

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04

**RESOLUTION OF TOWNBOARD EXERCISING REFERENDUM OPTION
FOR FIRE/EMS SERVICES FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed levy limits on town, village, city, and county tax levies for 2024 (to be collected in 2025) and thereafter under s. 66.0602, Wis. Stat.; and

WHEREAS, s. 66.0602, Wis. Stat. limits the allowable local levy for 2024 (to be collected in 2025) to a percentage increase of no more than the greater of (a) zero percent of the 2023 payable 2024 adjusted actual levy as calculated under the state's levy limit or (b) a percentage equal to the percent change in equalized value due to net new construction less improvements removed, which for the Town of Grafton was 1.364%, which results in a levy of \$1,559,881; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Grafton, believes that for the 2024 tax levy (to be collected in 2025) it is in the Town's best interest to exceed the state levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than allowable for the purpose of enhancing Emergency Medical and Fire Protection Services including, but not limited to, the hiring and retaining of additional fire and rescue personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Grafton does not have the capacity to increase the Town's property tax levy to pay for enhancing Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services under Wis. Stats. §66.0602(2) relating to local levy limits; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Grafton has the authority to approve a referendum question on an election ballot for a regular or special election; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed and discussed a referendum election ballot for the April 2, 2024 Spring Primary Election at the regular Town Board meeting on January 10, 2024 for that purpose; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Grafton, Ozaukee County, does hereby order as follows:

The Town Board supports an increase in the Town tax levy for 2024 (to be collected in 2025) that will exceed the amount allowed by the state levy limit by 23.876% which would increase the Town levy by \$372,435 for the purpose listed. The requested increase would apply on an ongoing basis.

Referendum Question:

Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Town of Grafton for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2025, is limited to 1.364%, which results in a levy of \$1,559,881. Shall the Town of Grafton be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2025, for the purpose of enhancing Emergency Medical and Fire Protection Services, including, but not limited to, the hiring and retaining of additional fire and rescue personnel, by a total of 23.876%, which results in a levy of \$1,932,316, and, on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$372,435 for each fiscal year going forward?

Approved by the Town Board of the Town of Grafton this 10th day of January, 2024.

Lester A. Bartel, Jr., Chairman

Sara Jacoby, Clerk

Posted: 1/15/2024