



New Fire Station Income Tax Increase Fact Sheet

1. The current fire station was built in 1978. When the Safety Center (Police Department and Court) building was built and a new façade was put on the fire station. Relevant changes in the city since 1978 are:

	1978	2022	% Increase
Number of FD Runs	610	3,045	400%
Fire Dept. Staff	21	36	72%
Avon Lake Population	13,020	25,269	94%

2. There will be an issue on the November ballot asking people to vote on increasing Avon Lake's income tax from 1.50% to 1.75%.
3. The City will take out a loan to begin building the new fire station. The income tax increase will be used to pay off the loan. Once the loan is paid off, all the money will continue to pay for Avon Lake infrastructure.
4. People collecting social security or living on pension income with no other taxable income will not pay anything.
5. Individuals who work outside the city will be allowed a 100% credit up to 1.75% under the proposed increase meaning that the tax increase will not result in more taxes being paid in many cases. Most cities surrounding Avon Lake, have an income tax rate is 1.75% or higher.

<i>City Where You Work</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Additional Due</i>
Avon	1.75%	0%
Bay Village	1.50%	0.25%
Brooklyn	2.50%	0%
Cleveland	2.50%	0%
Elyria	2.25%	0%
Fairview Park	2.00%	0%
Huron	1.00%	0.75%
North Olmsted	2.00%	0%
North Ridgeville	1.00%	0.75%
Olmsted Falls	1.50%	0.25%
Rocky River	2.00%	0%
Sheffield Village	2.00%	0%
Westlake	1.50%	0.25%

6. The tax impact for a person working in Avon Lake or working in cities with an income tax rate of 1.50% is shown below:

<i>Annual Income</i>	<i>Annual Increase</i>	<i>Monthly Increase</i>
\$ 25,000.00	\$ 62.50	\$ 5.21
\$ 50,000.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 10.42
\$ 100,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 20.83
\$ 150,000.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 31.25
\$ 200,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67
\$ 250,000.00	\$ 625.00	\$ 52.08

7. The campaign committee, Our Safety - Our Avon Lake, is comprised of members from the public, elected officials and city staff. The focus of the committee is to educate the voters about why there is a need for a new fire station. By law, no tax money can be used to finance this campaign so the committee is conducting fundraisers to raise funds for mailers, flyers, a website and street signs.
8. Over the past five years two studies have been conducted to consider many options including building an addition to the current fire station, a smaller satellite station, or a new fire station. The option to build a new fire station was shown to be the most economical and provide cost efficient service. The first proposal for a new fire station and safety center renovation was estimated at \$35M. Council asked for a new concept to bring the price down. The second proposal is \$23M.
9. Major needs to the current facility at this time:
- Roof needs to be repaired and replaced for entire safety center – this is end of life
 - Mechanical systems repair & replace – HVAC, plumbing, hot water – these are end of life
 - Sewage pipes are broken and in need of replacement
 - Concrete replacement for apparatus bay and front fire department ramp
 - Electrical upgrades and repairs for safety center
10. Primary needs for the Fire Department:
- Space for shift members - cannot currently house one shift in the training classroom or kitchen adequately
 - Do not have enough beds for all members on shift. With 24 hour shifts, members do sleep at night if not running calls
 - Bathroom is one open concept – do not have private space for members or ability to allow for female firefighters having bathroom/shower space
 - Dorm space is open concept – no privacy for members or privacy for female firefighters for changing/sleeping. Open concept leads to disrupted sleep for members on shift, causing inadequate rest for response members
 - Firefighter gear storage – need space for all gear. Apparatus bay is open and exposed to diesel exhaust
 - Need a physical training space for fire ground drills that cannot happen at the current facility

- Cannot house all fire department vehicles under roof – leads to reduced life span of vehicles
- Current building does not meet ADA compliance for visitors or employees
- No storage space for equipment/supplies. Includes specialized response equipment and general housekeeping supplies
- No adequate space for firefighter computer access needed for training
- No adequate space for fire officers to work on accomplishing areas of responsibilities
- No adequate space for assistant chief to have an office space
- Not enough storage space for fire prevention/public education/fire investigation equipment and supplies (this is all under the fire prevention category)
- FD conference room doubles as storage room
- FD computer/radio servers are in a storage room and not protected
- FD does not have adequate circulation for members to be close to response apparatus, which increases response times
- FD does not have adequate parking for employees during the day

11. Primary needs for the Police Department:

- PD will be able to use FD apparatus bay to put all 15 cars under cover and out of the elements. This will increase the longevity of the vehicles and protect the investments.
- Additional FD space that is vacated will allow PD growth with reduced costs.
- Will provide proper and appropriate evidence storage facilities for small evidence, all the way up to vehicles
- Will provide better circulation and security of evidence at PD and allow room for expansion if necessary in the future. This will relocate evidence storage to the exterior of the building instead of in the middle of the structure. Will no longer be “land locked”.
- Will provide additional locker room/shower room space to accommodate the growth for the male and female locker rooms. Do not have adequate space for PD members to store gear off shift. Members are sharing lockers, which does not allow appropriate storage of sensitive equipment or proper air flow for the longevity of the equipment invested in by the city. Also causing health concerns.

12. Breakdown of costs:

- Fire station: \$14.6M
- PD Evidence Storage and Locker Room Update: \$700,000
- Roof Replacement/Repair and Brick Work Repair: \$1.1M
- Mechanical System Repair/Replace: \$2.24M
- Soft Costs (FFE): \$3.3M
- Construction Contingency: \$1M

13. Additional funds generated by the tax increase will be used exclusively for infrastructure. This .05% of the .25% increase will be used to maintain city roads and city buildings. These funds will ensure the infrastructure of the safety services complex are funded for now and into the future. The tax increase cannot be used for salaries or staffing.

14. Advantages that a new building will deliver to the community include:

1. Training Rooms: The ability for staff to train on the premises will save money (no travel and extra hours) and will enable staff to easier increase their training. This is important because technology is always changing, bringing more effective specialized emergency equipment and specialized standards.
2. Attract Top Talent: The talent pool is smaller than it used to be. Avon Lake has competitive wages and benefits, so the facility and equipment are strong factors when attracting talented personnel.
3. Ability to Grow: As our community continues to grow (there are 600 new homes approved by Planning right now, averaging 2.5 people, that means 1,500 new residents), there will be a need to increase staff to keep our standards. Currently, the fire department has space for nine beds for squads of 10 and no facilities for female fire fighters.