

COLUMBIA COUNTY FIRE/RESCUE

Budget 2011-2012



MISSION STATEMENT

The Columbia County Fire Department is dedicated to safe-guarding the lives, property and environment of our community through exceptional service utilizing education, preparedness, prevention and response to emergency incidents. An essential function of the department is to provide opportunities for a positive presence in the community. A strong emphasis is placed on connecting the Fire Department and the community together.

LEGAL MANDATE

The only legal mandate for the county is the fire prevention code which has been adopted. Other mandates we follow come from NFPA and Florida Standards

Services

- ❖ Protect the 70,000 citizens and visitors of Columbia County
- ❖ Partner with the community to educate on public safety
- ❖ Maintain a department that keeps our ISO rating as low as monetarily possible.

Organizational Chart

- ▣ Fire Chief
- ▣ Division Chief
- ▣ 3 Shift Commanders
- ▣ 6 Lieutenants
- ▣ 4 Driver Engineers
- ▣ 6 FF/Medics
- ▣ 7 FF/EMT
- ▣ 7 Firefighters
- ▣ 10 Part timers
- ▣ 1 Office Manager

History

- ▣ The Columbia County Fire Rescue Department has been in operation for approximately five years growing from eight volunteer stations and making three of them paid stations in our first year. Our second year we changed two more reservist stations to combined stations for our current total of five paid and four reservist stations. We have grown to 40 pieces of rolling apparatus. Our staffing consists of 33 shift personnel who work 24 hours on and 48 hours off, two administrative personnel, one office manager and approximately 35 reservists.
- ▣
- ▣ Around August 2008 we earned an ISO rating of 5/9 for the county and 4/9 for the Ft. White area. Our ISO grade has saved a large majority of our citizens between forty seven to fifty two percent on their home insurance costs.



