

News Release

Date: April 15, 2010

Contact: Dawn Johnson, Public Information Officer

Board Adopts Resolution to Submit EMS Renewal Levy to Taxpayers

The Clark County Fire District 6 (Fire District 6) Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution #2010-03 to place an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy renewal on the August 17, 2010 ballot. The current EMS levy expires at the end of 2010.

Proposition 1 would renew the EMS levy for six years at the current voter approved amount of \$0.45 per \$1,000 assessed value for an annual total of \$2,703,022, or 27% of Fire District 6’s operating budget. This means a person with a home valued at \$300,000 would pay \$11.25 per month (or \$135 per year) for 24-hour Advanced Life Support (ALS)/paramedic care. ALS is vital life-sustaining care that can only be administered by a certified paramedic.

“We know the economy is still an issue for many people in our community,” said Fire Chief Jerry Green. “That’s why we’re asking only for what we need to maintain current emergency service levels.”

Levy funds are used to keep response times to an average of four minutes or less; regular training for firefighter/paramedics; and, making sure that every station has life-saving medical equipment, such as cardiac monitors and respiratory support equipment.

“It’s important for the community to know that almost 90 percent of our calls are for emergency medical care,” said Chief Green. “This is a widely used service.”

Later this summer the Board of Commissioners will discuss potential cuts to service if the EMS levy is not renewed. One outcome would be laying off between 13 to 23 fire fighter/paramedics and administrative personnel depending upon labor negotiations. In addition, emergency medical care levels would be reduced from Advanced Life Support, or “ALS” to Basic Life Support. A reduction in service levels would increase response times and compromise emergency medical care because such things as life-saving medication could not be administered.

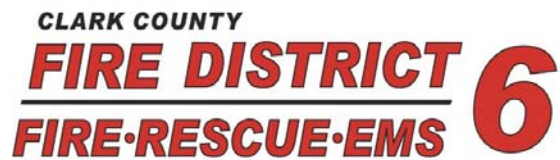
What is the difference between ALS and BLS?

Advanced Life Support (ALS)	Basic Life Support (BLS)
Care provided by paramedics, with 1,500 hours of training	Care provided by Emergency Medical Technicians with 110 hours of training
Establish IV’s and administer life saving medications	Can NOT establish IV’s, or administer medication
Tracheal intubations and new airways in the neck	Limited to external procedures only
Diagnose heart rhythms, increasing chance of early recovery from heart attack or stroke	Serves as support for Paramedic

In 2009 Fire District 6’s average response time to an emergency was four minutes or less. Its fire fighter/paramedics undergo weekly trainings in Advanced Life Support care. For more information about Fire District 6, visit our web site at www.ccf6.org.

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