



2024 FIRE AND EMS LEVY PRESENTATION

BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT



**PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY EMERGENCY SERVICES TO
THE RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND VISITORS OF
BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP BY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE
PROFESSIONAL, WELL-TRAINED, COMMITTED TO OUR
CORE VALUES, AND CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE**

HONESTY

INTEGRITY

COURAGE

COMPASSION

ACCOUNTABILITY

PURPOSE OF THE LEVY



TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO:

IMPROVE SERVICE AND SAFETY FOR RESIDENTS AND FIREFIGHTERS

- RETURN STAFFING TO SAFE AND EFFECTIVE LEVELS
- REDUCE THE TIMES THE STATION IS EMPTY
- STAFF THE DEPARTMENT'S TANKER
- PROVIDE CONSISTENT RESPONSE TIMES
- DECREASE RELIANCE ON MUTUAL AID AGENCIES

ACTIONS AFTER THE 2023 LEVY FAILURE

REDUCED STAFFING BY 33%

CUT 1 AMBULANCE
RESTRICTED TRANSPORT DESTINATIONS
INCREASED RELIANCE ON MUTUAL AID

NO TANKER RESPONSE

REDUCED WATER AVAILABLE FOR FIRES BY
3,000 GALLONS

REDUCED COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING & OUTSIDE TRAINING

FROZE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

\$565,000 BUDGET REDUCTION

4 PERSONNEL

2 ALS
AMBULANCES

1 ENGINE
1,000 GALLONS

The \$565,000 budget reduction was primarily due to reducing the part-time hours due to staffing cuts and delaying the purchase of replacement ambulances and SUV's.

With 4 personnel, daily staffing is inadequate to staff a third ambulance or to respond with our tanker on fire calls. Mutual aid is needed more often.

Due to long wait times at Hillcrest Hospital, transport to Hillcrest has been restricted to traumas, strokes, and cardiac events. This has consistently allowed our staff to get back in service quicker, provide more timely response to residents, and reduce the use of mutual aid.

STATION EMPTY

SINCE THE FAILURE OF THE LEVY, BAINBRIDGE OFTEN TIMES DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH STAFF AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO INCIDENTS:

THE 33% CUT IN STAFFING = 230% INCREASE IN # OF TIMES THE STATION WAS EMPTY

A FIRE CALL, AUTO ACCIDENT, OR 2 EMS CALLS WILL LEAVE THE STATION EMPTY/UNMANNED

2022 JAN.-DEC.	94	8 TIMES/MO.
2023 JAN.-DEC.	310	36 TIMES/MO.
2024 JAN.-AUG.	445	56 TIMES/MO.

BASED UPON CURRENT DATA WE ARE PROJECTED TO BE EMPTY 672 TIMES IN 2024

In the first 8 months of this year, our station was empty 445 times. At this pace we will be empty 672 times. We had one fire that we were unable to send an engine. The first engine arrived in 14.5 minutes. Fire doubles in size every 30-60 seconds. Prolonged response times results in greater property loss and can lead to worse outcomes for patients suffering a medical or trauma emergency.

AUTOMATIC AID/MUTUAL AID

FIRE CALLS

- **BAINBRIDGE, AUBURN AND RUSSELL ARE DISPATCHED AT THE SAME TIME**
- **AUTO-AID PROVIDES AN ADDITIONAL 4,000 GALLONS OF WATER AND MANPOWER**

EMS CALLS

- **MINIMUM OF 2 CERTIFIED PERSONNEL REQUIRED**
- **MINIMUM OF 3 PERSONNEL FOR CRITICAL PATIENTS**
- **THE CLOSEST MUTUAL AID AGENCY IS CALLED: IF THAT AID AGENCY IS NOT AVAILABLE, WE HAVE TO REQUEST THE NEXT CLOSEST.**

In the report of a fire, Bainbridge, Auburn and Russell are all dispatched by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office simultaneously, saving time. This is referred to as automatic aid.

Aurora, Solon and Chagrin Valley Fire Departments are dispatched through different agencies which are notified by our dispatch center then dispatched by their dispatch centers. This results in delayed notification and increases their response time. In fire and EMS emergencies minutes matter.

