



South Greenville Fire District

“Caring for our Community”

June 2, 2020

Honorable Butch Kirven
Chairman, County Council

Honorable Bob Taylor
Chairman, Finance Committee

Greenville County Council
301 University Ridge, Suite 2400
Greenville, SC 29601

RE: SOUTH GREENVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

Dear Chairman Kirven and Dr. Taylor:

The South Greenville Area Fire District, South Carolina (the “District”) was created and established as a body politic and corporate, pursuant to Act No. 67 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the year 1965, as amended. The District is located wholly in the County and was established for the purpose of providing fire protection services within the District.

The District’s readiness and training meets a high standard for fire service provision, and we currently maintain an ISO rating of 2/2Y. The District continues to find the most cost-effective solutions to provide for increasing operational costs, replacing outmoded equipment, and providing additional facilities. FY2020 operational, capital and debt service expenditures are projected at approximately \$4.6 million. The current millage for the District is 37.8 mils for operations and 1.1 mils for debt service.

The District Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) strives to ensure that the people in the District have the best possible service provided to our constituents at the lowest cost to them from our organization. Due to the growing service requirements and need to replace outdated equipment, as well as achieving and maintaining competitive compensation for our employees, the Commission approved at its May 18, 2020, meeting

Matthew S. Sutherland, Fire Chief

Joel D. Finley, Assistant Chief

8305 Augusta Rd. Pelzer, SC 29669 (864) 243-5650



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June 2, 2020
Page Two

to request approval from County Council for a 4.8 mill increase in the operational millage. This represents the amount allowed under the current CPI and population increase plus the three-year lookback.

We would like to make you aware of the following:

- The District covers approximately 143 square miles and is staffed by 63 paid firefighters and one administrative / seven communication professionals. The District serves an approximate daytime / nighttime population of 100,000 and 80,000 respectively. This population includes approximately 32,500 households and 374 businesses.
- The District maintains Standard Operating Procedures & Guidelines, which also include Procurement, Accounting, Financial Management, Reimbursement and Bond Compliance Policies.
- The *most important reason* for this request is to continue to provide superior services to our constituents.

Attached you will find a Five-Year Financial Model (including the Capital Improvement Program); the Resolution adopted by the Board; and the Fire District Millage Request Application. Please review the attached information and let us know if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your continued support and consideration for the District.

Very truly yours,

Matt Sutherland
Fire Chief

TL:gw

Attachments

Matthew S. Sutherland, Fire Chief
8305 Augusta Rd. Pelzer, SC 29669 (864) 243-5650

Joel D. Finley, Assistant Chief

South Greenville Fire Department, South Carolina
Financial Model
SUBJECT TO REVIEW, REVISION AND FUTURE CONDITIONS
JUNE 1, 2020

	Audited	Budgeted	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Revenues						
Property Taxes	\$ 5,047,527	\$ 4,550,000	\$ 5,225,766	\$ 5,330,281	\$ 5,436,887	\$ 5,645,625
Interest Income	\$ 2,846	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,040	\$ 2,081	\$ 2,122	\$ 2,165
Dispatch Income	\$ 19,500	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,400	\$ 20,808	\$ 21,224	\$ 21,649
Tower Lease Income	\$ 8,395	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,160	\$ 8,323	\$ 8,490	\$ 8,659
Extraction Income	\$ 7,109	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,100	\$ 5,202	\$ 5,306	\$ 5,412
MDA Boot Drive Income	\$ 940	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 46,055	\$ 18,450	\$ 18,819	\$ 19,195	\$ 19,579	\$ 19,971
Total Revenues	\$ 5,132,372	\$ 4,603,450	\$ 5,280,285	\$ 5,385,891	\$ 5,493,609	\$ 5,703,481
Expenditures						
Current						
Personnel Services:						
Salaries/Wages	\$ 2,535,163	\$ 2,902,566	\$ 3,047,694	\$ 3,200,079	\$ 3,360,083	\$ 3,494,486
Retirement	\$ 441,417	\$ 536,400	\$ 547,128	\$ 558,071	\$ 569,232	\$ 580,617
Employee Benefits	\$ 585,726	\$ 450,000	\$ 486,000	\$ 524,880	\$ 566,870	\$ 612,220
Employee Physicals	\$ 14,240	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,300	\$ 15,606	\$ 15,918	\$ 16,236
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$ 45,299	\$ 12,525	\$ 12,776	\$ 13,031	\$ 13,292	\$ 13,557
Utilities	\$ 82,372	\$ 81,400	\$ 83,028	\$ 84,689	\$ 86,382	\$ 88,110
Fuel	\$ 48,897	\$ 40,000	\$ 41,200	\$ 42,436	\$ 43,709	\$ 45,020
Operational Equip & Expenses	\$ 168,263	\$ 150,100	\$ 153,102	\$ 156,164	\$ 159,287	\$ 162,473
Training	\$ 19,160	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,340	\$ 17,687	\$ 18,041	\$ 18,401
Uniforms	\$ 15,596	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,300	\$ 15,606	\$ 15,918	\$ 16,236
Insurance	\$ 167,668	\$ 143,000	\$ 147,290	\$ 151,709	\$ 156,260	\$ 160,948
MDA Boot Drive Donations	\$ 940	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services	\$ 11,243	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,300	\$ 15,606	\$ 15,918	\$ 16,236
Total Current	\$ 4,135,984	\$ 4,377,991	\$ 4,581,458	\$ 4,795,563	\$ 5,020,911	\$ 5,224,542
Capital Outlay (Cross Reference CIP)	\$ 677,037	\$ 130,000	\$ 126,000	\$ 416,000	\$ 108,500	\$ 178,500
Lease Purchase Agreements						
2013 Lease Purchase	\$ 78,784	\$ 78,784	\$ 78,784	\$ 78,784	\$ 78,784	\$ 78,784
Projected						
2021				\$ 94,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 94,000
2023						\$ 106,000
Total Lease Purchase Agreements	\$ 78,784	\$ 78,784	\$ 78,784	\$ 172,784	\$ 172,784	\$ 278,784
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,891,805	\$ 4,586,775	\$ 4,786,242	\$ 5,384,347	\$ 5,302,195	\$ 5,681,827
Excess (Deficiency)	\$ 240,567	\$ 16,675	\$ 494,043	\$ 1,544	\$ 191,414	\$ 21,654
Debt Service Fund						
Debt Millage Levy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Value of Total Mills	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000
Debt Service Millage	\$ 152,393	\$ 159,588	\$ 161,213	\$ 162,588	\$ 158,838	\$ 160,363
General Obligation Bonds Series 2018	\$ 159,735	\$ 159,588	\$ 161,213	\$ 162,588	\$ 158,838	\$ 160,363
Net Debt Service Payable	\$ 159,735	\$ 159,588	\$ 161,213	\$ 162,588	\$ 158,838	\$ 160,363
Other Financing Sources						
Sale of Capital Assets	\$ 48,120					
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 281,345	\$ 16,675	\$ 494,043	\$ 1,544	\$ 191,414	\$ 21,654
Millage Components						
Operating Millage Levy	37.8	37.8	37.8	42.6	42.6	42.6
	0.0	0.00%	12.60%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
		0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt Millage Levy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Total Levy	38.9	38.9	43.7	43.7	43.7	43.7

