



## ***“Prepared for the Worst, Providing the Best”***

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*Gary A. Gresham, Chief*

May 8, 2024

Greenville County Council  
301 University Ridge, Suite N-1100  
Greenville, SC 29601

**RE: TIGERVILLE FIRE SERVICE AREA MILLAGE REQUEST**

Honorable Chairman Tripp, Vice Chairman Seman, Finance Chairman Kirven and Greenville County Council:

The Tigerville Fire Department (the “Department”), hereby submits for your consideration a proposed plan for revenue adjustments for the Department. The Department was established by Greenville County Ordinance No. 638 on September 5, 1978. We are located wholly in Greenville County and were established for the purpose of providing fire protection services within the Department in the unincorporated area of the County.

The Department’s readiness and training meets a high standard for fire service provision, and we currently maintain an ISO 3 rating. We work diligently to find the most cost-effective solutions to provide for increasing operational costs, replacing outmoded equipment, and maintaining current facilities. The preliminary FY25 operational, capital, and debt service expenditures are approximately \$1,015,000. The current millage for operating and maintenance is 36.8 mills and debt service is 3.7 mills.

Attached is a five-year financial model including revenues, expenses, and capital improvements (the “Financial Model”). The Financial Model includes a proposed millage increase of 6 mills for operations. For FY25, the total proposed millage increase of six (6) mills will increase ad valorem taxes by approximately \$24 for each \$100,000 in property value.

We would like to make you aware of the following:

- The Department includes approximately 31 square miles with a population of approximately 5,294.
- The Department has an ISO rating of 3 with no residences outside of five miles of a hydrant.
- Average response time in the Department for 2023 was 5 minutes and 27 seconds.

- Full-time employees include Chief Gresham, and four full-time firefighters who work a 24/48 rotation. We have eight part-time firefighters, along with a part-time Assistant Chief who works 15 hours per week. The volunteer staff consists of 13 firefighters.
- Over the past four years, the Department has requested grant funds from several sources to address key issues. This has, in part, kept us from having to request a greater increase:
  - 2021 – FEMA grant, fire course training, \$98,477.14
  - 2022 – FEMA grant, fire hose and nozzles, \$44,300.95
  - 2023 – V-SAFE grant, \$13,350
  - 2023 – FEMA grant, portable radios and PPE extractor/dryer, \$98,451.42
  - 2024 – V-SAFE grant, firefighting equipment, \$13,280
- The proposed millage increase includes the following:
  - Hiring of part-time staff
  - Increasing full-time firefighter pay to become competitive with other fire departments within Greenville County

We have been fortunate to obtain additional income from several sources but have been turned down for many other requests. Because of this, we feel a millage increase is the only way for us to carry out our stated activities.

On behalf of the Department, Chief Gresham and the Department's firefighters, I respectfully ask that you consider this very important request. Please review the attached information, which includes our Fire Department Millage Request Application, overview presentation of the District, a Resolution adopted by the Department, the Financial Model & Capital Improvement Plan, and the FY23 Audited Financial Statements. Please let me know if you have any questions. We appreciate your continued support and thank you for your consideration of the request for a millage increase.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary Gresham  
Fire Chief



**Fire District Millage Request Application  
Contact Information**

District Name: Tigerville Fire Department	State FDID Number 23230
Fire Chief's Name: Gary Gresham	Email: chief@tigervillefd.com
Mailing Address: 2605 Highway 414	City, State, Zip: Travelers Rest, SC 29690
Contact Person's Name: Gary Gresham	Email: chief@tigervillefd.com
Address: 2605 Highway 414	City, State, Zip: Travelers Rest, SC 29690
Phone: 864-895-8855	Fax: 864-895-2295

**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

**FY2024**

FD Annual Budget: \$850,472	Value of One Mill: \$20,786
FD Current Millage Rate: 40.5 (Operating, Maintenance, Debt Service)	Value of Total Millage: \$841,833
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30): FY23 Audited: \$829,343	
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.): FY23: \$79,750 from grants; \$22,776 from interest income; \$27,050 from donations; and \$32,576 other income.	

