

Lane County collects property tax revenue on behalf of more than 85 taxing districts, including Lane Fire Authority. Residents who own property in the Lane Fire Authority service area are receiving notices about a mistake in their 2021-2022 property tax bills.

Property owners will receive a letter regarding the specifics for their property tax accounts. The information below is intended to help residents understand the error and what it means for their property taxes.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to Daniela Urbatzka at (541) 682-3675 or [danni.urbatzka@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:danni.urbatzka@lanecountyor.gov).

### **What happened?**

On February 24, 2022, Lane Fire Authority (LFA) notified Lane County Assessment & Taxation (A&T) that they believed a mistake had been made regarding their local option levy.

LFA's ballot measure (20-320) passed in May 2021 for \$0.35/\$1,000 of assessed value.

Yes Votes: 3,687

No Votes: 2,142

A typographical error resulted in the billing of the local option on the 2021-22 tax statement at \$0.035/\$1,000 (one-tenth of what it should have been). Despite multiple opportunities for review at the fire district, county and state levels, the mistake slipped through.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) determined the legal remedy was for the DOR to order A&T to bill the difference, which they did on March 24 with Supervisory Order No. 22-0003. Pursuant to ORS 311.513, the additional taxes become due and payable without interest if paid prior to the 16th of the month following the correction.

### **Who was billed and when?**

All properties within the Lane Fire Authority District that were charged the incorrect \$0.035 levy amount on their 2021-22 tax statement are subject to the correction with the exception of taxpayers whose total amount owing on all properties is less than \$10.

The billings were split into two groups. The first billing group was mailed the week of April 4. The second will be mailed April 15.

### **When are the additional taxes due?**

May 16, 2022. If there are no past due taxes on the property tax account, a 3 percent discount applies. After that date, the discount is lost and interest starts to accrue at a rate of 1.33 percent per month.

### **Which amount do I pay?**

The letter/bill includes three amounts:

1. The original charge
2. What is being added
3. What that amount is with the 3% discount.

The third amount is what should be paid if making the payment by May 16, 2022 and if there are no past due taxes on the account.

**Whom do I make a check out to?**

Lane County Tax Collector

**Where do I send my check?**

You should receive a green return envelope with your bill. Otherwise, the address is 125 E. 8th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401.

**Can I pay by credit or debit card?**

Yes, online at <http://apps.lanecounty.org/atepay/>. Third-party fees apply.

**What about people whose taxes are normally paid by their mortgage company?**

You can provide the bill to your mortgage company, but most people are choosing to pay directly.

**Can I deduct these additional taxes from my income taxes?**

Save the letter/bill to provide to your 2022 tax preparer.