

TOWN OF JEROME

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

To: The Honorable Mayor and Council

From: Jerome Fire Department

Date: 08/15/2023

Meeting Date: 9-12-23

TITLE: Emergency services agreement

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Add to the existing Fee Schedule allowing for property owners outside of the Town of Jerome's incorporated area, the option to enter into an Emergency Services Agreement with the Jerome Fire Department to reduce the potential for an extremely costly bill for emergency services.

ACTION SUMMARY:

Update the fee schedule to provide fire, rescue, and emergency services based on limited property value for certain areas outside of Town limits.

DISCUSSION:

Areas to be included would be Perkinsville Rd, parts of Douglas Rd., Lower Bell, Upper Bell, parts of Dundee, and structures on top of Mingus Mountain. These bills can be quite substantial absent an agreement.

Creating an agreement like this is common practice with other fire agencies in the area.

Background/History:

Jerome Fire department responds to the properties outside Town of Jerome's incorporated area on a regular basis. Per the Town of Jerome's town code, the Jerome Fire Department is required to bill these properties for services rendered.

Key Considerations:

Billing the property owner for services has the potential of creating extremely large bills and negative relationships.

Without having agreements in place other agencies responding to the incident may also charge for services.

We as the Fire Department do our best to create and maintain positive working relationships with the residents of Jerome and the surrounding area.

Community Benefits and Considerations:

The key benefit to the community is that the response agreement would cover the cost of the fire department's replacement of consumables used at the incident and significantly reduce the charge for services rendered.

Financial Implications:

The extra financial income would supplement the Fire Department's budget assisting with the wages of the new fuels personnel as well as other budgetary needs.

Options and Alternatives:

The first option would be to do nothing and continue the billing.

Second would be to annex the areas. By doing this the town would gain extra tax revenue.

The last one would be the possibility of the property being annexed or absorbed by our neighboring fire district.

Attachments/Exhibits:

See attached.