

# Proposed Improved Funding for 9-1-1

## Talking Points 2021

The Jasper County Emergency Services 9-1-1 Board (JASCO) is asking the voters to consider a sales tax increase at the August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 election. The ballot initiative would raise the sales tax rate from 1/10<sup>th</sup> of (1) percent to 1/4<sup>th</sup> of (1) percent for the purposes of improving 9-1-1 and communications in Jasper County for all citizens and all public safety.

JASCO currently collects \$1 for every \$1,000 spent on goods and is only asking to increase it to \$2.50.

Just over 27 years ago, (April 5, 1994), Jasper County residents approved the sales tax rate for 9-1-1 services. Since taking the first call in 1997, JASCO has consolidated multiple dispatch centers and taken on an increased call volume and has not asked for any funding changes until now. Jasper County's 9-1-1 rate is currently the second lowest 9-1-1 Center sales tax rate in Missouri.

### August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Ballot Language:

*Shall the Jasper County Emergency Services 9-1-1 Board through its Board of Directors be permitted to increase its current sales tax rate of one tenth (1/10<sup>th</sup>) of one percent to a sales tax rate up to and not to exceed one quarter (1/4<sup>th</sup>) of one percent of taxable sales for infrastructure, a county-wide public safety radio system, and to ensure rapid dispatching of all 9-1-1 calls and non-emergency calls for service to law enforcement, emergency medical services and fire protection?*

This is not a new tax. It is a request for change in the funding rate to meet current needs for the following:

**Infrastructure** – To maintain the JASCO 9-1-1 building and to build out public safety infrastructure for radio and data communication needs.

**County-wide Public Safety Radio System** – This would be for a standardized, interoperable system, for all public safety agencies in Jasper County to use. Funding would help the purchase of radio equipment, as well as radio system support and staffing to ensure operations.

It is important to note that we currently have 4 different radio systems in Jasper County and many first responders cannot even talk to one another on their radios due to the different equipment and systems. This would allow all public safety agencies to talk to one another.

**Ensure Rapid Dispatching of all 9-1-1 calls and non-emergency calls for service to law enforcement, emergency medical services and fire protection** – Replacement of the 9-1-1 phone system to next generation technology in preparation for better connectivity, better location accuracy, greater reliability and coordination with other 9-1-1 Centers. Currently, we cannot transfer 9-1-1 calls to all 9-1-1 Centers. This allows for backup with neighboring jurisdictions so that calls and radio traffic can be covered in the event of an unforeseen emergency or evacuation.

It will increase JASCO staffing and training and allow for dedicated call takers. This will ensure efficient and effective communications for public and responder safety and quality.

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For questions, please contact April Ford, Executive Director at 417-358-7000 x 3300 or by email, [aford@jasco.org](mailto:aford@jasco.org).