PROP 404 & 405

FIRE - POLICE - AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF · ARIZONA · ESTABLISHED 1882

TEAM FLAGSTAFF

WE MAKE THE CITY BETTER

Background

- Identified core services, public safety, and fire resources as Council budget considerations in January 2025
- Discussed public safety needs in April 2025
- Public safety includes Fire, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, Police, and Emergency Management
- Supported the exploration of a public safety ballot measure and citizen committee in September 2025
- Citizen Committee met between November 2025 and May 2026
- Details are available at the Connect Flagstaff site https://connect.flagstaffaz.gov/safety-committee
- City Council called election in June 2026

Financial Overview

- FY 2025-2026 budget included $83 million to support public safety*
  - $54 million (or 46%) of general fund (GF)
  - $29 million in other funds (OF)
- FY 2026-2027 reallocated $537,000 to public safety
- FY 2026-2027 budget included $107 million
  - $60 million (or 49%) of general fund
  - $47 million in other funds
- Inability to rebuild after 2008 and address growth
- Operating costs outpacing growth of General Fund
- Capital costs have grown significantly
- Increasing costs in personnel, technology, and infrastructure

* FY25-26 budget increased to $85 million ($55M GF and $30M OF)

Fire Department Impact

- Addressing today's needs and some future growth
- Staffing to address Flagstaff's evolving risk and demands for firefighter safety
- Reduce severity of wildfire in treated areas
- Assist in addressing insurance premiums
- Sustain and improve response times
- Adequate resources to respond to large-scale or multiple incidents
- Facilities for personnel and apparatus
- Support Fire Station operations

ALERT TOP STORY

Train engine overheats, catches fire in west Flagstaff; blaze under control, smoke impacts expected

ALERT TOP STORY

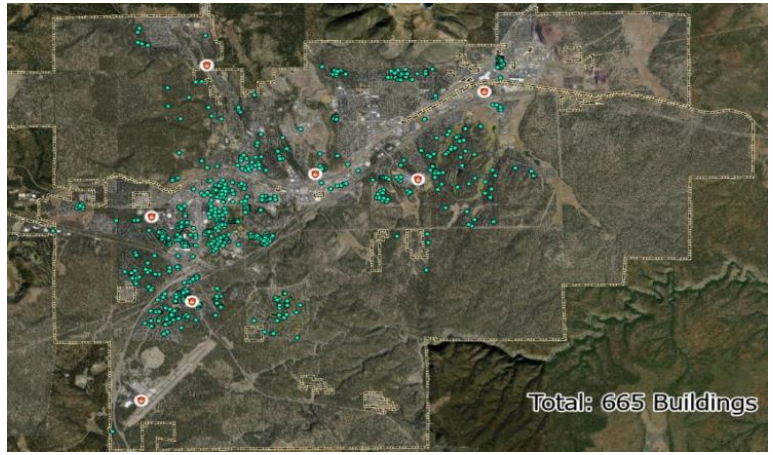
Flagstaff Fire Department to conduct pile burns near Thorpe Park

Wildland Fire Risk

- Additional all-risk firefighters as first line response
- Address increase in frequency and intensity
- Provide additional equipment
- Build a wildland fire station and training facility
- Fund prevention work
  - Hazardous fuel removal
  - Home hardening to protect neighborhoods
  - Equipment

Building Height Risk

- 109.4% increase in mid-rise facilities
- Higher level of risk
- Requires a larger number of personnel to respond
- Additional Quint staffing
- Training for personnel



Calls for Service

- Increase in number of calls
- Exceeded ability to find efficiencies
- Additional supplies
- Replacement of life saving equipment
- Fire academy and training to retain qualified staff
- New Fire Station
  - Improve response times in existing neighborhoods
  - Address new neighborhoods near JW Powell

