A dramatic night scene showing three firefighters in silhouette working to extinguish a large fire. The firefighters are wearing full protective gear, including helmets and oxygen tanks. They are holding hoses that snake across the ground towards the burning structure. The fire is intense, with bright orange flames and thick black smoke billowing into the dark sky. Sparks are visible falling from the fire. The scene is backlit by the fire, creating a high-contrast silhouette effect for the firefighters. The overall atmosphere is one of urgency and bravery.

Smiths Station Fire & Rescue

Planning for Fire & EMS in the future

Welcome & Introductions

- Daniel Sexton, Deputy Chief (Admin) and PIO
- Joe Walden, Chief
- Dwight Christopher, Deputy Chief (Operations)
- Clint Knox, Asst. Chief
- Board Members
- Elected Officials

Before we start...

- This presentation and meeting (including Q&A) is being broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube. It will also be available for replay shortly after the meeting ends.
- Please hold all questions to the Q&A section at the end
- Please be mindful and respectful of your neighbors and their opinions



1 Department Overview

2 Current Funding: Fire Fee

3 Problems with Fire Fee

4 Ambulance Information

5 How do we compare?

6 Why does SSFR need additional Funds?

7 Solutions

8 Q & A Session (30 mins)

Department Overview

What is the Smiths Station Fire Protection District?

The Smiths Station Fire Protection District was officially established on February 17, 2022

How was the Smiths Station Fire Protection District established?

In accordance with Alabama Law, an application was filed with the City of Smiths Station, Lee County Commission each of these entities added the application to their agenda and discussed the application and need in a regularly scheduled open Council/Commission meeting. Following this discussion each entity then passed a resolution supporting the establishment of the Fire Protection District. Those resolutions and the original application were then filed with and approved by and Alabama Secretary of State thereby legally establishing the fire protection district.

What happened the entity “Smiths Station Fire & Rescue”?

Smiths Station Fire & Rescue was officially merged into the Smiths Station Fire Protection District on April 1, 2022. While our “legal” name is Smiths Station Fire Protection District, we continue to operate on a day to day basis as Smiths Station Fire & Rescue.

What Section of Alabama Law Establishes Fire Protection Districts?

Code of Alabama, 1975, Title 11, Chapter 89

Department Overview

- Coverage Area of approx. 72 sq. miles
- Provides Fire & EMS coverage to approx. 35,000 people
- Dispatched to over 2,900 emergency 911 calls per year
- Transports approx. 800 patients to hospitals each year (operations suspended until 2023)
- (6) Stations
- (1) 24/7 ALS Ambulance (operations suspended until 2023)
- (1) 2,500 gallon Tanker/Engine
- (1) Ladder Truck
- (5) 1,000 gallon Engines (1 out of service, beyond repair)
- (4) quick response EMS SUV's
- (2) Brush Trucks
- (1) Brush/Rescue Truck
- (2) Full Sets of extrication tools (JAWS)
- (2) Battery powered combi-tool extrication tools (JAWS)

Current Funding: Fire Fee



Current Funding: Fire Fee

- Original fire fee of 25\$ per year was approved in 1989 and was set to expire in 2013
- Current fire fee of 50\$ per year was approved in 2012 and will expire in 2036

\$3.1M in Major Purchases since 2012

- Purchased 2 new Engines: \$796,000 (2013)
- Purchased Ladder Truck: \$640,000 (2013)
- Purchased new Tanker: \$436,000 (2015)
- Purchased Brush/Rescue Truck: \$130,000 (2012)
- Purchased 40 New Scott Air packs: \$120,000 (2012)
- Purchased Breathing Air System: \$50,000
- Extrication Tools (JAWS): \$105,000
- Purchased 2 brush Trucks: \$89,000 (used)
- Purchased 3 Medical Response SUV's: \$80,000
- Purchased land & built Station 6: \$126,000
- Purchased Ambulance (vehicle): \$247,000
- Purchased 2 CPR Machines: \$20,000
- Purchased Turn Out Gear: \$99,000
- Purchased new 10 AEDs: \$25,000
- Rebuilt Station 3 & 4: \$80,000
- Ambulance Startup Cost (exclude vehicle): \$75,000
- Computerization: \$25,000

High % of fixed expenses

Fire Fee Income:	\$ 565,000.00	
Fire Truck & Ambulance Payments:	\$ 267,103.00	47%
Insurance:	\$ 83,000.00	15%
Vehicle Repairs:	\$ 24,000.00	4%
Gas & Oil:	\$ 37,500.00	7%
Medical Supplies:	\$ 28,850.00	5%
Computer Software:	\$ 3,200.00	1%
Station Utilities:	\$ 26,500.00	5%
Required Annual Equipment Testing:	\$ 14,800.00	3%
Professional Fees (accounting, etc)	\$ 6,100.00	1%
	\$ 491,053.00	87%

Problems with the Fire Fee



Problems with the Fire Fee

- Neither the 1989 or 2012 ballots contained a provision for a steady increase.
 - While the cost of everything rises each year our income does not.
- Another vote would be required for an increase.
 - Cost of 2012 special election about \$40k
- A 2006 bill that contained a graduated increase provision failed
 - We suspect this may have been due to confusing wording required by DOJ
 - The max on this bill was 75\$ per year, which is still woefully underfunded

Problems with the Fire Fee

Current Fire Fee passed in 2012 expires in 2036

- Therefore, it is not permanent funding.
- Another vote will be required to renew this fee, even at current level.
- We would need to start campaigning and possibly having votes years in advance to make sure we didn't have a gap in funding (it was 6 years (2006 – 2012) between the first and last vote to get the 2012 increase approved)

Problems with the Fire Fee

Current Income level is insufficient for:

- Restarting Ambulance Service
- Hiring of any paid firefighters
- Expanding services/training beyond the level we have today.

It is unlikely we will be able to continue current level services to 2036

- As costs continue to rise and funding level stays the same, we would likely need to begin further reducing services in the next few years

Problems with the Fire Fee

Current fire fee makes no provision for Residential vs Commercial rates

- Large businesses with millions of dollars in yearly income pay the same 50\$ yearly fee as elderly person on fixed income

Current Fire Fee makes no provision for multiple dwellings units vs single family residence

- A 24-unit apartment building at with hundreds of thousands in monthly income pays the same 50\$ yearly fee as person living in single wide mobile home

Problems with the Fire Fee

Multiple Dwelling Unit example:

Example Apartment Complex:

