



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Emergency Management and Fire Services

Board Action

File #: 25-049

Commissioner Hovis - Emergency Management and Fire Services - To Approve a Certificate of Need for Community Fire Department in the Amount of \$168,303.00 and Appropriate \$50,000.00 from the Unified Fire District Reserve Fund for the Purchase of a Sprinkler and Fire Alarm System Installation

STAFF CONTACT

Scott Hunter - Emergency Management and Fire Services - 704-866-3350

BUDGET IMPACT

Increase Fund Balance Appropriated and the associated expense account by \$50,000 in the Unified Fire District Fund.

BACKGROUND

At the meeting held on January 15th, 2025, the Fire Commission reviewed a Certificate of Need submitted by Fire Chief Jackson for a Sprinkler and Fire Alarm System Installation throughout their fire station. The estimated cost per quote from TOMA Fire Protection Equipment is \$168,303.00. The department secured an AFG Grant in the amount of \$95,238.00 and is asking for overage funding to cover the remaining balance of \$73,065.00. Bob Hovis made a motion to approve \$50,000 in the current budget year with the understanding that in the next budget year, Chief Jackson will apply to reimburse Community for the balance. Justin Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed. Community will be making this purchase upon securing this \$50,000.00 and will be covering the remaining \$23,065.00 with their own funds. In FY26, Community will submit for reimbursement for the \$23,065.00.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Budget Change Request (BCR), Certificate of Need 202410232-21 and DRAFT - 1/15/25 Fire Commission Meeting Minutes

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	JBailey	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	SShehan	Vote
2025-044	02/25/2025	BH	TK	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

DISTRIBUTION:

Laserfiche Users

A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST (BCR)

TO: Matthew Rhoten, County Manager

FROM: EMG Emergency Management and Fire Servi

Dept. Code

Department Name

Scott Hunter

1/24/2025

Department Director

Date

REQUEST TYPE:

☐

Line-Item Transfer Within Department & Fund

☒

Line-Item Transfer Between Funds*

☐

Project Transfer Within Department & Fund

☐

Additional Appropriation of Funds*

☐

Line-Item Transfer Between Departments

* Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT**
As it appears in Munis	<div> <div>4</div> <div>3</div> <div>3</div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>7</div> <div>4</div> <div>2</div> <div>6</div> <div>5</div> </div> <div> <div>Fund</div> <div>Dept</div> <div>Div</div> <div>SubDiv</div> <div>Prog</div> <div>SubProg</div> <div>Future</div> <div>Func</div> <div>Obj</div> <div>Proj</div> </div> <div> <div>XXXX</div> <div>XXX</div> <div>XXX</div> <div>XXXXX</div> <div>XXXXXX</div> <div>XXXXXX</div> <div>XXXX</div> <div>XX</div> <div>XXXXXX</div> <div>XXXXX</div> </div>	
Ex. Employee Training	Ex. 1000-BGT-000-000000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	Ex. \$5,000.00 Ex. (\$5,000.00)
Additional Subsidies	2036-000-000-000000-000000-Communi-0000-02-570011-	\$50,000.00
Fund Balance Appropriated	2036-NDP-000-000000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(\$50,000.00)

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:

At the meeting held on January 15th, 2025, the Fire Commission reviewed a Certificate of Need submitted by Fire Chief Jackson for a Sprinkler and Fire Alarm System Installation throughout their fire station. The estimated cost per quote from TOMA Fire Protection Equipment is \$168,303.00. The department secured an AFG Grant in the amount of \$95,238.00 and is asking for overage funding to cover the remaining balance of \$73,065.00. Bob Hovis made a motion to approve \$50,000 in the current budget year with the understanding that in the next budget year, Chief Jackson will apply to reimburse Community for the balance. Justin Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed.

** Decreases in expenditures and increases in revenue accounts require brackets. Increases in expenditures and decreases in revenue do not require brackets. Please note that transfers between funds require inter-fund transfer accounts.

