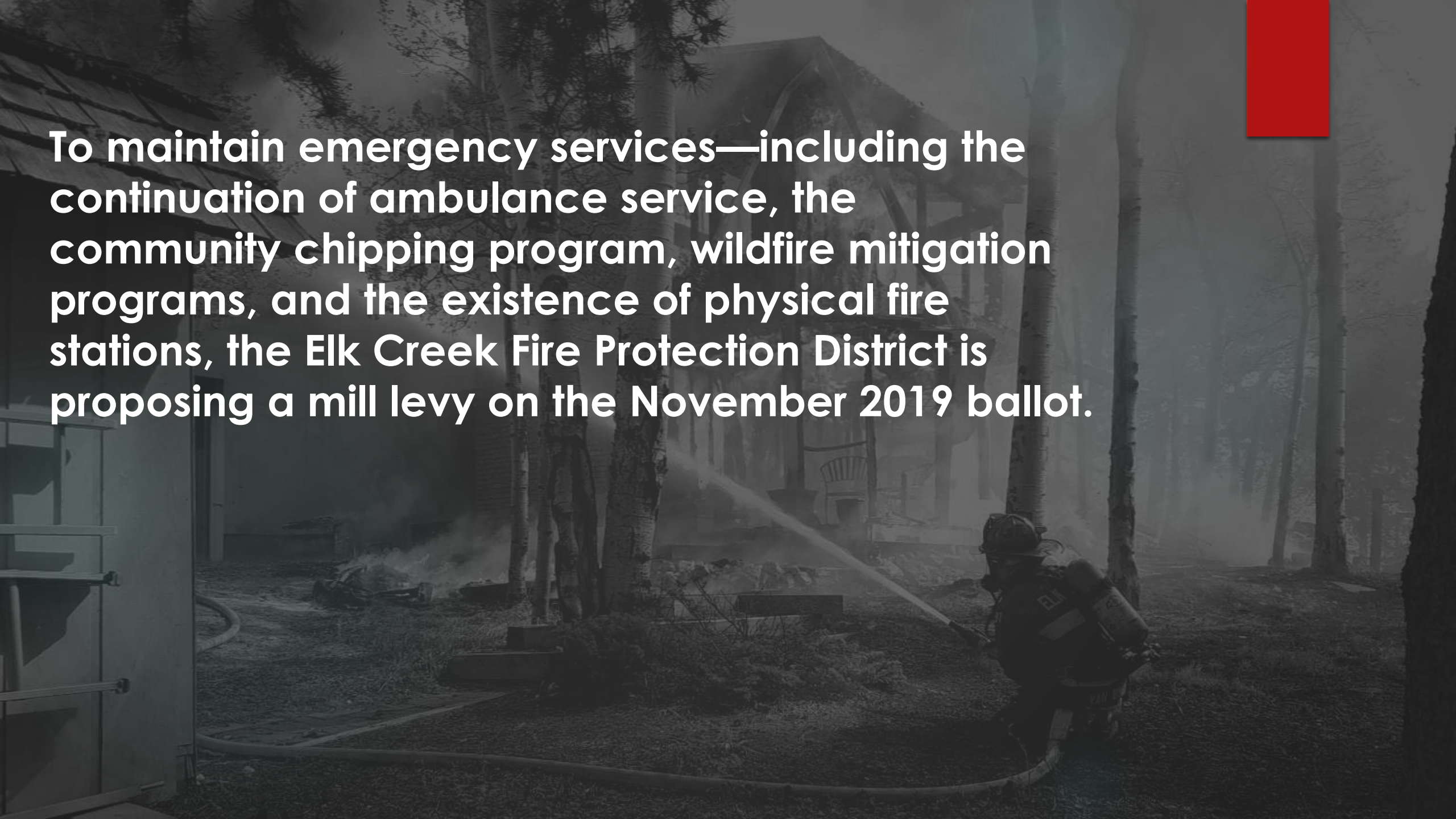




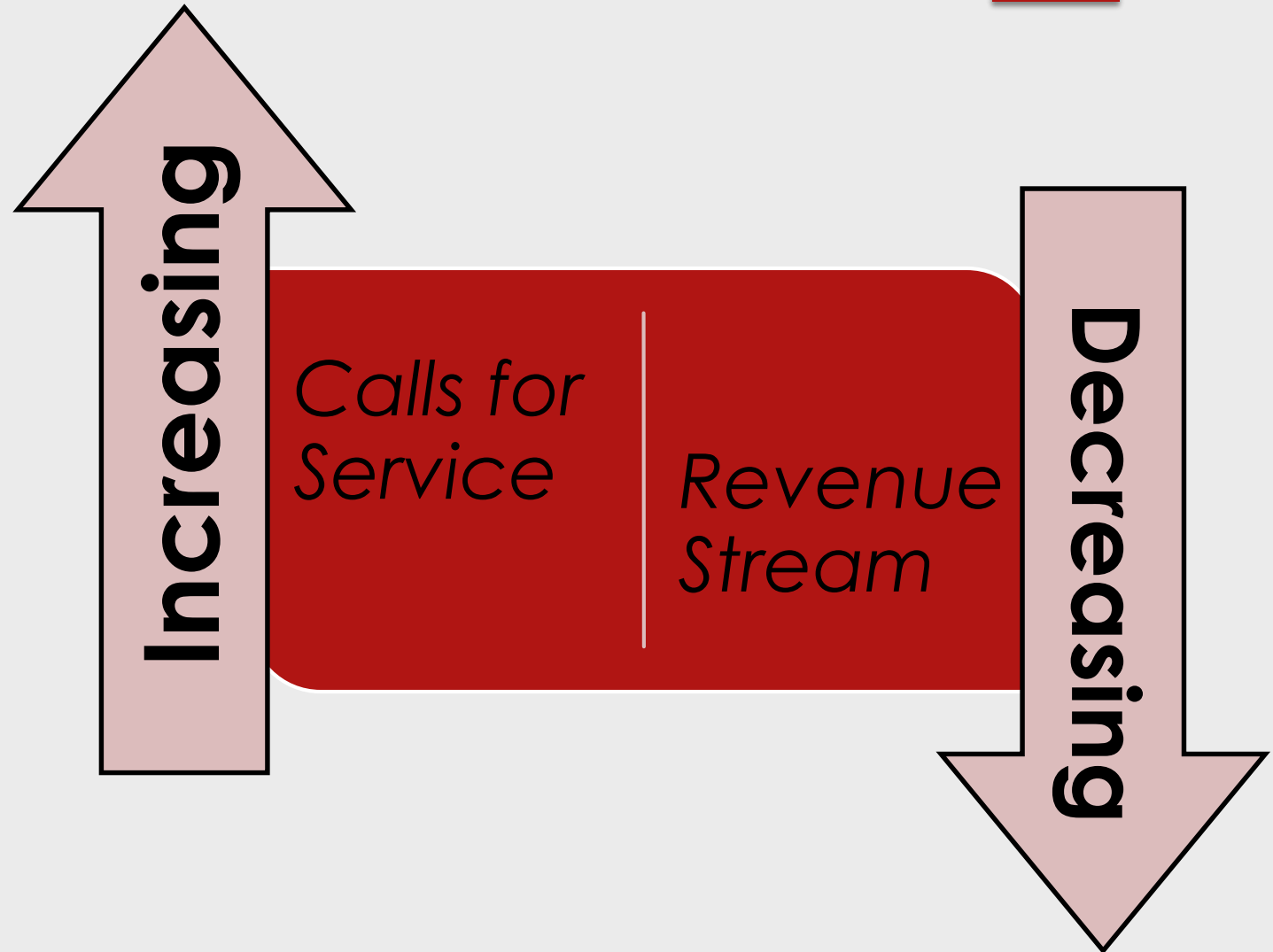
Facts About the Upcoming November 2019 Mill Levy Ballot Proposal

Please click through these slides
(approximately 3 1/2 minutes) for
information and facts

A grayscale photograph of a firefighter in full protective gear, including a helmet and oxygen tank, crouching and spraying a powerful stream of water from a hose onto a fire in a wooded area. In the background, a house is visible through the trees, and smoke or steam rises from the fire. The scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the firefighter's action. A solid red rectangle is positioned in the top right corner of the image.

To maintain emergency services—including the continuation of ambulance service, the community chipping program, wildfire mitigation programs, and the existence of physical fire stations, the Elk Creek Fire Protection District is proposing a mill levy on the November 2019 ballot.

Why is the
Elk Creek
Fire District
proposing a
mill levy?



Calls for service are growing, while revenue stream is decreasing.

In short, cuts to service must now happen if the funding can't be restored.

