



# SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

## ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT MILLAGE

### AUGUST 2, 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION



#### Why is the Advanced Life Support Millage proposed?

- The proposed millage is dedicated to improving emergency medical care in Springfield Township.
- Before the start of an Advanced Life Support (ALS) trial program in November 2021, Springfield relied on a private ambulance company to provide ALS services, with back-up aid coming from surrounding departments.
- Calls to our Fire Department have increased 68% over the past 10 years and calls are predominately for emergency medical service.
- In recent years, private ambulance companies have focused their resources on higher density population centers as they respond to an increase in demand and a national paramedic shortage.
- Since 2019, the private ambulance company serving Springfield has averaged response times over 17 minutes.

**Due to a greater demand for emergency medical care, uncertain availability of ALS units responding to Springfield, and response times from the private ambulance company averaging over 17 minutes, a dedicated ALS Millage is proposed so this critical service can be provided by our Fire Department.**

#### What would the ALS Millage provide?

- The current Fire Department funding and staffing that supports the trial ALS program is not sufficient to sustain Advanced Life Support services long-term.
- The proposal is for 0.75 mill for a period of 10 years which would raise approximately \$575,000 in the first year when levied in 2022.
- This funding would allow the Township to hire additional full-time Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians and maintain two fully equipped Advanced Life Support ambulances based at our fire stations.
- Staffing at Station 2 would be enhanced with a minimum of one Paramedic and one Emergency Medical Technician on duty 24/7, and staffing at Station 1 would be increased for 24/7 coverage.
- Based on results of the trial program, medical call response times reduced to an average of under 7 ½ minutes.

**The additional funding would be used to enhance coverage and base two ALS ambulances at our fire stations. Since November 2021, average medical call response times reduced to under 7 ½ minutes during the trial ALS program.**

#### How does the Springfield Township Fire Department currently operate?

- Springfield's Fire Department currently is staffed by a Chief and three full-time firefighters along with part-time personnel assigned to duty shifts.
- Since 2016, Fire Station 2 has been staffed 24/7 with a minimum of two fire personnel, and Fire Station 1 is partially staffed during weekdays only.
- With the support of the community, Springfield increased Fire Department funding and vastly improved operations over the past five years, including adding a third station, providing 24/7 shift coverage, and improving facilities, equipment, and vehicles.
- These changes resulted in a significant improvement in our ISO fire service rating, placing our department among the top 12% nationwide.

**While recent improvements resulted in an exceptional fire protection rating, our Fire Department remained a Basic Life Support Agency and has had to rely on outside sources for ALS services.**

## How are Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support different?

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT	ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT
<i>Medical First Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians are trained and certified to provide:</i>	<i>Paramedics undertake additional advanced training and are licensed to provide all Basic Life Support treatments, plus:</i>
✓ Initial patient assessment	✓ Administering IV fluids
✓ CPR/AED	✓ ECG monitoring and interpreting heart rhythms
✓ Basic airway management, oxygen therapy	✓ Immediately treating life threatening heart rhythms with electrical therapies
✓ Splinting broken bones	
✓ Spinal immobilization	✓ Using advanced procedures to achieve and maintain a clear airway
✓ Bleeding control	
✓ Administer limited medications	✓ Administering medications available on the ambulance to treat various emergency conditions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiac Arrest</li> <li>• Seizure</li> <li>• Allergic Reaction</li> <li>• Respiratory Arrest</li> <li>• Diabetic Emergency</li> <li>• Pain Management</li> </ul>

**Basic Life Support is a level of care aimed at stabilizing a patient. Advanced Life Support involves highly advanced medical techniques performed by Paramedics for early treatment of critical and life-threatening conditions.**

## Do other area Fire Departments provide ALS services?

- Townships of Groveland, Holly, Rose, Highland, Waterford, Independence, Orion, Oakland, Addison, Oxford, and Brandon have Advanced Life Support fire departments.
- White Lake is the only area department that is BLS, however they also are pursuing a change to ALS.

**All Townships in northern Oakland County either currently have ALS services provided by their fire department or are in the process of making the transition.**

## How much would the new ALS millage cost taxpayers?

- The rate of 0.75 mill would cost 75 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value.

**If approved, the new millage would increase taxes for the average Springfield Township property owner by about \$94.00 per year (based on an average taxable value of \$125,560).**

## Where will the proposal appear on the August 2 ballot?

The millage question will appear on the **August 2 Primary Election ballot in the Proposal Section** as follows:

### ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT MILLAGE PROPOSITION 2022

Shall the constitutional limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on all taxable real and personal property, in the Charter Township of Springfield, Oakland County, Michigan be increased by a new additional millage of 0.75 mill (\$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of ten (10) years, from 2022 to 2031, inclusive, to provide funding for the operation and maintenance of Advanced Life Support services within the Township, including personnel, ambulances, and equipment? It is estimated that 0.75 mill will raise approximately \$575,000 when first levied in 2022.

## How can I get more information?

More information is available on the Township website under News & Announcements: [springfield-twp.us](http://springfield-twp.us)