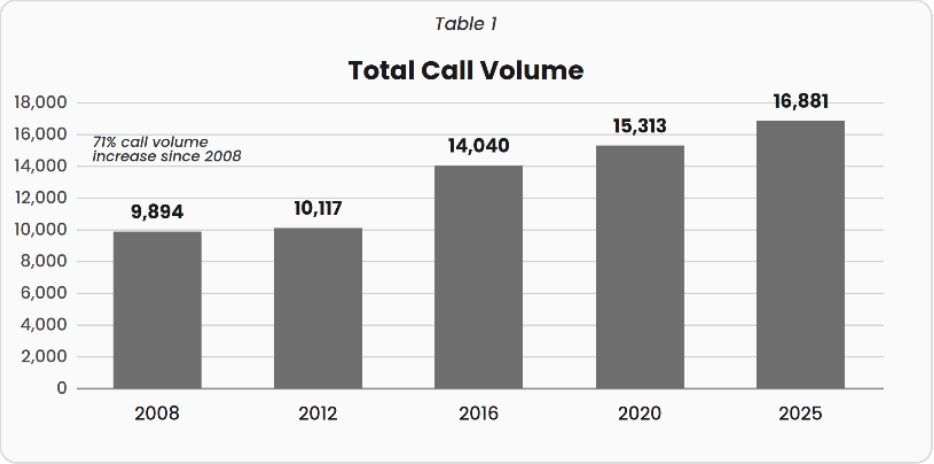


Table 2

THEN 2008	NOW 2025
7 Frontline Units	8 Frontline Units
28 Firefighters per shift	30 Firefighters per shift

Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Impact

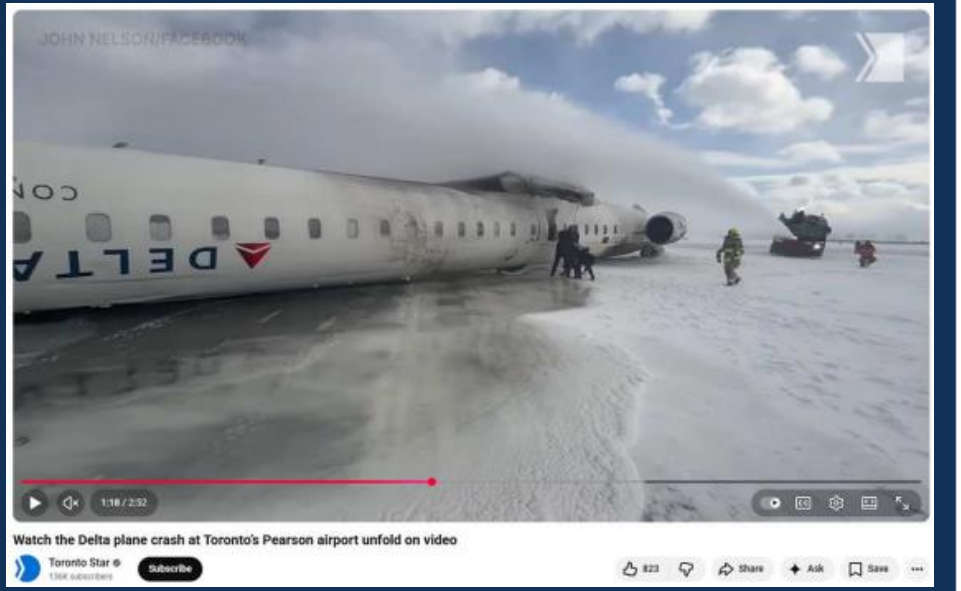
Background

- Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) is federally mandated at commercial service airports
- ARFF response available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year

Impact

- Sustain economic impact of air service for visitor and business travel (160,000+ passengers in 2025 with $33M in visitor spending and $36M in on-airport economic activity)
- Attract additional air service
- Maintain capability to support 120 daily aircraft operations

Aircraft Emergency Response



- Minimum staffing 2 per shift to respond to 70-135 passengers and crew
- 3 more ARFF staff to address aircraft type and size increase that equates to higher level of risk
- Increases minimum staffing from 2 to 3
- Improve emergency response
- Maintain mandated ARFF coverage and bring ARFF level of service to local, regional and national standards and best practices
- Retain mandated level of airport security

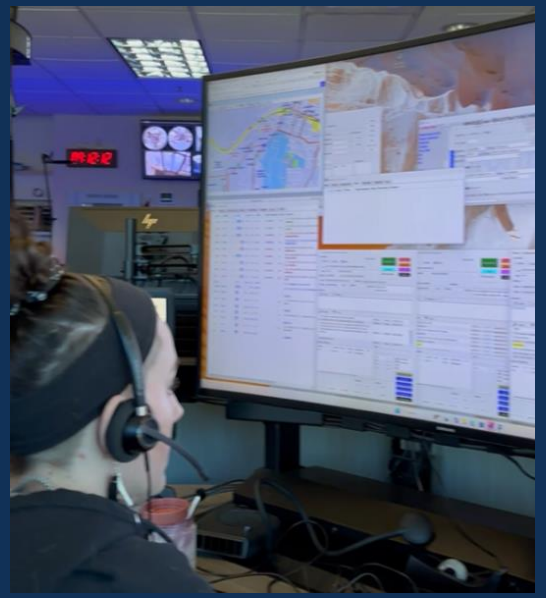
https://www.fox10phoenix.com/video/1513971

First responders train for worst-case scenarios i...

