

Walla Walla County Fire District 4

Letter to the editor – Thank you for putting measure on ballot

April 19, 2024

The Walla Walla County Fire District 4 Board of Fire Commissioners has my gratitude for placing a fire levy lid lift on the August primary election ballot. This is our first funding request in almost 40 years and would help keep up with rising costs to provide emergency services.

Costs to provide service increase 4-5 percent per year, but state law limits the district's revenue to just a 1 percent increase per year. Our call volumes have increased 30 percent from 2018 to 2022.

Sixty eight percent (68%) of our calls are for medical emergencies. We require additional personnel to reduce response times.

We also need to protect the health and safety of our firefighters. The lid lift would fund renovations at Station 41 on Howard Street to upgrade the ventilation system and replace apparatus that has aged out of service.

The fire district can meet its daily operational and capital needs through this request, which means paying cash instead of borrowing money, which costs taxpayers more in interest payments.

Please learn more about the lid lift at www.wwfire4.org.

Thank you,

Lt. Jim Nagle

Walla Walla County Fire District #4
jimmarilynnagle@gmail.com
(509)525-2223