



## **Evans City Council Work Session**

**October 19, 2010**

### **Fire District Briefing and Meeting with Taskforce**

#### **Internal working group**

This group is made up of internal fire department personnel and two non-FD members of the taskforce. Their charge is to bring to the taskforce a 5 year operations plan and budget, a long-term capital equipment plan and a human resource system for the new district. Much of their work so far has been centered on addressing the three major service delivery problems:

- ◆ Major apparatus replacement
- ◆ Consistent staffing to provide for initial structure fire attack
- ◆ Consistent staffing to cover concurrent call for service

The human resource issues being researched are:

- ◆ Developing a combination staffing system of full-time paid firefighters, volunteers and a new category of part-time or temporary contractual position.
- ◆ The use of a new model of part-time or temporary contractual paid firefighter position.
- ◆ The conversion of the current volunteer firefighter pension system to a length of service award program.

#### **City and Community working group**

This group is made up of taskforce members. Their objective is to develop the sections of the service plan that provide for a high degree of cooperation and partnership between the City, the Evans community and the fire district. This group has considered sections in the service plan and IGA that provide for:

- ◆ The name of the district as the Evans Fire Protection District
- ◆ Same appearance to the community
- ◆ Continuation of services provided to the City and community as have been historically provided by EFR
- ◆ Participation of the district fire chief in the city manager's senior management team

- ◆ City approval of material modifications to the service plan
- ◆ Conference on all major policy issues that have significant impact on the City including adoption of a fire code and participation in development services detailed in the IGA
- ◆ Annual report provided to the City using standard industry practices detailed in the IGA
- ◆ Annual meeting between the City Council and District Board
- ◆ City approval of all inclusions in the future based on criteria in the IGA

### **Finance working group**

This group is made up of taskforce members. It has been considering strategies for funding the new district using a three part approach of:

- ◆ Establishing a new district mil levy
- ◆ Reducing the current City mil levy
- ◆ City contribution from the general fund in the form of an IGA

Several important points have been considered and will receive further consideration.

- ◆ The expected cost to operate a fire district that addresses the three critical service needs ranges from \$1.9 to \$2.1 million. This is approximately \$110/capita which is below the comparison average of \$116/capita but higher than the current \$75/capita.
- ◆ The value of overhead and administrative services provide by the City to EFR is proving difficult to estimate.
- ◆ Due to the decrease in assessed value of property the value of each mil of property tax will drop from \$123,000 in 2010 to \$104,000 in 2012.
- ◆ The process of adopting a total new mil levy combined with the City reduction of mil levy will require careful ballot language and pre-election education.

