

**Billings Public Safety Discussion**  
**February 3, 2020**  
**City Council Work Session**

# Policy Direction Needed

## Define Scope of the 2020 Public Safety Levy

- 2019 Council – scaled back version of Immediate + 5 year anticipated
- 2020 Council plan to propose

# Billings Vision: A diverse welcoming community where people prosper and business succeeds

- We have strong healthy neighborhoods & business districts
- We have weak unhealthy neighborhoods & business districts

# Safety is 1 Key to a Healthy City

## 5 key strategies to improve Billings

- 1) Strengthen Organization Health
- 2) Improve Safety
- 3) Improve our Built Environment
- 4) Continue Investments in Infrastructure
- 5) Increase Investments in quality of life amenities

# Define the Problem

**Billings has too much crime - driven largely by addiction and mental illness**

- Violent crime rates > 100% increase in 12 years to 600/100,000
- Property crimes are too frequent > 5,500/100,000

**Fire department response times are too slow**

# City Responsibilities & Partners

- Billings provides code and law enforcement
- Billings prosecutes crimes and provides victim advocacy
- Billings operates municipal courts

**We depend on partners to provide social services, prosecute felonies and incarcerate criminals**

- Yellowstone Substance Abuse Connect Coalition
- The Continuum of Care partners
- Yellowstone County Attorney & Sherriff offices
- State of Montana District Courts

# Public Safety Levy Scope

Does the 2020 Council want to begin the dialogue where the 2019 Council left off?

- Nov. 2019 the Council wanted a scaled back version of Immediate + 5 year anticipated needs
- Based on internal workload analysis

# Potential Revenue Sources

- Impact Fees?
- Equity between City and BUFSA charges?
- Increase municipal fines (current \$110)?
- Create a Public Safety District?
- Charges for some services?
- Public Safety Mill Levy?
- Continue discussions with MT on tax structure changes?



# Services Included in the Public Safety Levy

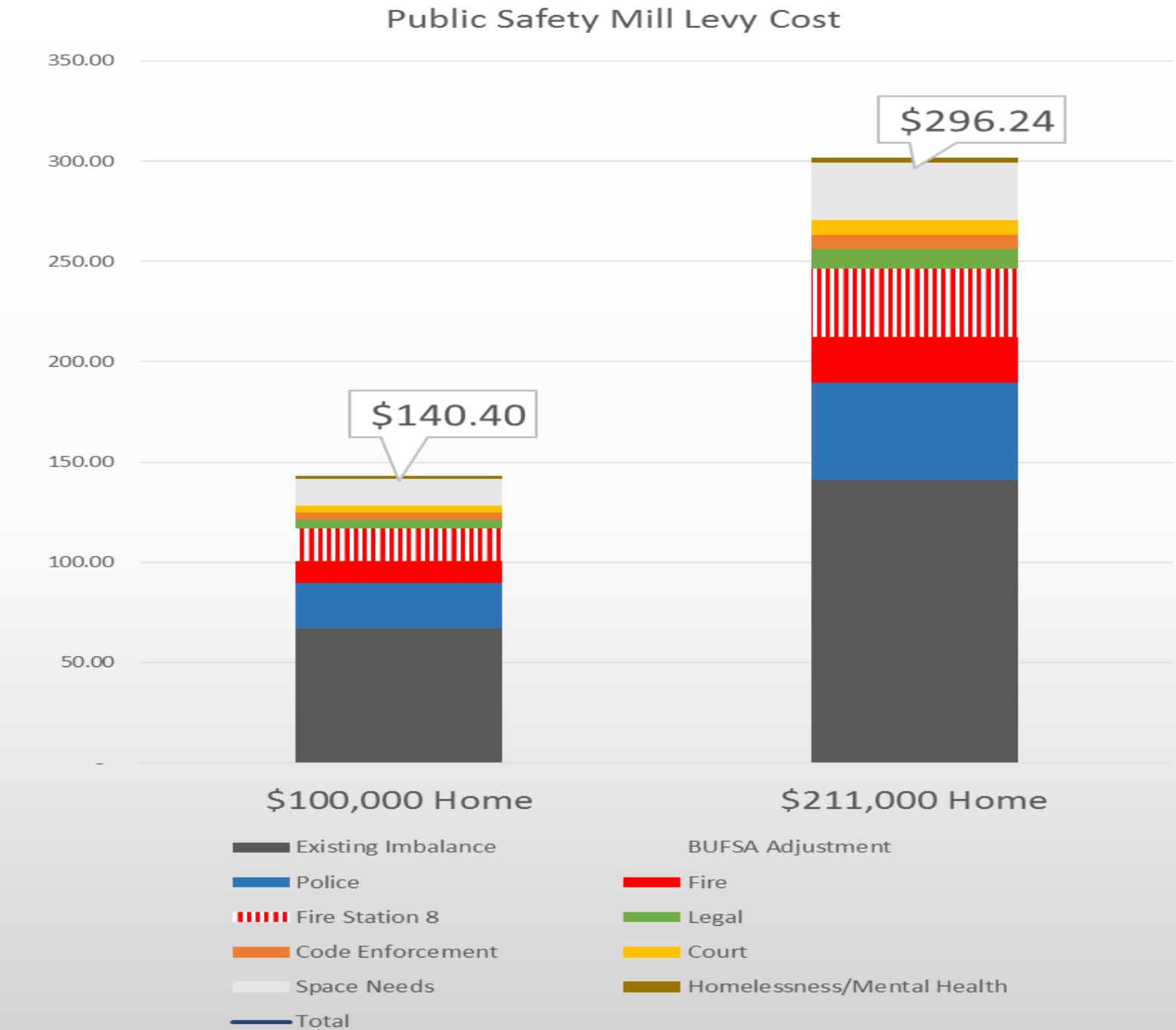
- Should the City include all departments/divisions that provide criminal justice services?
  - Law Enforcement
  - Code Enforcement
  - Prosecution
  - Municipal Court
  - 911 Dispatch
- Should the City Include Fire Department investments
  - Repairs to stations 1-7
  - Hire additional personnel to more effectively operate stations 1-7
  - Add 8<sup>th</sup> Fire Station (Building, staff and equipment)