Gaston County Fire Commission
Certificate of Need Application
Certificate Number: (Certificate # 202410232-21)

Fire Department

Name

Community Volunteer Fire Department

Address

1873 Perfection Rd, Belmont, North Carolina 28012

Chief

Robert Gary Jackson III

Contact Phone #

(704) 813-4938

Board President

Steve Honbaier

Contact Phone #

(704) 691-4215

Fire Department Board Approval / Notification

Yes

General Description of Purchase

Sprinkler and Fire Alarm System Installation.

Time Line of Purchase

Six Months

List Specifics of Purchase

Areas for the Sprinkler, Fire Alarm and Detection System Install include the Apparatus Bay, Training Room, Radio Room, Kitchen, Rest Rooms and associated hallways. Upstairs areas include Common Area, Sleeping Quarters and Storage Room. Total price includes all prep work such as water line tap and associated piping, concrete removal and replacement, electrical work, Fire Alarm command center and all associated equipment. See the provided complete quote for additional specific information. See attachment for all specifics including estimated price of install.

Estimated Cost

\$168,303.00

Financing Information

Lender

Financing not required.

Amount Financed

\$0.00

Rate

0%

Estimated Amount**Number of Payments**

\$0.00

0

Down Payment Amount

\$0.00

Debt Ratio-Current / Post Purchase

Not required for this project.

Any Re-Financing or Bundling

If Yes, then Describe

No

How Will Purchase Benefit the Department (Safety/ISO/Cost Savings, etc)

The primary purpose for this install is to be code compliant in our sleeping quarters which has only one means of egress. Other benefits include total sprinkler system coverage for the entire station, new hard-wired CO, Smoke and Heat detection installed in appropriate areas as required.

How Will Purchase be Funded (Long Term - NOT Just Current Year)

AFG Grant was received for \$95,238.00 of the total \$168,303.00. We are asking the Fire Commission for coverage funding to cover the balance of \$73,065.00. One half of the total cost is due prior to project start date.

If Purchase is NOT Approved for Funding, Describe Department Alternatives

Option 1 includes petitioning FEMA to amend the grant and install a sprinkler system only the living quarters.

Option 2 is to deny or turn down the grant and have a secondary means of egress engineered and installed from the upstairs sleeping quarters.

Option 3 is to secure financing to complete the project.

Is This a Replacement?

No

If Yes, List Details (Make, Model, Years of Service, Remaining Balance, etc.)

N/A

What Will Become of Old Apparatus / Equipment?

N/A

Has 5 Year Plan Been Submitted?

No

UPLOAD FILE(S)

Item 1

Upload Files

Community Fire Dept Revised Sprinkler and Fire Alarm Quote 7-19-2024.pdf

STAFF ONLY

Received By (OEMFS Director):

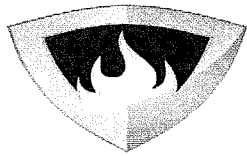
Date:

Fire Commission Meeting Date:

APPROVED
NOT APPROVED

Gaston County BOC Meeting Date:

APPROVED
NOT APPROVED



TOMA

FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

July 19, 2024

To: Community Fire Dept
1873 Perfection Ave,
Belmont, NC 28012

Attn: Byron Hooker bhooker32@carolina.rr.com

Re: Sprinkler and Fire Alarm Installation

Mr. Hooker,

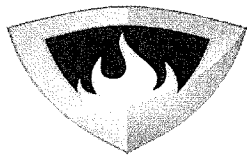
Toma Fire Protection Equipment Inc. is pleased to offer pricing to install approximately 135 new sprinkler heads and associated piping, new fire alarm system, and underground piping network to feed the new sprinkler system. This work will be in accordance with NFPA 13 72 24. This work will be installed in accordance with designs approved by the authority having jurisdiction. This quote includes the following:

Sprinkler:

- ~135 New Sprinkler Heads.
- (1) New Wet Riser Valve Assembly.
- Materials Needed. (pipe, fittings, etc.)
- Lift Rental.
- Permit and Design.

