierce County Fire District 10 Board of Fire Commissioners voted last week to place a bond measure on the August 4, 2026 ballot to fund the purchase of land and construction of a replacement fire station serving the Fife community.

Pierce County Fire District 10 serves the city of Fife and the nearby unincorporated area of Fife Heights. Through the district's partnership with the Tacoma Fire Department, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics respond to an average of about 2,600 emergency calls each year, approximately 80 percent of which are medical emergencies.

Under that agreement, Pierce County Fire District 10 is responsible for providing and maintaining the fire station used by Tacoma Fire crews who respond to emergencies in the district.

The current station, which has been in service since 1955, was not designed for modern fire apparatus or today's firefighter health and safety standards. The building is not earthquake resistant, sleeping quarters are located far from emergency apparatus, and the apparatus bays are too small to accommodate modern fire engines.

Health and safety concerns are also part of the discussion about the facility's future. Modern fire stations include systems designed to reduce firefighters' exposure to carcinogens, such as decontamination areas. The current Pierce County Fire District 10 station does not meet those modern standards.

“The current station has served the community for many years, but it was built for a very different era of firefighting,” said Deputy Chief Jeff Jensen (Ret.). “The board felt it was important to bring the question to voters about replacing it with a facility designed for modern emergency response.”

District leaders recently determined the estimated cost of the proposed bond to be \$0.29 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For a home assessed at \$600,000—considered close to average in the area—that would equal about \$174 per year, or approximately \$14.50 per month.

Emergency services in Washington are funded through property-tax levies. Pierce

County Fire District 10 currently collects \$0.78 for fire services and \$0.27 for emergency medical services per \$1,000 of assessed property value, both below the maximum rates allowed under state law. The district operates with a balanced budget, carries no debt and has maintained clean state audits for more than 25 years.

Residents can learn more about the proposed project at pcfd10.org/station-project or by following Pierce County Fire District 10 on Facebook at [@pcfd10](https://www.facebook.com/pcfd10).

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