

How much will the levy cost?

The 4 mill levy will provide and maintain Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services for Olmsted Township. The levy will cost just under \$12.00 per month per \$100,000 of home valuation, or about \$140.00 per year.

How long will the levy last?

The levy is for five years, after which time, voters would have to vote to continue the levy any longer. Both Fire/EMS and Police need additional funds just to keep pace with our growing population, for repair and replacement of capital equipment (ambulance, fire engine, police cruisers) and for personal protective gear to ensure the safety of our firefighters/EMT and police officers.

To serve both departments in the best possible manner, the Board is asking voters to approve this safety services levy.

What happens after 5 years?

If the levy isn't renewed, then the funding would end. Olmsted Township Trustees, our Administrator and leadership at both Fire and Police Departments are committed to developing a strategic, long-term plan to address our current and projected safety needs. Therefore, we expect that the Township will share our long-term vision before the end of the 5-year funding. The Township Trustees feel strongly that a long-term plan is the best way to ensure our safety services keep pace with the growth and development here because our residents and taxpayers have the right to a safe and protected community served by responsive, professional, trained staff on duty to serve 24/7/365.

Why 4 mills?

The decision to request 4 mills was not made easily. The 4 mills will not address every need for personnel, staffing, equipment and capital purchases but will ensure that our community is safe and secure. The millage will allow the Police and Fire departments to stabilize their work force and secure necessary capital equipment and other items for the protection of our personnel. It will also allow time for the Board of Trustees to determine the full extent of needs moving forward as our community continues to grow. We will work together with our staff and will keep you informed. Our Comprehensive Plan for Safety Services in Olmsted Township will be online throughout the process to secure your input.

What has the Township done to cut costs?

Each department (Police, Fire/EMS, Public Service, Building, Administration) looks for ways to control costs whenever possible. Our Police and Fire chiefs do an excellent job both budgeting and managing costs, but as our community grows and our safety needs grow, funding must grow as well.

Our Township is looking at ways to control healthcare, staffing and other costs to provide the best value to our taxpayers. We work closely with our provider to ensure we are in the right group and the right plan. We have a wellness component which further decreases the cost of this benefit.

Our chiefs have worked with their staff to maintain equipment to ensure long life and productive service. They have also developed a schedule of replacement that ensures reasonable and responsible expenditures over the next 5-10 years. Both departments consistently write for grants to augment their purchasing opportunities.

Why have you not gone on the ballot for safety services in the past 10 years?

The Board of Trustees have worked hard to to improve, repair, maintain and replace roads, develop a long-term Road Maintenance Program, a sidewalk placement program and address stormwater problems. Now is the time to do the same for our safety services. We pledge the same careful and fiscally responsible planning and spending that has been the hallmark of this Board of Trustees.