



Leon County

Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 606-5302 www.leoncountyfl.gov

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County Administrator

HERBERT W.A. THIELE
County Attorney

September 30, 2009

Dear Neighbor:

Our community is fortunate to be served by dedicated first responders who work hard every day to protect our homes, businesses and natural resources from the threat of fire and other public-safety risks.

As you may know, residents throughout Tallahassee and Leon County will soon benefit from enhanced fire-rescue and emergency medical services. Leon County and the City of Tallahassee have recently consolidated Emergency Medical Services and Fire Department functions. This enhancement will result in an improved emergency response countywide. Of particular interest to residents living in unincorporated areas of Leon County is the addition of first-response personnel at Leon County's five rural fire stations. The addition of one Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician to each rural station will result in a total of 18 new responders.

To support these critical public services, a countywide fire services fee will be implemented beginning this month. Residents in unincorporated Leon County receiving any City utility service will now pay for these enhanced public safety services via their City utility bill. Unincorporated residents not on City utilities will receive a new quarterly invoice in the mail for fire services. The fee will be based on residents' proximity to fire stations and funds a significant level of service enhancement by adding more medically trained firefighting personnel to areas with limited staffing, thus improving the effectiveness and flexibility of first responders.

We understand that these are tough times for everyone. Leon County continues to work hard to maintain the leanest budget possible – with the least burden on our taxpayers – while delivering the highest quality service in the most fair and equitable manner. When compared to Florida's other 66 counties, year in and year out Leon County has one of the lowest budgets per capita, one of the lowest property tax growth rates and ranks one of the lowest in employees per capita. For more specifics, see reverse.

Providing the most effective and highly coordinated first-response system is one of the most important things that we do, and this fee allows us to provide these critical services in your most crucial time of need.

We want you to be fully informed about this new level of service. For more information, please visit LeonCountyFL.gov or Talgov.com or call (850) 891-2799.

On behalf of our firefighters and paramedics, we thank you for supporting the operations and safety systems that they rely on to provide the level of service you expect.

Sincerely,

Parwez Alam
County Administrator