



**FORT GRATIOT FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**FIRE + EMS + RESCUE**

# 2017-2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MILLAGE PROPOSAL



Since 2007, the Board set the fire rate each year with either an increase (+), a decrease (-) or made no change (n/c) based on the state of the economy each year. In 2008 we began to see more foreclosures than sales. It was during these years that between reduced revenue and mounting repair costs, we were setting aside less because we did not increase the fire rate the permitted 10%.

| Fire Rate History |            |      |             |
|-------------------|------------|------|-------------|
| 2007              | 1.4529 (+) | 2012 | 1.65 (+)    |
| 2008              | 1.5282 (+) | 2013 | 1.815 (+)   |
| 2009              | 1.5 (-)    | 2014 | 1.815 (n/c) |
| 2010              | 1.5 (n/c)  | 2015 | 1.815 (n/c) |
| 2011              | 1.5 (n/c)  | 2016 | 1.9965 (+)  |

The millage being asked for is 0.6 mills, or \$0.60 per \$1,000 of taxable value of your property. As an example, if you could sell your house for \$150,000, and your taxable value is \$75,000 this millage would cost you \$45 per year. To calculate your cost, find your taxable value on your tax bill, free on our website, or by calling the office. Divide your taxable value by 1,000, then multiply that number by .60 for your amount.

The millage is 100% committed to the fire department capital outlay plan to purchase apparatus and equipment. Over the next ten years, equipment purchases over \$25,000 will be paid from the millage funds. In 2026, any millage fund balance will be rolled over to facilitate the continuation of the fire department capital improvement plan.

Millage funds are required by law to be kept and accounted for in a separate fund from the General Fund. The Township will properly meet its obligation to collect, keep track of and use the millage funding solely for its intended purpose. In addition, this millage will not be used for any operating costs of the fire department including employee salaries and or benefits.



Equipment maintenance is a priority for our members during shift work. Stop by to check out the trucks!

The Fort Gratiot Fire Department employs training and tactics that allow them to be as efficient and effective as possible. The department is always seeking feedback from the people of Fort Gratiot to determine where they are excelling and where they need to make improvements. With community support, the Fort Gratiot Fire Department and its members work hard and are dedicated to protect and serve its residents.



## Fort Gratiot Fire Department

3720 Keewahdin Road

Fort Gratiot, Michigan 48059

Phone: (810) 385-5666



[www.fortgratiottwp.org](http://www.fortgratiottwp.org) - [psmith@fortgratiottwp.org](mailto:psmith@fortgratiottwp.org)

*We're here for you!*

Administration Office Hours: M-F, 8A-4P

Shift Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 4P-9P, Weekends 8A-2P

Tel: 810-385-5666 ~ [fortgratiottwp.org](http://fortgratiottwp.org)

