



## Fire District Millage Request Application

### Contact Information

District Name: Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area State FDID Number 23119  
Fire Chief's Name Robert Staples Email: RStaples@gmfd.net  
Mailing Address 2015 Highway 11 City, State, Zip Landrum, SC 29356  
Contact Person's Name: Kelley Murphy Email: KMurphy@gmfd.net  
Address: 2015 Highway 11 City, State, Zip Landrum, SC 29356  
Phone: 864-895-4306 Fax: (864) 895-4748

### 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 \$1,634,635 (See Attached) Value of One Mill \$47,022  
FD Current Millage Rate 21.5 - Operating 4.5 - Bond Value of Total Millage \$1,222,572  
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) \$1,022,644 - Operating \$226,607 - Bond  
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.) \$83,914  
Number of Paid Firefighters 13-Full-time / 15-Part-time Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters 10  
Number of EMTs/Paramedics (Non-Firefighters) 6 Administrative Staff 1

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

Debt Service \$246,775  
(Include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses \$1,171,027  
(Include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings \$522,253  
(Include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? 2015  
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 3/9 Year Rating Received 2018  
Population Served (daytime) 8,500 Population Served (nighttime) 8,500  
Number of Households 1607 (1,867-Vacant Residential) Number of Businesses 39  
Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) 2021 Calendar Year = 660  
Number of Structure Fires 6 Number of MVA's 58  
Number of Medical Calls 335 Number of Brush Fires 22  
Number of Vehicle Fires 7 Number of Mutual Aid Calls 59

*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? **YES**
- Does your district participate in the South Carolina Fire Incident Reporting System? **YES**
- Is your district in compliance with the SC Firefighter Registration Act? **YES**
- Does your district meet requirements of OSHA Standard 1910.30 for Infectious Disease Control? **YES**
- Does your district perform annual SCBA fit testing on all active personnel? **YES**
- Do your district's firefighters meet minimum OSHA training requirements? **YES**
- Does your district perform annual testing on all ground and aerial ladders to meet NFPA standard? **YES**
- Does your district meet all NIMS requirements? **YES**
- Does your district have a fire prevention program? **YES**
- Does your district have a Fire Safety inspection program? **YES**
- Does your district have a pre-fire plan program? **YES**
- Does your district meet minimum hose testing requirements? **YES**
- Does your district meet minimum pump testing requirements? **YES**
- Does your department meet minimum apparatus requirements? **YES**
- Does your district meet minimum equipment on apparatus requirements? **YES**
- Does your district have a preventive maintenance program for your apparatus? **YES**
- Does your district provide physicals to all members? **YES**
- Do all your members meet the minimum training requirements for their specific job titles? **YES**
- Does your district meet minimum communication requirements? **YES**
- Does your district meet Narrow Band Requirements? **YES**
- Does your district house an EMS vehicle? **NO**

*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.

**Due to the terrain of our service area, there are many structures, commercial and residential, that are difficult to reach utilizing traditional firefighting methods and are extremely dangerous to our personnel. Additionally, with the mostly heavily wooded and mountainous terrain, wild land fires can be especially difficult to effectively combat and searching for lost or wounded/ill hikers is extremely challenging.**

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

**The Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area currently enjoys Automatic Aid Agreements with the Lake Cunningham, Slater-Marietta, River Falls, Gowensville, Landrum, and Tigerville Fire departments. These agreements provide for immediate dispatch and response of an Engine Company and/or Tanker to structural fires within the agreed-to boarder areas of each department's district. The GMFSA also participates in the Greenville County Fire Chiefs' Association and State of South Carolina Mutual Aid Agreements and provides aid as requested by any neighboring department.**

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

**Although the Glassy Mountain Fire Service area enjoys a Public Protection Classification of 3/9, factors that are used to determine the department's ISO rating include in part, personnel/staffing, training, and operating equipment. The GMFD has a well-maintain fleet of apparatus, well-trained and certified personnel including a robust corps of volunteers, however, revenue has not kept up with expenses. Of our Operating Expenses, approximately 79% of our budget is dedicated to Personnel Service including Volunteer Recruitment and Retention. Although we have only 12 full time shift-based firefighters, a full time chief and administrative manager, we can assemble between 17 and 20 personnel on scene of a structural or wildland fire most of the time. Without our career staff and well-trained group of volunteers we would have a difficult time providing the personnel resources needed to combat these fires and that could put our ISO rating in jeopardy.**

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

**The Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area has the following Tax-Exempt properties in our district that require fire protection, annual inspections, and Emergency Medical Services responses throughout the year:**

**Boy Scouts of America, Camp Old Indian  
Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Conservation Area  
Hope Academy  
Les Mullinax Park  
Lookup Lodge  
Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve**

**Churches:**

**Lima Baptist Church  
North Greenville Church  
Lookup Lodge Chapel  
Lima Church of God  
Truth Tabernacle  
Cherry Hill Church  
Glassy Mountain Church**

**Hopewell Baptist Church  
Mountain Hill Baptist Church  
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church  
Blue Ridge Church  
Oak Grove Baptist Church  
The Cliffs at Glassy Chapel**

*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)



## GLASSY MOUNTAIN FIRE SERVICE AREA

Robert J. Staples, Fire Chief

2015 Highway 11  
Landrum, South Carolina 29356  
Business (864) 895-4306 Fax (864) 895-4748  
Website: [www.gmfd.net](http://www.gmfd.net)

### Application Explanations

The GMFSA Fiscal year is January – December.

The 2021 Annual Budget of \$1,358,577 includes Bond Expense/Income

The 2022 Annual Budget of \$1,634,635 includes Bond Expense/Income and a new contract of \$205,000 with Cliffs at Glassy to provide 24/7 coverage at our Mountain Station

Supplemental non-tax income reported was from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Debt Service payment reported is 2022 scheduled payment.

Operating Expenses reported are January – December 2021 Actual amounts

Reserve/Savings was balance at the end of our fiscal year – December 31, 2021

### Accomplishments

The Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area (GMFSA) was granted an increase in millage in 2015. The additional 2.77 mills were used to offset increases in operating costs that were anticipated versus the slow growth in the GMFSA. Our overall increase amounted to 4.60 mills with the rollback adjustment of our taxable value from 18.0 mills to 22.6 mills with a decrease in our adjusted collectable levy from \$45,700,703 to \$42,187,603, an 8.33% decrease in our taxable value for the GMFSA. In 2022 our adjusted collectable levy is still just shy of where we were in 2012.

Although the district has seen little growth in the last decade, we have greatly enhanced our capabilities by providing first response Advanced Life Support (ALS- Paramedic) medical response to the citizens and visitors of the district. The ability of our personnel to provide Paramedic level DHEC first response has also benefitted our surrounding fire districts and Greenville County EMS, which has experienced an increase in calls for service while experiencing rapid turnover and decreased ability to service the northern part of Greenville County.

Through strategic planning we have also maintained our five stations and equipment with excellence despite having little extra funds in our annual budget.

Additionally, through a contract for services with the Cliffs at Glassy POA in late 2021, we have been able to increase our full-time staffing by 25% at no cost to the taxpayers of the GMFSA.

Bond revenue provided from refinancing General Obligation bonds in 2015 allowed the GMFSA to purchase a new fire engine and rescue truck, both with enhanced capabilities to provide better service to our residents.

*Preserving Our Heritage - Protecting Our Future*