FIRE AUTOMATIC/MUTUAL AID

- **BAINBRIDGE FIRE AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME IS 6 MINUTES**
- **AUTOMATIC/MUTUAL AID AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME IS 13 MINUTES**
- **6 PERSONNEL: 2 PERSONNEL ON THE TANKER
 4 PERSONNEL ON THE ENGINE
 4,000 GALLONS OF WATER or 16 MIN. OF FIREFIGHTING**
- **4 PERSONNEL: NO TANKER RESPONSE
 4 PERSONNEL ON THE ENGINE
 1,000 GALLONS OF WATER or 4-6 MIN. OF FIREFIGHTING**

Bainbridge's average response time is 6 minutes compared to 13 minutes for auto/mutual aid. Response times vary depending upon the location of the call, which unit is available, traffic, weather, and the type of call. There are times the first agency requested is not available so the next closest is requested. This adds as much as 3-4 minutes to response time. A large portion of the township does not have hydrants, and we rely on tankers to haul water to fires in those areas. Fire doubles every 30 to 60 seconds.

Fires tend to be well-developed before we arrive due to late discovery (large lots, neighbors are farther away, long setbacks, decreased visibility from the road), requiring larger quantities of water for extinguishment.

Inadequate water supply hinders firefighting efforts, puts residents and firefighters at greater risk, results in larger fire losses and higher insurance rates.

EMS BILLING

BAINBRIDGE

YOU PAY TAXES TO SUPPORT BAINBRIDGE FIRE/EMS

- WE ACCEPT WHAT INSURANCE PAYS AND
WRITE OFF THE BALANCE.

• AVERAGE EMS BILL	\$1,700
• INSURANCE PAYMENT	\$ 450
• PATIENT RESPONSIBILITY	\$ 0

RESIDENT SAVINGS: \$1,250

MUTUAL AID

YOU DO NOT PAY TAXES TO SUPPORT THE AGENCY

- THEY ACCEPT WHAT INSURANCE PAYS AND
BILL YOU FOR THE BALANCE

• AVERAGE EMS BILL	\$1,700
• INSURANCE PAYMENT	\$ 450
• PATIENT RESPONSIBILITY	\$1,250

RESIDENT COST: \$1,250

Bainbridge Fire Department “soft bills” residents; meaning we accept what your insurance pays and write off the rest. You never get a bill.

Non-residents are responsible for their entire bill. We aggressively pursue payment.

If Bainbridge has no units available and a mutual aid agency treats or transports you, they will accept what your insurance pays and bill you for the remaining amount. This is because you do not pay taxes to support their agency.

EMS MUTUAL AID USAGE

2022	JANUARY - MAY 2023	JUNE - DECEMBER 2023	JANUARY -AUG. 2024
36	18	56	39

Bainbridge Fire Department Records

IN 2023, THERE WERE 74 TIMES THAT BAINBRIDGE DID NOT HAVE AN EMS UNIT AVAILABLE, REQUIRING THE USE OF MUTUAL AID.

ASSUMING ALL WERE TRANSPORTS:

74 X \$450 INSURANCE = \$33,300 IN LOST REVENUE FOR BAINBRIDGE

74 X \$1,250 OUT OF POCKET = \$92,500 ADDITIONAL COST TO RESIDENTS

Our mutual aid usage was consistent prior to the levy failure. After the levy failure, our mutual aid usage sharply increased. In 2022, we used mutual aid 36 times or 3 times/month. In 2023 after the levy failed, we increased mutual aid use from 3.6 times to 8 times per month.

POPULATION GROWTH

YEAR	GEAUGA COUNTY	CHANGE	BAINBRIDGE	CHANGE
2023	82,426	-78	12,981	88
2020	82,504	504	12,893	1,504
2010	82,000	2,021	11,389	473
2000	79,979	N/A	10,916	N/A
TOTAL INCREASE		2,447 (3%)		2,065 (19%)

U.S. Census Bureau

The above graph shows the population for Geauga County with Bainbridge's number removed. From 2010 to 2020 the growth was 3.0% for the County and 19% for the township.