**VOTE AUGUST 8, 2017**

**POLLS OPEN**

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**7AM-8PM**

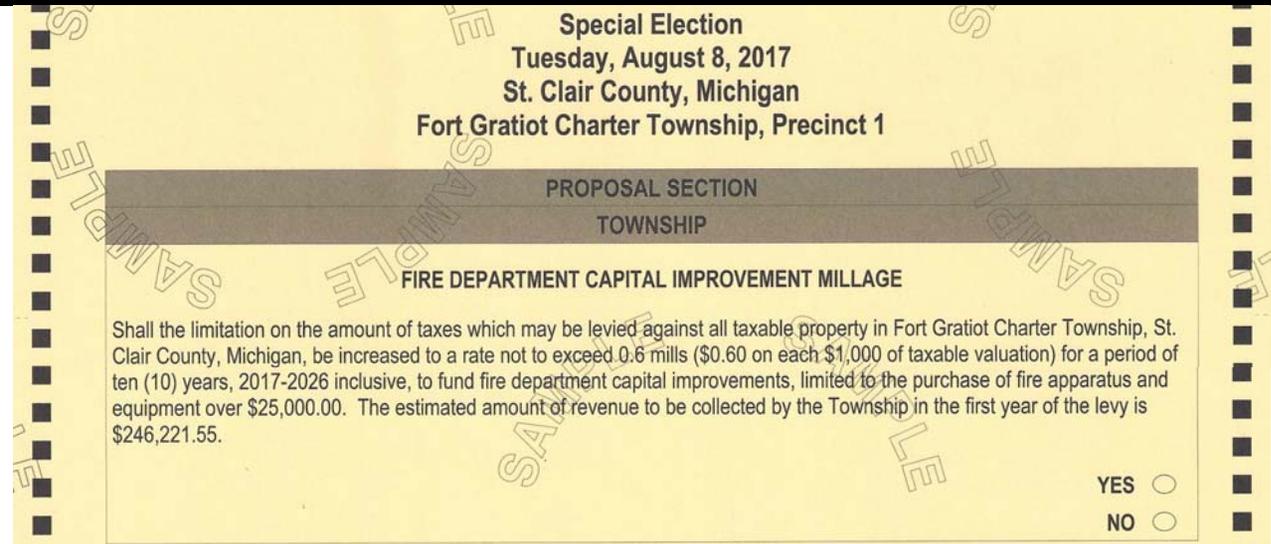
Capital purchases have a large impact on public safety expenses, especially in the Fire Department. Adequate public response requires a significant investment in the proper tools and equipment. A fire engine can cost more than \$350,000, and an aerial apparatus (our 95) can cost over \$1 million, but can have a useful life of 20+ years. To help plan for and manage the acquisition of equipment, the Township has developed a Capital Improvement Plan for Fire Apparatus and equipment replacement and purchase.

Five years ago, the Fire Chief updated the Fire Apparatus Replacement and Equipment Plan. Because of the downturn in the economy and loss of Township revenues, the Chief modified the plan to delay a number of apparatus and equipment purchases.

During this time the fire department also applied for number of grants. These grants would help offset the significant cost of purchasing operating equipment. Unfortunately, we were not chosen for these very competitive federal grants.

Currently the department operates on funding from a 1.9965 mil special assessment charged on your December/winter tax bill; totaling \$744,819 for 2017 operations. This pays for personnel, equipment repairs, maintenance, training, shift work, fuel, and purchases. Each year, money has been set aside for capital improvement as the budget allows, averaging \$30,000. If the proposal passes, the special assessment rate will be adjusted as funding will no longer need to be set aside from the special assessment.

The millage would be used to fund apparatus and equipment purchases over \$25,000 for the next ten budget years, fiscal years 2017 through 2026 inclusive. The present capital outlay plan has these funds to be used for the following:



**2018 Aerial Truck 95 Replacement—\$1.2 million**

Replace 1989 E-One (29 years old)  
Should be ordered this year for delivery late 2018

**2021 Rescue 21—\$150,000**

2006 Ford Chassis with Spencer box  
Multiple running issues that at this time has not been corrected  
57,000 miles  
Our most used truck (responds to all calls)  
Hope to last until 2021 (will be 15 years old)

**2023 Engine-Water Tender 36—\$400,000**

Replace a 1998 Spencer Engine in 2023 (will be 25 years old)

**2025 SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) MSA Fire Hawk bought 2009. Per NFPA the SCBA should be retired after 15 years of service—Cost \$245,300**

Replace 30 masks & 60 bottles in 2025  
SCBA Cost \$5,500 each = \$165,000  
SCBA Bottles \$1,000 each = \$60,000  
Mask \$450 each = \$13,500  
2 Rescue air pack @ \$3,400 = \$6,800

**Fire Fighter's Bunker and gear** (all scheduled to be replaced by 2025.) Per NFPA requirements bunker gear needs to be replaced every ten years

Bunker coat \$1,500  
Bunker Pants with suspenders \$1,200  
Helmet and helmet light \$360  
Boots \$300  
Gloves (two pairs) \$180  
Traffic vest \$45  
Fire hood \$80

**Total cost for 25 sets = \$91,625**

**Hurst Jaws, Cutter and Rams.** Average life 15 to 20 years, current set 30 years old.

Spreader \$11,800  
Cutter \$11,800  
Long Ram \$8,400  
Short Ram \$7,400  
Misc. Hurst tools \$3,000

**Total cost = \$42,400**

**Total cost projection = \$2,129,325**