

ORDINANCE NO. 25- 02

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HECTOR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS SURROUNDING THE CITY OF HECTOR, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the City of Hector, Arkansas, a city of the second class, maintains a municipal fire department to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, fires in unincorporated areas surrounding the City of Hector pose risks to life, property, and the general welfare of the region; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the public interest to extend fire protection services to unincorporated areas to enhance regional safety; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas law, including Ark. Code Ann. § 14-53-101, grants the City authority to regulate and operate its fire department and to provide services as deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to establish a voluntary dues program to support the provision of fire protection services in unincorporated areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HECTOR, ARKANSAS, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Title. This ordinance shall be known as the "Hector Fire Protection Extension Ordinance."

SECTION 2. Definitions. For purposes of this ordinance: A. "Fire Department" means the Hector Fire Department, a municipal department of the City of Hector. B. "Unincorporated Areas" means the areas outside the corporate limits of the City of Hector but within the surrounding township and adjacent regions as determined feasible by the Fire Department. C. "Voluntary Dues" means contributions requested from property owners or residents in unincorporated areas to support fire protection services.

SECTION 3. Authorization to Provide Fire Protection Services. A. The Fire Department is hereby authorized to respond to and fight fires in unincorporated areas surrounding the City of Hector. B. The Fire Department may utilize municipal personnel, machinery, equipment, and resources as necessary to provide fire protection services in unincorporated areas, subject to the discretion of the Fire Chief and availability of resources. C. The provision of services in unincorporated areas shall not impair the Fire Department's ability to serve the residents within the corporate limits of the City of Hector.

SECTION 4. Voluntary Dues Program. A. The Fire Department is authorized to establish a program to request voluntary dues from property owners or residents in unincorporated areas who wish to receive fire protection services for their homes, structures, or properties to help cover the additional costs and burdens that will ensue from providing fire protection in the unincorporated

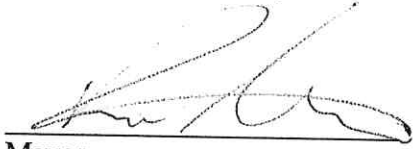
area surrounding the City limits. B. The amount, frequency, and method of requesting voluntary dues shall be determined by the Fire Department, subject to approval by the City Council. It shall initially be set at \$50.00 per year, per residence. C. Participation in the voluntary dues program shall be at the discretion of property owners or residents in unincorporated areas. D. The City Clerk is authorized to send dues requests and receipt monies into the City General Fund or other appropriate funds as deemed appropriate by the Clerk and oversee the collection and expenditures of such monies as authorized by the City and State and local law, as amended from time to time. It is the intent of the Council that if residents pay the dues, then no recoupment or reimbursement of costs expended extinguishing or controlling a fire at a dues paying residence will be sought, otherwise, the Council intends that the City seek reimbursement if the residence did not pay its annual voluntary dues prior to the fire.

SECTION 5. Administration and Enforcement. A. The Fire Chief shall be responsible for administering the provisions of this ordinance, including determining the scope of services in unincorporated areas and managing the voluntary dues program. C. The Fire Department shall maintain records of services provided in unincorporated areas and any voluntary dues collected.

SECTION 6. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

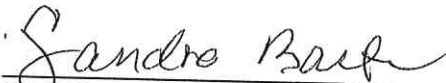
SECTION 7. Emergency Clause. It is imperative for city operations to continue to provide reliable fire protection services to its citizens and protect the interests in and around the city, therefore this ordinance being necessary for the protection and preservation of public health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in force and shall take effect upon passage and publication.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Hector, Arkansas, on May 19, 2025



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk