

MINUTES

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

BUDGET WORKSHOP

August 21, 2008

The August 21st, 2008 Budget Workshop of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was opened at 6:00pm by Commissioner Berndt. Present were: Commissioners, Berndt, Adams, Barrett, Guzman and Hemingway. Chief Adams, Assistant Chief's Haugh and Duncan, EMS Chief Pcolar, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, PIO Patrick Comer, Administrative Assistant Susan Platas, Bookkeeper Anita Kressel and Secretary Jill Marcolini.

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

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

Chief Don Adams started the meeting by reviewing the adjustments from the first budget workshop. He stated the rehab truck has been omitted and \$130,000 added to personnel reserves, and also the hydraulic jack for \$65,000, that money also added to personnel reserves. He asked the Board if they had any questions from the first proposed budget workshop.

Bookkeeper Anita Kressel said a new line item, 522.3317 requires to be approved by the Board for the actuarial study. This line item would be budgeted for \$15,000.

Chairman Berndt started first by asking Commissioner Adams if he had any questions or concerns regarding the line items reviewed at the previous Budget Workshop. Commissioner Adams commented on the following items:

- Pagers/cell phones and the AT & T cell phones. Chief Adams answered regarding the cell phones and pagers, at times the area has dead zones for one or the other and in an emergency situation one may work while the other does not at a specific time and place. The AT & T phones are free phones from the company and we are only charged for the minutes used. Commissioner Adams also questioned the use of Clear Com under rentals. Chief Adams stated this may be deleted from the budget when the lease is up. He also confirmed the transmission is not working out for the District personnel.
- Lawn Maintenance: Commissioner Adams main concern was the line item for the Lawn Maintenance budgeted at \$22,500. He stated he would like to see this

reduced by having the trades person or fire fighters responsible for the lawn maintenance. Commissioner Guzman stated for the reasons of call volume and response time issues that hiring an outside maintenance company would be of service to the District. After much discussion from the Board, Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Hemingway suggest the District put out bids for a Lawn Maintenance contract.

- The previous Budget Workshop, Commissioner Adams asked Chief Adams to bring back information regarding the float the District uses in parades. Chief Adams stated to maintain the float as is would be \$500 to \$600, and to rebuild it would cost \$1,000 to \$1,500. Some discussion from the Board on the promotional line item for Fire Prevention Day. Commissioner Berndt suggests that we increase the line item from \$15,000 to \$20,000.
- Commissioner Guzman started by apologizing for being absent for the first Budget Workshop, but stated he is up to speed by reviewing the recorded tapes. Commissioner Guzman was pleased with the recommendation of hiring 21 new employees. He stated that the District is moving forward, and increasing service. Better service for the people of Lehigh. He stated he is encouraged by the idea of hiring personnel and not raising the millage rate. The District would phase them in, the first 9 beginning October, 2008, then approximately 6 more December, 2008. Commissioner Guzman also touched on the Training line item which included Paramedic School, Microsoft Classes and FGCU.
- Commissioner Hemingway questioned the amount of the tax collectors commission. Bookkeeper Anita Kressel answered they charge us 5% of what we bring in. Commissioner Hemingway also asked questions regarding the amount in Personnel Reserves and the fact that it is less than the previous workshop. Bookkeeper Anita Kressel answered the money was moved to line item 522.1120 to hire new employees. He also commented on the increase of the Legal Fees line item from 2007/2008 fiscal year which was \$70,000 up to \$200,000 for the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

All Commissioners agreed to cancel the August 27th and September 2nd Budget Workshops.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm.