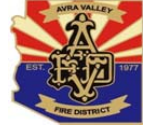


## **AVRA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT Bond Proposal Information**



### **Bond information**

On November 6, 2012 an election will be held to decide whether to give Avra Valley Fire District permission to sell \$4.135 million in bonds in order to better serve the citizens of the District. All registered voters who live in the District have a stake in this important decision. The bond issue will be used to implement the District's 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The plan calls for building a new fire station in Red Rock, remodeling or replacing the other existing fire stations to better utilize the space, pay off current lease purchase debt and refurbish or replace fire trucks and ambulances.

### **Who are we?**

The Avra Valley Fire District was established in 1977 after several years as a volunteer organization. The District's primary goal is to ensure that our community receives consistent, reliable emergency services at a reasonable cost. Over the years, we have experienced dramatic growth in population and geographic area served. Our service area is over 325 square miles and includes areas of Pima and Pinal counties.

The District provides modern fire protection and paramedic emergency medical services. We currently have personnel in three stations, ready for the next emergency response, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to fire protection and emergency medical services, our personnel respond to technical rescues, hazardous materials spills and leaks, conduct fire safety programs, fire investigations and business safety inspections. The District also provides other non-emergency services such as public education programs, CPR classes, a smoke detector program, residential safety surveys and walk-in blood pressure checks.

### **Why is the District holding a bond election?**

The District Board considered various methods of funding the needed capital improvements and chose to hold a bond election. If the District continues to grow, the debt incurred by the District through issuing bonds will be spread over an increasing number of property owners as they enter the District.

The District will continue to pursue grants and other funding options. Should the District obtain funding for projects from grants, it may reduce the amount needed for capital improvements and accordingly reduce the debt incurred through issuing bonds. At the election the District electors will determine if the District will pay for these capital improvements with funds generated by issuing bonds.

## **What does this bond issue provide?**

Based on the findings from extensive studies, it was recommended to the Board of Directors, that a bond election be held to finance future fire stations, facilities and equipment. As indicated herein, if approved, \$2.9 million of the bonds are expected to be issue in March of 2013 with an estimated 20 year amortization period. The recommendation for the first sale includes: The construction of a new fire station in Red Rock, remodeling station #192 in the southern area of the District, remodeling stations #191 and #193 in the middle and Missile Base areas of the District, refurbishing one fire truck, purchasing a new fire truck, and buying an ambulance. If necessary, a second bond sale of up to \$1.245 million will occur on or around September 2018 and will build fire stations and purchase equipment for these stations.

## **Why now?**

The bond package that the Board of Directors is placing before the voters for their approval is based on the recommendations of extensive strategic planning sessions with admin staff, operations staff and members of the board. The committee identified that the District's large geographical size and increasing demands for services are the major driving forces behind the recommendation for the bond. The construction of a station in the northern part of the District is necessary to even approximate standard emergency response time guidelines. Some property owners in the District may benefit from lower ISO ratings which translate into lower property insurance premiums.

## **How much will this cost a property owner?**

Using property values estimated by Pima and Pinal Counties, it is currently estimated that the cost for each property would be about \$3.40 per month or about \$40.87 per year for the average residential homeowner within the District. That amount may decrease as new properties come onto the tax rolls and the bond debt is spread over a greater number of property owners. The bond issue election establishes a maximum amount of debt the District may incur and the maximum interest rate it may pay. If the District reduces the costs or receives grants, it may reduce the amount of debt it will incur and, therefore, it may reduce the cost to the District's property owners.

