

# Staff Report

**Subject:** Fire fees for 2022  
**Author:** Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director  
**Department:** Finance  
**Meeting Date:** 8/16/22  
**Item Description:** Consideration to approve a resolution to adopt the 2022 fire fees

## Summary Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution to adopt the 2022 fire fees.

## Executive Summary/Background:

Each year, the Board of Commissioners approves a resolution to set the fire fees. This fee structure is based upon the current and anticipated costs to provide fire services for the unincorporated residents of the County, as well as residents in Springfield and Guyton.

To assist with significant new capital outlays, including building and staffing two new fire stations, and to keep pace of current price levels, staff is requesting a one-penny increase on the square footage component of the fee, and a two dollar per acre increase on the solar farm fee. The vacant property fee remains unchanged, as it is anticipated to be enough to cover the annual Georgia Forestry Commission fee the County must pay for vacant land.

### 1. Fire fees for the prior year were set at:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Residential                 | \$ 120.00 per year plus \$0.01 per sq. ft.                |
| Multi-Family                |   |
| One to Four Units           | \$ 120.00 per year plus \$0.01 per sq. ft.                |
| Five or more Units          | \$ 80.00 for each additional unit plus \$0.01 per sq. ft. |
| Commercial                  |   |
| 5,000 sq. ft. or less       | \$ 330.00 per year  |
| 5,000 – 15,000 sq. ft.      | \$ 555.00 plus \$0.022 per sq. ft.                        |
| More than 15,000 sq. ft.    | \$ 830.00 plus \$0.022 per sq. ft.                        |
| Industrial (per structure)  |   |
| 0 – 5,000 sq. ft.           | \$660.00 per year   |
| 5,000 – 15,000 sq. ft.      | \$1,105 plus \$0.028 per sq. ft.                          |
| 15,000 – 1,000,000 sq. ft.  | \$1,655 plus \$0.028 per sq. ft.                          |
| More than 1,000,000 sq. ft. | \$30,005.00 plus \$0.016 per sq. ft.                      |

Solar Farm \$42.00 per acre

Vacant Parcel \$0.105 per Acre  
(with no primary structure)

**2. Staff is recommending the following fire for 2022:**

Residential \$ 120.00 per year plus \$0.02 per sq. ft.

**Multi-Family**

One to Four Units \$ 120.00 per year plus \$0.02 per sq. ft.

Five or more Units \$ 80.00 for each additional unit plus \$0.02 per sq. ft.

**Commercial**

5,000 sq. ft. or less \$ 330.00 per year

5,000 – 15,000 sq. ft. \$ 555.00 plus \$0.032 per sq. ft.

More than 15,000 sq. ft. \$ 830.00 plus \$0.032 per sq. ft.

**Industrial (per structure)**

0 – 5,000 sq. ft. \$660.00 per year

5,000 – 15,000 sq. ft. \$1,105 plus \$0.038 per sq. ft.

15,000 – 1,000,000 sq. ft. \$1,655 plus \$0.038 per sq. ft.

More than 1,000,000 sq. ft. \$30,005.00 plus \$0.026 per sq. ft.

Solar Farm \$44.00 per acre

Vacant Parcel \$0.105 per Acre  
(with no primary structure)

**Alternatives for Commission to Consider:**

1. Approve the proposed fire fees resolution.
2. Do not approve the proposed fire fees resolution.
3. Provide staff with direction.

**Recommended Alternative:**

Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve the proposed fire fees resolution.

**Other Alternatives:**

1. Make no changes to the fire fees and leave them the same as 2021.

**Department Review:** *(list departments)*

Finance, Fire & Rescue, County Manager

**Funding Source:**

none

**Attachments:**

Resolution to set the 2022 fire fees