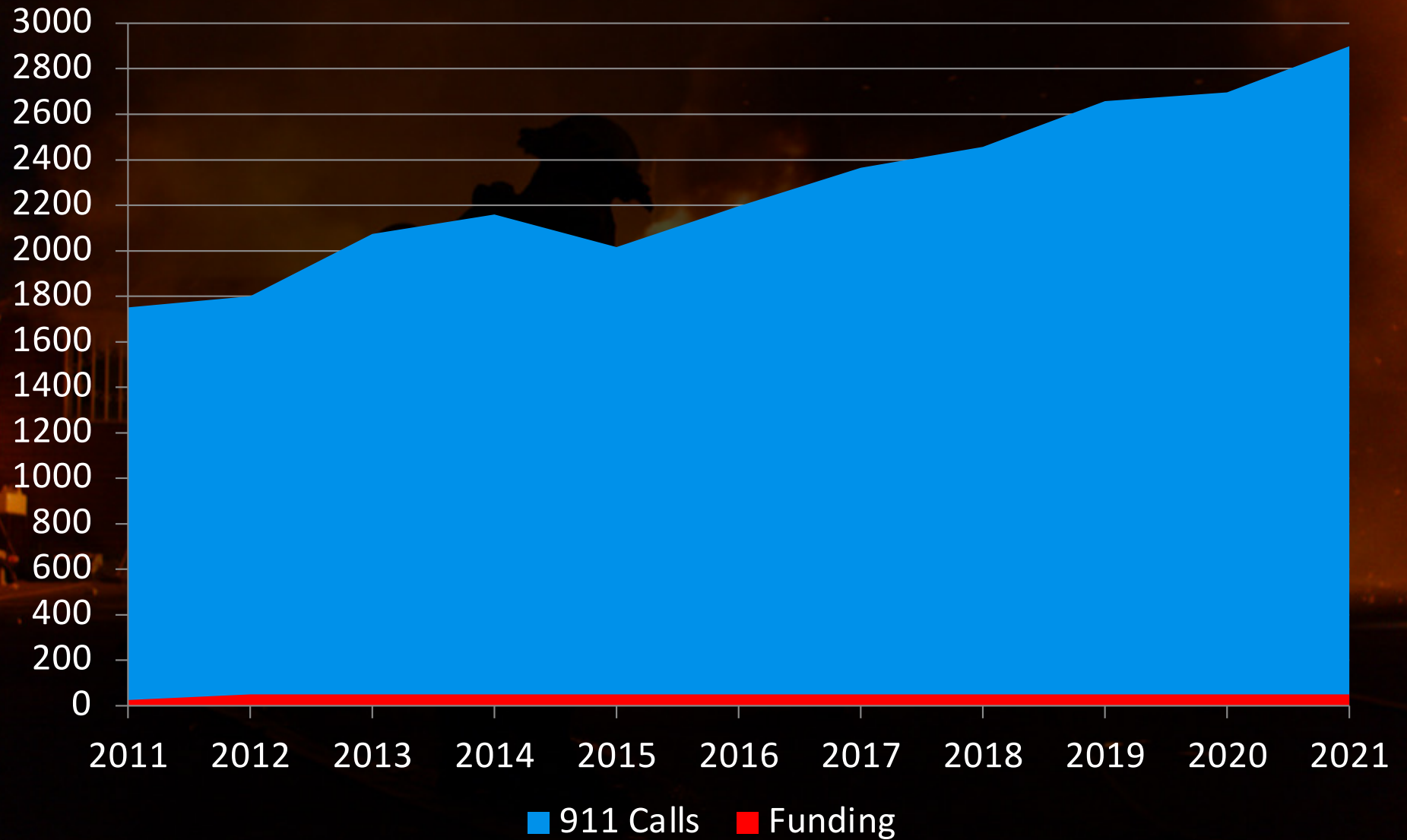
270 living units / 21 buildings

Avg Rent: \$1,326 / Monthly Rev: \$358,020

Currently Pays: 50\$ for each building = **\$1,050 per YEAR**

- If this apartment complex paid 50\$ per living unit like a single-family homeowner does their fee would be \$13,500 per year
- Because this complex has more than 7 – 3 story buildings, ISO required us to by a ladder truck at a cost: \$640,000; The annual certification of the ladder truck cost approx. \$3,200
- Based on current fee's paid by this Apartment Complex we will recoup our initial purchase cost in the year 2623 (610 years) It is very likely this truck will need to be replaced several times before its cost is recouped.

Problems with the Fire Fee



Problems with the Fire Fee

2012 cost vs 2022 cost



	2012	2022	Cost Increase	Funding Increase
Helmet	\$ 120.00	\$ 453.00	378%	0%
Nomex Hood	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	125%	0%
Bunker Coat	\$ 700.00	\$ 2,000.00	286%	0%
Suspenders	\$ 40.00	\$ 85.00	213%	0%
Air Pack	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 9,800.00	280%	0%
Gloves	\$ 40.00	\$ 109.00	273%	0%
Radio	\$ 350.00	\$ 250.00	-29%	0%
Pants	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,500.00	300%	0%
Boots	\$ 80.00	\$ 300.00	375%	0%
AVERAGE	\$ 7,382.00	\$ 16,569.00	224%	0%

Problems with the Fire Fee

2012 cost vs 2022 cost

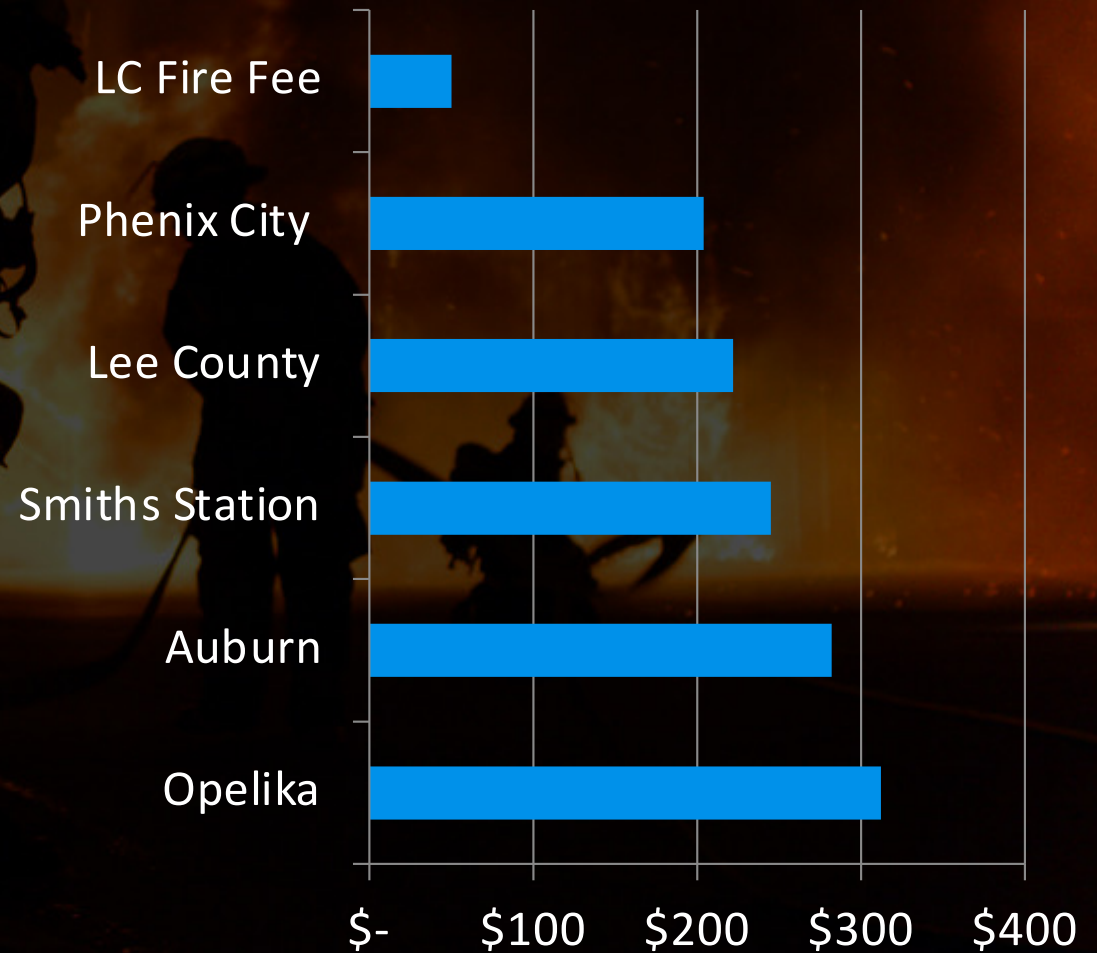


	2012	2022	Cost Increase	Funding Increase
Fire Engine	\$ 365,000.00	\$ 699,843.00	192%	0%
Tanker/Pumper	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 840,000.00	187%	0%
Ladder Truck	\$ 650,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	185%	0%

Problems with the Fire Fee

Fire Fee vs Local Trash Fee's:

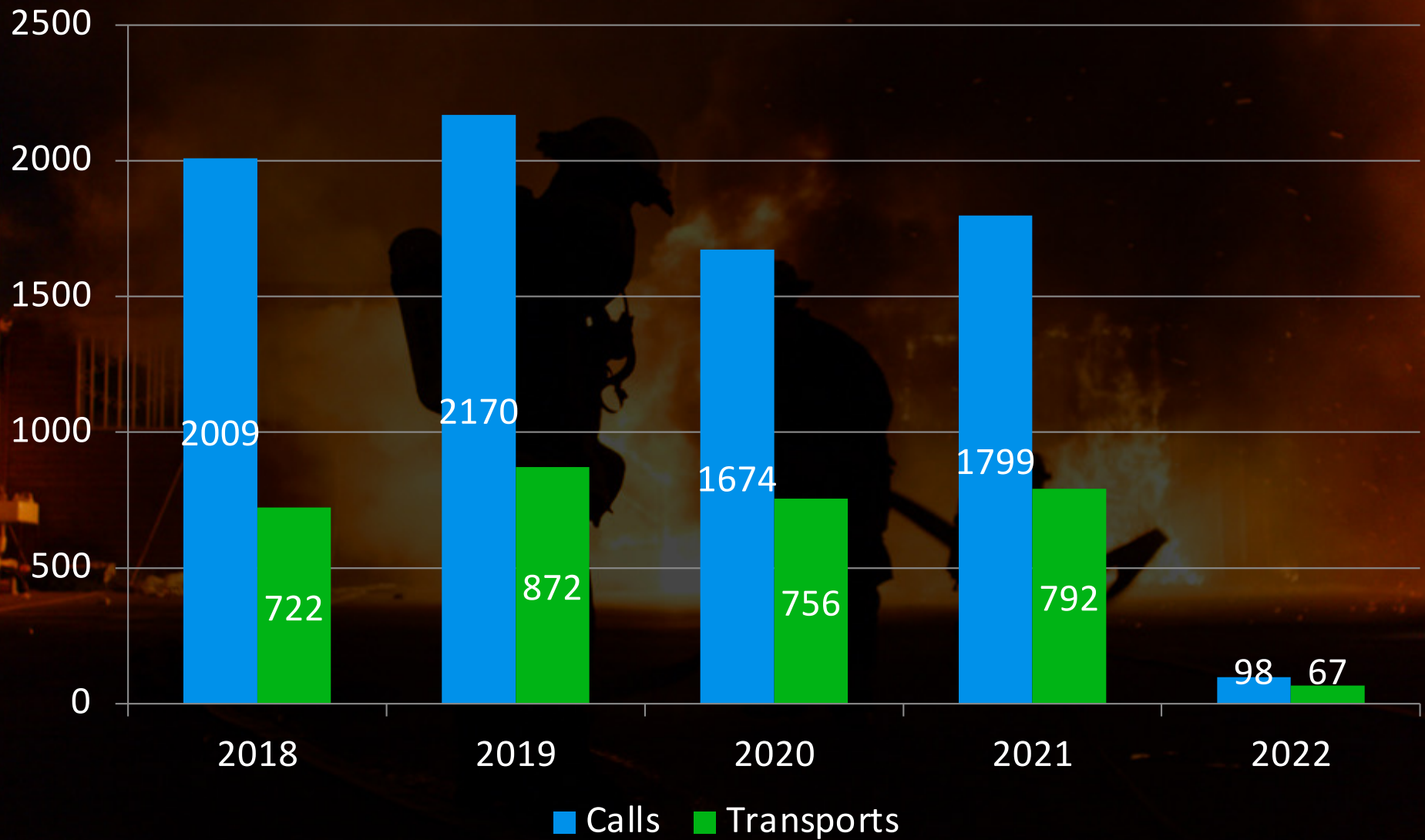
	Trash Fee (yr)
Opelika	\$312
Auburn	\$282
Smiths Station	\$245
Lee County	\$222
Phenix City	\$204
LC Fire Fee	\$50



Ambulance Information

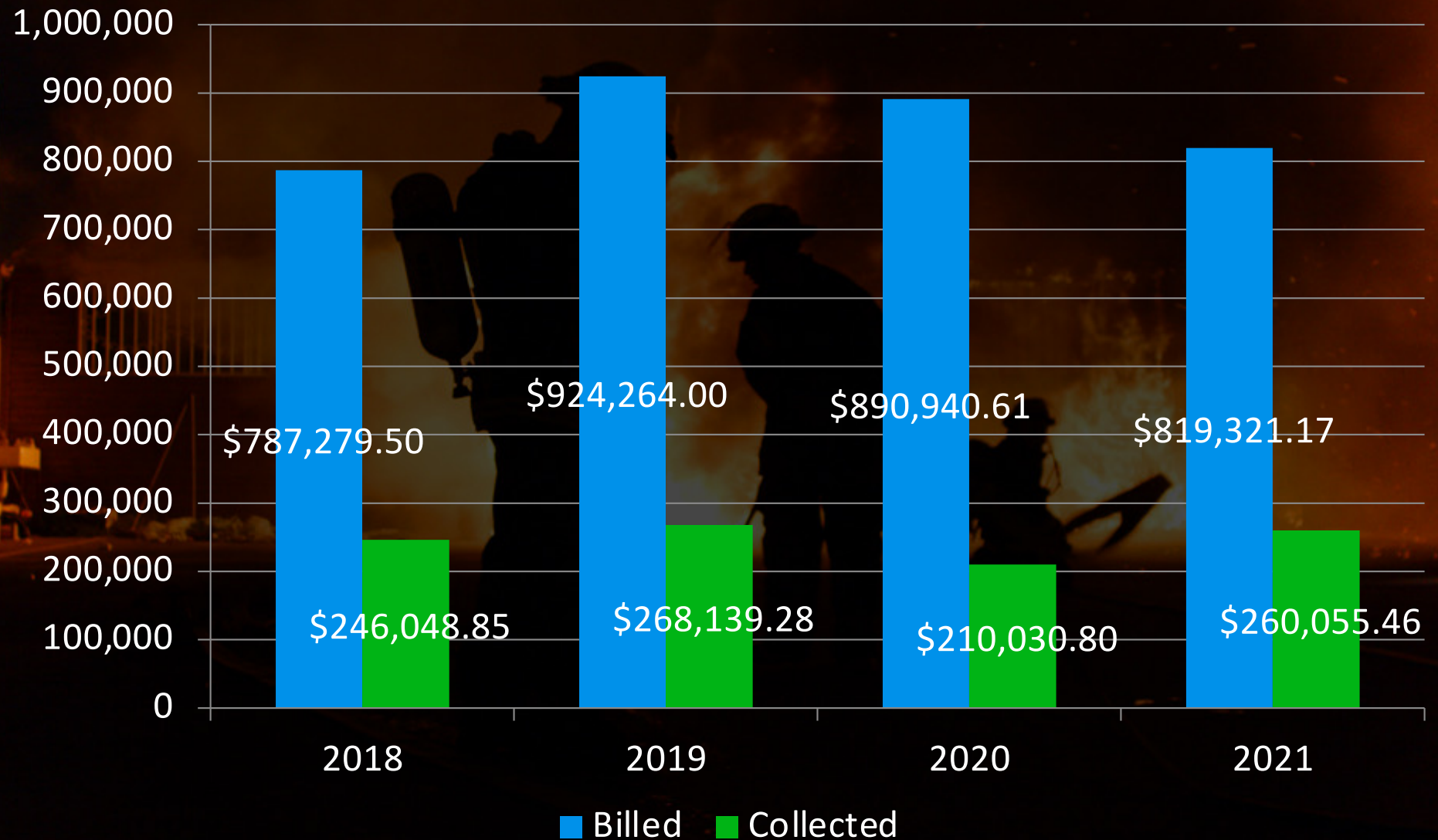


Ambulance Information



Ambulance Information

Ambulance Income: Billed vs Collected



Ambulance Information

Ambulance Pay

We were paying \$11 for EMT & \$17 for Paramedic w/ no benefits

Jr Setup Technician

Wheel Pros Manufacturing 2.7 ★
Auburn, AL 36832

📷 \$15.50 - \$19.50 an hour 📅 Full-time

🕒 12 hour shift +2

➤ Easily apply 🕒 Urgently hiring

- To follow Wheel Pros policies and display conduct expected of Wheel Pros employees as described in the employee handbook.
- Maintains a clean and safe work area.