## **What happens if this bond election fails?**

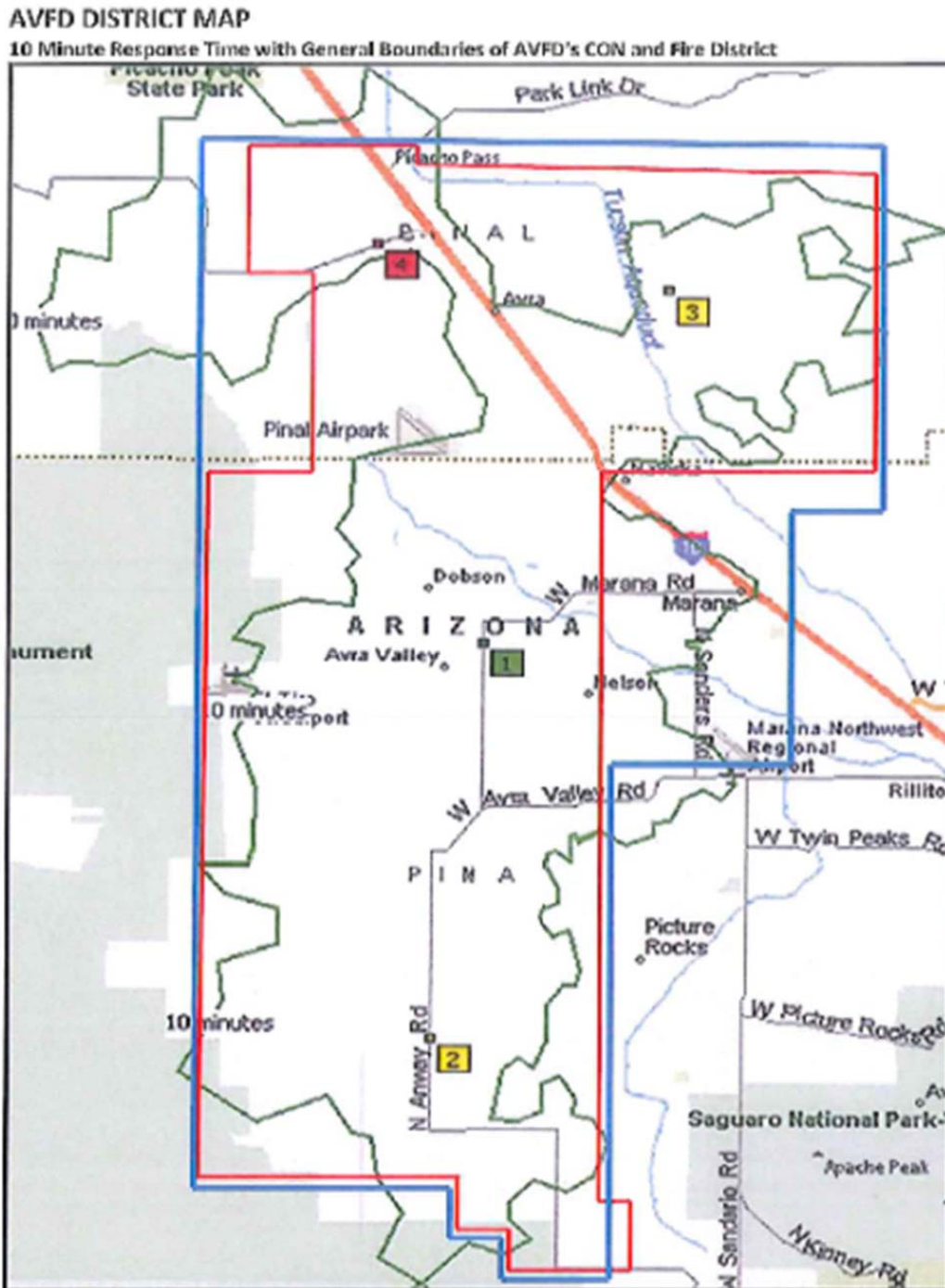
New stations and facility improvements will be delayed or not built. This will result in expanding response areas and longer response times to emergencies. Resources will be further strained and the quality of service may be negatively impacted. Firefighter safety may be jeopardized due to the lack of quality equipment. The current fleet of fire apparatus is aging and without proper and timely replacement the costs for repairs will increase.

## Ten Minute Response Time Area with an Additional Station in Red Rock

**Red border** indicates fire district boundary.

**Blue border** indicates ambulance response boundary.

**Green border** indicates a ten minute response area.



For additional information please visit [www.avfire.org](http://www.avfire.org) or contact us at (520) 682-3255.