

AMERICAN FORK FIRE STATION BOND

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need a new fire station?

The decision to add a second fire station is recommended after years of consideration by Council and staff. It is also rooted in extensive analysis from a third-party consultant who also recommends a second fire station right now. With more and more development increasing demand on the current fire station, a second fire station will ensure that our community receives the highest level of service possible. It will do this by reducing the chances that our crews will be busy when another call comes in and will increase our 4-6 minute response time to over 90% of our community.

How much will it cost?

The bond (debt) will be about \$8.5 million dollars and will fund the construction of a new fire station and the purchase of land in the southwest part of town for a future fire station. However, the bond for the fire station will not increase the city's debt. This is because the bond will take the place of (and actually be lower than) the city's current debt payments for our police and courts building, as well as our current fire station, which will end in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Will this raise my property taxes?

The \$8.5 million for the construction of a second fire station will not raise your taxes. This is because the bond will take the place of (and actually be lower than) the city's current debt payments for our police and courts building, as well as our current fire station, which will end in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

What is a General Obligation Bond?

A General Obligation (G.O.) Bond, which is what we are recommending to fund the construction of a second fire station, is a "loan" the city can get to fund capital projects. The loan is paid back, with interest, using public funds (taxes) and as such require the public to approve the debt by voting on it as part of the general election ballot.

What will the bond get us?

The city is recommending that citizens approve a bond on this year's ballot for \$8.5 million. This bond will pay for the land in the northeast part of town, the construction of a 15,000 sq. ft. fire station, and land acquisition for an additional fire station that will be needed in the future. The fire station will also include a staging area for police, as well as a firing range in the basement for police to train in (they currently travel to Springville and Cedar Fort for their training. Apparatus such as the fire truck, ambulance, and brush truck to outfit this new fire station have already been acquired as part of a contract to service Cedar Hills.

If the bond covers capital costs, how will we fund the operations?

The Mayor and City Council are committed to funding this critical need and are considering a variety of options to fund operating expenses related to a second fire station. It will likely be paid for through several means, including revenue from emergency transports and from a fire service contract with Cedar Hills. Operating costs for a second fire station are also part of a larger property tax discussion American Fork city council is currently having along with funding critical infrastructure needs like roads and utilities.

Where will the second fire station be located?

The second fire station will be located in the northeast part of town. There are a number of reasons for this. For one it will provide the best coverage to all our current and future residents across the northern part of the city where some of the longest response times currently exist. The new fire station will cover the north, including the northwest, thanks to the recently approved Murdock Connector, which will begin construction in 2020. With this connector our fire department can cover over 90% of our community within the nationally recommended 4-6 minute response time.

Another reason ESCI recommended a station in the northeast part of AF is because of geography, more specifically elevation. Northeast is actually at a higher elevation from the rest of American Fork City, which allows for faster response times. Ambulances and fire trucks are big and heavy and can travel more quickly downhill than uphill, effectively increasing their range.

Locating in the northeast also places the second fire station close to some key facilities that require a lot of demand from Fire & Rescue. These facilities include the Utah State Developmental Center, the Mt. Timpanogos Temple, and the AF

Hospital. Additionally, American Fork will still be able to service Cedar Hills at this location.

What's Cedar Hills got to do with this?

In July of 2019 Cedar Hills began contracting with American Fork to provide fire and rescue services for their city. At that time American Fork began stationing crews and equipment in the Cedar Hills. With the creation of a second fire station in the northeast part of town American Fork City will be able to provide the necessary coverage for our community while still providing the contracted coverage for Cedar Hills.

Why can't we just stay in the Cedar Hills station?

With the creation of a second fire station in the northeast part of town American Fork City will be able to provide the necessary coverage for our community while still providing the contracted coverage for Cedar Hills. However, if we stayed in the Cedar Hills fire station we would not be able to adequately cover American Fork's needs. Even if we did not have a contract with Cedar Hills, because of location and elevation, the northeast part of town would still be the optimal location for our second fire station.

How will this affect my home insurance rates (ISO rating)?

