



Board of Commissioners

Lamar County
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Notices of Fire and Ambulance Fees were sent to property owners in the past few months. Many of these notices were incorrect and/or incomplete. We apologize for these errors and have taken steps to ensure these problems do not recur.

The purpose of the fees is to fund the services that are provided to the citizens. These costs have previously been contained within property taxes. The fees are a different and more equitable way of spreading the costs across the users. Details, rates, and more information about the fees are available on the county website: www.lamarcountyga.com, click on the "Fire/Ambulance Fees" tab. Since they were first implemented we have learned that there are several situations where the intent of fairness was not met and we have amended the fees to correct this. Most property owners will not see any change but some will have their fees reduced. There are also some allowable exemptions to the rate schedule:

1. Disabled vets that are 100% disabled and receiving homestead exemptions for their disability will have their fees waived for both fire and ambulance.
2. Churches and schools are exempt from fees for 2010.
3. Property owners that have a dwelling in another county but a small part of their parcel runs into Lamar County will be exempt from fees (this ties into your primary 911 service coming from another county)
4. Vacant lots of 1 acre or less that adjoin another lot can be combined for the purposes of fees (*this will not have any effect on Property Tax records or amounts*).

Property owners that feel they qualify for one or more exemptions must complete a simple form (available on the web or at the Commissioners' office) and submit it. If you feel that these rules and exemptions do not adequately address your situation you may file an appeal in the Commissioners' office. You must justify your case relative to the fees, the probability of using the services, and equitable distribution across the population.

Most property owners have already paid their fees and we greatly appreciate that. If you have not paid yet, your deadline for paying the 2010 fire and ambulance fees is 1 March, 2011. After that date late fees of 1.5% per month will be added to your bill. Remit payments to "Lamar County" and mail or deliver them to the address above. If you have any questions please call your Commissioner or the office.

Thank you for your patience, your feedback and your support.



JAY MATTHEWS, CHAIRMAN