

St. Lucie County Fire District News Release

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St. Lucie County Fire District Approves 2011-2012 Budget

St. Lucie County, FL – During its second and final public hearing on the budget on September 21, 2011, the Fire Board of Commissioners voted to set the St. Lucie County Fire District’s 2011-2012 millage rate at \$2.65 per \$1,000 of taxable value – down from the 2.70 tentative millage rate. The General Fund budget is \$59.8 million, down from \$61.5 million the previous year.

“This was a team effort by the Fire Commission Members and shows the good quality of this Board,” said Fire Board Chairman Jack Kelly, “It was a compromise in which no one got exactly what they wanted, but everyone got something.”

Despite the tight budget, the Fire District will need to transfer \$8.442 million from their reserves to cover the FY 2011-12 budget.

“Our employees have worked hard to save money in every aspect of the fire and EMS service. The Fire District employees understand the challenges that face the community and have done everything to streamline procedures and cut costs”, states Fire Chief Ron Parrish.

In 2010, St. Lucie County firefighters agreed to change the terms of their contract to save the Fire District approximately \$7 million over four years.

The firefighters agreed to waive their previously approved Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for FY 2010-2011 and to forego any salary increases for FY 2011-2012. The Firefighters Union also agreed to delay a 3.25% COLA until FY 2012-2013.