

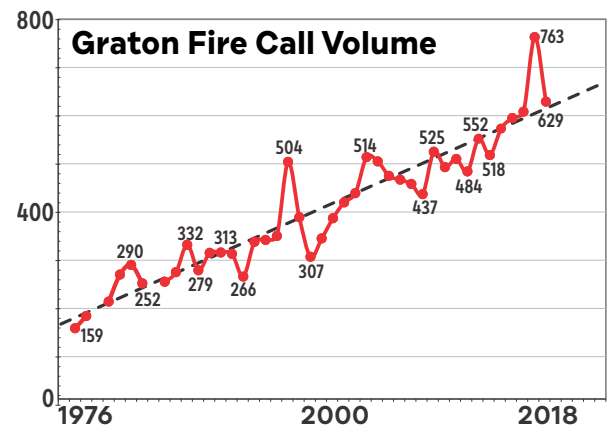


Graton Fire Protection District: Challenges and Opportunities Facing Our Community

Graton Fire Board of Directors has placed its first parcel tax on the ballot to fund fire and emergency response services, which will address current and future demands for service, increasing safety for District residents. The decision to propose a parcel tax for fire and emergency services follows two years of significant internal and external research of options and needs.

Current Challenges

- Ever-increasing call volume, headed for more than 800 emergency calls this year
- Decreasing number of local volunteers
- No guarantee that volunteers will be available at all times, especially during the daytime
- Response times are too high, it currently takes 4-5 minutes for volunteers to reach the station, staff an engine, and respond
- Maintaining emergency equipment



Why Now?

- Graton Fire has become the busiest all-volunteer department in Sonoma County
- 40% more calls for help than any other volunteer department
- There are twice as many emergency calls as 20 years ago
- Graton is being sustained by 100% volunteers, from the fire chief to the trainees
- 65% of Graton volunteers no longer live in the District due to high cost of housing
- 85% work outside of Graton making them unavailable for daytime calls

Benefits of a Parcel Tax for Our Future

- Full-time paid firefighters on-duty, ready to go, 24/7, in addition to current volunteer firefighters
- Significantly reduced response times
- Graton Fire can better protect residents by stopping wild fires sooner, before they grow out of control
- Faster response to emergencies, including starting CPR sooner to save lives
- Dedicated staffing may lower home insurance premiums for District residents
- Positions Graton Fire for future collaborations with partner fire districts
- Local tax dollars are kept here in Graton
- Retaining our volunteer firefighters as an integral part of our Fire Department:
 - ▶ staffing shifts
 - ▶ responding to calls alongside career staff
 - ▶ participating on disaster strike teams

We Want Your Input!

- ✓ Complete our survey www.GratonFire.com/Survey
- ✓ Email us at info@GratonFire.com
- ✓ Call the Fire Chief, 823-8400, ext. 101

