

# ANDERSON Insights

THE VOICE OF ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

AUGUST 2024

## Public Safety Levy to Appear on Fall Ballot

Current 2016 levy stretched three extra years to support township's emergency services as calls increase.



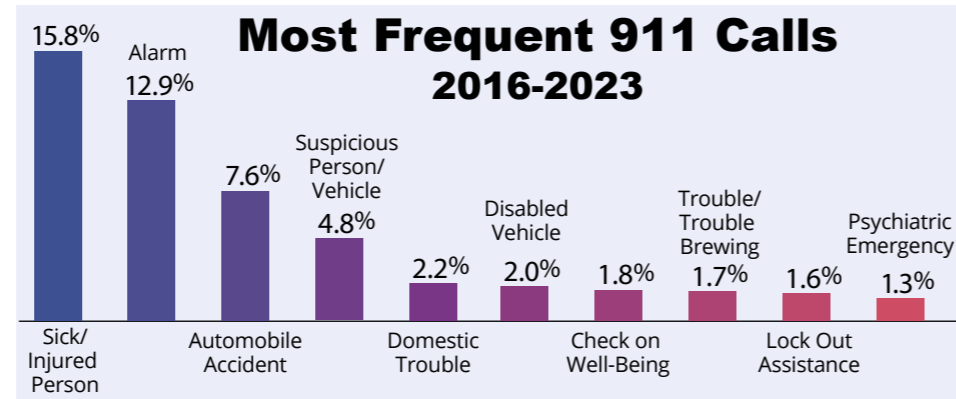
Anderson Township safety services are experiencing an increase in calls.

Anderson Township voters will see a public safety levy on the ballot when they go to the polls this fall on November 5.

After a year of discussion and research, Anderson Township Trustees voted at their July 18 board meeting to place a 3.3 mill levy before voters. The monthly increase in taxes based on a \$200,000 home for 3.3 mills is \$19.25. Trustees indicated the move was necessary to meet growing needs in public safety as calls for services in fire, rescue and law enforcement trend upward. At the same time, inflation experienced throughout all sectors has increased the cost of goods, services and salaries.

**“It is important we keep our public safety services strong,** and that is one of the most important jobs that trustees safeguard in townships,” said Dee Stone, trustee chair. “Unfortunately, we are limited by the Ohio Revised Code on how we can fund these services.

We have stretched our current levy as much as possible and used creative approaches to reducing costs and utilizing other limited revenue sources to supplement this budget,” she said. “However, eight years after our previous levy, which was targeted to last five years, we could not see another way to meet growing needs without coming back to voters.”



Fire Chief Rick Martin said his department has been facing changes in recent years, especially since COVID. “Our older adult population is aging in place longer, which has meant more demand for our EMS services and need for additional staff to ensure high-quality services and responsiveness,” he said. Also, increases in fuel, medications and employee benefits (the department has 72 employees) have been squeezing the budget, he said. Almost three-fourths of the nearly 6,400 runs in 2023 made by Anderson Township Fire and Rescue were in response to EMS calls. “Additionally, costs associated with recruitment and retention of personnel have increased, too,” he said.

**The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office also reports an uptick in calls for service in neighborhoods.** Schools are fielding more demand for their school resource officers as the needs of the district population change, too. This past school year Anderson Township and the Forest Hills School District collaborated on

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## Public Safety Levy

*(Continued from page 1)*

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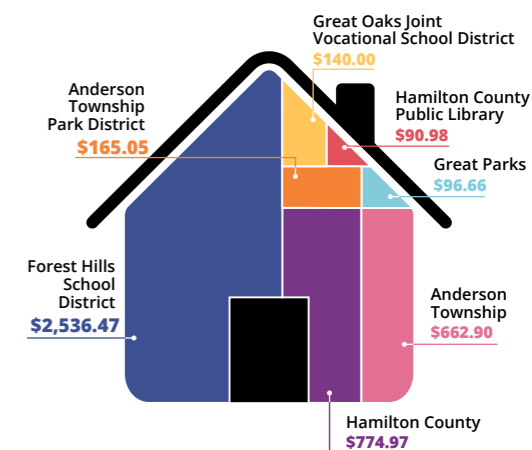
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## Taxes Collected on a \$200,000 Market Value Property



too. This past school year Anderson Township and the Forest Hills School District collaborated on funding a second school resource officer to cover the township's 10 schools in response to growing student changes. The township has funded the first officer since 2000.

Lt. Dave Downing, District 5 commander, said the sheriff's office has prioritized staying current with technological advancements in community policing and public safety, requiring additional resources. Advancements

### Services a Public Safety Levy Covers

#### Fire, emergency and rescue services include:

- ◆ Advanced life support services, including cardiac, etc.
- ◆ 24/7 coverage for more than 44,000 residents plus visitors, with services operating from four fire stations. In 2023, the fire and rescue department responded to nearly 6,400 calls for service.
- ◆ Building review and safety inspections, disaster planning and emergency preparation.
- ◆ CPR classes, Stop the Bleed courses, blood pressure checks.
- ◆ Car seat installation.

#### Sheriff's Office contracted services:

- ◆ 24-hour law enforcement response initiated throughout township in five geographic beats. The department responded to more than 15,500 dispatches in 2023.
- ◆ Life safety programs, including education, school resource officers, traffic safety, narcotics and crime prevention.