

GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
Expansion of Boundaries – Ochopee Municipal Service Taxing Unit

- The proposed local bill authorizes the inclusion of the Ochopee Municipal Service Taxing Unit (“Ochopee MSTU”), approximately 840 square miles, into the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District (“District”) if approved at referendum.
- The District is currently under a management agreement with Collier County for the purpose of providing fire rescue services to the Ochopee MSTU. The agreement requires the District to initiate legislation to include the Ochopee MSTU within its boundaries no later than the 2022 Florida Legislative session.
- The proposed local bill allows for the transfer of authority for fire service from Collier County to the District.
- The proposed local bill codifies the district’s boundaries into one description as well as updates the names of the District’s two divisions to reflect District operations and designates described areas as taxing units.
- The proposed local bill clarifies the District’s authority to levy different ad valorem taxation rates within the district as long as a uniform rate is levied within each taxing unit and has been approved by referendum.
 - The District will continue to meet the constitutional requirement limiting millage rates to those rates approved at referendum as well as uniform rates within a taxing unit.
 - The clarification is needed as this area will be charged a higher millage rate than the remainder of the District (1.5 mills) to ensure that the District’s current residents do not subsidize services to the new area.
 - Since taking over the provision of fire rescue services, the millage rate in the Ochopee MSTU has been reduced by 0.25 mills and it is anticipated to be reduced another 0.25 mills once the management agreement with Collier County expires.
- A referendum question that seeks the approval of the inclusion into the District and the millage rate is provided.
- The proposed local bill’s effective date is upon approval of the Ochopee MSTU electors voting in a referendum to be held prior to December 31, 2021.