

SPECIAL NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

The Board of Directors of the Hidden Valley Fire District wants you to be aware that the Board is in the process of negotiating a renewal of the contract for emergency medical and fire protection services with Rural Metro Corporation (RM).

- The renewal contract would extend RM services for an additional 5 years.
- The current contract has been in effect for 11 years. Except for the last year, the contract price has only increased for inflation during this period.
- The contract price is currently \$282,000 and would increase \$35,000 per year for the next two years. During years 3-5 of the contract, the price would only increase according to the rate of inflation.
- The contract is expected to raise the fire district tax rate by approximately 4% per year for the next five years, increasing from its current rate of \$0.8012 per \$100 net assessed value to approximately \$0.9700 in 2026. This rate would continue to be the lowest in the county and is 13% less than the second-lowest rate in the county in effect *today*.
- For a typical home of 2,200 sqft and a net assessed value of \$31,000, the fire district tax would increase from \$250 to approximately \$330 by the end of the five-year period. By comparison, a RM subscription for a home of this size *today* would be \$435, not including an autopay discount set to expire this year.

Aside from the cost and five-year extension, updates to the RM contract would:

- Require RM's responses to be Advanced Life Support (ALS) capable.
- Require RM to assist the local Firewise program, as part of its current obligation to provide community information and educational services.
- Require a Responsible Officer at RM to be available to the Board Chair 24x7 by cell phone.
- Require a dispatch time of 60 seconds or less for 90% of all emergency calls.
- Require monthly staffing reports for Station 73 (Kolb Road), in addition to the current monthly activity and response time reports.
- Require an annual report including an analysis of RM's performance with respect to response times and a description of activities relating to operations, fire prevention, and public education.
- Require RM to cooperate with any District audits of contract compliance and performance records.
- Update standard contract provisions regarding compliance with immigration laws, conflicts of interest, non-discrimination, public records, and insurance amounts.

This notice and a draft of the renewal contract showing changes from the current contract can be found on the Hidden Valley Fire District website below:

<https://www.hiddenvalleyfd.org/documents>

The Board is planning a public meeting to discuss approval of this contract. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, June 11. The final meeting agenda, date, time, and location will be distributed as usual to the HOAs within the district and posted on the District's website. At the meeting, there will be an opportunity for District residents to ask questions. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may submit questions and comments to the Board Chair, Lee Alter, via email: alterpeople@me.com

May 29, 2021