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MEETING TYPE: Board of Alderman

DATE: April 14, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Michael D. Ambrose, Town Manager

ITEM TYPE: Public Hearing

AGENDA SECTION: Public Hearings

SUBJECT: **Consider Approval to Recommend that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners Increase the East Landis Water District Fire Protection Tax Rate to \$.0825 Cents Per \$100 Valuation and Consider Approval of Corresponding Resolution #2025-04-14-2**

DETAILS:

According to the Rowan County Tax Assessor's Office, the East Landis Water District Fire Protection Tax began in 1997 with a \$.05 cent per \$100 valuation. In 2003, this fire tax was lowered to .042 cents per \$100 valuation, and in 2015 the tax was increased to .0425 per \$100 valuation. Due to the growing expenses of the operational costs of the fire department, safety equipment needs (like SCBA's, Turn Out Gear, Helmets, and other safety equipment), and service equipment needs, this was discussed in the March Budget Retreat Meeting.

For one personnel at the rank of firefighter the total cost associated with payroll is \$66,095 dollars, and the total cost associated to outfit one fire personnel in uniform, and safety equipment is approximately \$5,110 dollars without the cost of the SCBA's. The SCBA's costs are approximately \$10,000 dollars, however they are good for a period of time.

Town Staff have determined the call volume in the East Landis Water District Fire Service Area to be approximately 7% of the total call volume. The total actual operational costs for the Fire Department this fiscal year from July 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, has been \$1,193,047.65, therefore, 7% of the total operational costs through March 31, 2025, are \$83,513.34.

The recommendation set forth in the March Budget Retreat Meeting was to set the tax rate at .0825 cents per \$100 valuation which will bring the revenues from \$43,663.15 to an estimated \$79,818.72 per year, per the Rowan County Tax Assessor's Office.