



Corvallis Rural Fire District

P.O. Box 13
Corvallis, MT 59828

Corvallis Rural Fire District is asking for your help. In 2024 we were dispatched to 485 medical calls and responded to 300. Our QRU (Quick Response Unit) did not respond to 185 medical incidents. Bitterroot Health responds as a transport agency to the same calls so they do get answered, however, our response times to incidents are faster than Bitterroot Health's ambulance. We provide initial patient care and there are instances where that saves a life and or reduces pain and suffering time for the patient. These missed calls are mainly during daytime hours when our volunteer medical staff is working at their jobs and can't respond. Firefighters are getting burned out with the increased call volumes and workload of managing the organization.

In 2024 we were dispatched to 644 calls for service averaging 1.8 calls per day. This is a 46% increase in call volume over the past 10 years. As we all know, there has been a substantial increase in the cost of goods and we are experiencing the effects of that. We have not asked the public to support us financially through taxation for 22 years. We need to drastically reduce EMS missed calls and help take the workload off our volunteers. They have collectively donated over 10,000 hours in 2024 running calls, training, doing special events, project work, and helping manage the organization.

In May, we will be asking for an increase in our operating Mil-Levy to support hiring 2 daytime Firefighters/EMTs and cover the increased cost of goods. This increase would add approximately \$175,000 to our operating budget. The mil increase would be 8.17 mils. Passage of this increase would effect a home with a tax-assessed value (not appraised value) of \$100,000 by \$11.03, \$300,000 value by \$33.08, and \$600,000 value by \$66.06 annually.

Fiscal responsibility is a priority at Corvallis Fire. We pre-plan, prioritize, and budget for short, mid, and long-range planning. We buy in conjunction with neighboring Departments for bulk pricing when we can. We purchase newer used Engines instead of new ones. For example, the last type 1 structure engine we bought for \$325k. That engine would have cost \$750k if purchased new. We are constantly searching for grant opportunities and applying where applicable. In the past 2 years, we have been awarded \$107k in grants to procure radios. We also have earned income to help support the District. We participate in for-hire wildland fire contracting that nets an average of \$75k annually. Despite all these cost savings, we need to increase the operating levy.

We are developing an informational page on our website that details the cost of goods and services we provide to the community. Please visit www.corvallisfire.com.

Thank you for supporting us,

Corvallis Rural Fire District Chief
Randy S. Skelton

Scan for a direct link to the website

