



## 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)

April 14, 2023

Honorable Dan Tripp  
Chairman, County Council

Honorable Butch Kirven  
Chairman, Finance Committee

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

### RE: GLASSY MOUNTAIN FIRE SERVICE AREA

Honorable Chairman Tripp, Finance Chairman Butch Kirven and Greenville County Council:

The Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area (the "GMFSA") is a special tax district created by Greenville County (the "County") and established in 1988 pursuant to Ordinance No. 1786 to provide fire suppression and other fire protection related services to county residents residing in the GMFSA. Operating from five stations, the GMFSA Department (the "Department") has been operating successfully for approximately 34 years.

By virtue of Chapter 15 of Title 4, as supplemented by Section 11-27-40 of the South Carolina Code, the County is empowered to issue general obligation bonds for any "authorized purpose" as therein defined.

Today, the Department is comprised of a full-time Chief, an Administrative Manager, 12 full-time and 11 part-time employees. Additionally, Glassy FSA has 15 volunteers. Of these 40 employees there are 34 Firefighters, 12 Paramedics, and 15 EMTs.

The Department operates out of the belief that our constituents place a high value on the fire protection and Advanced Life Support medical services that we provide. This belief drives us to seek continuous improvement in employee performance through recruitment, training, and certification of both career and volunteer employees. Our equipment and facilities are also maintained to meet customer expectations and regulatory requirements. We currently maintain an ISO Class 3/9 rating. The primary benefactors are our constituents who continue to enjoy improved fire protection and favorable fire insurance rates.

The current value of one mill is approximately \$47,500. Currently, 25 mills are levied for operations. FY2022 - 2023 operational expenditures are projected at approximately \$1.43 million (prior to debt service of approximately \$250,000). The GMFSA's operational expenses continue to increase driven largely by inflation and employee-related costs. These costs are expected to continue to rise. Therefore, the GMFSA is requesting an operational millage increase for FY24 equal to the to-be-announced FY24 maximum CPI plus population to continue providing the level of service our customers deserve and have come to expect.

*Preserving Our Heritage - Protecting Our Future*

Greenville County, South Carolina  
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The GMFSA also needs to replace aging vehicles and provide facility improvements, as well as provide upgrades to its radio system. To proceed with this project, the GMFSA is seeking the County's approval to issue not to exceed \$400,000 in General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023C (the "2023C Bonds"). The GMFSA currently levies 4.5 mils for debt service and is requesting an approximate 1 mill increase for the 2023C Bonds.

Please review the attached information which includes the County Fire Application and the FY23 Budget. Since the GMFSA is on a 12/31 fiscal year, the FY22 Audited Financial Statements are not yet completed, but we will be happy to provide them to the County upon finalization. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your continued support and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Staples".

Robert J. Staples, MS, CFO, CEMSO  
Fire Chief

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Dwight Hammack".

E. Dwight Hammack  
Fire Commissioner, Chairman



## Fire District Millage Request Application

### Contact Information

District Name: **Glassy Mtn Fire Service Area**

State FDID Number: **23119**

Fire Chief's Name: **Robert J. Staples**

Email: **rstaples@gmfd.net**

Mailing Address: **2015 Hwy 11**

City, State, Zip: **Landrum, SC 29356**

Contact Person's Name: **Kelley Murphy**

Email: **kmurphy@gmfd.net**

Address: **2015 HWY 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, lease purchase transaction approval

FD Annual Budget: **\$1,722,200**

Value of One Mill: **47,483**

FD Current Millage Rate: **25.0-Operating / 4.5-Bond**

Value of Total Millage: **1,400,749**

Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30): **\$1,146,314 (Operating) & \$236,267 (Bond)**

Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.): **\$173,005**

### Staffing

Deployable:

Number of Paid Firefighters: **13 (Full-Time) / 9 (Part-Time)**

Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters: **12**

Non-Deployable:

Number of Administrative Staff: **1**

Number of EMTs/Paramedics(Non-Firefighters): **5**

***For the following financial measurements, please provide a dollar amount.***

***(Any additional pertinent information can be detailed in an attached sheet.)***

Debt Service: **\$249,500**

(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses: **\$1,472,700**

(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings: **\$469,461 available at year end**

(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? **2022**

Was your request granted? **Yes**

If so, please detail your accomplishments with the additional revenue? **With little growth in our tax base, we are struggling to keep in pace with inflation. The additional revenue is being utilized to keep up with increases in wages, insurance, fuel, fleet maintenance, and other operating expenses.**

**Performance Data**

ISO Rating: **ISO Class 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?) **793**

Number of Structure Fires: **4**

Number of MVA's: **40**

Number of Medical Calls: **382**

Number of Brush Fires: **25**

Number of Vehicle Fires: **7**

Number of Public Service Calls: **332**

Number Mutual Aid Calls Sent: **45**

Number Mutual Aid Calls Rec'd: **23**

Number of Hazmat Calls: **0**

Number of Rescue Calls: **3**

***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.

**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 large amount of heavily wooded and mountainous terrain, wild land fires can be especially difficult to effectively combat. 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 border 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.

**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 personnel/staffing, training, and operating equipment. The GMFSA strives to maintain its fleet of apparatus and to employ well-trained and certified personnel. In recent years, the department has seen a decline in volunteers despite efforts to incentivize new recruits. The department has combatted the decline of volunteers through the hiring of part-time employees and through a contract with Cliffs at Glassy which provides an additional full-time Firefighter/EMT who can function throughout the service area. Approximately 75% of our operating expenses are budgeted for Personnel Expenses including Volunteer Recruitment and Retention. Employee costs continue to rise, and revenue has not kept up with expenses. Currently, we can assemble between 12 and 15 personnel on scene of a structural or wildland fire. Without our career staff and part-time employees, 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  
Truth Tabernacle  
The Cliffs at Glassy Chapel**

**Hopewell Baptist Church  
Blue Ridge Church  
Lima Church of God  
Cherry Hill Church**

**Mountain Hill Community Church  
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church  
Oak Grove Baptist Church  
Glassy Mountain Baptist Church**

*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**

**Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area  
2023 Approved Budget**

	<b>2023 Approved</b>
<b>Income</b>	
415 · Bank Interest	50
425 · County Revenues-Operations	
425.01 · Interest Income	5,500
425.02 · Motor Carrier in lieu of Taxes	2,500
425.04 · Program Fees	1,500
425.05 · Property Tax Revenue	1,187,100
425.07 - Merchant Inventory Reimbursement	5,800
<b>Total 425 · County Revenues-Operations</b>	<u>1,202,400</u>
430 · Transfer of Fund Balance	
460 · Sale of Old Equipment	5,000
480 · Other Income	510
485 - Cliffs Income	216,240
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>1,424,200</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
500 · Wages	
501 · Wages	625,000
503 · Non-Based Overtime	20,000
510 · Part-Time Employees	60,000
<b>Total 500 · Wages</b>	<u>705,000</u>
530 · Benefits	
532 · Dental	14,000
533 · Health	180,000
534 · Retirement Plan	125,000
536 · Retirement Group Life Insurance	1,200
537 · Group Term Life Insurance	1,300
<b>Total 530 · Benefits</b>	<u>321,500</u>
550 · Payroll Expenses	
551 · FICA	43,700
552 · Medicare	10,300
553 · SUTA	200
<b>Total 550 · Payroll Expenses</b>	<u>54,200</u>
570 · Employee Expense	
571 · Firefighter Training	4,500
572 · Immunizations and Physicals	6,000
575 · Uniforms	7,000
577 · Cadet / Jr FF	500
578 · Travel	4,000
<b>Total 570 · Employee Expense</b>	<u>22,000</u>
600 · Business Insurance	
608 · Workmen's Compensation	24,000
609 · Business Insurance	35,000
<b>Total 600 · Business Insurance</b>	<u>59,000</u>
650 · Equipment Expense	
651 · Apparatus Fuel	40,000
652 · Apparatus Maintenance	6,000
654 · Firefighting Equipment	6,000
656 · Testing and Certification	8,500
657 · Apparatus Contract Maintenance	40,000

**Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area  
2023 Approved Budget**

	<b>2023 Approved</b>
658 · Fire Equipment Repair/Maintenance	4,000
659 · Protective Gear	25,000
661 · Communications	2,000
<b>Total 650 · Equipment Expense</b>	<b>131,500</b>
<b>700 · Utilities</b>	
701 · Mobile Devices	2,800
702 · Electric	20,000
703 · Propane	8,000
705 · Water	3,500
706 · Television	2,400
708 · Internet / Telephone	18,000
<b>Total 700 · Utilities</b>	<b>54,700</b>
<b>750 · Office Expense</b>	
751.1 · Advertising	200
753 · Dues & Subscriptions	13,000
753.8 · IT Services & Equipment	25,000
754 · Miscellaneous	500
755 · Office Supplies	2,000
758 · Public Relations (Fire Prevention)	1,500
770 · Professional Fees (Audit)	3,600
<b>Total 750 · Office Expense</b>	<b>45,800</b>
<b>800 · Building and Grounds</b>	
801 · Building Repairs & Maintenance	15,000
802 · Cleaning Supplies	3,000
803 · Landscaping	4,000
806 · Contracted Services	8,500
<b>Total 800 · Building and Grounds</b>	<b>30,500</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,424,200</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>0</b>

**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

<b>Revenue</b>	
Foundation	48,500
<b>Total Restricted Revenue</b>	<b>48,500</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
564 · Paid On Call, R & R	25,000
566 · Recruitment & Retention Program	5,000
573 · Medical Training - EMS	4,500
574 · Refreshments and Hospitality	3,000
579 · Employee Recognition	2,000
660 · Medical Equipment - EMS	9,000
<b>900 · Capital Expend</b>	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>48,500</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>0</b>