

Statement Regarding Fire Millage

Currently, the Fire Department is funded by a 0.5 mil property tax paid for by both City and Township residents. This ensures that funding for the Fire Department is equitable. City and Township residents pay the same amount of taxes to fund the Fire Department. For example, someone with a \$100,000.00 assessed taxable value home pays \$50.00 per year in taxes for the Fire Department in both the City and Township.

This millage is set to expire in 2019. Both the City and the Township have engaged in extensive negotiations in an attempt to agree upon a new millage which would offer Fire Department Services to both the residents of the City and Township. Unfortunately, no agreement was reached. Two main requests by the City included: (1) Fire Station #1, which is located in downtown Grand Blanc, remain open and (2) a needs assessment for the Fire Department be completed to obtain an expert opinion regarding revenues and expenses that would be required by the Fire Department in the future. The Township rejected both requests.

Last year the taxable property values increased by 3% in the City and 5% in the Township. If the millage remains unchanged, and the taxable property values in the City and Township increased by 3% annually for the next ten years, any deficit faced by the Fire Department would largely disappear. However, the Township is proposing a millage increase from 0.5 to 1.0 mils. The City remains committed to a fulltime Fire Department and is exploring all options for providing fire protection to City residents.