

**2024**

**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG**

**FOR**

**SOUTH PASADENA FIRE DISTRICT**

**PINELLAS COUNTY**

**Board of County Commissioners**

**12490 Ulmerton Road**

**Largo, FL 33774**

**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES AGREEMENT**

AGREEMENT made this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, between the CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, a Florida municipal corporation ("Contractor"), and PINELLAS COUNTY ("County"), by and through its Board of County Commissioners, ("Board").

**RECITALS:**

1. The Board has determined that a coordinated Fire Protection Services County-wide system with centralized communications, standardized operating procedures, and automatic aid is in the best interest of the public's life safety, protection of property and firefighters' safety and welfare.
2. Pursuant to County Resolution 92-355 and the subsequent referendum election thereon, the Board created the South Pasadena Fire Control District to provide fire protection and suppression services to the District.
3. The Board is authorized to enter into agreements for fire protection services, and Contractor wishes and is able to provide Fire Protection Services (as defined herein).
4. The Board will compensate Contractor for providing Fire Protection Services (as defined herein).

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants, terms, and conditions herein set forth to be kept and performed by and between the Parties hereto, it is agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE I**  
**THE AGREEMENT**

**SECTION 101. PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Agreement is to define the obligations and responsibilities of the Parties hereto with respect to the provision of Fire Protection Services in the unincorporated areas of the County.

**SECTION 102. COOPERATION.** The Parties shall cooperate and use all reasonable efforts, pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, to facilitate the terms of this Agreement. Accordingly, the Parties further agree in good faith to mutually undertake resolution of disputes, if any, in an equitable and timely manner so as to limit the need for costly and time-consuming adversarial proceedings to resolve such disputes.

**SECTION 103. SCOPE OF SERVICES.** The services performed under this Agreement include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Respond with firefighting apparatus and personnel to the scene of a fire, life safety-related emergency, man-made or natural disaster, or public service request.
- b. Take command and control of the emergency scene, contain any fire, and mitigate any hazards at a fire scene.
- c. Investigate any fire within the Fire District to determine the cause and origin.
- d. Inspect all commercial, industrial, and multi-family dwellings within the Fire District for compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code.
- e. Conduct plan reviews, as requested by the County's Building and Development Review Services Department ("Building Department"), fire inspections, sprinkler tests, fire alarm tests, and final fire inspections within the Fire District, in accordance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code.
- f. Conduct and maintain immediate access to fire pre-plan documents for all commercial, industrial, and multi-family dwellings within the Fire District. Provide education programs to the public in fire prevention, life safety, and disaster preparedness.
- g. Upon notification by the 9-1-1 Center of an emergency request, Contractor shall provide Fire Protection Services in accordance with the Automatic Aid/Closest Unit Response Agreement. The Firefighting Apparatus and Unit(s), which are predetermined to be the closest to the emergency scene by the Run Cards, then in

- effect shall be dispatched without regard to Fire District or jurisdictional boundaries.
- h. Response times must meet the minimum standards as established in this Agreement.
  - i. The allotted Firefighting Apparatus must at all times be staffed with a minimum of three (3) Personnel to operate on all emergency and non-emergency calls. Apparatus staffing must include at least one firefighter that is trained and designated as a company officer.
  - j. Performance must be consistent with approved fire standards and compliant with the 600 Series Pinellas County Fire Departments Standard Operating Procedures.
  - k. Conduct of Personnel must be professional and courteous at all times. Crews must wear uniforms that clearly identify them as fire department employees.
  - l. The Contractor is responsible to ensure that equipment is maintained for optimal performance.
  - m. The Contractor shall require Personnel to gather and enter data into the electronic fire reporting system furnished by Pinellas County for every incident responded to by the Contractor. The Company Officer is responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of such reports.
  - n. Upon notification of a State of Emergency within Pinellas County, Contractor will coordinate its firefighting resources with the County's Emergency Operations Center's corresponding emergency support function desk, given the nature of the event or disaster, and shall proceed in accordance with applicable plans and protocols.

Such services, contained herein, shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The specific terms and conditions of this Agreement shall govern and prevail over this Section 104.

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**ARTICLE II**  
**DEFINITIONS**

**SECTION 201. WORDS AND TERMS.** Unless the context otherwise requires, capitalized terms used herein shall have the following meanings ascribed to them:

**"Adopted Budget"** means Contractor's legislatively or officially adopted budget for the Fiscal Year, in accordance with Section 409.

**"Annual External Audit"** means the audit conducted by a certified public accounting firm retained by Contractor to state the income, expenditures, and fund balances for the prior Fiscal Year. The Annual External Audit shall include a summary report prepared by Contractor on forms provided by the County and be attested to by Contractor's auditor.

**"Authority"** means the Pinellas County Fire Protection Authority, a municipal services taxing unit established by Chapter 73-600, Laws of Florida, as amended.

