

Union Township Fire Levy Information 2022

Background/Information

Levy Basics

- 4.0 mill property tax issue to support the cost of fire protection and EMS provided by the Granville Twp. Fire Dept. and West Licking Joint Fire District
- After the last levy was removed by popular vote from the tax bill, the township currently has 2 levies for fire and EMS
 - These are voted in at 3 mills and generate approximately \$820,948.00
- Additional cost to a property owner will be \$140 per year per \$100,000 home value
- Will generate approximately an additional \$886,842.00 annually for the fire depts. operating expenses and staffing
- With the levy passing and voted mills totaling 7.0, Union Township still pays significantly less than other areas served by full-time fire/EMS agencies

Why is a levy needed?

- 1.8 mill levied failed to pass in 2021, removing approximately 36% of the funds generated for fire and EMS protection
 - In 2021 Union Township levies, 4.8 mills, generated approximately \$1,287,432.00
 - Homeowners were paying \$135/ \$100,000 value
 - In 2022 Union Township levies, 3 mills, generated approximately \$820,948.00
 - Homeowners are paying \$83.16/ \$100,000 value
 - In 2023 Hebron Village will no longer pay Union Township tax levies as they have conformed their boundaries.
 - Union Township levies, 3 mills with Hebron Village no longer paying, will generate approximately \$598,355.00
 - When the 4.0 mill levy passes, the total collection in the township will be approximately \$1,485,197.00
 - This is an increase of 10.5% with the same or improved fire and EMS coverage and absorbing the loss of Hebron property taxes
- Union Township contracts with West Licking Joint Fire District to serve the township South of the railroad tracks, and Granville Township serves by contract North of the tracks.
- Increased demand for services
 - Annual run volume has increased for fire and EMS
 - Commercial and residential development
- Increased costs
 - Operating expenses
 - Much like any household: Fuel, electricity, other utilities, vehicle and station maintenance, technology, building/vehicle insurance, firefighter salaries, and health insurance
 - Apparatus
 - Cost of a replacement medic unit: \$250,000; fire engine \$750,000
 - Staffing
 - Increases in wages and benefits to regain competitiveness in the pay scale
- The future is now: the cost of community and population growth
 - Increased commercial and residential development, including Intel
 - Increased vehicle traffic and commerce
 - Ripple effect on Union Township
 - More people and more commerce = increased need fire and EMS
 - More opportunities for incidents (including commercial-level), fire inspections, community programs