

I would like to explain how the proposal for this contract came about. On Tuesday, October 10 the City Manager along with the City Council held a workshop with any interested Titus county taxpayers. The Commissioners Court was invited also. I attended this meeting. No more than two members of the Commissioner's Court could have attended because the meeting was not posted 72 hours in advance. Much misleading information was cleared up during discussions between the Council and citizens. I learned that the Council would not be approving the proposal sent to them by the County Judge on Friday, October 6, but they were interested in negotiating down on the Contract now in place and being disputed.

The next morning, after the workshop, Commissioner Parchman contacted County Attorney, John Mark Cobern and set up a meeting on Thursday, October 12 to help us with the legal aspects of writing a proposal. I had come up with some figures that I felt were reasonable to present to the Council after attending the Workshop and had jotted those down...these were: A ten year contract with the County to pay \$1.1 million to the City for fire protection for two years beginning October 1, 2024 (which is when the 2022...the contract we are under now--ends) and beginning in year #3 an increase of half of the Consumer Price Index for our area for years 3 through 10. I presented those to John Mark, he agreed with my proposal and helped me and Commissioner Parchman put those figures into a legal proposal, which we submitted by email to County Judge Cooper, Commissioners Applewhite and Mitchell as well as Ed Thatcher, City Manager; just after noon on Thursday October 12.

The City Council met on Tuesday, October 16. After much discussion and several minor tweaks recommended by their lawyer, The Council unanimously approved the proposal, with their changes, to be sent back to Commissioners Court for our consideration.

I will now read the Proposal for the new contract with the minor changes made by City Council.