

# PUBLIC SAFETY PROTECTION MILLAGE

The current millage to operate, equip, and purchase public safety protection services through the Police Department and the Fire Department is three mills. This millage, approved in 2022, expires in 2023. On August 6, 2024, the Township is asking voters to approve an increase to four mills, an increase from the previously levied three mills. If approved, the millage would be in effect from 2024 through 2028.

The four-mill increase in the public safety protection millage will assist the community in several ways:

- **Capital Improvement Plan:** The Township's capital improvement plan shows approximately \$1,363,050 in equipment and building expenses for the police and fire departments projected between 2024 and 2028. The increased millage will help fund these projects.
- **Rising Costs:** The cost of police and fire vehicles and equipment has risen dramatically in the past few years. The increased millage rate will help cover the increased repair, maintenance, and replacement costs of this capital equipment.
- **Population Growth:** The Township has seen a 15.80% increase in population from 2010 to 2023. During that same time, police calls for service rose from 14,723 to 15,663, which is an increase of 6.38%, and fire/medical calls for service rose from 662 to 1,304, which is an increase of 96.98%. As the population grows, the increased public safety protection millage will ensure that our police, fire, and emergency medical services can adequately meet the rising demands, maintain low response times, and continue providing high-quality service to all residents.
- **Funding Shortfall:** Based on the 2023 audit, the current public safety fund millage does not generate enough revenue to fund police and fire services in the Township fully. The general fund subsidizes approximately one-third of these services, or \$750,000. While the additional one-mill will not eliminate this subsidy, it will reduce it to approximately 10%.
- **Other:** The public safety protection millage (previously the police and fire protection millage) was increased in 1996 from two mills to three mills. Since that time, the millage has only been renewed to three mills. The proposed millage increase would allow additional full-time personnel in both the police and fire departments, vehicle replacements, equipment updates, and preparations for building expansions in the future.