

To: Mr. John Hansley, Greenville County

Date: 25 April 2015

From: Kyle Gilley, Secretary, Canebrake Fire Department

Cc: Lynn Ballard, Councilman; Jim Ruffner Chairman of Canebrake

Subj: Budget and Millage

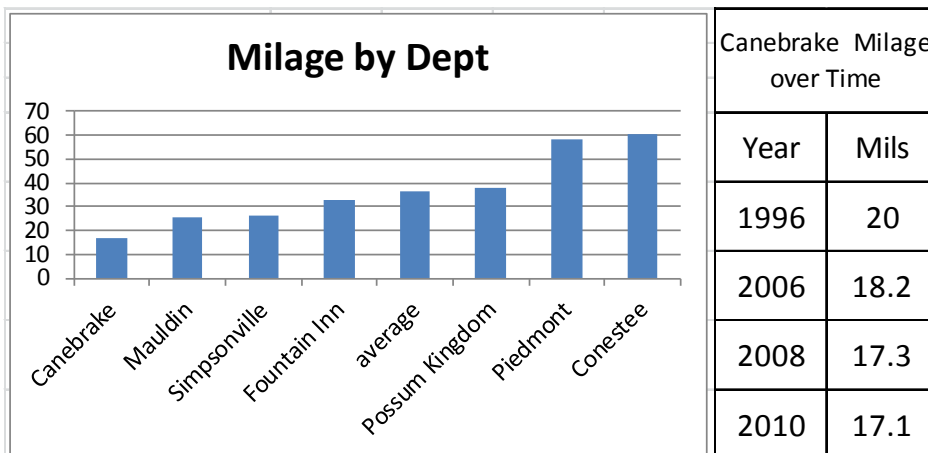
Dear Mr. Hansley,

The purpose of this letter is to request your advice on funding / milage for the Canebrake Fire Department.

Background

Canebrake has been in operation in Southern Greenville County since 1985. There are four paid firemen and approximately 30 volunteers operating 12 trucks out of 4 stations with a district wide ISO rating of 5 on a 2016 budget of approximately \$261,325. The problem we face is our projected revenues are only \$232,372.

The Canebrake Milage rate of 17.1 is the second lowest in the County, and well below the average of 37 for Fire Departments in Southern Greenville County. Not only is it relatively low, but it has been decreasing over time.



Reason for the need for increased funds

The costs for maintaining good fire protection and emergency response have increased. There are several maintenance items which need improvement at Canebrake:

10 year Budget needs, currently not feasible		
Description	Total	Annualized
Replace, repair two tanker trucks, needed to maintain ISO rating of 5 in this rural district.	\$125,000	12,500
Renew and replace Air Packs	150K	15,000
Replace turn out gear for the 30 volunteers, 3 per year	70K	7,000
Increase the salaries of the paid firemen	150K	15,000
		49,500

Next steps

Canebrake is requesting a return to the original milage rate of 20 on which the department was founded. This should improve the budget to \$272,000 per year, allowing Canebrake to improve the condition of the gear and trucks in order to maintain its current ISO rating of 5.

Your advice needed

Do you think it is possible to return to 20 mils without putting this to a District wide vote in November? An increase to 24 mils would allow us to address all the needs in the table at the bottom of page 1. However, we realize there are risks and costs with this and would like any advice you can give before submitting the Millage Request Application.

Sincerely,

J. Kyle Gilley

Secretary, Canebrake Board of Fire Control

Attached:

2014 Canebrake Financial Audit, 2015/2016 budget, Referendum 4589



2014 Audit.pdf



budgetFORyear2015
-2016.xlsx



4589 fire district
millage referendum.p