



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Corey C. Mercer, Fire Chief

DATE: February 8, 2019

REF: Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing - Proposed Fee Schedule Change for ECFD

BACKGROUND:

The last revision of ECFD's fee schedule was in March 2008. Throughout this 10-year period, there has been drastic growth within the City. The demands and expectations on the Fire Department have drastically increased. Additionally, new requirements in the state code resulting from mandatory changes in the permitting process have promoted this study.

ANALYSIS:

This proposal recommends an increase in operational and permit fees, as well as re-inspection fees, which are consistent with other departments throughout the state. The proposal is the result of a comparison of our user fees and permit fees to relative fire departments across the state including Greenville Fire and Rescue, Fayetteville Fire Department, Rocky Mount Fire Department, and Asheville Fire Department.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their February 7, 2019 meeting. Upon motion made by Councilman Walton, seconded by Councilwoman Young, the Committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, call for a public hearing to be held on February 25, 2019, directly following the public comment, for the purpose of gathering input on the new fee schedule (attached) for the Fire Department.

Acknowledgement:

This proposal is the result of a comparison of our user fees and permit fees to relative fire departments across the state. The Fire Marshal's Office acknowledges and appreciates the participation of the following departments:

- Greenville Fire and Rescue
- Fayetteville Fire Department
- Rocky Mount Fire Department
- Asheville Fire Department

Introduction:

The last revision of our fee schedule was in March 2008. Throughout this ten year period there has been drastic growth within the city and the demands and expectations on our department have drastically increased. Likewise new requirements in regards to mandatory changes in the code that involve permits have promoted this study.

Overview:

This proposal recommends an increase in operational and permit fees, as well as re-inspections fees, which are consistent with other departments throughout the state, yet fostering support for continuing economic growth.

Nomenclature:

- Green text indicates an increase to existing fees. Where existing fees are proposed to be increased, a side-by-side comparison of the current fees is included.

Operational Permits

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Amusement Building		\$50.00
Carnival and Fairs		\$50.00
Covered Mall Buildings		\$50.00
Exhibits and trade shows (per event)		\$50.00
Explosives	\$25/\$75	\$100.00
Fire hydrants and valves		\$50.00
Flammable and Combustible Liquids	\$10/\$15	\$50.00
Fumigation and Thermal Insecticidal Fogging	\$10	\$50.00
Private Fire Hydrants		\$50.00
Pyrotechnic Special Effects Materials		\$50.00
Spraying or Dipping		\$50.00
Temporary Membrane Structures, Tents, and Canopies		\$50.00
** Any other operational permits not listed above		\$50.00

Construction Permit

Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems (new)	\$25.00	\$100.00
-PLUS per sprinkler head	\$1.00	\$1.00
Automatic Fire Extinguishing System Renovation (existing)	\$15.00	\$50.00
Compressed Gas		\$50.00
Emergency Responder Radio Coverage System		\$25.00
Fire alarm and detection systems and related equipment (new)	\$25.00	\$75.00
Fire alarm and detection systems and related equipment (existing)	\$15.00	\$50.00
Fire Flow Test	\$100.00	\$100.00
Fixed Fire Suppression Systems (new)	\$25.00	\$75.00
Fixed Fire Suppression Systems (existing)	\$15.00	\$50.00
Flammable and Combustible liquids		\$50.00
Hazardous Materials		\$50.00
Industrial Ovens		\$50.00
LP Gas		\$50.00
Private Fire Hydrants		\$50.00
Spraying and Dipping		\$50.00
Standpipe systems (new)	\$25.00	\$75.00
Standpipe systems (existing)	\$15.00	\$50.00
Storage Tanks		
New Installation (per tank)	\$50.00	\$100.00
Removal (per tank)	\$25.00	\$100.00
Temporary Membrane Structure, Tents, and Canopies		\$50.00
** All other construction permits not listed above		\$50.00

Administrative Fees

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Copies of Fire Reports	\$3.00	\$5.00
Starting work without a permit	\$100.00	\$150.00
Re-inspection Fees		

There shall be no initial fee for fire inspection of Level I, II, or III properties requiring inspection under the mandatory inspection schedule. Thirty (30) days following the initial fire inspection, a re-inspection shall be conducted by the fire official. If all violations of the fire code have been corrected, no fee shall be imposed. If all violations of the fire code have not been corrected, a second notice to comply shall be issued and a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be imposed. Seven (7) days following the issuance of the second notice to comply, the fire official shall return for a re-inspection. If all violations have not been corrected, a final notice shall be issued and an additional one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fee shall be imposed. Seven (7) days following the

issuance of the final notice, the fire official shall return for a re-inspection. If all violations have not been corrected and all fees paid at this time a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) fine shall be imposed and criminal proceedings shall be initiated by the fire official, if necessary, to bring the establishment within compliance with the fire code.

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