



CLEAR SPRING FIRE-RESCUE

3008 Woodruff Rd
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-288-1173
www.clearspringfire.org

"PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY"

Board of Commissioners

Randy Allison
Aaron Dix
Kevin Holtzclaw
Toya Lyles
Todd Milam
Anthony Rizzolo
Tim Scott
Fire Chief
Larry Kardos

April 16, 2024

Greenville County Council
301 University Ridge, Suite N-4000
Greenville, SC 29601

RE: CLEAR SPRING FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

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

Pursuant to County Ordinance No. 879 enacted on March 3, 1981, as amended, the Greenville County, South Carolina, (the "County") executed an agreement (the "Agreement") creating the Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District, formerly known as the East Simpsonville Fire District "Clear Spring" to provide fire protection services in an unincorporated portion of the County.

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.

In addition to a full-time Fire Chief, Fire Marshall / Training Officer, and Administrative Manager, Clear Spring has 21 full-time, eight part-time firefighters and 16 volunteers. Of the 47 firefighters, four are paramedics and 19 are EMTs.

Clear Spring continues to find the most cost-effective solutions to provide for increasing operational costs, replacing outmoded equipment, and providing additional facilities. We believe 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. Clear Spring's readiness and training meets a high standard for fire service provision, and we currently maintain an ISO 2 rating.

We intend to replace a 2004 Pierce Dash 75' Ladder truck with a new 100' Ladder. In order to proceed with the purchase order for the fire apparatus, Clear Spring is seeking the County's approval to issue not-to-exceed \$2.3 million General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024B (the "GO24B"), which will necessitate an approximate 2.4 debt millage increase.



CLEAR SPRING FIRE-RESCUE

3008 Woodruff Rd
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-288-1173
www.clearspringfire.org

"PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY"

Greenville County Council
April 16, 2024
Page Two

The current millage for Clear Spring is 27.5 mills for operations and 2.3 mills for debt service. The value of one mill is \$111,940.

We would like to make you aware of the following:

- Clear Spring covers approximately 15.32 square miles, and Clear Spring's estimated population is 22,000 based off last census and continues to grow significantly.
- Clear Spring has not requested a debt millage increase in over ten years.
- Clear Spring District maintains By-laws, Purchasing Policies, Procurement Policies, Internal Controls Policies, Credit Card Policies, Fund Balance Policies.
- The *most important reason* for these improvements is to improve upon the services that we provide our citizens.

Attached you will find a Five-Year Revenue and Expenditure Projection including a five-year CIP; a Resolution adopted by the Clear Spring Board in support of the Revenue and Expenditure Projections; and the County Fire Application. Please review the attached information and let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support and consideration for Clear Spring.

Very truly yours,

Larry Kardos
Fire Chief

Attachments



Fire District Millage Request Application

Contact Information

District Name: **Clear Spring Fire Rescue**

State FDID Number: **23233**

Fire Chief's Name: **Larry Kardos**

Email: **lkardos@clearspringfire.org**

Mailing Address: **3008 Woodruff Road**

City, State, Zip: **Simpsonville, SC 29681**

Contact Person's Name: **Chief Larry Kardos**

Email: **lkardos@clearspringfire.org**

Address: **3008 Woodruff Road**

City, State, Zip: **Simpsonville, SC 29681**

Phone: **(864) 288-1173**

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: (FY2024) **\$2,811,000**

Value of One Mill: 111,940

FD Current Millage Rate: **29.5 (27.5 General / 2.0 Debt)**

Value of Total Millage:

Taxes collected last fiscal year: **FY2023 \$3,265,612 (\$3,013,441 General / \$252,171 Debt)**

Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.)

Staffing

Deployable:

Number of Paid Firefighters: **23 (FT) 8 (PT)** Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters **16**

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: **\$170,000**

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

Operating Expenses: **\$2,398,457**

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

Reserve/Savings: **\$812,880**

(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?

1. **Improved Equipment and Apparatus:** With additional funding, the fire district was able to invest in equipment and apparatus. This included purchasing a new fire engine in 2023 from our Capital replacement fund.
2. **Enhanced Training and Education:** Increased revenue have allowed the fire district to expand training programs for firefighters by providing additional certifications, conducting more frequent training exercises, and offering advanced training
3. **Staffing and Recruitment:** Additional funding has facilitated the hiring of more full-time firefighters. This helped address staffing shortages, to ensure adequate coverage for emergency calls within the district.
4. **Community Outreach and Education:** The fire district has also allocated resources towards community outreach and fire prevention education. This involves hosting fire safety classes, distributing smoke detectors to residents in need, conducting school presentations on fire safety, and organizing community events such as open houses.
5. **Enhanced Emergency Response Capabilities:** With added funding, the fire district has bolstered its capabilities for responding and strengthening partnerships with neighboring agencies for mutual / Automatic aid support.