17 days ago

Customer Service Representative

Lawn Doctor of Columbus-Phenix City
Fortson, GA 31808

📷 \$15 an hour 📅 Full-time

➤ Easily apply

- Full time, Monday-Friday, 8-4 or 9-5 to be decided upon hiring.
- Inputting information into our software-following through with setting up services as well as...

24 days ago

Pharmacy Technician

Medical Arts Pharmacy 3.7 ★
Opelika, AL 36801

📷 From \$15 an hour 📅 Full-time

➤ Easily apply 🕒 Urgently hiring

- This position is accountable for producing the following result: To provide support to the pharmacist and provide courteous expeditious service to our...

30+ days ago

Mobile Pet Bather/Groomer

Zoom to Groom, LLC
Auburn, AL 36830

📷 \$14 - \$22 an hour 📅 Part-time +1

🕒 8 hour shift

➤ Easily apply ⚡ Responsive employer

🕒 Urgently hiring

- Zoom to Groom is seeking a part-time or full-time bather and/or experienced pet groomer and stylist for the Auburn/Opelika/Smiths Station areas.

13 days ago

new

Aqua Aerobics Instructor

Opelika Sportsplex & Aquatics Center 3.8 ★
Opelika, AL 36801

📷 From \$20 an hour 📅 Part-time

➤ Easily apply

- Lead instructor for a group fitness water aerobics class.
- Required minimum availability is 1 morning per week.
- Start/end class on time.

Today

Ambulance Information

Ambulance Pay

We were paying \$11 for EMT & \$17 for Paramedic w/ no benefits



**NOW HIRING
PARAMEDICS**

ELMORE COUNTY \$18-\$24 PER HOUR
\$10,000 SIGN ON BONUS
FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT - 24/48 Schedule



BCBS Health INSURANCE
401K RETIREMENT
DENTAL INSURANCE
VISION INSURANCE
SHORT TERM DISABILITY
LIFE INSURANCE

LIMITED POSITIONS AVAILABLE
www.haynes-ambulance.com



Haynes Ambulance of Alabama
December 21, 2021 · 🌐

We only want YOU for Christmas Baby! Tie a ribbon around yourself and join our team!!!!!! <https://haynes-ambulance.com/about-us/job-opportunities/>

Put a ribbon around yourself and
Join Our Team
PARAMEDICS
\$18-\$24 Per Hour
\$10,000 SIGN ON BONUS
FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT - 24/48 Schedule
www.haynes-ambulance.com

10
9 Shares

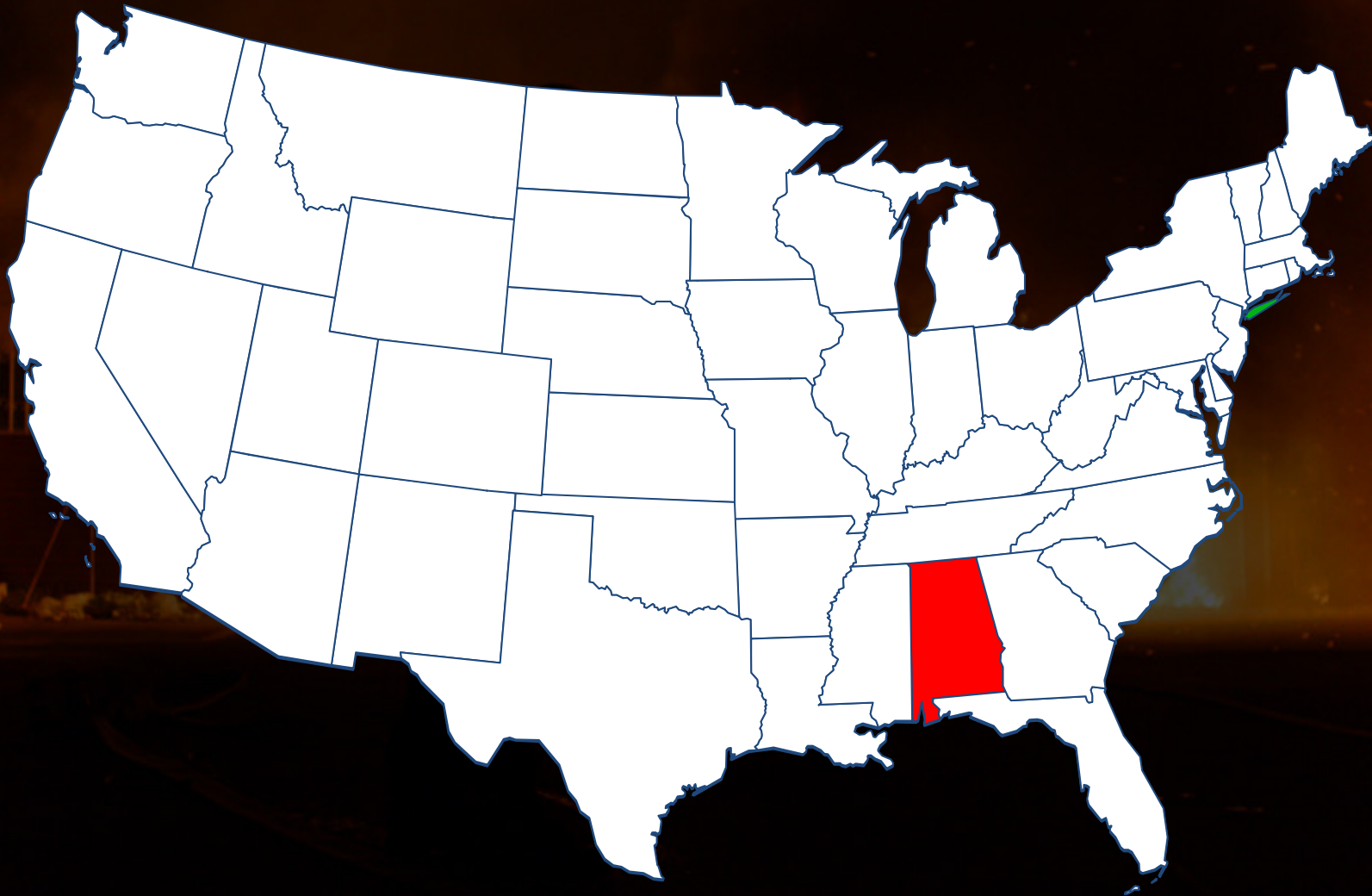
Ambulance Information

Ambulance Income

2021 Ambulance Income:	\$ 260,0550.00	
Ambulance Billing Company:	\$ 15,603.00	6%
2021 Ambulance Payroll:	\$ 316,250.00	122%
	\$ 333,263.00	128%
Ambulance Deficit	\$ (73,208.00)*	

