



Chief John R. Wayne Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District



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Who We Are

Mission Statement

We are committed to providing a superior emergency service, continually improving the quality of service delivered to the citizens and visitors of Lehigh Acres.

Vision Statement

The Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District is committed to leading the Nation in a superior level of emergency service.

Core Values

Excellence, Safety, Valor, Integrity, Dedication

Services We Provide

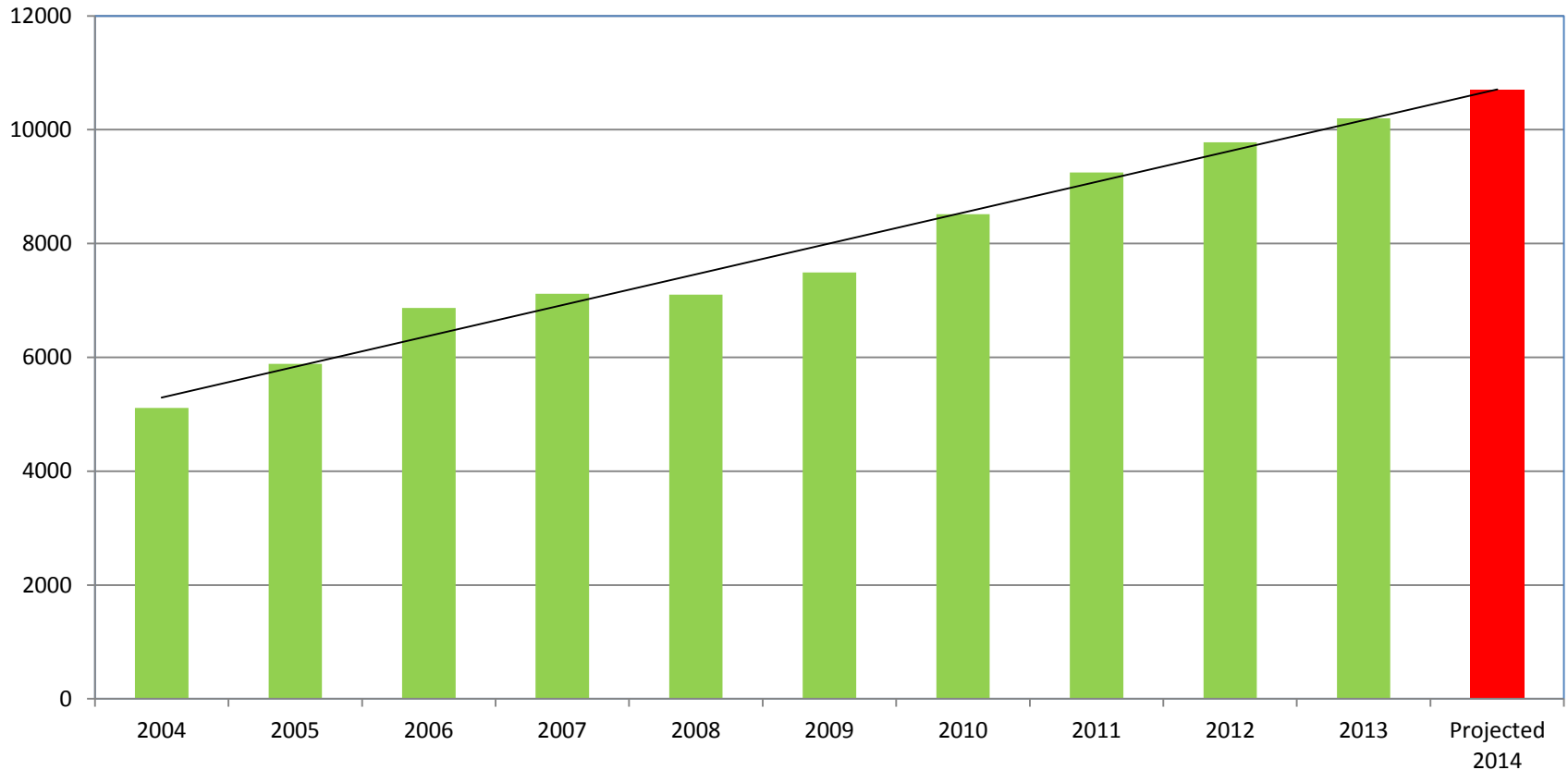
"ALL HAZARDS DEPARTMENT"



- Fire
- Medical
- Ambulance Transport (1 of 2 Lee County FD's)
- Hazardous Materials
- Technical Rescue
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
- Fire Prevention / Plans Review / Fire Inspection
- Public Education / Injury Prevention
- Community Emergency Preparedness
- Community / Special Events
- We respond to approximately 10,500 incidents annually
- 3rd busiest FD in Lee County (FMFD & CCFD)