**Staffing**

Deployable:	
Number of Paid Firefighters: FT – 5, PT – 9	Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters: 13
Non-Deployable:	
Number of Administrative Staff: 0	Communications: 0

**FY2024**

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

Debt Service \$88,550  
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses \$761,922  
(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings \$391,000  
(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? 2021

Was your request granted? Yes

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

Our 2021 millage increase served to introduce a number of new things to the department. Thanks to these funds we began operating at the DHEC-EMT level, providing EMT-level care at every medical call. This came at the request of our citizens who were concerned about the extended transport time to local hospitals, and who desired a higher level of first-response care in the field. This additional revenue also allowed us to hire part-time firefighters. We now have one part-time employee working every shift alongside the full-time employee, doubling our staffing. These personnel have provided countless benefits on emergency incidents and when taking care of daily duties. Having twice the amount of people has allowed us to not only provide better service to our citizens but also ensure required testing, servicing and maintenance of equipment and apparatus gets done. Lastly, we increased our pay for full-time personnel to keep their salaries more competitive with other fire departments in the county, allowing us to retain key employees.

**Performance Data**

ISO Rating: 3

Year Rating Received: 2021

Population Served (daytime): 7,864

Population Served (nighttime): 5,294

Number of Households 2,036

Number of Businesses: 35

Total Number of Calls Last Year (2023): 472

Number of Structure Fires:	17	Number of MVAs:	40
Number of Medical Calls:	222	Number of Brush Fires:	15
Number of Vehicle Fires:	5	Number of Public Service Calls:	63
Number of Mutual Aid Calls Sent:	46	Number of Mutual Aid Calls Rec'd.:	23
Number of Hazmat Calls:	38	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? (short-term staging only)	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.**

Within our district, there are two power transfer stations managed by Duke Energy, alongside two water storage tanks. The district protects a portion of N. Highway 25, a crucial four-lane road vital for interstate commerce with an annual average daily traffic of 11,600 vehicles. Recently, a 4" natural gas line was installed to service a significant portion of our residential area. Both of these areas require specialized equipment for hazardous material leaks or spills. Adjacent to the fire department is North Greenville University, a private four-year school known for hosting numerous major sporting events which bring in over 38,000 spectators each year. Finally, our district includes two elementary schools, Tigerville Elementary and Mountainview Elementary. These schools have a combined population of 1,125 students. Between these three schools are a number of large buildings, necessitating an aerial apparatus. The high number of students also represents a potential mass casualty incident. This would require assistance from across the county.

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

We have automatic aid agreements with the following departments:

1. Glassy Mountain FD
2. Lake Cunningham FD
3. North Greenville FD
4. Slater-Marietta FD

These agreements state that we will automatically respond to certain out-of-jurisdiction addresses or incident types. These automatic aid agreements have grown over the last few years as volunteerism continues to decline. We also have formal mutual aid agreements with these departments to respond when specifically requested to other areas of their district. The department has signed the county-wide aid agreement and participates in the state-wide firefighter mobilization agreement.

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

This millage increase will support our present Class 3 ISO rating by helping retain current personnel, and increase volunteer participation. The increase will allow us to hire more personnel in later years which directly improves our ISO rating, and will be the largest positive factor if we obtain a Class 2 during our next evaluation.

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

As mentioned previously, we protect two elementary schools and a private university. We also cover 13 churches, all tax-exempt. There is no reduction in service to any of these tax-exempt properties; they all receive the same coverage and protection provided to our tax-paying citizens. Furthermore, we conduct annual fire inspections at all of these locations, and offer fire prevention events at some of them.

***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.**



***“Prepared for the Worst, Providing the Best”***

*Gury A. Gresham, Chief*

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the Tigerville Fire District was created by Ordinance 638 of the Greenville County Council, which established the Tigerville Board of Fire Control as the governing body for the Tigerville Fire District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tigerville Board of Fire Control is an elected body authorized pursuant to Ordinance 638, as amended, to request of Greenville County an increase to ad valorem property tax millage for operations and maintenance, which currently stands at thirty-six and eight-tenths (36.8) mills; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tigerville Board of Fire Control approves the increase of six (6) mills to forty-two and eight-tenths (42.8) mills, which represents a millage increase from last year's ad valorem property tax millage levy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tigerville 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 beginning with tax year 2024-2025.

