



Ohio Township has a 1.5 mil fire/ems levy on the November 2025 ballot. If passed, revenue from the levy will be used to replace the 18-year-old life squad..

The Ohio Township Trustees pride themselves on keeping the tax burden on township residents low. It has been 21 years since voters were asked to pass a levy. That levy was certified to bring in approximately \$240,000 per year, which is the entire budget to provide fire and ems services. The township contracts with Pierce Township to provide the personnel for the services. Ohio Township owns the fire house, both life squads and the fire department tanker truck (debt free). Pierce Township owns the fire engine that is housed at the Ohio Township firehouse.

Under Ohio law the revenue created by a levy does not increase as property values increase. Instead, the “effective yield” of the levy decreases so that the levy only generates the original amount certified by the county auditor at the time the levy was first approved by voters. The only exception to that rule is new construction, which does add to the revenue total. The county auditor estimates the current levy will generate approximately \$260,000 in 2025 after new construction is added. That means the revenue to fund fire/ems services has only increased \$20,000 over 20 years, well below the rate of inflation.

The 1.5 mil levy request will only provide enough revenue to pay off the five-year loan to purchase a new life squad.

Township Trustees opted to place the 1.5 mil levy on the ballot rather than ask for the 6 mil levy to be replaced with a new 6 mil levy. They did this to preserve the Homestead Exemption and rollback provisions residents currently receive that would not be available with an entirely new levy. The trustees wish to keep these “discounts” in place for the taxpayers.

The township’s 2007 and a 2017 life squad are costly to maintain. The 2007 unit needs to be replaced as soon as possible. The estimated cost to purchase a new unit is \$350,000 to \$370,000 and will take more than a year before it is in service. That is 75% more than the cost of the unit purchased 18 years ago.

Unfortunately, the current levy does not provide enough income to purchase a new squad and continue to pay for providing fire and ems services to the township residents.