



# 2024 *State of the Township* FINANCIAL REPORT

Pictured: Conservation Development at  
The Woods at Swisher Creek in Jefferson Township

## ABOUT JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY

Jefferson Township, established in 1816, covers an area of approximately 15.34 square miles and is home to 15,000+ residents and 50+ businesses. We take pride in our rural character, quiet atmosphere, and abundance of open space. The majority of Jefferson Township is unincorporated, meaning there is no affiliation with a city. For these areas, the township is responsible for road maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services, residential solid waste collection, zoning, and economic development. For portions that are incorporated, Jefferson Township provides fire protection and emergency medical services. Properties in Jefferson Township are represented by several ZIP codes: Blacklick 43004 (shared with the City of Columbus), Gahanna 43230, New Albany 43054, and Reynoldsburg 43068.

US Census Bureau Population Change Data				
	Jefferson Township		Columbus Region	
Year (Census)	Population Estimate	Growth Rate	Population Estimate	Growth Rate
1990	3,983	-1.9%	1,345,540	23.6%
2000	5,322	33.6%	1,540,157	14.5%
2010	10,972	106.2%	1,967,066	27.7%
2020	14,475*	31.9%	2,138,926	8.7%

Voters in Jefferson Township elect three trustees and one fiscal officer to govern. Your trustees are Rich Courter, Mike Rowan, and Susan Lewis Kaylor. Ken Jones is your fiscal officer. The trustees appoint residents to four boards and commissions to oversee and advise on various township services including parks and community events, rezoning and development cases, zoning variance applications, and the operation of the Jefferson Water and Sewer District.

Jefferson Township Life Cycles American Community Survey Estimates	
Preschool (0-4)	10.4%
School Age (5-19)	16.4%
Young Adults (20-34)	17.3%
Mid Career (35-50)	18.3%
Advanced Career (50-64)	20.4%
Seniors (65+)	17.2%

*\* Recent data from building and occupancy records supports an estimated 2024 population of 16,702 individuals across 5,628 occupied households.*

**108 acres of PARK LAND**  
**1,112 acres of OPEN SPACE**  
**3,182 sq. ft. of parks and open space PER TOWNSHIP RESIDENT\*\***

\*Source: US Census Bureau 2020 population estimate + internal growth forecasting

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## Message from your Elected Officials

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As elected officials, our foremost commitment is to ensure that Jefferson Township remains an exceptional place to live. We are dedicated to delivering high-quality essential services with integrity and professionalism, while prioritizing fiscal responsibility, public safety, improved transportation networks, and proactive planning to preserve our natural landscape and rural character. Your feedback and guidance, as township residents, is vital to the decisions we make that shape our community. As a small local government, it is our goal to remain transparent and accessible to citizens. In addition to our communication efforts and accessible financial data on [checkbook.ohio.gov](https://checkbook.ohio.gov), our twice monthly Board of Trustees meetings are held in person and made available for participation online. This allows us to make decisions in the public view and with your voices contributing to the conversation, whether in the room or from home.

Presently, we are engaged in a pivotal planning phase, as we update our Comprehensive Plan to serve as a road map for the next decade. This initiative is complemented by the recent adoption of a 5-year Strategic Plan and an annual Capital Improvements Plan, essential tools for ensuring that public funds are allocated in alignment with the priorities identified by our residents. This year, we are further encouraged by our collaboration with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and a newly formed resident advisory group to develop a vision for enhancing pedestrian and bicycle connectivity in Jefferson Township. This vision extends not only to linking local neighborhoods and parks but to strengthening connections with neighboring communities. Furthermore, we remain dedicated to ensuring drivers have access to efficient, safe, and well-maintained roadways through our robust annual resurfacing program and partnership with the Franklin County Engineer.

As we navigate these planning endeavors, we are deeply grateful for the continued input and support of our community members. Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report, which details accomplishments from 2023, the services your tax dollars support, and what we're investing time and funding in for 2024. We hope that you find it informative and we encourage you to contact us with questions.

