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As a Captain/Paramedic with Benton County Fire District 4 and a resident of this community, I want to thank the Board of Fire Commissioners for placing a fire levy lid lift on the August ballot.

I have served with BCFD4 since 2018 and have worked in the fire service since 2007. During that time, I have seen our community grow, emergency calls increase, and the cost of providing service continue to rise. I have also seen how important adequate staffing and reliable equipment are when residents call 911 during an emergency.

Many people do not realize that fire districts are limited in how much revenue they can collect each year. As property values rise, the levy rate falls, which means the district must cover more homes, businesses, and residents with less funding than voters originally approved.

The Board's decision to place this measure before voters gives the community the opportunity to decide how emergency services are funded moving forward. The proposed lid lift would help maintain service levels, hire additional firefighters, replace aging equipment, and strengthen important programs that protect our community.

I appreciate the Board's leadership and commitment to planning ahead for the safety of our community.

Garrett Premel

Captain/Paramedic

Benton County Fire District 4