First responders were preparing for the worst case scenario in Flagstaff on Monday. As part of federally-mandated...

www.fox10phoenix.com

Police Department Impact



- Additional personnel in Dispatch to answer 9-1-1 calls
- More support in evidence and records to maintain integrity
- Identify trends and create response plans to mitigate crime
- Improve response with Police Aides for non-emergency calls
- Increase space and people for proficiency and scenario-based training

Response

- PFM Study identified gaps in service
- Reduced transports from Jail to Court to create greater availability
- Maintain safety for large events and protest
- Ability to respond to more than one critical incident with additional personnel
- Keep streets safe
- Respond to community members calls for service

ALERT TOP STORY

Suspect in Flagstaff shoot-out, helicopter crash makes first appearance in Coconino County Superior Court

Criminal Investigation

- Advanced software and specialized training needed to extract data
- Expansion of evidence with increased technology
- Aging systems and integration challenges to identify trends
- Additional staff to investigate 174 people crimes and 271 property crimes
- Build prosecutable cases to support victims
- Space to retain evidence and meet prosecuting and community expectations

ALERT TOP STORY BREAKING

Flagstaff police say homicide a possibility in disappearance of Kelly Paduchowski

CODY BASHORE Digital Editor Jul 2, 2024 0 1 min to read

ALERT TOP STORY

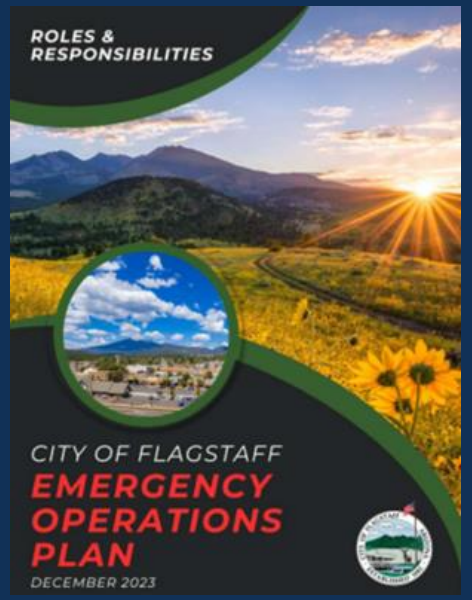
Body of missing 8-year-old girl found in Coalmine; Navajo Police Department and FBI investigation underway

DAILY SUN STAFF Jan 16, 2026 0 1 min to read

Emergency Management Impact

- Why does Flagstaff have its own Emergency Management Program?
  - Dedicated program for Flagstaff's unique hazards
  - Bridge across fire, police, and airport – connects plans, people, and communication so the city responds as one team
- Resources, personnel, plans, training, and equipment to address local risks
- Community impacts with additional investment
  - Provide a more coordinated emergency response
  - Clear and reliable public information and alerts
  - Reduce long-term recovery costs after disasters
  - Stronger support for residents and businesses during recovery

Emergency Preparedness



- Emergency operations planning and joint training
- Prepared for:
  - Active shooter
  - Airport emergencies
  - APS Public Safety Power Shut-offs
  - Large scale events
  - Keeping city services running during disruptions (continuity of operations and continuity of government)

Emergency Response & Recovery

- Emergency declarations to unlock resources (County, State, Federal)
- One team: coordinated response, clear public updates, shared recovery effort
- Disaster recovery: repair public infrastructure, support residents and businesses, and coordinate with nonprofit partners

Why a sales tax & bond?

Balance the needs and maintaining lowest cost possible

- 0.5% (half cent per dollar) Sales Tax
  - Ongoing dollars to pay for personnel, operating costs, contracts and commodities
  - Equipment replaced on regular intervals like emergency radios, PPE, or cardiac monitors
- $40 Million General Obligation (GO) Bond
  - Reduces the amount of a sales tax
  - One-time dollars for capital expenses like construction, additional equipment, and vehicles
  - Additional revenue within the current rate
- Together the ballot measure provides the people and the infrastructure to meet public safety needs

