



What is the Park County Emergency Services Council, and why would it benefit from Park County Ballot issue 1A , the proposed 2% lodging tax for short-term rental properties in Park County?

The Park County Emergency Services Council (ES Council) was created in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) “to assist Park County emergency responders in the coordination for the provision of emergency services to the public within Park County. To provide a forum for the discussion of means to improve the provision of emergency services to the public, and to receive public funds and grants for the improvement of emergency services within Park County.”

The ES Council is funded by federal P.I.L.T. (payment in lieu of taxes) funds, which are distributed annually by Park County. The ES Council works together on projects and equipment purchases that are a shared resource among all ES agencies, and uses these funds to make specialty purchases.

The ES Council is made up of the following emergency response agencies:

Platte Canyon Fire / EMS
Jefferson / Como Fire
Hartsel Fire
North-West Fire
Lake George Fire
Southern Park County Fire / EMS
South Park Ambulance District
Park County Sheriff / Search and Rescue
Park County Emergency Communication Center
Park County Office of Emergency Management
Park County Public Health
Fairplay Police Department

Projects funded by the ES Council include but are not limited to:

The ES Council purchased two woodchippers which are shared among the fire districts in Park County with the intent to provide a means for fire mitigation on residents’ properties. The fire departments work closely with residents and commercial chipping businesses to mitigate properties at minimal or no cost to residents that need help.

Four VMS (variable message) boards were purchased to allow for critical communications to the public along the roadways of Park County. These are used to advise the general public of fire ban conditions, flooding issues, as well as pertinent announcements and information (such as where to register for “Code Red”, the tool used to inform residents of critical emergency communications.

Two Chevrolet Suburbans were donated to the ES Council- one from the Park County Coroner’s Office and one from the Park County Sheriff’s Office. These vehicles had passed their service life for those departments and were outfitted with snow tracks. These vehicles are shared by all emergency

response agencies in Park County and are highly useful tools for emergency response in deep snow conditions. The equipment on these vehicles was purchased by the ES Council, as well as a truck and two trailers capable of towing these tracked vehicles to the incident location within the county. The most notable use of these tracked vehicles was during the 2018 Thanksgiving Blizzard where hundreds of stranded motorists along Highway 285 were transported to safety. The tracked vehicles also provide access to radio towers during the winter months when critical repairs are needed to emergency communication equipment.

The ES Council has also purchased four UTVs for emergency response in rough country. Two of those vehicles are reserved for fire department response in difficult terrain, and two of those vehicles are utilized by the Park County Sheriff's Office for Search & Rescue as well as forest patrol.

The ES Council has supported the purchase of various equipment to enhance the abilities of the Emergency Communications Van. This vehicle is deployed during remote Search & Rescue missions, wildfires, and various planned community events. This vehicle and its equipment are also the main backup resource for the Emergency Communications Center.

The ES Council has funded radio equipment to various agencies and also funds the radio equipment used at tower sites. It is critical that our responders have communication not only to dispatch, but with each other and other assisting agencies.

The ES Council has also provided funds to member agencies for emergency vehicle repairs that otherwise would not have been possible under that agency's annual budget.

The ballot measure is a request to our citizens asking for the ability to establish a 2% lodging tax on short-term rentals located in Park County. These properties have placed an additional burden on emergency service agencies. This tax will be paid by the renters of these homes, who are tourists of Park County. Park County residents will *not* be required to pay *any money* toward this proposed tax.

The money procured from this proposed tax will support the agencies impacted by the short-term rentals, and also provide funding to improve roads and the tourism industry in Park County.

PURPOSE OF TAX:

The purpose of the lodging tax is for:

1. Facilitating and enhancing the visitor experience, specifically to fund: (i) road and bridge operations, capital improvements, and related maintenance and equipment, (ii) law enforcement / public safety, and (iii) the Emergency Services Council.
2. Advertising and marketing for local tourism.

ALLOCATION OF TAX:

The lodging tax shall be allocated:

1. 35% (approximately \$350,280 annually) – Road and Bridge operations, capital improvements, and related maintenance and equipment
2. 35% (approximately \$350,280 annually)- Law Enforcement and Public Safety
3. 20% (approximately \$200,160 annually)- Emergency Services Council
4. 10% (approximately \$100,080 annually)- Advertising and Marketing for local tourism

PLEASE VOTE “YES” ON {BALLOT ISSUE 1A}. This measure does not take any money from Park County residents and will provide much-needed funding for emergency services and county infrastructure.

Park County Emergency Services Council

Kristy Olme, Trent Smith, Ben Mulligan, Maria Mitchell, Aric Stahly, Susan Bernstetter, Brad Golden, Tom McGraw, Brain Cook, Kevin Borns