

(e) The funds received by the respective Fire Departments AND RESCUE SQUADS INCLUDING MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE UNITS from this Fire AND RESCUE Tax shall be used for the purpose of purchasing, repairing, replacing, operating and maintaining their fire fighting AND RESCUE equipment and apparatus and the housing of the same and for fire prevention and training. The amount and type of equipment and apparatus of said Fire Departments AND RESCUE SQUADS shall conform to the standards prescribed by the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association AND BY THE CHARLES COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, RESPECTIVELY. No resolution, regulation or by-law shall be passed by said Fire Departments OR RESCUE SQUADS limiting or restricting the territory within the area covered by this Fire AND RESCUE Tax within which it will respond to emergency calls.

(f) In addition to the Fire AND RESCUE Tax benefits, the County Commissioners of Charles County are authorized [and directed] to pay out of the general funds of the County [on July 1st of each year, \$6,000.00 to each of the various Fire Departments in Charles County. On July 1st of the year that the assessable tax base of Charles County exceeds 265 million dollars, this amount shall be reduced to \$3,000.00 which sum shall continue each year thereafter until such time that the assessable tax base of Charles County exceeds 325 million dollars. On July 1st of that year and each year thereafter this amount shall be further reduced to \$500.00. This sum is to be used by the various Fire Departments for the purposes outlined in 123(e)] ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THE VARIOUS FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND RESCUE SQUADS AS THEY DEEM NECESSARY. The Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners shall consider these payments in determining the amounts due the various fire departments AND RESCUE SQUADS under the formula distribution plan and in determining whether excess proceeds exist.

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Excess proceeds, herein defined as proceeds from the fire AND RESCUE tax in excess of those necessary to satisfy the requirements of the preceding subsections, shall, upon recommendation of the Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners be used by the County Commissioners to reduce the indebtedness of the various fire departments AND RESCUE SQUADS, to assist in the formation of new fire departments OR RESCUE SQUADS, [or substations to existing fire departments] in accordance with the needs and growth of the county, to allot funds to the various fire departments AND RESCUE SQUADS to pay for career [fireman and/or the establishment of a single county training facility when deemed necessary] FIRE AND RESCUE PERSONNEL, TO SUPPORT/AID THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER, to hire necessary clerical assistance, to accumulate an emergency fund up to a maximum of [fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00)] \$100,000 to provide assistance to new departments AND SQUADS or existing departments AND SQUADS suffering major losses through no fault of their own, and/or to pay any part of such excess proceeds to the