

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION / CONTRACT CONTROL FORM

Tracking Number: 10.

Date of Request: April 28, 2008

Date Request Received: April 28, 2008

Board Meeting Date Requested: May 5, 2008

Board Meeting Date Assigned: May 5, 2008

Short Title: Resolution Requesting The Board Set A Minimal Funding Level Of \$70,000 For Fire Departments In Pender County.

Request Status:

- Request is proceeding to Board of Commissioners
- More information is needed – see attached
- Request on hold – no further information needed
- Other:

Background: Prior to the 2006 fire service tax increase, Pender County had a minimum funding level for all volunteer fire departments in the county. Following the tax increase, all departments were above the minimum level of \$30,000. This figure had been increased on two occasions since it was initiated in the 1995-96 budget year at a level of \$20,000. At current tax rates all fire tax districts except two generate in excess of \$70,000 per year. At its April meeting, the Pender County Fire Commission was directed by the Pender County Fire Fighters Association to request that the Board of County Commissioners re-enact a minimum funding level for the fire departments that are located within Pender County that receive tax funding. The Fire Commission then voted unanimously to request that the Board of County Commissioners set a minimum funding level of \$70,000. It was further recommended that the minimum funding amount be reviewed annually at budget time. Based upon the current budget for the fire departments, this will be an increase of \$981 for the Shiloh-Columbia Fire Department and \$27,556 for the Maple Hill Fire Department.

The Fire Commission also recommends that the funding for this increase be taken from the County Fire Tax Unappropriated Fund Balance, Acct. 26-299000.

Specific Action Requested: The Pender County Board of County Commissioners are requested to set a minimum funding level of \$70,000 for Pender County Fire Departments with an annual review to adjust for inflation.

Requested by: Roger Anderson
Department: Chairman
Title: Pender County Fire Commission
Contact Phone: 910-259-1210
Contact Fax:

(Administrative Use Only)

CONTRACT TYPE

- Renewal
- For Service(s)
- Intergovernmental – County as Grantee
 - Federal Grantor
 - State Grantor
 - Grant or
- County as Grantor
 - County Funds
 - Other Funds:
- Revision
- For Equipment

PURCHASING

Date Rec'd: Budgeted Item: Yes No
 Reviewed and Approved
 Comments on Reverse

Date Sent:

Signed:

ATTORNEY

Date Rec'd: Reviewed and Approved
 Legal Problem(s)
 Comments on Reverse

Date Sent:

Signed:

FINANCE

Date Rec'd: Sufficient Funds Available Not Available
 Budget Amendment Necessary
 Budgeted Amendment is Attached
 Comments on Reverse

Date Sent:

Signed:

CLERK

Signature(s) Required:
 Board Chairman/County Manager
 Other:

Date Rec'd Approved by Board: Yes No
At meeting on

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Respectfully Recommend Approval.

AP
INITIALS

RESOLUTION: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Pender County Board of County Commissioners that

the minimum funding for fire departments in Pender County be set at \$70,000 for the FY 2008-09 budget; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that

this amount will be annually reviewed during the budget process. The Chairman and/or County Manager is authorized to execute any/all agreements necessary to implement the resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Williams _____ Tate _____ Blanchard _____ Brown _____ Rivenbark _____

J. David Williams, Jr., Chairman 05/05/08
DATE

Clerk 5/5/08
DATE

Pender County Fire Commission

Roger Anderson, Chairman

P.O. Box 145
Rocky Point, NC 28457

April 25, 2008

The Pender County Board of Commissioners
Post Office Box 5
Burgaw, NC 28425

Sirs:

The Pender County Fire Commission, at its April 22, 2008 meeting, voted to request the Pender County Board of Commissioners to reinstate a minimum funding level for Pender County Fire Departments. Based upon current economic conditions, including the cost of fuel, insurance, and equipment replacement costs, the Fire Commission recommends a minimum funding level of \$70,000 be established, with an annual review of that amount in future budgets.

Prior to the 2006 fire tax increase that was granted by the County Commission, a minimum funding level had been in effect for more than 10 years. The tax rate increase raised the lower earning departments above the previous minimum level of \$30,000. However, as the cost of operating a fire department has continued to increase, and as older fire equipment reaches the end-of-its-useful-life, some departments are finding it more difficult to maintain a level of service at existing funding levels.

The Maple Hill Fire Tax District only generated \$42,444 in revenue in the current budget. That amount was generated based upon a \$.07 tax rate. With most of their fire equipment greater than 20 years old and now reaching the end of its useful life, the department desires to replace one of its older trucks with a newer apparatus; however at current funding levels it will be difficult for them to make this purchase. Maple Hill Fire Department approached the Firefighters Association and the Fire Commission asking for assistance. The Association then directed its Board of Directors, to request funding assistance from the County. The Pender County Fire Commission also functions as the Board of Directors for the Firefighters' Association. Both recommendations came with a unanimous vote from each group.

The cost to the county for this increase will be approximately \$28,550 based upon FY 07-08 revenue projections. This will give Maple Hill Fire Department an additional \$27,556 and will also increase Shiloh-Columbia just under \$1,000, bringing both departments to \$70,000. Funds for this increase are available in the Undesignated Fire Tax Fund Balance, which is currently at \$53,102.87 according to the county's website.

Therefore, as Chairman of the Pender County Fire Commission, I hereby respectfully request that the Pender County Board of Commissioners increase the minimum funding level for Pender County Fire Departments to \$70,000 for the upcoming FY 2008-09 budget year with an annual review of that amount during the budget process in future years.

Sincerely,



Roger Anderson, Chairman
Pender County Fire Commission