

**STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
Room 1058, IGCN – 100 North Senate
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST)
OF WEST CENTRAL ALLEN COUNTY)
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT,) IML23-010
ALLEN COUNTY, FOR THE)
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INITIAL)
MAXIMUM LEVY)**

The Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) has reviewed the request of West Central Allen County Fire Protection District (“District”) for an initial operating fund maximum levy in the amount of \$10,289,715.

The District was established by Ordinance No. 12-16-22-16, an ordinance of the Allen County Board of Commissioners adopted on December 16, 2022. According to the ordinance:

- The District boundaries will be composed of the entirety of Aboite Township and unincorporated Lake Township, both in Allen County.
- The District shall be governed by a three (3) member board.
- The District shall have the duties, responsibilities, and authority as provided under Ind. Code 36-8-11.
- The ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

The District provided copies of preliminary Budget Forms 1, 2, and 4B. The District justifies its requested levy amount based on the following budget estimates:

Personal Services	\$7,851,574
Supplies	\$265,000
Other Services and Charges	\$689,700
Capital Outlays	\$540,000
Debt Service	\$310,000
Total	\$9,656,274

Included in Personal Services is a salary for a fire chief (\$88,246), 2 assistant chiefs and a fire marshal (\$80,050 each), 6 fire captains (\$66,150 each), 3 EMS captains (\$76,150 each), 24 firefighter/EMTs (\$60,000 each), 12 firefighter/paramedics (\$70,000 each), a training officer (\$66,150), an office administrator (\$60,000), 3 part-time staff (\$84,240, calculated at \$27 per hour), a medical director (\$25,000), compensation for the board of fire trustees (\$25,000), and insurance, overtime, and other fringe benefits (\$4,188,958).

The District represented that it will have an estimated cash balance of \$1,345,544, which constitutes roughly 13.9% of the expected budget. The District also represented that it expects to receive \$815,000 in miscellaneous revenues in 2024 from excise tax (\$515,000) and EMS revenue (\$300,000). The District also indicates an expected tax rate of \$0.5667 for pay-2024, based on an expected CNAV of \$1,815,748,131, and an estimated circuit breaker loss of \$102,897. Ind. Code § 6-1.1-20.6-9.5(b) prohibits a local unit from increasing a property tax levy to offset circuit breaker losses. Therefore, the Department will not consider circuit breaker credits in determining the District’s initial maximum levy.

The District also represented the following property tax supported funds for Aboite Township and Lake Township and recommended the following levy reductions, pursuant to Ind. Code § 36-8-11-19:

<u>Aboite Township</u>		
1111	Fire	\$263,779
1101	Emergency Ambulance/ EMS – Fire	\$28,951
1190	Cumulative Fire	\$535,600
 <u>Lake Township</u>		
1111	Fire	\$35,870
1190	Cumulative Fire	\$25,710

The Department finds that the District was established prior to January 1, 2023, therefore the District is eligible for a levy beginning in budget year 2024. After a review of the petition, the Department, following Ind. Code § 36-8-11 and Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-7, and in consideration of all evidence provided, finds as follows:

APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION:

The Department approves an initial maximum levy for the District’s operating fund as follows. First, the maximum levy for 2024 is approved in the amount of \$10,186,818. This amount is derived from the estimated property tax levy needed for the first year of operations as represented in draft Budget Forms 1, 2, and 4B. The approved amount is the difference of the estimated 2024 budget (\$9,656,274) plus the anticipated cash reserve (\$1,345,544) and less the estimated miscellaneous revenue (\$515,000 + \$300,000 = \$815,000) ($\$9,656,274 + \$1,345,544 - \$815,000 = \$10,186,818$).

This initial maximum levy will be reduced in two ways. Both reductions will first apply for pay-2025. First, the District’s maximum levy will be reduced as the District begins to receive LIT revenue starting in 2025. The \$10,186,818 levy for the District in 2024 will increase the countywide attributed allocation for Allen County from \$423,927,155 to \$434,113,973 ($\$423,927,155 + \$10,186,818 = \$434,113,973$). The District is estimated to account for approximately 2.3466% of the increased attributed allocation. Based on this, the District’s shares

revenue for 2025 is expected to be \$1,675,827, which is 2.3466% of the total countywide shares revenue for \$71,415,808 in 2024.

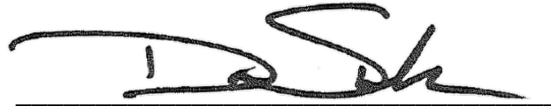
In addition, the maximum levy will be further reduced by \$1,345,544, which is equal to the amount the District is seeking to build an operating balance, as the Department does not allow a levy for an operating balance after the first year.

Therefore, the Department **APPROVES** the District's initial maximum levy as follows for the stated tax years. First, for **2023-pay-2024**, the maximum levy is approved at **\$10,186,818**. For **2024-pay-2025**, the maximum levy is reduced to **\$7,165,447**, as adjusted by the maximum levy growth quotient, after accounting for receipt of certified shares and removal of a levy for an operating balance.

Pursuant to Ind. Code § 36-8-11-19, the fire funds (DLGF Fund Number 1111) and cumulative fire funds (DLGF fund number 1190) for Aboite Township and Lake Township will be discontinued for 2024. In addition, civil maximum levy for Aboite Township will be reduced by \$28,951, starting with taxes payable in 2024, to account for the amount spent from the EMS fund (DLGF Fund Number 1101) for Aboite Township, as represented by the District.

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Dated this 17 day August, 2023.



Daniel Shackle, Commissioner