- ▶ Gallagher Amendment impacts: Since the 2013 mill increase, the residential assessment rate has fallen from 9.13% to 7.15%. It is forecast to fall to roughly 6.5% by 2022.
- ▶ Ambulance revenue: Decreasing revenue from Medicare and Medicaid have caused an already only 50% recovery rate to drop to 43% since 2014. As the population ages, this percentage will continue to decrease.

The background image shows two firefighters in full protective gear, including helmets and jackets, standing in a wooded area. The firefighter on the left has an American flag patch on their sleeve, and the one on the right has the number '281' on their sleeve. A solid red vertical bar is positioned in the top right corner of the image.

**What would the Fire District
use a mill levy for?**

**The most pressing
needs are...**



Fixing the failing water cisterns: During the past winter, the fire district ran out of functioning water sources, putting the whole community at risk.



Maintaining the staffing level – without additional funding, the fire district will have to lay off firefighter/paramedics.

Replacing fire engines and ambulances. Over the next four years, two fire engines and two ambulances need replacing.



Repair and maintenance of the fire stations: Some are over 40 years old, and all need major upgrades in heating, lighting, doors, and weather proofing.

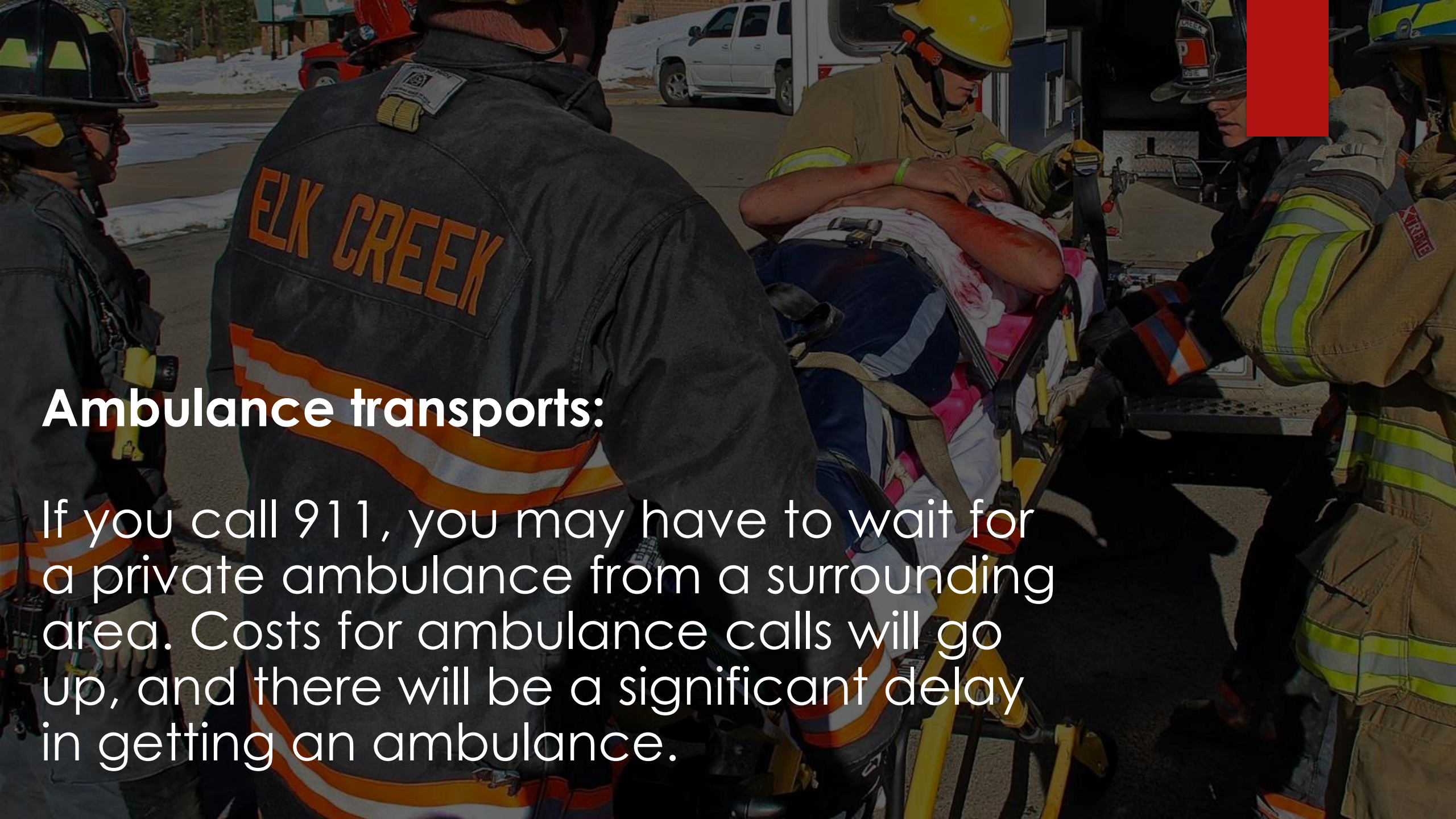


What about the 2013 mill levy?