Fire Alarm:

- (1) Firelite ES-200X Fire Alarm Command Center
- (4) BG-12LX Pull Stations
- (1) Firelite Smoke Detector
- (2) Firelite Monitor Modules for the Sprinkler Riser
- (15) System Sensor Horn Strobes
- (4) System Sensor Strobe Only
- (1) Firelite ANN-80 Annunciator
- (3) System Sensor CO Detectors
- (2) 12V 7AH Batteries
- Material Necessary for Installation (Wire, Boxes, Fittings, ETC)
- Permitting
- Labor For Installation and Testing



TOMA

FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Underground:

- Begin at water purveys main. Make 6" tap.
- Install 6" Two Rivers approved above ground backflow preventer with heated enclosure and 4" concrete pad. Electrical by others.
- 234 linear feet of 6" CL-350 Dip fire line.
- One lead into existing building.
- Cut, demolish, and remove from site, 60 linear feet of trench asphalt. (not to exceed 6" thick)
- Patch 60 linear feet of trench asphalt, 6" thick.
- Provide private locate service.
- Remove excess spoils.

Qualifications:

1. New water/fire piping to be installed with 3' of cover.
2. All trenches to be back filled and compacted to 90% standard proctor with excavated materials.
3. TKE safety requirements are based on OSHA Construction Standard. Any safety standards exceeding these which produce extra costs for time, or materials will be billed to the customer.
4. All fittings will be restrained per NFPA and FM standards.
5. Price is based on one mobilization, each additional mobilization will be \$2500.00
6. Anything that is not described in "scope" above is not included in quotation price.
7. C-153 ductile iron fittings are quoted for this project.
8. Current rock removal fees are, \$ 4500.00 (four thousand five hundred dollars) for the first cubic yard and \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) for each additional yard.
9. If for any reason it becomes necessary to install the underground piping at a depth greater than (4') four feet, or if water, quicksand, rock, fiber optics or other unforeseen obstructions are encountered or not shown on the plans, or if shoring is required, Buyer is to pay for, as an extra to the contract price, the additional expense involved at the seller's market prices.

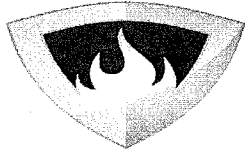
Total Price for above work: \$168,303.00

**Plus, applicable taxes.*

Payment terms:

50% Initialization Payment Due Upon Approval of Project.
40% Due Upon 50% Completion of Project.
10% Due Upon Completion of Project.

Exclusions:



TOMA

FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

1. Any deficiencies, additions, and/or repairs not listed above shall be billed separately.
2. Ready access to all portions of the building during normal business hours.
3. Patching, painting, and repair of surfaces to be performed by others.
4. 120 VAC electrical connections or raceways to be performed by others.
5. Changes made by local authority (if applicable) to be quoted separately.
6. Lift Rentals (if required) shall be billed separately.
7. Seismic Bracing and design.
8. 3D/BIM drawing and coordination.
9. Fire Pump design and calculations.
10. Underground piping and fire line connections.
11. Standpipe Systems.
12. Surveying.
13. Landscaping, grass seeding or strawing.
14. Dewatering or well pointing.
15. Cutting or patching of concrete or asphalt other than specified in scope.
16. Rerouting or relocating due to any unforeseen underground obstructions such as water, quicksand, rock, existing underground utilities or any other underground obstruction that cannot be removed in a timely manner that may cause delay to the installation process.
17. Rock removal or disposal (rock defined as 12" solid or larger).
18. Fees, cost of repairs or service charges resulting from damages to unmarked underground utilities.
19. Erosion control devices or maintenance of such.
20. Electrical of any type.
21. Trenching through soil-crete or any other soil hardening additives.
22. Trenching in excess of 4' deep.
23. Trench bedding.

