



The Road Ahead for Ambulance Service in Blaine County





About the Ambulance District

The Blaine County Ambulance District provides emergency medical services and transport to residents and visitors across Blaine County, Idaho. The District is responsible for ensuring timely, high-quality emergency medical care across a large, rural service area.

The Ambulance District Board

The District is governed by a Board of Commissioners. In our area, the Blaine County Commissioners serve as the Ambulance District Board.

- ❖ **Angenie McCleary**
- ❖ **Lindsay Mollineaux**
- ❖ **Muffy Davis**

Funding for ambulance services comes primarily from property taxes, along with ambulance service fees. The district's role is to maintain reliable ambulance service for the community today while planning responsibly for future needs.



Today's Ambulance Service

- Ambulance call volume and service demands have increased
- Operating costs continue to rise faster than revenue
- Existing funding is not sufficient to sustain current service levels

Without additional funding:

- Reserves are projected to be used in 2027
- Reserves are projected to be depleted by 2028
- Service reductions may be necessary



Current EMS Environment

- Since 2021, ambulance calls have increased nearly 40%, adding more than 400 additional emergency responses per year



EMS Average Response Times

2022	0:06:43
2023	0:06:29
2024	0:06:42
2025	0:06:50

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a clear plastic syringe and a small white vial. The vial has a label that reads "MIDAFONE" and "1000 mg/500 mL". The person is wearing a blue wristband. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a medical setting.

Operational Impacts



Increased overlapping calls



Longer EMS call duration & transport times



Pressure on Staffing & Paramedic coverage



More frequent auto-aid utilization

What is being proposed?



A two-year temporary levy



To fund three years of service



Maintains service levels & enables moderate growth



Election Day - May 19





A Two-year Levy that funds Three years



Considerations

Levy structured to support approximately three years of operations

Provides near-term stability

Allows planning time to evaluate longer-term funding solutions



The Why behind the decision

Supports continuity of service delivery and measured growth for District priorities

Balances operational needs with taxpayer considerations

Creates added predictability for staffing and planning

What is the cost to taxpayers?



- Currently the ambulance District collects \$11.10 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed property value, per year.
- **The proposed levy would add \$6.72 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed property value, per year**
- **Or About \$54 per year for a home valued at \$800,000**
- This is a temporary, two-year levy

**BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT
BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO
TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY OVERRIDE TAX LEVY**

BALLOT QUESTION

By election dated May 19, 2026, shall the Board of Commissioners of the Blaine County Ambulance District be authorized and empowered, pursuant to Idaho Code Section 63-802(3), to increase its levy and budget by establishing a temporary override tax levy to defray and pay the costs of ambulance operations and emergency medical services within the District?

The levy shall be for a two-year period commencing in Fiscal Year 2026–2027 and shall not be added to the District’s established base budget.

STATEMENT

The levy will be used to fund District ambulance operations and emergency medical services and is estimated to result in a tax increase of approximately \$6.72 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value per year, based upon current conditions.

VOTING OPTIONS

- YES**, I am in favor of authorizing a temporary levy increase not to exceed \$1,719,683 per year, at a rate of \$6.72 per \$100,000 of taxable value, for two (2) years.
- NO**, I am against authorizing a temporary levy increase not to exceed \$1,719,683 per year, at a rate of \$6.72 per \$100,000 of taxable value, for two (2) years.



What could happen if voters don't support the levy?

UNDERFUNDED
AMBULANCE
SERVICE

REDUCED
STATION
COVERAGE

REDUCTIONS IN
ADVANCE LIFE
SUPPORT (ALS)

LONGER
RESPONSE
TIMES

FEWER STAFF

PLANNING
LIMITATIONS



How can you help?

- Learn the Facts
- Share Official Information
- Create Space for Questions
- Encourage Voter Participation
- Stay Engaged



BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT



THE FUTURE OF EMS DECIDED BY YOUR VOTE ELECTION DAY MAY 19TH

The proposed temporary levy will fund the costs of ambulance operations and emergency medical services within the Blaine County District.

Learn all you can at
bc-ambulance.org

SCAN ME



COMMON QUESTIONS

What is being proposed?

The Blaine County Ambulance District Board has placed a two-year temporary property tax levy on the May 19, 2026, ballot. If approved, the levy would fund three years of ambulance service.

Why is this issue before voters now?

Ambulance call volume and operating costs have increased significantly, while existing revenue has not kept pace. Without additional funding, the District's reserves, which are emergency savings, are projected to run out by 2028.

How much would this cost property owners?

The proposed levy is about \$6.72 per \$100,000 of assessed property value, or approximately \$53.78 per year for an \$800,000 home.

What would the levy pay for?

The levy would help maintain current ambulance services, including staffing and coverage, contracts with local provider partners, medical oversight and training, equipment, maintenance, and medical supplies.

Would this levy expand ambulance services?

The levy helps preserve the ambulance services our community relies on, keeps pace with rising call volumes, and allows for thoughtful, moderate growth to meet future needs.

How is ambulance service funded today?

About 75% of funding comes from property taxes, and about 25% comes from ambulance billing and service fees. Most expenses are payments to local fire districts and partners that provide emergency response and staffing.

What does ambulance service look like today?

Current service levels are being maintained. In core areas, ambulances arrive within about 8 minutes roughly 90% of the time. Staffing and coverage are steady but under increasing strain during busy seasons.

What happens if voters approve the levy?

The District would have more stable funding for three years, rely less on savings, and have time to plan rather than react to a financial crisis. Current service levels and response times would be more likely to stay the same.

What happens if voters do not approve the levy?

The District would continue under current funding levels, use reserves starting in 2027, and face depleted savings by 2028. Leaders may need to consider service reductions that could reduce staffing, coverage, and increase response times.

Why is a two-year levy being used to fund three years?

This approach provides longer financial stability while reducing how often the issue must return to voters. It gives local leaders time to plan responsibly for the future.

If the proposed levy is approved, the tax per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value is expected to increase by \$6.72. The levy will be assessed beginning fiscal year 2027.



BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT

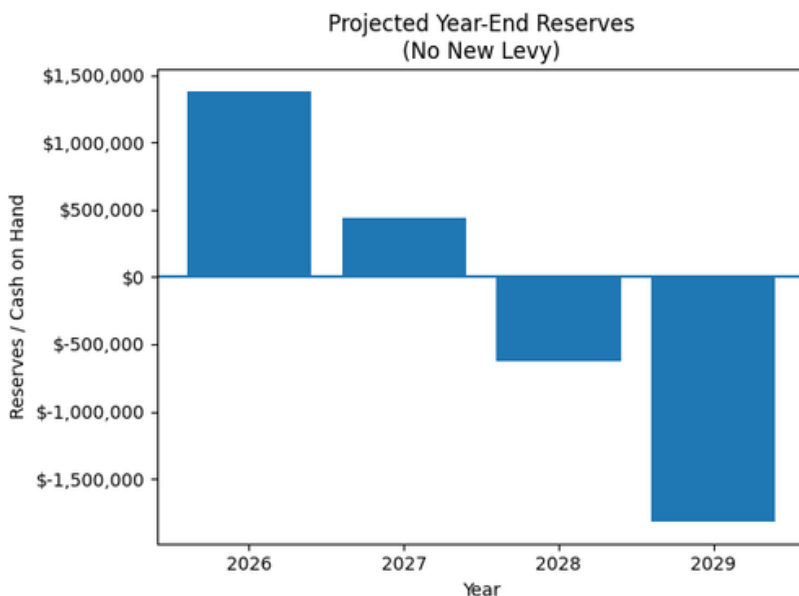
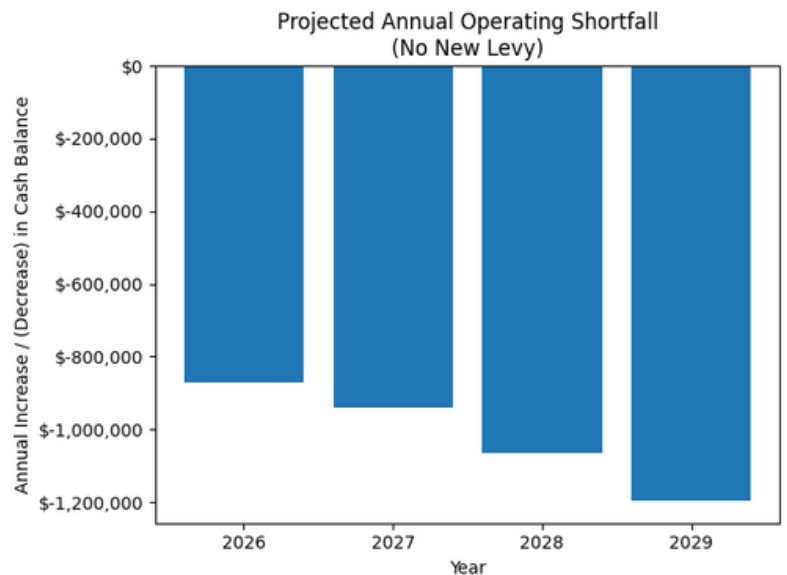
Projected Finances Under Current Funding