Elk Creek Fire District passed a mill levy in 2013 to fund: replacement of fire apparatus, building repairs and equipment for volunteer firefighters. That mill levy expires in 2022. The funds expected from the mill levy were less than forecast, as the state reduced the assessment rate. If the mill levy is allowed to expire in 2022, the fire district will have to cut most services.

**What will
happen if
the mill levy
isn't
approved?**

The fire district will have
to cut the following
services:



Ambulance transports:

If you call 911, you may have to wait for a private ambulance from a surrounding area. Costs for ambulance calls will go up, and there will be a significant delay in getting an ambulance.

A photograph showing five firefighters in yellow protective gear and white hard hats working on a brush-chipping program. They are gathered around a large pile of cut brush and branches on a paved road. A yellow brush chipper is positioned in the center, and a red fire truck is visible in the background. The scene is outdoors with trees and grass in the background.

Chipping program:

This program was funded by grants for the first three years. Those grants have run out and are not renewable.

A photograph of a wildfire mitigation crew working in a forest. Several firefighters in yellow gear and helmets are visible, some using tools to clear brush. A small fire is burning in the background, with smoke rising. A red rectangular graphic is in the top right corner.

Mitigation programs:

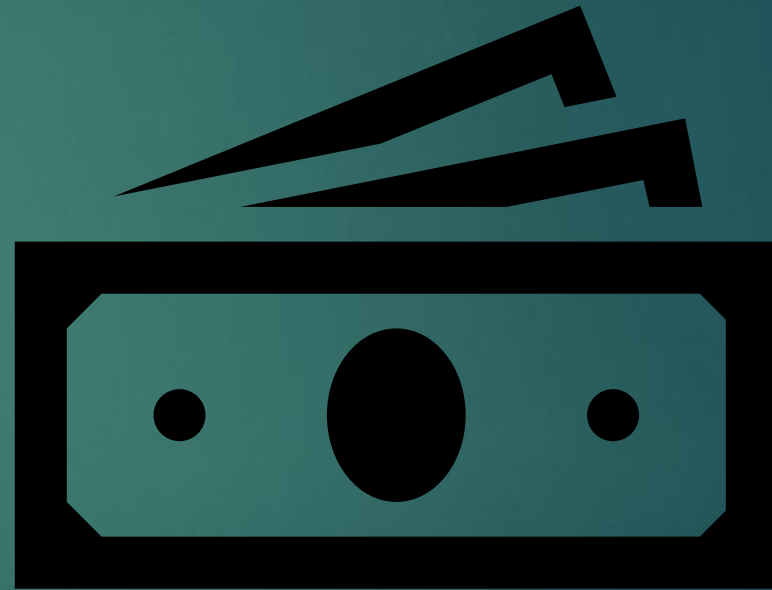
The mitigation crew is funded mostly by grants, but the fire district would no longer be able to provide the cost share. This would also include the wildfire risk evaluation program that helps people keep their fire insurance.



Volunteer fire stations:

Without the funds to replace the older fire engines, maintain fire stations and train new volunteers, at least two of the fire stations would have to be closed.

What would a mill levy cost?

