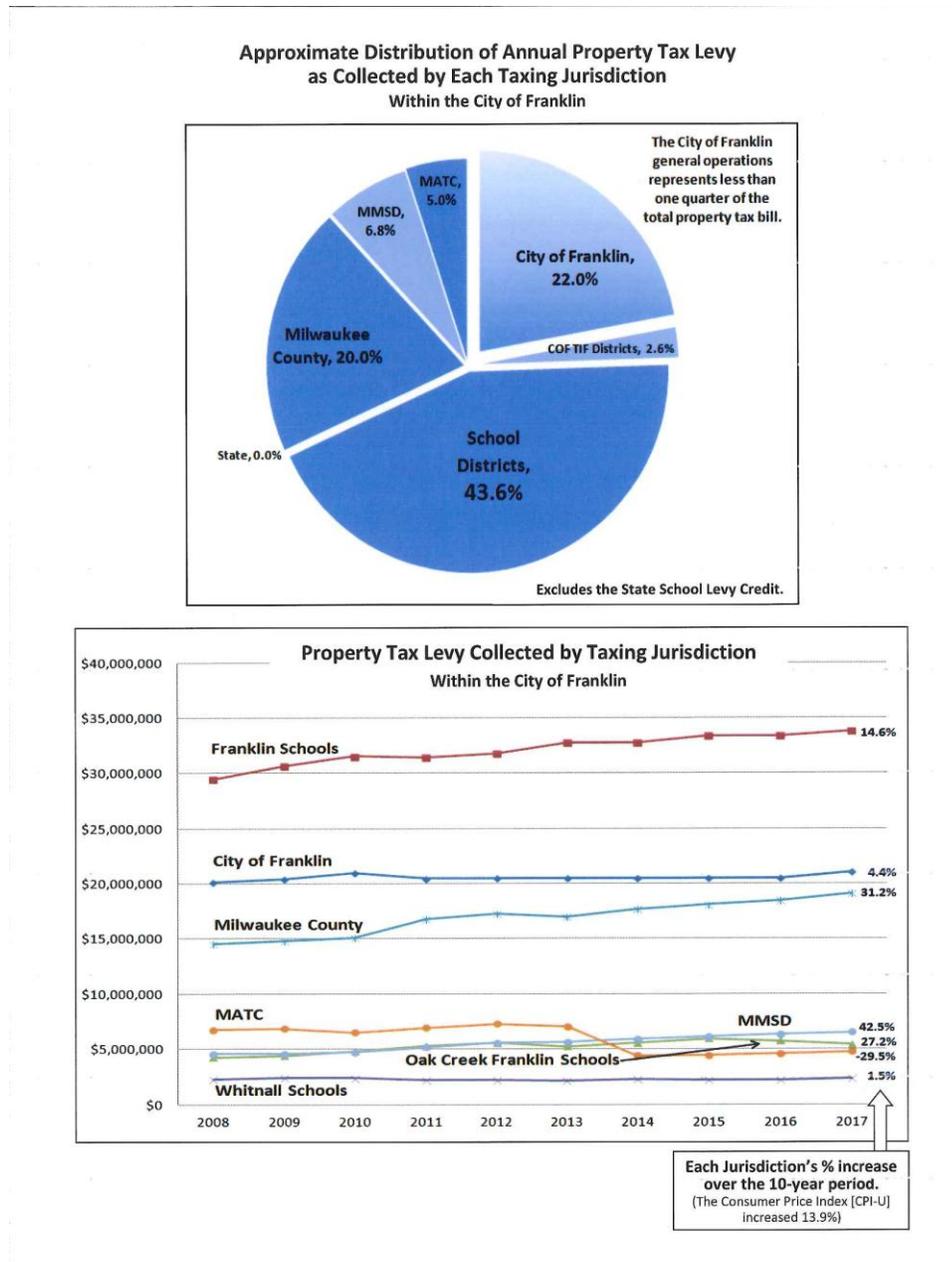


**Q:** Increased population since 2000 should have resulted in a comparable increase in property tax and other tax income to maintain adequate fire and police services since 2000.

