1. **Why is this Fire Levy Needed?**  
This Levy will REPLACE the expired levy originally passed in 2002. This levy was then renewed in 2007. The levy expired December 31, 2011. As taxes are collected for one year in arrears, funds continue to be collected through December 31, 2012.

2. **How much is the fire department asking for with the new levy?**  
6.6 Mills. That is a .6 mill increase from the expiring 6 mill levy.

3. **Why are you asking for an increase?**  
Property taxes are designed to bring in a fixed amount of dollars and are the only taxes that have a 'reduction factor'. The more properties paying the tax means a reduction in the annual amount of tax each property owner contributes.

The fire department has operated on the income of a 6 mill levy for 10 years. While costs continue to rise, revenue does not. Eventually the amount collected, which remains constant, is not enough to pay for the inflationary costs of operations.

**How much will the levy cost me?**  
This levy will cost approximately an additional $58.96/year per $100,000 of property valuation. Roughly $4.91/month per $100,000.

4. **Is this your only levy?**  
Yes.

5. **Why is the Liberty Township Fire Department's 4 minute response time so critical?**  
The staffing and apparatus placement allows us to maintain an average response time of four minutes. This is critical for many reasons. The following are examples where studies have shown:
- There is a direct correlation between response times and survivability.
- Infants, children and adults who experience oxygen deprivation begin to suffer permanent brain damage at 4 minutes (choking, drowning, sudden cardiac arrest, etc.). Brain death is assured at 10 minutes.
- In cardiac arrest, with every passing minute, the chances for a victim's survival decreases by 10%. Survivability is increased by 40% if CPR, is begun within 4 minutes of cardiac arrest and followed by electric defibrillation within 10 minutes.
4 minute response cont.

- Today the nationally recognized standard for treatment of a Heart Attack is 90 minutes from the time EMS personnel touch the patient to arrival in the operating room. Rapid response times, recognition of the cardiac event by qualified EMS personnel and direct communication with hospitals have shown times of less than 60 minutes for our residents. Response times inherently play a vital role in the patient’s positive outcome.
- With Trauma patients, the “Golden Hour” is the time from the point of traumatic injury to the time they receive definitive medical care. Studies have proven that getting a patient to a trauma center operating room within the first 60 minutes of injury drastically increases the chance of survival. Every minute matters for survivability, especially within the first “Golden Hour.”
- For trauma patients who are trapped in a vehicle from a motor vehicle accident or an industrial machinery accident, their extrication time is also included in the “Golden Hour.” Our front line fire apparatus carry professionally trained rescue firefighters and extrication equipment (Jaws of Life).
- In just two minutes, a structure fire can become life-threatening. In five minutes, a residence can become engulfed in flames. Fire doubles in size every minute. Time is critical in search and rescue. Due to changes in construction standards and increased amount of synthetic materials (plastics, furniture, and carpet) in our homes, fires are more dangerous than 10 or 20 years ago.

6. What types of shifts do the Liberty Township Firefighters work?
   - 24 hour shifts (from 8 am until 8 am the next morning). This insures 24-7 fire, rescue and emergency medical service to the community.
   - We are open 24-7, 365 days a year; we never stop working for you.

7. Why not (3) 8 hour shifts instead of one 24 hour shift? Wouldn't that be more cost efficient?
   - Actually, it is more cost effective for the Township to have their firefighters work 24 hour shifts. Liberty Township firefighters work an average of 56 hours per week. If staffed with 8 hour shift employees, it would require overtime for anything above 40 hours due to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). There would need to be an increase in firefighters, or significant overtime, to provide the same daily staffing levels.
   - In addition, this alternative does not take into consideration the added overtime costs when firefighters respond to a call near the end of their 8 hour shift. They are duty-bound to stay late and complete the emergency run, on overtime, while their relief is waiting for them at the station to return. With 8 hour shifts, there would be three times the opportunity for this to occur which would drastically affect overtime costs as well.
8. What keeps the on-duty firefighters/paramedics busy when they are not out on a call?
The on-duty firefighters have a variety of responsibilities and duties to perform on a daily basis. The fire station is their home for 24 hours and they are responsible for maintaining the station. Floors are vacuumed and mopped, restrooms cleaned, dirty laundry washed. The firefighters insure fire apparatus and related equipment are inspected and ready to operate each day. There are inventory checks of controlled medications. Vehicles and used equipment are cleaned and put back in service. Training and studying for job proficiency and participation in physical fitness activities are important too.

