

**BRAZOS COUNTY  
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 4/  
BRAZOS COUNTY PRECINT 4 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.**

P.O. Box 7102  
Bryan, Texas 77805

[www.brazoscountyesd4.org](http://www.brazoscountyesd4.org)

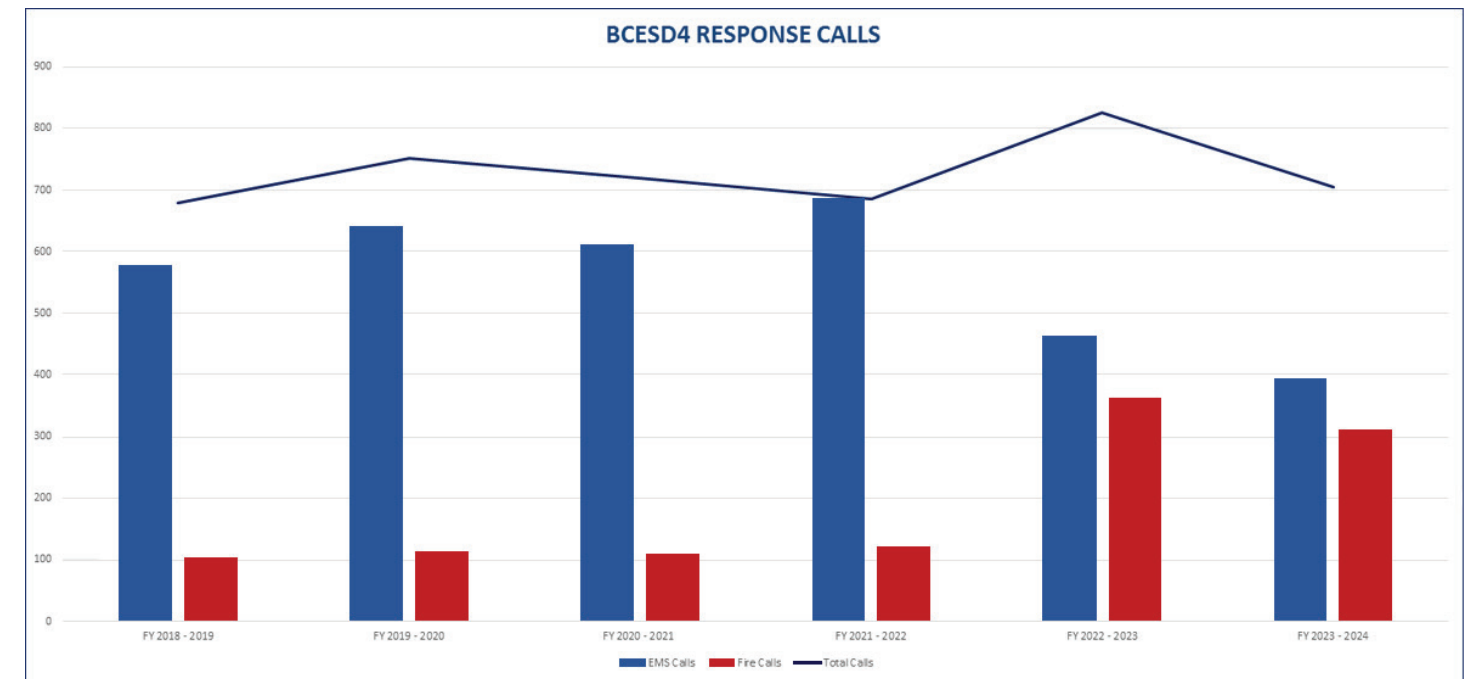
**HERE WHEN YOU NEED US!**

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**BCESD4 Response Call Summary**

As the number of response calls continue to increase, the District continues to expand in north and west Brazos County. While the majority of the response calls are medical-related, District 4 firefighters are continually trained in firefighting and emergency response.



The Brazos County Emergency Service District 4 (BCESD4) Board of Commissioners is excited to tell you about what is happening with your local fire department. We feel this is a good time to bring the residents of Brazos County District 4 (the District) up to speed on what is underway to improve the operations of the Brazos County Precinct 4 Volunteer Fire Department (BCVFD4).

**We're Here When You Need Us!**

**Brazos County ESD4 Board of Commissioners**

**Steve Godby**  
President  
8 Years Service

**Anthony Oehler**  
Vice President  
4 Years Service

**Jordan Mitchell**  
Treasurer  
4 Years Service

**Dina Nutall**  
Secretary  
6 Years Service

**Jill Jones**  
Board Member  
6 Years Service

**Brazos County Precinct 4 Volunteer Fire Department Command**

**Joe Warren**  
Fire Chief  
6 Years Service

**Chris Ford**  
Assistant Fire Chief  
11 Years Service

**Colton Wiseman**  
Lieutenant  
6 Years Service

**Bryan Mena**  
Senior Firefighter  
6 Years Service





# HERE WHEN YOU NEED US!



## Background

The Brazos County ESD 4 is the grass-roots governmental entity that collects taxes to fund our local fire department, providing fire suppression and emergency medical services to the residents within the District's boundaries.

These taxes fund our 3 fire stations, apparatus, personnel and equipment the fire department utilizes to provide fire protection and medical aid for the community. In turn, the Brazos County Precinct 4 Volunteer Fire Department provides the personnel to staff the stations and operate the vehicles.

