

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Board Meeting Date: 12/10/25

(Select All that Apply)

Decision Making Agenda Item

Discussion Purposes Only Agenda Item

Walk On Agenda Item

SUBJECT:

Presentation of Report Summary by J. Angle Group, LLC: Fire District Merger Feasibility Study between Fort Myers Beach Fire District and Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District

PERSON(S) MAKING SUBMITTAL OF AGENDA ITEM:

J. Angle Group, LLC

BACKGROUND/DETAIL OF AGENDA ITEM:

Presentation of Report Summary by J. Angle Group, LLC: Fire District Merger Feasibility Study between Fort Myers Beach Fire District and Iona-McGregor Fire Protection and Rescue Service District

BUDGET IMPACT: Yes / No / Unknown – If Yes, how much? From where?

No budget impact.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

ACTUAL BOARD ACTION:



Fort Myers Beach
FIRE DISTRICT



Iona-McGregor
FIRE DISTRICT

Feasibility Study **FIRE DISTRICT MERGER**

December 2025



Executive Summary

As described in the Request for Qualifications, the purpose of the study is to determine whether a merger of the two districts would be operationally and financially beneficial to the taxpayers of both the Fort Myers Beach and the Iona-McGregor Fire Control Districts. The districts wanted to assess the feasibility of consolidating the two agencies into one new independent special fire district. It is within this framework that this study was conducted.

From an operational perspective, the J. Angle Group, LLC, (JAG) found no compelling reasons to merge the two districts into a single new independent fire district. Based on JAG team findings, some recommendations were made to increase collaboration between the two districts; however, JAG did not find that a merger would provide any significant operational benefits. When considering the industry-standard travel time for first-arriving units of four (4) minutes, the critical response force needed for various emergencies, and a 1.5-mile travel distance, the current fire station locations and staffing levels are appropriate. Units and staffing would not change in a merged organization.

Two operational concerns mentioned in feedback across both internal and external surveys were the loss of the CFAI fire accreditation that IMFD currently holds and the potential loss of EMS transport by FMBFD.

From a financial perspective, there were again no compelling reasons to recommend a merger. JAG projected—with various assumptions—revenue and expenses for a notional merged organization using existing personnel and service delivery levels. It was found that the merged district would experience additional costs and therefore not be beneficial. Further, although FMBFD taxpayers would experience similar millage rates to those forecast in the status quo model, IMFD taxpayers would likely see increases in millage of up to 0.5 mills over the next five years, compared to the status quo model.

The internal and external feedback results in this document also provide valuable insights into the perspectives shared by the respondents. Again, the feedback does not point to a compelling desire to merge the districts.

Like many fire service organizations, FMBFD and IMFD continually improve and evolve their operations. This report provides a snapshot of FMBFD and IMFD as of the time the information was gathered—late 2024 and early 2025. It was not possible to capture all changes that may have been made during the report's development.