



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Gina
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Johnsen
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
n/a
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Odessa Township
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
3862 Laurel Drive, Lake Odessa, MI 48849
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
n/a
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Gina Johnsen, 78th House District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
The purpose of this proposed legislatively directed spending item is to help fund the construction of a new fire station to serve the residents of Odessa Township and the surrounding areas through existing mutual aid agreements. This project addresses an urgent public safety need by replacing a deteriorating and obsolete facility that can no longer be maintained or upgraded to meet current State requirements for fire departments or the changing needs of the local population.

This appropriation will provide a direct and substantial public benefit by ensuring reliable, timely emergency response services for area residents, protecting lives and property, and supporting regional emergency coordination. In addition to meeting public safety standards, the new facility will enhance operational readiness, improve compliance with state mandates, and contribute to the long-term resilience of the community's emergency response infrastructure.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding, as the entirety of the appropriation will be used for the development of a public facility owned and operated by a local unit of government for a clear governmental function—fire protection and emergency response. As such, this project fully complies with Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution, which prohibits appropriations of public money for private purposes. No portion of these funds will be directed to private entities or used for private benefit. All expenditures will support a public purpose, consistent with constitutional requirements and the public trust.

9. **Attach documents here if needed:**

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. **The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.**

2000000

11. **Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.**

["None"]

12. **Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:**

Local unit government

13. **For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?**

Not applicable

14. **For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?**

Not applicable

15. **For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?**

Not applicable

16. **For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'**

n/a

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

November 2025 - November 2026

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

Odessa Township Treasurer's Office

Sharon Rohrbacher, Treasurer

* P.O. Box 566. 3862 Laurel Drive * Lake Odessa, MI 48849*

• Phone: 616-374-4237 ext. 11 *

• Fax 616-374-4257*

Email sharon@odessatownship.org

April 11, 2025

State Representative

Gina Johnsen

78th District N-1097 House Office Building

Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representative Johnsen:

Odessa Township comes to you with a request for assistance in building a fire station for our community. The Lake Odessa Fire Department currently leases their facility and the lease will expire at the end of 2026. We are a rural area with a population around 4,000 without much industry and the cost to fund our Fire Department is paid for by millage requests approved by the residents. Early estimates suggest that the new station will cost between \$5-9,000,000. The cost has greatly risen over the past few years due to mandates imposed upon us by the State of Michigan.

The Police and Fire Protection Act, PA 33 of 1951, authorizes townships to own and operate a fire department. We need help with State funding to, essentially, relieve some of the tax burden placed on the local tax payer to support this essential service. Repayment of bonds and loans for a new building will come on top of the 2.5 mills already being collected for operations and vehicles. Our community is located over twenty minutes away from the closest small city. It is imperative that we provide local emergency medical and fire services, with quick response time to our rural area, to support the well-being of residents and save lives and properties.

Due to the Railroad closing the intersection crossing nearest the Fire Station, emergency runs are required to take additional minutes to travel around the closed intersection to a street that is open. It is the desire of the local community to relocate emergency and fire services to a more convenient and centralized location so that the response is quicker, as we all know, in a dire emergency, seconds can make all of difference.

We have found ourselves in the situation where our local fire station is falling in disrepair bordering on decrepit and unhealthy. We are requesting \$2,000,000 from the State of Michigan so that we can replace the nearly 50-year-old pole barn style building with one that will much better serve the residents of Odessa Township and, by mutual aid, will serve multiple communities in the surrounding area. The Odessa Township residents will fund the remaining cost through bonds, loans, fund raisers, and donations.

In closing, Odessa Township is requesting that you partner with us by appropriating \$2,000,000 or more so that the Lake Odessa Fire Department can continue to operate and will have the proper facilities and equipment necessary.

Sincerely,



Sharon Rohrbacher
Odessa Township Treasurer