**A:** From 2012 to 2017 the CITY budget remained flat. Prior budgets reflected small increases in spending to cover operating increases, both decisions in respect for the call from residents to not raise taxes. The other four taxing entities continued to raise their taxes, therefore raising the tax bills for residents. See the charts below:



**Q:** Has the need increased to the point where we need to increase staffing? Its one thing to say the calls for service have gone up, but we also need to look at the type of calls. Has anyone suffered due to the lack of staffing? That's the more important question than just saying calls have increased.

**A:** There has been an increase in Identity Thefts, Fraud, Opioid Overdose Deaths, Burglaries, Auto Thefts, Child Abuse and Sex Crimes. These all require significant investigative time. If crimes do not get solved because staffing is insufficient, people will suffer.

**Q:** Find solutions for reducing Calls for Service AND

**Q:** Are there less expensive resources that can be used for some types of calls? Can we get more (presumably cheaper) proactive policing/resources to reduce the reactive calls?

**A:** While the Department has enacted several measures to reduce calls for service, we find there is a high expectation from the general public that the police respond promptly and effectively to a wide range of issues. What's not important to some people can be very important to others. Experience has shown that when lesser crimes or nuisances are ignored, the likelihood more serious issues will increase.

**Q:** Look at other communities to see how they are handling vs asking citizens of Franklin who are not experts in this field.

**A:** We have looked at other communities. Some already have added officers in their budget and some have already gone to a referendum. There are other communities who are considering the same.

**Q:** What percentage is related to drug issues within the city?

**A:** There is a high percentage of crime related to drugs. Unfortunately, drug-related crime has increased everywhere.

**Q:** Charge the 27th street motels for police visits. The motels rent to criminals. The motels need to put some sort of stand in place for renting.

**A:** Although there is increased activity along 27th Street, in general the owners of properties along 27th Street cooperate well with Franklin Police. The City does not have a mechanism to specially charge those properties separately from their property tax bills.

**Q:** I worry that people call 911 for many non-emergency situations. Those are very costly. I would work on a way to prioritize true emergency calls and figure out what to do with the others to save us the time and money dealing with things not meant for 911.

**A:** We do prioritize calls for service. We also fine people for repeated unnecessary calls to 9-1-1. This has reduced the incidence of misusing the 9-1-1 system.

**Q:** The amount of Franklin police on the road is outrageous. The traffic tactics and stops are horrendous, replace some police officers.

**A:** The Police Department has the second lowest number of officers per capita in Milwaukee County. Traffic stops are potentially one of the most dangerous types of assignment an officer can have. A recent study showed that officers who died after initiating contact with suspects were most likely to be killed during traffic stops.

**Q:** Hey - I get that everyone who has an elected position doesn't want to make "unpopular" choices like a tax increase, but isn't that what you were elected to do...make the hard choices to keep the community safe and healthy? If people can't afford the taxes, then they should find a different place to live. Make sure they get training. We need police, but we do not need soldiers. De-escalation of hostile situations should be the norm in training. Also, avoid over use of military type responses and equipment. Train, train, train.

**A:** Two questions, two answers. Elected officials must respond to their constituents and vote as they feel answers the issues in the best interest of their constituents. The call to lower taxes is consistent and the elected officials have reflected that in their votes on the budget.

The Franklin Police Department constantly trains its' officers in handling different situations always with their safety and the safety of the public as a priority. De-escalation of encounters training is incorporated in this training.

**Q:** Why have you waited a decade to address this problem? Consider merging services with Greendale and/or Hales Corners.

**A:** The Police Department currently has several shared services agreements with other departments. The FPD has a joint SWAT team with the Greendale and Hales Corners Police Departments. We are a member of the Suburban Mutual Response Team (SMART) which is a consortium of Milwaukee and Waukesha County Law Enforcement agencies that assist each other at large-scale response incidents. There are several other response and investigatory shared service functions we utilize.

