

Responsibilities:

Fire District 6 (FD6) provides fire, rescue, and emergency services to a response area that spans from Gold Creek to Lost River.

How can I vote?

In April, ballots will be mailed to voters. Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before April 28. Ballots deposited in drop boxes must be there no later than 8 p.m. on April 28. Drop boxes in Twisp, Pateros, and Okanogan will be open.

Reminder to Winthrop voters: With the 2017 annexation of Winthrop into FD6, all Winthrop voters can vote in this – and any other – FD6 election.



Questions?

Contact Cody Acord, FD6 District Chief, at (509) 997-2981 or cacord@okanogancountyfd6.com

For more info:

Visit okanogancountyfd6.com for information about:

- Our local fire district.
- The needs assessment for the new station.
- The design and cost of the new station.
- The new station location.
- The Betti Foundation grant.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE BY APRIL 28!



District 6 DISPATCH

Serving the upper Methow Valley from Gold Creek to Lost River – SPECIAL EDITION

Published April 2020

PROPOSITION 6 FACTS

Why a levy increase is necessary

To keep firefighters safe as they respond to increased fire risks and population growth, FD6 needs to modernize and add capacity. Our current budget can't accommodate these changes. FD6's most urgent need is a new district fire station and training facility in Winthrop. Other needs include improving existing fire stations and adding equipment and firefighters.

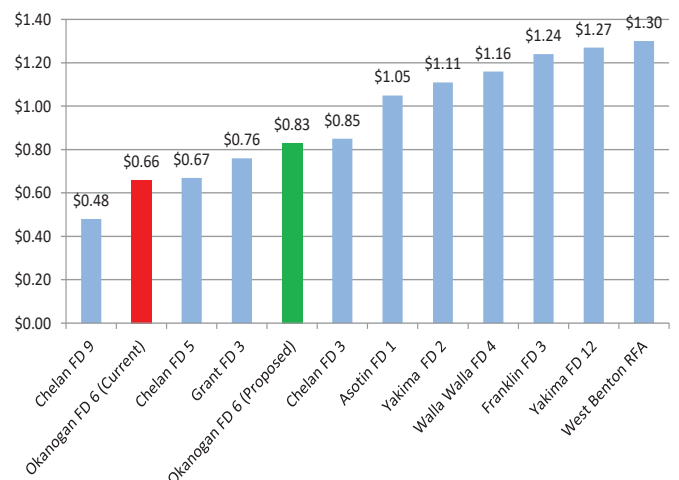


The effect of Proposition 6

If approved, the FD6 property tax levy would increase by approximately \$.175 to \$.83 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV). For a property with an assessed value of \$300,000, the added property tax would be \$52.20 per year or \$4.35 per month.

The proposed new levy rate is comparatively low

Of the 160 other county fire districts in Eastern Washington, 85 have a 2020 levy rate higher than \$.83 per \$1,000 assessed value (AV); 75 districts have a lower rate. Our fire district protects property with an AV of \$1.2 billion. Of the 10 other districts protecting property with similar total AV, 7 have a higher levy rate and 3 have a lower rate. The chart shows how FD6 compares with the other 10 districts.



A new district station & training facility will be the first thing funded by Proposition 6 revenues

Benefits of a new district station & training facility:

We'll get there faster: If firefighters are at the station when an emergency happens, we can get to you more quickly. With capacity for 24-hour staffing, the new station will help us save lives and property. Getting to fires faster keeps small fires from becoming megafires.

Better-trained firefighters: The new facility will allow all standard training to take place on site and be held more often. Everyone benefits when firefighters are at peak proficiency.

Health and safety: Firefighters are exposed to many toxic, cancer-causing substances. New, dedicated decontamination facilities will prevent toxins from being spread at the station and in firefighters' homes.

Accident prevention: At the current Winthrop station, firefighters get dressed where fire engines park. The space is narrow and does not meet state safety standards. The new station will have a separate locker room in addition to adequate clearance in vehicle bays.



Cost reduction:

The Betti Foundation grant:

The Betti Foundation has awarded Fire District 6 a one-of-a-kind \$1.8 million grant to develop a vocational training facility. \$650,000 of this grant will help pay for part of the new station. The grant would also establish and run a vocational training program at no cost to taxpayers. If Proposition 6 doesn't pass, the grant will be lost.

Design choices: Design choices have also significantly reduced the cost of the new station.

Comparison:

With these design choices and the grant, the new station will cost about \$285 per square foot. The typical range for a similar facility in Eastern Washington is \$400-\$450/square foot.

Okanagan County Fire District 6
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