

# FIRST RESPONDERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

## Request for Public Support of the Putnam County Fire & Rescue Departments

- The Fire & Rescue Stations in Putnam County are asking for public support to ensure the best protection of life and property that we can provide to our residents and businesses.
- To make sure we continue offering the best service we can, the Departments and Firefighters in this county need your support. Each year, we take on financial increases to operate. Expenses for insurance, Worker's Compensation, utilities, maintenance and repair, plus other costs continue to rise at typically 2-3%+ every year. The fleet of apparatus that protect you, have many fire engines approaching or over twenty years old. To replace a fire engine today, cost well more than \$350,000 with no equipment included.
- An intense review of the ordinance has prompted a few new amendments that make the ordinance impartial to both residential property and non-residential property regarding the total size for the parcel and the fee assigned. We examined and compared ordinances in other West Virginia counties. The amendments will not only allow more comparable fees and definitions but will also increase the amount of revenue generated to help continue protecting your life and property into the future.

**Please help support the Putnam County Fire Service in protecting your lives and property.  
Sign our petition for amendments to the ordinance so that we may continue  
to give you the best service we can provide.**

*Pursuant to W. Va. Code § 7-17-12, the voters of Putnam County are hereby requested to sign in their own handwriting this petition in support of a reasonable increase in the fire service rates, fees and/or charges. The County Commission shall take this matter under consideration for passage of an ordinance upon receipt of signatures by at least ten percent (10%) of the qualified voters of Putnam County.*

*By signing your name hereto, you are affirming that you (1) are a registered voter of Putnam County, and (2) that you support the changes to the fire service ordinance provided on reverse side.*

First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Signature

**Return this form in the envelope provided. Signatures will be turned into the County Clerk's Office for verification.**

**Have questions?** Please feel free to contact the Fire Board office at (304)586-5370, option #8. Join the Putnam County Fire Service Board on Facebook for announcements on upcoming Facebook live sessions or visit our website at <http://putnamcountypfireservice.org>.

***Please see reverse side for changes and examples***

**Changes to the Fire Fee Ordinance:**

- In the original ordinance, the billable classification of properties was “Residential” & “Commercial”. This created questionable exemption for other classifications identified by the County Assessor. With this amendment, we will acknowledge “Residential” and “Non-Residential” so there is not a gap for certain classifications to be missed.
- Definition of total square footage will include all buildings identified and acknowledged by the County Assessor.
- Permits the Fire Board to add a 10% late fee on the entire balance owed to the Fire Board, instead of solely the current year.
- Identification changes from “Fire Fee” to “Fire & Rescue Fee” to help residents of Putnam County realize that the Departments in our county serve the county in many other emergency calls includes motor vehicle collisions, ATV wrecks, brush fires, power lines down, gas leaks, Carbon Monoxide (CO) or gas smells, and much more.

A sample of the amended fee structure is as follows:

**Residential:**

Total Square Footage for the parcel	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Yearly Difference	Average increase per Month
0 – 999 sq. ft.	\$37.50	\$ 35.00	\$ -2.50	
1000 – 1999 sq. ft.	\$37.50	\$ 40.00	\$ 2.50	.21 cents
2000 – 2999 sq. ft.	\$37.50 - \$45	\$ 50.00	\$12.50 (2000-2499 sq.ft.) \$5 (2500-2999 sq.ft.)	\$ 1.04 .42 cents
3000 – 3999 sq. ft.	\$45	\$60.00	\$15.00	\$ 1.25
4000 – 4999 sq. ft.	\$45	\$70.00	\$25.00	\$ 2.08
For each additional 1000 sq. ft. the fee increases \$10 up to a maximum of 10,000 total sq. ft.				
10,000+	\$45	\$130	\$85	\$ 7.08

**Commercial:**

Total Square Footage for the parcel	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Yearly Difference	Average increase per Month
0 – 999 sq. ft.	\$75	\$ 80	\$5	.42 cents
1000 – 1999 sq. ft.	\$75	\$ 120	\$45	.21 cents
4000 – 4999 sq. ft.	\$225	\$ 240	\$15	\$1.25
30,000 – 30,999 sq. ft.	\$1125	\$1280	\$155	\$12.92
60,000 – 60,999 sq. ft.	\$1125	\$2480	\$1355	\$112.92
For each additional 1000 sq. ft. the fee increases \$40 up to a maximum of 100,000 total sq. ft.				
100,000+	\$1125	\$4080	\$2955	\$246.25