Call me with any concerns.

Robert Burke
Toma Fire Protection Equipment, Inc.
Phone (828) 748-7018
robertburke@tomafireprotection.com www.tomafireprotection.com

Gaston County Fire Commission Meeting

January 15th, 2024

The meeting was held Wednesday January 15th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center located at 615 N Highland Street, Gastonia.

I. Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Rob Smith called the meeting to order. Eric Withers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian Weyeneth. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

Chris Eason, Chairman of Crowders Mountain Fire and Rescue, addressed the Fire Commission to discuss health insurance options currently under consideration by the department. With 12 full-time equivalent employees at Stations 1 and 3, he sought feedback from the Commission on the potential plans being evaluated.

III. Business Agenda

A. Scott Zander made a motion to approve the November 19th, 2024, meeting minutes. Richard Albaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. Sub-Committee Updates

- Rescue: No new updates.
- Capital: Brian Weyeneth provided an update from the capital committee. He discussed two main items: Certificate of Need Document and Capital Fund Document (attached).
Scott Zander made a motion to approve the Certificate of Need document with a few changes outlined by the Fire Commission. Richard Albaugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Bob Hovis made a motion to approve the Capital Fund Document. Richard Albaugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
Brian Weyeneth made a motion that the Fire Commission would formally ask for the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to identify a 'Capital Reserve Fund' for the funds to support the previous documents. Todd Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Closest Department: Scott Hunter updated the Fire Commission on Alexis and North Gaston's collaboration to adjust service area boundaries. The agreement, finalized and approved, has been submitted to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- Apparatus Name: No update.

C. Fire Service Agreement Update: Scott Hunter discussed the upcoming fire service agreement and budget request process. He stated that the agreement and budget request forms will be sent out to the fire departments by February 1st, and they will need to be returned by March 1st. Hunter explained that this year, the fire departments will also be provided with a link to submit information for their audits. He clarified that the county has not been requiring full audits previously,

only book reviews. Going forward, the fire departments will need to select and submit the auditor they want to use, along with the cost, and the county will approve or deny the request. Hunter noted that this new audit process will mean the audits will be a year behind, but it addresses the fire chiefs' concerns about having to bring their books to the county. The departments will need to submit the audit results, along with their line-item budget and narrative, by the end of September. If they do not meet this deadline, their monthly payments will be stopped until the information is provided.

- D. Emergency Management & Fire Services Update: Scott Hunter outlined plans for a new storm dispatch protocol based on fire chiefs' input during Hurricane Helene. Challenges with the backup communication center highlighted the need for a more resilient system. The proposed plan divides the county into five geographical districts or "hubs," allowing fire departments within each hub to self-dispatch during major storms. This approach aims to improve coordination, redundancy, and response during power outages or communication failures. The association will collaborate to finalize and implement the plan.

IV. New/Old Business

- A. The Fire Commission reviewed a Certificate of Need previously submitted by Fire Chief Jackson for a Sprinkler and Fire Alarm System Installation throughout their fire station. The estimated cost per quote from TOMA Fire Protection Equipment is \$168,303.00. The department secured an AFG Grant in the amount of \$95,238.00 and is asking for overage funding to cover the remaining balance of \$73,065.00. Bob Hovis made a motion to approve \$50,000 in the current budget year with the understanding that in the next budget year, Chief Jackson will apply to reimburse Community for the balance. Justin Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- B. With elections being missed in December due to no meeting, Brian Weyeneth made a motion to reappoint Rob Smith as Chairman of the Fire Commission. Bob Hovis seconded the motion. The motion passed. There were two motions on the floor for Vice-Chairman: Justin Westbrook (made by Eric Withers) and Brian Weyeneth (made by Richard Albaugh). Brian Weyeneth was voted Vice-Chairman my majority vote.

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Brian Weyeneth, seconded by Bob Hovis. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.