



## Fire District Millage Request Application

### Contact Information

District Name: Boiling Springs Fire District State FDID Number 23303  
Fire Chief's Name Steve Graham Email: sgraham@boilingspringsfd.org  
Mailing Address 5020 Pelham Rd. City, State, Zip Greenville, SC 29615  
Contact Person's Name: Steve Graham Email: sgraham@boilingspringsfd.org  
Address: 5020 Pelham Rd. City, State, Zip Greenville, SC 29615  
Phone: 864-288-5037 Fax: 864-284-6146

### Financial Operations

***Please Check One of the Following Options:***

- Our district is seeking to maintain our current millage rate  
 Our district is seeking a millage rate increase  
 Our district is seeking bond approval

FD Annual Budget \$4,801,153 Value of One Mill \$157,585  
FD Current Millage Rate 23.7 Value of Total Millage \$3,734,765  
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) \$3,937,181  
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.) \$53,995  
Number of Paid Firefighters 52 Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters 16

***For the following financial measurements, please provide a dollar amount.  
(Any additional pertinent information can be detailed in an attached sheet.)***

Debt Service \$395,129  
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses \$4,259,549  
(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings \$2,948,903  
(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? 2013

Was your request granted? YES

If so, please detail your accomplishments with the additional revenue? (You may attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

**Performance Data**

ISO Rating _____ Class 1 _____	Year Rating Received _____ 2015 _____
Population Served (daytime) _____ 55,000 _____	Population Served (nighttime) _____ 28,000 _____
Number of Households _____ 11,546 _____	Number of Businesses _____ 994 _____
Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) _____ 1,777 _____	
Number of Structure Fires _____ 29 _____	Number of MVA's _____ 259 _____
Number of Medical Calls _____ 932 _____	Number of Brush Fires _____ 7 _____
Number of Vehicle Fires _____ 14 _____	Number of Mutual Aid Calls _____ 95 _____

*For the following questions, please circle or highlight "Y" for Yes or "N" for No.  
(Any additional pertinent information may be provided in a separate sheet.)*

- Is your district registered with the State Firefighter Mobilization? Y / N
- Does your district participate in the South Carolina Fire Incident Reporting System? Y / N
- Is your district in compliance with the SC Firefighter Registration Act? Y / N
- Does your district meet requirements of OSHA Standard 1910.30 for Infectious Disease Control? Y / N
- Does your district perform annual SCBA fit testing on all active personnel? Y / N
- Do your district's firefighters meet minimum OSHA training requirements? Y / N
- Does your district perform annual testing on all ground and aerial ladders to meet NFPA standard? Y / N
- Does your district meet all NIMS requirements? Y / N
- Does your district have a fire prevention program? Y / N
- Does your district have a Fire Safety inspection program? Y / N
- Does your district have a pre-fire plan program? Y / N
- Does your district meet minimum hose testing requirements? Y / N
- Does your district meet minimum pump testing requirements? Y / N
- Does your department meet minimum apparatus requirements? Y / N
- Does your district meet minimum equipment on apparatus requirements? Y / N
- Does your district have a preventive maintenance program for your apparatus? Y / N
- Does your district provide physicals to all members? Y / N
- Do all of your members meet the minimum training requirements for their specific job titles? Y / N
- Does your district meet minimum communication requirements? Y / N
- Does your district meet Narrow Band Requirements? Y / N
- Does your district house an EMS vehicle? Y / N

*For the following questions, please provide the more detailed information necessary to understand the complexities for your district. You may attach separate sheets as necessary to fully answer the questions.*

1. Please describe any businesses or structures which require special equipment or represent potentially dangerous calls.

BSFD provides fire protection and emergency services for numerous commercial, multi-family, industrial occupancies that require a ladder truck. Some of these facilities include Michelin North America HQ, Bausch and Lomb, Scan Source, various hotels over 3 stories tall, nursing homes, and over 100 warehouse and manufacturing buildings. There are 16 apartment communities in our jurisdiction representing 3500 individual units. All of these complex are multi-story units requiring the use of ladder trucks for rescue and fire suppression.

In addition to fixed facilities and occupancies, we cover one of the busiest stretches of I-85. The tremendous volume of commercial traffic transiting the region requires us to be able to protect the public from the potential release of any number of deadly chemicals and materials that could be released in an accident. Specialized equipment such as gas meters and imaging cameras are required to ascertain the presence hazardous materials in order to protect the public and responders.

2. Please list any mutual aid agreements or operational or resource sharing agreements your district participates in with other fire districts.

The Boiling Springs Fire District participates in the South Carolina Firefighter Mobilization Plan as well as the South Carolina Statewide Mutual Aid Plan. BSFD also participates in the Greenville County Mutual Aid Plan.

In addition to the county mutual aid plan, BSFD has written automatic mutual aid agreement with Taylors FD and Greer FD to provide resources for structure fires occurring in either community. All three entities are currently in the process of consolidating dispatch functions into one unified dispatch center. We are also combining all emergency response operating procedures into a common response protocol to ensure consistent emergency scene operations.

