

Fire MSBU Quarterly Update

(First Quarter of fiscal year 2008-2009)

Fire MSBU's are used for the primarily volunteer stations of Allentown, Bagdad, Berrydale, East Milton, Harold, Munson, Pace, Skyline, and Jay to improve fire and medical services by implementing a five-year plan created by the Santa Rosa County Fire Services Executive Group, while maintaining a "no subsidy" ambulance contract. In the first quarter of fiscal year 2008-2009, the group approved \$867,773 in expenditures of MSBU funds for improvements.

The fire services executive group meets regularly to review progress and address concerns and consists of chiefs from the nine stations, two community representatives and the Santa Rosa County Emergency Services Coordinator. Their goals for the current fiscal year include acquiring thermal imaging cameras for all departments, continued replacement of worn or outdated equipment, and continue training opportunities for first responders.

From October 1- December 31, the nine MSBU stations responded to a total of 1,154 calls:

- 123 traffic accidents
- 764 calls for medical assistance
- 389 fires

During the months of October, November and December, MSBU's funding provided the following:

- Continued funding of four full-time firefighters/EMT personnel at the Pace and Skyline fire departments
- Continued stipend program for over 200 volunteer firefighters
- Two fire trucks
 - Allentown - Pumper/Tanker
 - Skyline - Rescue truck
- Thirty sets of fire gear
- Ninety pagers
- Forty portable radios
- Four self contained breathing apparatuses

For the first year of the plan, the group set the goals of increased firefighter safety and improved equipment. Purchases included updated communication equipment, firefighter personal protective gear and self-contained breathing apparatuses, all bringing a higher level of protection for firefighters. Debt reduction was also addressed with higher interest and balloon loans paid in full early for Allentown, Jay, and East Milton station houses and four trucks for Pace and Harold. In fiscal year 2007/2008, \$2,638,062 was collected and \$2,567,198 was expended toward meeting the five-year plan.

Holley-Navarre, Midway, Avalon and Navarre Beach are special taxing districts and not part of the MSBU fire group. Gulf Breeze and Milton fire services are provided by their municipalities.