9. Why do firefighters sleep at the fire station?
Liberty Township firefighters work 24-hour shifts which is a very common system used statewide. Emergency calls can come anytime during a 24 hour shift. A rested responder insures adequate energy levels and a sharp mind.

10. What services does the Liberty Township Fire Department provide?
- Fire (Extinguishment)
  - Residential structures
  - Industrial structures
  - Commercial structures
  - Vehicle
  - Dumpster/ grass
  - Anything else that burns
- Medical (We bring the emergency room to the patient)
  - Provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) by paramedics.
  - Immediate transport via ALS Ambulance to nearest appropriate hospital facility for the patient's condition.
  - All fire apparatus is ALS equipped and staffed with a minimum of 2 paramedics.
  - Advanced Life Support treatments including: Advanced intravenous (IV) and intraosseous (IO) fluid and/or medication administration, advanced airways techniques for respiratory distress and EKG monitoring to insure dangerous arrhythmias are treated appropriately.
  - Stabilize and provide care for trauma and/ or burn patients.
  - Provide emergent obstetrics care and manage treatment both before and after childbirth.
  - Treat whatever other medical emergency a patient may experience.
  - Continuously evolve the EMS protocol to stay ahead of the innovations in pre-hospital care that are effective.
  - Work with all agencies that are involved with medical or trauma care so that the best outcomes can be achieved.
11. Why do we need a minimum of 12 firefighters/paramedics on a shift and why does the township ensure a minimum of 12 firefighters?
The number of personnel on a shift is determined by a variety of factors including population and hazards within a community, call volume, nationally recognized staffing recommendations and financial considerations.

With 12 firefighters on a shift we are able to provide multiple resources to a call. This reduces the amount of times we have to call for mutual aid and prolong the amount of time it takes to arrive at an emergency. Multiple calls at the same time are not uncommon.

We have experienced a 49% increase in call volume since 2003. The fire department has added personnel to meet the increase in call volume.

12. Do you have volunteer or part-time employees?
We do not have volunteers.

We do have part-time employees. The part-time employees are supplemental staffing filling in gaps in scheduling helping to reduce overtime and are an employment opportunity to evaluate a potential candidate for a full-time replacement if a position becomes available.
13. Why don’t they live in Liberty Township?
A Supreme Court ruling on residency forbids employers from making residency a requirement of employment.

14. Why do so many fire apparatus respond to a simple incident?
Firefighting is a task-driven activity. Successful operations are a combination of the right number of people performing numerous critical tasks in a coordinated manner.

A “Standard Response Plan” is utilized on all responses. This system is a pre-designated formula that determines the amount and type of equipment that may be needed and sent to the incident. For example, an initial alarm for a residential structure fire would be:

- 1 – Staff Officer (Incident commander).
- 3 – Engines.
- 1 – Ladder.
- 1 – Medic.

**Initial Full Assignment Requirements Set by National Fire Protection Association NFPA 1710**

**NOTE:** The internationally recognized agency that develops standards for the fire service is the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). The NFPA standard 1710 states that there needs to be a minimum of 15 firefighters on scene of a structure fire within eight minutes. This provides the incident commander with adequate personnel for accomplishing essential scene tasks in a timely manner and the ability to perform work as safely and efficient as possible.

This is based on a typical single-family, two-story, 2000-square-foot house without a basement or exposures.

