



2023 Public Safety Millage

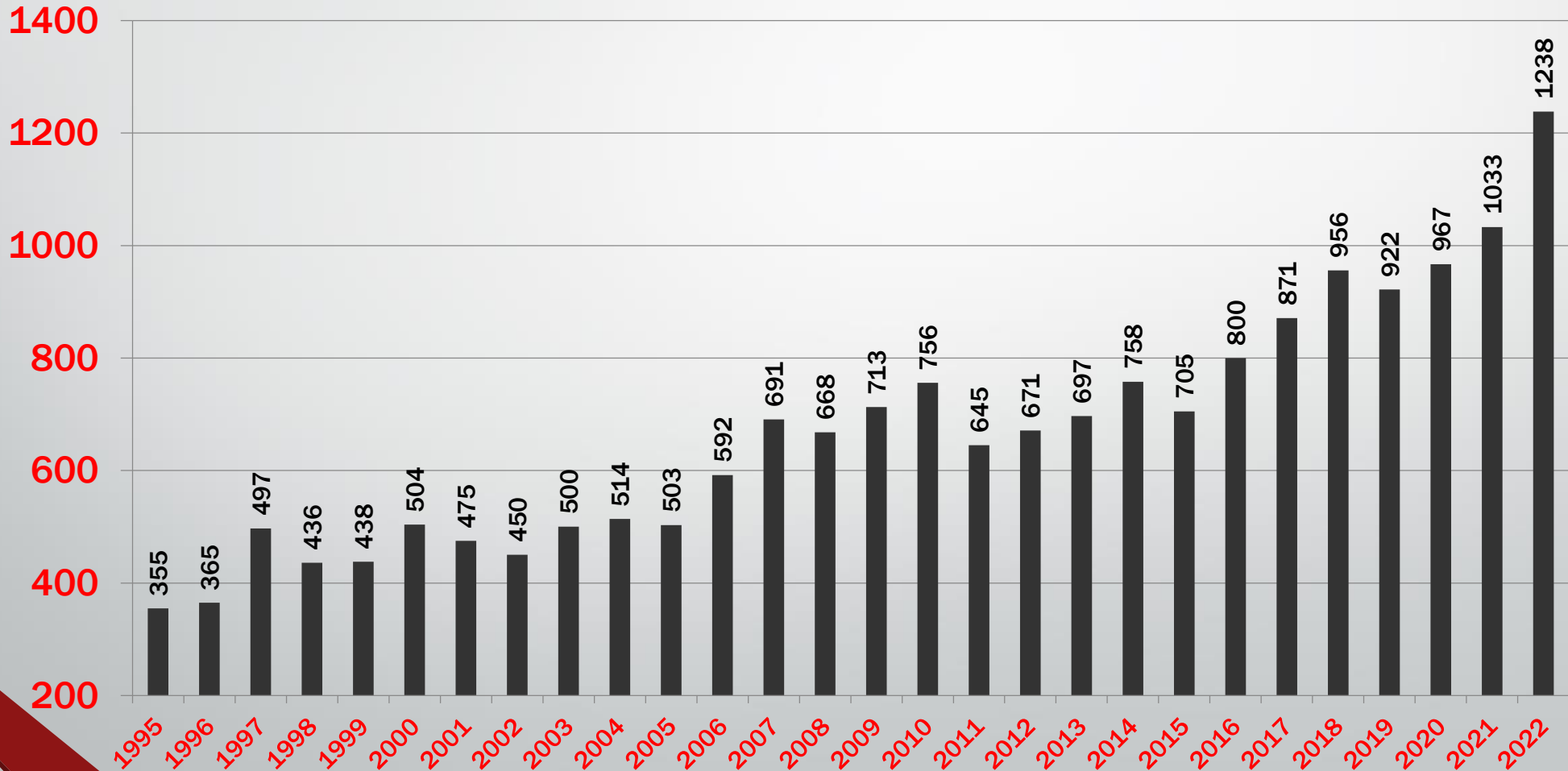
April 13, 2023

Why is the PS Millage being proposed?