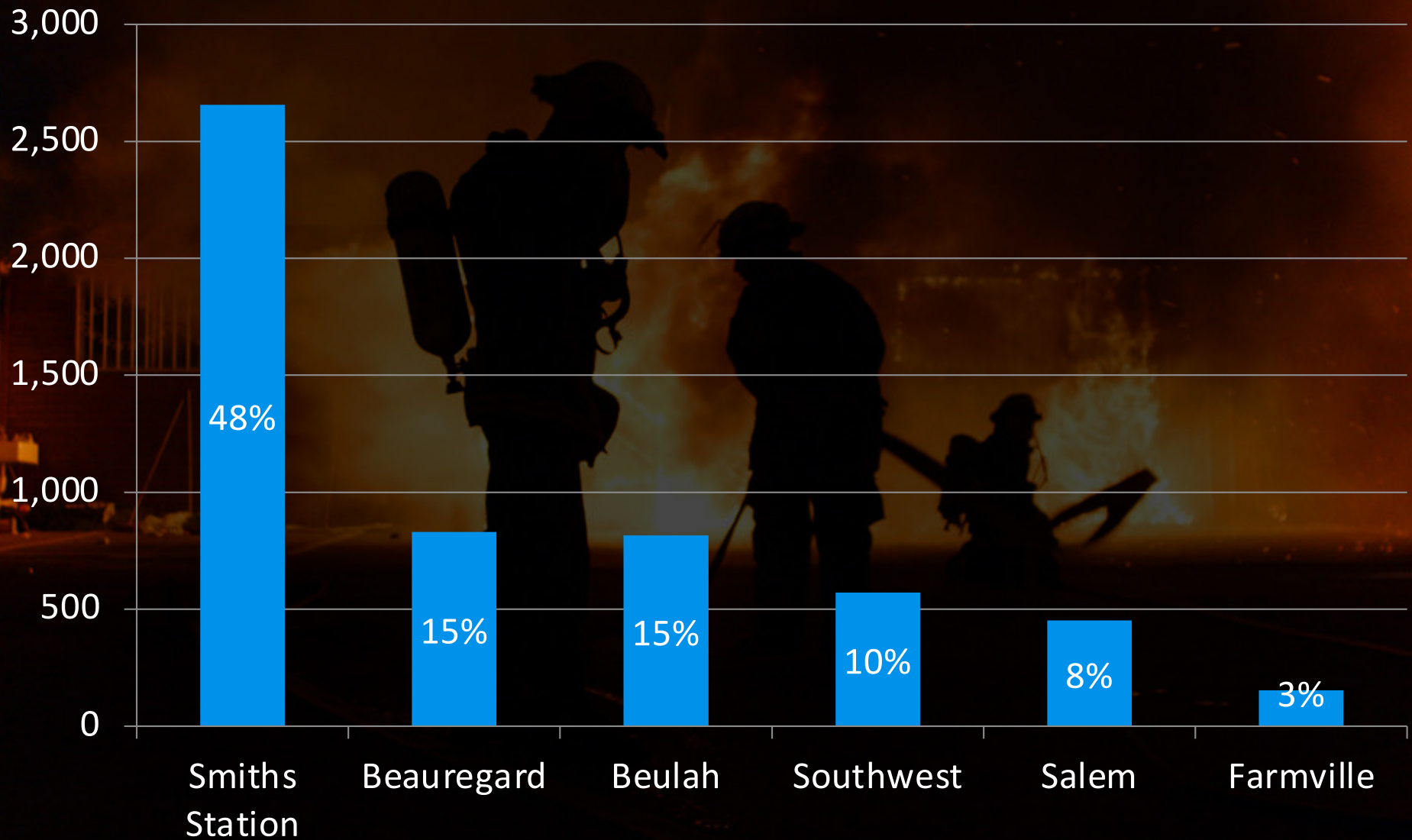
*This number doesn't include cost of ambulance, fuel, maintenance, or repairs for ambulance. It also doesn't include medical supplies or equipment for the ambulance. Average actual loss has been \$151,250 per year. Funds from the fire fee have been used to subsidize the ambulance operation and make up that loss.

How do we compare?



How do we compare?

Lee County VFD Call Volume



How do we currently compare?

Examples of Fire District/Authority's and their fees

- Beulah Utilities District (Lee)
- East Alabama Water, Sewer, & Fire Protection District (Chambers)
- Huguley Water, Sewer, & Fire Protection Authority (Chambers)
- Palmerdale Fire District (Jefferson)

How do we currently compare?

Beulah Fire – Lee County

	Monthly	Yearly
Residential	\$17	\$204
Non-Profit	\$23 - \$72	\$276 - \$864
Commercial	\$27 - \$97	\$324 - \$1,164
SSFR (old)	\$4.16	\$50

How do we currently compare?

East Alabama Fire – Chambers County

	Monthly	Yearly
Residential	\$16.75	\$201
Commercial & MDU	\$21.25 - \$8,200	\$255 - \$98,400
SSFR (old)	\$4.16	\$50

How do we currently compare?

Huguley Fire - Chambers County

	Monthly	Yearly
Residential & MDU (per unit)	\$18.20	\$218.40
Non-Profit	\$44.89	\$528.68
Commercial	\$54.61 - \$227	\$655 - \$2,724
SSFR (old)	\$4.16	\$50

How do we currently compare?

Palmerdale Fire – Jefferson County

Residential

Below \$50,000	\$183.78	\$150,000-\$174,999	\$264.18	\$300,000-\$349,999	\$327.36	\$700,000-\$799,999	\$516.88
\$50,000-\$74,999	\$201.01	\$175,000-\$199,999	\$275.67	\$350,000-\$399,999	\$344.59	\$800,000-\$899,999	\$574.31
\$75,000-\$99,999	\$218.24	\$200,000-\$224,999	\$287.16	\$400,000-\$499,999	\$379.05	\$900,000-\$999,999	\$631.74
\$100,000-\$124,999	\$235.37	\$225,000-\$249,999	\$298.64	\$500,000-\$599,999	\$413.51	\$1,000,000-\$1,500,000	\$746.61
\$125,000-\$149,999	\$252.70	\$250,000-\$299,999	\$310.13	\$600,000-\$699,999	\$459.45	\$1,500,000 & UP	\$918.90