**"Automatic Aid/Closest Unit Response Agreement"** means the agreement by and between every political subdivision and Fire Control District within Pinellas County dated October 16, 1990.

**"Budget Request"** means the budget request submitted by Contractor, in accordance with Section 409.

**"CAD"** means computer-aided dispatch.

**"Caller"** means a person accessing the response system by telephone.

**"Contract Year"** means, for any given year, the period commencing on October 1 and ending at midnight on September 30 of the following year.

**"County"** means Pinellas County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida.

**"Disaster"** means an occurrence of a severity and magnitude that normally or potentially could result in death, injuries, and/or property damage and that cannot be managed through routine procedures and resources of the Fire Protection System.

**"Emergency Request"** means a request for emergency services received directly at the 9-1-1 Center.

**"Emergency Response"** means, for the purposes of measuring response time compliance in Section 402, the act of responding to a request for services in which Contractor determined that emergency lights and sirens will be used.

**"Fire District"** where capitalized means the unincorporated area of the Fire Control District(s) designated by Board pursuant to the Special Act and shown on Appendix D attached hereto and

made a part hereof. Where such term is not capitalized, the term shall mean the entirety of the incorporated and unincorporated portions of the Fire Control District.

**"Fire Equipment"** means the equipment and tools necessary to equip and operate Firefighting Apparatus in accordance with the NFPA guidelines.

**"Firefighter"** means an individual, trained and certified in accordance with Chapter 633, Florida Statutes, as applicable, that functions as a firefighter, fire officer, or command officer employed by Contractor.

**"Firefighting Apparatus"** means emergency vehicles provided by Contractor, which are constructed and equipped to meet or exceed NFPA 1901 requirements for an emergency pumping vehicle. Such vehicles are used for rapid response to an emergency scene and the suppression and containment of a fire or other hazard. Firefighting Apparatus may include, but not be limited to, engines, ladder trucks, or squads, which meet the above requirements.

**"Fire Protection Services"** means the response of Firefighting Apparatus, Units, and Personnel to the scene of a fire, life safety emergency, man-made or natural disaster, or public service request. Fire Protection Services include the command and control of the emergency scene, the containment of any fire, and the mitigation of any hazards, and may include Specialized Rescue. Related services include fire and arson investigation, fire inspections and code enforcement and public education.

**"Fire Protection System"** means the network of organizations, including, but not limited to, the Board, contractors, and other municipalities and special fire districts within Pinellas County, established to provide Fire Protection Services.

**"Fire Prevention Code"** means fire and life safety codes adopted by County and Contractor, in accordance with Chapter 62, Article III, of the Pinellas County Code.

**"Fire Station"** means any facility, designated by Contractor, which houses the Firefighting Apparatus, Units, and Personnel required to provide Fire Protection Services. The proposed locations of new fire stations, which may be used to service the unincorporated areas of the districts, will be reviewed for appropriate service area coverage by the County and, to be eligible to receive any County funding for such fire station construction, must be approved by the County.

**"First Due Firefighting Apparatus"** means Contractor's Firefighting Apparatus, within Contractor's primary response area, predetermined to be the nearest to the emergency, in accordance with Section 407 hereof.

**"Fiscal Year"** means the year commencing on October 1 of any given year and ending on September 30 of the immediately following year.

**"Force Majeure"** means any act, event, or condition other than a labor strike, work stoppage, or slowdown that has had, or may reasonably be expected to have, a direct material adverse effect on the rights or obligations of either Party under this Agreement, if such act, event, or condition is beyond the reasonable control of the Party relying thereon as justification for not performing an obligation, or complying with any condition required, of such Party under this Agreement, and is not the result of willful or negligent action or a lack of reasonable diligence of the Party relying thereon. Such acts or events may include, but shall not be limited to, an act of God, epidemic, landslide, or similar occurrence, an act of the public enemy, war, blockade, insurrection, riot, general arrest or restraint of government and people, civil disturbance, or similar occurrence.

**"NFPA"** is Contractor's currently adopted National Fire Protection Association guidelines for Personnel, Equipment, Firefighting Apparatus and Units, as may be amended.

**"Party" or "Parties"** means either the County or Contractor, or both, as the context of the usage of such term may require.

**"Personnel"** means individuals trained and certified in accordance with Chapter 633, Florida Statutes, as applicable, who function as firefighters, fire officers, fire inspectors, arson investigators, and command officers employed by Contractor.

**"9-1-1 Center"** means the 9-1-1 Regional Communications Center operated and maintained by the County for the purpose of receiving 9-1-1 calls from citizens.

**"Response"** means the act of responding to a request for services, which act begins when Contractor's Firefighting Apparatus or Unit(s) is notified of an Emergency Request.

**"Response Time"** means the period of time commencing when a Firefighting Apparatus or Unit is dispatched to an emergency and ending when it arrives on the scene of the incident.

