

COUNTYWIDE FIRE PREVENTION & RESPONSE PROPOSED MEASURE H, MARCH 2024



“Funding from Measure H will allow the Sebastopol Fire Department to implement significant improvements to our emergency services. Several needs were recently confirmed during a comprehensive analysis of the fire department’s operations and facilities. We plan to use measure funds to achieve 24-hour staffing to support the volunteer staff that respond to over 1300 calls for service a year. This will improve response times throughout the city. Additional staffing will also expand services in fire prevention and fuels reduction programs as well as make improvements to the disaster preparedness plan. We also plan to use funds to enable the fire department to upgrade the existing fire station, purchase necessary apparatus and fire equipment, and provide training programs for the volunteers. This will help keep our volunteers well trained, well equipped, and safe. Finally, this measure will support all agencies in Sonoma County allowing increased capacity to expand emergency response and resiliency in helping wildfires from becoming major incidents”.

Todd Derum, Interim Sebastopol Fire Chief

REVENUE WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TO COUNTY RESIDENTS

- Recruitment and retention of local firefighters
- Improved response times
- Increased wildfire prevention and response
- Expanded paramedic services
- Infrastructure improvements
- Red flag and winter storm upstaffing
- Provide staffing to rural and underserved communities
- Supports an improved dispatch center
- Enhanced vegetation management and fuels reduction
- Provides collaborative technology platforms

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

➤ How much will this tax generate?

This 1/2 cent sales tax is expected to generate approximately \$60 million annually to address the current and future funding challenges that face EVERY fire agency in the county.

➤ How will the expenditures be governed?

Revenue will go directly to fire agencies. Their governing bodies, either City Councils or District Boards will be responsible for ensuring that the funds are spent in accordance with the ordinance.

Additionally, an independent oversight committee will review the expenditures of each agency.

➤ How much funding will my local fire department get?

Sebastopol Fire Department will receive 1.8 % of the annual tax revenue (nearly \$1.1 million), plus cover the cost of emergency dispatch which is an additional \$75,000 annually.

➤ What will the funding be used for?

- Hire and retain firefighters for 24-hour staffing
- Funding for volunteer firefighters
- Increased fire prevention and vegetation management resources
- Critical facility station upgrades



**For more information, please visit
SonomaChiefs.org**

