

**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 CHANDLER,                    )**  
**WARRICK COUNTY, FOR AN                )**        **A23-009**  
**EXCESS LEVY DUE TO                     )**  
**THREE-YEAR GROWTH                     )**

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The Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) has reviewed an appeal by Town of Chandler (“Town”) for an excess levy in the amount of \$69,404 to its civil maximum levy due to three-year growth. Indiana Code 6-1.1-18.5-13 allows the Department to grant permission to a civil 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 civil 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:            83,483,210  
2021:            90,866,506  
2022:            94,829,909  
2023:            120,083,163

*Step 2 quotients:*

2021/2020:    1.0884  
2022/2021:    1.0436  
2023/2022:    1.2663

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

*1.1328 ([1.0884+1.0436+1.2663]/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:  
*1.0484* (*1.1328/1.0804*)

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 IC 6-1.1-18.5-2 (this amount is 1.04 or 4% for 2024; since 1.0484 is greater than 1.020, the Town is eligible for a three-year growth appeal):

*0.0928* (*9.28%*) (*1.1328-1.0400*)

The Town’s 2023 maximum civil levy is \$747,892. This is the most recent civil maximum levy that the Department can use as the basis for an adjustment. Multiplying this figure by the 17.81% growth factor calculated above results in a figure of \$69,394, which is the maximum for which the Town could qualify under the statutory formula. Under IC 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 there have been increases in the police department’s budget and health insurance premiums. The Town also states that the excess levy is needed to hire a ninth police officer, citing neighboring communities in Vanderburgh and Posey Counties have raised the police department salaries by as much as 33%. In response to a follow-up inquiry from the Department, the Town provided police base salaries in Vanderburgh County, starting at \$63,865 in 2024 and growing by about \$5,000 every year until 2026. The Town also provided pay based on years of service, ranging from \$67,413 for 10-14 years and \$79,831 for 25 years or more.

The Town also states in its appeal that it has had to reduce its parks department budget in order to provide funding for the police department. The Town represents that the remainder of the excess levy would be applied to restore some of the parks funding, which “has also been affected by inflation from Covid.”

The Town stated on its Form 3 that it intends to seek an excess levy appeal in the amount of \$69,404. The Town has not previously submitted an excess levy appeal.

The Department doubts that inflation and rising health insurance premiums is an appropriate reason to grant an excess levy. Rising health insurance costs affects many and inflation affects everyone, including taxpayers who would also then have to bear the burden of an excess levy. The taxpayers have to deal with the rising costs as much as the Town, but while the Town can claim it needs an excess levy to make up for rising costs, the taxpayers may not have similar recourses for relief. Therefore, the Department will not consider inflation or rising health insurance costs as justification for the excess levy.

Therefore, the Department only finds as a justification for an excess levy the hiring of a ninth police officer, and that based on the salary ranges provided by the Town, the excess levy would be able to fund that hiring.

After a review of the petition, the Department, following IC 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 **\$69,394**. 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  
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

**WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL** of this Department on this 29 day of  
November \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

  
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**Daniel Shackle, Commissioner**