



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

Non-ad valorem assessments are fees levied against property by the Board of County Commissioners to pay for a particular service. The fees are expressed in a dollar amount instead of a millage rate. They are directly related to the service provided and the money is not used for any other purpose. In Alachua County, we have non-ad valorem assessments for Fire Protection Services imposed against real property located in the Alachua County Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Fire Protection Services (MSBU) which includes the unincorporated area of the County and the Cities of Alachua, Archer, Hawthorne, Micanopy, and Waldo.

The amount of the annual fire assessment imposed against each property is based on a two-tier apportionment method whereby a portion of the County’s annual fire department budget is allocated equally among all parcels on a per parcel basis (Tier 1) and the remaining portion of the budget to be funded through the assessment is apportioned based on the value of structures on each parcel (tier 2), measured in increments of \$5,000 each of which comprise an equivalent benefit unit (“EBU”). Undeveloped property is not subject to Tier 2.

| Benefit Tier | Assessment Unit   | Applicable to                                  | Maximum Rate for FY2024-25 |
|--------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| Tier 1       | Per Parcel  | All Non-exempt Parcels-Improved and Unimproved | \$90.69 Per Parcel         |
| Tier 2       | Per \$5,000 of Structure Value, rounded down to nearest \$5,000 (EBU) | Non-exempt Improved Parcels                    | \$8.31 Per EBU             |

The maximum fire protection assessment that could be collected within the MSBU for Fiscal Year 2024-25 is estimated to be \$23,336,272.00.

**Hardship Assistance:** In accordance with Sections 37.17.1, 37.17.2 and 39.12.35 of the Alachua County Code, qualifying owners of assessed property who meet criteria and asset guidelines set forth therein shall be eligible to receive a waiver of fees for fire protection assessment from the County. The applicant must apply for hardship assistance each year. Further information concerning the hardship assistance program and eligibility criteria is available from the Alachua County Department of Community Support Services, through its Division of Social Services at (352) 264-6750.

**NOTE: WE ARE REQUIRED BY SECTION 197.3632(4)(b), FLORIDA STATUTES, TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

Because the assessments are on the property tax bill, they are treated the same as property taxes. Therefore, failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against this property which may result in loss of title.

All property owners have the right to appear at the Public Hearing on Tuesday, **September 10, 2024**, and to file written objections with the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners within 20 days of this notice. The Public Hearing will be held in Room 209 of the Alachua County Administration Building, 12 Southeast 1st Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601, at 5:01 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

We are required by Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, to notify you that if you decide to contest any decisions made at the public hearing on these assessments, you will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings (a word for word written copy of the entire public hearing) is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**ALSO NOTE:** If any accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, please contact the Alachua County Equal Opportunity Office at (352) 374-5275 (voice) or TTY users call 711 (Florida Relay Service)

If you have questions about the assessments or their applicability to your property, please call Alachua County Fire Rescue at (352) 384-3101 or email at [acfrinfo@alachuacounty.us](mailto:acfrinfo@alachuacounty.us).

**NOT A BILL DO NOT PAY NOT A BILL DO NOT PAY NOT A BILL DO NOT PAY**