

Canton, Georgia

*151 Elizabeth Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Final

Thursday, May 3, 2012

1:00 PM

City Hall

Fire Services Committee

Meeting Called to Order

Item

Discussion and Determination of the City's Fire Services Needs and Consideration of Possible Resources

Beginning premise/perception: The City's fire services are currently inadequate

Facts:

1 mill = \$700,000. = \$40.00 per \$100,000. of house value; current rate 6.8 mills

The City now receives 6.8 mills (\$4,760,000), fire services gets 2.8 mills (\$1,960,000).

The City's current ISO rating is 4, per the ISO consultant's report, our rating could drop to 5 w/ 58.45 pts.

The city has two stations with three firefighters for each of three shifts a day = 18 firefighters, it is recommended that we have 4 firefighters per shift.

The City provides \$1,403,000. (2 mills) to pay firefighters, with 18 firefighters, that's about \$78,000 per year per firefighter.

Cherokee County has a 5/9 ISO rating, 5 in the cities it protects and 9 in the northern part of the county.

Determined objectives with the understanding to provide best services with available resources:

- 1) Maintain the City's ISO rating of 4*
- 2) Increase services level at a minimum or tolerable cost*
- 3) Improve response times*
- 4) Increase personnel safety*

Options:

- 1) Per ISO there are three ways to resolve or improve*
 - a. Do annual pump test = 2.52 pts.*
 - b. Load test all ladder trucks = 1.26 pts. (\$800.00 for 2 trucks)*
 - c. Use secondary dispatch (pagers) = .33 pts.*

4.11 pts which would raise

City to 62.5 pts.

- 2) Hire more firefighters to total 4 per shift for a total of at least 24 for our current 2 stations*
 - a. Each new firefighter would cost \$55,000. for the first year to equip, train and pay (salaries lower, benefits the same)*
 - b. 6 X \$55,000. = 17% increase at a cost of \$330,000 or ½ mill*
 - c. City would receive .92 points for each additional firefighters*

d. *The City can to hire 2 firefighters right away due to budget amendment*

3) *Build 1 new fire station*

4) *Build 2 more fire stations*

5) *Build 3 more fire stations: Points for stations = 1st station - 3.83, 2nd station -3.42, 3rd station - 3.34 = 10.59 pts.*

a) *To staff 3 new fire stations:*

27 ff = 1,485,000. = 2.1 mills

Equip and train = 270,000. = .4 mills

1,755,000. = 2.5 mills

b) *Cost for 3 additional stations: (figures rounded off)*

Cost of facility= 4,000,000. = 3.1 mills for stations, 2.5 mills

for firefighters

Cost to equip = 700,000. = 1 mill

\$4,700,000. 6.7 mills

rounded off/up to \$5,000,000. 7 mills (this would put us close to a 2 ISO rating)

For 3 new stations the City would need another 3.2 mills = a 40% tax increase.

6) *Merger with Cherokee County for which the County would be requested to :*

a) *Provide 2 new fire stations within city limits: 1 to the north near Waleska, 1 to the east near Canton Market Place*

b) *Provide 2 more ambulances*

c) *Take over current fire services facilities*

d) *Return real property to the City if the downtown Canton station is closed*

e) *Absorb Canton fire department personnel*

f) *Provide for the services provided through a separate tax via a "fire district tax"*

Cherokee County officials joined the meeting at 3:00

County Commission Chairman Buzz Ahrens

County Manager Jerry Cooper

Fire Chief Tim Prather

The County had no problem with any of the above stipulations, however, it was unable to give specifics such as exactly where new fire stations may go.

The County stated that it would want to name a fire station after Ferguson and would probably not keep downtown station open.

The County's objective would be to build and staff 3 stations on a 6 year plan.

Estimated cost is 1.2 to 1.5 million for each station building.

City Manager Jerry Cooper already has a draft agreement drawn up that he will

review with the commissioners and Mayor, then forward to the City.

Adjourn