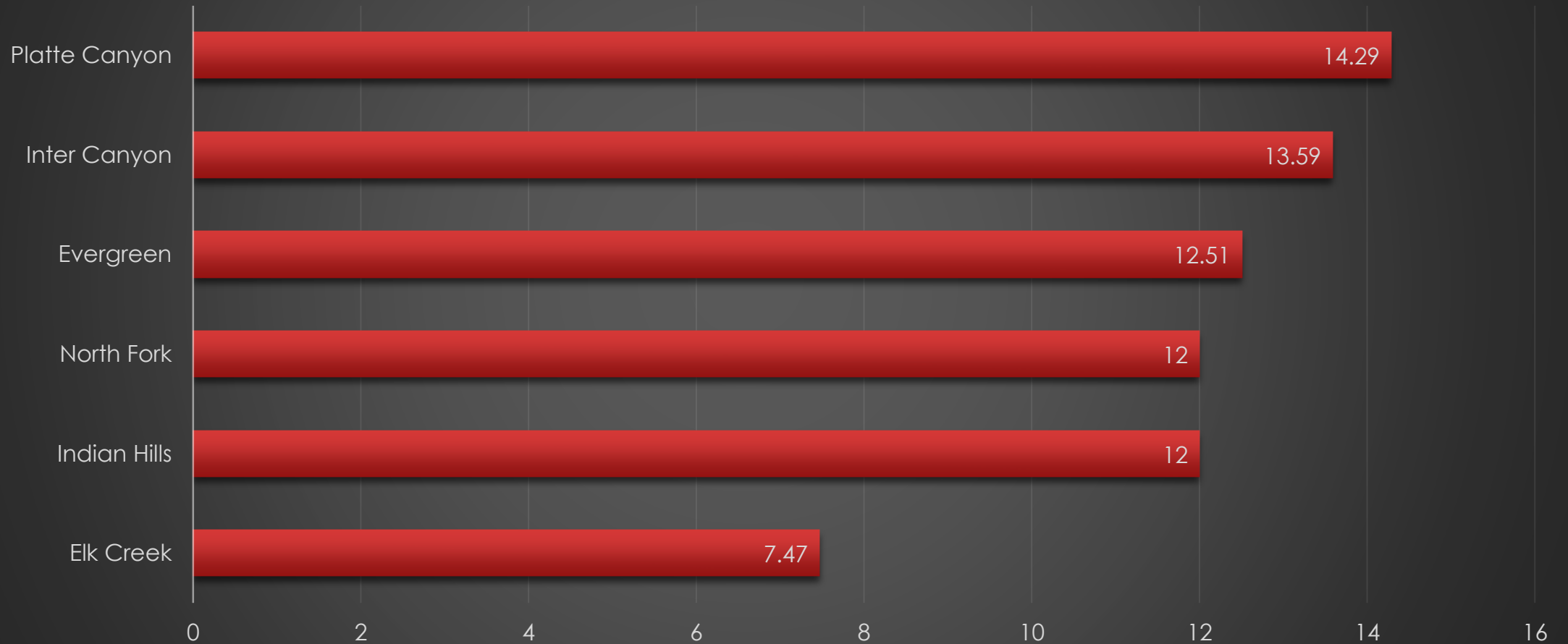


**Elk Creek Fire
is proposing
an increase
to 12.5 to
match the
neighboring
districts.**

To increase the mill levy to 12.5, an owner of a \$400,000 house would pay **\$145.44 more annually**. This comes out to **\$12.12 per month**.

How does the Elk Creek Fire District compare to other fire departments?

Elk Creek Fire District currently has the **lowest mill levy** in the entire Front Range at **7.47 mills**. Here are the other local levies:



How is the fire district funded?

Over 75% of the fire district's funding comes from property tax. 15% percent comes from ambulance revenue. The remaining 10% comes from car license plate fees, donations and other miscellaneous income. The fire department receives no county or state funding, and only occasional grants from the federal government.



Can the fire district make up the needs on donations or grants?

- ▶ The district gets less than 1% of funding from fundraisers and donations.
- ▶ The fire district has been aggressive about getting grants. Grants have paid for 50% of one ambulance, 50% of replacement of cardiac monitors, and 50% of the chipping program and mitigation work. Grants are available only for specified projects and rarely provide above 50% funding. If the fire department cannot provide the match from existing revenue, those grants will not be available.

Can the fire district rely on volunteers?

- ▶ Volunteers help out tremendously, but the workload is too much for them to handle. **The fire district responds to about 4 calls a day now, and that number is growing.** An ambulance transport takes 2 hours out of a volunteer's day. Volunteers can't put in 4 to 8 hours each day, every day.
- ▶ Despite aggressive recruiting, **the number of new volunteers falls each year.** People have jobs, children, hobbies and interests. Across the country, volunteering for the fire department has declined steadily.
- ▶ While we used to see 20 or more volunteer firefighters responding to a house fire, **now our average response to a house fire is 7.**

THANK YOU

For taking the time to look though these facts.

If you have specific questions or need more information, please reach out to us at:

info@elkcreekfire.org