

We are here tonight to gather together the decision makers and information providers that will enable us to make a decision on what is best for the County related to fire protection. Let's make every effort to provide accurate objective concise information.

For the past year or two, we have discussed the fact that our Volunteer departments have struggled with numbers.

The problem to be solved is to determine how much City assistance the County needs, and then hopefully reach an agreement with the city as to how much that assistance will cost the county.

Chief McRae has for years always supplied more support than the minimum 2men/2trucks as specified by the contract between the city and county. We currently pay \$490,000 annually for city support.

As most of you know, Chief McRae has made the decision to leave more manpower at the City stations which reduces available support to the County. This has not been done as a bargaining tool, but it is simply a matter of taking care of the city within the Fire Department budget. The city limits have increased, the number of rooftops has increased and the commercial properties have increased. The city can meet its own fire protection needs with its current two stations and current manpower and equipment. Chief McRae has stretched his resources to provide excellent county support. However, with County responsibilities, Chief McRae must also staff for County needs while still adequately meeting city needs.

POSSIBLE OPTIONS...

1. Leave the contract alone at \$490k per year. Accept the fact that the city will provide fewer resources to the county, possibly 2men/2trucks
2. Fund the full \$720k additional over the next 5 years to supply additional staff to enable the city to continue to provide up to 6 firefighters on county calls
3. Find a point in between that affords the county with the level of support that we think we can live with
4. Pay per call?
5. Annually renegotiated or 10 year contract
6. 3rd fire station necessary?
7. Form a county fire department or ESD and break away from the city
8. Hire fulltime firefighters for VFD's

I firmly believe that maintaining a cooperative effort between the city and county is the most economical due to our small county size and due to the fact that in order to adequately cover both city and county at any given time will require more manpower as separate city/county departments that would be needed with a cooperative effort.