**"Run Cards"** means the 9-1-1 Center's computer-aided dispatch software database that recommends, based upon the call location, the closest or most appropriate Firefighting Apparatus and/or Units to respond to the Emergency Request. The Run Cards will be based upon a predetermined listing of Firefighting Apparatus and Units which Contractor determined to be the closest by travel time or in the most appropriate order.

**"Special Act"** means Chapter 73-600, Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-590; Laws of Florida (the Pinellas County Home Rule Charter), approved on October 7, 1980; and Chapter 62, Article II, of the Pinellas County Code.

**"Special Events"** means non-emergency events, such as sporting events, parades, festivals, and

other group or mass gatherings, which may require Fire Protection Services.

**"Specialized Rescue Services"** means additional services provided by some Contractors, which may include, but are not limited to, vehicle extrication, heavy rescue, hazardous materials first response, hazardous materials mitigation, high-angle and below-grade technical rescue, marine rescue, dive rescue, and the mitigation of any other situation which presents an actual or potential danger to life or property.

**"Standard Practices"** means the actions and practices of Contractor in providing Fire Protection Services, all applicable rules and regulations, the laws of the State of Florida, applicable federal laws and regulations, including state and federal Occupational Safety Health Acts, and the NFPA guidelines

**"State"** means the State of Florida.

**"State of Emergency"** means a Disaster declared by a proclamation of the Federal Government, the State, the County, or a municipality within the County.

**"Traffic Preemption System"** means a comprehensive system, to include all required equipment, provided by the Authority that overrides the normal operation of traffic signals during the emergency response of an ALS First Responder Unit to reduce Emergency Response times and increase safety.

**"Uncontrollable Circumstance"** means a Force Majeure, a State of Emergency, or during situations in which the County Dispatch System and/or the Fire Protection System is not operating under normal response conditions.

**"Unexpended Funds"** means compensation provided to Contractor in the prior Fiscal Year that was not expended in the provision of Fire Protection Services. This amount is reported in the annual external audit.

**"Unit(s)"** means emergency vehicles provided by Contractor which are constructed and equipped, as applicable, and are used for rapid response to an emergency scene which do not meet the NFPA 1901 pumping guidelines. Units may include, but not be limited to, ladder trucks, squads, reserve pumpers, brush trucks, water tankers, Specialized Rescue Services units, and command or staff vehicles.

**SECTION 202. TERMS GENERALLY.** Whenever the context may require, any pronoun shall include the corresponding masculine, feminine, and neutral forms. The words "include," "includes," and "including" shall be deemed to be followed by the phrase "without limitation," except as the context may otherwise require. The words "agree," "agreement," "approval," and "consent" shall



be deemed to be followed by the phrase "which shall not be unreasonably withheld or unduly delayed," except as the context may otherwise require.

**ARTICLE III**  
**RESERVED**

**ARTICLE IV**  
**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF**  
**CONTRACTOR**

**SECTION 401. FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT.**

(a) **Obligation to Provide Firefighting Apparatus and Units.** At all times during the term of this Agreement, Contractor shall provide the Firefighting Apparatus and Units necessary to provide all Fire Protection Services. Contractor reserves the right to select and acquire Firefighting Apparatus and Units used in the performance of this Agreement.

(b) **Maintenance of Vehicles and Fuel.** Contractor shall be responsible for routine maintenance and repair of all Firefighting Apparatus and Units, and for furnishing maintenance, equipment, supplies, repairs, spare parts, replacement vehicles, and fuel. Contractor shall maintain Apparatus and Units in safe and proper working order.

(c) **Staffing of Vehicles.** Firefighting Apparatus, utilized for fire suppression, shall be continuously staffed with a minimum of three (3) Firefighters.

(d) **Fire Equipment.** Contractor shall furnish and maintain all Fire Equipment required to meet the terms of this Agreement. Contractor shall support efforts toward equipment compatibility and general standardization.

(e) **Communications Equipment.** Contractor shall furnish and maintain all communications equipment, including, but not limited to, station radios and encoders, mobile radios, portable radios, pagers, and cellular phones, as Contractor deems appropriate.

(f) **Command Officers.** In addition to the Personnel provided in (c) above, Contractor will provide its own or, through the use of automatic aid, command officers to respond to incidents within the Fire District.

(g) **Standard of Cover.** Provide for each type of response the same or greater level of service in the unincorporated area as Contractor provides for residents and properties of the incorporated portion of the Fire District

**SECTION 402. RESPONSE TIME.**

**(a) Emergency Requests.**

Response Time to not less than ninety percent (90%) of all Emergency Responses which are (1) categorized as a structure fire or a fire alarm; (2) within Contractor's Fire District; and (3) for which Contractor's Firefighting Apparatus is predetermined, in accordance with Section 407, to be the First Due Firefighting Apparatus, shall be within seven (7) minutes and thirty (30) seconds or less.

