

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

May 8 Ballot

FIRE & EMERGENCY

4.65-mill Renewal Levy • 5-Year Term

ISSUE 17

Serving Centerville/Washington Township



www.washingtontwp.org

2018

Easing the Burden for Taxpayers

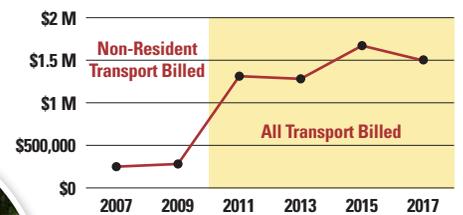
The township actively seeks non-taxpayer sources of revenue to offset the cost of services for residents:

Grants - Over the past five years, grants totaled \$422,675.

Dispatch - Fire dispatchers now work out of the Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center where the township leases space. Doing so provides the most up-to-date technology and saves costly equipment updates.

Insurance Billing - Revenue from insurance companies has been a growing revenue source, with billing providing 12.6% of the department's operating budget in 2017. The practice of billing insurance providers for emergency transport was introduced in 2005 for non-residents and expanded to all patients in 2011.

Revenue from Insurance Companies



What the Levy Costs

Homeowners will pay \$132 annually for every \$100,000 of home value, the same as last year and slightly less than five years ago when the previous levy was passed. At that time residents paid \$142 per \$100,000. When estimating the cost for your home, base your estimate on the current valuation.



Current: \$132
Renewal: \$132
Annual Fire Levy Cost

What the Levy Does Not Provide

Unlike most five-year levies, this renewal will not effectively fund services for five years. Instead, a positive balance can be maintained through 2021 and a request for more millage is anticipated. This approach has been taken because it:

1. Allows the township to assess the long-term level of need posed by:

Service Demand

- Emergency runs have increased by more than 28% over the last five years

Scarcity of Part-Time Employees

- The number of part-time candidates has dropped despite an aggressive recruitment campaign with incentives.
- The department has been forced to leave part-time slots unfilled and hire more full-time staff at a higher cost.
- Overtime must often be paid to full-time firefighters because current staffing levels provide only 528 of the 624 employee hours required daily to fully staff engines, medics and the ladder truck.
- This wide-spread challenge faced by area fire departments shows no sign of abating.

2. Enables Taxpayers to Benefit from Subsidies

Taxpayer costs are offset by two State of Ohio rollback subsidies – 10% for residential property and 2.5% for owner-occupied residences. Although the state has eliminated the subsidies, taxpayers can benefit from them until the levy is replaced.



ISSUE 17 - FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Levy Overview

- Renews an expiring 4.65-mill levy
- Does not raise taxes

Levy Revenue

- Generates about \$7.96 million in the first year
- Funds about 68% of Fire Department operating expenses
- Enables the Fire Department to maintain a positive balance through 2021

Who Votes

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



Serving the Community

WT Fire Department reaches out to the community in ways beyond basic emergency services. Last year, community attendance at safety education presentations totaled nearly 21,000. More than 1,800 people were trained in CPR. Other initiatives include:

Automated External Defibrillators – AEDs are maintained in 50 public locations such as government offices, police cruisers, libraries, schools and churches.

Safety Seat Checks – The department provided 387 free child safety seat checks last year in an effort to lower injuries and fatalities.

Community Notification – Twelve tornado warning sirens provide outdoor warning for weather-related emergencies. Emergency notification also is provided by CodeRED, a high-speed messaging system.

Safety Education – Emergency drills, demonstrations, and emergency-preparedness presentations are made to businesses.

Safetyville Square – Children receive safety training presented with Evening Optimist Club and law enforcement.

Knox Boxes – These secure boxes are available to residents who would like fire and EMS personnel to enter their home in an emergency.

Open Houses & Ice Cream Social – Both events offer an entertaining way to learn about the fire service and pick up tips on fire safety.

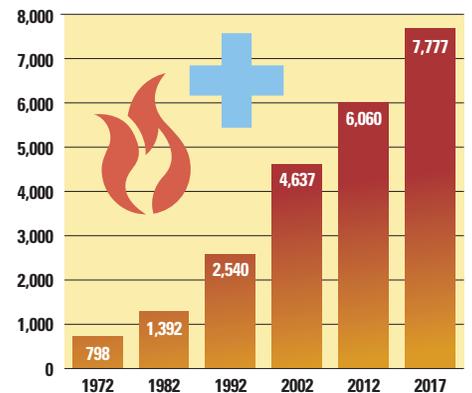
Project Lifesaver – Offers peace of mind for family members by tracking the location of dementia patients who are prone to wander.

Explorer Post 3369 – Provides hands-on fire service experience to high school students.

Firefighting & More

- Specialized rescue services
- CPR education
- Fire prevention & safety education
- Emergency planning & notification
- AEDs in community locations
- Project Lifesaver
- Car seat safety checks

A Growing Demand for Services



The past 50 years have seen a virtual explosion in the number of calls for emergency services, fueled by an ongoing increase in emergency medical calls which last year accounted for more than 82% of all runs.

Providing Quality Services

The WT Fire Department...

- Is accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International
- Protects more taxable property than any department in the county
- Protects the second largest population in the county

Satisfaction Levels

The Fire Department invites people who receive emergency services to complete a survey. Of those who responded in 2016 and 2017, 91% reported they were “very satisfied” with services, while 7% were “satisfied.”

Quality Services Pay Off

Residents in communities with desirable ratings from the Insurance Services Office usually are charged less for their property insurance. ISO ranks Centerville/Washington Township in the upper 5% of the nation for fire suppression.



The Cost of Services

Cost to Outfit One Firefighter: \$13,918

Includes gear such as a \$1,631 bunker coat, plus \$10,355 in equipment, from \$465 for a hose nozzle to \$6,800 for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with air.



Cost for One Medic: \$329,000

Includes \$233,000 for the vehicle and \$95,100 for equipment and supplies. It costs another \$520,000 to staff the medic 24/7 with one full-time and one part-time staff.



Cost for One Engine: \$549,000

Includes \$504,000 for the vehicle and \$45,500 for fire hose, radios and other equipment. It costs another \$780,000 to staff the engine 24/7 with a total of three full-time and part-time staff.