**Rich Courter**  
Trustee



**Susan Lewis Kaylor**  
Trustee



**Mike Rowan**  
Trustee

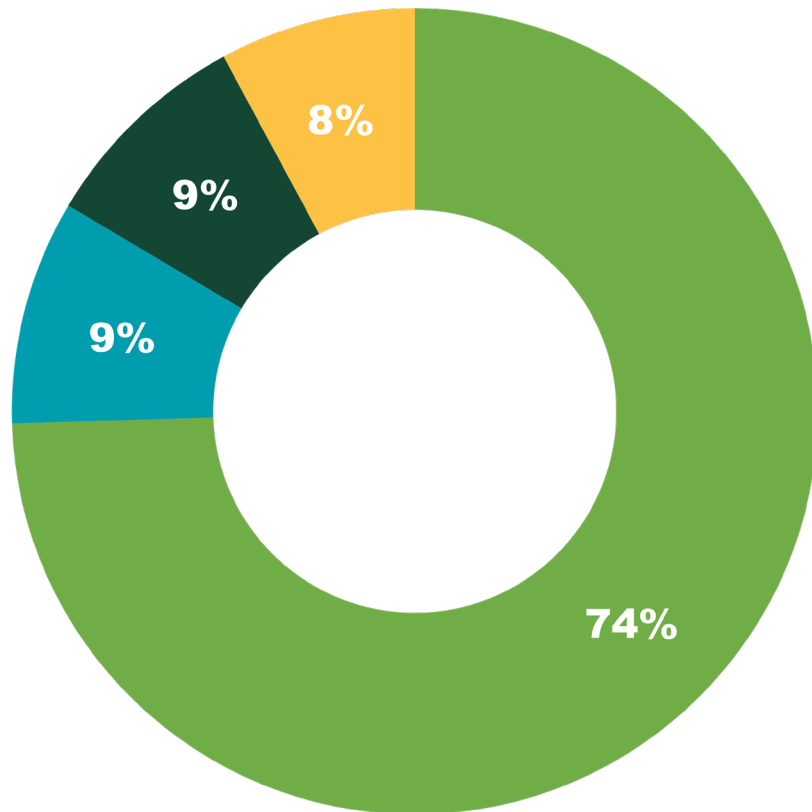


**Ken Jones**  
Fiscal Officer



## 2023 REVENUES BY SOURCE

The Township's budget (cash carryover + anticipated revenue) is adopted annually in July by the Board of Trustees and certified by the Franklin County Budget Commission. The following information is derived from actual receipts in 2023.



Property & Other Local Taxes	\$ 8,292,000
Licenses, Permits & Fees	\$ 1,003,000
Intergovernmental	\$ 957,000
Misc. Sources	\$ 875,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$ 11,127,000</b>

### Key Notes:

With the exception of the Joint Economic Development District with the City of Whitehall over Gray's Point at Blacklick Station (Monarch Blacklick Creek apartments), Jefferson Township does not collect an income tax.

In addition to recurring sources, 2023 intergovernmental revenue includes \$165,000 in grant funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Assistance to Firefighters program.

Miscellaneous revenue includes interest earned on investments, income from rentals and leases, the sale of surplus equipment, and payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) retained for the Township as part of Tax Increment Financing Agreements.

Revenue data excludes custodial funds and lighting district assessments.

## ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES

Jefferson Township receives revenue primarily through property taxes, which includes voter approved levies for fire and emergency medical services and road maintenance. The Township also receives revenue from other government agencies (e.g., Franklin County) and via fees for services including construction plan review and inspection, and emergency medical transports.

In Ohio, there are two main types of property tax: inside (unvoted) millage and outside (voted millage). Inside millage was allocated to cities, townships, counties, and school districts in the early 1930's, up to a 10 mill limitation. Jefferson Township receives 1.25 mills each year, of which 1.00 mill is receipted into the General Fund and 0.25 mills into the Road District Fund. Outside millage, in the form of levies, must be approved by voters.

For every \$100 in property tax paid by a property owner for tax year 2023, \$15.70 will be received by Jefferson Township. The total amount received includes the inside millage listed above, as well as distributions from fire levies (12.10 mills), and a road levy (2.80 mills). While voted in at 2.8 mills (\$98 per \$100,000 of appraised property value) in 2015, the Township's road levy is currently collecting at an effective rate of approximately 1.60 mills (\$56.17 per \$100,000). This difference is attributed to increases in the overall value of properties in Jefferson Township resulting from reappraisals and new development.