Incident Responses

CALENDAR YEAR: 2004-2014



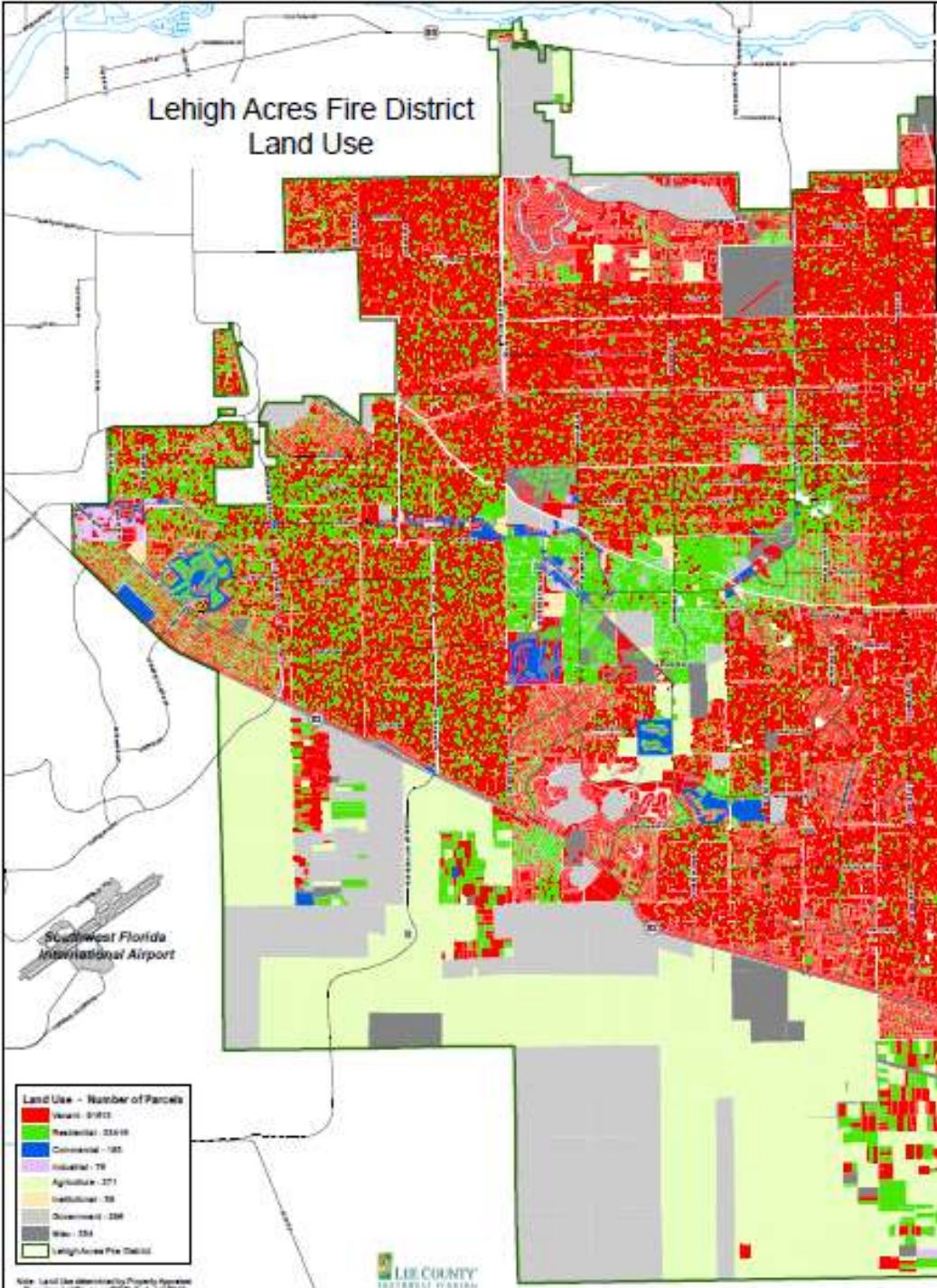
***Incident responses have increased over 40% since 2008

Coverage Area

- 143 square mile protection area
- Largest fire district in Lee County
- 90,000 +/- residents
- 7.37 minute average response time



Lehigh Acres Fire District Land Use



Land Use - Number of Parcels

Vacant - 51,913
Residential - 33,419
Commercial - 185
Industrial - 19
Agriculture - 371
Institutional - 38
Government - 298
Water - 154
Lehigh Acres Fire District

