

## **Proposed Fire Services Fees for the University of Florida May 27, 2008**

### **Background**

The City of Gainesville (City) has provided fire services to the University of Florida (UF) for many years without compensation, although there is no requirement that the City provide this service. The City and UF acknowledge that the City provides fire services to protect UF property and the students, employees and guests who visit UF's many facilities in the City. In recognition of this valuable service, the City and UF seek to develop an agreement that provides for payments, in the form of fire services fees, from UF and if feasible directly from entities located on UF property.

### **Fire Services Assessment Report**

The City arranged for a study that resulted in a Fire Services Assessment Report from Government Services Group. The study provides the methodology for a special assessment on property in the City for fire services. The study identified calls for service based on property types including residential, commercial, industrial/warehouse and institutional. The study then linked this call data with Gainesville Fire Rescue budget data to develop Fire Service Assessment Rates. The study was able to identify the costs to the City (not including emergency medical services) of providing fire services to UF property which totals \$2,911,255.

### **Proposed UF Fire Fees**

The City and UF are both dealing with serious fiscal challenges. Therefore, the City seeks to reach agreement with UF on a phased implementation of fire fees to cover the cost of fire services provided to UF's main campus. The number shown above includes all UF property in the City. Staff is working with GSG to review the data so the cost of fire services provided solely to UF's main campus can be identified. The City proposes a phased implementation over four years as shown below.

- **FY 09 - 25% of the City's cost of providing fire services to UF's main campus**

No payment is required. The City will provide a credit in the amount of \$800,000 for Campus Development Agreement funds provided by UF for a new fire engine. Any remaining credit balance from FY 09 will be applied to FY 10 fire fees.

- **FY 10 - 50% of the City's cost of providing fire services to UF's main campus**
- **FY 11 - 75% of the City's cost of providing fire services to UF's main campus**
- **FY 12 - 100% of the City's cost of providing fire services to UF's main campus**