

Frequently asked questions:

1. How can Higgins Fire District receive funding directly?

Higgins Fire District is not proposing any new taxes, which can be used for purposes other than fire protection. To address the fiscal challenges we are facing, the district is looking at a possible benefit assessment, wherein the Fire Parcel Assessment would go directly to the Higgins Fire Protection District, to be used for Fire Protection only.

2. Is community fundraising an option for solving the challenges facing the Higgins Fire District?

Community fundraising is a great way to raise money for equipment, such as tools, personal protective equipment, and apparatus and it's enabled us to purchase equipment in the past. Community fundraising, although very helpful and a one-time influx of revenue, is not suited for salaries and wages, which is a predominant challenge facing Higgins Fire District and its efforts to provide the entire district with services.

3. What about applying for federal or state grants to help with the necessary funding?

When it comes to grants, there are options both on the federal and state levels. Grants can supply a much-needed influx of capital during initial start-up, but the selection process is extremely competitive and the awarded grant funding is for a set period and then expires. This prevents grant funding from offering a long-term solution for static revenue.

4. What can we do to help?

Excellent question! You can help by asking more questions and sharing the answers with your neighbors, friends, and family and on your social media platforms. When we have fact-based information, everyone wins. Our top priority is to provide the entire District with the same level of quality service regardless of location within the district.

We are committed to finding the solution that will ensure our ability to do so.

Additional FAQ's

5. Is station 21 or 23 at risk of closing?

No, both stations will continue to be staffed regardless of the benefit assessment outcome. This assessment is purely to staff an additional station. This way there will be another engine available in the district when the 21 or 23 engine is committed or unavailable.

6. What is the Amador "CalFire" contract and how does it affect the district?

The contract we have with CalFire goes as follows; During the winter months, or non-fire season months, Higgins Fire pays the CalFire to staff the Higgins Fire Apparatus and equipment for calls within the District. In spring, usually April or May, CalFire transitions over to their equipment which they will remain on through the fire season.

7. What is the timeline for CalFire to relocate to their new station, not built yet, below CrossRoads Church?

At this time we at Higgins Fire do not have the answer to this. DGS, Department of General Services, based out of Sacramento, is overseeing this project.

8. When/If CalFire moves to the new location what happens to the contract with CalFire?

In this scenario the CalFire contract will still be in effect. During the winter months CalFire will still be utilizing Higgins apparatus and equipment until they transition over to their equipment in early spring.

9. Will Higgins Fire and CalFire both be running out of the newly constructed station?

Per Department of General Services (DGS) the new facility will be used solely for CalFire use only.

10. What will happen to the current station 21 facility If/When CalFire relocates to the new facility?

This is a great question and looking toward the future is always a part of district planning. However, we here at Higgins are focused on the “Right now” or immediate planning which is focusing on adding an additional staffed engine to the district.

11. How else can the community help?

Higgins is always looking for volunteers!! If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Paid Call Volunteer FireFighter for Higgins, come into station 21 and pick up an application today.