



Levy County Board of County Commissioners Agenda Item Summary Form

1. **Name and Title:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
2. **Department:** Board of County Commissioners
3. **Meeting Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026

4. **Requested Action:**

Receive a presentation on the Cow Creek Fire and consider establishing a work group to conduct a holistic evaluation of Fire and EMS service delivery in Levy County and provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

5. **Cost & Funding Source:**

There is no cost associated with establishing a work group.

6. **Justification of Request:**

The Cow Creek Fire was an intense, rapidly moving wildfire that ultimately grew to approximately 2,400 acres and occurred concurrently with another active fire in Levy County. While the Cow Creek Fire thankfully resulted in no loss of life and no homes were lost, it underscores the importance of proactively evaluating the delivery of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) throughout the County.

Fire and EMS services in Levy County have evolved over time in response to changing service demands and the availability of resources across both municipal and unincorporated areas. In recent years, population growth and continued development have increased the demand for these critical services, placing additional pressure on existing systems.

Given these factors, now is an appropriate time for Levy County to begin a community conversation about the level of Fire and EMS service residents and business owners expect, how those services should be delivered, and how they should be funded in a sustainable and equitable manner.

To support this effort, the Board may wish to appoint a Commissioner to serve on a work group alongside Public Safety staff, the County Manager, the Director of Finance and Administration, and the Municipal Fire Chiefs. This work group would be tasked with conducting a comprehensive evaluation of current Fire and EMS service delivery, identifying future needs, and reviewing potential funding strategies to ensure Levy County is well-positioned to meet both current and future public safety demands.