

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST)
OF TOWN OF BROWNSBURG,) A23-044
HENDRICKS COUNTY, FOR ANEXCESS)
LEVY DUE TO THREE-YEAR GROWTH)**

The Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) has reviewed an appeal by the Town of Brownsburg (“Town”) on behalf of the Brownsburg Fire Protection Territory (“Territory”) for an excess levy in the amount of \$523,307 to its fire maximum levy due to three-year growth. Indiana Code § 6-1.1-18.5-13 allows the Department to grant permission to a taxing unit to increase its maximum levy if the Department finds that the quotient determined under Step Six of the following formula is equal to or greater than one and two-hundredths (1.02):

Step 1: Determine the three calendar years that most immediately precede the ensuing calendar year:

2023, 2022, and 2021

Step 2: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the taxing unit's total assessed value of all taxable property divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.:

Town assessed values for 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:

2020:	2,512,509,902
2021:	2,644,764,487
2022:	2,887,764,766
2023:	3,390,065,995

Step 2 quotients:

2021/2020:	1.0526
2022/2021:	1.0919
2023/2022:	1.1739

Step 3: Sum the results of Step 2 and divide by three:

1.1061 ([1.0526+1.0919+1.1739]/3)

Step 4: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the total assessed value of all taxable property in all counties divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.

*Statewide average quotients for 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:
1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481*

Step 5: Add the Step 4 results and divide by three:

1.0804 ([1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481]/3)

Step 6: Divide the Step 3 results by the Step 5 results:

1.0238 (1.1061/1.0804)

The maximum amount that the Department may award is the amount by which Step 3 exceeds the maximum levy growth quotient (“MLGQ”) as calculated according to Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-2 (this amount is 1.04 or 4% for 2024; since 1.0238 is greater than 1.020, the Town is eligible for a three-year growth appeal):

0.0661 (6.61%) (1.1061-1.0400)

The Town’s 2023 maximum fire levy is \$7,904,933. This is the most recent fire maximum levy that the Department can use as the basis for an adjustment. Multiplying this figure by the 6.61% growth factor calculated above results in a figure of \$522,516, which is the maximum for which the Town could qualify under the statutory formula. Under Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-12(a), the Town must also show that it is unable to perform its government functions without this increase.

The Town states in its appeal that without the excess levy, the Territory will be unable to carry out the governmental functions committed to it by law. The population of the Territory has increased by 8,871 residents or 21.2% from 2012 to 2022. Additionally, the Town stated that there is an estimated increase in expenses for 2024 totaling \$1,041,375¹. The increase is related to additional expenses in the personal services expenditure category for the salaries of civilian paramedics and firefighters, the 1977 fund pension employer contribution increase, and an increase for health insurance costs. The 1977 fund employer contribution rate increases to 19.1% in 2024 from the 2023 rate of 18%, which is an increase of 6.1%.

The Town also provided that there is a planned eight percent (8%) increase in firefighter salaries. Based on the 2024 Budget Report published by the Town, the total salary increase is estimated to be \$429,006.52 and the increased health insurance costs are estimated to be \$192,277.12. In total, the 2024 Budget Report published by the Town states that the estimated budget needed for the Special Fire Protection Territory General Fund is \$13,460,060.10, which matches the budget adopted for the fund on October 12, 2023. Additionally, the budget adopted for the Special Fire Protection Territory General Fund is less than the levy adopted for the fund (\$15,000,000). While the Town adopted a levy that is well over the budget adopted for the Special Fire Protection Territory General Fund, the allowable maximum levy for the Territory is estimated to be \$8,221,130, which is \$5,238,930.10 less than the budgeted amount.

¹ Based on the Town’s 2024 budget adopted on October 12, 2023, the Special Fire Protection Territory General Fund budget for 2024 is actually \$1,046,579 more than the Special Fire Protection Territory General Fund budget adopted for 2023.

The Town stated on its Budget Form 3 that it seeks an excess levy appeal of \$523,307 for its Special Fire Protection Territory General Fund. Finally, the Town received a permanent excess fire levy of \$131,046 for Pay-2023.

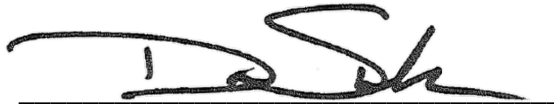
After a review of the petition, the Department, following Ind. Code §§ 6-1.1-18.5-12 and 13, and in consideration of all evidence provided, finds as follows:

APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION:

The Town's excess levy appeal is approved in the amount of **\$522,516**. This figure reflects the amount for which the Town qualifies under the statutory three-year growth formula and does not exceed the amount for which the Town advertised and petitioned the Department. This is a one-time, permanent increase.

STATE OF INDIANA
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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of this Department on this 12 day of December, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Shackle', is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Shackle, Commissioner