

Resolution No: 23-1

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM TO CHARGE MITIGATION RATES FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED/RENDERED FOR THE THORNTON RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the volume of emergency service response activity is consistently on the rise, leading to increased demands on all operational aspects of fire department services. This includes complying with environmental protection regulations that require specialized equipment and training, as well as adhering to Homeland Security regulations that necessitate specific equipment and training. Consequently, fire departments must continuously evolve and allocate resources to respond to emergencies effectively and safeguard their communities, and

WHEREAS, the Thornton Rural Fire Protection District recognizes the ever-increasing demands on emergency services response, the district has conducted research into various methods to sustain a high level of quality emergency and non-emergency service capability. The district understands that maintaining an effective response from the fire department is crucial in reducing costs of incidents to insurance carriers, businesses, and individuals. Through timely and efficient management of emergency situations, lives can be saved, and property and environmental damage can be minimized.; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair to raise real property taxes to meet increased service demands caused by others, the responsible parties should be held accountable for their actions. Property owners should not bear the financial consequences of incidents that are not their responsibility. Rather, those who are responsible for such situations should bear the costs associated with the services required to manage them, including emergency services.; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Thornton Rural Fire Protection District desires to implement a fair and equitable procedure by which to collect said mitigation rates and shall establish a billing system in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines; Now, Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE THORNTON RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:

SECTION 1: The Thornton Rural Fire Protection District shall implement mitigation rates for the delivery of emergency and non-emergency services provided by the fire department. These rates shall cover all costs related to personnel, supplies, and equipment required for responding to emergency and non-emergency incidents as listed in the "Book of Fees Schedule." The mitigation rates shall be based on the actual costs of the services provided and shall be determined in accordance with the usual, customary, and reasonable (UCR) standards set forth in the "Book of Fees Schedule." These fees may include any necessary services, personnel, supplies, and equipment, and the baseline for these charges shall be established through an addendum to this document.

SECTION 2: A claim shall be filed to the responsible party(s) through their insurance carrier. In some circumstances, the responsible party(s) will be billed directly.

SECTION 3: The Board of the Thornton Rural Fire Protection District is empowered to establish regulations or rules pertaining to the billing and collection of mitigation rates for emergency and non-emergency services rendered by the fire department. The Board retains the authority to revise, rescind, or append these rules and regulations as necessary or advisable, provided that such amendments are not inconsistent with the provisions outlined in this Section.

SECTION 4: The Board affirms that all formal actions taken with regards to the adoption of this Resolution were conducted during open meetings. Moreover, the Board confirms that any and all discussions held by the Board or any of its committees that resulted in the said formal actions were in adherence to all legal prerequisites and the Codified Resolutions of the Board.

SECTION 5: This resolution shall take effect on the date of adoption.

SECTION 6: The Mitigation Rates listed in Book of Fees Schedule will increase by 1.5% annually or based on the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, whichever is more. Rate adjustments will occur on the anniversary date of this ordinance/resolution to keep the Thornton Rural Fire Protection District's cost recovery program in conformity with increasing operating expenses. This Resolution and Fee Schedule represent the most recent directives of the Board and supersede and replace all earlier iterations, resolutions and policies relating to mitigation fees. The Board confers the authority to the Chief to exercise discretion in the application and billing pursuant to this resolution in applying the policy and subsequent billing to residents within the district boundaries, victims of malicious acts, mass casualty events, events where recovery of fees is likely to be impossible and other circumstances as Chief's judgement deems to be fair and reasonable.

Passed: **Allan, Stokes, Yoka**



Alberto Garcia, Fire Chief

Approved: **Allan, Stokes, Yoka**

Vote On Passage: 3 Yea 0 Nay 0 Abstain

I, Sharon L. Tucker Secretary to the Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 23-1 was voted upon and approved by a majority vote of the Board, on the 11 day of May, 2023; and I further certify compliance with codified resolution and the laws of the Board.



Secretary