

Date: 17th November 2020

To: Bill Gravell Jr., County Judge
Terry Cook, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Cynthia Long, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Valerie Covey, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Russ Boles, Commissioner, Precinct 4

CC: Chris Connealy, Director of Emergency Services

From: Hank Jones, Fire Marshal

In: Adoption of IFC 2018, Williamson County Fire Code and Fee Schedule

Insurance standards require that the adopted fire code for a jurisdiction be within two code cycles. Each code cycle is for a period of three years. The current adopted fire code is the 2015 International Fire Code. It is therefore proposed that Williamson County adopt the 2018 International Fire Code. This is the most recent version of the fire code, which is also the most widely adopted fire code by jurisdictions throughout the United States. It is important to emphasize that a national consensus fire code is written to provide a basic level of fire protection based on scientific research, engineering, and past tragedies.

The adoption of this fire code will do several things for Williamson County. First, it will meet the insurance standards of keeping within the two code cycles window. Second, this code will ensure the most current life safety and property protection standards are being applied throughout the unincorporated areas of Williamson County, as well as the incorporated areas of the county in which the County Fire Marshal's Office services. Third, this correspondingly enhances the quality of life in our community. Just as good management practices affirm, risk is minimized through good policies and regular review of performance.

In addition to the adoption of this new code, it is also proposed for a Fee Schedule to be adopted. This proposed fee schedule will allow the Fire Marshal's Office to operate an effective review/inspection program and is intended to offset costs of employees and equipment, but not fully fund the full fire safety inspection program. The fees are proposed to be implemented on November 17, 2020. The proposed fees are based on staff hours required to cover plan reviews and required inspections. The inspection fee is charged only once for plan review, meeting, and all inspections for the specific permit type. This does not include plan re-submittals or re-inspections to verify fire code compliance repeat visits to the same location. The proposed fee schedule was discussed with the County Commissioners during the fire code adoption meetings and given their support.