

Bluff Town Counsel:

First off there is a misconception that if we don't agree to this Tax, we will lose our EMS services. This is completely untrue. Even with this tax increase Bluff can't fund this program. It's also been implied that volunteerism is getting to be an unsustainable, or an unfair option, therefore people need to be paid, starting with this proposed tax. However, in reality this proposed Tax does basically one thing, it will provide a salary for one part time person at a starting rate of \$40,000.00 per year. Everyone else is still on a volunteer basis. This town was built by volunteers and rightly so, as most small towns such as Bluff, cannot create the revenue needed to sustain itself, without creating an economic hardship on the majority of its residents.

Now not including everything else our current property tax dollars currently are used for; the County's portion alone is over 300 percent higher than Bluff's portion. That is partially due to among other things funding EMS. However, our evaluation went from 24.7 Mil to 60.9 Mil resulting in more taxes being paid. So why doesn't the town petition the county for a higher percentage of that increased revenue instead of adding another tax to its residents?

In closing I would say Bluff chose incorporation in order to keep Bluff, Bluff. However, the results I've seen so far is that it has continually put a larger economic burden on the businesses, it's getting more expensive for residents, it has created more rules making it harder to do anything here, and this proposed Tax just adds to that.

Marx Powell