

Fire District call volume is up 75% in ten years, while our levy revenue is almost exactly where it was in 2017. That is not an accounting error, it is Ohio law.

Here is how it works. Under Ohio's HB920 "reduction factor," a voted levy is locked to the dollar amount it collected the year voters approved it. When property values rise (through reassessment or new construction) the effective rate is cut proportionally so the total collection stays flat. A fire district does not receive more money because its community grew.

What has changed on our side of that equation since 2015:

- Emergency calls: 982 in 2015 to 1,716 in 2025, a 75% increase
- Population: up 84% over ten years
- Overlapping calls, or two emergencies at the same time: up 162% since 2017
- Fire inspection demand: up 180% since 2018

What has changed on your side: the effective cost per \$100,000 of home value has fallen from \$124 in 2017 to \$82 today. The voted rate is still 4.85 mills. The effective rate is now 2.52.

Costs did not hold still in the meantime. A fire engine that ran \$617,000 in 2018 now quotes at \$1.2 million. Turnout gear is up 92%. Hydraulic rescue tools, up 67%.

That gap (rising demand against frozen revenue) is what the November question addresses.

Next post: what the new revenue would fund.

<https://bstgfire.org/2026-fire-levy>

Serving Berkshire Twp. | City of Sunbury | Trenton Twp. | Village of Galena

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

WHY THIS LEVY IS ON THE BALLOT

**CALLS UP 75%.
FUNDING FLAT.**