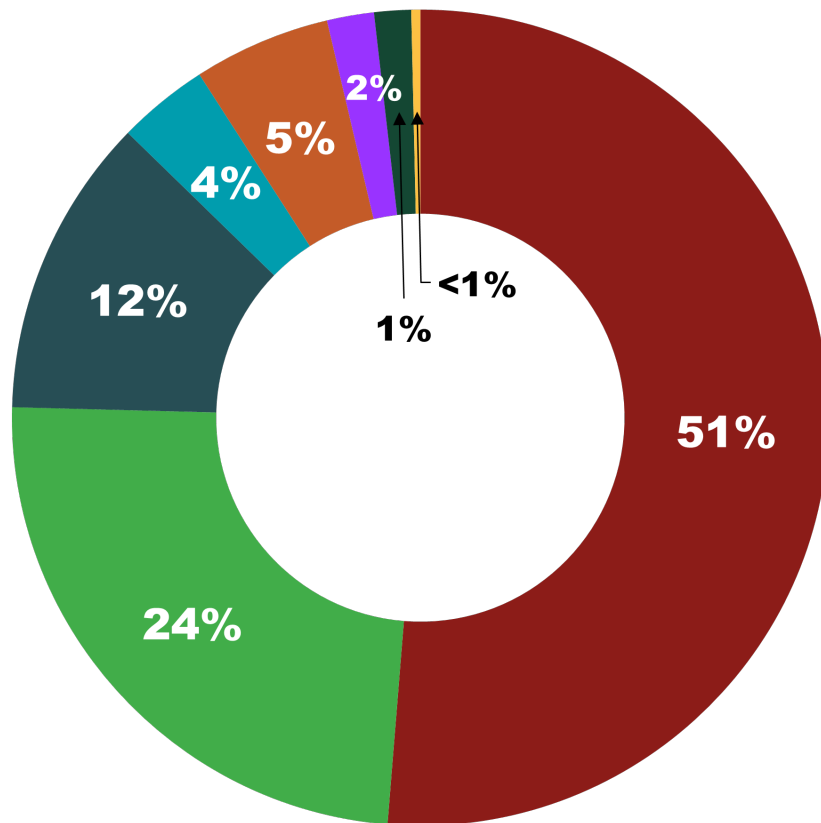
Under Ohio law, existing levies (outside millage) do not generate additional revenue when property values rise or when new properties are added to the tax base.

### Sample Property Tax Distribution



## 2023 EXPENDITURES BY PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees adopts permanent appropriations in December of each year, which designate funds for various programs or purposes. The Franklin County Budget Commission certifies that appropriations do not exceed available resources (cash carryover + anticipated revenue). This chart and table include both operating and capital expenditures from 2023 by relevant purpose. Large capital projects may be funded with cash savings from previous years not reflected on the revenue chart.



*Expenditure data excludes custodial funds and lighting district assessments.*

Fire & Emergency Medical Services	\$ 6,557,000
Roads & Stormwater Management	\$ 3,085,000
Administrative Operations	\$ 1,520,000
Zoning, Building & Development	\$ 461,000
American Rescue Plan Act	\$ 693,000
Parks and Conservation	\$ 238,000
Franklin County Public Health	\$ 186,000
Cemeteries	\$ 46,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES [Capital and Operating]</b>	<b>\$12,786,000</b>

### Key Notes:

Administrative Operations is a component of various departments including fire, roads, and general governance.

In 2021 and 2022 the Township received a total of \$1,112,000 in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The 2023 ARPA category includes expenditures of these one-time stimulus dollars for projects identified in 2022.

The chart and table include the \$521,000 road resurfacing expenditure discussed on page 7 as well as \$500,000 for the 2022 road maintenance program which was encumbered in 2022 but expended with final invoices in 2023.

