

**ALACHUA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

AGENDA SECTION:	Presentation	ITEM #:
MEETING DATE: November 10, 2015	DATE COMPLETED: October 29, 2015	TIME CERTAIN:
ITEM DESCRIPTION:	Update on the development of a transition plan for Fire Rescue Services in the SW 20 th Avenue Area and Forest Park	
REQUESTED BY: William Northcutt 352-384-3130	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Fire Rescue	PREPARED BY: Cheryl Anderson-Ellis PREPARERS PHONE #: 384-3122
DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRING ACTION:	none	AMOUNT: n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

During the Joint City and County Commission meeting on August 10, 2015, County staff was directed to work with City Staff to review the 2014 staff recommendations for the transition of fire rescue service delivery in the Station 19 area to the City of Gainesville and transfer of ownership of Forest Park from the County to the City. Staff developed a framework of issues that will become an amendment to the Fire Services Assistance Agreement (FSAA). The proposal would provide a suspension of FSAA payments beginning October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2017. Fire Rescue responsibility for the SW 20th Ave service area would become a City responsibility on October 1, 2017. If Engine 19 is not relocated from the current location it will become a non-compensable unit under the FSAA until it is relocated. Also effective October 1, 2017, ownership and responsibility for the operation of Forest Park will be transferred from the County to the City.

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, the City annexed property in the SW 20th Avenue corridor that included Alachua County Fire Station 19 and Forest Park. The City of Gainesville desires to be the primary provider of fire rescue and park services in the City and seeks the transition of these responsibilities from the County to the City. Based on direction from the City and County Commission at the Joint meeting on August 10, 2015, City and County staff have developed the provisions to incorporate into an amendment to the Fire Services Assistance Agreement (FSAA). The transition plan includes the following:

Suspension of Payments: A transition period will temporarily suspend "*Section 5 Methods of Payment*" of the FSAA to make the FSAA a non-compensatory agreement beginning October 1, 2015 for all units in service as of that date. County Engine 19 and City Squad 2 will operate by dispatch recommendation, whether inside or outside the City. The FSAA will automatically revert to a compensatory agreement on October 1, 2017.

Fire Rescue Transition: Effective October 1, 2017, the City and County agree to transfer fire rescue responsibility in the SW 20th Avenue service area to the City, and as such, the GFR assigned unit will be recognized in the FSAA as compensable. On that same date, the County will relocate Engine 19 and its crew. If Engine 19 is not relocated on October 1, 2017, it will continue to provide services but no longer be recognized as a compensable unit in the FSAA. Once relocated, Engine 19 will be recognized as a compensable unit consistent with the FSAA.

Fire Station 19 Co-location: The County will retain ownership of Fire Station 19 and agrees to explore the co-location of GFR units.

Forest Park Transition: Effective October 1, 2017, ownership and responsibility for the operation of Forest Park at 4501 SW 20th Avenue will be transferred from the County to the City.

ISSUES:

In 2014, the City of Gainesville received grant funding for additional staffing. The City began operation of Squad 2 located in the SW 20th Avenue service area. This significant impact to the responses used to determine the FSAA revenue and expense. In FY15 the County cost for FSAA City responses is estimated at \$150K (unaudited). It is unknown where Engine 19 will be located. It is also unknown where new City of Gainesville resources will be located. Due to this, it is unknown what the fiscal impact will be in October 2017 when the FSAA responses revert to compensable.

ACTION

Recommendation: Hear the presentation and direct staff to negotiate an amendment to the FSAA or a new interlocal agreement with the City of Gainesville based on the transition plan

Alternative #1: Do not authorize staff to negotiate and direct staff.

FISCAL IMPACT

Recommendation: FY15/2016 and FY16/2017 \$150,000 estimated County savings in the MSTU-Fire Fund; FY17/2018 estimated cost is unknown.



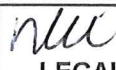
Alternative #1: n/a

Funding Sources: n/a

Account Code: n/a

ATTACHMENTS: Joint City of Gainesville/Alachua County Staff Proposal for Transition of Fire Rescue and Park Services in the SW20th Avenue Service Area

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIAL: none

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR 	OMB & CONTRACTS 	 AGENDA OFFICE	 LEGAL	COUNTY MANAGER
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COMMISSION ACTION
APPROVED _____ **DENIED** _____

Additional Action: _____

Joint City of Gainesville/Alachua County Staff Proposal for the
Transition of Fire Rescue and Park Services in the SW 20th Avenue Service Area

The City Of Gainesville is responsible for the provision of fire rescue and park services within the City's corporate limits and Alachua County is responsible for the provision of fire rescue and park services in the unincorporated area of the county.

In 2009, the City annexed property in the SW 20th Avenue corridor that included Alachua County Fire Station 19 and Forest Park. Most services transitioned to the City soon after annexation; however, Alachua County has continued to be the primary provider of fire rescue services and the owner of Forest Park.

