

HCFR MSBU Rate Increase FAQ Staff Answers

1) Q – What is the difference between the MSTU and MSBU?

A – MSTU – is an ad valorem tax which is based on the VALUE of the property.

MSBU – is a non-ad valorem tax which is based on a flat rate or rate structure and is a benefit to the property.

Fire MSBU Non Ad-valorem					
FY 2019 Proposed					
	Units	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Unit of Measure	Proposed Revenue
Base Fee	104,602	\$22.208	\$28.870		\$3,019,833.59
Unimproved/Acreage	26,978	\$57.246	\$74.420	Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee	\$2,007,697.36
Residence	80,930	\$172.494	\$224.242	Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee	\$18,147,921.25
Commercial	13,567,752	\$0.183	\$0.238	Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection	\$3,222,476.78
Camp-A-Wyle	211	\$16.842	\$21.895	Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee	\$4,619.76
Hospital/Nursing Home	616,189	\$0.458	\$0.595	Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection	\$366,718.72
Church (Max. \$309.83)*	1,399,038	\$0.184	\$0.239	Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection	\$38,109.09
Ind/Whs/Gvt	6,346,909	\$0.061	\$0.079	Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection	\$502,484.79
Agriculture	67,069	\$0.008	\$0.011	Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection	\$732.39
River Run	119	\$9.303	\$12.094	Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee	\$1,439.17
Greenbrier	100	\$3.056	\$3.972	Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee	\$397.22
Comm Inspection	2,952	\$106.103	\$137.933	Per 10,000 square feet	\$407,178.95
				Ex: 1 - 14,999 = 1 Insp	\$27,719,609.07
				Ex: 15,000 - 24,999 = 2 Insp	
*Churches (\$309.83 max x 123 parcels)					

2) Q – Why is my Fire Tax increasing from \$194.70 (\$172.49 + \$22.21) to \$253.11 (\$224.27 + \$28.82), assuming the caller owns a single-family residence?

A. – There is a proposed rate change that will:

- a. Reduce the .5 mil ad valorem taxes to zero mils for Fire; and
- b. Raise the non-ad valorem taxes. For a home of \$125,000 tax value, there will actually be a net savings.
- c. Allows the cost to be even for all property owners. The ad valorem tax is based on the value of the property.

3) Q – Is there an increase in your budget over last year?

A – Yes, due to increases in personnel and operational costs as well as building and maintaining our 18.5 percent reserves which equates to a 6.6 percent increase to the FY2019 HCFR expenditure budget.

4) Q – How is the Fire Division of Hernando County Fire Rescue funded?

A. – The majority of funds (98.5%) come from the assessment to operate the Fire Department. We are staffed 24 hours per day and have working, well maintained equipment ready to respond when our services are needed. Our staff continually trains to maintain and learn new techniques to be more efficient to serve the County residents.

5) Q – Will businesses be affected by the rate change?

A – Yes, all property types will have the same changes.

- 6) Q – How do you decide which category on the rate schedule is charged?
A – They are determined by the Property Appraiser’s Department of Revenue (DOR) Use Codes for the property.
- 7) Q – Why do we pay Fire fees and EMS fees?
A – Although the same personnel are used to operate Fire Services and Ambulance Services (EMS), the departments are funded separately. Fire Services are funded by the Fire MSBU (proposed). EMS (Ambulance Services) are funded partially by an MSTU and partially by user fees. Since an MSBU is a benefit to the property, EMS can only be funded by an MSTU.
- 8) Q – Am I required to attend the public hearing?
A – No, your attendance is optional.
- 9) Q – This notice is very confusing and hard to understand, where can I get more information?
A – The notice is required by state law to be written within an approved structure. You may call 352-540-4353 for more information.
- 10) Q – Does this affect every property in Hernando County.
A – No. The City of Brooksville is independent from the County and has their own Fire Assessment.