

This flier is for information only and is not intended to support or oppose the proposed levy.

May 7 Ballot

FIRE & EMERGENCY

2.85-mill Continuous Levy

ISSUE 4

Serving Centerville/Washington Township



www.washingtontwp.org

2019

2.85-mill Continuous Fire/EMS Levy at a Glance

What it Addresses

- An increase in emergency incidents
- A shortage of part-time firefighters

What it Funds

- Additional full-time firefighter positions to address a part-time shortage
- A replacement for Station 41
- The continuation of current service levels

Revenue

- Prevents a negative fund balance by 2023
- Generates about \$5.26 million in the first year
- Funds about 31% of Fire Department operating expenses. The remainder is provided by a 1.5-mill continuous levy and a 4.65-mill limited-term levy.

Who Votes

All Washington Township residents, including those in the City of Centerville.



The Cost

Homeowners will pay \$99.75 annually for every \$100,000 of home value, equivalent to \$8.31 per month. When estimating the cost for your home, base your estimate on the current valuation.



Easing the Burden for Taxpayers

The township actively seeks non-taxpayer sources of revenue such as:

Grants - \$425,700 over the past six years.

Regional Dispatch Center - The recent transition to the Montgomery County RDC is expected to save about \$500,000 annually in operating costs.

Insurance Billing - In 2018, 11.82% of the fire department's total revenue came from billing insurance providers for emergency transport.



Why a Levy Now?

When the five-year levy was updated in 2013, it was anticipated that staffing changes would be needed in five years to address two trends: increasing calls and declining part-paid volunteers. In the years that ensued, it became clear that a third trend – a part-time firefighter shortage – was creating an additional challenge. However, when the levy came up for renewal in 2018, trustees opted not to raise taxes so that:

- Taxpayers could retain two state subsidies: a 10% rollback for residential property and 2.5% for owner-occupied residences
- Staffing and call trends could be monitored for another year

How Your Property Tax Will Be Allocated if the Levy Passes

Unincorporated Residents: Effective Rate – 89.82



Incorporated Residents: Effective Rate – 84.2



ISSUE 4 - FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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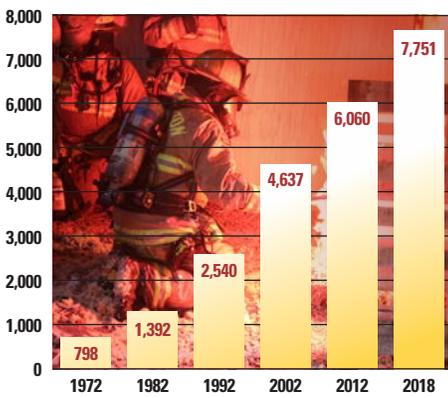
Despite a surge in emergency calls, firefighter staffing has not caught up. Since 2012, runs have increased 28%.



What the Levy Addresses

An Increase in Emergency Calls

The past 50 years have seen a virtual explosion in the number of calls for emergency services, with the trend accelerating even more in recent years. Between 2002 and 2012, calls rose by an average of 142 per year. Then from 2012 to 2018, the average annual calls nearly doubled to an increase of 282 calls per year.



Fire & Emergency Medical Calls

In total, the number of calls surged from 6,060 in 2012 to 7,751 in 2018 -- an increase of 1,691 or 28%. Much of the increase is fueled by new construction. Throughout Centerville/Washington Township, 629 homes, 865 apartment units and 368 senior living units were either constructed in 2018 or in the planning stage.

A Shortage of Part-Time Firefighters

As emergency calls have surged, staffing has not kept pace. Since 2012, the number of annual runs has increased by 1,691, but part-time staffing has declined. The township has hired 155 part-time firefighters and lost 242.

To attract part-time firefighters, the fire department has waged an aggressive recruitment and retention campaign, including a signing bonus distributed over the first year of employment. But like other departments throughout Ohio, we've lost more part-time firefighters than we've been able to hire because many found full-time employment.

Firefighting & More

- Specialized rescue services | CPR education
- AEDs in the community | Project Lifesaver
- Fire prevention & safety education
- Plans review for construction
- Business Inspections | Car seat safety checks
- Emergency planning & notification



An Aging Fire Station

At 50 years of age, Fire Station 41 at 163 Maple Avenue, is our community's oldest fire station. When it was constructed in 1969, fire apparatus was significantly smaller and the fire department was comprised mostly of volunteers who responded from home. Today, the station is staffed with up to six firefighters 24 hours a day.

What the Levy Funds

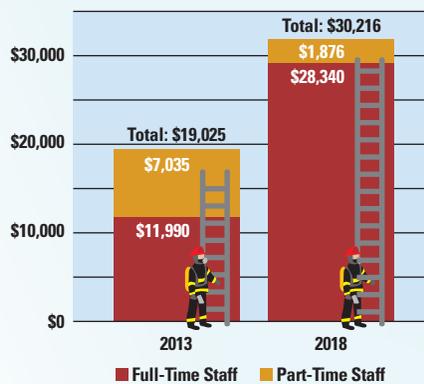
Additional Full-Time Staff

Facing a shortage of part-time firefighters, the township has no option but to replace them with full-time staff. However, staffing with a full-time firefighter costs more than twice that of a part-time firefighter -- about \$1,090 compared to \$469 for a 24-hour period. Salary, medical benefits and earned time off all contribute to the difference.

To address the shortage, it's estimated that 42 full-time firefighter positions will need to be funded at an estimated annual net cost of \$4.19 million. This includes 12 firefighters hired in 2018, plus 30 additional positions. Funding the positions will bring full-time staff to 78 and daily staffing to about 87% full time. If the levy does not pass, the fire fund balance will drop to \$2.17 million in 2022 and reach a negative balance by 2023.

The Replacement of Station 41

Levy funds will enable the township to replace Station 41 at 163 Maple Avenue with one that supports adequate staffing and larger, modern apparatus. Because the property surrounding Station 41 does not provide room for expansion, the station will be moved. The estimated cost is \$3.7 million.



The Cost of Staffing

In 2013, the township projected that 11 full-time and 15 part-time firefighters were needed to provide 24 hours of emergency staffing. Due to the part-time shortage, this now will require 26 full time and 4 part time. A full-time firefighter costs more than twice that of a part-time firefighter.

Per Capita Fire & EMS Costs

Washington Twp.	\$199
West Chester	\$200
Washington Twp. with levy passage	\$235
Kettering	\$255
Washington Twp. (Dublin)	\$387

Providing Quality Services

The WT Fire Department...

- Is the only fire department in the Miami Valley and one of nine in Ohio accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International
- Protects the most taxable property and the second largest population in the county

Satisfaction Levels

People who receive emergency services are invited to complete our survey. Of those who responded in 2018, 92% were "very satisfied" and 6% were "satisfied" with services.

Quality Services Pay Off

Residents in communities with desirable ratings from the Insurance Services Office usually are charged less for property insurance. Our community recently achieved a Class 2 rating, a designation earned by 4% of those evaluated.

