



# OSWEGO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



3511 WOOLLEY ROAD • OSWEGO, IL .60543 • (630)554-2110 FAX: (630)554-8681

## **Press Release**

**For Immediate Release  
February 17, 2023**

### **Oswego Fire Protection District Seeking Approval to Issue General Obligation Bonds**

**(Oswego, IL)**

The Oswego Fire Protection District will be seeking voter approval at the April 4, 2023 election to issue General Obligation Bonds.

The Oswego Fire Protection District provides fire protection, emergency medical services and rescue services to the entire Village of Oswego, a significant portion of the Village of Montgomery, a portion of the City of Plainfield and a small area within the city limits of Yorkville. In addition, the Oswego Fire Protection District provides services to areas of unincorporated Kendall and Will Counties within the 52 square miles of the Fire District's jurisdiction. The Fire District serves a total population of approximately 75,000 and in 2022 the Fire District responded to 6,763 calls for service.

Since the District's last referendum, over 20 years ago, the District's call volume has increased from 2,000 to over 6,700 calls per year, staffing has increased from 17 firefighter/paramedics to 75, and stations have increased from 2 to 4. Another driving force behind the request is the significant increased cost of apparatus and equipment. Emergency vehicles such as fire engines have increased from \$300,000 to over \$900,000, cardiac monitors have gone from \$14,000 to over \$44,000, and the firefighters' self-contained breathing apparatus have gone up from \$2,000 to over \$8,000 in the past 20 years.

The Fire District has been unsuccessful in the past three elections to pass a rescue tax. The feedback from those three attempts was that the majority of voters were not interested in a "forever" tax and they wanted to know exactly what the money would be spent on. This shift to Bonds addresses both of those concerns. The length of the bonds will be ten years and there is a specific list of items attached to how those funds would be spent. The list includes: replacement of aging apparatus and equipment that is outside of industry standards, construction of an additional satellite station and updating of current facilities.



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Before considering asking voters to approve a tax rate increase, the District has sought and received over \$1,000,000 in private, State, and Federal grants; secured almost \$750,000 in government surplus equipment; and established its own vehicle service program. The Fire District has also looked at the consequences for not seeking the additional funding. Looking at the current and projected growth in service demands in the next several years, ambulance availability will decrease, and response times will increase.

The Fire District estimates the increase in property taxes for the average homeowner will be approximately \$94.00 per year, based on an average fair market value of \$300,000. This increase would appear on tax bills through 2034.

For more information or to host an informational meeting or join the Friends visit the District's website [www.oswegofire.com](http://www.oswegofire.com), email Chief Cornish at [chief@oswegofire.com](mailto:chief@oswegofire.com), email the Friends at [friendsofoswegofire@oswegofire.com](mailto:friendsofoswegofire@oswegofire.com), or visit [www.friendsofoswegofire.com](http://www.friendsofoswegofire.com).

*The Oswego Fire Protection District was formed by voter referendum in March of 1936, covers over 60 square miles in the northeast portion of Kendall County and about 1.5 square miles of northwest unincorporated Will County.*

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