



Copley Township Safety Facility Levy FAQs

Q What is the purpose of the Safety Facility Levy?

A If approved, the Safety Facility Levy would fund the construction of a new joint facility for the Copley Township fire and police departments. The facility would serve as the new shared base for all police, crime prevention, rescue, EMS and fire prevention services within the township. As part of the development of this facility, the levy would also support the addition of a roadway to the new site—off Sunset Drive—and resulting expansion of the township’s pedestrian network, as well as the creation of a new community center.

Q Doesn't Copley Township already have levies for the police and fire departments?

A Voters previously approved operating levies—the Police Protection and Fire & EMS operating levies—that fund the day-to-day expenses of providing safety services in the township, such as salaries and equipment. These levies do not support construction of facilities.

Q How much would the levy cost?

A Bonds will be issued for the cost of developing the proposed facility, which is estimated at \$20.5 million. At an interest rate of 5% over 26 years, the levy has a value of 2.11 mills, which means the average annual property tax required to fund the levy is calculated at 2.11 mills for each \$1 of tax valuation, or 21.1 cents (\$.211) for each \$100 of tax valuation. The cost to a homeowner of a \$100,000 home in Copley Township would be \$73.86 per year, or \$36.93 per half.

Q How long will the levy last?

A If approved, the proposed Copley Township Safety Facility Levy would first be collected in 2023 and would run for 26 years. Payments would be collected by the county through residents’ property taxes.

Q Why do our fire and police departments need new facilities?

A Our fire and police facilities are not adequate to meet the needs of today’s departments, and they don’t support current best practices—and in some cases regulations—for modern safety forces. The fire department is currently housed in the basement of an old schoolhouse (currently the Town Hall) built more than 100 years ago. The space currently housing the police department was originally built in 1983 for a manufacturing operation. Both departments have outgrown their current facilities, and renovation options can no longer be effective in adding capacity or bringing the spaces up to today’s standards for operation.

Q Why is now the right time for the Safety Facility Levy?

A Copley Township is committed to responsible, thoughtful stewardship of the community’s resources. Our safety forces have made the best use of their existing facilities for as long as possible, making incremental improvements through renovations along the way. The proposed facility would enable our fire and police departments to continue to expand to keep pace with the community’s growth. And it would improve the safety and security of our fire, EMS and police personnel—and our community.

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Q What are the plans for the proposed Copley Township Safety Facility?

A The plan would bring the community an approximately 40,000-square-foot safety facility that would jointly house the township's fire and police departments. The facility would comply with all current standards and regulations for safety facilities and would exceed current energy code requirements. Building materials—like the anticipated metal roof—have been selected for efficiency and longevity to maximize the community's investment well into the future. Some features of the front exterior of the facility have been designed to coordinate with the tower on the existing Town Hall. To view renderings of the facility, as well as an initial zone layout plan, visit www.copley.oh.us/425/Safety-Facility-Levy.

- Fire staff would have a separate entry leading to the fire wing of the facility that would include:

Gender-separated dorms and lockers | A support area | Living, kitchen and dining space | Separate decontamination space | Apparatus bays | Workshop and storage area | Administrative and staff offices

- Police staff would also have a separate entry, leading to the police wing of the facility that would include:

Gender-separated lockers | A support area | Work spaces for patrol staff and detectives | An evidence room | A jail with separate holding areas for adults and juveniles | Administrative and staff offices | Carport for police cruisers (exterior)

The departments would share a public entrance and lobby—with a safe room and triage room for enhanced safety and security—and spaces for physical and educational training, mechanical storage and tornado shelter.

Q What happens if Copley Township's safety forces do not get a new facility?

A If a levy isn't approved to fund the construction of a new facility, the township would continue to prioritize renovations that could have the biggest impact in helping meet the departments' needs. But renovations alone cannot overcome the limitations of the township's current facilities. Without a bond levy to support the construction of a new facility, the township would need to consider how the General Fund could potentially support the needs of our safety forces. Utilizing these funds would mean postponing or not fulfilling other community needs.

Q If the proposed Safety Facility is built, what will happen to existing facilities?

A If passed, the levy would also fund the repurposing of the existing fire department apparatus bays. The bays would be renovated to provide the community with a resource that has long been in high demand: a new community center. The center would include a community room, meeting rooms, kitchenette, storage, restrooms and a separate entrance. It would also include extended parking, outdoor features and green space that could be used for community events and activities.

Q Where can I find more information about the proposed Copley Township Safety Facility Levy?

A Find the latest information about the levy at www.copley.oh.us/425/Safety-Facility-Levy.

