

Fire Department Challenges & Needs

Emergency Call Volume & Staffing

4,412 calls in the past year

- 2021: 12.4%

- 2022: 8.70%

- 2023: 1.93%

- 2024: 8.25%

81% EMS-related calls, 36% simultaneous emergencies

Current staffing: 8 personnel per day (3 paramedics per squad)

Goal: Increase staffing to meet NFPA standards (3 paramedics per squad, 4 firefighters per engine)

Rising Equipment & Apparatus Costs

EKG Monitors: 130% increase over 12 years (\$25K → \$60K)

Ambulances: 40% increase since 2018 (\$250K → \$350K)

Fire Engines: Replacement needed (\$1.2M average cost)

Ladder Truck Costs: \$750K in 2007 → \$2.2M in 2024

Fire Engine Replacement – 1999 engine (refurbished in 2010) needs replacement (average cost: \$1.2 million)

Why the Income Tax Increase is Necessary: This provides sustainable funding that grows with inflation, ensuring staffing levels align with safety standards. It also supports critical equipment updates and firefighter safety improvements, guaranteeing that the Avon Fire Department has the resources needed to respond effectively.

Police Department Challenges & Needs

All Calls For Service (includes self-initiated calls):

- 2021: 19,276

- 2022: 18,648

- 2023: 22,258

- 2024: 25,689

(+33% increase from 2021)

Rising Equipment Costs

2021 Chevy Tahoe: \$37,920.72 Equipment/Labor Costs to upfit vehicle: \$15,410.42

2022 Chevy Tahoe: \$37,996.00 Equipment/Labor Costs to upfit vehicle: \$15,410.42

2023 Chevy Tahoe: \$43,645.00 Equipment/Labor Costs to upfit vehicle: \$16,479.32

2024 Chevy Tahoe: \$49,673.00 Equipment/Labor Costs to upfit vehicle: \$18,477.24

(+30% increase from 2021 for Tahoe and +19% increase for equipment and installation)

2021 Ballistic Vest: \$848.00

2022 Ballistic Vest: \$848.00

2023 Ballistic Vest: \$1,032.00

2024 Ballistic Vest: \$1,207.74

(+42% increase from 2021)

Why the Income Tax Increase is Necessary: The Police Department maintains minimum staffing levels of 5 sworn officers during the day shift (7 AM – 7 PM) and 4 sworn officers during the night shift (7 PM – 7 AM). These minimum service levels will not be reduced, though staffing levels often exceed these numbers. It's important to note that these minimums do not include civilian support staff, administrative/command positions, or detective roles. Currently, the Police Department's staffing levels are adequate. However, as the city grows and call volumes increase, additional personnel will be necessary to maintain effective service levels.

Effective % of Voted

Police Operating: Started 1984 – 17.17%

Police Equipment: Started 2007 – 57.02%

Fire Operating: Started 2017 – 61.92%

Avon residents will be presented the opportunity to vote on an increase to the municipal income tax on the May ballot, Issue #3, to support vital Police and Fire services and equipment. This change is being considered as an alternative to placing a replacement property tax levy on the ballot.

The 0.2% municipal income tax increase would:

- Cost \$200/ year per \$100,000 of earned income – roughly \$3.85 per week
- It does not tax pensions, annuities, social security, or capital gains. If you do not have earned income your tax will not increase!

This increase would be dedicated to:

- Avon Police & Fire Departments Only
- Capital expenditures such as buildings, vehicles & equipment
- Operating expenses such as salaries, wages & benefits

If Issue #3 passes, Avon City Council and the Mayor will eliminate the 3 property tax levies below, that are currently in place and used to help fund the Police and Fire Departments, beginning January 1, 2026:

- 2.00 mill Police Operating Levy
- .50 mill Police Equipment Levy
- .50 mill Fire Equipment Levy

Passing Issue #3 would save a property owner on their property taxes as follows: Savings of \$56 on a \$150,000 home; \$111 on a \$300,000 home; \$167 on a \$450,000 home, and so on...

The safety services of the City have seen a 30-40% increase in the cost of equipment, apparatus, and essential supplies over the last 6 years and the fixed revenue of the property tax is not keeping up with this level of inflation. **By design, even though you have seen an increase in your property taxes over the years, the amount of money that the Police and Fire property levies bring in has not increased.** A better long-term solution would be an income tax, that grows as the number of people that work in the city grows. This disperses the monetary needs of the police and fire departments over a larger number of people, not just Avon property owners.

If the city had to replace the current levies, a homeowner in Avon would pay \$216 in addition to the \$111 already being paid on a \$300,000 home. These levies would also need to be renewed or replaced every 5-7 years to generate the tax revenue of when they were voted in.

If Issue #3 passes, starting in 2026, the city will no longer collect the above property tax levies, and use the new income tax as its replacement to help fund the Police and Fire departments.

In addition, if Issue #3 passes, the **credit** for Income Taxes Paid to your Workplace city will increase from 1.50% to 1.70%. Each person that works outside of the city would need to review the tax rate of the city they work in to see if their income tax due for Avon would increase or not.

Example: If you work in a city that is collecting the same rate or higher than the 1.95% Avon is proposing, you would not see a tax increase. However, if you are a property owner in Avon, you will save on the three levies that will no longer be collected in 2026 and beyond (\$111/\$300,000 home).



- **Q: I am 68 and retired. How will my taxes be affected?**

A: The municipal income tax does not apply to Social Security benefits, so your benefits will not be taxed.

- **Q: Will this tax affect my annuity payments?**

A: No, this tax will not impact your annuity payments.

- **Q: Will the money collected be used elsewhere?**

A: The tax will be used exclusively for the operating expenses of Avon Police and Fire, including wages, equipment, vehicles, and other related needs.

- **Q: What will happen to the current levies?**

A: Resolution R-7-25 states that the three existing levies will be terminated effective January 1, 2026

- **Q: What if I work in the City of Avon but do not live in Avon?**

A: The tax will apply to you and be collected for the Police and Fire.