## History of the Property Tax

In May 1990, the voters of Brazos County Precinct 4 voted and approved the creation of the Rural Fire Prevention District (RFPD) #4. On September 1, 2003, because of State of Texas legislation, the RFPD #4 converted to the "Brazos County Emergency Services District (BCESD4)".

As a result, this enabled each ESD to receive revenue from local ad valorem taxes, commonly known as property tax. The 2023 property tax rate for Brazos County ESD4 is just over one nickel per \$100 valuation (\$0.052064/\$100 valuation).

Often, as is the case with the BCESD4, this revenue source alone enabled the BCESD4 to operate from year-to-year, but was insufficient to meet the growing emergency response needs of the District. It is for this reason most districts and boards seek additional funding outside of property tax.

## History of the Sales and Use Tax

In May 2022, the Board of Commissioners of BCESD4 called for a Sales and Use Tax proposition to be placed on the May 2022 ballot. By levying a sales use tax, BCESD4 would be shifting a portion of the funding from property owners to anyone buying taxable goods and services in the District, commonly known as a "pass-through" tax. Moreover, with the sales use tax, the BCESD4 Board of Commissioners can address critical and growing issues.

The Board of Commissioners of BCESD4, working with the Brazos County Fire Department Precinct 4 (BCVFD4) board and membership realized additional funding was needed and a sales tax is the best resource as a supplemental revenue stream.

Because of the May 2022 Special Election, the voters of Brazos County District 4 voted and approved BCESD4 to receive \$0.015 / \$100 of qualified sales tax revenue within the District.

## Issues Facing the Brazos County ESD4

Brazos County ESD4 has witnessed tremendous population and commercial growth over the past decade and similar growth trends are projected for the coming decade. As a result, the number of emergency calls has increased as well over the last 10 years.

## Station 3 Bay Addition & Renovations

The three existing BCESD4 fire stations were constructed in the early 1980's. While the interior of each station has been renovated, the growth of the BCESD4 fleet, along with the age of the metal buildings has resulted in a need to expand and renovate the stations.

As a result of the tax sales revenue, plans are underway to expand Station 3, located at Raymond Stotzer Parkway and Lightsey Lane, by adding two additional bays for new apparatus, renovating the front elevation of the fire station and address several existing fire safety code issues. Expected completion of the renovation is February 2025.



Precinct 4 Fire Station 3 Addition



## SALES TAX USE

### Daytime/Weekend Duty Crews

As of November 2023, the BCESD4 has employed 18 part-time certified fire fighters, in addition to the existing BCVFD4 Volunteer firefighters, to provide 10 hour, daytime and weekend night, emergency coverage within the District.

The "duty crew" consists of fulltime fire fighters, working on their days off, from Bryan FD, College Station FD, Sanger FD, Montgomery ESD, Liberty FD, The Colony FD, Brenham FD, Houston FD and the State of Texas Fire Marshal Office.

The "duty crew" fire fighters are scheduled 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and the night crew run from 8:00 pm to 6:00 am the next day.

It is our goal to have a minimum of two firefighters on duty during this time for our initial response. Precinct 4 is very blessed to have both of these groups of firefighters!

### Volunteer Firefighter Stipends Increase

While the BCESD4 offers high quality firefighter training and plenty of opportunities to engage in emergency service work, the BCESD4 Board of Commissioners felt the need to remain competitive and minimize the out-of-pocket expenses of a volunteer responding to any emergency calls. The Volunteer Firefighter Stipend increased from \$20 to \$25 per response and went in to effect in January 2023.

The BCVFD4 members play a critical role in providing emergency services throughout the District; however, the high turnover rate for volunteers is a challenge, particularly in recruiting new volunteers.

All 15 BCVFD4 members are certified firefighters. BCVFD4 also has 8 certified Emergency Medical Technicians - Paramedics (EMT-P) and 5 basic Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).

### BCESD4 Fire Fighting Apparatus Additions

The BCVFD4 applied for a Texas A&M Forest Service grant that would pay half of the cost of a new fire truck. Early this year, that grant was approved and the BCESD4 will receive the new fire truck in October 2024.

In addition, the BCESD4 added a previously owned 2014 Ferrara Pumper to the fleet. It has been a practice of the BCESD4 to purchase previously owned pumpers; in comparison to purchasing a new fire truck that would cost \$1.5 million and estimated delivery time of 2 years. The 2014 Ferrara Pumper was purchased from Montgomery County ESD 5 at a cost \$485,000 and placed in service in April 2024.

Lastly the BCESD4 board approved the purchase of a new 2024 Ferrara pumper to serve as a reserve truck that will be in service in December 2024.

## PROPERTY TAX USE

### Debt Service

The BCESD4 currently has five loans; one for previous fire station construction and four related to apparatus and equipment purchases.

### Professional

Attorney fees, professional fees.

### Administrative

Website maintenance, newsletter, board member training, appraisal district fee, trade association fees, insurance, postage, financial audit, bookkeeping, etc.

### Maintenance & Operations (M&O)

M&O costs include maintenance and operation of the 15 firefighting apparatuses, equipment repair, firefighter training, fire department operations cost, etc.