## 2023 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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- The self-contained breathing apparatus, which provide firefighters with breathable air in environments with smoke, dangerous gases, and other airborne contaminants, were replaced last year at a total cost of \$162,000, of which \$135,000 was funded by the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Additionally, public safety portable radios were replaced at a cost of \$104,000.
- In early 2023, the Township acquired an 11-acre property at 7300 Clark State Road, just west of Jefferson Community Park, for the site of the future second fire station at a cost of \$700,000. Site survey and architectural design for the station are underway.
- As part of the annual road maintenance program, nine township roads were resurfaced for a total cost of \$521,000: Brooksong Circle, Brooksong Way, Chateaugay Way, Creek Hollow Road, Kemperwood Drive, Oxbow Drive, Rameys Crossing Court, Rameys Crossing Drive, and Streamwater Drive. Additionally, approximately \$26,000 was allocated to replace 500 feet of concrete curbs in the Taylor Ridge Estates and Blacklick Ridge Estates subdivisions.
- The Franklin County Engineer constructed a modern roundabout at the intersection of Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road and Havens Road and rehabilitated and widened the bridge over Blacklick Creek. The Township contributed \$200,000 toward the project, with a total estimated cost of \$6.3 million. The project was truly collaborative, with funding further provided by Ohio Department of Transportation Safety Funds, Ohio Public Works Commission, Community Project Funding, the Jefferson Water and Sewer District, and Franklin County Motor Vehicle Registration and Gas User Fees.
- In 2023, an expenditure of \$7,200 was allocated towards the removal of dead trees along the trails at Boehnke Nature Preserve, while an additional \$7,875 was invested in planting 10 new shade trees around the playground at Jefferson Community Park.
- To facilitate enhanced pedestrian access to Jefferson Community Park, a collaborative effort was undertaken with the Franklin County Engineer's Office and the Estates of Jefferson Homeowners Association to install a crosswalk across Clark State Road and establish a sidewalk connection to the newly constructed multipurpose path within the park. A second pedestrian crossing was installed on Climbing Fig Drive to improve safety for families walking to the Licking Heights West Elementary School. Township financial contributions to both projects totaled
- Augmented public safety at Township parks with the installation of automatic license plate reader cameras. These cameras, accessible only by law enforcement, provide real time alerts to deputies when a plate connected to a warrant or missing person is recorded. Additionally, the data is a resource to address illegal activity and ensure our parks continue to be safe and welcoming for visitors.



Photo by Adam Cairns / Columbus Dispatch

### SERVICE DEPARTMENT: A LOOK BACK AT 2023

In addition to the projects including road resurfacing and curb replacement discussed on page 7, the service department undertook the following initiatives last year:

- ▶ Conducted annual stormwater system maintenance to improve the flow of water along Township roadways and mitigate flood risk.
  - Replaced 58 feet of stormwater pipe and installed 128 feet of new infrastructure
  - Cleared obstructions from 300 feet of stormwater pipe
  - Reclaimed and widened 2,117 feet of open ditch
- ▶ Applied a surface treatment to berms along Dixon Road and on Havens Road between Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road and Waggoner Road to prevent vehicle ruts and washouts.
- ▶ Conducted roadside cleanup efforts resulting in the collection of 2.75 cubic yards of trash and the disposal of 2,680 pounds of scrap metal.
- ▶ Responded to 12 total winter weather events between January 1 and December 31, 2023, clearing snow accumulations and distributing 140 tons of salt to ensure safe road conditions for travelers.

### WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2024

- ▶ Continue to improve and maintain Township roads with a budget of \$1,205,000 for resurfacing, \$133,000 for crack sealing, and just over \$100,000 for tar and chip applications, curb repair, and surface treatment of berms.
- ▶ Perform minor drainage improvements at Jefferson Community Park to address flooding around the Maple Leaf shelter house and trails.
- ▶ Make improvements to the stormwater infrastructure along sections of Darling Road to resolve recurring high water on the road.
- ▶ Implement semi-annual street sweeping for Township roads with curb and gutter, and trim or remove hazardous trees within the right-of-way on thoroughfare roads.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

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Throughout the past year, coordination with neighboring fire departments has been instrumental in sharpening our readiness for various challenges. Joint training exercises, such as a live fire session at the Ohio Fire Academy in November, equipped our team with crucial skills for navigating high life hazard emergencies. Additionally, a rural water movement training in April provided insights into sourcing water in areas without access to hydrants. Building on the past success of the certified rescue technician training, three additional firefighters participated in the hands-on program in 2023 to provide heightened expertise to our community.

Beyond emergency response, we actively engaged with residents in non-crisis situations, fostering community relationships and awareness. Events like our fire station open house in September, as well as interactions at birthday parties, station tours, and patient visits by Community Paramedics, underscore our commitment to being a resource and presence within the Township. Additionally, we had the opportunity to pilot the national "Sound Off" fire safety program for all third graders at Licking Heights West Elementary. A key focus of this program is to educate students on the difference between a smoke alarm "chirp" and a "beep" and what action to take in both instances. We look forward to continuing this program for more students in 2024.