The City desires to be the primary provider of fire rescue and park services in the City and seeks to transition these responsibilities from the County to the City. Based on direction from the City Commission and County Commission, staff was directed to review and update the June 12, 2014 joint staff proposal for the transition of fire rescue services and the transfer of Forest Park from the County to the City.

City and County staff recommend the following provisions be included as amendments to the Fire Services Assistance Agreement (FSAA). If necessary, some of the provisions can be incorporated into a new and separate Interlocal Agreement.

Suspension of Payments: A transition period will temporarily suspend "*Section 5 Methods of Payment*" of the FSAA to make the FSAA a non-compensatory agreement beginning October 1, 2015 for all units in service as of that date. County Engine 19 and City Squad 2 will operate by dispatch recommendation, whether inside or outside the City. The FSAA will automatically revert to a compensatory agreement on October 1, 2017.

Fire Rescue Transition: Effective October 1, 2017, the City and County agree to transfer fire rescue responsibility in the SW 20th Avenue service area to the City, and as such, the GFR assigned unit will be recognized in the FSAA as compensable. On that same date, the County will relocate Engine 19 and its crew. If Engine 19 is not relocated on October 1, 2017, it will continue to provide services but no longer be recognized as a compensable unit in the FSAA. Once relocated, Engine 19 will be recognized as a compensable unit consistent with the FSAA.

Fire Station 19 Co-location: The County will retain ownership of Fire Station 19 and agrees to explore the co-location of GFR units.

Forest Park Transition: Effective October 1, 2017, ownership and responsibility for the operation of Forest Park at 4501 SW 20th Avenue will be transferred from the County to the City.

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
AND
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into this ____ day of _____, 2015 between the City of Gainesville, a municipal corporation (CITY) and Alachua County, Florida, a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida (COUNTY).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, The City Of Gainesville is responsible for the provision of fire rescue and park services within the City's corporate limits and Alachua County is responsible for the provision of fire rescue and park services in the unincorporated area of the county; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the City annexed property in the SW 20th Avenue corridor that included Alachua County Fire Station 19 and Forest Park. Most services transitioned to the City soon after annexation; however, Alachua County Fire Rescue (ACFR) has continued to be the primary provider of fire rescue services and Alachua County has continued to own Forest Park; and

WHEREAS, Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) desires to be the primary provider of fire rescue services and the City desires to own Forrest Park; and

WHEREAS, the City and County agree to transition fire rescue services and Forest Park ownership to the City;

WHEREAS, the City and County agree that to accomplish this goal, the Fire Services Assistance Agreement (FSAA) is amended to allow transition of Alachua County Fire Station 19 to the City;

NOW THEREFORE, The parties agree as follows:

1. **Suspension of Payments under the FSAA:** "Section 5 Methods of Payment" of the FSAA will be temporarily suspended to make the FSAA a non-compensatory agreement from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2017 for all fire rescue units in service as of that date as currently set forth in the FSAA, along with the new GFR Squad 2, which will be added to the FSAA list of units in service. County Engine 19 and GFR Squad 2 will operate by dispatch recommendation, whether inside or outside the City. Commencing on October 1, 2017, the provisions of Section 5 will again be operative returning to a compensatory agreement, with the exception that GFR will be responsible for providing services to the SW 20th Avenue service area.

2. **Fire Rescue Transition:** Effective October 1, 2017, fire rescue responsibility for the SW 20th Avenue service area will be assigned to the City, and as such, the GFR assigned unit will be recognized in the FSAA as compensable. On that same date, the County will relocate Engine 19 and its crew. If Engine 19 is not relocated on October 1, 2017, it will continue to provide services but will no longer be recognized as a compensable unit in the FSAA. Once relocated, Engine 19 will be recognized as a compensable unit consistent with the FSAA.

3. **Fire Station 19 Co-location:** The County will retain ownership of Alachua County Fire Station 19 and agrees to explore the co-location of GFR units at Alachua County Fire Station 19.

4. **Forest Park Transition:** On October 1, 2017, ownership and responsibility for the operation of Forest Park at 4501 SW 20th Avenue will be transferred, free from all encumbrances, from the County to the City as evidenced by recording of a special warranty deed from the County to the City.

5. Except as amended herein, the FSAA remains in full force and effect.

6. The County shall record this Agreement in the Public Records of Alachua County, upon which the Agreement shall be deemed effective pursuant to Section 163.01(11), Florida Statutes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by the proper officers and officials.

CITY OF GAINESVILLE

BY: _____
Ed Braddy Date
Mayor

ATTEST

Kurt Lannon, Clerk
(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

BY: _____
Nicolle Shalley Date
Gainesville City Attorney

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____ Date

ATTEST

J.K. "Buddy" Irby, Clerk
(SEAL)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY**

BY: _____ Date
County Attorney

DRAFT