



# Special Assessment for Fire Services

Legislative ID #090581C



## Special Assessment for Fire Services

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- Key Issues Raised by Commission
- Status of Alachua County
- Community Outreach
- GSG Report: New Methodology, Rate Scenarios & Project Schedule
- Questions & Discussion



## Fire Assessment Status

- Enabling Ordinance Approved June 2008
- Resolution of Intent Approved September 2009
- GSG Fire Assessment Study Using New Methodology



## Cities with Fire Assessments

Avon Park

Boynton Beach

Cocoa

Coconut Creek

Cooper City

Coral Gables

Coral Springs

Dania Beach

Davie

Deerfield Beach

Englewood Area Fire Control District

Fort Lauderdale

High Springs

Hillsboro Beach

Hollywood

Lake City

Lauderale by the Sea

Lauderhill

Margate

Miami

Miramar

Newberry

North Lauderdale

Oakland Park

Ocala

Ocoee

Parkland

Pembroke Pines

Pompano Beach

Sebring

Sunrise

Tallahassee

Tamarac

Village Center

West Palm Beach

Winter Garden

Winter Springs (ends in 09)



## Counties with Fire Assessments

Baker

Brevard

Broward

Columbia

DeSoto

Dixie

Escambia

Gilchrist

Hardee

Hendry

Hernando

Highlands

Jefferson

Lake

Leon

Levy

Madison

Marion

Okeechobee

Osceola

Palm Beach

Pinellas

Polk

Santa Rosa

Sarasota

Sumter

Suwannee

Union

Wakulla

Walton



## Status of Fire Services

- In 1975 there were 165 personnel serving 50,000 citizens in 26 sq. miles of city and 15,000 citizens in an extended suburban area around Gainesville
- Today there are 153 personnel serving over 125,000 citizens in 62.5 sq. miles of city and responding in a service territory which extends into suburban Alachua County



## *Impact to Public Protection Classification*

- Established through inspections of the Fire Department and water system by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) – due again in FY14
- Gainesville's ISO rating is a Class 3 / 9 on a Scale of 1 to 9 with 1 being the best – some undeveloped areas are rated 9
- A loss in our class rating could result in higher property insurance rates



## *Achieving Recommended National Standards*

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 has a travel time performance standard of 4 minutes 90% of the time
- While we do not consistently meet that standard, it is a performance goal we continue to work towards and which is used state-wide by the Florida Benchmarking Consortium





## *Fire-Rescue FY10 Adopted Budget*

- \$14,287,999 for Personnel and Operating
- Partially funded through property taxes
- Revenue: Airport Contract for Aircraft Fire Rescue Services, Fire Services Area Agreement with Alachua County, Fire Safety Inspection & False Fire Alarm Fees
- 155 personnel in FY08; 153 personnel in FY10
- Seven Fire Stations – Station 8 in development



## *Fire Rescue FY10 Adopted Budget*

• Operations and Airport	\$12,037,848 *
• Training	\$ 510,870
• Special Operations	\$ 202,375
• Administration	\$ 761,648
• Risk Reduction	\$ 662,967
• Information Management	\$ 112,291
• Total	\$14,287,999

\* Airport agreement revenue \$479,325



## *Fire-Rescue Projected FY11 Budget*

- City Departments were directed to submit 15% budget decrements for FY11
- GFR's FY11 decrement target is \$1,953,659\*
- Annexation impact to Fire Services Agreement – expected to shift from revenue to cost of approximately \$500,000 per budget year.
- A Risk Reduction Specialist was deleted in FY09 and a Staff Specialist was deleted in FY10; a second Staff Specialist position has been held vacant since FY08.

\* The personal services cost to put one firefighter in service in FY11 is \$57,380



## Key Issues Raised by Commission

- Variable Rates for Residential
- Credit for Fire Sprinkler Systems
- Non-profit Grant Program



## Status of Alachua County

- GSG completed fire assessment study using new methodology
- County Commission approved enabling ordinance and Initial Assessment Resolution
- Notices being mailed to property owners
- Final Assessment Resolution scheduled for June 22



## Community Outreach

- May 11 Meeting with Apartment Owners
- May 11 Meeting with Chamber of Commerce
- May 21 & 27 Meetings with Places of Religious Assembly
- June 29 Staff Informational meeting
- Web Site
- Hotline



# GSG Report: New Methodology, Rate Scenarios & Project Schedule