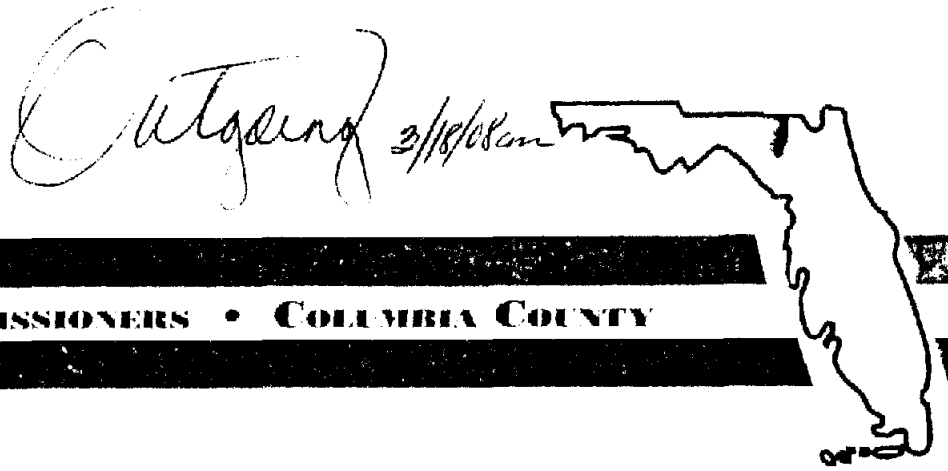


District No. 1 - Ronald Williams
District No. 2 - Dewey Weaver
District No. 3 - George Skinner
District No. 4 - Stephen E. Bailey
District No. 5 - Elizabeth Porter



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS • COLUMBIA COUNTY

March 17, 2008

Mr. Scott Reynolds
City Manager
CITY OF LAKE CITY
205 North Marion Avenue
Lake City, Florida 32055

RE: Your Letter of March 5, 2008 –
Fire Suppression Services –
Request for Additional Information

Scott:

A copy of the above referenced letter has been forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners. As we went through this exercise less than one year ago, I am certain that the Board of County Commissioners will want you to answer the following questions in order that they may have this information while considering the request of the City Council.

- 1.) Will the City of Lake City require that any and/or all of the current Lake City Fire Department personnel be retained and if so, must they be retained at current rank and salary?
- 2.) As a number of the City Fire Department is covered by a private pension plan and as the County Fire Department is covered by the Florida Retirement System, who will be responsible for future private pension plan contributions should the private pension plan become underfunded?
- 3.) Who will be responsible for unemployment payments should any of the current City Fire Department personnel become unemployed as a result of the county providing fire services within the City of Lake City?

BOARD MEETS FIRST THURSDAY AT 7:00 PM
AND THIRD THURSDAY AT 7:00 PM

- 4.) Will any and/or all of the current City Fire Department fire apparatus be available for transfer to the county? Will the apparatus be "donated" or will it be offered for purchase? Please provide a listing of the available equipment and its purchase price estimate if it is not to be donated.
- 5.) Will the current City Fire Department building be made available and if so, what is the annual cost?
- 6.) Is it the intent of the City Council to authorize the Board of County Commissioners to levy a non-advalorem assessment within the incorporated limits of the City of Lake? Is it the desire of the City Council for the county to administer non eligible costs (ie. indigents, not for profit, etc.) based on the same policy as the county utilizes for unincorporated area residents or does the City desire to adopt a separate policy for the incorporated area to be administered by the county?

What revenue source is the City proposing to cover non eligible costs? The county currently utilizes a non general fund revenue. Will the City indemnify the county for non eligible costs by a direct contribution or does the City want the county to fund all non eligible costs through the county general fund?

- 7.) As long as the non advalorem assessment rates remain the same for each property category, whether in the incorporated or unincorporated areas of the county, will the county be required to have City Council approval prior to assessment increases?
- 8.) Who does the City propose pay for the required "cost and allocation" study necessary to study this request? This is the study that Government Services Group (GSG) performed last year. I would estimate the cost to be between \$10,000 - \$12,000 dollars. This estimate excludes direct mail and postage expenses should the proposal proceed to Hearing.

Last year, both the City and County were utilizing the services of National Fire Services. You are correct that Skip Starling of NFS was contracted to develop a "plan and cost" for consolidating fire suppression services. A review of my file does not indicate I received anything directly from Skip regarding the "plan and cost". I did receive from GSG various cost scenarios. If memory serves me correctly, Skip worked directly with GSG and provided the information from

Scott Reynolds, City Manager
March 17, 2008
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which they developed the cost scenarios. By copy of this letter I will ask Tres Atkinson, County Fire Chief if he has any specific information related to the "plan" that was proposed (i.e. staffing, equipment, etc.). Please provide answers to the above questions at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Dale Williams
County Manager

DW/cnb

XC: Tres Atkinson, Fire Chief
Board of County Commissioners
File – Countywide Fire Service (2008)