



Mike Ahrens, City Manager
City of Mount Pleasant
Mailing Address: 501 N. Madison
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455-3650
Telephone: 903-575-4000
Fax: 903-577-1411
e-mail: mahrens@mpcity.org
Web Page: www.mpcity.net

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Honorable Brian Lee
Titus County Judge
100 W First Street, Suite 200
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455

Judge Lee,

In the interest of starting a dialogue between the City of Mount Pleasant and Titus County in regard to rural fire response, the City of Mount Pleasant offers the following proposal. I understand this will take extensive negotiations, however I believe that putting a proposal on the table can be the impetus for a meaningful discussion.

It is the position of the City that the manpower issue as has been presented in numerous discussions over the past year, and as presented in the recent consultant study, is ultimately the responsibility of Titus County. It is the City's desire to continue to assist with fire and rescue response to areas outside of the city limits, however our ability to continue to offer the level of response without adequate compensation continues to diminish. With the declining number of adequately trained volunteers, the ability to respond to and properly fight fires – especially structure fires – will continue to be effected. As the workload of our fire department continues to increase, without additional personnel the City may be forced at some point, or in some situations, to abide strictly by the terms of the current contract in our response abilities which specifies a response of two firefighters on two trucks. This level of response in essence means we have two drivers delivering equipment to the scene of a fire, as two firefighters are able to undertake only minimal firefighting activities.

While the following proposal specifies numbers of firefighters and budget years of implementation, I believe these areas are subject to negotiation and budget considerations.

PROPOSAL

- In today's dollars, each basic firefighter position costs approximately \$60,000 in salary and benefits.
- The City intends to assume all "soft" costs of any newly funded positions including uniforms, training, liability insurance, overtime, administrative overhead, etc.

- At the point that additional funding from Titus County allows for the hiring of 9 – 12 additional firefighters, the City of Mount Pleasant will build a third fire station in the southwest area of the City at the City's cost.
- Upon the building of a new fire station, the City of Mount Pleasant and Titus County will equally share the cost of a new pumper truck and two new brush trucks for that third station.
- As additional firefighters are added, the City of Mount Pleasant will agree to changes in the contract to ensure a larger minimum response from the City to each fire call – based on the type of call.

Year 1 (2016-2017)

Change terms of contract to allow for the hiring of 6 additional firefighters at Titus County's cost.

City will agree to send a minimum of 4 firefighters on 2 trucks when needed, i.e. structure fires.

In addition, the City will send a minimum of one truck with two firefighters immediately upon receipt of any call (current agreement has a delay in Mount Pleasant's response to see if a volunteer department responds).

Year 3 (2018-2019)

Change terms of contract for Titus County to fund an additional 3 firefighters.

City will begin planning/ design phase for 3rd fire station.

Year 5 (2020-2021)

Change terms of contract for Titus County to fund an additional 3 firefighters.

City will fund and build a new fire station.

City and County will each fund 50% of a new pumper truck and two new brush trucks.

City will agree to send a minimum of 6 firefighters (when needed, i.e. structure fires).

I look forward to working with you and the Commissioners Court as we work to ensure the continued safety of our community.

Sincerely,



Mike Ahrens, City Manager