



City of

[www.bluffdale.com](http://www.bluffdale.com)

# BLUFFDALE

Dear Bluffdale Resident,

On June 14, 2023, the City Council passed the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024) budget. I want to share some of the priorities and highlights of this budget.

Fire and Police protection are some of the important services a city offers its residents. The front-line positions in our Fire Department are currently staffed only by part-time firefighters. While they love working in Bluffdale, their commitment is to the city that employs them full-time. If there is an emergency that is valley-wide or greater, our city can (and has) been left without fire protection as these part-time employees are called back to their full-time positions in other fire departments. This happened multiple times during Covid-19. Also, because of the travel time between their full-time city shift and Bluffdale, there are times in the morning when there is no coverage in Bluffdale.

Our Fire Chief, Matt Evans, currently schedules 6 part-time front-line firefighters per day to run our department. This is the minimum needed to staff station #92 and have an ambulance at station #91. However, when a firefighter is unable to fulfill their shift, adjustments must be made. When a substitute fire fighter cannot be found, Station #91 is closed. Unfortunately, this happens multiple times during any given week.

To provide fire protection during emergencies and to reduce the unfilled shifts in the Fire Department, we will be hiring 2 full-time, front-line firefighters per day (a total of 6 new full-time firefighters). This gives the city 2 full-time and 4 part-time front-line fire fighters per day. This is the next step to improving the service level of our Fire Department. The part-time firefighters will also receive a 5% salary increase. These improvements create a substantial monetary commitment that will need to be paid every year. A stable, consistent funding source is critical to pay that cost.

The Police Department has requested targeted promotions and a market-driven, increase in pay so they can compete with other departments and continue to keep Police Officers on staff. Maintaining

and improving service levels in our fire and police departments is expensive. To pay for these increases, the City Council has approved a small property tax increase (an average of \$8.21 per month per household).

In direct response to our residents' comments that they wanted to guarantee that a tax increase would be used for the fire and police departments, we created the Fire and Police Protection Fund. This fund was created under state law and specifically designed to pay for public safety costs. The tax increase is only in the Fire and Police Protection Fund and money in this fund can only be used for public safety.

Because property tax is the City's most stable revenue source, it should be used to pay for our most critical services. The City Council directed that 100% of all property taxes budgeted in the general fund be transferred into this public safety restricted fund. Property taxes collected in this fund may not be used to pay for any other City costs.

As always, I am available to answer any questions. Thank you to our residents and staff for working together to find solutions to fund our public safety.

Sincerely,

Mayor Natalie Hall

This year and moving forward,

# 100%

of your city property  
tax will go to the new

## Police & Fire Protection Fund

# FAQS

## → **If 100% of my property tax goes to fire and police, how do other departments and projects get funded?**

The City gets revenue from various sources including sales tax, hotel tax, energy tax, fuel tax, grants, fees, State & County transfers, water fees, and impact fees. Property tax is the most stable revenue source and is used entirely for public safety services in the fiscal year 2024 budget.

## → **Why does the Fire and Police Protection Fund have a tax increase?**

The increase is needed to improve the service level of our fire department and to provide market driven salary increases for the police department. We will be hiring 2 full-time fire fighters per day (a total of 6 new full-time firefighters) and giving a substantial bump in pay for the Police Officers.

## → **How much will the tax increase cost me?**

For the average household, the increase will add an additional \$8.21 a month to their Bluffdale-related property tax amount. This increase will help us fill the unfilled shifts in the Fire Department and help retain our Police Officers.

## → **How do Bluffdale's Property Taxes compare to other cities?**

Bluffdale's property tax rate is one of the three lowest rates in the county. With the slight increase, we are still lower than most of our neighboring cities.

Please note, even with 100% of your property taxes going to our new fund, those taxes pay for less than half of the public safety cost. We must still supplement our public safety fund with over 3 million dollars from the General Fund.

## → **If we have more businesses, won't that increase our sales tax revenue?**

More businesses do not pay all the increased costs of public safety. Bluffdale City is continuing to grow and each month, attracts more retail businesses. However, more retail increases the need for services like fire and police. New fire equipment may be needed to work with different types of buildings (such as a tall hotel) and the need for a police presence increases.

## → **Why is property tax the most stable and consistent tax?**

By state law, property tax dollars do not change with economic changes. All other taxes and city revenues vary depending on the economy.

