Rollins Volunteer Fire Department

2026 Mill Levy Increase

COMMUNITY INFORMATION GUIDE

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

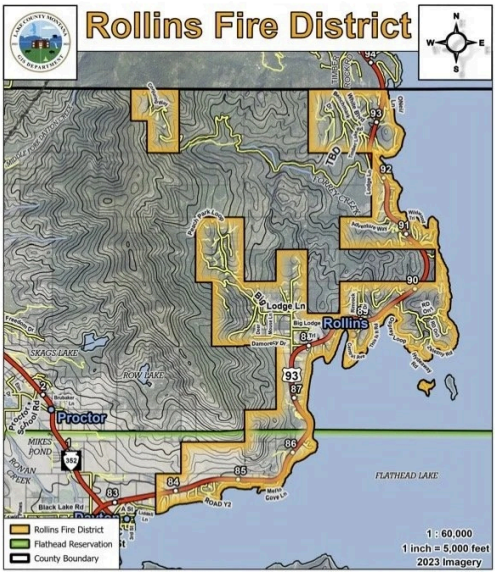
ROLLINS HAS GROWN, AND THE NEEDS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAVE GROWN AS WELL.

A Growing Community Brings Greater Demands

Over the past decade, the Rollins Fire District has grown in both size and activity. More homes, more people, more traffic and increased wildfire risk have all contributed to a significant increase in emergency calls.

A LARGER DISTRICT

Our district boundaries have expanded over the last decade and now cover approximately 11 square miles. Significant new-home construction has also increased the number of properties we protect.



A GROWING SEASONAL POPULATION

Our population increases substantially during the summer months, creating added demand for emergency services at the same time when traffic, recreation and wildfire risk are at their highest.

EMERGENCY CALLS CONTINUE TO RISE

Emergency calls have more than doubled over the past five years, and 2026 call volume is tracking approximately 20% higher than last year.

MORE HIGHWAY 93 TRAFFIC

Traffic on Highway 93 near Rollins has nearly doubled over the past 20 years, bringing substantially more vehicles through the center of our district.

More People. More Homes.
More Traffic. More Calls.

OUR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY HAS EXPANDED

Much More Than a Fire Department

As our community has grown, so has the need for a broader range of emergency services. Today, Rollins volunteers respond to many types of calls, not just fires.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Rollins responds to every medical call in the district. Volunteers can begin assessment and patient care while Lakeside or Polson ambulance crews are still responding. That makes medical training, equipment and dependable responder availability an essential part of our mission.

HIGHWAY 93 ACCIDENTS & RESCUE

Highway 93 runs directly through our district. Vehicle crashes can require traffic control, scene stabilization, patient access and extrication, often in dangerous roadside conditions. Rescue has become a regular part of what our volunteers must be prepared to do.

CHANGING WILDLAND FIRE

Rollins sits in the wildland-urban interface, surrounded by forest, grassland and homes. Hotter, drier conditions and increasingly challenging fire behavior make rapid initial attack, capable brush equipment and continual wildland training increasingly important.

Fire. Medical Response. Rescue. Wildland.

One volunteer department must be ready for all of it.

REAL PEOPLE. REAL COMMITMENT. A STRONGER, SAFER COMMUNITY.

Volunteers Are the Heart of Rollins Fire

Neighbors Serving Neighbors, 24 Hours a Day

Rollins Fire is built around 21 volunteer members who respond when their community needs them. They receive no salary for their service.

When the pager sounds, our volunteers step away from work, family, sleep and personal commitments to respond. They also give substantial personal time throughout the year to train for medical emergencies, structure fires, vehicle accidents, rescue and wildland fire.

Rescue When It's Needed

Protecting Our Forests

On the Scene for Our Community

What the Levy Would Support

The proposed levy provides additional resources for the volunteers who provide the service, including training, protective equipment, communications, medical and rescue equipment, reliable apparatus, and the support needed to keep the department ready to respond to the many types of emergencies in our community.

21 Volunteers. One Community.

A Safer, Stronger Rollins, Together.

A FUNDING MODEL BUILT FOR A DIFFERENT TIME

The Department Has Changed. The Funding Has Not.

For more than 40 years, Rollins Fire has operated under a funding model created for a smaller community and a much narrower fire-service mission. As our community, call volume and responsibilities have grown, the resources available to operate the department have not kept pace. The current model no longer provides the resources needed for today's level of service.

Rollins Fire Station – Built 1996

A Different Era

The former station is a reminder of how much Rollins Fire has changed. The operating funding structure dates from an era of fewer homes, fewer calls and a much narrower mission.

