

Board of County Commissioners

Leon County, Florida

Policy No. 14-2

Title:	Criteria for the Placement of Fire Hydrants on Current Water Systems
Date Adopted:	July 11, 2017
Effective Date:	July 11, 2017
Reference:	N/A
Policy Superseded:	Policy No. 14-2 “Criteria for the Placement of Fire Hydrants on Current Water Systems” adopted on February 25, 2014; revised February 9, 2016

It shall be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that Policy No. 14-2, “Criteria for the Placement of Fire Hydrants on Current Water Systems” amended on February 9, 2016, is hereby further amended and a new revised policy adopted in its place, to wit:

Staff will request input from the following community partners regarding the location of possible new fire hydrants on current water systems in the unincorporated areas of the County:

- Tallahassee Fire Department
- Volunteer fire departments
- Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- City of Tallahassee Utilities
- Leon County Public Works
- Leon County Emergency Medical Services

The placement of new fire hydrants on current water systems, subject to annual allocation of funding, shall be evaluated based on the following selection criteria:

1. The water system infrastructure’s ability to support hydrant placement and provide a minimum flow of 500 gallons of water per minute, while maintaining 20 pounds per square inch of residual pressure for an extended period.
2. The distance between the proposed new hydrant location and current hydrants already in place. Areas that lack current hydrant protection will be given priority.
3. Of the fire hydrants proposed, the higher priority will be given to hydrant locations that provide the greatest benefit (i.e. number of homes and businesses).
4. Geographic diversity of new hydrant placements.
5. The availability of other funding sources to support the hydrant installation.
6. Of the fire hydrants proposed, the order of hydrant placement may be advanced when there is an opportunity to leverage outside funding or collaborate with an outside agency’s current project(s).

Leon County shall provide a Fire Hydrant Cost Sharing Program for the placement of new fire hydrants on current water systems, not subject to annual allocation of funds. The program shall follow the following criteria:

1. A citizen or Homeowners Association may make a request directly to the County for a fire hydrant. If the subdivision has an established Homeowners Association, the request is to be made through the Homeowners Association. However, if there is not a Homeowners Association, individual citizens may make the request.
2. Upon receiving a request, staff will first determine if the segment is included on the approved fire hydrant prioritization list for installation. If not, staff will consult the established utility regarding the feasibility of the location of the new fire hydrant.
3. The evaluation criteria for the Cost Sharing Program will remain consistent with the criteria for fire hydrants subject to annual allocation of funds.
4. Each requestor shall pre-pay a minimum 50% of the cost of installation in advance of its pursuit. This minimum payment shall be no less than \$3,500 fee per fire hydrant to account for the capital costs of purchasing the fire hydrant, fittings, pipe, valves and valve boxes involved in a new fire hydrant installation. If the final cost is less than \$7,000, the County will reimburse the applicant the applicable amount, not to exceed the 50% threshold or \$3,500 cap (whichever is less). If the cost exceeds \$7,000 the applicant will remit to the County the difference in dollar amount.
5. The County will only provide matching funds for no more than five hydrant installations per neighborhood per year. County matching funds shall be capped at \$3,500 per fire hydrant installation.
6. If the annual allocation of funds for the Cost Sharing Program are not utilized within a given fiscal year, the balance may be reallocated to fund installations from the approved fire hydrant prioritization list.
7. The Cost Sharing Program is subject to funding availability.

Revised July 11, 2017