

# Smithville Area Fire Protection District



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## November Ballot Issue Fact Sheet

**The Smithville Area Fire Protection District (SAFPD) was formed in 1989 and provides fire-rescue services, including basic life support emergency medical care, to 112 square miles of Clay and Platte Counties.**

The Fire District is governed by Missouri Revised Statutes Chapter 321 and is overseen by a 5-member Board of Directors elected at-large. The Fire District is operated by a Fire Chief and Administrative Assistant, and 12 Operations personnel. Operations personnel include 3 Captains and 9 Firefighter-EMTs. Operations personnel are divided into 3 shifts with 1 Captain and 3 Firefighters working revolving cycles of 48 hours on and 96 hours off.

**Fire District personnel respond to over 1,200 calls for service annually.** These include fires, medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, electrical and chemical emergencies, fire alarms, and public service requests.

The Fire District currently has three facilities. Station 1 is located at 119 E Church Street in downtown Smithville. This building serves today as our training facility and for the storage of District property. The building is not staffed, and no equipment responds from this location.

**Station 2 is located at 341 Park Drive and is the District headquarters. The station is staffed 24 hours a day with a minimum of 3 personnel who respond to all requests for service from this location.** The station houses our primary and back-up pumpers (fire engines), a tanker truck, 2 brush trucks, 2 boats, and a rescue unit which is used to pull the rescue boats. The Fire Chief and Administrative Assistant also work out of Station 2.

**Station 3 is located at 18315 Collins Road in the Paradise community. The station is not staffed at this time; but does house a pumper, tanker, utility truck, and 1 rescue boat.**

The Smithville Area Fire Protection District has an **operating budget of \$1.4 million dollars** (2020). These funds come from a **\$.2821/100 levy** on real estate and personal property; and a half-cent sales tax on goods and services sold in the District. The current ceiling on the property tax is **\$.3000/100** as set by voters in 1989. The levy has been reduced or 'rolled back' by the Hancock Amendment annually in line with the consumer price index. The District also collects a **\$.2000/100 bond levy** to pay for bonds approved in 2009 and 2015. **Those bonds will be paid off in 2027.**

In 2017, the Smithville Area Fire Protection District was audited by the Missouri State Auditor in response to a citizen petition drive. The performance audit investigated not only the financials of the organization, but also its operating conditions. Numerous recommendations were made by the auditor and many changes have occurred since the audit was completed.

One request from the State Auditor was for staff to put forth a plan to staff Fire Station #3. The fire station had been built utilizing funds from the 2015 bond issue, but not staffed due to the failure of the

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levy increase issue on the same ballot. **The fire station was completed in 2017 and remains unstaffed today.**

In August of 2019, Fire Chief Dave Cline presented to the Board of Directors a plan to fully staff Fire Station #3. **The plan requires passage of a 35-cent increase to the current 30 - cent ceiling of the property tax levy. The new tax rate \$ .6321 would be in place for 1 year then be subject to adjustment under the Hancock Amendment. The additional funds generated by the levy would be applied to the general fund for operations of the District.**

The implementation of the plan would allow the Fire District to hire 3 new firefighters, adding 1 position per shift, annually as revenues increase. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> year (2024), Station 3 would be opened with 3 personnel on duty with a minimum of 2. Additional firefighters would be hired annually to increase that staffing to 4 personnel assigned with a minimum of 3 on duty at all times. In addition to the new firefighter positions, 3 supervisors would be promoted to oversee operations of both stations daily. These promotions would be backfilled with 3 new hire firefighters for a total of 15 new positions. **In 2026, daily staffing for operations will be a shift commander and 4 personnel on duty at each fire station. Minimum staffing due to vacation or sick leave would always then be 3 firefighters on duty at each station.**

**Staffing Fire Station #3 would increase the number of resources, equipment, and personnel available to respond to requests for service throughout the entire fire district. Currently only one pumper truck is staffed around the clock; typically with 4 firefighters but with a minimum of 3 at all times.**

## Current Staffing - minimum of 3 personnel staffing 1 apparatus daily

|                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                     | Fire Chief          |                     |
| A- Shift<br>Captain | B- Shift<br>Captain | C-Shift<br>Captain  |
| 3- Firefighter-EMTs | 3- Firefighter-EMTs | 3- Firefighter-EMTs |

## 2026 Proposed Staffing Plan - minimum of 7 personnel staffing 2 apparatus daily

|                             |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                             | Fire Chief                  |                            |
| A- Shift<br>Assistant Chief | B- Shift<br>Assistant Chief | C-Shift<br>Assistant Chief |
| <b>Station 2</b> Captain    | <b>Station 2</b> Captain    | <b>Station 2</b> Captain   |
| 3- Firefighter-EMTs         | 3- Firefighter-EMTs         | 3- Firefighter-EMTs        |
| <b>Station 3</b> Captain    | <b>Station 3</b> Captain    | <b>Station 3</b> Captain   |
| 3- Firefighter-EMTs         | 3- Firefighter-EMTs         | 3- Firefighter-EMTs        |