UNDERSTANDING THE 2026
2A -PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX BALLOT QUESTION

Voters are being asked whether to approve a temporary 1.5% sales and use tax for Public Safety services from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2029.

Purpose of Information: This information is intended to explain the proposed ballot question in factual, neutral terms. It does not advocate for or against the measure. The ballot language and resolution were approved by the Rocky Ford City Council on July 28, 2026.

QUESTION	FACTUAL RESPONSE
Why is the measure being considered?	The City has identified several challenges affecting Public Safety services, including: • Increasing calls for service • Maintaining appropriate staffing levels for all Public Safety • Rising costs for equipment, vehicles, and medical supplies • Challenges recruiting and retaining qualified police officers, firefighters, EMT's, and paramedics • The need to maintain public safety operations and emergency response capabilities
What would the tax cost?	The proposed tax would add: • 15¢ on a $10 taxable purchase • 75¢ on a $50 taxable purchase • $1.50 on a $100 taxable purchase
What would the revenue be used for?	Under the ballot language, revenue would be dedicated exclusively to Public Safety services: the Rocky Ford Police Department and the Rocky Ford Fire/EMS Department.
Is the tax permanent?	No. The tax would expire on December 31, 2029, unless voters approve a future measure.

PROPOSED 2026 BALLOT QUESTION – 2A

SALES TAX INCREASE TO BE USED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY FORD

SHALL THE CITY OF ROCKY FORD'S TAXES BE INCREASED BY $731,209.50 ANNUALLY AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FROM A TEMPORARY SALES AND USE TAX IMPOSED AT THE RATE OF ONE AND ONE HALF PERCENT (1.50%) TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 1, 2027 AND TO END ON DECEMBER 31, 2029, AND WITH THE RESULTING TAX REVENUE PLEDGED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF FINANCING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF ROCKY FORD, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE ROCKY FORD POLICE DEPARTMENT, ROCKY FORD FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE ROCKY FORD EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND SHALL THESE PLEDGED REVENUES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE OF THE CITY NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW?

Plain Language Summary: A "yes" vote would authorize Rocky Ford to add a temporary 1.5% sales tax for three years, with all proceeds restricted to Police and Fire/EMS services. The tax is expected to generate about $731,000 per year and would expire on December 31, 2029. The revenue would remain available to the City for Public Safety purposes only, even if it exceeds statutory revenue limits.

Disclaimer: ***This material is provided for voter information purposes only and is not intended to advocate for or against the ballot measure.***