**(b) Exemptions.**

(1) The Response Time requirements in subsection (a) shall not be applicable to Emergency Responses which occur during periods of Uncontrollable Circumstances, provided, however, that Contractor shall document said conditions and shall apply for this exception as provided for in subparagraph two (2) and three (3) below.

(2) Remote areas such as offshore, Caladesi Island, Courtney Campbell Causeway, Fort Desoto Park, Gandy Bridge, Howard Frankland Bridge and the Sunshine Skyway Bridge or any other area where County finds the Response Time standards should be waived based upon the response distance and/or low volume of calls. Contractors may request that other areas be excluded from the Response Time standards for good cause. Any such waiver may be granted by County.

(3) Should Contractor experience an Uncontrollable Circumstance, Contractor shall, as a condition precedent to the right to claim an Uncontrollable Circumstance, notify the County within three (3) business days of when Contractor becomes aware of the Uncontrollable Circumstance.

(4) Downgraded calls which occur, based on additional information such as from 9-1-1 Center or first Unit arrival, will be excluded from determining Response Time performance.

(5) The exemptions provided for in this subsection (b) are exhaustive and no other cause of poor Response Time performance shall be allowed as exemption to these Response Time requirements and reporting provisions.

**SECTION 403. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING.** Subject to annual budget availability, Contractor shall make available the necessary continuing education and training for maintaining the skill, competency, and required certifications for all Personnel, as required by federal, state, or local regulation. County and Contractor shall work collaboratively with other Contractors, St. Petersburg College and other stakeholders to assess the needs for regionalized fire training facilities to maximize operational and financial efficiency. County and Contractor shall seek funding sources and partnerships to develop and maintain regional fire training facilities.

**SECTION 404. STANDARD PRACTICES.**

(a) **Standard Practices.** Contractor shall ensure that its policies and standard operating procedures and actions are consistent with those countywide standard operating procedures approved by the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association at all times and shall correct any deviations.

(b) **Ride-Alongs.** Contractor may allow the County or its representative, in the performance of their duties, to ride in Contractor's Firefighting Apparatus or Units during responses to Emergency Requests. Such representatives shall conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner, shall not interfere with Contractor's employees in the performance of their duties, and shall at all times be respectful of Contractor's employee/employer relationship. The County, or its representatives, shall provide proof of employment, proof of workers' compensation insurance, and complete any waiver or release forms which may be required by Contractor prior to riding in Contractor's Apparatus or Units. Such ride-alongs shall be scheduled or prearranged with Contractor.

(c) **Special Events.** In the event Contractor is called to provide Fire Protection Services at a Special Event in its Fire District, Contractor shall be governed by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and such periods of time shall not be excluded as an Uncontrollable Circumstance.

**SECTION 405. PERSONNEL.**

(a) **Training and Qualifications.** All individuals employed by Contractor in the performance of work under this Agreement shall be trained and qualified at a level consistent

with Chapter 633, Florida Statutes, as required to perform the work the individuals are to perform and shall hold appropriate certificates as required by state law.

(b) **Standard of Conduct.** Contractor's Personnel shall conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times. Contractor shall address and correct any departures from its standard of conduct.

(c) **Working Conditions.** Contractor shall ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations regarding labor conditions, workplace and working conditions, and environmental safety requirements.

**SECTION 406. DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND MUTUAL AID.**

(a) **Disaster Assistance within Pinellas County.** Immediately upon notification by either Party of a State of Emergency within Pinellas County, Contractor shall commit such resources as are necessary and appropriate, given the nature of the Disaster, and shall proceed in accordance with applicable plans and protocols. During or prior to an impending local or area- wide Disaster, the Contractor may withdraw that jurisdiction's responses from the Run Card system and retain control locally of all responses of that agency's emergency units. Normal operation will be resumed by the 9-1-1 Center upon notification by the Contractor. During such periods, Contractor shall be released from the requirements of Section 402. When Disaster assistance has been terminated, Contractor shall notify the County that Contractor is able to resume normal operations.

(b) **Disaster Assistance Outside of Pinellas County.** If Contractor provides Disaster assistance response outside of Pinellas County, it shall be provided in a manner which does not jeopardize Contractor's ability to render reliable services under this Agreement.

(c) **Mutual Aid.** Normal (non-disaster related) mutual aid responses outside of Pinellas County, rendered by Contractor, shall be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

**SECTION 407. AUTOMATIC AID/CLOSEST UNIT RESPONSE.** Upon notification by the 9-1-1 Center of an Emergency Request, Contractor shall provide Fire Protection Services in accordance with the Automatic Aid/Closest Unit Response Agreement. The Apparatus and Unit(s) which are predetermined to be the closest to the emergency scene by the Run Cards shall be dispatched without regard to Fire District or jurisdictional boundaries. Contractor's

authorized representatives will periodically, or at the request of the County, update their Run Cards to ensure their accuracy and coordinate any changes with any other affected contractors. The County, with the consent of Contractor, may update and manage the applicable Run Cards.

