

**COOPER FIRE DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT PROPOSAL**

Shall Cooper Charter Township establish a township wide special assessment district to defray the cost of providing emergency services, including fire protection, pursuant to Act 33 of 1951?

The Fire Department budget for operations in 2023 is \$410,050.00. In addition to their operating budget, the fire department has expressed needs in proposed Capital Outlay Projects such as truck upkeep and replacement, refurbishment of fire station #2, a possible addition to fire station #1, and replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus and other tools.

What does this mean for Cooper Township property owners and businesses? If this proposal passes, the Township Board of Trustees will have a public hearing every year (much like they do for solid waste/ recycling assessments and street light assessments) to determine the amount to assess the taxpayers for the Cooper Fire Department budget and capital outlay needs for that fiscal year. Once that amount is determined at the public hearing, it would go onto the winter tax bill that year. An example of how to figure out how much you would be assessed for is below:

TAXABLE VALUE FOR YOUR PROPERTY - found on your assessment form sent in February each year, on one of your tax bills, on the tax section of www.coopertwp.org, or you can call the office and get that information 269-382-0223.

Divide your Taxable Value by 1000, then multiply that number by the number of mils decided on (1, 1.5, or 2) at the special assessment public hearing to see what you should expect to see on your tax bill.

Example: \$75,000.00 TAXABLE VALUE, divided by 1000, multiplied by 2 Mil Special Assessment. That means \$2 dollars for every \$1,000.00 of taxable value. That equals $(75,000/1000) \times 2 = \150.00 special assessment charge on your winter tax bill for that year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*Emergency Services Special Assessments may be used as a deduction for taxes levied on your homestead property tax credit claim.

*Fire Department money collected via a Special Assessment goes into a "FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND" and cannot be spent on anything else.