

**CITY OF BELLE SLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

Meeting Date: November 5, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Rick Rudometkin – City Manager

Subject: Discussion of a Fire Service Assessment Feasibility Study

Background:

The City of Belle Isle currently funds fire protection services through ad valorem revenues and contractual payments. Throughout Florida, agencies have increasingly utilized non-ad valorem fire assessments as a funding mechanism for fire protection services. These assessments are collected through the annual property tax bill and are specifically dedicated to funding fire protection services.

The City Council has previously discussed the long-term impact of increasing fire service costs and the City's ongoing efforts to maintain service levels while preserving financial stability.

A professional fire assessment study would evaluate:

- Current fire service funding methods.
- Long-term fire service costs.
- Potential non-ad valorem assessment methodologies.
- Residential and commercial impacts.
- Legal requirements under Florida law.
- Collection methods through the annual tax bill.
- Potential millage implications.
- Impacts on various property classifications.
- Exempt property considerations.
- Advantages and disadvantages of alternative funding structures.

Staff Recommendation: N/A

Suggested Motion:

I move to approve implementing a Fire Service Assessment Feasibility Study and authorize the city attorney and the city manager to move forward with the process.

Fiscal Impact: FY 26/27 budget - \$50k currently approved for Fire Assessment Study

Alternatives: Do not move forward with a study

Attachments: N/A