**SECTION 408. FIRE REPORTING SYSTEM.** Contractor shall gather and enter data into the countywide electronic fire reporting system provided by the County for every fire incident responded to by Contractor's Personnel. Design, procurement, operating costs of this information system shall be the responsibility of the County.

The database of the electronic fire reporting system shall be fully comprehensive, including complete and integrated information on all Fire Protection System activities. Contractor shall require its Personnel to comply with the completion of all fire incident reports and data entry requirements to ensure the accuracy and completeness of such reports, as approved and periodically revised, by Contractor and the County. The Contractor and County agree that procedures used to operate the electronic fire reporting system shall not be unduly burdensome.

Contractor shall have unlimited access, regardless of storage location or medium, to electronic fire reports generated by Contractor's Personnel and all dispatch-related data in a mutually agreeable format.

**SECTION 410. FIRE INVESTIGATION.** Contractor shall investigate all fires within its Fire District to determine the cause and origin. The investigation of all fires determined to be of a suspicious nature shall be coordinated with the appropriate law enforcement agency and other regulatory or investigative agencies, as applicable.

**SECTION 411. FIRE PREVENTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT.**

(a) **Fire Inspections.** Contractor shall conduct periodic fire inspections of all commercial, industrial, and multi-family dwellings in the Fire District, in accordance with the Fire Prevention Code. Contractor shall ensure that water flow testing, fire alarm testing, and other related services or inspections are conducted, as necessary. Any fees charged by the Contractor for fire inspections shall not exceed those fees charged within the Contractor's

municipal area. The County is not responsible for any payments associated with fire inspections.

(b) **Plan Review and Final Fire Inspections.** Contractor shall conduct plan reviews, fire inspections, sprinkler tests, fire alarm tests, final fire inspections, and other related services in the unincorporated area of the Fire District, in accordance with the Fire Prevention Code. County shall make building plans available to the Contractor for pickup and review. Final inspections shall be on the date and time agreed to by the building contractor, Contractor's Fire Department, and County's Building Department. Any fees charged by the Contractor for plan reviews, and final fire inspections shall not exceed those fees charged within the Contractor's municipal area. The County is not responsible for any payments associated with plan reviews and final fire inspections.

(c) **Code Enforcement Standards.** Contractor shall interpret and enforce the Florida Fire Prevention Code in the Fire District, consistent with the interpretations of any prevailing regulatory authority. Contractor shall interpret and enforce only the Florida Fire Prevention Code and shall not interpret or enforce any building codes in the unincorporated area, except as they relate to fire or life safety issues.

(d) **Complaint Resolution.** Any complaints received by Board or County from builders, contractors, property owners, or citizens relating to plan reviews, fire inspections, sprinkler tests, fire alarm tests, final fire inspection and other related services in the unincorporated area of the Fire District, will be forwarded to Contractor for investigation. Contractor will forward to the County a detailed report concerning the incident and outline any appropriate remedial action taken. The County reserves the right to investigate all complaints and to recommend remedial actions.

(e) **Property Identification.** Contractor shall, as manpower permits, enforce Chapter 170, Article I, Section 4, of the Pinellas County Code in the Contractor's Fire District(s) which relates to the requirements for property identification. Contractor shall enforce the code, at a minimum, for all commercial structures and multi-family dwellings.

**SECTION 412. SPECIALIZED RESCUE SERVICES.** Contractor may provide Specialized Rescue Services which include, but are not limited to, vehicle extrication, heavy rescue, hazardous materials first response, hazardous materials mitigation, high angle and below grade technical rescue, marine rescue, dive rescue, and the mitigation of any other situation which presents a danger to public safety, life, or property.

**SECTION 413 CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES (CJIS).** Contractor shall ensure all personnel that have access to the Regional 9-1-1 Center CAD system meet the requirements of such access as established by the Authority in cooperation with the Contractor, including requirements established by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) where applicable.

**ARTICLE V**  
**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTY**

**SECTION 501. COUNTY ROLE AS THE FIRE PROTECTION AUTHORITY.** The Authority was established to implement a permanent plan of fire protection for the County and each of its municipalities, including, but not limited to, determining minimum service levels, uniform standards for fire hydrants, implement County-wide reciprocal, mutual, or outside assistance programs, and to cause to be provided Fire Protection Services throughout Pinellas County. Since 1973, the sophistication and utilization of the entire emergency services system has increased dramatically. In keeping with the spirit of the Special Act, the County coordinates and facilitates advancements in policies, standards, technology, and special projects to enhance and improve the Fire Protection System. The County shall not interfere with the daily operations of Contractor in providing Fire Protection Services. The County shall perform all functions as indicated, pursuant to Pinellas County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 62, Article II, of the Pinellas County Code, and the Pinellas County Charter.

