

Proposition Police & Fire

A no-tax-increase permanent funding source for Joplin Police and Fire.

What is being proposed?

- Proposition Police & Fire is for a **½-cent Public Safety Sales Tax**, replacing the current ½-cent "Prop B" Pension Sales Tax, resulting in **no tax increase** to citizens and visitors to our community.
- Earmarked for **Police, Fire, and Dispatch only**.
- Without a sunset because it will be used for:
  - **Staffing**
  - **Pay & benefits**
  - **Capital expenditures** (facilities, vehicles & equipment)
- Secures funding to improve critical public safety services **for today and future generations**.
- The continuation of the ½-cent tax rate **will take effect in 2027** only after the current "Prop B" tax expires, once obligations have been met (Public Safety Pensions fully funded).

A "No" vote will cause the current tax to expire without replacement:

❌ Expiration of the current tax will leave no dedicated funding for competitive pay or additional public safety personnel. It will also reduce the City's ability to fund capital improvements for facilities, vehicles and equipment for Police and Fire.

A "Yes" vote allows for:

Improved Public Safety Staffing:

✅ 9 Additional Police Officer positions, to put more officers in neighborhoods and reduce response times.

✅ 6 Additional Fire Fighters.

Improved Pay for Better Market Competitiveness:

✅ $2m in pay adjustments for Police.

✅ $2m in pay adjustments for Fire.

✅ All pay adjustments guaranteed through Collective Bargaining Contracts.

Improved Facilities:

✅ Replacement of Fire Station 3.

✅ Modernization of Police Firing Range.

✅ Improvements to the Public Safety Training Center.

Better Equipment

✅ Adds funding for Police vehicles and other Police equipment.

✅ Replaces a Fire Ladder Truck.

✅ Replaces a Fire Rescue Truck.

Vote April 7, 2026

To learn more, visit: *joplinmo.org/PropPoliceFire*

Why has this been proposed?

The Joplin Police and Fire Departments are **falling behind in competitive pay**, routinely **losing experienced and highly-trained staff** to better-paying departments, and **struggling to maintain full staffing.** More staff are needed to keep up with calls for service, plus facility improvements are needed and equipment must be maintained and replaced at end-of-life.

The City followed through on "Prop B", using the revenue to fully fund Public Safety pensions years ahead of schedule. Expiration of "Prop B" gives an opportunity to ask voters if you want to continue collecting the same tax rate, but now, rather than having to fund the pensions for Police and Fire, the funds could be used to meet other Public Safety needs.

Joplin Police Department:

Key Facts (2025):

79,532 calls for service.
Narcotics and DWI cases combined **rose 19%** over 2024.
477 unfilled patrol shifts.
35 officers resigned or retired since 1/1/2024.

Operational Impacts:

- Extra shiftwork leads to officer burnout and leaving the agency - often for work at other Police agencies.
- The Patrol Bureau has uncovered shifts daily, leaving Patrol Beats unassigned.
- Full authorized strength of 43 Beat Officers, but current Beat Officers is 28 (as of Jan. 27, 2026).
- Police Firing Range in critical need of repair and updates for safety purposes.

Joplin Fire Department:

Key Facts (2025):

9,980 calls for service.
Calls increasing **4–7%** annually.
30,576 overtime hours.
Avg. **3.5 extra shifts** per day.
1,274 Overtime shifts.
244 Forced overtime shifts.

Operational Impacts:

- Business fire inspections have been discontinued due to understaffing.
- Increased firefighter fatigue, injuries, and sick leave.
- Aging facilities and apparatus under growing demand. Replacement of Fire Station 3 is needed. It was constructed in 1980 and no longer meets modern safety or operational standards.

Police & Fire Annual Starting Pay Comparison: (as of 9/1/2025)

Job Title	Joplin Starting Pay	Regional Average Starting Pay
Firefighter/EMT	$40,125	$47,849
Police Officer	$40,800	$53,043

Regional benchmark cities: Springfield, Branson, Jefferson City, Liberty and St. Joseph in Missouri, plus Bentonville and Ft. Smith in Arkansas.

PAID FOR BY: City of Joplin
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joplinmo.org/PropPoliceFire

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JOPLIN MISSOURI