



For Immediate Release

On May 13, 2024, the South Sioux City Council approved the ballot language for a special election that would grow the South Sioux City Fire Department by 3 full-time firefighters. The City Council, South Sioux City Administration and International Association of Firefighters Local 644 have been working collaboratively to find the means to grow the fire department which has not added a full time position since 2018. The proposal is that the existing ½ cent sales tax allocated to street and infrastructure be split 75% to continue to go to street and infrastructure needs and 25% to public safety. This would allow approximately \$325,000 to public safety and is planned to be used to cover the cost of the three additional firefighters. To change the way the sales tax is allocated to be spent requires a vote. This allows the City to use these funds where they are most needed. This represents shifting funds to priorities without raising taxes.

This special election will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. A vote of “YES” will give the City of South Sioux City the permission to direct part of the ½ cent to the fire department and keep the rest going toward streets and infrastructure. It is important for the public to understand that this is NOT a new tax and there will be no increase in the sales tax rate. This outstanding plan will allow the redirection of part of the sales tax to add one more firefighter position to each shift, without increasing the tax burden to the public. The ability to staff four firefighters per day (instead of three per day) allows the South Sioux City Fire Department to move closer to aligning with the response and staffing standard 1710 of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA 1710).

A vote of “NO” will leave the sales tax as it is going all to streets and infrastructure. It will NOT reduce the tax rate.

For more information concerning this vote, please feel free to contact the city of South Sioux City at 402-494-7520, IAFF Local 644 or stop by the South Sioux City Fire Department.