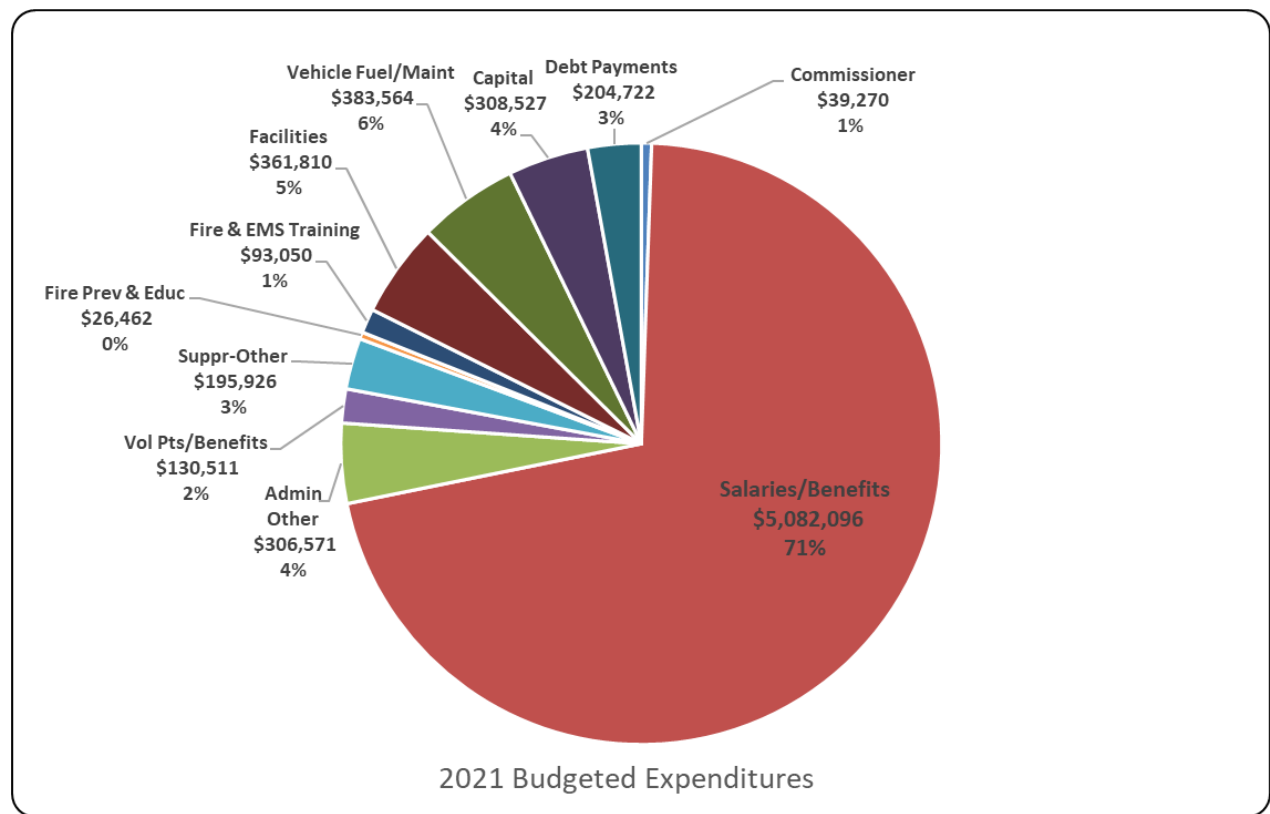


INTRODUCTION

West Thurston Regional Fire Authority (RFA) is comprised of two fire districts (Rochester/Grand Mound #1, and Littlerock #11), and is funded primarily through a combined Regular (non-voted) and Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Levy (voted) funding mechanism. These funds enable the RFA, which is the largest geographical and primarily rural fire department in the county, to provide services comparable to city departments. The two West Thurston districts are rated amongst the best of any non-city fire department in the region, with a Public Protection Classification (PPC) of Four (4), which is equal to the bordering city of Tumwater. The improved PPC rating means that property owners save money on fire insurance premiums. However, the real value to the improvements is adequate numbers of well trained and equipped firefighter/emergency medical personnel arriving timely to the emergency.

SERVICE COSTS

The Regular and M&O tax revenue is utilized to fund the delivery of Emergency Medical, Rescue, Wildland and Structural Fire Suppression Services. The revenue also funds investigation, prevention, and public education services. The RFA utilizes these funds to pay firefighter and EMT wages and benefits, uniforms, personal protective equipment, facility and apparatus maintenance, fuel and energy costs and all other supplies or goods and services. Some of the revenue is also used to replace fire engines, aid units, and incident command apparatus and equipment.