- Otsego Fire Department (OFD) has operated with an on-call firefighter response model since its beginning.
- OFD has dealt with a severe uptick in call volume in recent years (1238 in 2022).
- In response to the large call volume, the on-call model must switch to a staffed station model to assure coverage and retention of firefighters and this will cost additional money.

Why is the PS millage being proposed? Contd.

Call Volume Historical Trending



How do the millages affect medical calls?

- Roughly 76% of OFD calls are medical.
- Fire coverage is required, medicals are an option.
- If the millages are turned down, then the removal of medicals are the only option.
- If there is no additional source of revenue, OFD will no longer run on Priority 1 and Priority 2 medical calls.

Ambulance is still coming, right?

- Yes and no.
- City of Otsego and Otsego Township will continue to have a contract with Plainwell EMS to respond to medical emergencies. So yes.
- It is just a matter of when they will get there. Many times it is within 10-15 minutes. However, if they are coming from outside of the district, it could take upwards of 30-40 minutes.
- MFRs provide a vital stabilizing medical service to emergencies until the ambulance arrives.

Ambulance is still coming, right?, Contd

- Ambulances are overworked and finding certified staff to maintain the ambulances is a growing problem across our entire country. This has already began to affect coverage.
- With the increase in call volume for all communities (among other reasons) ambulances are stretched further than ever before. And unfortunately, it will get worse before it gets better.
- In 2022, there were approximately 1000 times that an ambulance from outside of Allegan county was responsible for coverage in some district within Allegan county.

What does the future hold?

It is impossible to know what the future holds. But, the trajectory of society is making all public services more vital than years past. Especially medical services. The view of medical care is drastically different than pre-2020.

- Call volume (in general) is rather predictable. You can follow a steady increase in call volume from previous years. If you continue that increase for years to come you will find that we are closing in on 2000 calls by 2030. That is significant! Hence the need to deal with staffing immediately.
- Costs are a little more difficult to predict (except for the fact that they will go up). Considering many of the costs of emergency services are centered on labor, employee wage is a major factor in departmental costs. We are entering a time where certified licensed medical first responders and/or EMTs are in great demand. Looking at schools and forecasts for years to come, it does not look good. We must plan for an increase in costs.

What happens if the millages pass?

If the millages pass; medical calls will continue and the OFD will be transitioning to a 24/7 staffed fire station from the on-call firefighter model. It will include 1 of the 3 options below:

- 3 full-time firefighters
- Current OFD members taking 4-hour shifts as sit-times
- A combination of the above 2 options

What happens if the millages do not pass?

- If no additional revenue is available to respond to the growing increase in costs, the OFD will no longer run medical call (Priority 1s and 2s).
- This phasing out will be done by either July 1st or October 1st.
- OFD will continue to respond to fires, PI accidents and wires down calls.

What is the difference from the Township and City Millage requests?

City- Pursuing a Public Safety millage repeal and replace. If approved the City will repeal the existing 2 mills and replace it with 4 new mills. Net difference of 2 additional mills.

Township- Pursuing a millage for medical calls of 2 mills.

- *The reason for the difference is the fact that the City of Otsego already had an existing PS millage.*

What would 2 mills cost you?

This is an ad valorem tax. So the answer to this question is determined by your taxable value of your property (*remember your taxable value is different than your assessed value*). Please use the guide below to better understand what your cost would be.

Taxable Value	2 Mills	Annual Cost
\$50,000	x. 002	= \$100
\$75,000	x .002	= \$150
\$100,000	x .002	= \$200
\$200,000	x .002	= \$400

Questions or Comments?

Thank you

If you would like additional information; please go to www.cityofotsego.org to find documents and multiple presentations on the topic.

Or contact City Manager Aaron Mitchell at:

amitchell@cityofotsego.org

694-6146