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

November 15, 2007

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FR: Dale Williams, County Manager

RE: Attorney General Opinion – Fire Suppression/Emergency Medical Services

Please find attached the opinion requested by the county regarding the provision of tire and EMS services. The opinion received is not the "direct and to the point" opinion that one would hope for. In fact, the Attorney General did not sign the opinion. The opinion was signed by an assistant.

Marlin will advise as to his thoughts on the opinion. My thoughts are as follows:

1.) The opinion confirms that neither fire nor EMS are constitutionally or legislatively required.

2.) The opinion would tend to indicate that if the county were to exclude the City of Lake City from the service area when issuing itself a COPCN, the county would not be legally obligated to provide services within the city.

3.) Issues involving the funding of Sheriffs Department services (non-mandated) were not answered at all.

Please advise if your thoughts differ,

DW/cnb

The county manager neglects to address what happens if a county resident needs the EMS services when in the city, for which the county claims it is collecting taxes. *the editor*

XC: **Marling Feagle, County Attorney**
Rusty Noah, EMS Director
Ginger Delegal, Attorney, FAC
Attorney General Opinion File