

Rationale for 2016 Rea Valley Fire Protection District Assessment

The assessment of benefits for the Rea Valley Fire Protection District were developed based on two primary factors: the 2015 operating budget of the Rea Valley Volunteer Fire Department and the statistics of responses made by the fire department in 2015.

Based on the 2015 operating budget and anticipated cost increases over the next five years, a proposed annual budget of \$44,000 per year was established for the district. This does not include State Fire Protection Act 833 funds or local sales tax revenues. It was deemed that these funds were not protected and could be abolished or reduced at any time. The board of commissioners compared operating budgets of all fire protection services in the Marion County in their development of the proposed budget.

The majority of responses made by the department in 2015 were for medical assistance, followed by wildland brush fires and lastly structure fires. This statistic is consistent with most rural and municipal fire departments in Arkansas. Based on this data, primary funding of the district will be landowners with residences or dwelling located on their property who are most likely to need medical assistance or fire suppression of a structure fire. Additional funding will be based on a flat fee scale for undeveloped land.

Any parcel that has a residence or dwelling located on their property will be considered as residential land and will be assessed a flat fee of \$75.00. Any parcel which does not have a residences or dwellings located on their property will be classified as undeveloped land and will be assessed a flat fee based on the total number of undeveloped acres owned.

The following flat fee scale will applied to undeveloped land.

0.01 - 5.00 acres	\$20.00
5.01 - 25.00 acres	\$30.00
25.01 – 50.00 acres	\$40.00
50.01 acres or greater	\$50.00

All assessments will be based on county tax assessor's records. It is anticipated that errors may occur as to the presence or absence of residences or dwelling located on assessed developed property as well as correct acreage of undeveloped land. Every landowner has the right to appeal the fire district assessment to the board of commissioners. An Assessment Appeal form should be completed and submitted to the county clerk's office in the main courthouse. The Board of Commissioners will respond to all appeals.

For \$75.00 per year, \$6.25 per month or just 25 cents a day, your volunteer fire department is serving you. Thank you for your support.