



HOW YOUR PENNY WORKS

Saving Lives, Saving Property

Your Tax Improves Escambia's Fire-Rescue Services

A very important enhancement to Escambia County made possible in part by the one-cent local option sales tax is improved Fire-Rescue services. One illustration of your penny at work is a new ladder truck for Fire-Rescue, purchased in December 2002. The ladder truck allows firefighters to accomplish very specific tasks including rescue, forcible entry, and ventilating fires by helping firefighters reach windows and cut holes in roofs. The new truck brings Escambia's ladder fleet to five trucks, helping the fire department to better extinguish major fires in large buildings including schools and warehouses. The additional truck has cut the response time for the Bellview, Brent and Myrtle Grove areas since they do not have to wait for an available ladder truck from a neighboring fire station. The new ladder truck will eventually be housed in a \$1 million new station, the Osceola Fire Station, also funded by local option sales tax.

Improvements to Continue

If citizens vote to approve the one-cent local option sales tax extension in the special election on March 7, 2006, additional equipment will be purchased and two new fire stations will be built in Escambia County. One new \$1.5 million station will be located in the Highway 29 and Kingsfield Road area. Rapid residential growth in this area dictates a new station be built to fill the current gap in the "five-mile" response area. For optimum safety, firefighting professionals prefer the response area for homes to be no more than a five-mile drive from a fire station. In addition to reducing response times in its designated area, this new station will also serve as a back up for the Ensley and Cantonment stations. The second facility, a \$2 million station to be located in Beulah, is also needed due to increased residential growth. The current Beulah Station will be replaced or a new substation will be built. In addition, if approved, the local option sales tax extension will fund approximately 12 new pumper trucks, six ladder trucks, and 20 support vehicles.

Along with the new fire stations, a \$1 million training facility will also be constructed utilizing local option sales tax funds. A training facility will eliminate the need for firefighting personnel to travel out of the Escambia County service area for training. The new facility will be designed with a training tower and will be built to state requirements allowing Escambia County to teach a "recruit class" free of charge to both career and volunteer firefighters, insuring both have the best and most current training to keep our citizens safe.

Helping to make the county safer is just one way your penny works. Citizens can vote on the local option sales tax extension on March 7, 2006.

*For more information on Escambia County's Local Option Sales Tax please contact:
the Escambia County Office of Public Information & Communications at (850)595-3476
or visit www.myescambia.com*

Paid electioneering communication paid for by Escambia County, 223 Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL 32502.

QUICK FACTS

There are several types of fire trucks, each with specific functions:

• **Pumper Truck or Engine-** equipped with a large pump capable of pumping thousands of gallons of water per minute, pumpers are generally used in an urban environment to fight structure fires. They are equipped with an extensive inventory of operational equipment including hoses, nozzles, ladders, breathing apparatus, chemical protection suits and other fire fighting gear. Average cost: \$330,000

• **Tanker Truck-** is designed to carry a large water tank as well as a pump. Operational equipment such as hoses, nozzles, standpipes, breathing apparatus, axes and other hand tools are stowed in lockers on the vehicle. Tankers are generally used in rural areas where no fire hydrants are available as the water can be carried to the affected area and then used to extinguish the fire. Average cost: \$200,000

• **Ladder or Aerial Truck-** performs an extremely important role in fire ground operations including forcible entry, ventilation of a structure during a fire, and the use of ladders to gain access and rescue people above ground level. Average cost: \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 depending on features.

