



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 23-00499

Agenda Date: 9/12/2023

Agenda Item Name:

Provision of Fire Services -Town of Micanopy

Presenter:

Harold Theus, Fire Chief, 352-384-3101

Description:

Interlocal agreement with the Town of Micanopy for the provision of fire services within the town limits and a lease agreement to house Alachua County Fire Rescue employees at the Micanopy Fire Station.

Recommended Action:

Authorize Chair to sign Interlocal Agreement and Lease Agreement with the Town of Micanopy with an effective date of October 1, 2023.

Prior Board Motions:

At the May 16, 2023, Joint Meeting between Alachua County and the Town of Micanopy.

Commissioner Cornell moved the following:

- Draft an interlocal agreement with the Town of Micanopy to assume fire services effective October 1, 2023, under the following conditions:
 - The Town of Micanopy passes a consent ordinance to join the Fire Assessment no later than June 16, 2023.
 - The Town of Micanopy agrees to pay Alachua County \$135,000 per year for 7 years.
 - Request the town of Micanopy to work with county staff to explore additional funding sources which may include Wild Spaces funding to help with capital cost and bring it back to the Board of County Commission (Board).
 - Authorize the additional 13.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) effective October 1, 2023.
 - Utilize Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) reserves for the purchase of Apparatus, Equipment, and a Temporary Station. (\$2.1 million) Pursue the Cuscowilla Property as a temporary location with a future buildout of permanent structure.
 - Authorize the hire of the 13 FTEs on a time frame to be operational by October 1st, 2023.
 - Work with the city to draft a letter to both the Insurance Service Office (ISO) providers and the citizens of Micanopy notifying them of the changes.

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

Mayor Williams recognized a citizen, a citizen, a citizen, and a citizen who presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Town Commissioner Galloway moved the following:

- Draft an interlocal agreement with the Town of Micanopy to assume fire services effective October 1, 2023, under the following conditions:
 - The Town of Micanopy passes a consent ordinance to join the Fire Assessment no later than June 16, 2023
 - The Town of Micanopy agrees to pay Alachua County \$135,000 per year for 7 years
 - Request the town of Micanopy to work with county staff to explore additional funding sources which may include Wild Spaces funding to help with capital cost and bring it back to the Board
 - Authorize the additional 13.0 FTEs effective October 1, 2023
 - Utilize MSBU reserves for the purchase of Apparatus, Equipment, and a Temporary Station. (\$2.1 million) Pursue the Cuscowilla Property as a temporary location with a future buildout of permanent structure.
 - Authorize the hire of the 13 FTEs on a time frame to be operational by October 1st, 2023
 - Work with the city to draft a letter to both the ISO providers and the citizens of Micanopy notifying them of the changes

2nd Town Commissioner Wessberg

The motion carried 5-0.

Fiscal Note:

On May 16, 2023, the Board of County Commission (Board) directed staff to draft an interlocal agreement with the Town of Micanopy to assume fire services effective October 1, 2023. The Board authorized the addition of 13.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) and the purchase of apparatus, equipment, and a temporary station to be funded from the Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) reserves. The total estimated cost for year one is \$3,755,014 for personnel, operating and capital. The recurring personnel and operating costs are \$1,662,207. The costs will be offset by a contribution from the Town of Micanopy of \$135,000 annually for 7 years and the elimination of the Fire Services Contract payment from the County to the Town of \$250,248.98.

Strategic Guide:

Public Safety

Background:

In mid-March, the Town of Micanopy was advised by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) that their ISO rating had been changed from a class 5 to a class 10. The change in class ratings may negatively impact homeowner's insurance premiums. Alachua County and the Town of Micanopy currently have an interlocal agreement whereby the Micanopy Fire Department is required to have an ISO class 9 or better to receive full funding.

As a result, staff from Micanopy and Alachua County began meeting to discuss options for the provision of fire rescue services in the territory. Staff from the County and Town have collaborated to develop a plan of action whereby the County will assume services on October 1, 2023. Alachua County Fire Rescue will reside in the existing Micanopy Station until a temporary station at Cuscowilla can be completed.