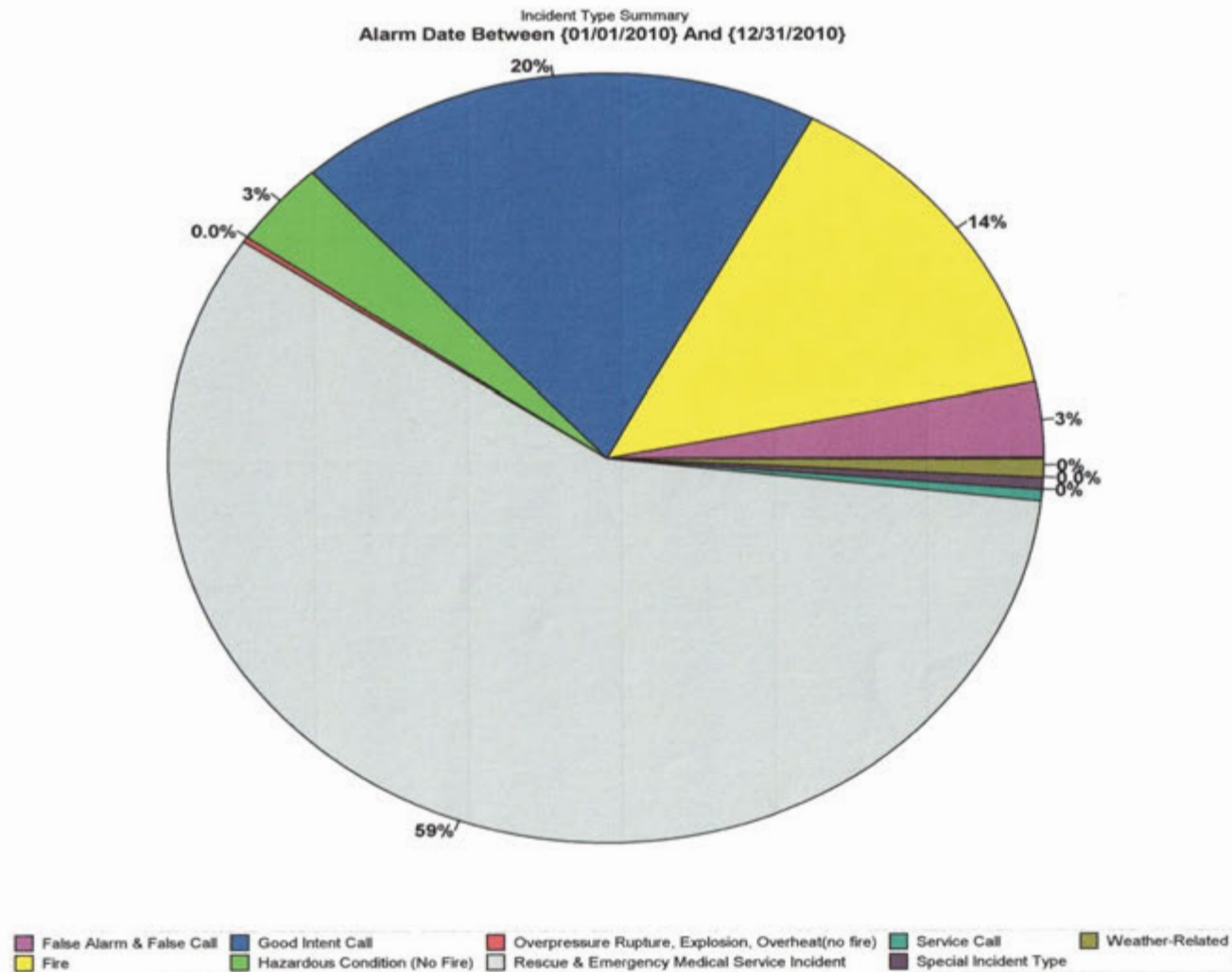
Budget issues

This past year we did not allow for the purchase of new equipment. This was due in part to the financial straits that the world was/is in. Our goal was to make the existing equipment last through maintenance and upkeep. Our very job entails extreme conditions for any piece of equipment. This year, pieces that have exceeded their life expectancy must be replaced for the safety of citizens and firefighters alike.

As the years continue, maintenance issues will continue to grow. Our maintenance plan is working but is costly due to wear and tear and aging equipment.



Call Volume and type



Reduction Scenario

Five Percent Reduction Scenario

A five percent reduction would equal \$135,000.00. This would be a reduction of three personnel which would cost our budget more in overtime to fill the slots of these three firefighters.

Ten Percent Reduction Scenario

A ten percent reduction would equal \$270,000.00 which is a little more than six positions. Either of these options would cost more in payroll to replace the terminated employees or result in the closing of one or more paid stations. This would revert that/those stations to strictly volunteer staff which would affect our ISO rating and the citizens insurance standing of the affected area.

Budget

Fire Rescue Department 2011/2012 Budget Worksheet

at half way point

Account #	Title	Last Yrs Ttl	Spent to date	Balance	Requested	Percentg Change
1022200522						
1012	Salaries	\$ 1,507,960.00	\$ 1,019,282.34	\$ 488,677.66	\$1,555,499.00	3.15%
1021	FICA Taxes	\$ 115,359.00	\$ 77,518.22	\$ 37,840.78	\$ 115,359.00	0.00%
1022	Retirement	\$ 344,457.00	\$ 247,055.39	\$ 97,401.61	\$ 344,457.00	0.00%
1023	Health & Life	\$ 184,590.00	\$ 113,509.08	\$ 71,080.92	\$ 184,590.00	0.00%
1024	Worker's Comp	\$ 107,777.00	\$ 73,763.80	\$ 34,013.20	\$ 107,777.00	0.00%
3031	Professional Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
3033	AFG Grant monies					
3041	Communications	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,867.71	\$ 7,132.29	\$ 15,000.00	0.00%
3043	Utilities, gas, etc.	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 32,584.97	\$ 47,415.03	\$ 80,000.00	0.00%
3045	Operating Insurance	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	0.00%
3046	Repairs, bldgs, trucks	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 79,775.77	\$ 50,224.23	\$ 140,000.00	7.69%
3048	Training: physical, class, seminars,	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 9,098.20	\$ 20,901.80	\$ 25,000.00	-16.67%
3049	Uniforms: day wear, bunker, boots, brush, etc.	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 10,822.92	\$ 16,677.08	\$ 21,000.00	-23.64%
3052	Operating supplies daily usage items	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 57,394.22	\$ 19,605.78	\$ 80,000.00	3.90%
3054	Subscriptions, dues prof. organizations, etc.	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 2,810.00	\$ 2,000.00	-33.33%
3056	Gas, oil, etc.	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 51,049.79	\$ 33,950.21	\$ 90,000.00	5.88%
6064	Equipment purchases	\$ -			\$ 72,300.00	\$ -
5803052	Fire Prevention items					
This line item is funded through public donations. Purchases include items used in schools, CPR training supplies, etc.						
TOTALS		\$ 2,807,643.00	\$ 1,879,912.41	\$1,027,730.59	\$2,932,982.00	4.46%