Bainbridge's population grew at a rate 6x greater than the rest of Geauga County. This increase has resulted in an increase in both Fire and EMS calls.

HOUSING GROWTH

YEAR	GEAUGA COUNTY	CHANGE	BAINBRIDGE	CHANGE
2022	32,605	194	5,247	239
2020	32,411	557	5,008	288
2010	31,854	3,029	4,720	740
2000	28,825	N/A	3,980	N/A
TOTAL INCREASE		3,780 (13%)		1,267 (32%)

US Census Bureau

Again, Bainbridge's numbers were removed from the Geauga County numbers. Housing in Bainbridge grew 18.6% from 2000 to 2010 and another 11.2% from 2010 to 2022.

Bainbridge housing increased at a rate 2.5 times greater than the rest of Geauga County between 2000 and 2022. This growth has driven Fire and EMS calls up by 70%.

SERVICE CALLS INCREASE

YEAR	FIRE	CHANGE	EMS	CHANGE	TOTAL	CHANGE
2023	638	14%	1,573	16%	2,211	15.5%
2020	560	48.5%	1,353	46%	1,913	47%
2010	377	N/A	924	N/A	1,301	N/A
TOTAL INCREASE	261	70%	649	70%	910	70%

Bainbridge Fire Department Records

With the increase in population and housing, calls for service have increased 70% across the board since 2010, with the largest increase of 47% between 2010 and 2020.

The change between 2020 and 2023 was 298 calls which is a 15% increase.

The continued growth in Canyon Lakes and Geauga Lake will result in another population, housing and service call surge.

LEVY HISTORY

YEAR	RAW MILLAGE	EFFECTIVE MILLAGE	MILL VALUE	REVENUE
1976	1.50	.227199	\$142,048.00	\$213,072
1977	0.50	.075733	\$142,048.00	\$71,024
1988	2.00	.616876	\$265,113.50	\$530,477
1995	1.50	.692116	\$385,670.00	\$578,505
2011	1.85	1.245235	\$543,182.70	\$1,004,888
TOTAL	7.35	2.857159	N/A	\$2,397,936

Geauga County Auditor's Office

THE AGGREGATE VALUE OF 1 MILL IN BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP = \$822,500

THE VALUE OF 1 MILL FOR AN INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY = \$35.00/\$100,000

Property taxes are based on your Appraised Value (Market Value) as determined by the Geauga County Auditor's appraisers, not the real estate market value.

Levy value decreases with age as they do not account for inflation. The raw millage are the mills that were approved by the voters. The effective millage is today's value.

Revenue from these levies only increases when new structures are built. Even then, each levy is collected at the rate set when they were passed. The effective rate decreases as the levy ages.

The fire department did not receive any additional money from the reevaluation.

The revenue from the last fire levy passed in 2011 was expected to provide enough funding for 5 years before having to go to the voters for additional funding. We have stretched it out to 13 years, but we cannot go any longer.

TAX DISTRIBUTION BY LEVY FUND

LEVY FUND	% OF TWP TAX REVENUE* (24%)	% OF TOTAL TAX BILL*	EXAMPLE: \$10,000 TAX BILL
FIRE/EMS	22%	5%	\$500
GENERAL	12%	3%	\$300
POLICE	33%	8%	\$800
ROADS	33%	8%	\$800
SCHOOLS (KENSTON)	-	53%	\$5,300
AUBURN CAREER CENTER	-	3%	\$300
COUNTY AGENCIES	-	20%	\$2,000

Geauga County Auditor – Tax Distribution

*ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST WHOLE %

The Township receives 23.68% of your taxes.

Of that 23.68%:

The General Fund receives roughly 12%

The Fire Department receives roughly 22%

The Police Department receives roughly 33%

The Road Departments receives roughly 33%.

The township does not collect income taxes like a city or village. None of the departments receive money from the General Fund.

Only 5% of your total taxes go to the fire department. We are reliant upon voter approved levies and ambulance billing for our revenue.

