



**Fire District Millage Request Application**

**Contact Information**

District Name:	<b>Clear Spring Fire Rescue</b>	State FDID Number:	<b>23233</b>
Fire Chief's Name	<b>Michael Huppmann</b>	Email:	<b>mhuppmann@clearspringfire.org</b>
Mailing Address	<b>3008 Woodruff Road</b>	City, State, Zip:	<b>Simpsonville, SC 29681</b>
Contact Person's Name:	<b>Chief Michael Huppmann</b>	Email:	<b>mhuppmann@clearspringfire.org</b>
Address:	<b>3008 Woodruff Road</b>	City, State, Zip:	<b>Simpsonville, SC 29681</b>
Phone:	<b>864-288-1173</b>		

**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, lease purchase transaction approval

FD Annual Budget	<b>(FY2022) \$2,575,889</b>	Value of One Mill	<b>\$101,711</b>
FD Current Millage Rate:	<b>25.3</b>	Value of Total Millage	<b>\$2,767,000 (3% nc rate)</b>
Taxes collected last fiscal year	<b>(FY 2021) \$2,575, 821</b>		
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.)	<b>\$29,204</b>		

**Staffing**

**Deployable:**  
Number of Paid Firefighters: **18 (FT) 12 (PT)**      Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters **18**

**Non-Deployable:**  
Number of Administrative Staff **(1) Administrative Assistant**

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

Debt Service **(FY 2021) \$275, 366**  
(Include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses **(FY 2021) \$2,050,856.59**  
(Include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

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

When did your district last request a millage increase? **2020**  
Was your request granted? **Yes**

If so, please detail your accomplishments with the additional revenue?

Since our last millage increase was granted, Clear Spring Fire has strived to utilize the funds to improve the service that we provide to our community.

We continue to replace older apparatus and equipment. Much of the equipment that we use on a day-to-day basis has a service life as determined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). For example, our turnout gear has a ten-year service life which necessitates the implementation of an ongoing replacement program with each set of gear, consisting of bunker coat and pants costing approximately \$3100. Helmets, gloves, and boots also are bound by the ten-year life service life cost approximately \$800 additionally. Due to the number of plastics and man-made products found in homes today, fires today burn hotter and faster. This requires us to provide a higher level of protection to our personnel when it comes to their personal protective equipment.

In recent years, numerous studies have found an alarming increase in the number of firefighters being diagnosed with various forms of cancer. It has been determined that these cancers are being caused by exposure to the numerous toxins that are produced at a fire. These toxins are absorbed through our skin and attach themselves to our personal protective equipment (PPE). To reduce this cancer risk, we have implemented decontamination procedures that take place at the scene of the fire. However, these toxins are still on our personal protective equipment until the gear can be washed. For us to be able to wash the turnout gear, it must be taken out of service for several hours. To accomplish this, we need to be able to provide our personnel with gear to use while working during the cleaning process. We continue to utilize funds derived from the millage increase to purchase each of our personnel an additional set of turnout gear to help reduce the risk of cancer.

One of the most frequently used pieces of fire apparatus that we have, our rescue truck, responds to the most calls annually, was purchased in 2001. After receiving the millage increase, in keeping with our apparatus replacement plan, we were able to replace this vehicle with a newer vehicle with a greater service capability.

As continue to enhance our mutual aid partnerships and our ability to respond using the "closest truck" concept, we purchased five mobile data terminals (MDTs) which were placed on our front-line fire apparatus allowing us to connect to the County computer aided dispatch system. In the fall of 2021, with the addition of these MDTs, Clear Spring and the Pelham Batesville Fire Department created an automatic aid program whereby our engine would be added to their response plan for high acuity calls due to the location of our units in relation to a predetermined geographic area. This allows a unit to be on scene of the incident approximately 2-3 minutes faster.

With the call volume and requests for service increasing significantly, through the additional funds provided by the millage increase, we were able to add an additional three full time personnel to meet that increased demand as well as meet the minimum fire service staffing standards established by the National Fire Protection Association. These standards have been developed not only in an effort provide optimum service to the community, but also provide for the safety of our personnel as well. Having these additional personnel also allows us to strive to meet the staffing requirements as set forth by ISO for a structure fire response.

