



VERSAILLES FIRE & EMS LEVY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

On November 4th, 2025 voters in both the Village of Versailles and Wayne Township will see on their voter ballots an additional levy item for both Fire and EMS services that are provided by the Village of Versailles. To help inform voters on what these levies are and how they benefit those whom both departments serve, we are providing this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document:

Question: Are these separate levies or one levy for both services?

Answer: There are two separate levies on the ballot. One levy is for just for fire protection, and one is just for emergency medical services.

Question: Why is there separate levies for the Village and Wayne Township?

Answer: The Village of Versailles owns the Fire and EMS Department that services both jurisdictions. The Village is not able to create and approve levies for consideration in Wayne Township, nor is Wayne Township able to create and approve levies for areas inside of the Village corporation limits. The funds collected by Wayne Township for Fire and EMS coverage are paid to the Village of Versailles who places that money in the Fire and EMS accounting funds that are only used for the intended use as outlined in the levies.

Question: Are these an additional levy request? Why can't you just amend the existing levies that are already in place?

Answer: Yes, these are additional levy request to generate additional funds for the two departments. In 2025, the state legislature overrode Governor's DeWine's veto action on the State Budget that prohibited replacement levies within the State of Ohio. These levies have used replacement levy action in the past to amend valuations and millage rates. Since replacement levies are now prohibited, the proposed levies are now additional levies and would be added on top of the already in place levies in both the Village and Wayne Township.

Question: What is the additional millage and total collection proposed for Fire and EMS coverage within the Village of Versailles? What is the anticipated collection value of this additional levy if approved?

Answer: The additional millage being sought within the Village of Versailles for fire protection only is 0.5 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$18 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised valuation. The county auditor estimates the levy would collect \$49,000 annually. The additional millage being sought within the Village of Versailles for EMS coverage is 1.2 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$42 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value. The county auditor estimates the levy would collect \$117,830 annually.

Question: What is the additional millage and total collection proposed for Fire and EMS coverage within Wayne Township? What is the anticipated collection value of this additional levy if approved?

Answer: The additional millage being sought within Wayne Township for fire protection only is 0.5 mills for each \$1 in taxable value, which amounts to \$18 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value. The county auditor estimates the levy would collect \$41,880 annually. The additional millage being sought within Wayne Township for EMS coverage is 1.2 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$42 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value. The county auditor estimates the levy would collect \$100,530 annually.

Question: Are the proposed new levies continuous or will they be up for renewal every so many years?

Answer: The proposed new levies are continuous, permanent levies and will not be up for renewal.

Question: Property values and the total amount that I pay on my property taxes continues to go up, aren't you already receiving additional revenue from the property tax revenues?

Answer: The answer to this is No. The Fire and EMS services are not receiving additional revenue from increased property tax values and collections. When a Fire and EMS levy is approved, the taxable value of the levy at the time of passing is locked into place. As time goes by and property valuations go up and down, the revenue stays the same as it was when the levy was approved. Even with the recent increases in property valuations over the past several years, the Fire and EMS operations are not receiving any additional funds through the existing levies.

Question: What is the current millage on the existing Village of Versailles Fire Levy, and what is the total collection amount?

Answer: The current Village of Versailles Fire Levy is from 2022 at 2.0 mills and generates \$158,310.

Question: What is the current millage on the existing Village of Versailles EMS Levy, and what is the total collection amount?

Answer: The current Village of Versailles EMS Levy is from 2015 at 3.5 mills and generates \$223,520.

Question: What is the current millage on the existing Wayne Township Fire Levy, and what is the total collection amount?

Answer: The current Wayne Township Fire Levy is from 2022 at 2.0 mills and generates \$130,330.

Question: What is the current millage on the existing Wayne Township EMS Levies, and what is the total collection amount?

Answer: There are three existing Wayne Township EMS service levies. One is from 2013 at 0.5 mills and generates \$24,150, one is from 2017 at 0.5 mills and generates \$29,890, and one is from 2023 at 1.75 mills and generates \$114,910. The current total collection from Wayne Township is \$168,950.00.

Question: What is some of the driving factors on why additional revenue is needed for Fire Protection Service?

Answer: The costs for nearly everything that the Fire Department uses has gone up dramatically over the past few years. The cost for fuel, tires, and parts to keep the trucks and apparatus up and operational has all gone up considerably. The cost of a fire pump truck ten years ago was in the \$500,000 range and today that same truck is \$1M-\$1.2M. Changes in regulation has also been a large driver to the costs related to the department. All fire hose now has to be completely replaced every ten years whether is actually in need of being replaced or not. Firefighter turn-out gear must also be replaced every ten years along with periodic replacement of firefighter masks and air-packs. A new \$1.7 million dollar ladder truck is currently on order and should be delivered in the second half of 2026. The Village has been saving money back for the past five plus years to go towards this truck.

Question: What is some of the driving factors on why additional revenue is needed for EMS coverage?

Answer: Just as the Fire Department, costs for everyday items such as fuel, medical supplies, tires, parts, service contracts on various life saving equipment, etc. all continue to increase in cost. The need for additional full-time EMT and Paramedic personnel in the department has also become a need. The department can no longer staff 24/7 coverage with part-time personnel as there is a very limited talent pool for these positions. Since the last levy approvals, two EMS Captains, both of whom are paramedics, have been added to the full-time employee roster as well as two additional full-time personnel. The full-time positions have been added to help provide more stable coverage and attract more talent with the offering of benefits such as health insurance, vacation time, and sick time that carry additional costs for the overall EMS operation. Additional full-time personnel are needed to continue to provide adequate coverage for our service districts. Revenue from Medicare and Medicaid patients is trending flat to down over the past several years and does not cover the expense of the squad going out on such a run.

Question: Does Versailles EMS still use volunteer EMT's and Paramedics?

Answer: No. All Versailles EMS personnel are paid personnel. Volunteers on the department diminished and went away entirely many years ago

Question: What is the service territory for the Versailles Fire Department?

Answer: The service territory includes the Village of Versailles, Wayne Township, 25% of Richland Township, and 25% of York Township.

Question: What is the service territory for the Versailles EMS?

Answer: The service territory includes the Village of Versailles, Wayne Township, and the Village of Russia.

Question: How many calls for service typically occur each year for Versailles EMS?

Answer: Calls for service in 2022 totaled 317, 343 in 2023, and 388 in 2024. For 2024, 286 of those dispatches were inside the Village of Versailles, 84 were into Wayne Township, and 18 were to the Village of Russia.

Question: How many calls for service typically occur each year for the Versailles Fire Dept.?

Answer: In 2024, there was 137 dispatches for Fire service. 62 of those were inside of the Village of Versailles and 44 were into Wayne Township. The remaining were mutual aid calls

into other jurisdictions. We are above 125 total calls for service already for the year as of October 1, 2025.

Question: Do levy dollars go towards the debt, utilities, repairs, and improvements at the Village's Fire and EMS Station located at 320 Baker Rd.?

Answer. No. Levy dollars are used to provide the equipment, trucks, materials, manpower, fuel, and other such items necessary to provide fire protection and EMS coverage. The Village of Versailles General Fund, which is primarily funded by Village Income Tax collections, pays for the original debt on the construction of the station, utilities, repairs, and improvements.