Boiling Springs, Pelham-Batesville, and Greenville City share a separate mutual aid agreement in providing emergency response coverage in the I-85 corridor from the Spartanburg County line to approximately Laurens Road. This arrangement provides for better access and quicker response by the closest department based on the easiest access to a given location on the interstate.

Boiling Springs also provides personnel to the Greenville County HazMat and Technical Rescue Teams for which Greenville County provides funding for training and equipment.

Boiling Springs, Taylors, Wade Hampton, and Piedmont Park share a training facility owned by Taylors FD and we regularly train together at this location.

3. Please describe how, if at all, the requested millage increase will impact your district's ISO ratings.

The lack of an operating millage increase for the last 3 years has already impacted our ISO rating. In 2102 BSFD retrogressed from a Class 1 rating to a Class 2. This was due to a redistribution of manpower after an ISO survey required an additional fire station. Greenville County Council approved a \$2,000,000 GO Bond for the new fire station in 2011. The millage increase approved by County Council in 2013 was instrumental in helping our department regain its ISO Class 1 rating in 2015.

This millage increase will help us maintain our ISO Class 1 by funding the firefighters we already have on staff.

4. Please describe the tax-exempt properties in your district and the services you provide to these entities.

There are currently 5 properties that in our jurisdiction that have a FILOT agreement in place. These are large, high value properties that receive fire protection and emergency service at a reduced cost.

The number of churches, schools, and health care facilities that are tax-exempt dwarf the number of FILOT Arrangements in our district. There are 11 nursing home or other health care occupancies, 3 schools, and 16 churches in our jurisdiction that do not pay taxes. However, these facilities typically present a higher risk during a fire due to their construction features and number of people affected and therefore require more resources during an emergency.

In addition, the number of health care facilities in our area continue to impact the number of medical calls we are responding to each year. As these companies reduce staff they are accessing emergency services more often to address more and more patient issues. A trend that is becoming more prevalent is to use the local fire departments for medical assistance rather than EMS, since the local fire department does not have the ability to charge fees for these services.

Please assign a priority rating to your millage increase request from the following options: Priority 1

**Priority 1:** Without the increase, we cannot continue to provide the level of service that we are giving currently. Our ISO ratings could be affected negatively. The need is dire.

**Priority 2:** Without the increase, we cannot purchase needed equipment to improve the level of service we are currently giving. ISO ratings may or may not be improved. This priority level also allows for needed specialty equipment to be acquired.

**Priority 3:** Without the increase, we can continue to provide excellent service to our district, but the increase will allow us to improve our operation in an exemplary way. ISO ratings may potentially be improved.

Opportunity for Council person(s) statement:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, County Council representative to this fire district, **Support / Do Not Support** this request.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, County Council representative to this fire district, **Support / Do Not Support** this request.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, County Council representative to this fire district, **Support / Do Not Support** this request.

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**Please include with your application the following documents:**

- A formal letter from the Commission stating the intentions to either maintain or increase millage;
- Last year's financial audit;
- A five-year plan (spreadsheet) showing projected revenues as well as operating and capital expenditures;
- Any background information necessary to justify the need of a millage increase; and
- A signed resolution from the governing body approving the operating/capital plan and millage increase.

All applications should be mailed or emailed to:  
Greenville County Finance Committee  
Attn: John Hansley, Deputy County Administrator  
301 University Ridge, Suite 2400  
Greenville, SC 29601

or

[jhansley@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:jhansley@greenvillecounty.org)

Explanation of millage increase:

For fiscal year 2016-2017, Boiling Springs Fire District (the “District”) asks that millage of 26.0 mills be included on the tax bills of the residents of its service area. For fiscal year 2015-16, the District imposed 23.7 mills, which is the same number of mills levied for the previous two tax years. This is an increase of 2.3 mills which is needed to fund: past operating deficits, increased healthcare costs, restoring the reserve account and other costs mandated by other governmental entities.

The value of a mill for the District equals \$157,585.

Section 6-1-320(A)(1) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended (the “Code”), allows a local governing body to increase the millage rate imposed for general operating purposes above the rate imposed for such purposes for the preceding tax year only to the extent of the increase in the average of the twelve monthly consumer price indices for the most recent twelve-month period consisting of January through December of the preceding calendar year, plus the percentage increase in the previous year in the population of the entity as determined by the Office of Research and Statistics of the State Budget and Control Board.

Furthermore, Section 6-1-320 suspends its restriction on annual increases of operating millage in two additional circumstances – to maintain a reserve account and in the event of a deficit in the previous year. In previous years, the District has maintained a reserve account to protect its financial well being. However, in the past two years, the District has been required to invade its reserves to offset deficits in the total amounts of \$737,370 and \$583,283, for a total amount of \$1,320,653. In order to restore its reserve account and protect its financial security, the District needs to impose millage in the amount of an additional 2.3 mills.