

Warren Mayor Jim Fouts Agrees With Fire Chiefs Assn. That The Actions By The State of Michigan Is A “Tax On A Tax” For EMS Service

A Statement by Warren Mayor Jim Fouts

(See **Mayor Fouts’ Facebook Statement March 29, 2017**) **attached**

“I agree with the Fire Chiefs Association and the Michigan Fire Service Coalition that P.A. 104 passed by the State Legislature and Governor Snyder will be a financial hardship on all municipalities.

“The proposed assessment or tax increase (not more than 6 percent) is a ‘tax on a tax,’ since Warren annually collects \$921,127 from an EMS millage to provide EMS treatment and transport services.

“This tax increase would cost the city at least \$300,000 upfront with no assurance of re-imbusement at a later date.

“It is the interpretation of the Michigan Fire Service Coalition that P.A. 104 could be assessed against all local government revenues.

“According to the Coalition, this could impact on the delivery of fire/EMS services in communities and also could lead to layoffs of firefighters and EMS employees.

“This legislative revenue grab by state officials must be repealed.

“The promise of an increase in Medicaid re-imburements will probably be quickly forgotten as the state collects more revenues that it doesn't share with local communities, such as Warren.

“The last thing local communities need is to send more of its tax revenues to the State of Michigan. My opinion is that the state will find other ways to spend the tax increase – and forget its promises.”

Statement from Mayor Fouts' Facebook March 29, 2017

“I strongly oppose the attempt by the state of Michigan to create a tax on EMS service provided by Warren and other cities. Our EMS service is by far the best in the state. We have won awards for three years in a row. The American Heart Association gave our EMS service the gold award for quickly saving lives for the last two years. We were the ONLY city in Michigan to receive that award. Our voters approved the police & fire millage in part to support EMS service.

“It's outrageous to think that the state is now going to impose a tax on a voter approved tax. This will cost the city at least \$300,000 with NO guarantee that we will get the money back. This is a not so subtle tax on a tax in which an essential public service is targeted. UNBELIEVABLE! I urge you to send me emails regarding this important issue and to contact your local representatives about this unthinkable attempt to shift the tax burden onto local governments in order to alleviate some of the financial responsibility of state government.”

“Interesting to note that this proposal has strong backing by the private ambulance industry in Michigan. They have long been pushing for legislation that would slow or stop local governments from entering into the EMS treatment and transport service.

“When I became Mayor 9 years ago, I eliminated our private ambulance service and returned the city EMS. This might go a long way toward reversing our commitment to a city EMS fire department. This certainly could impact on EMS service in local communities by making it too expensive to do. That we don't need! Again this proposed tax is a tax on a tax!”