In 2023, the department achieved a significant milestone with the attainment of a Class 2 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This recognition reflects several years of hard work and dedication and is the second time in 5 years that JTFD has secured an improved rating. The ISO rating, assigned by the independent organization, evaluates various aspects of fire department operations and resources, including alarm response, resource deployment, and community water supply - a testament to our ongoing pursuit of excellence in service delivery. Did you know? Ratings from the ISO are taken into consideration by insurers and improved ratings can result in lower premiums for property owners.



## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

Jefferson Township Fire Department is a data driven organization, measuring not only emergency response metrics, but community risk reduction activities.

**1,459**  
EMS  
RESPONSES  
with  
762 PATIENT TRANSPORTS

**581**  
FIRE  
RESPONSES

**HIGH ACUITY  
RESPONSE TIME  
5min 46sec  
FROM 9-1-1 CALL**

**33**  
CAR SEAT  
SAFETY CHECKS

**563 COMMERCIAL  
INSPECTIONS**  
with  
440 POTENTIAL LIFE  
SAFETY HAZARDS  
CORRECTED BY BUSINESS  
OWNERS

**10 FIRE  
INVESTIGATIONS**  
with  
1 ARSON INDICTMENT

**2,916**  
HOURS OF PERSONNEL  
TRAINING

**258**  
COMMUNITY  
PARAMEDIC PATIENT  
INTERACTIONS

**921**  
STUDENTS EDUCATED  
IN FIRE & LIFE SAFETY



## RECENT INITIATIVES AT TOWNSHIP HALL

Jefferson Township Hall is home to several township operations including zoning and building, planning and economic development, parks, fiscal, and the office of the Township Administrator. Here's a look back at what we accomplished in 2023, and a look ahead at what's underway in 2024.

### *A Look Back at 2023*

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- ▶ Initiated a Franklin County Ditch Petition to address resident concerns about flooding and inadequate drainage on public and private property in the northeast area of Jefferson Township. The petition process provides a means for making improvements to the 100+ year old Cole Ditch and adding it under the County's purview for ongoing maintenance.
- ▶ Held two open houses and conducted a public survey to capture input from residents as part of our Comprehensive Plan update. The plan, Jefferson Township 2050, was originally adopted in 2018 and the update will be finalized in 2024.
- ▶ Accepted Rumpke's lowest and best bid for continued trash, recycling, and yard waste collection services (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2026). The transition process was undertaken in September, with 20,000+ carts collected and delivered.
- ▶ The Township's Park Board hosted 6 community events in 2023, including the Ice Cream Social and Fall Festival, with a total of 3,200 people attending.

### *What's Ahead in 2024*

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- ▶ Collaborate with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and stakeholders on an Active Transportation Project Prioritization Study. Outcomes of the study will include technical documentation outlining a pedestrian and bicycle network with proposed projects and a strategy document identifying next steps for implementation.
- ▶ Obtain engineering design plans for electrical improvements at Jefferson Community Park including relocating and replacing the light poles, upgrading service at the park, and burying overhead utilities. Construction is tentatively planned for 2025 as part of the Township's Capital Improvements Plan.
- ▶ Seek funding to upgrade the outdoor warning siren at the service complex and install two new sirens in areas of Jefferson Township that are currently outside of the recommended 1-mile radius.

## Development *Snapshot* 2023



**97 SINGLE FAMILY  
HOME PERMITS &  
5 MULTI FAMILY  
FOR 27 UNITS**



**39 COMMERCIAL  
BUILDING PERMITS**



**713 ZONING  
COMPLIANCE  
PERMITS\***

\*Patos, pergolas, fences,  
pools, barns & sheds, etc.



6545 Havens Road, Blacklick, Ohio 43004

# Stay Connected

[www.jeffersontownship.org](http://www.jeffersontownship.org)



[info@jeffersontownship.org](mailto:info@jeffersontownship.org)



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[@jeffersontownshipfire](https://www.facebook.com/jeffersontownshipfire)



(614) 855-4260



View our spending data at  
[Checkbook.Ohio.Gov](http://Checkbook.Ohio.Gov)

Pictured: Boehnke Nature Preserve  
in the winter