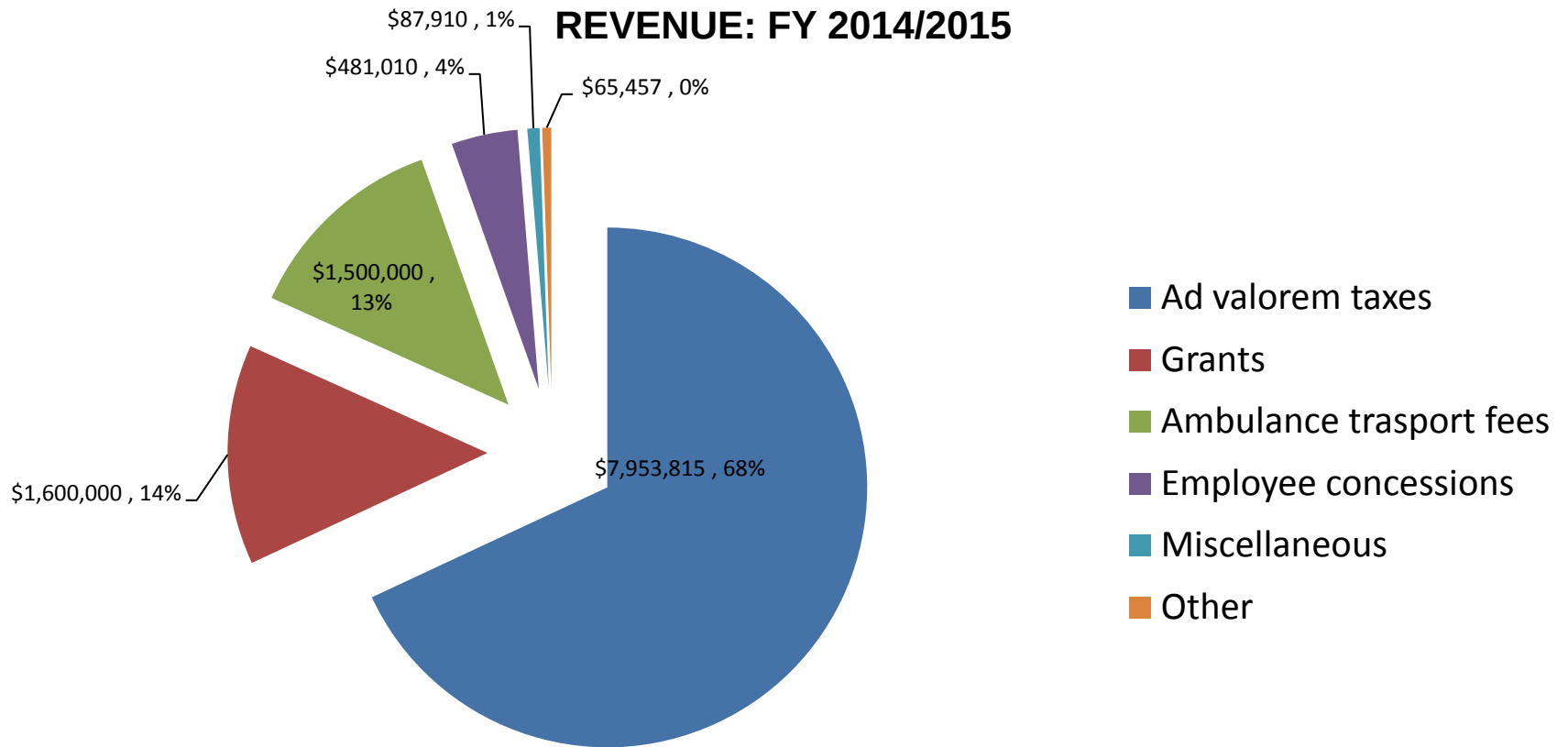
Note: Land Use determined by Property Appraiser
Department of Revenue (DOR) Code 1/1/2012

How We Serve



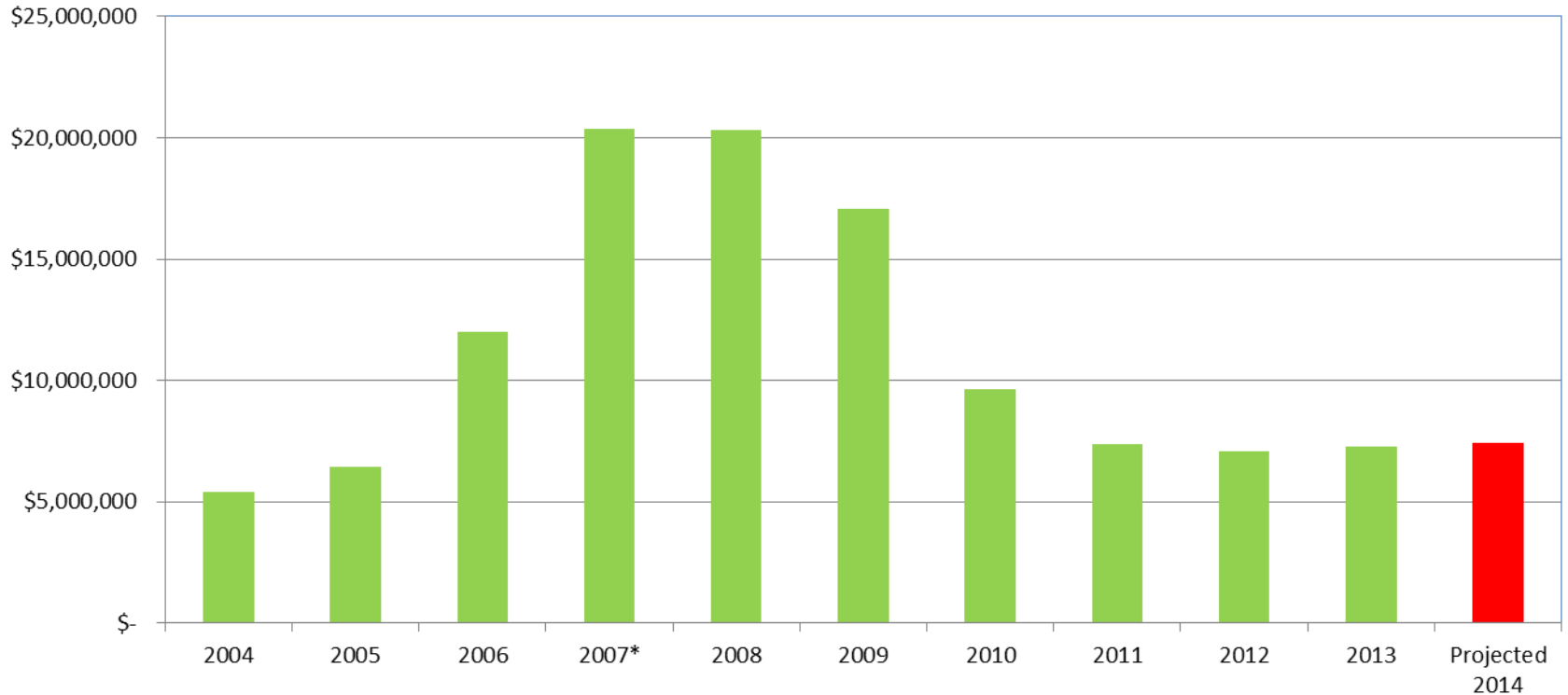
- **5 Stations:**
 - 1 Battalion Chief
 - 3-4 Ambulances
 - 4 Fire Engines
 - 1 Ladder Truck
 - 5 Brush Trucks
 - 3 Water Tenders
- **108 Firefighters**
- **(3) 24-hour Shifts (A, B, C)**
- **Minimum of 21 personnel on duty at all times**

