



### **SFD by the Numbers:**

## **How Does Sedona Fire District Really Stack-Up?**

### **How Much Have My SFD Taxes Gone Up?**

Using a median home value, there has been an aggregate tax increase for SFD of 10.7% over the last 10 years. A combination of the “Great Recession” and a former Governing Board that significantly lowered the Mil Rate during a time period when Assessed Value dropped nearly 43% created significant financial challenges, especially when looking at the annual levy; over the 10 years between Fiscal Year 2009 to Fiscal Year 2018, SFD tax levy realized only a 3.65% increase.

SFD does NOT expect taxes to continue to rise at the rate experienced over the last 7 years as we have been able to realize some recovery in our Assessed Value and stabilized operational aspects of our business model. We are projecting a more modest increase going forward.

### **What Is the Fire Chief’s Salary?**

In Fiscal Year 2017, the Fire Chief’s Salary was \$157,968. In Fiscal Year 2018, the Fire Chief’s Salary is \$158,442.

### **What Does the Average SFD Employee Make?**

The average base salary for SFD employees is \$71,561. The average employee salary with overtime is \$81,795. When SFD Firefighters respond to out-of-district wildland incidents, any overtime or expenses are reimbursed at 100% by outside agencies and do not impact SFD taxpayers.

### **What Is the Average Tenure of an SFD Employee?**

As of June 30, 2016, SFD has an average tenure of 11.85 years of service to SFD.

### **How Many Employees Does SFD Have?**

SFD has 93 full-time employees (no part-time) —80 of those are operational and 13 are in Administration/Support roles.

### **Where Do SFD Employees Live?**

Of the 93 SFD Employees, 23% live within SFD boundaries. Overall, 71% of SFD employees live in Yavapai County, 14% live in Coconino County, and 15% in Maricopa County.

### **What Is the Percentage of Wages and Benefits?**

In the local government sector of business, it is normal to see approximately 80% of a budget for wages and benefits. SFD has averaged 73.74% over the last 5 years for our wages and benefits.

### **How Many People Govern SFD Operations?**

The Governing Board is comprised of 5 community members who represent the 19,000+ residents and taxpayers of Sedona Fire District. They are elected by District voters to serve a 4-year term. In the past few years, incumbent Board Members ran unopposed. When this happens, the legal process is the cancellation and ratification of the election—saving taxpayers the costs to hold an uncontested election.

The Governing Board represents our community and the number of Board Members is set by State Law. Our Board composition is very similar to many other governmental agencies governed by a Board, such as the School Board, City Council, County Board of Supervisors, etc.

**How Large Is Sedona Fire District?**

SFD covers 168 square miles for fire protection and 274 square miles for Emergency Medical Services. This encompasses 30 miles of State Route 89A from nearly Page Springs Road to the top of Oak Creek Canyon switchbacks and from 1 mile west of Interstate 17 to the “Y” on State Route 179.

**How Many Fire Stations Does SFD Have?**

SFD has 5 staffed fire stations strategically located throughout the District—3 along SR 89A (West Sedona, Uptown, and Oak Creek Canyon) as well as 2 along SR 179 (Chapel area and the VOC).

Each Station is located to protect neighborhoods and businesses closest to the station. However, when a station is unavailable to respond, such as in a multiple-call situation, the next closest station responds. Our goal is to provide emergency services within 4-6 minutes to those in need.

**How Many Calls Does SFD Respond To?**

SFD responds to approximately 4,400 calls for service each year. What many people may not realize is based on incident complexity or resource availability, multiple stations are often needed to respond. Annual emergencies required over 5,100 responses from 1 or more of our stations in FY 2017. Since multiple vehicles are needed to effectively handle calls, SFD has approximately 7,500 vehicle responses yearly. The annual average is 14.15 responses by 20.5 vehicles handling emergencies in our community each day.

**What Is the Breakdown Of Calls?**

SFD is an all-hazard agency responsible for EMS, Fire, Technical Rescue, Wildland, Fire Prevention, and Public Education. 2016 statistics show 71% of our calls were for EMS and Rescues; 5% to Fire, Hazardous Conditions, Mutual Aid, etc.; and 24% to Service Calls, Special Incidents, Public Assists, etc. SFD is also responsible for 2,380 commercial properties, 1,000+ residential sprinkler systems, as well as fire investigations and public education including CPR and First Aid.

**How Many People Does SFD Protect Daily?**

Per Census data, SFD serves about 19,000+ residents. Add about 7,700 people daily who are tourists, passing through, or working within the Sedona Fire District area and it is safe to estimate we protect nearly 30,000 people with emergency services every day.

**What is the Cost Breakdown to Provide Emergency Services?**

The FY 2018 Maintenance and Operating Budget divided by 365 days and 30,000 people protected, would be equivalent to \$1.40 a day per person.

**Does SFD Charge Non-Residents For Services?**

SFD does not charge for fire and rescue services. When EMS services are provided, we bill private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, or ACCCHS. Non-residents are balance-billed for outstanding amounts not paid by insurance and must remit in full. Residents are only responsible for what is covered by their insurance. In FY 2017, SFD collected over \$2M in Ambulance revenue.

**What Else Does SFD Do to Reduce Costs to Taxpayers?**

SFD is constantly looking to reduce costs to taxpayers by implementing cost-savings measures in our operations. We lowered operating expenses that easily reduced our budget by \$1M annually—by moving dispatch, changes to healthcare and personnel benefits, utilizing government contract pricing, and highlighting the need to be efficient in all aspects of our operation. SFD actively pursues grants for projects and needs. In the last 4 years, SFD has written or been part of more than 30 grant requests and realized \$270,000+ in grant funding.



**Contact Fire Chief Kris Kazian at 928-282-6800 if You Have Additional Questions Or Would Like Him to Speak to You, a Service Club, or HOA.**