In 2020, our agency underwent an extensive review from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This review covers a long list of items to evaluate many aspects of the service that we provide. After the review, it was determined that our rating improved from a 3/9 to a 2/2X. This ultimately results in a reduction in insurance premiums to the residents in our community.

The "2X" portion of the rating addresses a geographical section within our fire district that has limited available water supply for fire suppression. We have inquired to Greenville Water about the possibility of adding water lines and hydrants to this area, however we have been unable to achieve this due to their funding.

It is our hope that funds will be made available by Greenville Water to resolve this lack of water available for fire suppression.

Once this water supply issue can be addressed by adding water mains and hydrants, we will be able to better provide fire protection, and ultimately have another improvement to our ISO rating, which would be passed on to the residents of our community.

The goal of Clear Spring Fire is to continue our efforts to achieve an ISO rating of 1.

**Performance Data**

ISO Rating: **2/2X**  
Population Served (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Households **6697 (2020 Census)**

Year Rating Received: **2021**  
Population Served (nighttime) **19,826 (2020 Census)**  
Number of Businesses **67**

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) **900**  
Number of Structure Fires **7**  
Number of Medical Calls **524**  
Number of Vehicle Fires **4**  
Number Mutual Aid Calls Sent **27**  
Number of Hazmat Calls **28**

Number of MVA's **71**  
Number of Brush Fires **9**  
Number of Public Service Calls **162**  
Number Mutual Aid Calls Rec'd **28**  
Number of Rescue Calls **71**

*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.*

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

Although our district is predominantly made up of single and multi-family dwellings, there are several structures within the district that due to its occupancy would pose a high life hazard in the event of a fire:

Memory Care of Simpsonville	Larkspur Point Apartments	Monarch Elementary School
Publix Grocery Store	Kiddie Academy Day Care	Sports Club at Fire Forks
Clear Spring Baptist Church	New Pilgrim Baptist Church	Old Pilgrim Baptist Church
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Palmetto Hills Presbyterian Church	Kingdom Hall
Windy Hill Wedding / Event Barn	Bova Restaurant	Bova Restaurant
Wine Express		

There are also a number of commercial businesses within the district which present special hazards such as storage and usage of petroleum products and compressed gasses to products associated with their operations. Those businesses are:

Glider Creek Dental	Peace Medical Center	Southeastern Polymers
Lawrence Fabrication	M&E Products	Family Dental Health
Batson Plumbing	Five Forks Family Medicine	Dollar General

In addition, there are several automotive and gas engine repair businesses in the district:

Beamers N Benzs	Fineline Automotive	Five Forks Auto Sales
Swedish Automotive	Five Forks Mower Repair	

Renewable Water Resources (ReWa) has a facility on East Georgia Road. On site are the chemicals and processes associated with the handling and treating wastewater as well as numerous confined spaces which present special hazards as well.

Many of the residential sub-divisions in our district have pools and pool houses resulting in the storage of various chemicals associated with pool maintenance.

The Greenville County Enoree Landfill, located on Anderson Ridge Road also presents a variety of special hazards.

The Insurance Auto Auctions location on Scuffletown Road poses a special hazard due to the sheer volume (over 2000) of salvage vehicles stored on the property and their proximity to each other.

During a fire, a single motor vehicle presents a series of special hazards to our personnel. Each vehicle has a fuel, batteries, hydraulic and pneumatic shocks, drive shafts, and the plastics and polymers that are used in their construction. All these components can react violently under fire conditions.

These hazards are multiplied exponentially at this location since there are numerous vehicles parked near each other. As a result, if one vehicle becomes involved in fire, it rapidly spreads to those vehicles nearby.