How We Are Funded



How We Are Funded

AD VALOREM TAX REVENUE 2004-2014

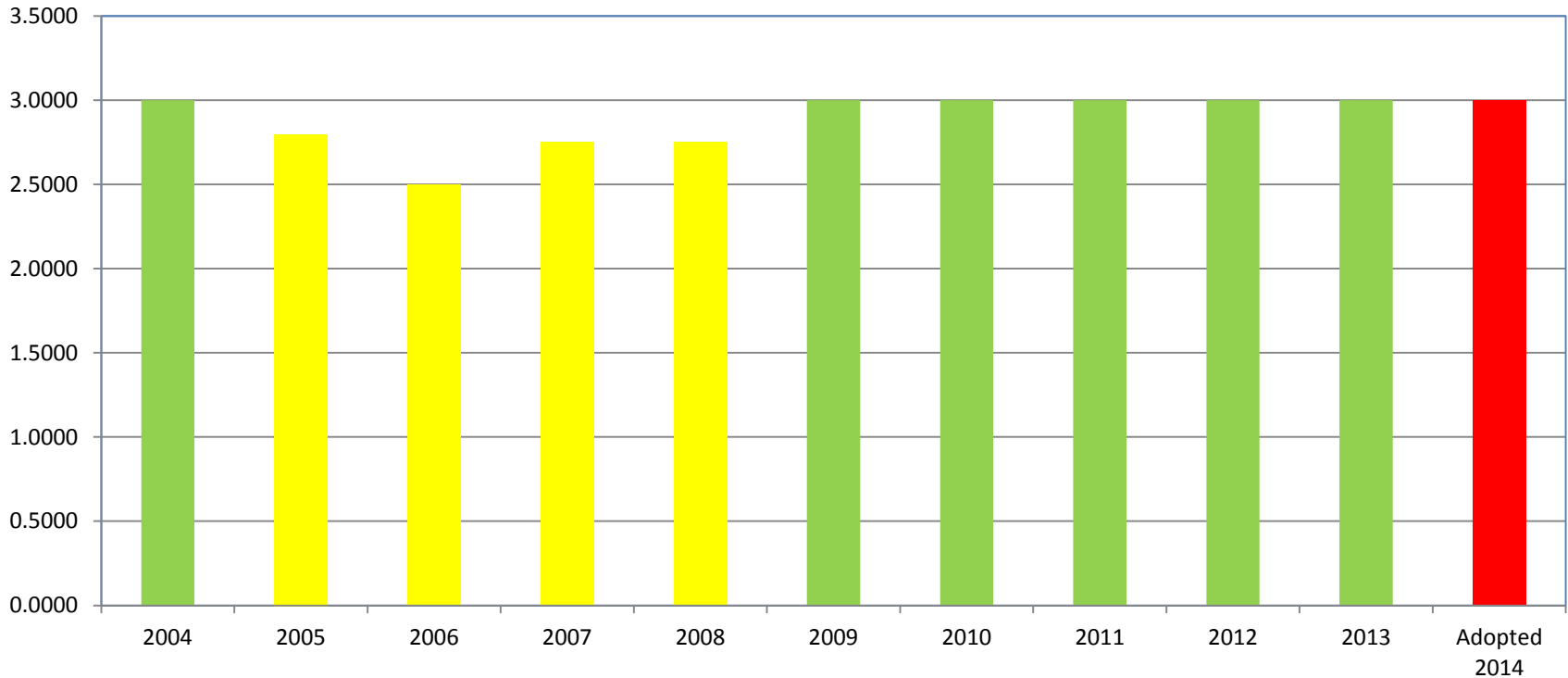


*Highest Year = 2007

**Tax Revenue has decreased -64% since 2008

Millage Rates

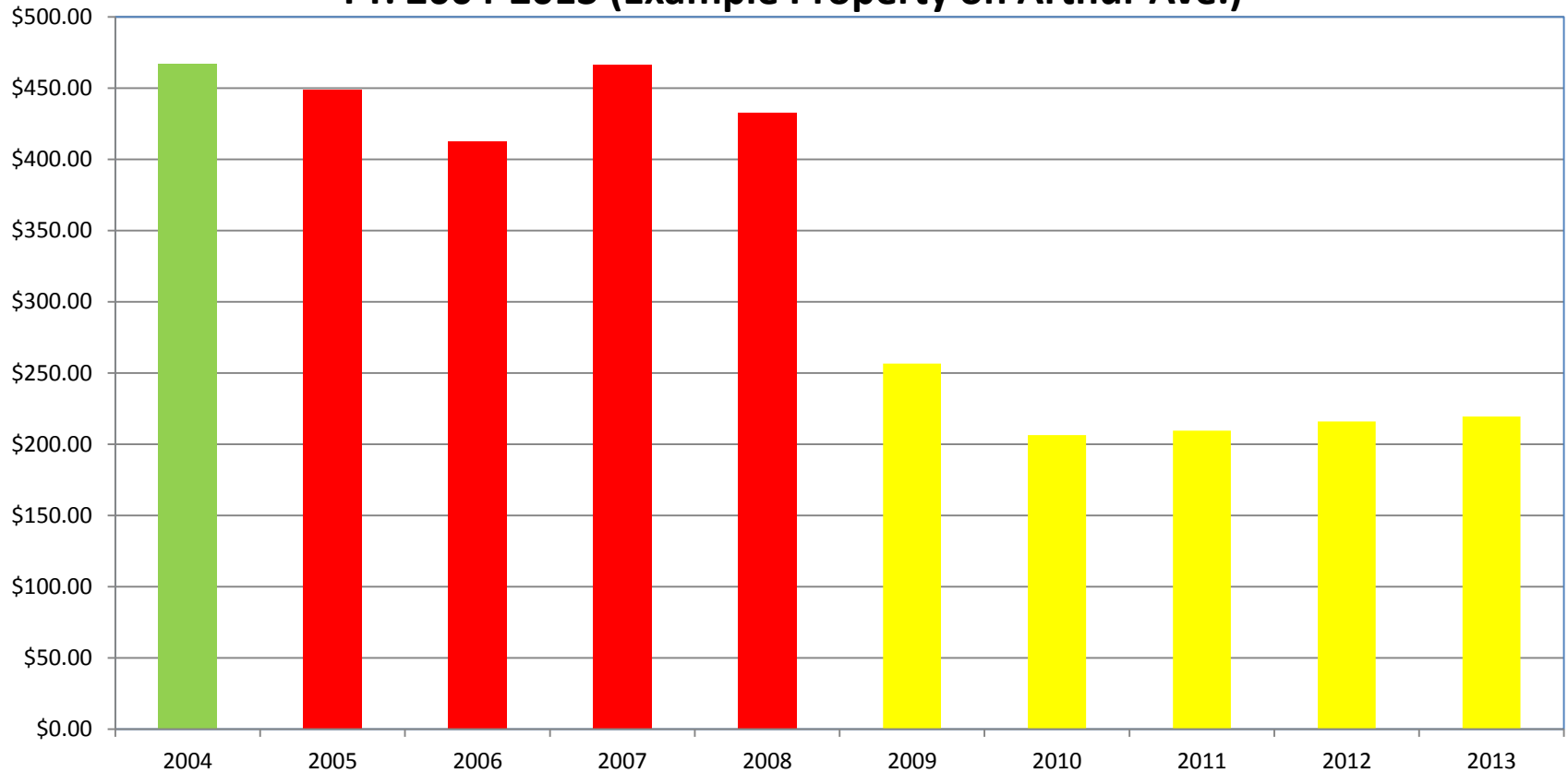
FY: 2004-2014



