

Morgan County WV Fire Protection Service Fee Ordinance

The Morgan County Commission, having been requested by the Morgan County Fire Board in accordance with WV State Code §7-17-12, to increase the Fire Service Fee has, on November 17, 2006, amended the ORDINANCE as follows:

SECTION I PURPOSE

This increase to the ORDINANCE enacted April 7, 1988 as authorized by Article 17 of Chapter 7 of the West Virginia Code, as amended, is for the purpose of continuing and improving fire protection services in Morgan County.

SECTION II CALCULATION OF FEE

1. Owners of real property in Morgan County shall be charged an annual Fire Protection Service Fee to be determined as follows:
 - a) Each separate property listed in the County Assessor's records shall be assessed a fee based on the floor space of the principal residential or business building on the property, according to the following schedule:

| Square footage of principal Home or business building: | R a t e |
|---|----------------|
| 1 – 1200 square foot | \$ 10.00 |
| 1201 - 2000 square foot | 40.00 |
| 2001 - 3000 square foot | 60.00 |
| 3001 - 4000 square foot | 80.00 |
| 4001 - 5000 square foot | 100.00 |

and so on, in steps of \$20.00 per 1000 square foot
 - b) A supplemental charge of \$5.00 shall be made on all buildings of more than one story.
 - c) All land shall be assessed at the rate of \$0.30 per acre, with a minimum charge per property of \$3.00.

2. Residential and business buildings situated on rented property and therefore treated as personal property in the records of the County Assessor, shall be charged on the same basis as specified for real property in Paragraph 1 a), b), and c) of this Section.

ARTICLE III EXEMPTIONS

1. Churches, and buildings and land belonging to federal, state, or county governmental entities shall be exempt from payment of the Fire Protection Service Fee.
2. Acreage actively devoted to agricultural production shall be exempt from the acreage fee upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of its productive status. Such evidence will normally be in the form of copies of declarations to federal agencies concerning land in production.

ARTICLE IV COLLECTION OF FEE

1. Bills for the Fire Service Protection Fee shall be distributed annually by the County Treasurer together with bills for real and personal property taxes, and shall be payable to the County Treasurer in two semi-annual installments due in August and February, with discounts for prompt payment and additional charges for delinquency identical to those applicable to real and personal property taxes.

ARTICLE V PROCEEDS TO FIRE BOARD

1. Proceeds from collection of the Fire Service Protection Fee shall be delivered on a monthly basis by the County Treasurer to the Treasurer of the Morgan County Fire Board. The Board shall use these funds to support and enhance fire protection services in Morgan County, in accordance with applicable provisions of the West Virginia Code and the by-laws of the Board.

ARTICLE VI ENFORCEMENT

1. The Fire Protection Service Fee established in this Ordinance shall be a debt due the Morgan County Fire Board and may be collected by proceedings instituted in courts of appropriate jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VII

1. Disputes with regard to the applicability or amount of the Fire Service Protection Fee shall be presented to the Fire Board for resolution by a majority decision of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII
EFFECTIVE DATE

1. This Ordinance shall become effective on the date of its approval by the Morgan County Commission. This Fire Service Protection Fee shall be billed together with the County's next real property and personal property tax billing.

Date: April 7, 1988

Amended Section II November 17, 2006

MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSION BY:



Glen R. Stotler, President
Morgan County Commission



Thomas R. Swain
Morgan County Commission



Robert L. Ford
Morgan County Commission