The following commercial structures are currently being built – occupancy has not yet been determined:

- Scuffletown Strip Mall – 10 individual units
- Woodruff Business Park – (4) 5000 square foot buildings

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

**In November of 2018, our Command Staff met with the Chiefs of all the fire departments surrounding the Clear Spring Fire District to re-establish a regular working partnership.**

**As a result of these meetings, we established (5) response zones within our fire district boundaries and set up an automatic mutual aid response plan that consisted of (3) additional mutual aid engines for all reported structure fire call types in that zone.**

**In these areas, we receive automatic aid from the following agencies: Fountain Inn Fire Department, Simpsonville Fire Department, Mauldin Fire Department, Pelham Batesville Fire Department, and the Reidville Fire Department**

**There are some “high hazard” structures within the district (multi-family occupancies and memory care facilities) that we also added automatic mutual aid response in the form of ladder trucks for the purposes of victim rescue and elevated master streams. This is in addition to the mutual aid engine companies already described.**

**The fifth zone has several populated areas that do not have an established hydrant system or water supply. In that area, we are working to add a “tanker box” or automatic mutual aid response from neighboring Spartanburg and Laurens Counties to provide tankers (in addition to the three engine companies) to establish and maintain a water supply in the event of a fire. It is this area that resulted in the “2X” portion of our last ISO rating inspection due to the lack of water.**

**In the fall of 2021, Clear Spring Fire continued to enhance the level of service provided to the community by entering into an additional mutual aid agreement with the Pehlham Batesville Fire Department. This agreement provides for an engine from Clear Spring to be dispatched automatically to all structure fires, cardiac arrests, and motor vehicle accidents with entrapment within a pre-determined geographical boundary. Basically, a form of the “closest” truck concept.**

**Since its inception, this program has enabled a fire unit to arrive on the scene of an incident an average of 2-3 minutes sooner.**

**This mutual aid program has also resulted in an automatic aid training program whereby the involved agencies train together on a regular basis.**

**As we continue to be able to provide mobile data terminals (MDTs) to our apparatus, it will allow the computer aided dispatch system to locate and dispatch the closest fire unit to the emergency, regardless of the district that it is in.**

**It is our hope, that with the implementation of a single countywide dispatch center serving all public safety agencies in Greenville County, it will enhance our ability to create additional “closest truck” automatic aid agreements with our mutual aid partners.**

**Ideally, all fire agencies in the county would transition to this concept, and request assistance from the closest truck regardless of district lines or boundaries. In the end, the community, our customers benefit from a more rapid response to their emergency.**

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

**It is our hope that with the additional funds obtained from the proposed millage increase that we will be able to lower our overall ISO rating allowing for improved service and lower fees for the residents in our community.**

**One of our goals is to continue to increase the number of on duty personnel for each shift. Currently, we have six full time and two part time on each shift in addition to our two Command Staff. Our goal is to achieve the minimum staffing standards as established by the National Fire Protection Association of 4 per truck.**

**Additional staffing will assist us in meeting the ever-increasing number of calls for service as well as work to ensure that we are able to deploy the appropriate number of apparatus and personnel in the in the time frame prescribed by ISO for structure fires.**

**Having the additional staffing will also assist us in providing for the safety of our personnel while on the scene of an incident.**

**Costs related to staffing include not only salaries, but benefits as well. These include health, dental and vision insurance. Long and short-term disability and retirement. These costs, like many others, continue to increase significantly on a regular basis. Personnel and benefits continue to be the most significant expenses we incur each year.**

**In addition to recruitment, it is imperative that we focus our efforts on the retention of our personnel as well. In the last couple of years, the fire service has found it increasingly difficult to recruit people. Those salaries and benefits often play a key role in helping us to retain personnel.**

**We continue to look to replace and upgrade our aging fleet, specifically our 2004 aerial ladder truck. This is a key component in maintaining and improving our ISO rating so that we can meet those requirements by continuing to provide this service as we have several structures within the district that are 3 stories in height and have a high life hazard. Currently, the Larkspur Apartment complex on Woodruff Road has (7) three story multi-occupancy buildings with an additional (4) three story apartment buildings, consisting of 96 units, to be built in the coming year.**

**Our long-term plan will also incorporate the replacement of our 2006 Engine. This would allow us to maintain our ISO pump capacity as well.**

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

**There are several churches and a school within our district that are representative of tax-exempt properties within the Clear Spring Fire District. They are:**

**Clear Spring Baptist Church  
New Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Old Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Palmetto Hills Presbyterian Church  
Monarch Elementary School**

**Clear Spring Fire Rescue not only provides fire and EMS response to these facilities, but we also complete regular fire inspections and our staff provides fire safety education to the students, staff, and those that attend services there.**

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.

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)