

THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL MET IN A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL AND THE HOCKLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON MONDAY, THE 26th OF JULY 2021, AT 9:00AM IN 286TH DISTRICT COURT ROOM, 802 HOUSTON STREET, LEVELLAND, TEXAS, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barbra Pinner	Honorable Mayor	Present
Jim Myatt	Council Member	Present
Mary Engledow	Council Member	Present
Breann Buxkemper	Mayor Pro Tem	Present
Michael Stueart	Council Member	Present
Matt Wade	City Attorney	Absent
Erik Rejino	City Manager	Present
Andréa Corley	City Secretary	Present

Hockley County Judge, Sharla Baldrige called the County Commissioner meeting to order at 9:01am. Mayor Barbra Pinner called the Levelland City Council meeting to order at 9:01am. The Pledge was led by Mayor Barbra Pinner and the Invocation was given by County Commissioner Alan Wisdom

Statements by Citizens:

There were multiple statements by citizens. The format for Public Comment was less formal, with citizens speaking and asking questions from their seats throughout the City/County discussion.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Discussion with Hockley County Commissioners' Court concerning fire suppression services in the County and any related agreement thereto including other agreements between the parties.

Background

The City of Levelland and Hockley County have a Fire Service Agreement that has been in place for well over ten years. We are nearing the end of the current two-year agreement which expires on September 30th of this year.

Accordingly, the City Council appointed a committee of two City Council members to work with City staff and review the agreement. The two Council members are Mayor Pinner and Mayor Pro Tem Buxkemper. At this time, in order to enter into a new agreement beginning October 1, 2021, the committee requested the following changes to the agreement with the County which I presented recently at one of the County's budget work sessions.

The proposed new terms were as follows:

- \$200,000 for first 200 runs (currently \$175,000)
- \$800 per run after first 200 runs with a cap of \$20,000 (currently \$650 per run)

The amounts in the prior agreement were as follows:

- \$120,000 for first 200 runs
- \$600 per run after first 200 runs with a cap of \$20,000

Based on a phone survey conducted by the City, the new amounts proposed to the County would put the funding in the agreement more in line with the funding other cities receive for similar arrangements. Also, while this agreement would put us more in line with other cities, it is still only a small percentage (approximately 16%) of the overall fire department budget, which is approximately \$1.35 million.

In visiting with individual Council Members, we have some additional scenarios regarding business terms that staff will be prepared to discuss if Council chooses to in addition to the scenario presented above.

Below is a summary of several other items Council may want to consider as you consider action on the fire service agreement.

County Fire Runs: Staff has reviewed the fire department runs in the County and found that for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 nearly 46 percent of the total calls were in the County and nearly 60 percent of the personnel hours on responding to incidents were in the County (see details below). There are a few things to keep in mind when considering personnel hours. The personnel hours utilized on fire runs are a very small percentage of overall personnel hours. There are many services that the Fire Department provides that go above and beyond a traditional fire run or emergency run. The department spends time conducting arson investigations, assists the Building Inspections Department in evaluating plans for new buildings and assists with assessing structures that may be substandard and in violation of fire codes. In addition, they participate in a number of fire prevention efforts throughout the year. They also participate in community outreach efforts when opportunities arise and as time allows. When it comes to these types of services the City is the primary entity that benefits from these as these services do not normally extend out in to the County. Below is a summary of the emergency calls for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 and a summary of the year to date for the current fiscal year.

2019-2020 Fire Runs 10/01-09/30					
	COUNTY	CITY	TOTAL	COUNTY %	CITY %
# of Calls	174	207	381	45.67%	54%
# of Personnel Hours	1160.95	792.33	1953.28	59.44%	40.56%

2019-2020	CITY CALLS	COUNTY CALLS	TOTAL	CITY %	COUNTY %
TRUCK COMMAND 1	31	32	63	49%	51%
TRUCK COMMAND 2	115	126	241	48%	52%
TANKER 3	14	11	25	56%	44%
RESCUE 4	20	21	41	49%	51%
ENGINE 6(RESERVE)	3	2	5	60%	40%
ENGINE 7	19	5	24	79%	21%
ENGINE 8	69	20	89	78%	22%
TANKER 9	6	33	39	15%	85%
BRUSH 10	1	5	6	17%	83%
SQUAD 11	50	18	68	74%	26%
BRUSH 12	3	24	27	11%	89%
FOAM 13	8	2	10	80%	20%
BRUSH 14	59	128	187	32%	68%

10/01/2020- 07/06/2021					
TRUCK	CITY CALLS	COUNTY CALLS	TOTAL	CITY %	COUNTY %
COMMAND 1	29	21	50	58%	42%
COMMAND 2	97	82	179	54%	46%
TANKER 3	9	5	14	64%	36%
RESCUE 4	8	11	19	42%	58%
ENGINE 6(RESERVE)	0	1	1	0%	100%
ENGINE 7	2	5	7	29%	71%
ENGINE 8	84	21	105	80%	20%

TANKER 9	0	31	31	0%	100%
BRUSH 10	3	4	7	43%	57%
SQUAD 11	34	12	46	74%	26%
BRUSH 12	0	11	11	0%	100%
FOAM 13	3	0	3	100%	0%
BRUSH 14	43	76	119	36%	64%

2020-2021 Fire Runs 10/01-07/06					
	COUNTY	CITY	TOTAL	COUNTY %	CITY %
# of Calls	117	165	282	41.49%	59%
# of Personnel Hours	884.32	500.53	1384.85	63.86%	36.14%

Fire Department Budget: We have also assessed what a City-Only fire department would provide in savings. In order to provide adequate fire protection and maintain current ISO ratings for the City, only two pieces of apparatus could be eliminated along with some of the overtime costs for a total of \$60,000 in estimated savings of the \$1.3 million budget.

Fire Department Budget:	\$1.35million
Annual Savings in Overtime:	\$25,000
Annual Savings from Grass Truck (\$300,000 over 15 years)	\$20,000
<u>Annual Savings from Tanker Truck (\$300,000 over 20 years)</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>
Estimated City-Only Fire Department Budget:	\$1.24 million

The numbers above do not take into account the extended life of Fire Department equipment based on fewer runs if the Fire Department was to only run in the City. The extended life of the equipment would likely provide significant savings to the City.

AGENCY NAME	10/01/2019 THRU 09/30/2020	10/01/2020 THRU 06/30/2021
Total Calls for Service		
All Agencies Totals	24691	26771
Levelland Police Department	15868	16647

Hockley County Sheriff's Department	4945	6978
Levelland Fire Department	1031	655
Covenant - Levelland EMS	2847	2491
Agency Response to MVA		
All Agencies Totals	773	602
Levelland Police Department	356	272
Hockley County Sheriff's Department	224	193
Levelland Fire Department	55	37
Covenant - Levelland EMS	138	102

Dispatch/Communications Budget: We have reviewed the 911 dispatch and communications service as this is also a countywide service provided by the City. The current dispatch budget is approximately \$450,000. We determined that if the City operated a City-Only run dispatch service there would be no savings as we would still need to have all of the capabilities and the same number of dispatchers on duty at all times. Below is a summary of the calls for service, with the Levelland Police Department and Fire Department making up the majority of the calls. It is also important to note that there was an agreement signed in 1982 by the City and the County which references that the City shall operate County-wide dispatch service and the County shall operate the jail facility. The agreement expires in 2032.

Jail Service: The annual jail budget is estimated at \$1.4 million which was discovered during the last renegotiations with the County on the fire service agreement. As with the dispatch service, it is also important to note that there was an agreement signed in 1982 by the City and the County which references that the County shall operate the jail. The agreement expires in 2032. However, the operations of jail services per state statute is the primary responsibility of the County.

Law Enforcement Center: The city pays an annual lease payment of \$2,500 per year for use of the dispatch center in addition to all city utilities for the law enforcement center and the jail which equates to approximately \$18,000 per year. This too is part of the 50 year agreement referenced above.

Emergency Management: In 2016, the City and County entered into a joint agreement to partner on providing countywide emergency management services on a full-time basis. The agreement calls for the hiring of an Emergency Management Coordinator by the City of Levelland to provide emergency management services to the entire County. The operating budget is approximately \$120,000 in which the City and County share equally.

City Landfill: Landfill tipping fees are waived for County residents and are covered by the \$25,000 payment the County makes to the City for use of the landfill. The alternative to this arrangement would be to charge each County resident a landfill tipping fee each time they use the landfill. After reviewing the tonnage, the landfill tipping fee would generate less than the \$25,000 payment from the County.

Airport: City and County jointly own the Levelland Municipal Airport. The airport at this time between the operating revenue, oil royalties, and state and federal funding is self-sustaining operationally and for capital improvements. No subsidy is provided by either the City or County nor has a subsidy been provided in over eight (8) years. It is important to note that the majority of the staff support including grants administration, capital projects, working with the Airport Advisory Board, and mowing falls on City staff.

Library: The County operates a library with budget of over \$200,000. The City makes no contribution towards the library. In many cities, the library is strictly a City-operated service.

Ambulance: The City and County subsidize Covenant Hospital equally in the amount of approximately \$70,000 each year to provide ambulance service Countywide. The \$70,000 subsidy is significantly less than most cities pay for ambulance service according to a survey that was conducted earlier this year.

Other Relationships: We have also reviewed other relationships with the County including the Hospital, Mallet Event Center, and Juvenile Probation Services. Being that these are Countywide services City of Levelland taxpayers are already helping pay for these services as they are also Hockley County taxpayers.

The County expressed concern with the current plan, which included \$175,000 for up to 200 runs, with additional expense for more than 200 runs. The consensus between both entities was that the City of Levelland would calculate a “cost per run” for all calls and the City and County would continue discussions after that time.

No Council Action Taken

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andréa Corley, City Secretary