

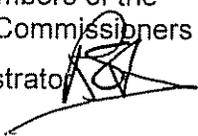


COMMISSION AGENDA:
2.3.09 #31

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

M E M O R A N D U M

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

FROM: Robert S. LaSala, County Administrator 

DATE: February 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Proposed Study Parameters – Legislative Fire & Rescue Study

As a follow-up of the Joint Meeting with the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation, please find attached proposed parameters for a Fire and Rescue Service Study. Representative Frishe requested this information be provided to his office by Wednesday, February 3.

The Board's review and guidance is needed before it is forwarded to Representative Frishe.

Attachment

**PINELLAS COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
PROPOSED STUDY PARAMETERS**

The following components are recommended for analysis relative to the operations, administration and delivery of fire rescue services in Pinellas County:

FIRE RESCUE COMMAND & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Evaluate the combined level of Command Staff including, Chief Officers, Fire Prevention staff, Training staff and other administrative staffing assigned to each of the nineteen fire departments in the County and benchmark that data with similar sized jurisdictions. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvements where appropriate.

FIRE RESCUE RESPONSE:

Evaluate Pinellas County's service coverage including the number and locations of stations, the number and types of units assigned to each station and the number of personnel assigned to each of the units. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

FIRE RESCUE FUNDING

Evaluate the current method and equity of funding for fire rescue services, and provide recommendations for funding alternatives.

Assess the salary and benefit package for each of the nineteen fire departments and provide recommendations for equitable alternatives.

Assess the total funding and cost per capita required for the countywide fire rescue system and benchmark that data with similar sized jurisdictions.

Assess whether an equitable method for developing a uniform countywide fire funding methodology, including assessment fees, is feasible. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

Assess whether an equitable method for developing a uniform unincorporated funding methodology is feasible. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

Assess user fees and inspection fees that are charged by the nineteen fire departments and determine the combined potential revenue levels if all departments collect uniform fees. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

CODE ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE PREVENTION:

Evaluate the fire services ability to staff and conduct annual code compliance inspections within commercial and industrial properties. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

Evaluate the capability of fire service organizations to conduct plans examinations of site development, building and internal systems construction drawings. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

Evaluate the fire code compliance, quality assurance programs within the Pinellas fire service organizations. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

FIRE INVESTIGATION:

Evaluate the staffing and capability of Pinellas fire services organizations to conduct and document origin and cause investigations at all fire incidents. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

Evaluate the capability of the various organizations to identify arson as a fire cause, make arrests in arson caused fires and prosecute and convict arsonists. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

WATER SUPPLY FOR FIRE PROTECTION:

Evaluate the current capability of Pinellas water utility providers to provide reliable and sufficient fire flows for firefighting operations in residential, commercial and industrial properties. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

Study the current water utility systems for sufficiency of water main sizing for needed fire flows and the numbers and locations of fire hydrants. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

Evaluate current fire hydrant inspection, maintenance and repair practices. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

SPECIALIZED RESPONSE TEAMS:

Evaluate the current funding methods for hazardous materials and technical rescue teams. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

Evaluate the staffing and capability of specialized response teams to respond within Pinellas to hazardous materials and technical rescue incidents. Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

OTHER:

Evaluate the consistency of all agencies utilizing the fire service voluntary purchasing system and the opportunities to standardize fire suppression and fire rescue equipment (vehicles, self contained breathing apparatus, personal protective equipment, hoses and nozzles, etc.). Define conclusions and provide recommendations for improvement where appropriate.