S.A.F.E.R. – JOPLIN

Proposition Public Safety is an effort to improve funding for Police and Fire services within the community through a proposed property tax. The proposed tax will levy a $1.00 tax for every $100 of assessed value on all real and personal property, leading to a S.A.F.E.R community.

An investment into public safety will strengthen the community for the future.

Service **S**.A.F.E.R.

Employment trends show law enforcement careers as less desirable which means more competition among cities to attract new officers.

Similarly, careers within the Fire Service are not as attractive when compared to the opportunities in the private sector.

As of this publication, the Police Department has 21 openings but needs an additional 22 officers over that number to meet nationally recognized law enforcement standards.

Since 2012 the Joplin Police Department has lost 163 officers, including 35 to retirement.

Since 2012, the Joplin Fire Department has lost a total of 73 firefighters to other fire departments and private sector jobs, with an additional 27 retirements, for a total loss of 100 firefighters.

Proposition Public Safety is a matter of status quo vs. improvement. It provides a stable platform for current and future challenges.

Accountability S.**A**.F.E.R

Serving the businesses and citizens of Joplin is a point of pride for the City's public safety professionals. The private sector cannot provide these critical services which places the accountability and responsibility on a precious few dedicated men and women serving in the City's Police and Fire Departments.

Financial S.A.**F**.E.R.

City services are predominately funded through taxes generated locally. Cities in Missouri are mostly funded through a combination of sales and property tax. The City of Joplin is near the top of comparable cities for sales tax but is among the lowest for property tax.

The absence of revenue from property tax limits the City's ability to fund necessary services and exposes the City to financial risk by being overly reliant on sales tax.





TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATE COMPARISON



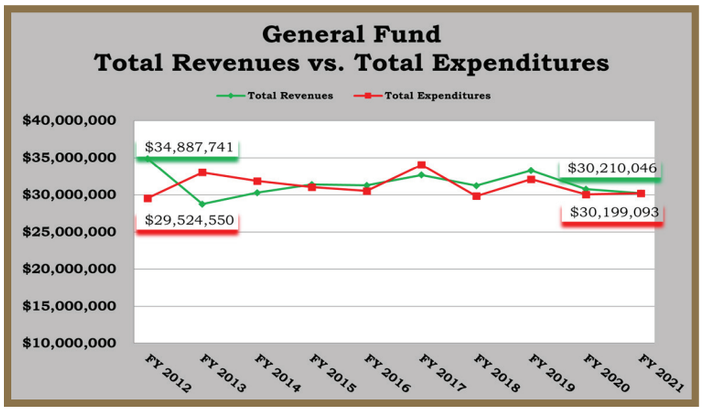
Funds from Proposition Public Safety will address the identified areas of need listed below:

Police *(estimated year one costs)*

Additional Police Staffing Up to 22 Officers	$2,200,000
Additional Support Staffing	$155,000
Re-hire Tier 1 at same level	$695,000
Est Cost of salary increase	$1,850,000
Grand Total	$4,900,000

Fire

Additional Fire Staffing Up to 15 for Additional Centrally Located Station, 3 for Station 6,	$1,700,000
Deputy Fire Marshal Re-hire Tier 1 at same level	$395,000
Est Cost of salary increase	$1,715,000
Grand Total	$3,810,000







Service
Accountability
Financial
Economic development
Recruitment & retention
JOPLIN

Economic Development S.A.F.**E**.R.

A vibrant community with a high quality of life must have strong public safety services.

The City of Joplin's ability to protect people, property, and property value is vital for those looking to invest or relocate to the Joplin community.

As the City grows, it provides additional opportunities for existing businesses, reducing the burden on existing taxpayers.

Recruitment & Retention S.A.F.E.**R**.

The key to attracting and retaining public safety personnel is competitive pay and positive working conditions.

Currently, starting pay for a Police Officer and Fire Fighter is approximately $37,000 and $34,000 respectively. Without an improvement, those looking to start public safety careers may never do so because of better opportunities in the private sector.

To retain existing professionals, the City must continue to enhance pay and opportunities so that these dedicated employees can continue their essential service.

A choice between status quo and a S.A.F.E.R. Joplin!

Paid for by City of Joplin Nick Edwards, City Manager