Performance Data

ISO Rating: **2**

Population Served (daytime): **9515.25 Estimated** 2010 Census

Population Served (nighttime) **12,687 Estimated**

Year Rating Received: **2021** Es

Number of Households **6101 Estimated**

Number of Businesses **82** (87 project in 2024)

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) **1054**

Number of Structure Fires: **9**

Number of MVA's: **86**

Number of Medical Calls: **442**

Number of Brush Fires: **8**

Number of Vehicle Fires: **1**

Number of Public Service Calls: **219**

Number Mutual Aid Calls Sent: **21**

Number Mutual Aid Calls Rec'd: **7**

Number of Hazmat Calls: **3**

Number of Rescue Calls: **8**

*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? (Currently Greenville county is on 800 MGH)	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.

Within the Clear Spring Fire District, there are several factors that could contribute to potential dangers, especially concerning apartment buildings. Here's how the presence of apartments, a wastewater treatment plant, and cell towers might necessitate specialized apparatus such as a ladder truck:

1. Apartments:

- High-rise apartments, or even low-rise ones with multiple floors, present unique challenges in terms of firefighting and rescue operations. The higher the building, the more difficult it is to reach upper floors using standard firefighting equipment.
- Narrow stairwells, confined spaces, and a higher number of occupants increase the complexity of evacuation procedures and may require specialized equipment for search and rescue missions.
- Fire spread within an apartment complex can be rapid, especially if there are shared walls or inadequate fireproofing measures. This requires a swift and comprehensive response from firefighters, often necessitating specialized equipment like ladder trucks for effective firefighting and rescue operations from elevated positions.

2. Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Wastewater treatment plants contain numerous hazardous materials and chemicals, which can pose significant risks in the event of a fire or chemical spill.
- Fires at such facilities can release toxic gases and pollutants into the air, endangering both nearby residents and emergency responders.
- The infrastructure of a wastewater treatment plant may also be complex and difficult to navigate, requiring specialized equipment and training for firefighters to combat any incidents safely and effectively.

3. Cell Towers:

- Cell towers are often tall structures located in various environments, including urban and rural areas. These structures can present challenges for firefighters due to their height and potential for collapse.
- Fires or malfunctions at cell towers can disrupt communication networks, including emergency services, making a swift and effective response crucial.
- Climbing cell towers poses significant risks to firefighters, and specialized equipment such as ladder trucks may be required for access to higher levels of the tower for firefighting or rescue operations.

In summary, the presence of apartments, a wastewater treatment plant, and cell towers within the Clear Spring Fire District presents a range of potential dangers that require specialized apparatus like ladder trucks. These risks include high-rise firefighting and rescue operations, hazardous materials incidents, and challenges associated with tall structures and communication infrastructure.

Therefore, having the appropriate equipment and training is essential for ensuring the safety of both residents and emergency responders within the district.

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

Establishing auto and mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire districts is a strategic initiative that enhances the emergency response capabilities of the Clear Spring Fire & Rescue District. The recent addition of closest truck responses based off Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology with the Pelham Batesville Fire Department further strengthens this collaborative effort. Here's how these agreements with neighboring districts benefit Clear Spring Fire & Rescue:

1. **Pelham Batesville Fire Department:** The closest truck response agreement with Pelham Batesville ensures rapid assistance from a nearby fire department during emergencies. AVL technology enables real-time tracking of fire apparatus, allowing for efficient dispatch of the nearest available unit to incidents within the Clear Spring Fire & Rescue District. This partnership enhances response times and improves overall emergency service delivery.
2. **Simpsonville, Mauldin, and Fountain Inn:** Auto and mutual aid agreements with neighboring districts such as Simpsonville, Mauldin, and Fountain Inn provide additional resources and personnel for firefighting, rescue, and medical emergencies. These partnerships enable the sharing of equipment, specialized expertise, and personnel during large-scale incidents or when additional support is needed to manage multiple simultaneous emergencies.
3. **Laurens and Spartanburg County:** Collaborating with neighboring counties, including Laurens County and Spartanburg County, expands the geographic reach of mutual aid support available to Clear Spring Fire & Rescue. These agreements ensure access to resources beyond municipal boundaries, facilitating a coordinated response to emergencies that may extend across jurisdictional lines or require specialized assistance not available locally.
4. **Resource Sharing and Training:** Auto and mutual aid agreements foster resource sharing and joint training opportunities among participating fire departments. This collaboration allows for the exchange of best practices, standardized procedures, and specialized training in areas such as hazardous materials response, technical rescue, and incident command. By training together and aligning operational protocols, firefighters from different districts can effectively coordinate their efforts during emergencies.
5. **Community Safety and Resilience:** By leveraging the collective resources and expertise of neighboring fire districts, Clear Spring Fire & Rescue enhances community safety and resilience. Auto and mutual aid agreements ensure that adequate resources are available to respond promptly and effectively to emergencies, minimize property damage, and protect lives within the district and surrounding areas.