WHAT TODAY'S BUDGET DOES NOT ALLOW FOR

NO FULL-TIME LEADERSHIP

There is no full-time leader responsible for the department's day-to-day readiness. Training, firefighter development, apparatus readiness, volunteer recruitment, emergency planning, certifications, grants and long-term planning all fall to volunteers already responding to calls and attending training.

Critical responsibilities are handled when volunteer time allows.

AN AGING FLEET

Our fire apparatus is aging, and there are no dedicated funds to replace trucks and critical equipment when they reach the end of their usable life.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT, PPE & TRAINING

Funding for volunteer equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE) and ongoing training is limited, restricting the resources available to support members and keep them prepared to respond safely and effectively.

CONSISTENT DAYTIME RESPONSE

Many volunteers have full-time jobs and may not be available during normal business hours. The current budget does not provide dedicated daytime staffing when volunteer availability is often lowest.

A More Sustainable Volunteer Fire Department

The levy would provide the operating resources needed to address these gaps, support our volunteers, plan for the future and maintain dependable emergency response.

What the Levy Would Provide

The Resources Needed for a Stronger, More Sustainable Volunteer Fire Department

The proposed levy would provide the operating resources needed to address today's challenges and create a more sustainable volunteer fire department, one that can support our members, maintain and replace critical equipment, provide leadership and coordination, and be ready to respond to the needs of our community now and in the future.

1 FULL-TIME CHIEF / LEADERSHIP

A full-time Chief would provide the department with dedicated leadership, training coordination, recruiting, daytime coverage, grant management, regulatory compliance, record keeping, long-term planning, and community outreach. This would improve readiness, strengthen operations and help ensure consistent response for our community. The Chief would also manage the documentation, certifications and training standards needed to pursue improvements in the department's fire protection rating.

2 VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT RESERVE

The levy would establish a sustainable reserve for the life-cycle replacement of our fire apparatus and major equipment. Several of our trucks are more than 25 years old, and the current budget provides no dedicated funds to replace aging vehicles and critical equipment when they reach the end of their usable life.

3 ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER SUPPORT, PPE & TRAINING

The levy would provide additional resources for the protective equipment (PPE), training, medical and rescue equipment, communications and other essential resources our volunteers need to respond safely and effectively. The current budget limits what we can provide, and additional funding would better support the men and women who serve our community.

A Potential Additional Benefit: Fire Protection Rating

The levy would give Rollins Fire resources to work toward an improved fire protection rating through full-time management and reporting, stronger training and response capability, and planned replacement of apparatus and equipment.

Why It May Matter to Property Owners

Fire protection ratings are one factor insurers may consider when evaluating property risk and premiums. An improved rating cannot guarantee lower premiums or continued coverage, but it may improve our community's insurance position over time.

WHERE THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING GOES

Current Funding vs. Proposed Levy Increase

$60,000
FULL-TIME CHIEF / EMT

+

$20,000
VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT RESERVE

+

$11,000
OPERATIONS, PPE, VOLUNTEER & TRAINING SUPPORT

=

$91,000
IN ADDITIONAL ANNUAL FUNDING

THE DETAIL

ANNUAL BUDGET	CURRENT	WITH LEVY
Insurance	$18,000	$18,000
Dept. Operations & Facilities	$23,000	$25,000
Equipment Ops & Maintenance	$15,000	$16,000
PPE	$2,500	$6,000
Volunteer Support & Training	$26,500	$31,000
Vehicle & Equipment Reserve	$0	$20,000
Full-Time Chief / EMT	$0	$60,000
Total	**$85,000**	**$176,000**

WHAT WOULD IT COST YOU?

HOME MARKET VALUE	ADDITIONAL / YEAR	ADDITIONAL / MONTH
$100,000	$11.96 / year	$1.00 / month
$300,000	$35.88 / year	$2.99 / month
$600,000	$85.92 / year	$7.16 / month

Estimated additional property tax. Final amounts depend on taxable value and official mill calculations.

A Clear Plan for the Additional Funding

Leadership. Equipment. Volunteer Support.

Rollins Volunteer Fire Department

ROLLINS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

Mill Levy Ballot Information

Own Property in the Rollins Fire District but Not Registered to Vote Here?

You can vote in the Rollins Rural Fire District mill levy election. Simply request a ballot from Lake County Elections.

Scan the QR code for the required form and simple instructions on our website.

Important: Request Your Ballot Early

Your completed ballot must be received by Lake County Elections no later than 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2026. Postmarks do not count. Please request your ballot well in advance to allow enough time to receive, complete and return it before the deadline.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

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OR CONTACT LAKE COUNTY ELECTIONS

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Election Day: November 3, 2026

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