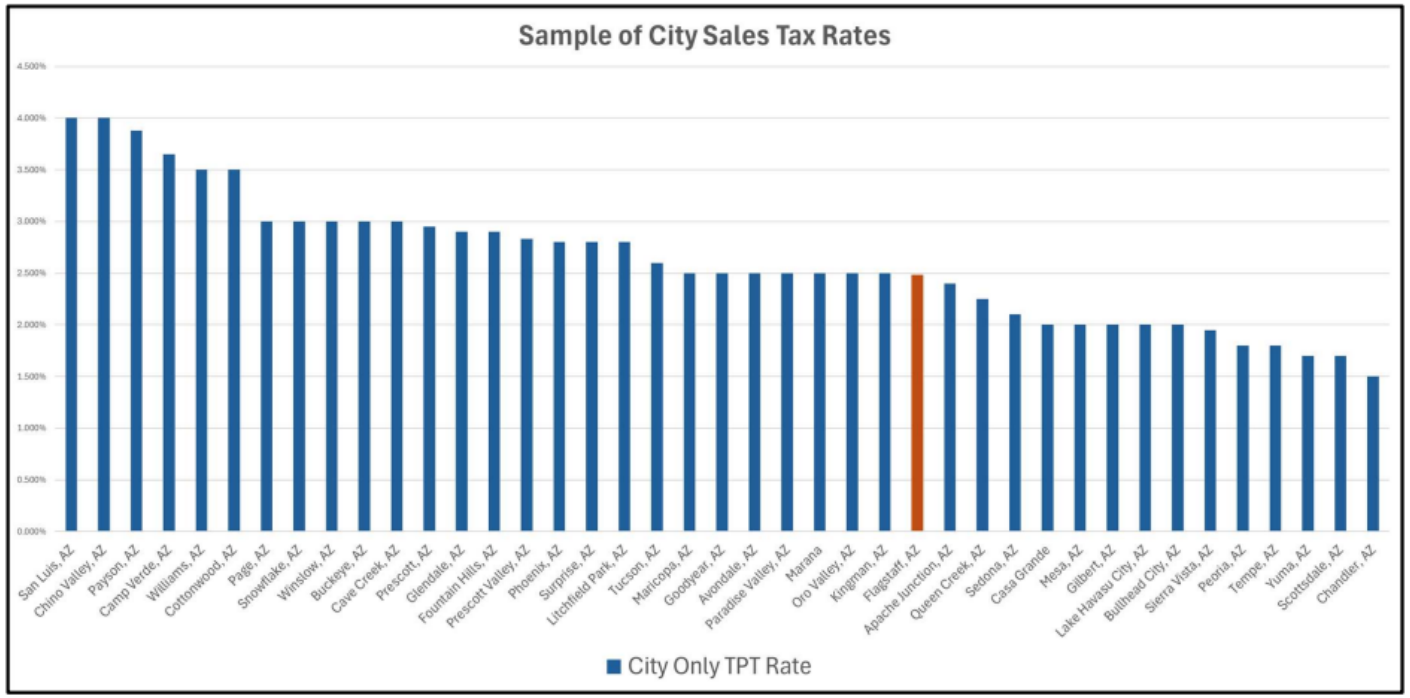
Prop 404 – 0.5% Sales Tax

Ongoing resources to enhance public safety services

- All-Risk Firefighters for wildland, suppression, and EMS
- Fire academy and training
- Fire supplies and equipment
- Fire cancer testing and turnouts
- Police training
- Station O&M
- Emergency response vehicles and maintenance
- Citywide evacuation plan
- Emergency Management personnel
- Aircraft rescue firefighters, equipment & supplies
- Police personnel, equipment & supplies

Prop 404 – 0.5% Sales Tax

- 0.5% produces an average of $18.2 million per year for 15 years
- Increase City's base tax rate from 2.486% to 2.986%
- 37% paid by visitors
- Half of AZ cities have rate of 3.00% or higher
- Address enhanced public safety needs
- Ongoing source for additional staffing and related expenses



What does a Sales tax rate mean to consumers?

- Tax applies to items like dining bills and commodities like a refrigerator
- Tax does not apply to food at the grocery store or residential rent
- At 0.50% the tax would be $0.50 (fifty-cents) per $100
- Examples:
  - Purchase a $50,000 vehicle is $250 more
  - Eat fast food for $21 costs $0.11 more
  - Buy a gallon of milk for $4.59 is $0 more
  - Apartment rent for $1,575 is $0 more

