

FACTS ABOUT THE MAY 4TH, 2024 SPECIAL ELECTION TO FINANCE A NEW CENTRAL FIRE STATION FOR BRAZOS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 2 (BCESD 2)

BRAZOS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 2

- **Provides:** fire, rescue, and first responder medical services 24/7/365.
- **Serves:** approximately 4,500 people.
- **Covers:** 133 square miles of Northeast Brazos County.

WHY A NEW CENTRAL FIRE STATION?

- Growing population in BCESD 2 is resulting in increased nighttime & weekend calls.
- Increasing number of First Responder EMS calls.
- Improved response times from a Central Station with 24 hour staffing.

VOTER APPROVAL IS NEEDED TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX RATE TO FINANCE A NEW FIRE STATION

In 2003 when the Rural Fire Prevention Districts were converted to Emergency Services Districts by the Texas Legislature BCESD 2 became an ESD with a maximum property tax rate of \$0.03/\$100 of valuation. For BCESD 2 to increase its ad valorem tax rate, voter approval is required.

HOW THE EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE FINANCED

BCESD 2 is the governmental entity that collects property tax which is capped at \$0.03/\$100 of property valuation and sales tax revenue (\$0.015 of sales within the District) which is used to finance the emergency services. Services are accomplished through paid staff and an agreement with the District 2 Volunteer Fire Department.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PROPERTY TAX CAP RATE VOTE FAILS

BCESD 2 will continue to provide fire, rescue, and first responder service from the present stations using existing resources.

FEATURES A NEW CENTRAL FIRE STATION WILL PROVIDE:

- Feature 1: Longer truck bays to house modern trucks.
- Feature 2: Crew sleeping quarters and a simple kitchen for fixing meals.
- Feature 3: 25 seat training/conference room also available to community groups.
- Feature 4: Basic design and construction to serve long term community needs.
- Feature 5: Central location to cover 133 square miles.

COST OF A NEW FIRE STATION

- **Building Cost:** Approximately \$3,000,000.
- **Needed Tax Rate:** Just over \$0.04/\$100 valuation. The property taxes will be used to pay the debt service for 20 years.
- **Example of Cost:** A \$270,000 home in BCESD 2 presently taxed at \$56.67 a year would rise to \$118 a year, or about \$5.11 per month.

WHY IS A SPECIAL ELECTION NEEDED?

Reason: Existing property tax and sales tax revenue are not adequate to fund a new station.

HAVE OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY ALREADY DONE THIS: Yes.

2019 LONG TERM PLANNING INDICATED BCESD 2 POPULATION GROWTH WILL REQUIRE:

- A New Central Fire Station
- Full Time Crews (transitioned from current part time crews)

PAST SALES TAX ELECTION FOR UPGRADED SERVICES

In 2019, a BCESD 2 sales tax election was held and approved by voters allowing the District to hire a part time crew, purchase a 3,000 gallon tender, hire a full time Fire Chief, purchase a brush truck, and buy self-contained breathing apparatus.

HISTORY

Brazos County Emergency Services District 2 (BCESD 2) was established in 2003 as a successor to Brazos County Rural Fire District 2 (organized in 1988) when the 78th Texas Legislature converted all Rural Fire Districts to Emergency Services Districts.