

Valley City Fire & Rescue Department
P.O. Box 318
Valley City, Ohio 44280

October 14, 2011

Dear Registered Voters,

We would like to thank everyone for the continued support the Fire & Rescue Department enjoys.

It is refreshing to look back and see the support that you, the residents, have given us over the years. The job of fighting fires and providing emergency medical services isn't something we can do by ourselves. You have supported us at pancake breakfasts. You have supported us at Street Fairs. Your past levy support has made our jobs a little safer and easier which allows us to provide a higher level of service to the community. It is truly a community effort.

In our continuing endeavor to serve the fire and emergency medical needs of our Township, we are asking you to VOTE YES for a 2 mil, 5-year **renewal** operating levy so that we may continue to provide the best services possible.

The Fire Department was organized in 1934 and operated without any tax money until 1977. In 1977, a 2 mil levy was approved by our residents to build the addition onto the fire station. Also in 1977, we began providing emergency medical services. Over the intervening years, a tax levy has provided the monies necessary to operate the department. The increase of costs due to inflation, as well as increased training requirements, continue to place financial pressure on the Department. The Township residents approved a 2 mil operating levy in 1982, again in 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and lastly in 2006. It is now 2011 and our existing 2 mil levy is about to expire. In order to maintain our service level to you, it has been decided to ask you to "renew" the current 2 mil levy. We realize the financial plight of many of the residents and want you to know we are doing things to be more efficient and provide the same level of quality service without the need for more money.

We hope that the information on the reverse side of this letter will be helpful in explaining the need for the 2 mils and that you will place enough importance on the Fire & Rescue Department to vote **YES on the Fire Levy** We are available to answer any questions you might have about this subject.

Thank you,

Jack Petrone
Chief, Valley City Fire & Rescue Dept.
(330) 483-3811

Pete Berger
Retired Chief
Levy Committee Chair

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE VALLEY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT???

1. To prevent loss of life and property from fire and natural disasters.
2. To prevent loss of life or serious disability by providing the highest degree of emergency rescue service and pre-hospital care in life threatening situations.
3. To provide the highest possible level of safety and protection to Department members by providing appropriate education, training, and equipment.
4. To economically provide the safest environment possible for our citizens and Fire Department personnel through education, prevention, preparation and training.

WHERE DO FIRE & RESCUE TAX DOLLARS (\$\$\$) GO???

\$230,000 Salaries

The Department is made up of approximately 50 members. There is one full-time firefighter/medic employee, 6 officers, 1 fire inspector and approximately 500 emergency calls per year. Normally 2 members staff the station from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through Saturday. This is the time period when over 60% of the emergency calls occur.

\$30,000 Maintenance

This category covers vehicle maintenance and building maintenance. Fire and ambulance vehicles obviously require recurring maintenance because of the operating environment in which they operate. Equipment and supplies for these vehicles cost more than equipment for your household car or truck.

\$16,000 Contracted Services (Mainly Dispatching)

As part of the 911 telephone system, all emergency calls go to the County Sheriffs office. The dispatch service that the Sheriffs office provides Township Fire Departments comes with an annual cost. Obviously, we could not maintain a 24-hour 365 day a year dispatcher for this amount of money.

\$35,000 Training

Every firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician must undergo specialized training before assuming their duties. They must also get State and hospital regulated additional training each year. Although we attempt to get State grants for some of this training, it does not cover all of the expenses.

\$48,000 Operating Supplies

Supplies include items such as turnout gear, helmets, boots, hose, nozzles, saws, extrication equipment, ladders, foam, batteries, etc.

\$16,000 Communications

An effective department simply cannot operate without an effective, efficient communications network. This includes pager/radios for each Department member, radios within the vehicles, a base station radio at the fire station, hand-held radios for use on scene and even cell phones for contacting hospitals, government agencies, and public utilities. In addition, all these units eventually need maintenance and/or replacement.

\$ -- Insurance

EMT & Fire liability, P.E.R.S. and Workman's Compensation are funded through the Township General Fund

\$375,000 Total expected to be raised annually by 2 mil levy.

VOTE YES ... FIRE & RESCUE LEVY