**Q:** Not enough information. I would need to know how much overtime the department is working before adding new positions. Budget budget budget

**A:** The Police Department has come in under budget for more than a decade. Much of the overtime in the Police Department is unpredictable. Large-scale incidents and/or investigations will have a significant impact on overtime.

**Q:** Find ways to reduce service calls to only those that are important. Seek volunteer help from retired police officers for school safety. Seek corporate sponsorship. Our police spending SHOULD be the lowest per capita due to the relative safety of our City compared to other communities. We are much safer than Greenfield, Oak Creek and South Milwaukee, yet we have MORE officers per capita? We don't need more officers.

**A:** While the Police Department has enacted several measures to reduce calls for service, we find there is a high expectation from the general public that the police respond promptly and effectively to a wide range of issues. What's not important to some people can be very important to others. Experience has shown that when lesser crimes or nuisances are ignored, the likelihood more serious issues will increase. The Department does use volunteer Auxiliary Officers at some school events. There are many factors that go into staffing. Franklin has the lowest number of officers per square mile of patrol coverage than all suburban cities in Milwaukee County.

**Q:** We need more data. How long are people waiting for an officer to respond? How does our crime rate compare to nearby cities? AND

**Q:** What is the crime rate in Franklin compared to the other cities above? Are we above or below them in crime rate? AND

**Q:** Again, response call time for police services would be a valuable indicator of need for our community. Of course, this useful information is not provided.

**A:** Response times have increased for most categories of calls over the last 10 years. The crime rate is only one factor in determining proper staffing levels for a police department. See the Police Department's 2017 Annual Report for crime statistics [here](#).

**Q:** Need to see the charts of the number of crime and drug-related incidents per 1,000 population vs. other cities and also vs. past years.

**A:** See the Police Department's 2017 Annual Report [here](#).

**Q:** Every time I see a squad car stopping someone for a traffic stop, there is at least 1, many times 2 other squads that show up. I do not understand that. If there is any area this city is doing the right thing, it's keeping the police costs low. How many squads on average answer the same call?

**A:** The majority of traffic stops are handled by one officer. Multiple squads are sometimes necessary due to the fact that there may be multiple suspects in the vehicle and/or someone in the vehicle has an arrest warrant for them. Traffic stops are potentially one of the most dangerous types of assignment an officer can have. A recent study showed that officers who died after initiating contact with suspects were most likely to be killed during traffic stops.

**Q:** The increase in service calls is a good indicator that additional personnel is needed. Has a sharing of police personnel with adjacent municipalities been explored? It appears that Franklin will need more police in the future.

**A:** The Police Department currently has several shared services agreements with other departments. The FPD has a joint SWAT team with the Greendale and Hales Corners Police Departments. We are a member of the Suburban Mutual Response Team (SMART) which is a consortium of Milwaukee and Waukesha County Law Enforcement agencies that assist each other at large-scale response incidents. There are several other response and investigatory shared service functions we utilize.

**Q:** Why does a police unit always come when an ambulance service is requested? Can retired officers be hired on a part-time basis thus not requiring the benefits and pension funding?

**A:** Police units are not sent to all rescue calls. Officers will be sent along with the Fire Department to certain calls which require their presence, i.e. drug overdoses, injuries sustained in the commission of a crime, death investigations, etc. It would be very difficult to find retired police officers who are interested in going back to work part time.

**Q:** For schooling - why not offering veterans who can volunteer to aid in safeguarding vs hiring more police officers when it comes to schools?

**A:** It would be up to the schools to seek out veterans to volunteer. The Police Department does have an Auxiliary Police Unit which donates hundreds of hours of service to the City, many of those hours spent at high school events.

**Q:** We could hire part-time officers with no benefits and less pay to get more coverage. Look at contracting with another city or with the sheriff.

**A:** It would be very difficult to find retired police officers who are interested in going back to work part time. Nearby cities are facing the same or similar staffing issues and the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office has been reducing the number of deputies.