South Greenville Fire District, South Carolina
 Capital Improvement Program
 SUBJECT TO REVIEW, REVISION AND FUTURE CONDITIONS
 June 1, 2020

DESCRIPTION	FUNDING SOURCE	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	TOTAL
Training Facility	Capital Reserve		\$ 350,000					\$ 350,000
Pumper Equipment	Pay-Go	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 35,000
Chief's Vehicle	Pay-Go	\$ 50,000						\$ 50,000
Training Facility (Property)	Pay-Go	\$ 30,000						\$ 30,000
Rescue 80 Replacement	Lease Purchase		\$ 800,000					\$ 800,000
Station II Concrete Pad	Pay-Go		\$ 20,000					\$ 20,000
Platform 80 Replacement	Pay-Go			\$ 300,000				\$ 300,000
	Capital Reserve			\$ 200,000				\$ 200,000
Brush 74 Replacement	Pay-Go		\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000
Fire Marshal's Vehicle	Pay-Go			\$ 60,000				\$ 60,000
Engine 77 & 80 Replacement	Lease Purchase				\$ 900,000			\$ 900,000
	Capital Reserve				\$ 300,000			\$ 300,000
Brush 73 Replacement	Pay-Go				\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000
Brush 75 Replacement	Pay-Go						\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Battalion 73 Addition	Pay-Go					\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000
Battalion 80 Replacement	Pay-Go						\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Car 80 Replacement	Pay-Go					\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000
Engine 75 Replacement	Pay-Go						\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
	Lease Purchase						\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
	Capital Reserve						\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Turn Out Gear (15 Sets)	Pay-Go	\$ 45,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 52,500	\$ 52,500	\$ 55,000	\$ 305,000
Total		\$ 130,000	\$ 1,276,000	\$ 616,000	\$ 1,308,500	\$ 178,500	\$ 821,000	\$ 4,330,000

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION FOR PURPOSES OF APPROVING AN INCREASE TO THE MILLAGE LIMITATIONS ESTABLISHED FOR THE SOUTH GREENVILLE FIRE DISTRICT AND TO REQUEST GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INCREASE TO THE MILLAGE LIMITATION.

