

Fire Assessment

What is the City of Bartow's Fire Assessment?

Every time you hear a fire truck siren or see emergency lights in your rearview mirror, Bartow's Bravest are putting their lives on the line to protect yours. This requires funding, and the Fire Assessment collected through property tax bill is the most significant component of how our community funds their work protecting life and property in the City.

Why is an Increase Necessary?

As our community grows and ages, our needs for fire and medical response are changing, too. To keep the level of service high and response times efficient, our community needs to invest in people, technology, and equipment.

How is it Calculated?

Different types of properties – commercial, residential, vacant, etc. – need fire service in different ways and in different amounts. State law requires the costs of this service to be recovered fairly and equitably, so a formula is used.

Using 10 years of Fire Department response data, the City calculates the total cost of serving each property category.

For residential, the total cost is divided by the total number of dwellings, resulting in the fee per parcel. We adjust that based on the size of each dwelling. So, a typical (average) sized home between 1,250 and 2,000 square feet will pay \$317.43, while smaller homes will pay slightly less and large homes will pay slightly more.

Cost recovery for other land uses is calculated differently, using a unit cost per thousand square foot approach, or cost per acre, as shown on the back.



Questions?

Contact Deputy Chief Byron Moore at bmoore.fire@cityofbartow.net or 863-534-5044



What Will the Increase Make Possible?



Acquire and maintain proper resources to deliver 24/7/365 All-Hazards Response for a growing community of our size.



Provide advanced training for firefighters and to keep critical lifesaving



Purchase of and training on lifesaving automated CPR machines.



Funding for crucial needs related to fire station and hydrant maintenance to keep them functioning well, and additional handheld radios to keep firefighters communicating well when we need them most.

What Does a Typical Assessment Look Like?



Residential

Rate | Final as of September 6 Public Hearing

Less than 1,250 sf \$243.59

1,250 to 2,000 sf \$280.09

Greater than 2,000 sf \$338.49

Multi-Family \$457.87

Mobile Home \$260.63



Non-Residential

Commercial \$344.70 / 1,000 sf

Industrial \$70.60 / 1,000 sf

Institutional \$531.40 / Acre



Vacant Land

<1 acres \$12.96 / Parcel

1.00 - 4.99 acres \$65.17 / Parcel

5.00 - 9.99 acres \$189.87 / Parcel

10.00 - 19.99 acres \$350.71 / Parcel

20.00 or more acres \$516.24 / Parcel

Bartow Fire Department Facts

- + 24/7/365 readiness to respond to all emergencies within Bartow's 54 square miles
- + Currently working three shifts with seven personnel per shift
- + Calls have increased 54% from 2002-2022, and 47% from 2014-2022