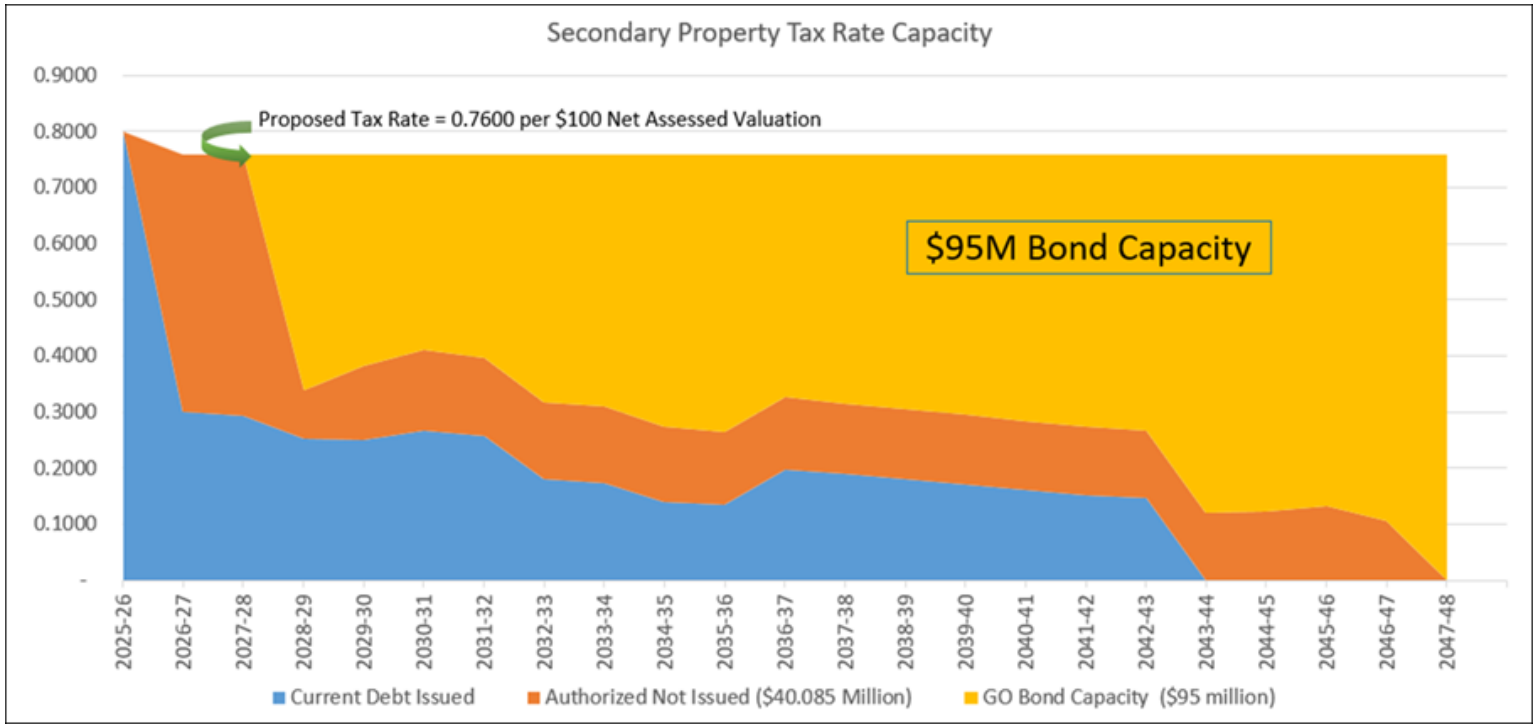
Prop 405 - $40M GO Bond

One-time resources to invest in public safety infrastructure and equipment

- Wildland fire equipment
- Wildland fire facility
- Emergency medical equipment
- JWP Fire Station #7
- Emergency Management supplies and equipment
- Station expansion and modernization
- Upgraded dispatch technology
- Radios and communications
- Emergency vehicle fleet
- Criminal investigation tools

Prop 405 - $40M GO Bond

- $95 million in capacity
- Flat rate policy for Secondary Property Tax is set at 0.7600
- Supplement with Development Impact fees
- Invest in public safety infrastructure and equipment
- One-time source for construction, equipment and vehicles



What does a bond mean to consumers?

- Issuance of bond does not increase secondary property tax
- Assuming assessed value increases by 5%
  - Residential customer pays $14.93 more per year
  - Commercial property pays ($0.11) less per year
- Assessed value calculated by Coconino County Assessor annually

Community Benefits

- Improve homeowner insurance access and cost
- Additional all-risk firefighters to support a growing community and build a stronger wildland fire defense
- Provide access and suppression capability for mid-rise buildings which have doubled in Flagstaff
- Maintain Flagstaff Pulliam Airport operations
- More 9-1-1 Communications Center personnel
- Reduce the 445-case average Detective process to improve capacity for interactions with victims and completion of investigations
- Improve emergency preparedness and response

Propositions 404 & 405

- Election on November 3rd
- Learn more at publicsafetyballot.com

Questions?

Publicsafetyballot.com