WHEREAS, the South Greenville Fire District is a special purpose district, located wholly within the county of Greenville; and

WHEREAS, the South Greenville Fire District was created by Act No. 67 of 1965 of the South Carolina General Assembly, which established the South Greenville Board of Fire Control as the governing body for the South Greenville Fire District; and

WHEREAS, the South Greenville Board of Fire Control is an elected body authorized pursuant to Act NO. 67 of 1965 to annually levy, for operations and maintenance, ad valorem property tax millage not exceeding sixteen (16) mills; and

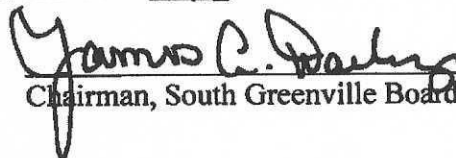
WHEREAS, according to the provisions contained in S.C. Code Ann. 6-11-271 and 6-11-275, as amended, special purpose districts totally located within a county, which were in existence prior to March 7, 1973, and which have the statutory authority to annually levy taxes for operations and maintenance are authorized to modify their respective millage limitations provided the increase is first approved by the governing body of the district and by the governing body of the county in which the district by resolutions duly adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Greenville Board of Fire Control approves the increase of twenty one mills and eight tenths (21.8) mills to twenty-six and six tenths (26.6) mills in addition to the sixteen (16) mills millage limitation authorized by Act No. 67 of 1965, for a total millage of forty two and six tenths (42.6) mills, which represents a millage increase from last year's ad valorem property tax millage levy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Greenville Board of Fire Control requests that Greenville County Council approve, by resolution, the modification to the millage limitation authorized by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the millage rate authorized by this Resolution and effectuated pursuant to the provisions of S. C. Code Ann. 6-11-275, as amended, is effective only for the tax year 2020 – 2021.

DONE IN MEETING THIS 18 DAY OF May, 2020.



Chairman, South Greenville Board of Fire Control



Fire District Millage Request Application

Contact Information

District Name: South Greenville Fire District State FDID Number 23324
Fire Chief's Name Matt Sutherland Email: msutherland@sgfdfire.com
Mailing Address 8305 Augusta Road City, State, Zip Pelzer, SC 29669
Contact Person's Name: Matt Sutherland Email: msutherland@sgfdfire.com
Address: 8305 Augusta Road City, State, Zip Pelzer, SC 29669
Phone: (864) 243-5650 Fax: (864) 243-5656

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 \$4,603,450.00 Value of One Mill \$102,209.00
FD Current Millage Rate 37.8 Operating/ 1.5 DS Value of Total Millage \$3,863,500.00
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) (2018-2019) \$4,911,452.00
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.) \$169,941
Number of Paid Firefighters 63 Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters 0

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

Debt Service Truck Lease \$78,784.20/ Balance \$298,102.54 2018 GO Bond-\$159,587.50
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses \$4,504,808
(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings Reserve-\$341,868, New Apparatus-\$210,957, Training Facility-\$388,685
(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? 2016
Was your request granted? Yes

If so, please detail your accomplishments with the additional revenue? (You may attach a separate sheet if necessary.)
We have achieved the goal of ISO Class 2/2Y. We have replaced three (3) Engines and replaced one (1) Fire Station.

Performance Data

ISO Rating 2/2Y Year Rating Received 2017

Population Served (daytime) 100,000 Population Served (nighttime) 80,000

Number of Households 32,500 Number of Businesses 374

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) 2693 (2019)

Number of Structure Fires 75

Number of MVA's 321

Number of Medical Calls 1755

Number of Brush Fires 52

Number of Vehicle Fires 36

Number of Mutual Aid Calls 48

*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.

We currently have the following large industries in our Fire District: Michelin Tire Corporation, Drive Automotive, Roy Metals, GE Aviation, JTEKT, 80% of Augusta Grove Business Park and will cover the new Greenville Enterprise Park.

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

We participate in both the County and State Wide Mutual Aid Agreements. We currently are dispatching all responses for South Greenville Fire District, Gantt Fire District and Piedmont Fire District. We have Automatic Aid Agreements with the following departments: Fountain Inn Fire Department, Gantt Fire Department, Piedmont Fire Department, Belmont Fire Department, Dunklin Fire Department, Canebrake Fire Department, Simpsonville Fire Department, Mauldin Fire Department, Anderson County Fire Department, Belton Fire Department, and Honea Path Fire Department. We also support the Donaldson Career Center Firefighting Program with a donation of a Fire Truck and other Firefighting Equipment. We also participate in the Co-Op Program and allow their students to job shadow at our Department. We also support the Greenville ERT Team with our Personnel and house equipment for them.

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

This millage increase request will allow us to maintain our current staffing levels but increase our salary schedule. We are approximately 25% behind the average of salaries of other Fire Departments in Greenville County. Due to this we have lost 59 employees in the last three fiscal years. This millage increase will allow us to retain employees that we have hired and trained, instead of training new employees and losing them to other agencies after their training is complete. This millage increase will also allow us the ability to begin our Capital Improvement Plan (see attached) that will allow us to maintain our current ISO rating of 2/2Y.

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

We provide Fire Protection for five (5) Greenville County Schools, one (1) County Child Development Center and Greenville Technical College Brashier Campus. We have over 46 churches in our Fire District. We provide Fire Prevention services to the above groups with our Fire Safety House and Fire Prevention Materials. We are also heavily involved with our local Homeowner Associations multiple activities and Fire Prevention on an annual bases.

Please assign a priority rating to your millage increase request from the following options: Priority 2*

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.

** We need to use additional funds to help increase our current firefighter salaries to have better retention of our current employees.*

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.

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