REVENUE HISTORY

YEAR	TAX	EMS BILLING	TOTAL REVENUE
2024	\$2,573,457	\$450,000	\$3,023,457
2023	\$2,573,457	\$477,994	\$3,051,451
2022	\$2,441,568	\$461,078	\$2,902,646
2021	\$2,351,180	\$379,849	\$2,731,029
2020	\$2,467,393	\$374,341	\$2,841,734
2019	\$2,467,393	\$411,391	\$2,878,784
2018	\$2,426,978	\$435,274	\$2,862,252
2017	\$2,331,634	\$404,231	\$2,735,865
2016	\$2,355,049	N/A	N/A
TOTAL INCREASE	\$218,408	AVG. REVENUE \$420,594	\$287,592
AVERAGE INCREASE/YEAR	\$27,300		\$35,949

Bainbridge Fire Department and Fiscal Office Records

Our tax revenue has increased \$218,408 over the last 8 years due to the construction of new homes/businesses. That is an increase of 9.27% from 2016 to 2024.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation rose 39.62% from the last time we passed a levy in 2011 to 2024. That means today's prices are 1.40 times higher than the average prices in 2011.

Our revenue has not kept up with inflation; the need for more revenue is clear when you look at the increase in service requests, apparatus and equipment needs, personnel, wages, benefits, and general operating expenses.

EXPENSE HISTORY

YEAR	OPERATING EXPENSES	CAPITAL EXPENSES	NOTES
2017	\$2,265,210	\$195,934	3 SUV's, Cardiac Monitors
2018	\$2,811,428	\$328,184	Ambulance, AED's, CPR Devices
2019	\$3,289,156	\$384,348	Ambulance, Mobile Radios Renovation of Gear Room
2020	\$2,951,830	\$54,257	Airway cameras, Covid PPE, MDT's, ALS Simulator
2021	\$3,876,217	\$1,462,070	Tanker, Engine & Equipment, Diesel Exhaust Removal System
2022	\$3,720,505	\$110,368	Pick-up Truck & Equipment
2023	\$3,991,973	\$116,528	Wages, Portable Radios, Fire/EMS UTV

BAINBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT PAYS \$40,000 TO GEAUGA COUNTY TO COLLECT OUR LEVIES

Personnel Costs account for roughly 86% of total expenses. For full-time employees this includes wages, pension, healthcare, Medicare, workers' compensation, and uniform allowance. We have 17 full-time employees including 4 administrative staff.

We have 18 part-time personnel. Part-time employees do not get healthcare and are under social security instead of pension. We have not filled 3 full-time firefighter vacancies which will save an additional \$405,723 in salary and benefits. These vacancies have resulted in increased overtime costs.

There are costs that we cannot control. For example, we pay the county \$40,000 per year to collect the current levy funds and that will increase with future levies. Cost such as healthcare, pension, workers compensation, equipment, utilities, and tax collection fees are all out of our control.

2024 REVENUE VERSES EXPENSES

CARRYOVER	TAX REVENUE	AMBULANCE BILLING	TOTAL REVENUE
\$1,860,314	\$2,573,457	\$450,000	\$4,883,771

FIRE EXPENSES	EMS EXPENSES	TOTAL EXPENSES
\$3,289,161	\$719,050	\$4,008,211

Bainbridge Fire Department and Fiscal Office Records

THE TAX REVENUE AND AMBULANCE BILLING ARE PROJECTIONS

The carryover funds listed are a combination of the Fire Levy Fund and the Ambulance Billing Fund. These figures are projected, not actual.

In 2023, cost-cutting measures such as cutting part-time staffing and freezing all capital purchasing resulted in an increased carryover for 2024.

Expenses such as utilities, fuel, parts, and supply costs continued to rise, as did healthcare and wages, and outside service costs.

The department is required to carryover an amount equal to roughly 25% of the next year's budget. Since the first half tax receipts are not distributed until March, the carryover is used to operate the department for the first quarter of the year.

The estimated combined carryover for 2025 is estimated to be \$875,560 which will not meet the 25% requirement carryover.

