

Audit Highlights

Hubbard Township has been operating at a deficit for three years and is in risk of being put in fiscal oversight if the deficit spending is not corrected. Costs related to the operations of the Township's Police Department are the primary driver of deficit spending and Township officials requested a performance audit to identify potential cost savings options. The Township has also considered outsourcing options in order to reduce overall police service expenditures.

GENERAL AUDIT FINDINGS



- » The Police Department has had a 75 percent reduction in fund balances over the past three years due to deficit spending.
- » The Police Department's workload has decreased significantly over the past 20 years.
- » The existing staff is underworked based on industry standards and spends an average of 23 percent of their time on police-related activities during a shift.
- » Several CBA provisions are more generous than state minimum requirements for larger townships and cities, and are more generous than peer averages.
- » Reductions in staffing and other cost savings measures can eliminate the existing Police Department budget deficits.



OTHER POLICE OPTIONS



- » The Township could make reductions in costs to retain its Police Department.
- » The County Sheriff has submitted a proposal to provide 24-hour police protection to the Township using two deputy sheriffs per shift. Outsourcing to the Sheriff is projected to cost the Township just over \$1 million annually in fees and expenses.
- » The Township could seek out partners for a Joint Police District, which would create a new public entity that would provide a single source of police protection for multiple communities.
- » The Township could also seek out other proposals for outsourced police services to determine if there are more beneficial agreements available.