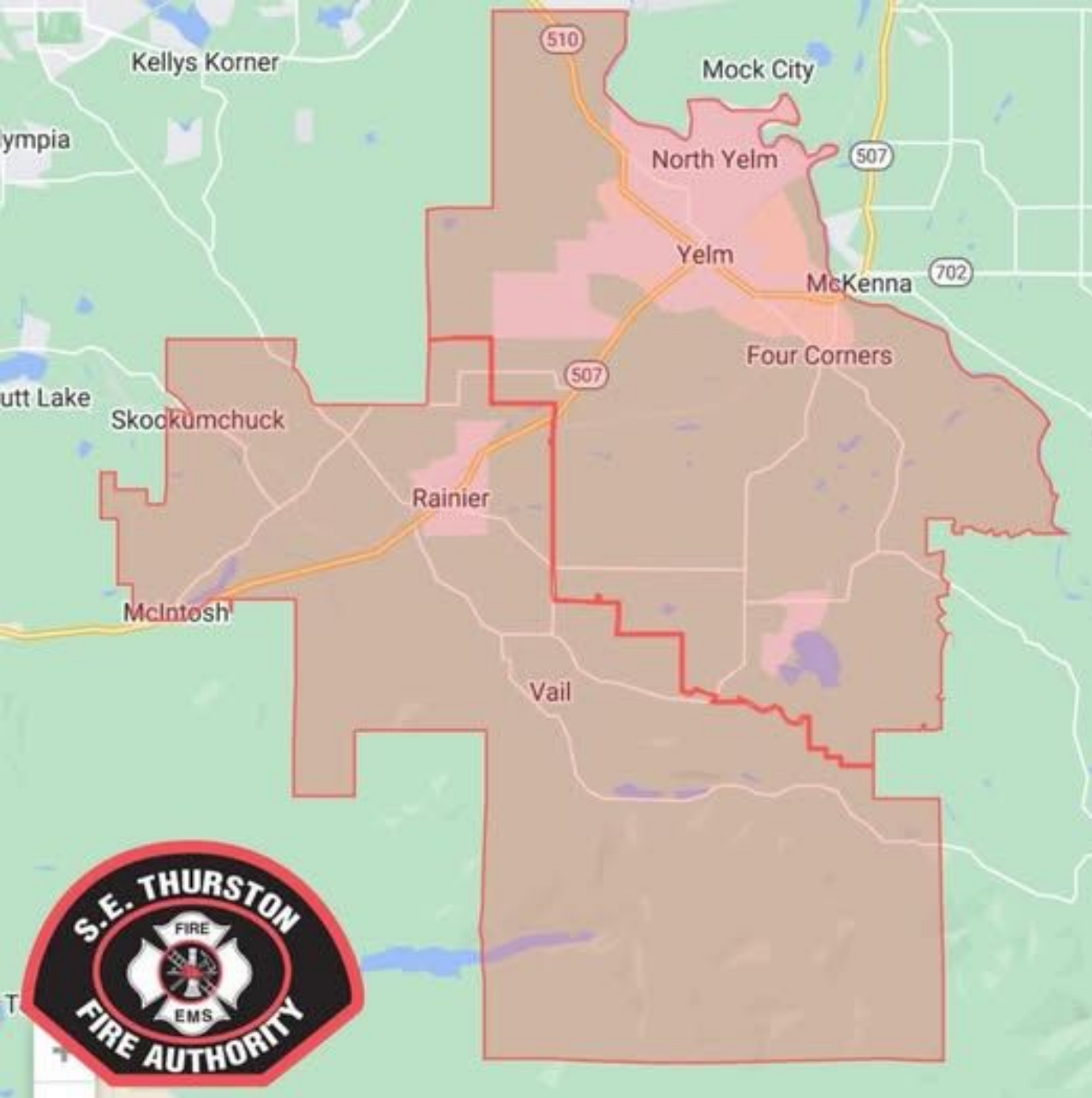




# 2026 Update: Your Local Fire and Emergency Services



# We Serve

**30,000 PEOPLE**

**120 SQUARE MILES**

Including the cities of **Yelm** and **Rainier** and **surrounding unincorporated areas**

**46 full-time and volunteer** emergency personnel respond to over **4,000** calls per year



# We Provide

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- Emergency fire response
- Emergency medical service (EMS)
- Motor vehicle accident response
- Hazardous materials response
- Natural disaster response
- Wildland fire response
- Complex rescue emergency response (trench, structural collapse, rope, water)
- Fire prevention
  - Commercial inspections
  - Fire investigations
  - Public education and outreach



# We Are Accountable

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- Operate under a **balanced budget**
- Consistently pass financial and accountability audits
- Make policy and spending decisions based on a **Strategic Plan** and **Capital Facilities Plan**



- **Stretch tax dollars** further by:
  - Applying for grants
  - Partnering with nearby agencies
  - Charging impact fees on new construction to offset costs

# We Are Transparent

Our fire levy funds daily operations and...

- is capped at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.
- can only grow by 1% each year under state law.
- falls over time as property values rise.

Occasionally, we ask voters for a “levy lid lift” to keep up with call volumes and costs.

