

From:  
Elbert Tucker  
Bunnell City Commissioner

June 13, 2016

To: Mayor Catherine Robinson  
Vice Mayor John Rogers  
Commissioner Baxley  
Commissioner Bonita Robinson

City Mgr., Dan Davis  
City Clerk, Sandi Bolser

Re: Potential Consolidated Fire Services with Flagler County

Attached is information collected, and my conversations with Flagler County Staff, to consider consolidation of fire services with Flagler County.

Attached, also, is information of emergency calls for a one year period, to the City of Bunnell Fire Department.

My thoughts are to take the funds not spent on fire services, and fund another police officer.

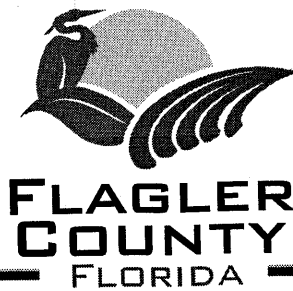
Please, read the information prior to the Thursday evening meeting.

Regards,



Elbert Tucker  
Bunnell City Commissioner

**Administration**  
1769 E. Moody Blvd Bldg 2  
Bunnell, FL 32110



[www.flaglercounty.org](http://www.flaglercounty.org)  
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June 13, 2016

City of Bunnell  
Attn: Commissioner Elbert Tucker  
Bunnell, FL 32110

Dear Mr. Tucker,

*This letter is a follow up to the conversations we have had regarding ideas on what might be some potential benefits and potential agreement points for a consolidated fire department between the City and the County.*

*Consider these documents as potential concepts that would allow your commission to further explore these ideas. At the very least it will give everyone a better understanding of the issues and at the most it will provide a framework to move forward should that be the direction of the Bunnell Commission. All the details are written on paper and not stone, meaning they could be adjusted as necessary.*

*To date, I have not had the opportunity to share this with my Commission, although they have been involved in other similar proposals we have given to the City of Flagler Beach in the past. On our part, I am viewing this as a slight adjustment to our existing operations as your current provider of Fire, Rescue and EMS services.*

*Nothing in this document is meant to belittle or diminish the service or sacrifice that the City's Chief or volunteers provide for the City residents. It is intended to lay out factually the costs of service and types of service responses provided, etc.*

*As always, we will continue to work to partner with the City where we can create positive results for the benefit of all our residents.*

Sincerely,

Craig M. Coffey  
County Administrator

Cc: County Commissioners  
Don Petito, Fire Chief

Charles Ericksen, Jr.  
District 1

Frank Meeker  
District 2

Barbara Revels  
District 3

Nate McLaughlin  
District 4

George Hanns  
District 5

## Calls in the City

(12 months Apr 15-Mar 16)

There were approximately 1,666 calls in the City last calendar year. Of those 80% were medical or all but 335 of those calls. Of the 335 calls that the Bunnell Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to they are broken down as follows:

89 Vehicle Accidents

1331 Medical  
Calls

63 Brush Fires

18 Structure Fires

33 Fire Alarms

9 Vehicle Fires

123 other calls

Structure fires were anything from smell of smoke in the structure to small fire inside the structure. No major fires in the City limits were reported.

Of the 335 non-medical calls there were 73 calls with over a 10 minute response and 30 calls with no response.

With the other 232 calls, we believe these are mainly a chief's response with no apparatus, although the details are not available in the system.

## **Potential Benefits of Consolidation**

1. **Annual Monetary Savings** - The City would save approximately \$130,000-\$150,000 million over 10 years. The City would absorb the small portion of fixed annual costs of approximately just under \$30,000 in the County's budget.
2. **Liability** - There is always tremendous liability when dealing with emergency services. While Bunnell has not faced many, if any claims and it does have insurance there are still liabilities. If an incident were to occur, unfortunately responses, training and similar issues would be brought into consideration. Bunnell has potential exposure in some of these areas.
3. **Proceeds from Sale of Excess and Surplus Equipment** - The City would initially realize the proceeds from the sale of any equipment the County could not utilize in its operations (excess equipment). Any equipment it is able to utilize will be maintained properly and over time any proceeds from the sale of that equipment will also go to the City as it is sold as surplus.
4. **Future Capital Savings** - The City would be able to avoid future capital outlays on top of the annual operating cost savings. Fire trucks, jaws-of-life, and bunker gear/air tanks all can create cost spikes. Some of these items have manufactures end of life dates that mandate replacement on a period basis.
5. **ISO Rating** - Currently the City is listed as 5/10 for ISO insurance rating, which is a relatively high rating for a City. One of the primary reasons the City may be rated so high is because of the lack of a full time fire department and the fact that the City's capabilities are viewed as first and foremost instead of the County's. If there were no City agencies, the ISO evaluation would be based more on the County as the primary response agency and this rating likely could be lowered closer to a 4 – saving residents money on their insurance policy. This is similar to the Town of Marineland and Beverly Beach who subsequently receive lower ratings.
6. **Volunteers** – The County would work with and seek to maintain/increase the training of any volunteers to the minimum levels. The volunteer pensions would continue through the receipt of the proceeds for all existing volunteers.

## Potential Consolidation Deal Points

1. The City of Bunnell and Flagler County will create a written agreement to bequeath all fire service trucks and relate fire-fighting equipment to Flagler County. The City would get the financial proceeds of the sale of any City equipment now or in the future.
2. The City, by written agreement, will allow Flagler County Fire and Rescue operations to be the sole occupant of what is now known as the Bunnell Volunteer Fire Department building and contiguous property, to be identified by legal description, at 1607 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell, FL.
3. Flagler County will fund any improvements and betterments to the building or buildings, for the duration of this agreement, for the stated location. The County shall maintain the building and grounds in good working order and pay all associated maintenance, utility and other operational costs.
4. Flagler County will name the City as an "additional insured" for Bunnell's building for replacement cost property coverage, for the duration of this agreement. The City would be relieved of any liability/responsibility as the County would be the response entity and the volunteers would be County volunteers. The County would indemnify and hold the City harmless for any fire/rescue/medical emergency services it performs within the City limits and other accidents on the property. The County will insure any equipment it receives.
5. For the use of the buildings and premises, Flagler County will operate the facility as a back-up fire station, funded solely by Flagler County. The County agrees to store a reserve ambulance and special operations equipment at the facility.
6. Flagler County shall also station, a back-up ambulance at the stated location, fully funded by Flagler County. During the declared emergencies, the station shall be occupied and made fully operational as situation dictates. During future expansions of the County Fire/Rescue/EMS service the station shall be considered for full-time manning and operations.
7. The City of Bunnell will have ingress and egress to its water and waste water utility lines to be described in the agreement.
8. If the agreement is ever dissolved, Flagler County will furnish the City of Bunnell with any firefighting trucks, and other equipment it received from the City that is still in the County's possession. If such equipment is no longer in the County's possession the County shall use its best efforts to provide the City equipment of a similar quality and capacity as when it received so that the City may equip itself in a similar manner as existed prior to dissolution. This shall not include any equipment not accepted by the County and sold by either the City or County with the proceeds realized by the City (excess equipment).
9. The City is aware as the population grows, a new fire station location may better serve the residents of the City of Bunnell, as opposed to the current location of 1607 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell, FL. If the station is no longer utilized by the County fire/rescue department, the County shall return the property to the City.