## → **Why aren't the surpluses in the general and other funds appropriated to public safety?**

Surpluses in the General fund are inconsistent and unreliable from year-to-year. It would be irresponsible to rely on inconsistent revenue to pay for annual, critical public safety costs. Surpluses in other funds are restricted and may not be appropriated for use in the Fire and Police Protection Fund.

## → **How can I get my other questions about the City budget answered?**

Start with our FAQ page on our website <https://www.bluffdale.com/Budget>. If you have more questions, you can call or set up an appointment with the mayor or staff. Email [nhall@bluffdale.com](mailto:nhall@bluffdale.com).

## → **What kind of tax relief assistance programs does Salt Lake County provide?**

Salt Lake County offers a tax relief program for those who qualify. You must apply by September 1, 2023. They also have other assistance programs, like rental relief, available. Learn more about the programs and see if you qualify at [slco.to/TaxRelief](https://slco.to/TaxRelief) or [slco.to/AssistancePrograms](https://slco.to/AssistancePrograms) or scan this code:



SCAN HERE

# HOW TO READ YOUR PROPERTY TAX FORM

100% goes to the Fire and Police Protection Fund

How much you will pay in 2023 if tax increase is approved

How much you will pay in 2023 if there is no budget change

How much you paid in 2022

NOTICE OF PROPERTY VALUATION

Assessment Type	2023 Market Value	COMPARE		RIGHT TO APPEAL
		2022 Market Value		
FULL MARKET VALUE	\$613,900	\$625,500		If you believe the assessed value of your property is incorrect, you may begin the appeal process by filing an Appeal Form with the County Auditor by 09/15/23. visit <a href="http://slco.org/property-tax/">slco.org/property-tax/</a>
RESIDENT EXEMPTION REDUCTION	<276,255>	<281,475>		
TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE	\$337,645	\$344,025		

For detailed property valuation information visit [slco.org/assessor/](http://slco.org/assessor/)

NOTICE OF TAX CHANGES

TAXING ENTITY	2023 IF TAX INCREASE APPROVED		2023 IF NO BUDGET CHANGE		2023 CHANGE IF INCREASE APPROVED		2022		RIGHT TO BE HEARD
	Rate	Tax	Rate	Tax	Tax	%	Rate	Tax	
	A public meeting will be held								
JORDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT	.004228	1,427.56	.004152	1,401.90	\$25.66	2%	.004215	1,450.07	08/01/23 06:00PM 8136 S 2700 W
STATE BASIC SCHOOL LEVY	.001406	474.73	.001406	474.73			.001652	568.33	
UT CHANER SCHOOL-JORDAN	.000103	34.78	.000103	34.78			.000101	34.75	
SALT LAKE COUNTY	.001394	476.69	.001394	476.69			.001459	501.93	
BLUFFDALE CITY	.001236	417.33	.000976	329.54	\$87.79	27%	.001161	399.41	08/03/23 06:00PM 2222 W 14400 S Bluffdale
SL COUNTY LIBRARY	.000477	161.06	.000381	128.64	\$32.42	25%	.000386	127.79	08/09/23 06:00PM SPRING HELD DEC ...
SO SL VALLEY MOSQUITO	.000009	3.04	.000009	3.04			.000009	3.10	
JORDAN VALLEY WATER CONSV	.000341	115.14	.000312	105.35	\$9.79	9%	.000319	109.74	08/09/23 06:00PM 8215 S 1300 W
SOUTH VALLEY SEWER	.000196	66.18	.000196	66.18			.000199	68.46	
CENTRAL UT WATER CONSERV	.000400	135.06	.000387	130.67	\$4.39	3%	.000400	137.61	08/21/23 06:00PM 1300 E 750 N Bldg 2 Orem
MULTI COUNTY ASSESS:COLL	.000015	5.06	.000015	5.06			.000015	5.16	
COUNTY ASSESS:COLL LEVY	.000155	52.31	.000155	52.32	\$-.01		.000160	55.05	
TOTAL	.009960	3,362.94	.009486	3,202.90			.010076	3,466.40	

Increase of \$17.92 from 2022

An average increase of \$8/month per household will allow Bluffdale to move forward in building a full-time fire department.



Some residents may be gathering signatures to overturn the budget. Because the tax increase is only in the restricted public safety fund, signing a referendum against the tax increase is like voting to de-fund our police and fire departments.



Learn more about the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget at [bluffdale.com/Budget](http://bluffdale.com/Budget)



2222 W 14400 S  
Bluffdale, UT 84065

Sign up for alerts to come to your phone or email when the newsletter has been published each month. You can sign up to receive other alerts at the same time.

Scan to Register