# Services Included in the Public Safety Levy

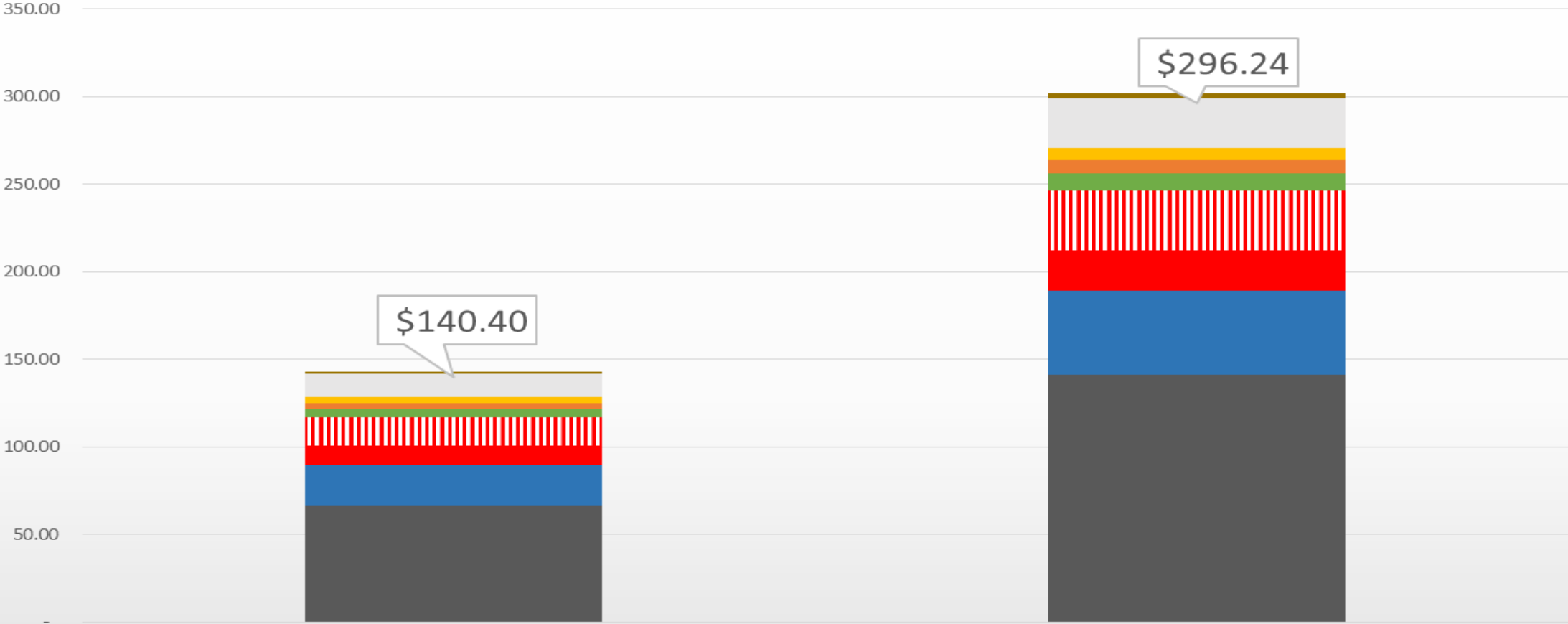
- Law and Justice/City Hall Space Needs
- Should the City include addiction prevention funding?
- Should the City include addiction treatment funding?
- Should the City include homelessness services funding?
- Should the City include mental health services funding?