**SECTION 502. AUDIT AND INSPECTION.** Representatives of the County may observe Contractor's operations at any time during normal business hours, and as often as may reasonably be deemed necessary. Contractor shall make available to County for its examination its records with respect to all matters covered by this Agreement, and County may audit, examine, copy, and make excerpts or transcripts from such records, and may make audits of all contracts, invoices, materials, payrolls, inventory records, records of personnel, dally logs, conditions or employment, and other data related to all matters covered by this Agreement. County's right to observe and inspect operations or records in Contractor's business office shall, however, be restricted to normal business hours, and reasonable notification shall be given Contractor in advance of any such visit. Records relating to contract activities shall be retained for three (3) years from final payment in each year. County shall pay any reasonable costs for copying any materials requested.

**SECTION 503. COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.** County shall furnish and maintain, at

no cost to Contractor, the communications infrastructure which shall include emergency (9-1-1) and non-emergency telephone access, dispatch communication services, the public safety radio system, and the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) and fire reporting computer system.

**SECTION 504. TRAFFIC PREEMPTION SYSTEM.** Authority shall provide and maintain a countywide Traffic Preemption System in cooperation with the County and municipal traffic control systems. Traffic Preemption System equipment shall be provided for all frontline Authority Funded and Contractor Funded ALS First Responder Units. The Authority shall also provide Traffic Preemption System equipment for reserve ALS First Responder Units through a phased implementation subject to available funding. Authority shall be responsible for maintaining such equipment and replacing it at the end of a reasonable useful life, as determined by the Authority.

## **ARTICLE VI** **INSURANCE**

**SECTION 601. MINIMUM INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.** Contractor shall be self-insured or shall pay for and maintain at least the following insurance coverage and limits as listed below. Insurance coverage and limits shall be evidenced by delivery to the Board of: a certificate of insurance executed by the insurer(s) listing coverage and limits, expiration dates and terms of policies and all endorsements whether or not required by the Board, and listing all carriers issuing said policies; and a certified copy of each policy, including all endorsements. Where applicable, Contractor shall submit to Board a letter from Contractor's Risk Manager stating that Contractor is self-insured, or the amount of insurance per claim and per occurrence, any gap and the amount of excess insurance up to its coverage. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, Contractor does not waive any immunity or limitation of liability it may have under the doctrine of sovereign immunity or Section 768.28, Florida Statutes. The following insurance requirements shall remain in effect throughout the term of this Agreement (unless Contractor is self-insured, in which case Contractor shall not be required to comply with the following insurance requirements) :

(a) Provide Workers' Compensation insurance as required by Florida Law.

(b) Provide commercial general liability, employers' liability, and commercial vehicle liability insurance that reflects the limits of liability for governmental entities in accordance with Section 768.28, F.S., should the State Legislature change these limits,



coverage consistent with law shall be obtained.

(c) Professional Liability Insurance, including errors and omissions, with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence; if occurrence form is available; or claims-made form with "tail coverage" extending three (3) years beyond the ending date of this Agreement. In lieu of "tail coverage," the Contractor may submit annually to the Board a current certificate of insurance proving claims-made insurance remains in force throughout the same three (3) year period. This coverage is subject to statutory and regulatory requirements of Federal, State or local law.

(d) Personal and/or Bodily Injury, including death and property damage liability insurance with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit insurance in excess of all primary coverage

(a) **SECTION 602. ADDITIONAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.** To the extent that Contractor maintains insurance policies rather than being self-insured, each insurance policy shall include the following conditions by endorsement to the policy:

(b) Each policy shall require that forty-five (45) days prior to expiration, cancellation, non-renewal, or any material change in coverage or limits, a notice thereof shall be given to Board. Contractor shall also notify Board within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of any notices of expiration, cancellation, non-renewal, or material changes in coverage received by said Contractor from its insurer.

(c) Companies issuing the insurance policy, or policies, shall have no recourse against Board or County for payment of premiums or assessments for any deductibles which all are at the sole responsibility and risk of Contractor.

(d) The Board shall be endorsed to the required policy or policies as an additional insured, exclusive of professional liability insurance. The additional insured clause covers the actions of the Contractor while providing services under the terms of this Agreement.

(e) The policy clause "Other Insurance" shall not apply to any insurance coverage currently held by the Board or the County, to any such future coverage, or to County's Self- Insured Retention of whatever nature.

**SECTION 603. LIABILITY.** Contractor and Board agree to be fully responsible for their own acts of negligence or their respective agents' acts of negligence when acting within the scope of their employment and agree to be liable for any damages resulting from said negligence. Nothing

herein is intended to serve as a waiver of sovereign immunity or the limits of liability contained in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, by the Contractor, County, or Board. Nothing herein shall be construed as consent by Contractor or Board to be sued by third parties in any manner arising out of this Agreement. Contractor is not liable for the causes of action arising out of the negligence of the Board, its employees or agents, or arising out of the negligence of any persons or entities contracted by, appointed by, or approved by the Board to provide services related to this Agreement (including, but not limited to, other Contractors). This Section 603 shall survive expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

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**ARTICLE VII**  
**COMPENSATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 701. COMPENSATION.** As consideration for such Fire Protection Services, as described herein, the County shall pay Contractor annual compensation. Contractor shall be paid monthly in arrears and payments shall be (approximately) equal installments beginning November 2024 in accordance with the table below.