**DONE IN MEETING THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2024**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eddie Fisher".

Eddie Fisher, Chairman

Tigerville Fire Department Board of Commissioners



**Tigerville Fire Service Area  
Financial Model  
Prepared May 8, 2024**

			Projection					
			2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
<b>Fiscal Year</b>								
<b>Operating Revenues</b>								
	Ad Valorem Taxes (Proposed Increase Not Included)		\$ 858,550	\$ 884,307	\$ 910,836	\$ 938,161	\$ 966,306	
	North Greenville Univ.		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
	Interest Income		\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	
	Donations & Fund Raising		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Funds Available</b>			<b>\$ 913,550</b>	<b>\$ 934,307</b>	<b>\$ 955,836</b>	<b>\$ 983,161</b>	<b>\$ 1,006,306</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
	Personnel Costs		\$ 594,176	\$ 752,345	\$ 782,439	\$ 813,737	\$ 846,286	
	Operating Expenses		\$ 167,746	\$ 173,160	\$ 180,086	\$ 187,289	\$ 194,781	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 761,922</b>	<b>\$ 925,505</b>	<b>\$ 962,525</b>	<b>\$ 1,001,026</b>	<b>\$ 1,041,067</b>	
<b>Net Operating Revenues</b>			<b>\$ 151,628</b>	<b>\$ 8,802</b>	<b>\$ (6,689)</b>	<b>\$ (17,865)</b>	<b>\$ (34,761)</b>	
<b>General Obligation Bonds</b>								
	General Obligation Bonds Series 2021A		\$ 46,746	\$ 45,369	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	General Obligation Bonds Series 2021B		\$ 41,804	\$ 44,352	\$ 89,845	\$ 89,472	\$ 90,081	
<b>Total Debt Service</b>			<b>\$ 88,550</b>	<b>\$ 89,721</b>	<b>\$ 89,845</b>	<b>\$ 89,472</b>	<b>\$ 90,081</b>	
<b>Surplus / Deficit</b>			<b>\$ 63,078</b>	<b>\$ (80,920)</b>	<b>\$ (96,534)</b>	<b>\$ (107,337)</b>	<b>\$ (124,842)</b>	
<b>FSA Millage Limitation</b>								
	Millage Adjustment Requested		0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Operating Millage		26.50	26.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	
	Debt/GO Portion		3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	
	Millage Maintenance		10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	
<b>Based Upon</b>			<b>\$ 20,786</b>	<b>Value of a Mill <sup>1</sup></b>				
<b>Impact on Property with Market Value of</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 24</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<sup>1</sup> Per County Auditor Statement for 2/29/24								
	Adjusted Levy	\$ 18,143,780						
	Motor Vehicles	\$ 2,927,210						
	DNR Boat Monthly	\$ 110,770						
	DNR Motor Monthly	\$ 32,010						
	<b>Total Adjusted Levy</b>	<b>\$ 21,213,770</b>						
	Less item 18	\$ (65,320)						
	Less Uncollectables @ 2%	\$ (361,569)						
	<b>Adjusted Collectable Levy</b>	<b>\$ 20,786,881</b>						
	Value of 1 mill	\$ 20,786						
	Millage	40.5	Including D/S					

Analysis is forward looking, based upon certain assumptions and inputs. Actual results may differ from projections.

**Tigerville Fire Service Area  
Capital Improvement Plan  
Prepared May 8, 2024**

	Legend		Awarded federal / state grant	GO Bond	
	Applied federal / state grant	Unfunded			
	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
Replace engine 84-R					\$ 900,545
Turnout gear	\$ 15,000				
Replace Sq-84	\$ 175,000				
Replace B-84					\$ 70,000
Varied equipment					\$ 60,000
Gear extractor		\$ 16,686			
Bay doors and receivers			\$ 70,000		
Station Renovation - Phase One		\$ 100,000			
Station Renovation - Phase Two					\$ 500,000
Parking Lot Refurbishment			\$ 60,000		
Gear dryer	\$ 15,000				
Portable and mobile radios	\$ 71,688				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 276,688</b>	<b>\$ 116,686</b>	<b>\$ 130,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,530,545</b>