Commercial

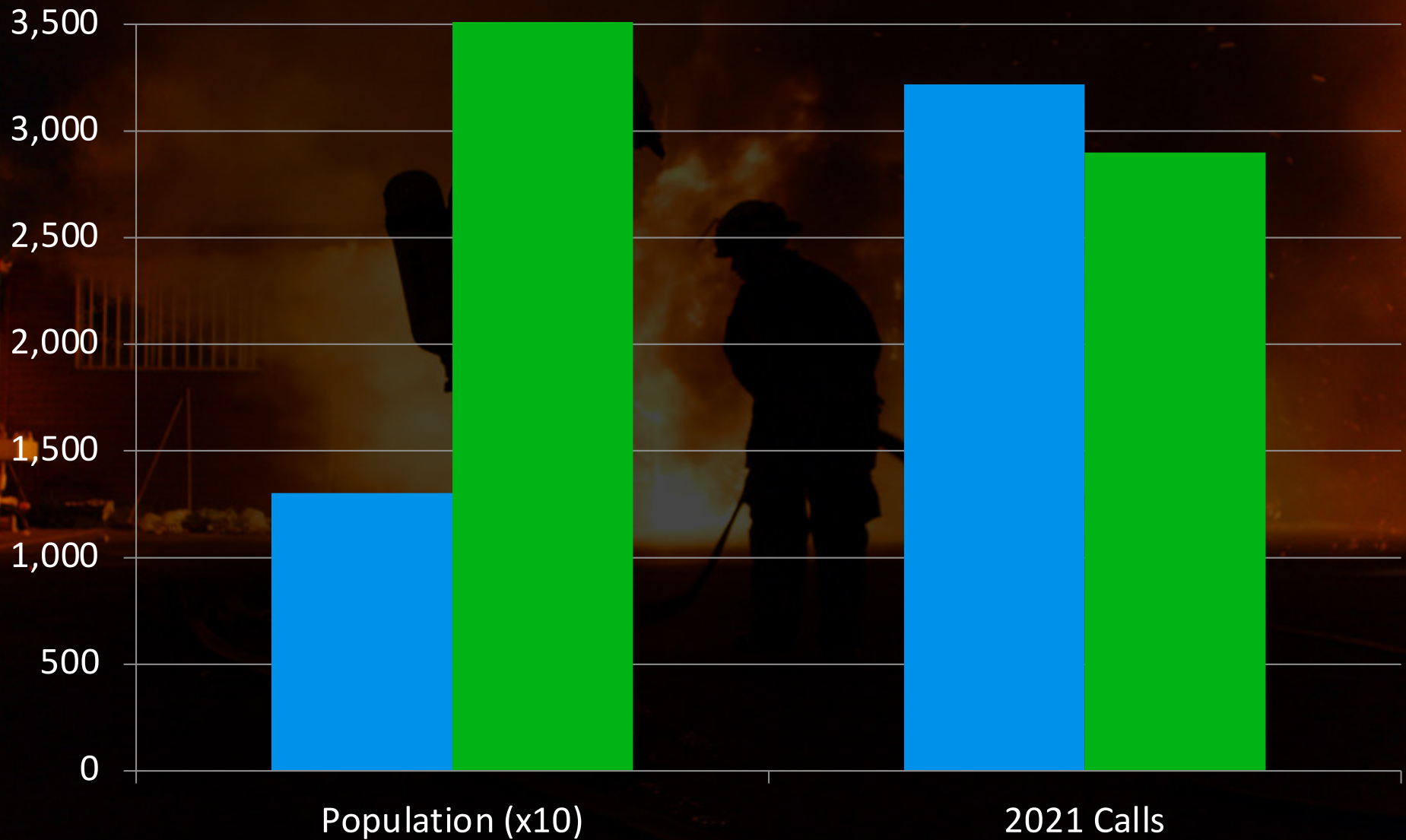
Below \$50,000	\$201.01	\$150,000-\$174,999	\$275.67	\$300,000-\$349,999	\$356.07	\$700,000-\$799,999	\$574.31
\$50,000-\$74,999	\$218.24	\$175,000-\$199,999	\$287.16	\$350,000-\$399,999	\$379.05	\$800,000-\$899,999	\$631.74
\$75,000-\$99,999	\$235.47	\$200,000-\$224,999	\$298.64	\$400,000-\$449,999	\$424.99	\$900,000-\$999,999	\$746.61
\$100,000-\$124,999	\$252.70	\$225,000-\$249,999	\$310.13	\$500,000-\$599,999	\$470.94	\$1,00,000-\$1,500,000	\$861.47
\$125,000-\$149,999	\$264.18	\$250,000-\$299,999	\$333.10	\$600,000-\$699,999	\$516.88	\$1,500,001 & UP	\$1,033.76

How do we currently compare?

	Fire Budget	Population	Per Cap	Households	Per House
Smiths Station	\$ 565,000.00	35,218	\$ 16.04	14,087	\$ 40.11
Monreville	\$ 646,385.00	5,951	\$108.62	2,106	\$306.93
Brewton	\$ 1,349,166.00	5,276	\$255.72	2,050	\$658.13
Tuskegee	\$ 1,503,539.00	9,395	\$160.04	2,936	\$512.10
Boaz	\$ 1,691,650.00	10,107	\$167.37	3,494	\$484.16
Valley	\$ 2,800,000.00	10,529	\$265.93	3,654	\$766.28
Scottsboro	\$ 3,086,624.00	15,758	\$195.88	5,995	\$514.87
Selma	\$ 3,115,274.00	17,971	\$173.35	7,568	\$411.64
Eufuala	\$ 3,774,752.00	12,882	\$293.03	4,969	\$759.66
Alexander City	\$ 4,407,292.78	14,483	\$304.31	5,710	\$771.86
Troy	\$ 5,919,400.00	17,727	\$333.92	6,853	\$863.77
Phenix City	\$ 6,026,178.00	38,816	\$155.25	14,716	\$409.50
Opelika	\$ 7,245,494.00	30,955	\$234.07	11,866	\$610.61
Auburn	\$ 9,118,459.00	76,143	\$119.75	23,500	\$388.02
Montgomery	\$42,898,327.00	200,603	\$213.85	79,306	\$540.92

How do we currently compare?

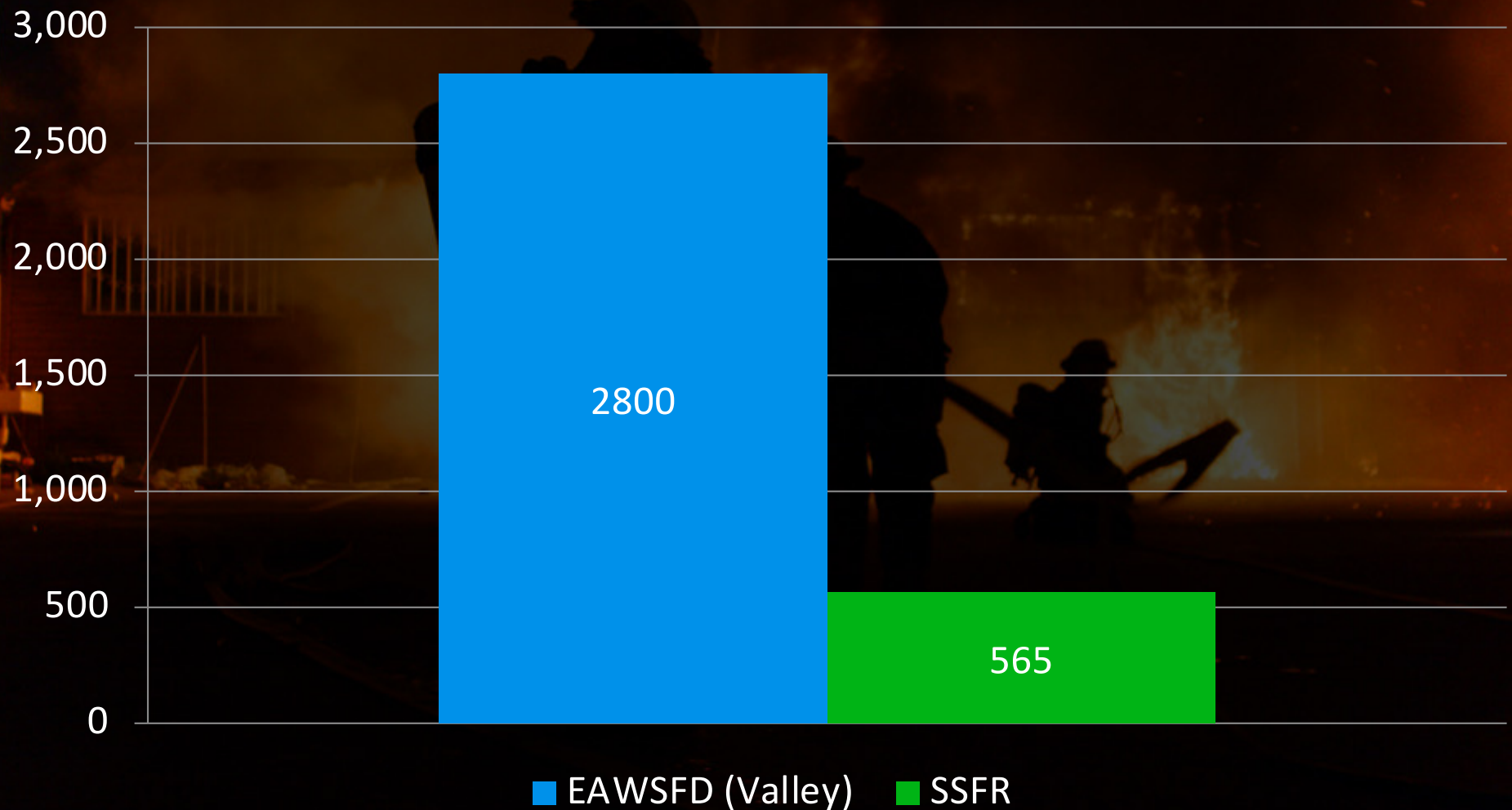
SSFR vs EAWSFD (Valley)



How do we currently compare?