Budget needs

- ▣ Our budget for 2011-2012 consists of three major areas: 1-Personnel Expenses, 2-Operations and 3-Capital Needs
- ▣ Liaison position for Lifeguard. This is a necessary position to maintain operational efficiency between the new EMS provider for the county and the Fire Rescue Dept. The costs associated with this position including all benefits will be \$65,299.99
- ▣ Personnel Expenses. This expense should remain the same as long as we maintain current staffing at the current salaries. One recommendation would be to explore the option of adding personnel but keeping the same minimum staffing.
- ▣ This would reduce over time even more by letting the K-day resume, removing the current built-in overtime. The addition of personnel also plays a large part in maintaining ISO requirements.
- ▣ A figure to work with is \$123,000.00. This is approximately what it would take to add one person per shift.
- ▣ Operations. Now that we have had a couple of years of stable operation, we know what it takes to operate (short of any catastrophic events). Tabbed as Attachment 1, you will find a spread sheet showing increases and decreases along with the percentages. Fuel and repairs remain the biggest unknown factors.
- ▣ Capital Needs. We are requesting these items this year, realizing the economic state. We believe these items are essential for efficient operation and have enclosed the costs and justifications for these items tabbed as Attachment 2.

Capital needs attachment

- ▣ Replace three sets of *extrication equipment*. In 2009 we were able to replace three sets out of the ten the department owns. We are now at a critical time on at least four sets of the equipment that run out of the paid stations. The equipment we would be replacing is approximately 20 to 25 years old. We have exhausted rotating efforts. The cost on the equipment is \$30,000.00
- ▣ The maintenance department has informed us that the *roll up doors at the Ft. White station* (Station 46) need to be replaced. They are past the point of being able to be repaired. They are approximately 30 years old. They have given us a quote of \$2,600 each for a total of \$20,800.00
- ▣ Although we replace *fire hose* throughout the year we still do not have enough back up hose for large incidents. I propose to purchase 10 sections of 1 3/4" for \$1750.00 and 10 sections of 5" for \$4,750.00
- ▣ Generator *hook up and transfer switch* for 5 generators at \$3,000.00 each for a total of \$15,000.00. The generators were generously donated by the Division of Forestry and are 60 KW each.
- ▣ Total cost for all requested Capital Needs is \$72,300.00

ISO Recommendations

Following are requirements as recommend by our ISO Consultant. These requirements would be necessary to maintain our current ISO numbers. Over the past several years they have changed the laws and are now spot checking every three years. At our current station level we will not maintain our Class 5 on the next inspection. Most counties are seeing a 200 to 300 percent increase in insurance premiums as a result of losing ISO status.

Our biggest issue is our current number of fire stations and how they are located. We are in need of adding four single bay stations to meet the new requirements. These stations do not require personnel, only a Class A type engine. We presently have only one engine to spare. To meet this requirement, a purchase of three additional engines would be required.

