

ISSUE: 0.5-MILL POLICE MILLAGE FOR 10 YEARS ON NOV. 2023 BALLOT

1. Why is the millage needed?

The police millage is essential for acquiring vital equipment, vehicles, and technology to ensure the safety of both our officers and community. Examples of purchases covered by the recently expired millage include:

1. Installation of a camera system in the downtown area.
2. Acquisition of patrol vehicles.
3. Provision of body armor and weapon systems.
4. Procurement of training equipment.
5. Purchase of first aid equipment.
6. Acquisition of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).
7. Upgrading police radios.
8. Installation of in-car cameras.
9. Deployment of speed trailers and signs.
10. Investment in a drone for various applications.
11. Acquisition of servers for data storage.
12. Procurement of evidence processing equipment.
13. Implementation of investigative software tools.
14. Acquisition of essential equipment for our school resource officer.

These purchases are crucial for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of our law enforcement services, thereby safeguarding our community and officers. Your support for the police millage is greatly appreciated.

2. Is this more or less to replace and add to the (0.374 mills) equipment millage which expires this year?

Yes, given the rising costs associated with the aforementioned items, a net increase of 0.1326 mills is essential to enable the police department to maintain its ability to acquire crucial equipment, ensuring the safety and security of our community and officers.

3. How much revenue would the millage issue raised, if passed?

If passed, the proposed millage would generate approximately \$280,000 when first levied in July of 2024.

4. How much of an annual tax burden in terms of dollars would this result on the average city taxpayer?

- The average taxable value of a home in the City of Brighton is \$100,000.

- The current police millage rate is set at 0.3674 mills, which costs the average homeowner \$36.75 annually. This existing millage expired after the July 2023 tax levy.

- If approved, the proposed Headlee override of 0.50 mills would result in an annual cost of \$50 for the average homeowner.

- Therefore, the net annual increase for the average homeowner, should the 0.50 mills proposal pass, would amount to \$13.26 or approximately \$1.10 per month.

5. Why can't the police dept's. operating expenses be covered by the city's general fund, rather than requiring a separate millage for police operations?

1. The General funds are allocated to various departments, including police, but does not always cover the specific needs of the police department adequately. Additional funding through a millage ensures that the police have the necessary resources for equipment, technology, and personnel.

2. The Police department has unique requirements such as specialized equipment, training, and technology. This millage will provide funds earmarked specifically for these purposes, ensuring the police can address evolving challenges effectively.

3. Policing technology rapidly evolves. This millage will support the acquisition of modern equipment like body cameras, communication systems, and forensic tools to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement.

4. Police facilities require maintenance and infrastructure improvements to ensure officers and staff have a safe and functional workspace. A police millage can help fund these necessary updates while maintaining general funds for other important city projects.

In summary, while general funds provide a baseline of support for police departments, police millages are often needed to address specific, evolving, and unique requirements that may not be fully covered by the general budget. This additional funding helps maintain safety and security and ensures that law enforcement can effectively serve the community.

6. What would happen if the millage fails? Would there be any cutbacks in personnel or equipment purchases?

In the event of the millage's failure, the police department would face the challenging prospect of having to use essential life safety equipment and technology for a longer duration than recommended. This is concerning as all essential equipment comes with warranty and manufacturer expiration dates, which are critical for ensuring guaranteed performance.

The consequence of this situation is that it would not only strain the resources of the police department but also pose a significant risk to the safety of both our community and our officers. Therefore, the passage of the millage is of utmost importance to maintain the highest level of safety and security for all.

7. How many officers are there on the force, and can you divide that into categories, such as how many patrol officers and how many command officers?

The Brighton Police Department currently comprises 17 full-time sworn officers and 3 reserve officers, organized as follows:

- Chief
- Deputy Chief
- 4 Road Patrol Sergeants
- 1 Detective Sergeant
- 8 Road Patrol Officers
- 1 School Resource Officer
- 1 Uniformed Investigator

This dedicated team of officers plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and security of our community.