





INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

May 10, 2023

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
County Commissioners

THROUGH: Daniel P. Banks 
Deputy County Administrator

FROM: James M. Fitzgerald, Fire Chief 
Fire Rescue Department

**CONTACT: Kimberly Buffkin, Acting Division Chief
Planning and Technical Services
PHONE NUMBER: 407-836-9004**

SUBJECT: June 6, 2023 - Discussion Agenda Item
Resolution for Certain Services Fees Charged by Orange County Fire
Rescue Department - OFM Inspection Fee Schedule Update 2023

The State of Florida adopted the Florida Fire Prevention Code, 7th Edition, which includes a directive for the minimum fire prevention inspection frequency for existing occupancies. The new requirement will necessitate adjusting Orange County's Fee Directory, Fire Safety Inspection Services, to help sustain the program's cost.

Benesch, a professional consulting firm, was contracted to analyze the county's current inspection fees against the program service cost. The cost evaluates the Office of the Fire Marshal's (OFM) workforce assigned to existing construction and the county's building stock aligned by occupancy risk classification. The analysis supports the recommendation to update the initial Fire and Life Safety Inspection Services fees from \$72 to \$87 up to and including the first 2,000 sq. ft.; each additional square ft. above 2,000 sq. ft. remains at \$0.02 per sq. ft. with a maximum of \$5,000 per inspection. The inspection cap charge was derived through Florida State Statutes Chapter 633, Section 216 (1), which states that the county can only charge for the inspections and related administrative expenses.

Additionally, to accomplish the inspection schedule, OFM will have to increase its staffing over the next two fiscal years through the budget process. Nineteen positions will be advanced in FY 23-24 and 20 in FY 24-25.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval and execution of Resolution of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners regarding Certain Services Fees Charged by Orange County Fire Rescue Department.

attachments

c: Byron W. Brooks, AICP, County Administrator
Kurt Peterson, Director, Office of Management and Budget