2.75 MILL 5 YR RENEWABLE LEVY

1 MILL = \$35.00/\$100,000

2.75 MILL = \$35.00 X 2.75 = \$96.25/\$100,000

1. FIND THE APPRAISED VALUE ON YOUR TAX BILL
2. DIVIDE THAT BY \$100,000
3. MULTIPLY THAT NUMBER BY \$96.25

APPRAISED VALUE: \$250,000

DIVIDED BY: \$100,000 = 2.5 x \$96.25

COST: \$240.63 /YEAR

\$20.05/MO.

APPRAISED VALUE: \$600,000

DIVIDED BY: \$100,000 = 6.0 x \$96.25

COST: \$577.50 /YEAR

\$48.13/MO.

This levy will cost taxpayers an estimated \$96.25/\$100,000 of appraised property value.

CONSEQUENCES OF A LEVY FAILURE

• CUT STAFFING TO 3 PERSONNEL:

- *FIREFIGHTERS WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS*
- *ONLY 1 AMBULANCE WILL BE STAFFED*
- *INCREASED RESPONSE TIMES & DELAYED CARE*
- *3-PERSON ENGINE (NO INTERIOR FIREFIGHTING UNTIL AUTO/MUTUAL AID ARRIVES)*
- *STATION WILL BE EMPTY WITH ONE CALL*
- *FURTHER INCREASE OUR RELIANCE ON MUTUAL AID*
- *UNFAVORABLE ISO RATING = HIGHER INSURANCE RATES*

3 PERSONNEL
ON DUTY

1 ALS
AMBULANCE

3-PERSON
ENGINE

If the levy fails, we will have to reduce staffing to three people per day, resulting in a negative service impact for residents as well as an unfavorable ISO rating which will affect property insurance for residents and businesses.

Part-time personnel will be eliminated. Many of these dedicated people have grown up in Bainbridge and are professional, proficient and productive Firefighter/EMS personnel. Our part-time personnel allow us to stretch our budget without sacrificing anything.

Staffing of 3 will mean that the station will be empty every time a unit goes out. Firefighters cannot conduct interior fire operations with just 3 people on the scene, so we will have to wait until assistance arrives.

This will result in greater danger to residents and firefighters, as well as greater property losses. Based on our increasing requests for service, lack of hydrants, and the number of overlapping calls we need six people on duty per day.

Our mutual aid partners are also experiencing greater call volumes and staffing difficulties. Increased mutual aid usage will strain those agencies.

RESULTS OF PASSING THE 2024 LEVY

• **PROVIDE SAFER, MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICE TO RESIDENTS:**

- **RETURN STAFFING TO 6 PERSONNEL**
- **STAFF THE 3RD AMBULANCE**
- **FASTER RESPONSE & QUICKER CARE**
- **STAFF THE TANKER**
- **IMPROVE FIREFIGHTER SAFETY**
- **REDUCE THE TIMES THE STATION IS EMPTY**
- **REDUCE OUR RELIANCE ON MUTUAL AID**
- **LOWER INSURANCE COST**

6 PERSONNEL

3 ALS
AMBULANCES

1 ENGINE +
TANKER
4,000 GALLONS

It takes six personnel on a fire scene to establish a water supply, conduct search and rescue operations, and fire suppression.

We are required to have 2 people outside when we have 2 people inside of a hazardous environment.

It is important to have a person operating the pump to supply crews with water, and an incident commander to direct firefighting operations, monitor conditions, and assure incident safety. Being able to staff and respond with our tanker gives us 3,000 gallons of additional water. The 6 personnel will allow us to conduct search and rescue operations, contain the fire and reduce property loss.

Fire doubles in size every 30-60 seconds according to the National Fire Protection Association. Additionally, with all the synthetic materials and lightweight construction used today, fires burn hotter and faster leading to structural collapse in as little as 10 minutes.

From an EMS perspective it is important to deliver treatment within 4-6 minutes in critical patients such as a cardiac arrest, respiratory emergency, stroke, heart attack, or trauma. Having a third ambulance staffed will mean faster delivery of care and decrease reliance on mutual aid.



THANK YOU

**THE BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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