# Annual Cost December 2019 Proposal

	\$100,000 Home	\$211,000 Home
Existing Imbalance	66.83	141.00
BUFSA Adjustment	(2.70)	(5.70)
Police	22.95	48.42
Fire	10.80	22.79
Fire Station 8	16.20	34.18
Legal	4.73	9.97
Code Enforcement	3.38	7.12
Court	3.38	7.12
Space Needs	13.50	28.49
Homelessness/Mental Health	<u>1.35</u>	<u>2.85</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 140.40</b>	<b>\$ 296.24</b>



# Annual Cost – December 2019 Proposal

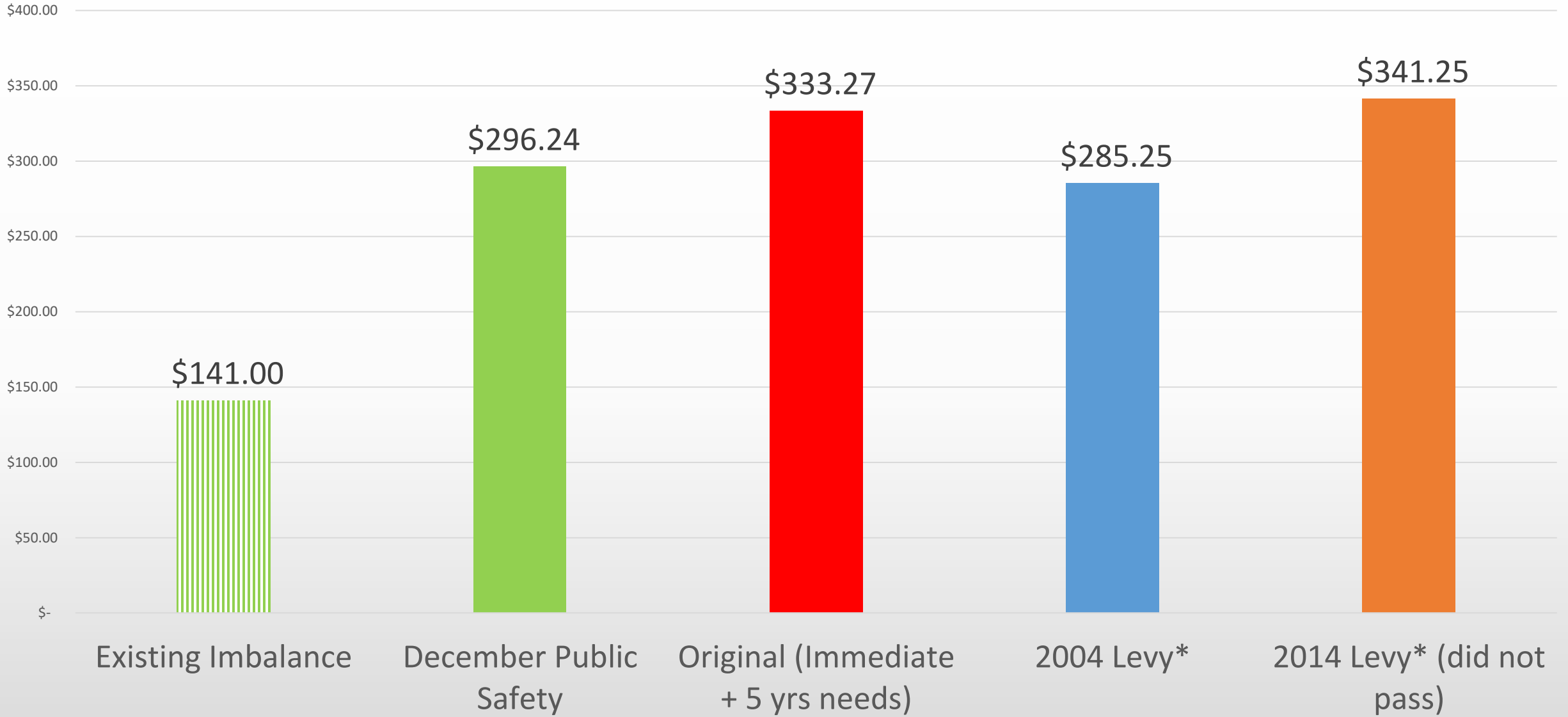


\$100,000 Home

\$211,000 Home

- Existing Imbalance
- Fire
- Code Enforcement
- Homelessness/Mental Health
- BUFSA Adjustment
- Fire Station 8
- Court
- Police
- Legal
- Space Needs
- Total

# \$211,000 Home



\* amount is based upon the amount in the ballot language, and is not adjusted for inflation

What is the Scope of the  
2020 Public Safety Levy?