

VFD ORDINANCE BASICS

What county property owners need to know

- 1) Property owners in Henderson County will be assessed \$55 in volunteer fire department dues for each parcel for which they are now taxed (not including those properties inside the Henderson city limits). The \$55 dues charge will appear on property tax bills each fall. The money will be dispersed back out to the VFDs in one lump sum each April based on the location of the properties (so, for example, the fees from properties in the Zion VFD district will be sent to the Zion VFD).
- 2) Property owners can opt out of having the \$55 dues appear on some or all of their property tax bills by completing an opt-out form and submitting it to the judge-executive's office by June 9 this year and by May 31 starting in 2018. Completed forms can be delivered in person at the judge's office or mailed or emailed to the Judge's office. Those addresses are on the form.
- 3) Blank copies of the form are available in the judge's office. Citizens can have blank forms mailed to them by calling (270) 826-3971 during regular business hours. Also, a copy of the form can be downloaded from the Volunteer Fire Departments page on the county's website, www.hendersonky.us.
- 4) The form will require exact parcel numbers. Property owners can find those numbers on past property tax bills or on the "property search" database on property valuation administrator's website, <http://www.qpublic.net/ky/henderson/index.html>. Assistance with finding correct parcel numbers can be obtained by visiting the judge-executive's office, where a computer kiosk the public can use to obtain correct parcel numbers has been set up.
- 5) The property tax bill for any parcel not accounted for in an opt-out form submitted by the deadline will then include the \$55 VFD dues among the list of amounts owed when the bills are sent out in the fall. It will be included both in the line items and the total amount due.
- 6) The Sheriff's Department will not accept property tax bill payments that do not include the VFD fees listed on bills. Property owners who still object to paying the VFD fee will be given information on how to appeal to their VFD for a refund and how to opt out the next year.
- 7) Each VFD will be provided by the judge's office a list of those who opt out. According to current state law, VFDs can charge from \$500 to \$1,000 for making emergency runs to properties for which subscriber fees were not paid. Property owners who opt out can still send contributions directly to their VFDs and be considered members in good standing.
- 8) Each VFD will contribute a portion of their revenue from the fee program to the City-County Rescue Squad to support its activities.
- 9) A small portion (4.25 percent or less) of revenues from this program will be retained by the sheriff's office to cover any expenses related to administration of this ordinance.