SSFR vs EAWSFD (Valley)

Budget x1000



How do we compare?

Summary

	Monthly		
	Residential	Non-Profit	Commercial
SSFR (Old)	\$4.16	\$4.16	\$4.16
SSFR (New)	\$16	\$22 - \$71	\$26 - \$96
Beulah	\$17	\$23 - \$72	\$27 - \$97
East Alabama	\$16.75	-	\$21.25 - \$8,200
Huguley	\$18.20	\$44.89	\$54.61 - \$227

	Yearly		
	Residential	Non-Profit	Commercial
SSFR (Old)	\$50	\$50	\$50
SSFR (New)	\$192	\$264-\$852	\$312-\$1,152
Beulah	\$204	\$23 - \$72	\$27 - \$97
East Alabama	\$201	-	\$255 - \$98,400
Huguley	\$216	\$528	\$655 - \$2,724

What if someone refuses to pay?

We do not think this will be an issue. Most reasonable Home and Business owners recognize the need for public safety, including fire protection and EMS services.

Like all government and public safety functions, its important that everyone pays their fair share. To that end the Smiths Station Fire Protection District will aggressively pursue payment based on the authority granted it by Code of Alabama, 1975, Title 11, Chapter 89.

In (hopefully) rare circumstances collection actions may include:

- * Use of a commercial collection agency
- * Negative Reporting to Credit Bureau(s)
- * Filing of Property Liens
- * Filing of Tax Refund Liens
- * Civil Litigation

What about Hardship Cases?

The Board of Directors will review each case individually based on the merits of the case and will grant relief when appropriate.

A form is available online at www.fire.smithsstational.gov which can be completed and mailed to the Fire Protection District. If a person can not access the internet or doesn't have a printer, they can pick up a copy of the form at Station 1 (across from Flea Market)

Income limits are set by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and are adjusted specifically for Lee County, Alabama.

Why does SSFR need more funds?



Why does SSFR need more funds?

Ambulance Service

The need to REINSTATE OUR AMBULANCE is NOW!

With our call volume and population, we need our ambulance that is based in our community.

Our Ambulance saved lives in our community.

Our Ambulance improved the outcome of patients in our community.

Our Ambulance ran numerous mutual aid calls in both Lee & Russell Counties.

Our Ambulance was a source of pride for our community

Ambulance Information

Why do we need an ambulance?



“In April of 2020, I did have a heart attack and fell down dead. I was dead. They came in and revived me. They carried me outside and put a defibrillator on me and brought me back. My doctor told me if it had not been such a quick response, I had a ‘widow maker’ that’s what they called it, I would not have made it,” said Cox.

Elizabeth White @ WRBL, Feb 7, 2022

<https://tinyurl.com/2ycfutpc>

Why does SSFR need more funds?

Paid Firefighters

The need for PAID FIREFIGHTERS is NOW!

With our call volume and population, we are too big to rely solely on volunteers.

We would like to have 3 or 4 full time, certified, paid firefighters on duty 24/7.

Using a typical A/B/C; 24 on 48 off shift we would need to hire at least 9 full time Firefighters and a number of part time firefighters to fill in on days off, sick days, etc.

In the next few years, we'd like to see that number increase to at least 6 full time Firefighters on shift at all times.

(These firefighters would be in addition to EMS personnel)

Why does SSFR need more funds?

Infrastructure

We need to make some capital improvement and purchases NOW

- The majority of the expenditures listed on the following slides need to be done today.
- Each year additional equipment will require major repair or replacement.
- Costs are going up every day

Why does SSFR need more funds?

Infrastructure

We need to make some capital improvement and purchases NOW

- Replace Engine 111 (1991 model) currently beyond repair
- Replace Engine 122 (2002 model, past EOSL)
- Replace Engine 126 (2006 model, past EOSL)
- Replace Brush Truck (2005 Model, past EOSL)
- Replace Skid Unit on Brush Truck (2006 model)
- Replace Back Up Ambulance (2005 Model, past EOSL)
- Replace Front Line Ambulance (about every 5 years)
- Replace Station 1 (never designed for full time operations)
- Rebuild Station 2 (shed style)
- Addition/Remodel to Station 5 (built in 2005)
- Replace Air Packs (End of Service Life, safety issue)
- Replace 1 EMS SUV (2013 Model, over 200,000 miles)
- We must replace 5-10 sets of turn out gear every year (\$3,500 each)

Why does SSFR need more funds?

Staffing Cost

Firefighters

Average FF Salary	\$ 54,500.00
Benefits	\$ 18,125.00
Employer Taxes	\$ 5,082.00
Other	\$ 4,850.00
	\$ 83,557.00
9 FFs (3 per shift)	\$ 743,013.00

EMT/Paramedic

Average Medic Salary	\$ 54,500.00
Average EMT Salary	\$ 38,150.00
Benefits	\$ 30,574.00
Employer Taxes	\$ 6,500.00
Other	\$ 10,190.00
	\$ 139,914.00
3 Medic/EMT Crews	\$ 419,742.00

Total Cost estimate: \$1,162,755

Why does SSFR need more funds?

Infrastructure

We need to make some capital improvement and purchases NOW

Replace Engine 111 (1991 model out of service)	\$699,843.00
Replace Engine 122 (2002 model)	\$699,843.00
Replace Engine 126 (2006 model)	\$699,843.00
Replace Brush Truck (2005 Model)	\$95,000.00
Replace Brush Skid Unit (2006 Model)	\$30,000.00
Replace Backup Ambulance (2005 Model)	\$97,000.00
Replace Station 1	\$1,950,000.00
Addition/Remodel to Station 5 (built in 2005)	\$550,000.00
Replace Air Packs (E-O-L)	\$195,000.00
Replace 1 SUV (2013 Model)	\$52,000.00
Front Line Ambulance	\$198,000.00
	\$5,266,529.00



Solutions to the funding issue



Solutions to the funding issue

Fire District

Code of Alabama § 11-89-7

(a) The authority shall have the following powers, together with all powers incidental thereto or necessary to the discharge thereof in corporate form:

(10) To furnish and provide fire protection service in the service area or in any part thereof upon such reasonable terms and for such reasonable rates and consideration as the board may prescribe;

(24) To fix and revise from time to time reasonable rates, fees, and other charges for water service, sewer service, and fire protection service or any thereof furnished or to be furnished by any water system, sewer system, or fire protection facility or portion of any thereof owned or operated by the authority and to collect all charges made by it.

How to become a fire district

Resolution by governing bodies

Filing of application for incorporation of district; adoption of resolutions approving or denying application, etc., by governing bodies.

Code of Alabama § 11-89-3

(a) In order to incorporate a district under this chapter, any number of natural persons, not less than three, shall first file an identical written application with the governing body of each county and municipality located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the area or areas to be served by the proposed district Such application shall contain:

(1) A statement that the district proposes to render water service, sewer service, and fire protection service or any one or more thereof;

(6) A request that each of such governing bodies adopt a resolution declaring that it is wise, expedient, and necessary that the proposed district be formed and authorizing the applicants to proceed to form the proposed district by the filing for record of a certificate of incorporation in accordance with the provisions of Section 11-89-4.

How to become a fire district

Filing of application for incorporation of district

Filing of application for incorporation of district; adoption of resolutions approving or denying application, etc., by governing bodies.

Code of Alabama § 11-89-3

(b) As promptly as may be practicable after the filing of the application in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, each governing body with which the application was filed shall review the contents of the application, and shall adopt a resolution either denying the application or declaring that it is wise, expedient, and necessary that the proposed district be formed and authorizing the applicants to proceed to form the proposed district by the filing for record of a certificate of incorporation in accordance with the provisions of Section 11-89-4. Each governing body with which the application is filed shall also cause a copy of the application to be spread upon or otherwise made a part of the minutes of the meeting of such governing body at which final action upon said application is taken.