REVENUE

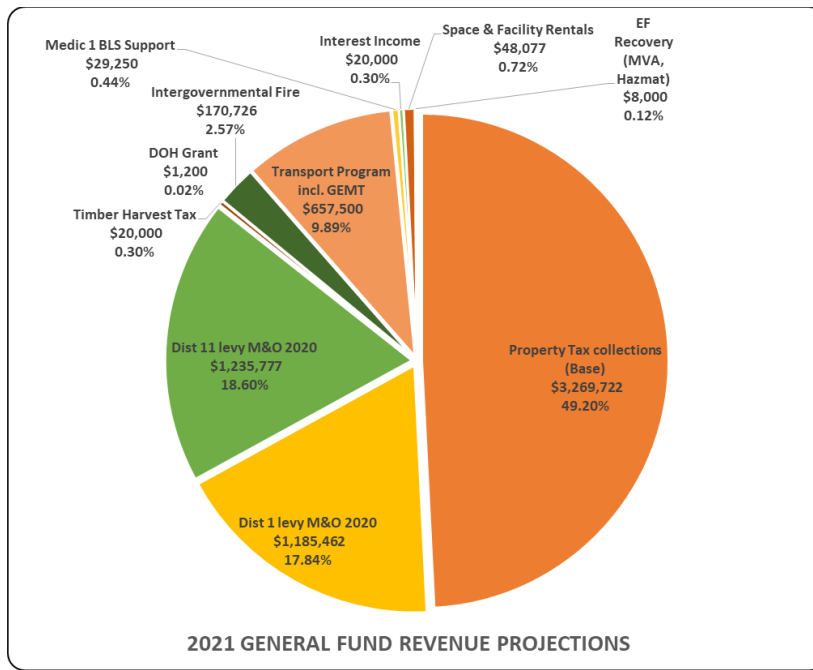
Because of statutory limitations on the Regular Property Tax levy, the amount of regular tax levied per assessed \$1,000 decreases as property values increase, thereby saving property owners taxes as their property values go up.

John Jones Property	
2001 Property Value	\$ 100,000.00
Base Tax Levy Rate per \$1,000	\$ 1.50
Property Owner Tax (\$1.50 X \$100,000 divided by \$1,000)	\$ 150.00
2002 Property Value - increase 10%	110,000.00
District is allowed to tax 1% over 2001 (\$150 X 1.01)	\$ 151.50
Tax per \$1,000 is now 8% lower (\$110,000 AV divided by \$151.50 levy divided by \$1,000)	\$ 1.38

The Maintenance & Operations (M&O) levy is voted on by the district citizens, and is necessary to supplement the Regular Property tax revenue and ensure continued effective and efficient operations of the department. In 2015, community representatives formed the Citizens’ Advisory Committee, and advised the RFA to implement the M&O funding option as a means to prevent firefighter layoffs and to maintain service delivery. The Advisory Committee recommended the RFA “...seek adequate revenue to staff all the staff-able fire stations (more boots on the ground)” and maintain or improve service delivery and response times. In 2016 and 2019, voters in each fire district (#1 and #11) approved a three-year M&O levy. By the end of 2017, the RFA improved emergency service delivery by staffing 4-5 fire stations on a more regular basis, and improving emergency response times, thanks to voter support of the M&O levy.

A third funding option is a Bond Levy, voted on by the district citizens for a specific purpose such as purchasing equipment or constructing facilities. District #1’s bond was paid off in 2020; District #11’s bond will be paid off in 2025.

The RFA is funded almost entirely by the residents and business owners who are located within the emergency response zone, and receives no established Federal, State or county funding. A minor percentage of revenue is received from State and Federal grant funding, and through patient transport revenue. EMS levy dollars collected by Thurston County Medic One (in accordance with 84.52.069) remain primarily with Medic One; a small amount is passed through to the department.



HISTORICAL TAX RATES (per \$1,000)

West Thurston Regional Fire Authority					
Levy Historical Rates					
	Tax Year	Regular Levy	M&O Levy	Bond Levy	
WTRFA	2015	\$ 1.50	\$ 0.33	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	
	2016	\$ 1.50	\$ -	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	
	2017	\$ 1.50	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	
	2018	\$ 1.40	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	
	2019	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	
	2020	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	
	2021	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	<i>Under Dist #1/#11</i>	
TCFD #1	2015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.46	
	2016	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.52	
	2017	\$ -	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.50	
	2018	\$ -	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.50	
	2019	\$ 1.47	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.48	
	<i>New 3-yr M&O levy==></i>	2020	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.09	\$ 0.50
	<i>Bond paid off 2020</i>	2021	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.00	\$ -
TCFD #11	2015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.29	
	2016	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.29	
	2017	\$ -	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.28	
	2018	\$ -	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.28	
	2019	\$ 1.42	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.26	
	<i>New 3-yr M&O levy==></i>	2020	\$ 1.38	\$ 1.06	\$ 0.25
	2021	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.01	\$ 0.25	