



# New Smyrna Beach Fire - Rescue

Office Of The Fire Chief

Tim Hawver

To: John Hagood, City Manager

From: Tim Hawver, Fire Chief

Subject: Budget Reduction Request

Date: March 29, 2007

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Sir,

The following suggestions are in response to your request of March 23, 2007, ask for considerations in order to achieve a 14% reduction in the fire department budget should a state tax reform be implemented.

These areas of consideration, which are listed, in no specific order, may be stand-alone or combined in order to reach the requested goal depending on their final costs values. Also note this is a preliminary document and is designed for application only if budget shortfalls occur as a result of tax revenue it should be clearly understood that these are only conceptual models and could become very detailed. None of the ideas provided are without potential consequences for the public and employees.

Additionally, the fire department cannot be held responsible for insurance increases or ramifications that may occur as a result of down graded response times, staffing or equipment realignment.

**Sub contract fire/rescue services from county.**

Our sister cities, Port Orange and Edgewater already are providing fire rescue services for the county and being paid. There are many options the city has in order to be paid to provide fire and rescue services to county areas and bring in substantial revenues. With there being 2 county stations involved there is a great potential of off setting any funding cuts and will also subsidize department operational costs.

### **Fire Department is sole provider of ALS Service in our region.**

Firefighter paramedics would provide patient care through transportation to the emergency facility, thereby eliminating the need for paramedics on EVAC units. The fire department would be able to generate revenue to support their paramedic programs at no additional cost to their cities. Current duplication of service would be eliminated VIA replacing EVAC medics with an EMT and utilizing our medics and being refunded for their costs. EVAC would also reduce costs by not having to hire medics.

### **Utilize county dispatch eliminate RCC.**

Would have to give up control of our own dispatch system and rely on the county to dispatch our units. Police and fire would more than likely pay less but will lose some control of system.

### **Personal Leave Policy and Enforcement.**

A policy controlling the misuse of personal leave needs to be implemented for all departments in order to cut down on overtime costs. This action alone could save the city and fire department thousands of dollars yearly.

### **Working hours.**

Possibly reverting back to the 48-hour workweek from the current 56-hour workweek could provide a substantial savings to the city. This action would result in a loss of pay and benefits to all employees saving the city operating expenses. **I would note contract negotiations are now commencing between labor and management, which lends the opportunity to make cost saving changes that, will reach the goal of a 14% reduction in the fire department budget.**

### **Insurance Costs.**

City should pursue competitive bidding on insurance costs for all employees, which may be cost saving.

### **Eliminate all public outreach programs.**

Participation in the high school medical academy, DBCC ride program, CPR/First Aid Classes, elementary school Risk Watch Program, smoke detector program, and all special details can be eliminated saving overtime costs and wear and tear on equipment.

### **Change in emergency services provided.**

Downgrade Advanced Life Support medical service to Basic Life Support eliminating paramedic and medical costs.

Reduce number of units responding for calls in protected structures. (Fuel savings)

Re-evaluate number of units responding to various incidents and eliminate response time criteria. (Fuel savings)

Eliminate all functions excluding fire/EMS responses and training. (Fuel savings)

Regionalize all services where possible, EMS, Battalion, training, ETC.

\*Level of service will be greatly affected along with possible safety for firefighters.

**Sharing of personnel and staff to off set overtime and operational needs throughout the southeast region. Additional personnel can work at various departments**

**Implement firefighter reserve program. Could be utilized to augment staffing needs and special details.**

**Utilities Commission performs hydrant maintenance in place of the fire department saving administrative and fuel costs.**

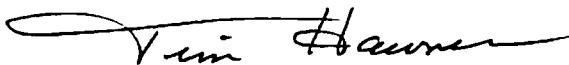
**Cost recovery ordinances.**

Charge a fee for False Alarms, vehicle accidents, and any action of negligence that results in PD or FD response.

With the main portion of the fire department budget being personnel costs one can see that there would be only a couple of recourses to take to cut expenses. To make money would require us to sub-contract fire/rescue from the county. To save money a major restructuring of personnel costs would have to be undertaken. To sub-contract and make money would allow us to maintain the present level of service, which I highly recommend. To cut personnel costs would reduce the current level of service, which I hope would not have to be the case.

In all reality the level of service that the city wishes to provide to our citizens must be decided and direction be given to the fire department. Implementation must be coordinated through a valid strategic planning process and should be expected to occur over a three to five year period.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Hawver, Fire Chief NSBFR