



**Bill Proctor**  
**District 1**

September 23, 2025

Leon County  
Board of County Commission  
301 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Re: Let voters decide whether Leon County should operate Fire Services

Dear Colleagues:

Colleagues I recommend that Leon County Government end the Fire Services Agreement with the City of Tallahassee in 2028 which concludes the current contract.

Let voters decide in 2026 whether the city or county should operate and manage the Fire Department beginning in 2029. For the record I cite multiple operations that exceed or equal the complexities of managing a Fire Department. Consider the following:

- Leon County operated the award-winning EMS that is the largest in North Florida.
- The County sustains North Florida's largest detention center and unofficial mental health ward.
- The County undergirds all facilities of Leon County Courthouse.
- The County coordinates budgeting and support for all constitutional officers recognized as State of Florida units of the
- State Government apparatus. This includes the Second Judicial Circuits', Public Defender and State Attorney.
- This further includes coordinated interaction and support for the Supervisor of Elections; the Property Appraiser; the Tax Collector; the Clerk of Courts and additional recipients of Leon County Government's backing.
- Leon County provides facilities and executes services of public health care. Health care delivery occurs through our long-standing partnerships with Neighborhood Health, Bond Community Health, and Leon County Health Department.

Leon County Courthouse  
301 South Monroe Street, Fifth Floor  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
Email: [proctorb@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:proctorb@leoncountyfl.gov)

(850) 606-5361  
FAX: (850) 606-5303

*People Focused. Performance Driven*

## **Tallahassee Fire Fighters May Prefer County Oversight.**

No doubt City Fire Workers are sick and tired of botched negotiations and hostile relations they now experience with city management. They are tired of the aloofness of City Commissioners whose hands off indifference allow fire workers to be ill-treated as City of Tallahassee employees.

My town hall meeting in Spring of 2024 revealed the discontent of many over the city's lack of leadership in safeguarding the overall interest of Fire Workers.

I personally heard testimonies of current and former fire employees saying the city has mistreated, abused and neglected its fire services workers. Some of the bad treatment is tied to the fact the Tallahassee Fire Union refused to endorse and did not support John Dailey for Mayor.

Recall I offered to negotiate a contract settlement between the City and the Fire Union. Remember, the Mayor told me the County should build its own fire department. I agree with John; the County absolutely should take over fire services.

My discovery last year compels my unwavering belief that fire workers would gladly choose to work for Leon County as fire service professionals in pursuit of higher worker morale. Leon County Government is well equipped to lead fire services for Tallahassee and Leon County.

First, Leon County's Administrator is nationally recognized and highly respected for his skill sets demonstrated over two decades. The County is more efficient in every way than many other city and county governments that's blessed with more resources.

Secondly, current fire fighters match our culture well: **"People Focused. Performance Driven."** These professionals put their very lives on the line as First Responders. They serve with valor and vigor seeing no lines of demarcation between city and county residents.

Thirdly, fire fighters would experience higher morale as employees of Leon County Government. I am unaware of a survey to ask fire fighters their opinion, but I am keenly aware that they aren't happy over their negotiation processes the City forced them to suffer. They deserve salaries and work support commensurate to their value and valor as First Responders.

Fourth, Leon County will exercise a consistent methodology for charging churches, businesses, governments, homeowners, etc. There does exist a hunger for sanity in the methods of billing everyone for fire services.

Fifth, Leon County will not commit any acts of piracy such as violating an existent contract to secure a 22% rate increase that has been set without conducting a new study that is required to precede such rate increase per the Fire Agreement terms.

Sixth, Leon County would not ask for an additional \$10 million to build Southside Station.

Seventh, Leon County would be transparent with where monies raised as Fire Fees will be dispersed and tracked. Since there will be no new Southside Fire Station built, where will the extra \$10 million borrowed dollars be spent? This is called "Bait and Switch." Leon County does not dupe citizens with fraudulent loans that will not be used for their stated purpose.

Eighth, Leon County is equipped to run the Fire Department. The County coordinates rescue, emergency and Storm recovery services for all Leon County residents currently.

Ninth, Leon County does not bully its employees and would not take three years to fatigue its employees into accepting a work contract.

Tenth, Leon County will not lose one million dollars obfuscated through dark and non-transparent budgeting practices.

Thank you for your mindset of self-determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Proctor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Proctor" clearly distinguishable.

Bill Proctor  
Leon County Commissioner