***The millage rate was reduced during the times of rapid growth in Lehigh to offset the burden of increased taxes to the homeowners, due to rapidly increasing assessed home values.

Fire Taxes

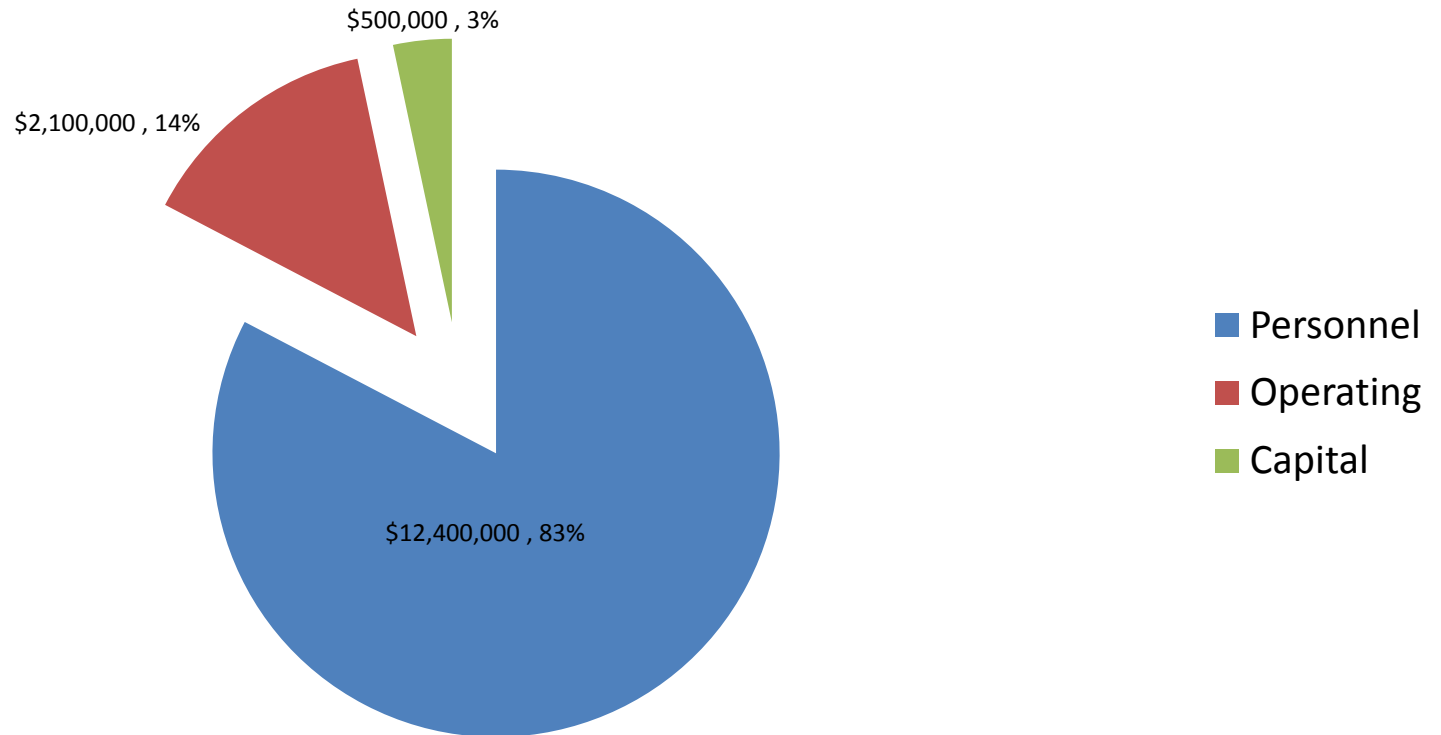
FY: 2004-2013 (Example Property on Arthur Ave.)