In summary, the establishment of auto and mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire districts, including AVL-based closest truck responses with Pelham Batesville Fire Department, demonstrates Clear Spring Fire & Rescue's commitment to enhancing emergency response capabilities and ensuring the safety and well-being of residents and businesses within the district. These partnerships enable the sharing of resources, expertise, and training, fostering a collaborative approach to emergency preparedness and response across jurisdictional boundaries.

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

Acquisition of a new ladder truck through a GO bond may signal a broader commitment by the Clear Spring Fire District to invest in its fire department infrastructure. ISO considers factors such as fire department staffing, training, and equipment maintenance when evaluating a community's fire protection capabilities. By investing in new apparatus, the district demonstrates its commitment to maintaining high standards of fire protection, which can positively impact ISO ratings.

A new ladder truck equipped with modern firefighting equipment can significantly enhance the fire suppression capabilities of the Clear Spring Fire District. Ladder trucks are essential for firefighting operations in buildings with multiple stories or inaccessible areas, allowing firefighters to reach upper floors and perform rescue operations efficiently. The improved firefighting capacity can lead to quicker containment and extinguishment of fires, which is a key factor considered by ISO when determining a community's fire suppression capabilities.

One other key factor that could affect services is our aging ladder has been experiencing frequent downtime due to maintenance issues. This not only affects our operational efficiency but also poses potential risks during emergency responses. The Go Bond will enable us to address these maintenance challenges effectively. By acquiring a new ladder, we can significantly reduce the frequency of downtime caused by maintenance issues. Newer equipment is more reliable and requires less frequent repairs, ensuring that our team remains fully operational and ready to respond to emergencies without interruption.

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

The presence of tax-exempt properties such as churches and schools within the Clear Spring Fire District presents both challenges and opportunities for the fire department. Here's how Clear Spring Fire Rescue's services and efforts contribute to ensuring fire safety and emergency response for these facilities:

1. **Emergency Response:** Clear Spring Fire Rescue plays a critical role in providing fire and emergency medical services (EMS) response to tax-exempt properties such as churches and schools within the district. In the event of a fire, medical emergency, or other hazardous situation, the fire department is responsible for promptly and effectively responding to mitigate risks and ensure the safety of occupants.
2. **Fire Inspections:** Clear Spring Fire Rescue conducts regular fire inspections of tax-exempt properties within the district, including churches and schools. These inspections aim to identify and address fire hazards, ensure compliance with fire safety regulations and codes, and promote proactive measures to enhance fire prevention and safety measures within these facilities.
3. **Fire Safety Education:** In addition to emergency response and inspections, Clear Spring Fire Rescue provides fire safety education programs to students, staff, and congregants at churches and schools within the district. These educational initiatives may include fire drills, fire safety presentations, hands-on training in fire extinguisher use, and dissemination of fire prevention materials to raise awareness and promote a culture of safety within these communities.
4. **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Clear Spring Fire Rescue may collaborate with churches, schools, and other tax-exempt properties to develop and implement emergency response plans, evacuation procedures, and other preparedness measures tailored to their specific needs and vulnerabilities. Establishing strong partnerships with these entities fosters mutual support and coordination in emergency situations, enhancing overall community resilience and safety.
5. **Community Engagement:** Beyond emergency response and fire safety activities, Clear Spring Fire Rescue engages with tax-exempt properties and their communities through various outreach efforts. This may include participating in community events, conducting open houses or tours of fire stations, and fostering ongoing communication and collaboration to address any concerns or issues related to fire safety and emergency preparedness.

Overall, Clear Spring Fire Rescue's comprehensive approach to serving tax-exempt properties within the district encompasses emergency response, fire inspections, fire safety education, partnership building, and community engagement. By proactively addressing fire safety needs and fostering collaboration with churches, schools, and other tax-exempt entities, the fire department plays a vital role in enhancing overall fire protection and emergency preparedness within the Clear Spring Fire District.

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.

