

Frequently Asked Questions

About the 2010 Lamar County Fire and Ambulance Fees

1. What are these fees?

- 1) The Fire and Ambulance fees cover the costs of these services in 2010. Though labeled Fire and Ambulance they include additional related services. The table below shows all of the services covered by the fees for 2010.

Fee	Service	Applies to
<u>Fire</u>	Part or all of the costs of these services are covered by the Fire fee.	All areas of the county except properties within the city limits of Barnesville
	<i>County Fire Dept</i>	
	<i>GA Forestry</i>	
	<i>Part of EMA</i>	
<u>Ambulance</u>	Part or all of the costs of these services are covered by the Ambulance fee.	All properties within Lamar County
	<i>EMS Services</i>	
	<i>First Responders</i>	
	<i>Health Department</i>	
	<i>Part of EMA</i>	

2. Who pays the fees?

- 1) There are two districts for service fees in Lamar County. One covers the entire county, all citizens are in this district. This district is the Ambulance Service District. The other district is all of Lamar County *except* the city of Barnesville. Anyone living inside the city limits of Barnesville is **not** in the Fire Service District, all other county residents are inside the Fire Service District. So everyone in Lamar County pays the Ambulance Fee and everyone except the residents within the city limits of Barnesville pay the Fire fee. Barnesville provides fire services to the city, paid from city taxes so charging them the Fire fee would be double charging.

3. Are there any exemptions from the fees?

- 1) There are four normal exemptions.
- (1) Disabled veterans that are 100% disabled and receiving homestead exemptions for their disability will have their fees waived for both fire and ambulance. You can verify your exemption status for this criteria by checking your [property tax record](#). If the "Homestead Exemption" is listed as "Yes (S5)" then you are eligible for this exemption (see Figure 1). No other parcels will be eligible for this exemption.
- (2) Churches and schools are exempt from fees for 2010.

Lamar County Georgia Tax Assessors Office

326 Thomaston St., Suite 8
Barnesville, GA. 30204
(770)358-5161
(770)358-5149 Fax

Previous Parcel	Next Parcel	Field Definitions	Return to Main Search Page	Lamar Home
Owner and Parcel Information				
[REDACTED]		Today's Date	February 17, 2011	
BARNESVILLE, GA 30204		Parcel Number	[REDACTED]	
R3-Residential		Tax District	COUNTY (District 01)	
121/7		2010 Millage Rate	24.9	
		Acres	1	
		Neighborhood		
		Homestead Exemption	Yes (55)	
		Parcel Map	Show Parcel Map	

Figure 1: 100% Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption.

- (3) People whose property is split by the county line but their residence is on the portion of the parcel in the adjoining county will be exempt from fees (this ties into their 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. Parcels separated by a road are considered to be adjoining for the purposes of Fire and Ambulance Fees. This only applies to fees, not to property taxes. It will not affect your property tax records or amounts.
- 2) Anyone that feels their situation is not fairly addressed by the fee rates and exemptions may file an appeal.
4. Is there an appeal process?
 - 1) Appeals can be submitted to the commissioners office. The appeal should be based on the amount of the fee, the probability of needing service, and the fairness compared to other fee payers and service receivers in the county. There is no specific format for the appeal but a letter is suggested.
5. Do I have to file for my exemption or will I receive it automatically?
 - 1) We cannot identify 100% of the properties that the exemptions might apply so we need everyone eligible for an exemption to file a request for that exemption. The forms are very simple and available [here](#). We will keep these forms from year to year so that you only need file an exemption once unless something changes.
 - 2) Requests for exemptions will be reviewed for approval/disapproval on a first come first served basis. If your request is approved you will be issued a refund within 30 days. If the request is disapproved you will receive notification within 30 days.
 - 3) If you want to check on the status of your request you can call the Commissioners office (770-358-5146) or [email](#) your question. Please include the name and parcel number so we can make sure we are citing the correct request. Also provide your contact information so we can respond to you.
 - 4) If you do not file an exemption you are liable for the fees as charged. If you file for an exemption after the deadline for paying the fees you will still be liable for a prorated portion of the fee. For example, the deadline for 2010 fees is 1 March, 2011. If you file for an exemption in June of 2011 (and assuming it is approved), you will still be liable for the fees from March, April, and May. So your bill will be 3/12ths or 25% of the original amount. For future years (including 2011) the

exemption would apply and you will not owe a fee.

6. My fee is very high, what can I do? How do I file an appeal?
 - 1) We have over 10,000 parcels in the county and no set of rules and exemptions can fully address every one of those parcels. If you feel that your situation is not fairly addressed by the fees you can submit an appeal of all or a part of your fee. Address the appeal to the Lamar County Commissioners, 408 Thomaston St. Barnesville, GA 30204. There is no set format for the appeal but a letter will suffice. Be sure to include details about your parcel(s), the fees that have been charged, and why you think those fees are inequitable. You will receive a response within 5 days with further instructions.
7. What do I do after submitting my appeal?
 - 1) To be equitable with other property owners you are expected to remit your fees as charged by the deadline (1 march, 2011). If your appeal is approved and your fees are reduced or eliminated you will receive a refund within 2 weeks of that decision. Note that only the County Commissioners are authorized to approve refunds so that decision will have to be made at the next County Commission meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month).
8. What if I have more questions?
 - 1) This process is still new to Lamar County so if you have a question that is not addressed yet please email your feedback to the [Board of Commissioners](#). We will respond to your question within 2 working days. If it is one that might affect other citizens we will add your question and the answer to these FAQs.
9. I have a mobile home. How are the fees applied in my case?
 - 1) The state dictates that mobile homes are treated as real property if the owner also owns the land under the home and resides there. Otherwise they are considered personal property. Tax bills for mobile homes are handled differently than regular property tax bills. If your mobile home is your primary residence, you own it and the land it sits on, then it is treated just like any other residence in the county. If you do not reside in the home or do not own the land it sits on you will be charged the normal residence fees
10. What if I did not receive a bill for any fees but I suspect I should have?
 - 1) If you have not received a bill and want to verify whether you owe any fees or not you can call the Commissioners office (770-358-5146) or [email us](#) and we will clarify your fee status. Some bills were not received in the initial mailing for a variety of reasons. Those bills are being reprocessed and mailed again, with the recipient being given 30 days from the mailing of the bill to pay their fees.