Fiscal Year	Annual Compensation
FY24-25	\$120,000.00
FY25-26	\$130,000.00
FY26-27	\$140,000.00
FY27-28	\$150,000.00
FY28-29	\$160,000.00

**SECTION 702. FUNDS TO BE USED SOLELY FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES.**

Contractor recognizes that funds provided pursuant to the Agreement are derived from ad valorem taxes collected from MSTUs and must be dedicated solely to the provision of Fire Protection Services. Contractor, therefore, agrees that funding provided under this Agreement will be used strictly for the provision of the services described herein. Contractor shall not use funds for non-operating purposes, including, but not limited to, gifts, donations, goodwill, and travel expenses in excess of rates specified by applicable law, municipal policy, or Section 112.061, Florida Statutes.

**SECTION 703. FISCAL NON-FUNDING.** The funds to be used for services performed pursuant to this Agreement are subject to periodic appropriation of funds by County. If funds are not appropriated by County for any or all of this Agreement, County shall not be obligated to pay for any services performed under this Agreement beyond the portion for which funds are appropriated. Such failure of appropriation shall not constitute a breach of this Agreement.

County agrees to promptly notify Contractor in writing of such failure of appropriation, and this Agreement shall terminate on the last day of the fiscal period for which funds have been appropriated.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**TERM AND TERMINATION**

**SECTION 801. TERM OF AGREEMENT.** The initial term of this Agreement shall be for five (5) years, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending at midnight September 30, 2029, unless this Agreement is earlier terminated as provided for herein. This Agreement may be extended for an additional five (5) year period following the initial term, provided that the Parties mutually agree in writing to such extension which is subject to County and Contractor approval prior to July 1, 2029. References in this Agreement to "Term" shall include the initial term of this Agreement and all extensions thereof.

**SECTION 802. TERMINATION AND DISPOSITION OF ASSETS.**

(a) **Termination by County.** County may terminate this Agreement by serving upon Contractor a ninety (90) calendar day written notice of County's intention to terminate this Agreement however, shorter notice may be given if the County determines an emergency situation exists requiring such action.

Upon the effective date of termination of the Agreement, the County is not obligated to pay Contractor for Fire Protection Services, nor is Contractor obligated to provide Fire Protection Services, as defined in this Agreement.

(b) **Termination by Contractor.** Contractor may terminate this Agreement by giving to County ninety (90) calendar days' written notice of its intention to terminate.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

**SECTION 901. NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT.** The Contractor will not discriminate against any applicant for employment because of age, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, national origin, or any other protected category. Contractor agrees that applicants will be employed; and those employees are treated during employment, (e.g., layoff or termination, promotion, demotion, transfer, rates of pay and compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship), without regard to age, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information,

national origin or any other protected category. The Contractor will post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the

provisions of this non-discrimination clause.

**SECTION 902. NOTICES.** All notices, consents, and agreements required or permitted by this Agreement shall be in writing, and, as applicable, shall be transmitted by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, with notice deemed to be given upon receipt; postage prepaid, and shall be addressed as follows:

If to County: Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration  
12490 Ulmerton Road, Suite 134  
Largo, Florida 33774

If to Contractor: City of St. Petersburg  
P.O. Box 2842  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-2842  
Attn: Mayor

**SECTION 903. ENTIRE AND COMPLETE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement, and all Appendices hereto, constitute the entire and complete Agreement of the Parties with respect to the services to be provided hereunder. This Agreement, unless provided herein to the contrary, may be modified only by written agreement duly executed by the Parties with the same formality as this Agreement.

**SECTION 904. OTHER DOCUMENTS.** Each Party agrees to execute and deliver any instruments and to perform any acts that may be necessary or reasonably requested in order to give full effect to this Agreement.

**SECTION 905. APPLICABLE LAW.** The law of the State shall govern the validity, interpretation, construction, and performance of this Agreement.

**SECTION 906. WAIVER.** Unless otherwise specifically provided by the terms of this Agreement, no delay or failure to exercise a right resulting from any breach of this Agreement shall impair such right or shall be construed to be a waiver thereof but such may be exercised from time to time and as often as may be deemed expedient. Any waiver shall be in writing and signed by the Party granting such waiver. If any representation, warranty, or covenant contained in this Agreement is breached by either Party and thereafter waived by the other Party, such waiver shall be limited to the particular breach so waived and shall not be deemed

to waive any other breach under this Agreement.