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;
- 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

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT A FIVE YEAR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR THE CLEAR SPRING FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District ("Clear Spring") has a contract with Greenville County (the "County") to provide fire suppression and other fire protection related services to county residents residing in Clear Spring; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide the required services to meet the requirements of the contract and to meet the fire protection needs to the residents of Clear Spring, certain capital improvements (the "Capital Improvement Program") must be undertaken; and

WHEREAS, proper planning and management for the provision of fire services in Clear Spring requires a Five-Year Revenue and Expenditure Plan (the "Plan") to keep up with and adequately respond to the growth and demand for service in Clear Spring; and

WHEREAS, it is the finding of Clear Spring Commissioners that the Plan necessary to adequately serve the needs of the residents of Clear Spring; and

WHEREAS, Clear Spring provides a professionally trained staff of part-time, full-time and volunteer firefighters who continue to undergo rigorous additional training to be ready and skilled in fighting fires, saving lives and protecting property; and

WHEREAS, it is the further finding of Clear Spring that the implementation of the Plan will result in:

- Reduced response times for calls for service;
- Strong ISO ratings;
- Enhanced fire protection services being provided throughout Clear Spring; and
- The potential for saving lives and increasing safety for firefighters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clear Spring Commissioners hereby approve the Plan for Clear Spring that is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clear Spring Commissioners design and carry forward a plan to implement the Plan and to seek approval for adequate financing from Greenville County as necessary to fund the Plan.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS 10th **DAY OF** April, 2024.



Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District, South Carolina
Commissioner

ATTEST:



Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District, South Carolina
Commissioner

Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District
 Financial Model and CIP
 Prepared April 16, 2024
 (Preliminary, Subject to Change)

	Annual Δ For Projection	Audited		Projection				
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Revenues								
Property Taxes	2.00%	\$ 3,268,648	\$ 3,334,021	\$ 3,456,671	\$ 3,738,491	\$ 3,813,261	\$ 3,889,526	
Interest Income		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 130,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 90,000	
Miscellaneous Income		\$ 66,442	\$ 30,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 100,000	
Total Revenues		\$ 3,335,090	\$ 3,364,021	\$ 3,589,171	\$ 3,855,991	\$ 3,895,761	\$ 4,079,526	
Expenses								
Personnel Expenses	6.00%	\$ 1,841,371	\$ 1,988,681	\$ 2,108,002	\$ 2,234,482	\$ 2,368,551	\$ 2,510,664	
General Operating Expenses	4.00%	\$ 481,161	\$ 519,654	\$ 540,440	\$ 562,058	\$ 584,540	\$ 607,922	
Capital Outlay (from Current Revenues)		\$ 75,925	\$ 50,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Operating Expenses		\$ 2,398,457	\$ 2,558,335	\$ 2,654,942	\$ 2,856,539	\$ 2,953,090	\$ 3,118,585	
Net Operating Revenues		\$ 936,633	\$ 805,686	\$ 934,230	\$ 999,452	\$ 942,670	\$ 960,941	
General Obligation Bonds								
General Obligation Bonds Series 2017		\$ 249,008	\$ 250,608	\$ 252,108	\$ 253,508	\$ 249,808	\$ 249,808	
Proposed General Obligation Bonds Series 2024				\$ 50,217	\$ 269,000	\$ 268,000	\$ 268,000	
Total Debt Service		\$ 249,008	\$ 250,608	\$ 302,325	\$ 522,508	\$ 517,808	\$ 517,808	
Surplus/Deficit		\$ 687,625	\$ 555,078	\$ 631,905	\$ 476,944	\$ 424,862	\$ 443,133	
Millage Components								
Operating Millage Levy ¹		27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	
Debt Millage Levy		2.3	2.3	2.3	2.8	4.7	4.7	
Aggregate Adjusted		0.0	0.0	0.5	1.9			
Impact on Property with a Market Value of \$100,000								
				\$ 2.00	\$ 7.60			

¹ Per County Auditor Statement for 2/29/24

Adjusted Levy	\$ 98,809,150
Motor Vehicles	\$ 14,564,210
DNR Boat Monthly	\$ 463,200
DNR Motor Monthly	\$ 122,100
Total Adjusted Levy	\$ 113,958,660
Less Item 18	\$ (43,020)
Less Uncollectables @ 2%	\$ 1,975,322
Adjusted Collectable Levy	\$ 111,940,318
Value of 1 mill	\$ 111,940

Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District
 Financial Model and CIP
 Prepared April 16, 2024
 (Preliminary, Subject to Change)

DESCRIPTION	FUNDING SOURCE	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	TOTAL
Pickup (60K as of '24)	Pay-Go			\$ 60,000			\$ 60,000
SCBA (10K as of '24)	Capital Reserve Fund					\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
Engine w/ Equip (900K As of '24)	Capital Reserve Fund					\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000
Asphalt Seal (HQ)	Pay-Go		\$ 6,500				\$ 6,500
PURVIS (Sta alerting)	Pay-Go	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
							\$ -
							\$ -
							\$ -
							\$ -
							\$ -
							\$ -
							\$ -
Total		\$ 50,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,366,500