***Assessed home values decreased at a rapid rate, a rate that a 3.0000 millage cap could not off-set.

What It Cost \$\$\$

EXPENSES: FY 2014/2015



TOTAL = \$15,000,000

Future Funding Challenges

- SAFER grant expires March 2015
- Property taxes are \$7 M short of revenue need
- Homestead exemptions and property assessment caps limit tax revenues regardless of home value
- Ad-valorem taxes (property taxes) not a viable revenue source any longer

Proposed Solution

- Implement a fee based system as an alternative to Ad-valorem taxes (Fire Fee Assessment)
- Benefits:
 - ✓ Revenue is stabilized and predicable
 - ✓ Dedicated funding source
 - ✓ Benefit based, not “value based”
 - ✓ **Ad-valorem taxes (property taxes) will be eliminated**
 - ✓ Costs are distributed amongst all properties
 - ✓ Future growth and expenses can be planned for and funded

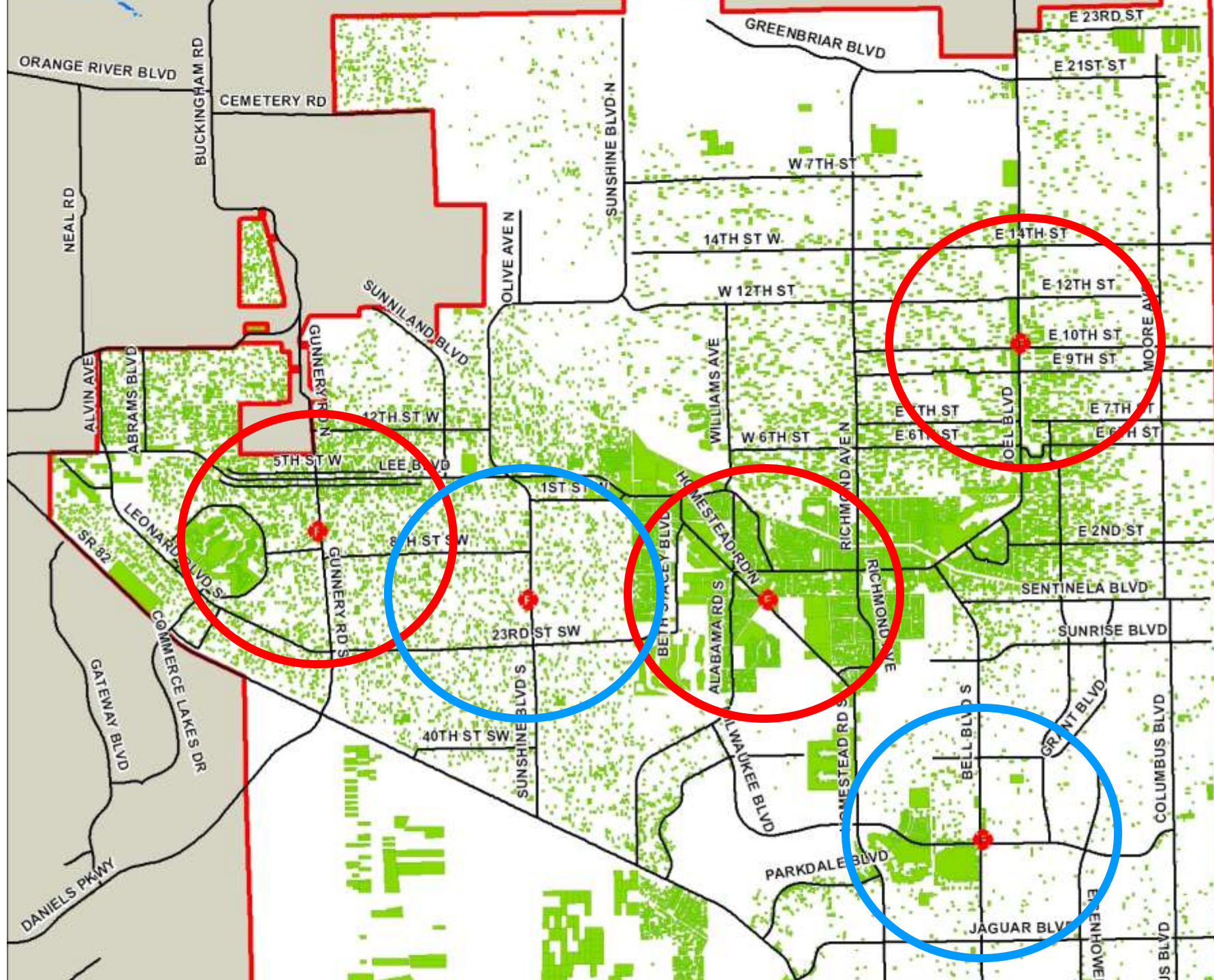
Fee Determination

- Fair and reasonable apportionment
- Logically and factually driven methodology
- Based on calls for service by specific property use
- Historical demand is the driving factor
- Legally defensible methodology



Impacts of Maintaining the Current Tax Structure

- 54 Firefighters laid-off by April 1, 2015 (50%)
- On-duty personnel will not be sufficient for safe fire suppression and rescue operations.
- 2 Fire Stations – closed
- Ambulance transport service turned over to Lee County
- 2 Fire Engines – out of service
- 2 Brush Trucks – out of service
- 1 Water Tender – out of service
- Response times (LAFD) will increase (projected to double)
- ISO rating adjustments will result in a higher Property Protection Classification; this may affect fire insurance premiums.



Who's Exempt?



- Governmental
- Institutional Tax-Exempt

On September 30, 2014 the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 2014-09-05 hereby approving the following exemptions from the Fire Fee Assessment:

1. An exemption for property that is entitled to a charitable, religious, scientific, or literary exemption under § 196.196, Florida Statutes.