The District must use its reserves, savings set aside over time, to cover yearly funding gaps. As reserves are used to fund ongoing operations, the balance goes down quickly. If this continues, the reserves will run out, making it harder to maintain current service levels.

Taking action now while reserves are still available gives the District more time and flexibility to plan. Waiting until reserves are nearly gone limits options and may require quicker decisions, including possible reductions or changes to services, to keep the budget balanced.

Under current funding, projected expenses are higher than projected revenue each year. Rising costs for contracted ambulance service, staffing, equipment, and operations are expected to outpace revenue growth, creating an annual gap.

Reserves can temporarily cover this difference, but they are not designed to fund recurring deficits long term.



As reserves are used to cover annual shortfalls, year-end reserve balances decline over time. If reserves are depleted, the Commissioners would need to reduce spending to maintain a balanced budget. Potential adjustments could include changes to staffing, station coverage, operations, or contracts, which may affect response capacity and service levels.

This overview is provided to help residents understand projected financial conditions under current funding levels.



BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT

BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT - LEVY RATE ANALYSIS

No New Levy

Contract Agency Annual Growth Rate @ 6.0%

	2026 Adopted	2027 Projected	2028 Projected	2029 Projected
Revenue:				
Property Tax	2,840,759	2,960,071	3,084,394	3,213,938
Proposed Levy Rate Increase	-	-	-	-
Ambulance Transport Fees	853,600	887,744	923,254	960,184
Other	161,100	167,544	174,246	181,216
Total Revenue	3,855,459	4,015,359	4,181,893	4,355,338
Expenditures				
Total 'A' Budget - Salaries	-	-	-	-
Total 'D' Budget - Benefits	-	-	-	-
'B' Budget - Maintenance and Operating Expenses				
Agency Contracts *	4,077,377	4,322,020	4,581,341	4,856,221
Medical Administration	190,000	201,400	213,484	226,293
Other Maintenance and Operations	217,900	185,574	196,708	208,511
Total 'C' Budget - Transfer to Capital Projects	240,000	247,200	254,616	262,254
Total Expense	4,725,277	4,956,194	5,246,149	5,553,280
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Balance	(869,818)	(940,835)	(1,064,256)	(1,197,942)
Reserves/Savings/Cash on Hand	1,382,545	441,710	(622,546)	(1,820,488)

* Agency Contracts include: Ketchum Fire District, Blaine County South Fire Protection District, Sun Valley Fire Department, and Carey Rural Fire Protection District.

Temporary 2-Year Levy, 3 YR Funding

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Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Balance	(869,818)	778,849	655,428	(1,197,942)
Reserves/Savings/Cash on Hand	1,382,545	2,161,393	2,816,821	1,618,879

* Agency Contracts include: Ketchum Fire District, Blaine County South Fire Protection District, Sun Valley Fire Department, and Carey Rural Fire Protection District.