



Council Approves Collecting Fees For Police, Fire

By [Sarah Terry](#)

The Morning News

FAYETTEVILLE -- Fayetteville aldermen voted Tuesday to collect two additional impact fees.

The city will begin collecting impact fees for police and fire services in 31 days.

The fees are expected to generate \$846,000 in the first year, according to a study by Duncan Associates, an Austin, Texas, consulting firm.

Impact fees for police and fire service could subsidize the cost of proposed capital projects, such as new fire and police stations and additional vehicles.

The study showed fire fees could net \$383,000 while police service could bring in \$463,000.

"These impact fees will go forward to build fire stations and build police substations," said Alderman Lioneld Jordan, a longtime advocate of impact fees.

Aldermen who supported the fees repeatedly said the charge is a way for new development to pay for itself.

"It takes the burden off residents that live here and puts the burden on people who are creating the problem," Alderman Kyle Cook said. "For me, it's foolish not to support impact fees and help pay for growth."

Alderman Bobby Ferrell was the lone dissenting vote for the impact fees.

City Attorney Kit Williams expressed concern that the impact fees for police and fire service are taxes -- not fees -- because they benefit the entire population, not just those who pay the charge. Williams advocated a special election to allow residents to decide whether to collect impact fees for police and fire service.



The Fayetteville City Council wants to use impact fees for fire and police to help pay for capital expenses, such as vehicles, equipment and buildings.

[J.T. Wampler](#), The Morning News

Ferrell proposed referring the issue to the voters, but his amendment failed to gain the full council's support.

Fayetteville has collected a water and sewer impact fee since 2003 and generated almost \$3 million.

The city's transportation committee will discuss later this month whether to propose a road impact fee.

A study by Duncan Associates estimated the city could generate between \$4.1 and \$4.5 million a year with a road impact fee. Money from the fee would help fund a \$143 million bond issue that the transportation committee has discussed for almost a year.

Also Tuesday, the council approved a contract with Bio-Based Technology to purchase the former site of the Water and Sewer Operations Center on Cato Springs Road. The city will receive \$940,000, which will be used for economic development purposes.

The council also approved a planned zoning district for Pratt Place Inn, on 72 acres at the west end of Markham Road.