Capital items, like fire stations, are funded by **bonds**.

Both funding sources require **voter approval** and are paid through property taxes.



# We Face Rising Challenges

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**Wildland fires:** Our cities and suburban areas are connected to rural lands, making them vulnerable to the growing number of wildland fires.

In the past five years, SETFA responded to **170 wildland fires** – and that number continues to grow.



# We Face Rising Challenges

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**Call volumes:** The number of emergency calls we receive has increased **30%** in four years. We now respond to over 4,000 annually.



**Aging apparatus:** Some of our vehicles are aging out of service and require replacement. This includes three fire engines, which are **34, 29, and 21** years old.

**Outdated facilities** is another major concern...



# Why Facilities Matter Now

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*1990s*

Yelm is the  
**fastest-growing  
community** in  
Thurston County...

*Today*

yet SETFA has not  
had a major facilities  
update in **30 years.**

# We Have a Plan

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SETFA's Board of Fire Commissioners approved a ten-year **Capital Facilities Plan** that includes station improvements and replacing aging apparatus.



# We Have a Plan

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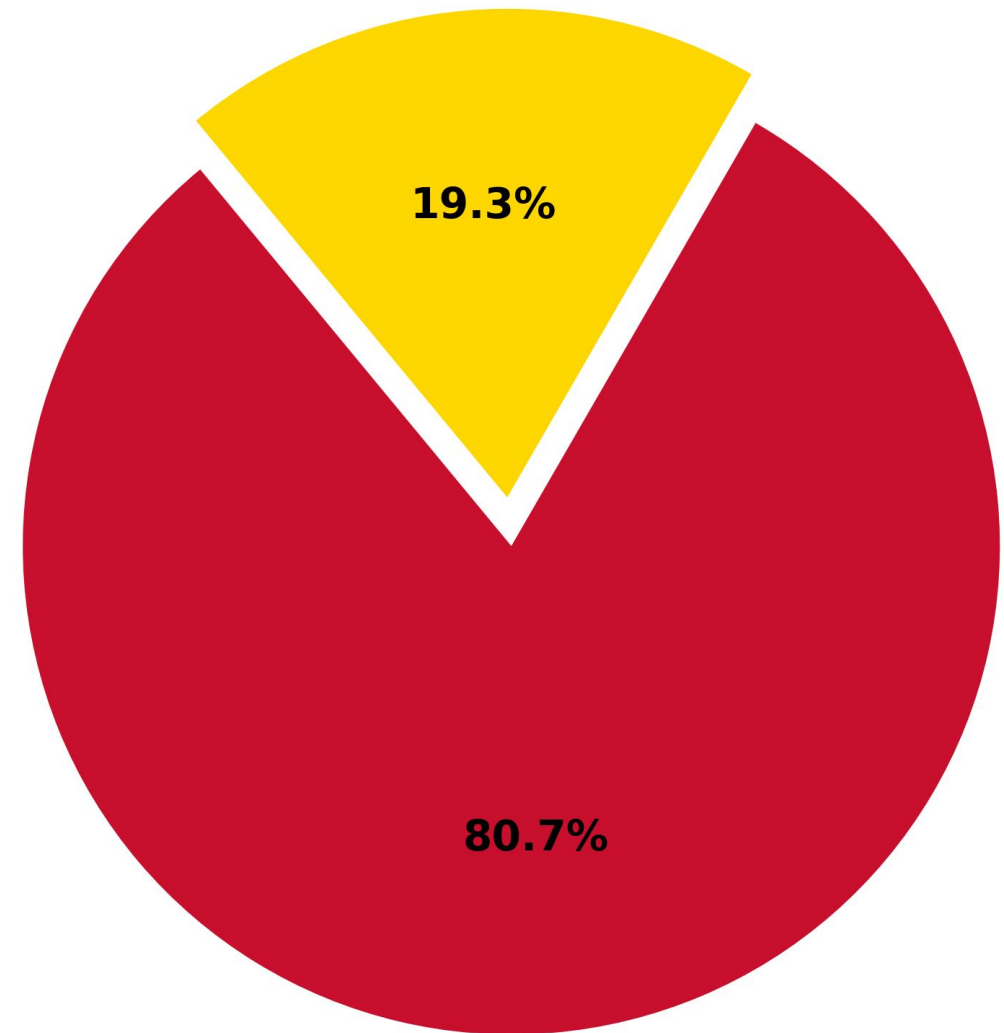
Our Capital Facilities Plan recommends:

- \$4.06 million for apparatus
- \$16.95 million for facilities

These investments would be spread over 25 years.

*Let's break down the numbers...*

**Apparatus (\$4.06M)**



**Facilities (\$16.95M)**

# Station 21 (Yelm Headquarters)

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- Handles 70% of emergency calls
- Already at capacity (projected population growth up 45% by 2035)
- **Needs added sleeping quarters, offices, and staff space**

*Estimated cost: \$3M*



# Station 22 (Lake Lawrence)

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- Too small for modern emergency apparatus
- Lacks exhaust removal system and decon units to protect firefighters' health
- Currently unstaffed for 24-hour response
- Delayed responses from Stations 21/24 can leave areas of our district uncovered
- **Needs remodeling to meet code and added sleeping quarters**

*Estimated cost: \$5.3M*



# Station 24 (Rainier)

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- Staffed in a manufactured home across a parking lot (delays turnout)
- **Needs added**  
**sleeping quarters and**  
**training grounds**

*Estimated cost: \$8M*



# Station 25 (McIntosh Ridge)

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- Built in 1960s
- Closed; currently storage
- In a growing residential area with high-value homes
- **Plan to relocate manufactured housing from Station 24 after its rebuild**
- Will help homeowners access insurance and reduce premiums

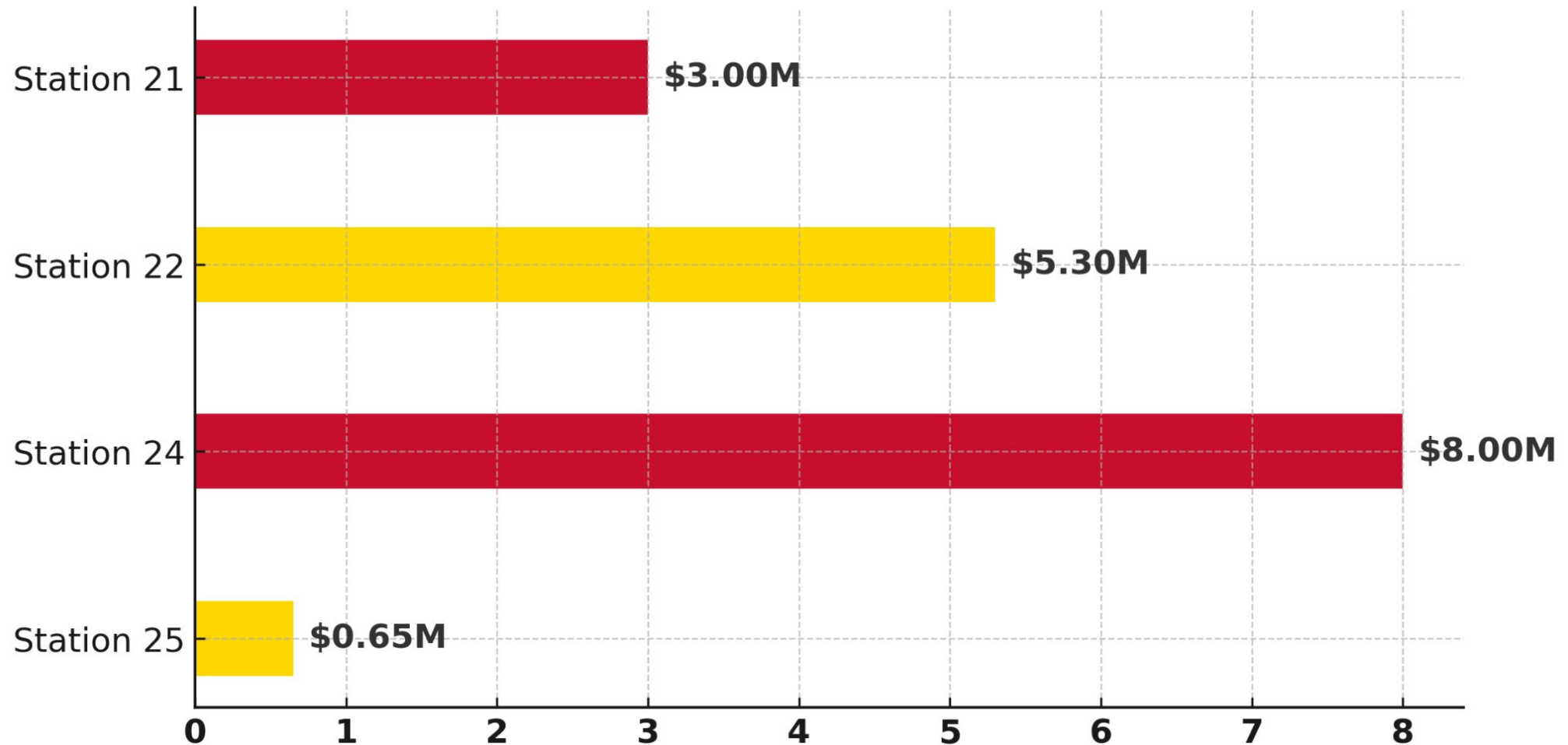


*Estimated cost: \$650K*

# Facilities in Detail

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These necessary projects require \$16.95 million:



# What Would It Cost?

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The proposed bond rate would be **\$0.20 per \$1,000** of assessed property value.

The average homeowner would pay about **\$8.33 per month** or **\$100 per year**.



# We Value Our Community

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Our Board of Fire Commissioners meets the first Wednesday of each month.

Meetings are open to the public in person or virtually.

Details at [sethurstonfire.org](http://sethurstonfire.org).



# Questions?

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**Connect with us:**

**[www.sethurstonfire.org](http://www.sethurstonfire.org)**

**Facebook @SEThurstonFire**