Powers Delegated to Fire District

Can the Fire District acquire the fire department?

Code of Alabama § 11-89-7

(7) To plan, establish, develop, acquire, purchase, lease, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, and operate water systems, sewer systems, and fire protection facilities or any part or combination of any thereof, whether located in one or more counties or municipalities and whether located within or outside any service area and without any requirement that such water systems, sewer systems, or fire protection facilities or all or any part of any thereof be interconnected or otherwise constitute an integrated operational unit, and to acquire real and personal property, franchises, and easements deemed necessary or desirable in connection therewith;

Powers Delegated to Fire District

Establishment and revision of rates, fees, and charges for services rendered by district.

Code of Alabama § 11-89-12

Rates, fees, and charges for water service, sewer service, and fire protection service rendered by the district from any of its water systems, sewer systems or fire protection facilities shall be so fixed and from time to time revised as at all times to provide funds at least sufficient to:

- (1) Pay the cost of operating, maintaining, repairing, replacing, extending, and improving the systems and facilities or either from which such services are rendered;
- (2) Pay the principal of and the interest on all bonds issued and obligations assumed by the district
- (3) Create and maintain such reserve for the foregoing purposes or any of them

Powers Delegated to Fire District

Loans, sales, grants, etc., of money, property, etc., to district by counties, municipalities, etc.

Code of Alabama § 11-89-13

For the purpose of securing water service, sewer service, or fire protection service or aiding or cooperating with the district in the planning, development, undertaking, construction, extension, improvement, operation, or protection of water systems, sewer systems, and fire protection facilities, any county, municipality, or other political subdivision, public corporation, agency, or instrumentality of this state may, upon such terms and with or without consideration, as it may determine:

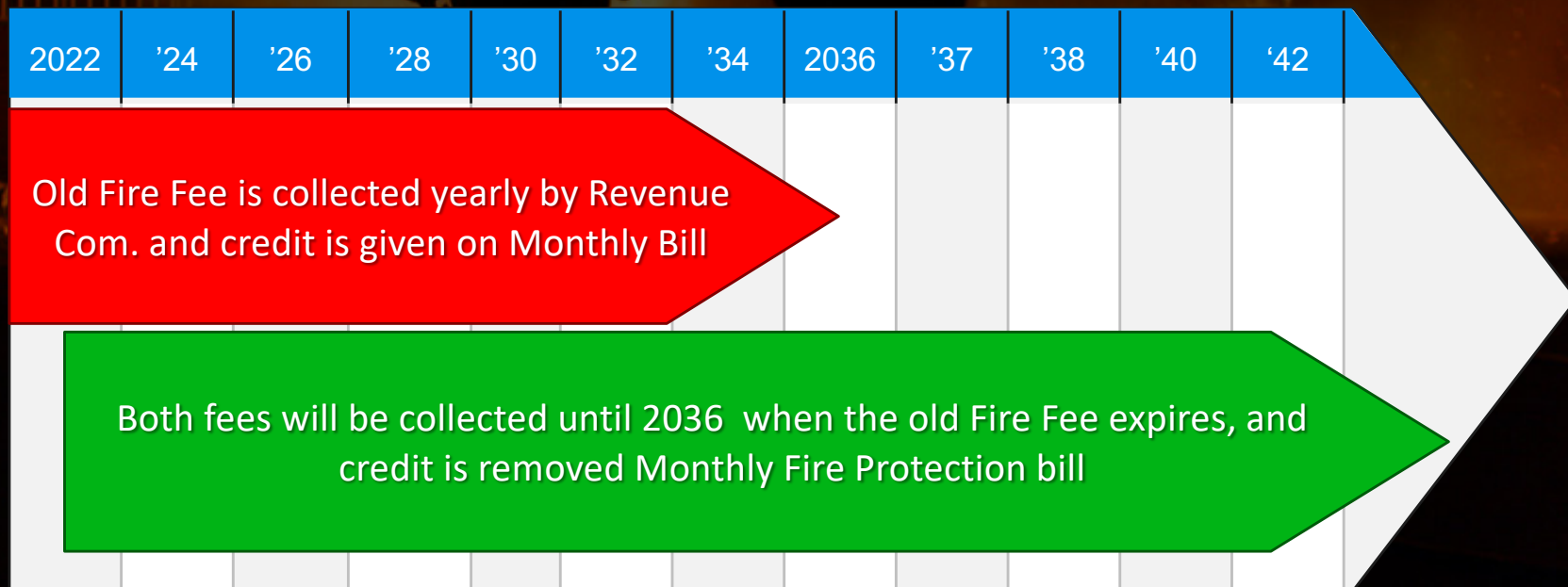
- (1) Lend or donate money to, guarantee all or any part of the indebtedness of, or perform services for the benefit of the district;
- (2) Donate, sell, convey, transfer, lease, or grant to the district, without the necessity of authorization at any election of qualified voters, any property of any kind, including, but without limitation, any water system, sewer system, or fire protection facility, any interest in any thereof and any franchise;
- (4) Do any and all things, whether or not specifically authorized in this section, not otherwise prohibited by law, that are necessary or convenient to aid and cooperate with the district in the planning, undertaking, construction, or operation of water systems, sewer systems, and fire protection facilities.

What Happens to Current Fee?

Transition Period

The Lee County Commission will continue to assess and collect the old 50\$ per year fire fee that was approved in 2012 until its expiration in 2036. They will pay to proceeds of that 50\$ fee to the Fire District.

The new monthly fee will be offset by a approximately \$4.17 credit on the monthly bill until the old fire fee expires.



What Happens to Current Fee?

Transition Period



Smiths Station Fire Protection District
50 Lee Road 430
Smiths Station, AL 36877
334-947-0911

INVOICE

SAMPLE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
1234 Lee Road 999999
Smiths Station, AL 36877

INVOICE # 100
Date: October 1, 2022
Due: **October 15, 2022**

DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Sample Residential Fire Protection Fee (Monthly)	\$16.00
Sample Monthly Credit for Fire Fee (50\$ ÷ 12)	-\$4.17
Total Due:	\$11.83

Make all checks payable to: Smiths Station Fire Protection District.
After October 15 add \$XX late charge

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP YOU SAFE!

How can I pay my Fire Fee bill?

Payment Options:

- Pay online using ACH/EFT, credit or debit card
- Mail a check or money order
- Setup auto draft from your banking account
- Pay by phone

NOTE:

- Due to Cash Control regulations, we will **NOT** be able to accept payments at the Fire Station.

More Information

visit: www.fire.smithsstational.gov

find our FAQ's at: www.ssfr.link/faq

email: help@fire.smithsstational.gov

call: 334-947-0911

Do you have any questions?

To respect everyone's time we will limit the Q&A period to 30 minutes.

Complex questions requiring research or long answers maybe answered in writing.

You can always submit a question on our website.

We will attempt to answer some questions from online chats



Safe Harbor

The purpose of this presentation is discussion, as well as to search for and share ideas on how we can work together to continue, modernize, and expand, Fire and EMS services in the Smiths Station Area. This presentation is not meant to be a final proposal, outline, or framework and should be considered a “draft” or for discussion purposes. Future presentations (if any) and agreements (if any) as well as any information contained within them could vary substantially from this presentation.

The ideas, figures, diagrams, estimates, financial and other information contained in this presentation is accurately described based on the best information & knowledge available at the time this presentation was created. Financial numbers, figures, or statements contained in this presentation maybe estimates or rounded and are not audited.

This presentation, including the ideas, figures, diagrams, estimates, proposals, plans, financial and other information contained within are confidential and should not be modified or shared in any manner without the written consent of the Smiths Station Fire Protection District.



Thank you!