



Fire and Police funding options - mill levy and new home construction tax



Fire Department staffing requests through 2026

17 positions requested now:

- 6 operations personnel to meet needed "relief factor" (3)
- 3 training personnel to meet recommended 1:20 ratio (1)
- 4 fire prevention and life safety personnel (1)
- 3 administration personnel to support functions including emergency management (1)
- 1 logistics personnel to meet staffing standards

15 positions needed for a sixth fire station to open in 2026:

- 3 battalion chiefs to maintain appropriate oversight of stations
- 3 lieutenants to oversee three shifts staffing the station
- 3 engineers to operate apparatus out of the station over three shifts
- 3 paramedics to meet minimum staffing of new apparatus
- 3 firefighter/EMTs to provide relief factor for all station personnel

Also requested in 2026:

- 9 staff to add a medic unit at Station 155

2021 staffing

94 CRFD FTEs
111.75 CRPD FTEs



Police Department staffing requests through 2026

6 positions and three vehicles requested in 2022:

- 4 officers: two in patrol, one in special operations and one in training
- 1 sergeant in patrol | 1 dispatcher

7 positions and five vehicles requested in 2023:

- 5 officers: three in patrol, one in special ops and one in investigations
- 2 community service officers

9 positions and five vehicles requested in 2024:

- 5 officers: three in patrol, one in special ops and one in investigations
- 2 community service officers | 1 sergeant in special operations
- 1 digital media technician

6 positions and three vehicles requested in 2025:

- 4 officers in patrol | 1 sergeant in investigations
- 1 wellness coordinator

6 positions and three vehicles requested in 2026:

- 4 officers: three in patrol and one in investigations | 2 dispatchers

New home construction tax

Would apply only to the construction of new residential units in Town. (Not to additions, basement finishes, rebuilds in the event of a fire, etc.)



\$449,948
Castle Rock Median Home



\$38.48 to the Town in 2021

Option A



+41 Fire FTEs

135 CRFD FTEs total



+34 Police FTEs

145.75 CRPD FTEs total



11 mills

The Town's property tax on a median home would need to increase to **\$353.88**.



\$7/SF

A new home construction tax of **\$15,400** on the average new home would be needed.

Option B



+31 Fire FTEs

125 CRFD FTEs total



+29 Police FTEs

140.75 CRPD FTEs total



9 mills

The Town's property tax on a median home would need to increase to **\$289.54**.



\$5.50/SF

A new home construction tax of **\$12,100** on the average new home would be needed.

Option C



+24 Fire FTEs

118 CRFD FTEs total



+24 Police FTEs

135.75 CRPD FTEs total



8 mills

The Town's property tax on a median home would need to increase to **\$257.37**.



\$4.50/SF

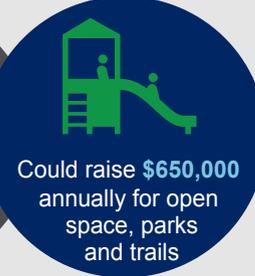
A new home construction tax of **\$9,900** on the average new home would be needed.



Open space, parks and trails funding options



Would add **\$7.25** in taxes to a \$125 overnight stay



Could raise **\$650,000** annually for open space, parks and trails

6% lodging tax

Potential arguments for this revenue source:

- Tourists enjoy the Town's open spaces, parks and trails, so they should help pay for their maintenance and acquisition
- The lodging tax in some area communities is as high as 10.75%. With voters' approval of a tax quite a bit below that, the Town could make additional headway on maintaining strong open spaces, parks and trails
- Castle Rock is one of only a few area communities presently without a lodging tax

Potential argument against this revenue source:

- A lodging tax could hurt local hotels competitiveness in the local marketplace



Would add **\$.01** in tax on every \$10 in taxable goods



Could raise **\$1.3 million** annually for open space, parks and trails

.1% sales tax increase

Potential arguments for this revenue source:

- Compared to a lodging tax, a sales tax more equitably spreads out consumers' cost impacts across industries
- Visitors and residents alike enjoy the Town's open spaces, parks and trails. Both groups also pay sales tax, making it a sensible revenue source to help fund needs in these areas
- A .01% sales tax increase could generate roughly double the revenue of a lodging tax, making more of an impact on open space, parks and trails funding needs

Potential argument against this revenue source:

- The Town's 4% sales tax is already on the higher end of the municipal sales tax spectrum; an increase could push consumers to consider making purchases elsewhere rather than in Castle Rock



Potential TABOR ballot questions

The Town expects to receive financial contributions from other local governments and from private developers toward the future I-25/Crystal Valley Parkway interchange. These contributions could also put the Town over its TABOR revenue cap in upcoming years, potentially impacting the Town's ability to efficiently execute this important project. Further, strong sales tax revenue thus far in 2021 has created the possibility that the Town will exceed this cap for the year. Thus, the Town is exploring asking voters this fall to either temporarily or permanently exempt the Town from TABOR's revenue limits.

A voter opinion poll being completed in June 2021 will ask Castle Rock voters their thoughts on these potential TABOR-related ballot questions:

"Without raising taxes, shall Castle Rock be permitted to retain and expend for any public purpose all revenues received from all sources, commencing with the 2021 fiscal year and continuing in each fiscal year thereafter?"

"Without raising taxes, shall Castle Rock be permitted to retain and expend all revenues collected from all sources, for police, fire protection, emergency medical, and transportation purposes, commencing with the 2021 fiscal year and continuing in each fiscal year thereafter?"

"Without raising taxes, shall Castle Rock be permitted to retain and expend all revenues collected from all sources, for police, fire protection, emergency medical, and transportation purposes, for a 10-year period, commencing with the 2021 fiscal year?"

About TABOR

TABOR, or the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, is an amendment to the Colorado Constitution voters approved in 1992. The amendment limits the amount of revenue a government can collect and spend, and requires voter approval for tax increases and to issue debt and other multiyear financial obligations.

Voters may temporarily or permanently lift the revenue provision, known as "de-Brucing." Eighty-seven percent of municipalities and virtually all school districts in Colorado are permanently exempt from TABOR revenue restrictions. De-Brucing does not increase tax rates.

Even if a community is exempt from TABOR revenue restrictions, votes are required to increase taxes or issue general obligation debt.

Find more at CRgov.com/TABOR.