Every city has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, which is used to determine how safe a city is. This score is then provided to local homeowners insurance companies who use the score to help them set insurance rates. The better a city is covered the less risky they are and thus the lower the rates. ISO ratings are scored 1-10 and, like golf, the lower the score the better. Currently American Fork has an ISO rating of 2, which puts us in the top 1% of the State. However, without another station to maintain our fire suppression coverage in our growing community we risk slipping in our ISO rating, which would affect how much people pay for insurance in our community.

When will it get built?

If approved construction would begin next year and the new station will be completed in 2021.

What are the next steps?

The American Fork Fire Station Bond will be on the ballot this fall. Ballots will be mailed October 15, and should be mailed back by November 4. You can also vote

in person on November 5 at our AF Library polling station. If you have not already please register to vote at vote.utah.gov.

Why are we buying land on the south side of AF also?

The next largest growth area in American Fork will likely be the south part of town (south of I-15). As part of ESCI's analysis they recommended another fire station be built on the south side of town in the future to accommodate that growth. With developing already beginning in the area we felt it was smart to act now before property values go up higher or the land becomes unavailable. We do not have a specific location yet but will begin looking based on voter approval of the bond.

Will Police also be housed in the new facility?

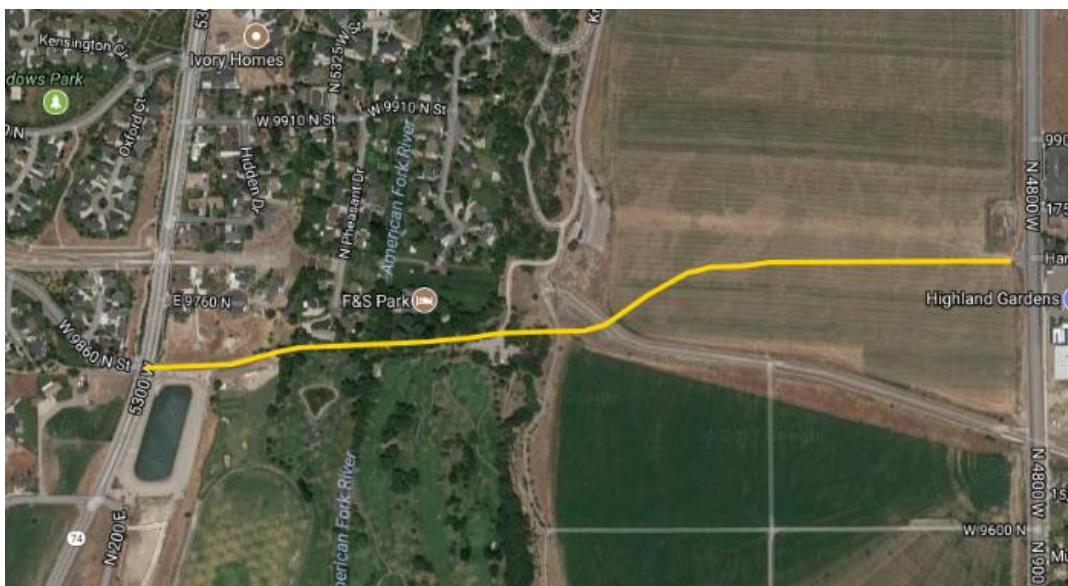
No, though the basement will house a firing range for police to train and certify in (they currently travel to Springville and Cedar Fort for their training). The station will also have a space for any officer in the area to complete reports as needed.

How are new construction impact fees being used?

While impact fees will not be used for the construction of the building, they have and will play a part of outfitting the station, including the purchase of apparatus just as a fire truck, ambulance, and brush truck.

Where is the Murdock Connector? How does this benefit this station location?

The Murdock Connector is an east-west road UDOT will be constructing near the Murdock Canal that will connect 9860 N at 100 E to Harvey Blvd at N Utah County Blvd.



How big is AF City now and how big will it get?

The US Census puts American Fork’s population at 29,527 in 2017. The Mountainland Association of Governments, a regional planning association in Utah County, estimate American Fork to be at about 60,000 by 2060. However, revised estimates that include the city’s recently designed Transportation Oriented Development by the FrontRunner station put population estimates as high as 80,000 in 2060.