

MINUTES

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

BUDGET WORKSHOP

August 8, 2008

The August 8th, 2008 Budget Workshop of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was opened at 4:00pm by Commissioner Berndt. Present were: Commissioners, Berndt, Adams, Barrett, and Hemingway. Chief Adams, Assistant Chief's Haugh and Duncan, EMS Division Chief Pcolar, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, Administrative Assistant Susan Platas, Bookkeeper Anita Kressel and Secretary Jill Marcolini. Commissioner Guzman had an excused absence.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Berndt asked Chief Don Adams to give the invocation.

Commissioner Berndt stated that this is the first Budget Workshop for the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

Chief Don Adams started the meeting by presenting to the Board two budget plans. The first one with 3.0 millage rate and the second with a 2.7517 millage rate. Chief Adams proceeded with an overall review of the Goals & Strategies for the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

Chief Adams discussed the 2008/2009 Budget Highlights based on the 2.7517 millage rate. The proposed budget of \$ 26,991,772 dollars.

Chief Adams recommended to the Board the hiring of 21 new employees and 3 Lieutenant Promotions. The goal would be to reduce overtime and add additional personnel per shift. Chief Adams reviewed the break-down of cost which would increase line items for uniforms, group insurance, holiday pay, retirement etc. Commissioner Berndt asked if the district would phase them in at 6 or 9 employees at a time. Chief Adams answered yes, to begin hiring December, 2008 and also 3 Lieutenant Promotions by December, 2008.

Chief Adams proposed to the Board a changing of job title for Anita Kressel, from Bookkeeper to Financial Specialist. This would be a title change to her job description and also a salary increase.

Chief Adams discussed the possibility of promoting 3 Lieutenants, using them as roving Lieutenants. They would help reduce overtime, work at any station at any given time. They would also fill vacant positions created by the use of vacation, sick leave and Kelly days.

Much discussion from the Board concerning the District paying for insurance for the new hires. Commissioner Berndt questioned the insurance coverage of 100% for new employees and their families. Commissioner Hemingway suggested covering the employee only, and then employee and family when their probationary period was over. Commissioner Hemingway asked for more information to be brought to the Board regarding self-insured insurance plan. He stated it could save the taxpayers money.

Commissioner Hemingway commented under the General Insurance line item, the actual replacement cost factors on equipment. He is concerned the District is under budgeted for potential replacement cost.

Under Capital Vehicles, Chief Adams proposed to the Board the purchase of a box truck for rehabilitation. This would be used for brush fire season, structural fires and disasters. It would be stocked with food, water and supplies for District staff. Commissioner Adams suggested using a trailer to hook up to the back of a truck. His concern was it would not be in use all the time. Commissioner Adams would also like information on refurbishing the float that is used in parades.

The Board also touched briefly on the following line items: Promotional, for fire prevention day and supplies for education. Paramedic school, increase in gas/oil and propane, 15 XTS 5000 Radios (if we hire the new employees), Lawn Maintenance, and the Pierce Velocity, which is on order.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.