- Incident Commander
- Safety Officer / Incident Commander Aid
- Pump Operator
- Fire Attack Line (2 firefighters)
- Fire Backup Line (2 firefighters)
- Search & Rescue Team (2 firefighters)
- Ventilation Team (2 firefighters)
- Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (2 firefighters)
- Support Crew (2 firefighters) – hydrant hookup, line lays, utility control and forcible entry.
- 2 more firefighters, depending if aerial truck is used and/or 2 engines are being used to provide continuous water supply

Also requires response times:
- 4 or fewer minutes for the arrival of the first engine company, 90% of the time.
- 8 or fewer minutes for the arrival of the initial full alarm assignment, 90% of the time.
15. Why doesn’t the Township hire separate EMS workers or privatize EMS? They could work for less than firefighters and work 8 hour shifts? Shouldn’t firefighters only put out fires?

- Cross trained firefighter/paramedics are used nationally to get the most "bang for the buck" for a more efficient work environment. It takes advantage of increased work productivity by cross trained staff and offers greater flexibility in responding to the varied types of emergency calls each day. This means fewer stations and personnel. Cross trained firefighters allow Liberty Township Fire Department to provide ample and safe responses to more than one incident that occur simultaneously in Liberty Township, which is common. Having separate EMS workers would only limit firefighter staffing at fires and other emergencies because EMS workers would only do EMS. Being both firefighters and paramedics allows Liberty Township Firefighters the versatility and ability to provide the safest and the highest level of services available.

- In addition, without dual trained firefighters, it would limit the fire department’s attempt to meet the National Fire Protection Agency’s (NFPA) standards for response times and staffing levels on scenes.

- Private EMS needs to make a profit for survival... even nonprofit EMS companies need to generate enough revenue to survive. If there is an EMS run in a neighboring community or a profitable hospital transfer, private EMS may have an obligation to take the guaranteed profit for their survival, thus removing ambulances from emergency responses.

- Emergency runs are irregular and unpredictable. There are highs and lows of call volumes. If there is a low run volume for an extended period of time, private EMS may choose to pull ambulances out of an area to send them to areas where it is profitable. When there is a high run volume, directly after a low run volume period, there is a chance that there will not be adequate numbers of private ambulances in our community. Fire-based EMS is consistent with apparatus staffing and placement to ensure a safer community.

16. How do fire department services and location impact home and commercial insurance ratings and access to health care?

The fundamentals of any fire department include staffing (full/part-time/volunteer), physical location (urban, suburban and rural) and access to water (fire hydrants vs. ponds) and funding.

The Liberty Township Fire Department is a career department supplemented with part-time staff. It operates from two fire stations located in a suburban community in the fastest growing county in the State of Ohio. Water for fire suppression is increasingly provided by fire hydrants. Funding is provided by a
property tax levy with a small reimbursement from Delaware County for EMS services.

The Insurance Services Organization (ISO) is an independent agency funded by the insurance industry that rates and assigns a numeric value or protection class to individual fire departments. Home and commercial insurance premiums are in-part based on the fire departments ability to respond with trained and adequate numbers of staff, appropriate equipment, and in a timely fashion. The 9-1-1 communications system and access to water complete that picture. ISO has rated Liberty Township a 4 (hydranted areas) and 9 (non-hydranted areas). The ISO rating system is from 1 (Superior Property Protection) to 10 (Fire Suppression does not meet ISO’s minimum protection criteria).

Nobody desires to go to a hospital. The proximity of Liberty Township and Powell to metropolitan Columbus gives the paramedics access to 11 hospitals. Several are Level 1 Trauma Centers and are nationally recognized for their advanced heart and stroke medical treatment capabilities. Knowing when and to which facility to take a patient means recognition of a serious illness or injury that is appropriately treated by highly skilled and well trained EMS personnel that are supported by an advanced medical protocol. Treatment continues during transport until care is transferred to the receiving hospital.