The single bay stations would require only a half acre of land and would cost approximately \$25,000.00 each including; concrete, heater and building which is all that ISO requires.

The next page is a proposal for 3 Class A pumpers. This proposal is based on four options, built much like the lease/purchase program the Public Works department uses for the motor graders. This purchase would also give us leeway to move equipment around and relieve some of our busier units, helping prolong their fiscal life and helping with maintenance costs.

Class A Pumper Proposal



l e a s i n g 2

Lessee

Columbia County, Florida

Proposal Date:	April 14, 2011			
Equipment Description:	(3) Class A Fire Trucks			
Commencement Date:	October 31, 2011			
	<u>Option 1</u>	<u>Option 2</u>	<u>Option 3</u>	<u>Option 4</u>
Equipment Cost:	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000
Lessee Down Payment:				
Amount Financed:	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000
Lease Term:	3 Years	5 Years	7 Years	10 Years
First Payment Date:	10/31/2012	10/31/2012	10/31/2012	10/31/2012
Payment Frequency:	1 / year	1 / year	1 / year	1 / year
Lease Rate:	3.49%	3.53%	3.68%	4.09%
Payment Amount:	\$374,701.54	\$232,765.97	\$172,877.51	\$130,041.11
Payment Factor:	0.35686	0.22168	0.16465	0.12385

The information contained in this lease quote is privileged and confidential.
Any communication of this information in whole or in part is prohibited.

Qualifications:

1. **Pricing:** This is a lease proposal for the payment stream(s) indicated above. If any of the information identified above are not correct, please advise us so that we can determine if a new proposal is required. Other important elements of this proposal are:

a) **Rate Expiration:** The rates quoted are intended for planning and budgeting and are subject to change with market conditions. If you are close to making a decision to order, please call us for a final proposal with current rates.

b) **Closing Costs:** There will be no up-front costs of any kind charged by Lessor including closing costs, points, administrative costs, etc. Your attorney may charge you to review the lease documents and complete the opinion letter required with our lease documentation.

c) **Type of Lease:** This is a lease-purchase type of financing. After all the lease payments are made, Lessee will own the equipment without further cost.

d) **Fixed Rates:** Unless otherwise noted, the interest rates in this proposal are fixed for the entire term.

e) **Vendor Payable / Escrow Account (where applicable):** In the event that the truck(s) and/or equipment are not ready to be delivered, proceeds of this lease will be held in a vendor payable account until delivery/acceptance. This is a non-interest bearing account to Lessee.

f) **Bank Qualified:** Lessee shall certify that it has not designated, and does not reasonably anticipate designating, more than \$10,000,000.00 of obligations during the calendar year that the proposed lease is executed.

2. **Credit Approval and Documentation:** This is a proposal only, and does not represent a commitment to lease. This financing is subject to credit review and approval and execution of mutually acceptable documentation, including the opinion of lessor's counsel opining that the agreement is legal, valid and binding, and qualified as a tax exempt obligation under the tax reform act of 1986 as amended.

Leasing 2, Inc.

BY: Brad Meyers
Phone: 800-287-5155 Fax: 813-258-9333

(via email or facsimile)

DATE: April 14, 2011



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.leasing2.com

Closing

In closing, the Columbia County Fire Department proudly serves the 801 square miles and approximately 70,000 residences located here. We get calls from the citizens of this county thanking us for the job we do and we believe we are a positive reflection on the county commissioners. We do a professional job and show what is possible even on a tight budget.

Our current crew is made up of professionals who take pride in their job and are committed to keeping the citizens and travelers through our county, as safe as possible. If they do get into trouble, we are there to help them protect them and as much of their property as is possible.

The personnel continue to train to not only further themselves but also to stay abreast of the latest innovations and techniques as they become available. There are new foams and new chemicals that have huge potential to cut firefighting time and exposure to a minimum. These new foams also have little to no environmental impact.

As chief of this department, I want to personally thank you for your consideration of our 2011-2012 budget. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have or that might arise.