

Mt. Juliet Considers Fee To Help Fund Fire Dept.

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by Chris Conte

MT. JULIET, Tenn. - City leaders in Mt. Juliet are considering a proposal that would charge new home and new business owners a \$1,500 'impact fee' to help cover the cost of operating the city's new fire department.

"One of the things the city has struggled with, how do you pay for this, how do you take something on of this magnitude and scale," said Vice Mayor James Maness.

To get the new fire station off the ground, city officials passed a 20-cent property tax increase a few years ago, but now they are hoping to open a second fire station in the coming years which is part of the reason they're looking at adding an impact fee.

"As a one time thing it doesn't seem like a lot, but what will happen is we'll have a large residential development where you have \$1,500 times 400 units and you get to a large sum very quickly," he added.

There is also some discussion about charging builders a fee based on the square footage they construct instead of a flat rate.

City commissioners will vote on the plan Monday night at 6:30 p.m.