**Q:** Since drug and other crimes are up you should have the police work on those instead of pulling people over and writing tickets, Franklin has less officers than other municipalities but I see more Franklin police pulling people over, what's more important? Writing tickets or catching people committing felonies?

**A:** Complaints of people speeding and breaking other traffic laws is the highest category of complaints the Police Department and elected officials receive. There is a high expectation and demand from the public that we are pro-active in reducing speed and other traffic violations. Speeding and violation of traffic laws are the primary causes of accidents, including serious injury and fatal accidents.

**Q:** Start volunteer auxiliary police force.

**A:** The Police Department does have an Auxiliary Police Unit which donates hundreds of hours of service to the City on a yearly basis.

**Q:** We seem to be in line with our neighbors. How about combining with neighboring communities instead of separate police forces. How does our crime rate compare to the northern suburbs? Would additional mental health support reduce police activity?

**A:** The Police Department currently has several shared services agreements with other departments. The FPD has a joint SWAT team with the Greendale and Hales Corners Police Departments. We are a member of the Suburban Mutual Response Team (SMART) which is a consortium of Milwaukee and Waukesha County Law Enforcement agencies that assist each other at large-scale response incidents. There are several other response and investigatory shared service functions we utilize. The crime rate is only one factor in determining proper staffing levels for a police department. Additional mental health support would most definitely reduce police services needs and would be highly welcomed by the Police Department.

**Q:** I routinely see 2 and 3 squads involved in writing traffic citations. How can you justify the need for more officers for this and going after petty drug charges?

**A:** The majority of traffic stops are handled by one officer. Multiple squads are sometimes necessary due to the fact that there may be multiple suspects in the vehicle and/or someone in the vehicle has an arrest warrant for them. Traffic stops are potentially one of the most dangerous types of assignment an officer can have. A recent study showed that officers who died after initiating contact with suspects were most likely to be killed during traffic stops.

**Q:** Again, response call time for police services would be a valuable indicator of need for our community. Of course, this useful information is not provided.

**A:** Response times have increased for most categories of calls over the last 10 years. See the Police Department's 2017 Annual Report [here](#).

**Q:** Any additional police staffing related to the Ballpark Commons entertainment district (such as traffic control) should be funded by the TIF.

**A:** As part of the development agreement for the project, any additional needs for police services for the district will be paid for by the development.

**Q:** What is the crime rate in Franklin compared to the other cities above? Are we above or below them in crime rate?

**A:** Crime rate is only one factor in determining proper staffing levels for a police department. See the Police Department's 2017 Annual Report for crime statistics [here](#).

**Q:** The PD should contribute half toward pension benefits like all other public employees did in 2011 upon ACT 10 legislation.

**A:** Two things govern the retirement accounts for the Police Officers; the state retirement system statutes and rules and the City's contract with the officers. Currently, the officers pay approximately 38.5% of their retirement cost, which is maximum allowable employee share.

**Q:** Why is this not reviewed on an annual basis instead of every 10 years? I feel that is a fault of our elected officials.

**A:** The staffing of the Police Department is reviewed annually during the budget process. In addition, the operations (and staffing) of the Police Department is presented to the Common Council each year in their [Annual Report](#). The Police Chief and Mayor meet regularly to discuss needs of the Department.

**Q:** Are there less expensive resources that can be used for some types of calls? Can we get more (presumably cheaper) proactive policing/resources to reduce the reactive calls?

**A:** While the Police Department has enacted several measures to reduce calls for service, we find there is a high expectation from the general public that the police respond promptly and effectively to a wide range of issues. What's not important to some people can be very important to others. Experience has shown that when lesser crimes or nuisances are ignored, the likelihood more serious issues will increase.

**Q:** I didn't notice but can you make the city budget available on the website? If population growth didn't match property tax needs ... Franklin has a different problem. Has the Chief looked into Fed Gov policing grants?

**A:** The City Budget is on the website and can be accessed [here](#). In addition to the budget, the City's [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report](#) is also available and it contains substantially more information about the activities of City departments. It can be accessed [here](#). A chart illustrating the budget trends of the last ten years is above. The Police Department and all other departments are always looking for grants and other sources of funds.

**Q:** If the department is so short, what is overtime cost? Does adding officers take into account reducing overtime? Is there any type of grants from the State that could reduce the immediate impact and blend the increase in over several years with a lower impact on taxes?

**A:** The Police Department has come under budget for more than a decade. Much of the overtime in the Police Department is unpredictable. Large-scale incidents and/or investigations will have a significant impact on overtime. The Police Department regularly applies for and has received federal and state grants to augment services.

**Q:** Franklin must go after tax-exempt properties and companies to pay for their share of the services. It is totally unfair we have to absorb their costs.

**A:** Tax exempt properties are granted that status by the State of Wisconsin. Over the past decade, we have negotiated "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" agreements with many of the new developments that are designated as tax-exempt and will continue to do so where appropriate.

**Q:** Why do we use law enforcement to respond to mental health issues?

**A:** Good question. Mental health issues create a significant demand on police services. The Police Department would welcome improved mental health services to reduce the impact.

**Q:** Need see the charts of the number of crime and drug-related incidents per 1,000 population vs. other cities and also vs. past years.

**A:** See the Police Department's 2017 Annual Report [here](#).

**Q:** I'm surprised that the amount of money slotted for the Franklin public schools is not one of the possible reductions that could occur. Seems odd to me that the city has the funds to build an expansive new middle school yet not enough to fully support the police and fire department.

**A:** The Franklin Public Schools District and the City of Franklin are two separate and distinct organizations that operate budgets independent of each other. The taxpayers voted to construct the middle school through referendum and the School District is now building the facility. The CITY has no control over the budget and operations of the School District.

**Q:** Would be interested in seeing the percentage of property taxes compared to the net police spending per capita in other cities. How are these cities successful in supporting their law enforcement without taxes as high as ours? I feel the city has plenty of funds coming in compared to other neighboring cities and maybe the city should look into analyzing and researching why other cities can support their police departments, but we fail to.

**A:** The City of Franklin has the second lowest cost per capita for police services in Milwaukee County. Only Whitefish Bay is lower. See the Taxpayers Alliance report [here](#) and the Franklin Police Department's Annual Report [here](#).

**Q:** Why aren't we provided with any data on how our current police force is being used? Why are you asking for an increase when we have no idea where our current officers have been all day?

**A:** The Police Department posts its annual report on the City's website and Facebook page every year. You can find the 2017 Annual Report [here](#).

**Q:** The Mayor and Council Presidents introduction paragraphs says the 2013-17 total property taxes have stayed the same, for me I have had two increases in the last three years. How accurate is their information?

**A:** The statement is accurate. The City has not increased its levy spending for five years. There are four other taxing entities on your tax bill in addition to the City. Generally, those entities have increased their spending (see the chart above) and that would account for an increase in your tax bill. Also, changes in your property assessment may change your tax bill up or down.

**Q:** What has happened to the additional property taxes brought in by the growing taxpayer base?

**A:** We believe that we have answered that question above. Please see the answer above and the accompanying chart.

**Q:** I'd also be interested to know why the starting police pay is so high compared to other cities?

**A:** Actually, starting pay for Franklin Police Officers is similar to most other communities in Milwaukee County and actually lower than several comparable communities.

**Q:** In this case, do not exclude businesses from the necessary tax increases.

**A:** There's a clause in the State Constitution called the uniformity clause which says essentially that everyone must be treated equally. Businesses in the City are charged property taxes at the same rate as residents.

**Q:** Have we looked at grants, endowments, or other financial opportunities besides raising property taxes?

**A:** The Police Department has come under budget for more than a decade. Much of the overtime in the Police Department is unpredictable. Large-scale incidents and/or investigations will have a significant impact on overtime. The Police Department regularly applies for and has received federal and State grants to augment services.