

Dear City & Township Residents:

For the last six months your Township Trustees and Fire Chief have been studying the need for additional funding for the Sylvania Township Fire Department. The findings have led to placement of a 1.5 mill Fire & EMS Levy on the ballot for voter consideration in November.

(This report and supporting documentation are available for your inspection on the Sylvania Township website as Fire Department review documents under Hot Topics.)

The last Fire Levy was passed in 2008 and has lasted about 7 years. Due to tight financial controls it has served us two years longer than the anticipated 5 years because of careful budgeting and spending by the Trustees and Fire Department.

During the seven year term of the current levy several major shifts have occurred in how our community utilizes the fire service. Since personnel represents about 80% of Fire Department costs, these shifts and their impact on staffing are a critical item in projecting future needs.

- While population of the community grew about 9.6% over the last 10 years, Fire Department calls for that same period are up 47.6%.
- This increase is driven by EMS calls – due both to an aging population as well as the large number of regional medical and elderly care facilities located in the City and Township that continue to expand.
- To track future needs in our analysis, we used conservative projections for service calls for the next 7 years -- limited to about half of the calls experience since 2003.

Fire Department staffing has not kept pace with the increased call volume. In 2003, staffing was set at a minimum of 16 firefighters/paramedics on duty each day with a total of 62 full-time. Today that number is down to a minimum of 14 firefighters/paramedics on duty each day with a total of 57 full-time.

In 2003 there were 11 volunteer/paid part-time firefighters, who were converted to part-time firefighters in 2008. Currently, the Fire Department has 3 part-time firefighters/paramedics which is being increased to 10.

We project that to remain responsive to our community's future safety needs, Fire Department staffing requirements for the next 7 years (2021) are as follows:

- Funding for the part-time staffing increase from 3 to 10
- Restore up to 3 full-time Firefighters (2 Firefighters/Paramedics & 1 Fire Safety Inspector)
- Extend the equipment replacement program established after the 2008 levy with future goal to reduce the total fleet from 21 to 17 vehicles.

In addition, Fire Department equipment needs for the next 7 years (2021) are as follows:

- Replace 2 Engines and Medic truck
- Replace 4 support vehicles and upgrade air supply truck
- Set aside funding to replace a 1997 aerial platform truck (possible 2020/2021)

The overall goal is to continue providing the quality service that Sylvania citizens deserve in the most efficient and effective manner. All citizens will benefit from this levy by improving Basic Life Service (BLS) transport times and providing back up coverage for the Lucas County EMS unit.

The increased cost to the owner of a \$150,000 home in the City and Township would be about \$78.00 per year.

Thank you for your interest in the Sylvania Township Fire Department. If you have questions or need further information, please contact any of us.

John Crandall, Trustee (419) 882-0031
John Zeitler, Administrator (419) 882-0031
Jeff Kowalski, Fire Chief (419) 882-7676