

September 11, 2025

Warrington Township Fire Tax



What is a Fire Tax?

- Section 3205(4) allows townships to levy up to 3 mills for the funding of volunteer fire companies
- Can be used to:
 - Purchase and maintain fire apparatus
 - Ensure a suitable place to house fire apparatus
 - To fund fire fighting needs
 - Provide for training
 - May use up to 50% of the fire tax to pay salaries and benefits of firefighters



State Mandated Township Responsibilities

- Section 1553 of the township code requires that the Board of Supervisors to consult with volunteer emergency services responders **determine and provide appropriate levels of financial and administration assistance.**
- Section 1803 grants the authority to the township to appropriate money to the fire company This section also requires specific reporting and accountability procedures the fire company must follow to ensure the proper use of township funds.
- In 2008 , the township code was amended to clarify that the Board of Supervisors is **responsible to ensure** that fire protection is provided within the township.

Why are we considering a fire tax?

- The Wellsville Fire Company (WFC) approached the township a few years ago that they are becoming concerned for the long term economic viability of providing adequate fire service to the township.
- The WFC also were concerned of the lack of volunteers to respond to emergencies.
- The WFC presented a list of needs including the upgrading of equipment and the idea to hire part time paid drivers.

Why are we considering a fire tax?

- With the list of needs presented to the township by the WFC, the township hired an independent consultant (Scott Ryno) to determine the township's funding and fire protection responsibilities. Specifically these important questions.
 - What is the appropriate level of fire and rescue needs for Warrington Township today and into the future?
 - Based on the above township needs, what is the township's fair share of the costs?

What did the Ryno Report recommend?

- Ryno recommended that Warrington's fair share to maintain a viable WFC was to annually fund 4 overall categories starting in 2025:
 - Apparatus replacement fund \$60,000
 - Insurance Premiums \$19,000
 - Capital Improvements \$15,000
 - Part time Driver Salaries \$71,000
 - A 3% to 5% increase each year due to inflation. We want to avoid annual fire tax increases.

Grand Total 2025 **\$165,000** which is being paid out of the general funding which greatly impacts other township needs such as road and bridge repairs.

The challenges we face.



Our current 0.21 millage rate has remained unchanged since at least 1969



Current millage raises only \$65,000 per year



Funding the fire company at the appropriate level will quickly eliminate our emergency reserves and eliminate our ability to provide services like roads and bridges



Fire tax or General Fund tax increase?

So, how much of a fire tax increase?

Fire Company Fire Tax Millage							
		added 1 mill added 1 mill added 1 mill added 1 mill added 1 mill					
Total Assessment		323,830,721	324,830,721	325,830,721	326,830,721	327,830,721	328,830,721
Year		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Millage							
0.05	0.00005	\$16,191.54	\$16,241.54	\$16,291.54	\$16,341.54	\$16,391.54	\$16,441.54
0.10	0.0001	\$32,383.07	\$32,483.07	\$32,583.07	\$32,683.07	\$32,783.07	\$32,883.07
0.15	0.00015	\$48,574.61	\$48,724.61	\$48,874.61	\$49,024.61	\$49,174.61	\$49,324.61
0.20	0.0002	\$64,766.14	\$64,966.14	\$65,166.14	\$65,366.14	\$65,566.14	\$65,766.14
0.25	0.00025	\$80,957.68	\$81,207.68	\$81,457.68	\$81,707.68	\$81,957.68	\$82,207.68
0.30	0.0003	\$97,149.22	\$97,449.22	\$97,749.22	\$98,049.22	\$98,349.22	\$98,649.22
0.35	0.00035	\$113,340.75	\$113,690.75	\$114,040.75	\$114,390.75	\$114,740.75	\$115,090.75
0.40	0.0004	\$129,532.29	\$129,932.29	\$130,332.29	\$130,732.29	\$131,132.29	\$131,532.29
0.45	0.00045	\$145,723.82	\$146,173.82	\$146,623.82	\$147,073.82	\$147,523.82	\$147,973.82
0.50	0.0005	\$161,915.36	\$162,415.36	\$162,915.36	\$163,415.36	\$163,915.36	\$164,415.36
0.55	0.00055	\$178,106.90	\$178,656.90	\$179,206.90	\$179,756.90	\$180,306.90	\$180,856.90
0.60	0.0006	\$194,298.43	\$194,898.43	\$195,498.43	\$196,098.43	\$196,698.43	\$197,298.43
0.65	0.00065	\$210,489.97	\$211,139.97	\$211,789.97	\$212,439.97	\$213,089.97	\$213,739.97
0.70	0.0007	\$226,681.50	\$227,381.50	\$228,081.50	\$228,781.50	\$229,481.50	\$230,181.50
0.75	0.00075	\$242,873.04	\$243,623.04	\$244,373.04	\$245,123.04	\$245,873.04	\$246,623.04
0.80	0.0008	\$259,064.58	\$259,864.58	\$260,664.58	\$261,464.58	\$262,264.58	\$263,064.58
0.85	0.00085	\$275,256.11	\$276,106.11	\$276,956.11	\$277,806.11	\$278,656.11	\$279,506.11
0.90	0.0009	\$291,447.65	\$292,347.65	\$293,247.65	\$294,147.65	\$295,047.65	\$295,947.65
0.95	0.00095	\$307,639.18	\$308,589.18	\$309,539.18	\$310,489.18	\$311,439.18	\$312,389.18
1.00	0.001	\$323,830.72	\$324,830.72	\$325,830.72	\$326,830.72	\$327,830.72	\$328,830.72

Real Example



- Total Accesses Value \$165,260
 - School Taxes \$3,327.30
 - County Taxes \$1,140.29
 - Warrington Tax \$34.70
 - Total Tax \$\$4,502.29
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- **0.55 Mills (Ryno) \$90.92**
 - **0.80 Mills (WFC) \$132.24**

Is there accountability?

Yes!

Sate law requires reporting and accountability every year

A policy was adopted by the Board of Supervisors to ensure:

- Costs are justified
- Alternatives considered
- Annual WFC reports
- Record available to the public
- Audits
- Must request to release funds (no blank check)

Neighboring Millage Rates

Municipality	General Millage Rate	Fire Tax Millage	Total Millage
Carroll	2.62	0.59	3.21
Dillsburg	2.87	0	2.87
Dover Borough	3.94	0	3.94
Dover Township	1.60	0	1.60
Fairview	1.75	0.23	1.98
Franklin	1.19	0	1.19
Franklintown	2.07	0	2.07
Lewisberry	1.80	0	1.80
Monaghan	1.50	0	1.50
Newberry	3.20	0.30	3.50
Warrington	0.21	?	0.21
Washington	0.45	0	0.45
Wellsville	0.42	0	0.42

Source: York County Assessment Office