## News Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Livingston Parish Fire Protection District 4 seeks additional 15 mill property assessment to meet growing demands of the community

**WALKER**, La.—The Livingston Parish Fire Protection District 4 (LPFPD4) has announced plans to seek an additional 15-mill property assessment on the April 30th ballot.

LPFPD4 Fire Chief James Wascom said, "Livingston Parish population has doubled during the last decade and more than tripled in size since the 1970s. Despite this rapid growth, the millage rate that funds the department has not seen an increase since 1975."

An additional 15 mills would equate to an \$150 for properties with an assessed value of \$100,000 after accounting for a homestead exemption.

"Maintaining and improving the service levels that are needed to adequately protect life and property is a continuing challenge," said Robert Dugas, LPFPD4 Board Chairman.

Additional funding will allow the department to continue providing expert fire protection and emergency medical services by increasing personnel and improving training; acquiring and maintaining needed vehicles, equipment, and fire protection apparatus; and expanding and modernizing district facilities.

The current 10-mill levy generates \$2.6 million for the LPFPD4 annually, yet the department is charged with providing fire protection and life-saving emergency medical services for approximately 64,000 citizens and properties with an appraised value of more than \$400 million.

If approved by voters, the referendum will provide approximately \$3.9 million of additional funding annually. The new 15-mill levy would continue for 20 years, at which time it would have to be placed before the voters again for reauthorization.

"It is an honor to serve and protect our community with the same commitment and professionalism we would exhibit protecting our own family," said Chief Wascom. "But the

LPFPD4 firefighters need additional support to keep up with the growing demands within the parish."

Learn more about the upcoming referendum, by visiting <a href="www.lpfpd4.com/referendum">www.lpfpd4.com/referendum</a> or call the Livingston Parish Fire Protection District 4 at (225)-664-7123.

## **About Livingston Parish Fire Protection District 4**

Established in 1975, Livingston Parish Fire Protection District 4 consists of career and volunteer firefighters who provide fire protection and life-saving first response for accidents and medical emergencies. LPFPD 4 is responsible for one of the largest and fastest growing geographic regions in Louisiana. The district encompasses approximately one-third of Livingston Parish, including the communities of Walker, Watson and Port Vincent; along with portions of Denham Springs and Satsuma. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.LPFPD4.com">www.LPFPD4.com</a>.