



# Police and Fire Protection Millage Facts



Since the passing of the Flint Police and Fire Protection Millage in 2012, there have been a number of questions from residents and others regarding use of the millage funds. This list is meant to explain what the millage is funding, what it is not, and for exactly how long it will last and what it would mean to both police and fire not to have it.

## 1. How is the Millage being used?

🍷🍷 The millage is being used to fund police and firefighter positions through the next two budget years, fiscal years 2016 and 2017. It is also being used to buy new “turnout” gear for the Fire Department (clothes, helmets, boots, etc.). This means millage funds have been used exclusively to pay for costs associated with wages and fringe benefits of current police officers and fire fighters and some much needed gear and not for funding any other “special” projects. By the end of FY17, however, all millage funds are projected to be exhausted, unless the millage is approved again by voters for future years.



## 2. Is all of the millage being used?

🍷🍷 Yes. The millage is 100% committed to police and fire. In both FY16 and FY17 the costs for 22 police officers and 33 fire fighters for a total of 55 positions will be paid from the millage funds. By the end of FY17, however, all millage funds are projected to be exhausted, except for \$139,231.

## 3. Does the millage fund anything else besides police and fire?

🍷🍷 No. Millage funds are required by law to be kept and accounted for in a separate fund from the General Fund. The City has properly met its obligation to collect, keep track of and use the millage funding solely for its intended purpose. In addition, the City’s General Fund budgeted expenses for police and fire are and have been above 55.5% of the total General Fund budget, as provided by ordinance to ensure a consistent percentage of the fund be used only for police and fire. This ordinance was passed to provide assurance that the millage funds are not supplanting money from the General Fund which has historically been used for public safety.





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#### **4. Why do we have less police and firefighters than we did when the millage was put into effect?**

- Both the Police and Fire Departments have lost personnel through attrition (retirements, employees leaving for other positions, etc.). There have been NO layoffs of police and fire personnel for the last four years. Every step was taken to ensure this. However, due to the expiration of the Safer grant, COPS grants and the Mott Foundation grants coupled with loss of city revenues associated with property values and the still pending retiree health care lawsuit, the choice was to layoff the officers or use the millage fund to keep the officers working. The City chose to use the millage to keep our police and firefighters working.

#### **5. What has been done to ensure the best possible public safety for the City of Flint?**

- While the outlook is a challenge, the Flint Police Department is positioning itself to redefine policing and become a model for efficiency. The FPD has recently been recognized as the #1 Department in the nation for return on investment (ROI). The Flint Fire Department is employing training and tactics that allow them to be as efficient and effective as possible. Both departments are actively seeking the feedback of the people of Flint in the form of surveys, both online and in person, to determine where they are excelling and where they need to make improvements. The Officers of the Flint Police Department and the Flint Fire Department deserve to know the Citizens support their hard work and dedication to maintain order and establish safe communities in the City of Flint.



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