

Patrons of Rural Fire District #4 in Buffalo County (Pleasanton):

The May 10th primary election contains a levy override initiative for your rural fire district. That initiative will read:

<p style="text-align: center;">Pleasanton Rural Fire District #4 Levy Override</p> <p>Shall the Pleasanton Rural Fire District #4 in Pleasanton and Buffalo County, Nebraska be given authority to levy a property tax not to exceed 10 cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation in excess of the limits prescribed by law (and to increase the restricted funds base by \$167,415 or 117.68% over the allowable growth percentage) until the fiscal year 2021-2022 for general operations?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For Levy Override Authority <input type="radio"/> Against Levy Override Authority</p>
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This Levy Override vote was requested by the Rural Fire District Board and the volunteers that make up Pleasanton Fire and Rescue. *If the levy passes, taxes paid by property owners to support the fire department would continue as they have the last five years. This is not asking for a tax increase, but rather a continuation of the funds currently dedicated to the fire department.* This override will extend the authority to collect revenue from the previous levy override election that took place in 2011. Prior to the 2011 override authority, the district was borrowing funds to pay general operating expenses. The board along with volunteers greatly value the support of district patrons that are received through tax revenue, donations, manpower, and equipment when requested.

In the previous five years (current override cycle) funds were used to pay OFF old debt, including general operating debt and bonded debt, helped to update the Ambulance, and replace the 1968 Dodge fire truck. Funds went toward additional bunker gear, were used to update self-contained breathing apparatus, and to purchase new Jaws of Life, new medical monitoring equipment, and educational expenses for EMT's and firefighters. General obligations of insurance, maintenance and fuel are also paid out of these funds.

By authorizing the levy override you are providing the rural board the flexibility to adjust the levy as needed from year to year to meet the financial needs of the district. The 2015-2016 levy was set at \$.068 even though they have the authority to request \$.10. In the event the levy fails the district's levy would remain capped around \$.035. In the 2010-2011 fiscal year the district tax receipts were \$45,461.77 and incurred a debt of near \$7,000 for general obligations, and no equipment or facility improvements being made.

Hopefully, you are aware the district obtained, through donation, land near the water tower in Pleasanton to replace the current hall built in the mid 70's. At this time funds from this levy override are not being targeted for infrastructure improvements. The new hall is a long range goal of the district. The funds being requested today are to continue paying everyday bills on time, improve the equipment volunteers use to respond to emergencies, and training expenses the volunteers are willing to donate their time to perform.

Volunteers or rural board members would be happy to provide a tour of the fire station or answer any questions you have about where your funds are being spent. Your vote *FOR Levy Override Authority* would be appreciated.

The Rural Board members include:

John C. Martin, President
Shawn Paitz, Secretary
Darryl Hadwiger
Dale Klein
Ben Unick

You may also contact:

Chad Dixon, Fire Chief
Michael Unick, Assistant Fire Chief
Or any volunteer of Pleasanton Fire and Rescue