

PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Chairman and
Members of the Board of
County Commissioners

DATE: 12/4/08

FILE: PS09-006

SUBJECT: Request to Authorize Amending
Allocation of Costs – Fire and
Emergency Medical Services
Facilities Master Plan – February 7, 2003

FROM: Daniel R. Johnson
Assistant County Administrator
(Public Services)

REFERENCE: All Commission Districts

It is recommended that the data herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

On January 13, 2004 the Board of County Commissioners approved Section 78-304(b) of The Fire Combat and Rescue Fee Ordinance (Ordinance 04-02 which has been codified in Article 78, Division 6 of the Code of Ordinances) which allows for expenditures of Fire Combat and Rescue Impact Fee revenue to provide fire combat or rescue service land and fire combat and rescue service facilities and equipment which are necessitated by new building construction. The adoption of this ordinance also included approval and adoption of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Facilities Master Plan dated February 7, 2003.

Table 2, page 107 of the Master Plan, summarized the Capital Improvement Plan and allocated the cost as “replacement” or “expansion” of facilities for specific years within the 10-year plan. “Replacement” identified existing capital deficiencies while “Expansion” identified additional facilities due to growth.

As we have always been extremely conservative in the expenditure of funds, and especially those funds with legal or contractual restrictions, such as federal or state grants, impact fees, etc., we identified some new stations that needed to be relocated to better serve areas due to shifting growth patterns as “replacements.” Therefore, the costs of those relocated stations (design, permitting, construction, furniture, fixtures and building equipment) were not included in the growth portion of the capital plan that was the basis for establishing the impact fees. This allocation assumed that relocated stations would not be funded from impact fees. A specific example is the Trinity/Odessa area along S.R. 54 old (existing) station 15 served the Odessa area since the 1970s and then began serving portions of the Trinity area in the 1990s.

With the growth all along S.R. 54, and in the Trinity/Odessa area specifically, we are constructing a new (additional) station 37 at Concord Station and we are also relocating and building a new station 15 on Trinity Blvd. just south of S.R. 54. These two new stations will serve the area previously served by the old station 15. The benefit of this new station 37 and a relocated station 15 will better respond to the increased emergency calls due to growth from new residential and commercial facilities in the area.

As constitutional Amendment 1, that was approved earlier this year, will provide additional challenges in funding sufficient enhancements to public safety and other public service functions, we find ourselves in need of adjusting our various funding formulas to meet these challenges.

Had it not been for the significant growth that has taken place along the S.R. 54 corridor, there would not have been the need to relocate station 15. Consequently, we are requesting authorization to amend the funding allocation as identified in the master plan to allow impact fees to be used for the relocation of these stations.

As our ability to fund the operational cost of other additional fire stations from property taxes in the near future are questionable due to the effects from Amendment 1, we do not foresee being able to move forward with the construction of proposed fire station 40 (Bayonet Point) that would have been charged to impact fees within the time period anticipated by the master plan. Therefore, we will not be exceeding the total amounts allocated for “expansion” within the master plan which will allow for the reallocation of costs for station 15 from impact fees.

ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS:

1. Approve the amendment of the allocation of anticipated “Building” costs reflected from the “Replacement” column to the “Expansion” column and delete costs associated with “Expansion” for station 40 on page 107 of the master plan as identified above which will allow a portion of the costs for the relocation of station 15 to be paid from impact fees.
2. Disapprove amendment of the allocation of anticipated costs which will require the use of property taxes from the General Fund and the Municipal Fire Service Fund to pay for the relocation of station 15.

RECOMMENDATION AND FUNDING:

Staff recommends that the Board approve Alternative 1. Staff would further recommend that impact fees pay for up to 50% of the net remaining balance of the cost of these stations after deducting the cost of the Sheriff’s substation at station 15.

Depending on the final total costs, up to 50% of the next remaining costs or approximately \$334,121 would be charged to the Fire Combat Facilities Impact Fee (B180) instead of the Fire MSTU (B119) and approximately \$335,020 would be charged to the Rescue Facilities Impact Fee (B184) instead of the Half Cent Sales Tax Bond Fund (B331).

No additional funding is required for this action.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Revised Table 2 - Fire and Emergency Medical Services Facilities Master Plan dated February 7, 2003

cc: Michael Nurrenbrock, OMB Director
Frank James, Facilities Management Director
Anthony F. Lopinto, Emergency Services Director
David Goldstein, Senior Assistant County Attorney

DRJ/cw