**SECTION 907. SEVERABILITY.** In the event that any provision of this Agreement shall, for any reason, be determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, the Parties hereto shall negotiate in good faith and agree to such amendments , modifications, or supplements of or to this Agreement, or such other appropriate actions as shall, to the maximum extent practicable in light of such determination, implement and give effect to the intentions of the Parties as reflected herein, and the other provisions of this Agreement shall, as so amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise affected by such action, remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 908. CONTRACTOR IS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** The Parties agree that throughout the Term of this Agreement and during the performance of any obligations hereunder, Contractor is an independent contractor in all respects and shall not be the agent, servant, officer, or employee of the County.

**SECTION 909. NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES: ASSIGNMENT.** This Agreement is not intended, nor shall it be construed, to inure to the benefit of any third person or entity not a party hereto, and no right, duty, or obligation of Contractor under this Agreement shall be assigned to any person, private association or corporation, not-for-profit corporation, or public body without the prior written consent of the County.

**SECTION 910. HEADINGS.** Captions and headings in this Agreement are for ease of reference and do not constitute a part of this Agreement.

[Signature Page to Follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto, by and through their undersigned authorized officers, have caused this Agreement to be executed on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

ATTEST:  
KENNETH BURKE, CLERK

PINELLAS COUNTY,  
by and through its governing body, the  
Pinellas County Board of County  
Commissioners, sitting as the Fire Protection  
Authority

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Patrick H. Allman IV  
Office of the County Attorney

Countersigned:

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA  
By: Kenneth T. Welch

Print: Kenneth T. Welch


Title: Mayor

Attest:



\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to Content and Form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney (designee)



**APPENDIX A**  
**FUNDING METHODOLOGY PROFILE**

Funding methodology is in accordance to fixed pricing established in Section 701 of this agreement.

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**APPENDIX B**  
**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE CONTRACTOR**

City of St. Petersburg  
P.O. Box 2842  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-2842  
Attn: Mayor

**APPENDIX C**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

In accordance with Pinellas County Home Rule Charter and Chapter 62, Article II, of the Pinellas County Code and the Fire Services Agreement, funds provided by Pinellas County to Contractor can only be used in support of fire-related activities. Therefore, a proportional share of any unspent balance at the conclusion of a fiscal year are to be returned to Pinellas County where these funds will be retained in a discrete special revenue fund for the Fire District. Funds paid to the Contractor in excess of amounts actually expended shall be returned to the County within thirty (30) calendar days of the County's review and acceptance of the Contractor's annual external audit.

In accordance with Section 409(a), the following form will be provided to Pinellas County within twenty (20) days after receipt by the Contractor the year following the audited year together with the Financials.

To be Completed by Contractor	
Contractor Name:	
Person Completing Form	
Phone Number	
Fiscal Year:	

*Note: All references are only to the Fire District, and do not include any revenue or expenditures associated with EMS. State Law and County Code forbid the use of fire funds for EMS purposes or EMS funds for firefighting; i.e., fire funds cannot be used to purchase rescue units, attend EMS-related conferences or membership in EMS organizations or to pay salary and benefits of EMS personnel, etc. If the specific items are not documented in the audited financials, please compute the amount and place it on the form and attach documentation showing how the information was calculated citing information contained in the audited financials.*

		Audit Page
1. Total Expenditures by Contractor		
2. Less: Other Revenues received by Contractor*		
4. Total Outlay by Contractor (1 less 2)	\$ -	
1. Pinellas County Percentage of District**		
8. Total Pinellas County Share (8 times 4)	\$ -	
10. Pinellas County paid to Contractor		
12. Total Due to Pinellas County (the District) (6 less 5)	\$ -	
8. Fund Balance retained by Contractor		

\*includes interest and other fire protection agreements revenue  
\*\*to be provided by Pinellas County Fire Authority

PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR ANNUAL AUDIT AND ANY OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AS NEEDED	
Signature _____	Date _____
Please return completed form to:	Pinellas County Safety & Emergency Services Fire Administration 12490 Ulmerton Road Largo, FL 33774
Or email to: _____	-Financial Operations Manager

**APPENDIX D**  
**FIRE CONTROL DISTRICTS**

<b>Fire Control District</b>	<b>Fire Service Contractor</b>
Belleair Bluffs Fire Control District	City of Largo
Clearwater Fire Control District	City of Clearwater
Dunedin Fire Control District	City of Dunedin
Gandy Fire Control District	City of St. Petersburg
Highpoint Fire Control District (West)	City of Largo
Largo Fire Control District	City of Largo
Pinellas Park Fire Control District	City of Pinellas Park
Safety Harbor Fire Control District	City of Safety Harbor
Seminole Fire Control District	City of Seminole
South Pasadena Fire Control District	City of St Petersburg
Tarpon Springs Fire Control District	City of Tarpon Springs