2. An exemption for permanently and totally disabled veterans and for surviving spouses of veterans that are entitled to an exemption under § 196.081, Florida Statutes.
3. An exemption for surviving spouses of first responders who die in the line of duty that are entitled to an exemption under § 196.081, Florida Statutes.
4. An exemption for disabled veterans confined to wheelchairs who are entitled to an exemption under § 196.091, Florida Statutes.
5. An exemption for totally and permanently disabled persons who are entitled to an exemption under § 196.101, Florida Statutes.
6. An exemption for deployed service members who are entitled to an exemption under § 196.173, Florida Statutes.

Fee Rates



	Fire Only	EMS Only	Fire + EMS	Estimated Revenue
Residential	\$239.00	\$53.00	\$292.00	\$10,648,910
Commercial	\$0.31	\$0.04	\$0.35	\$799,401
Industrial/Warehouse	\$0.05	\$0.01	\$0.06	\$76,178
Institutional	\$0.41	\$0.11	\$0.52	\$1,133,293
Agricultural/Vacant Land	\$21.00	NA	\$21.00	\$1,912,416
Estimated Gross Revenue	\$12,337,998	\$2,232,200	\$14,570,198	\$14,570,198
Estimated Government Buy-Down	\$739,293	\$188,794	\$928,087	\$928,087
Estimated Institutional Tax-Exempt Buy-Down	\$168,540	\$45,219	\$213,759	\$213,759
Estimated Net Revenue	\$11,430,165	\$1,998,187	\$13,428,352	\$13,428,352

Minimum land acreage of 1 and maximum of 10.

Weighted calls.

Ballot Language

AUTHORIZATION TO FUND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES WITH ANNUAL NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

As an alternative to ad valorem taxes, shall Lehigh Acres Fire District levy non-ad valorem assessments beginning fiscal year 2015/2016 for fire and rescue services as follows: \$0.35 for commercial property, \$0.06 for industrial/warehouse property and \$0.52 for institutional property, all per square foot under roof; \$292.00 per residence; and \$21.00 per acre (or portions thereof) for unimproved land, **with increases limited to previous 5 years' Florida personal income annual growth rate?**

_____Yes

_____No



WHAT'S YOUR LIFE WORTH?

Vote on November 4th



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