

# LAKE CUNNINGHAM



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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

ADAM BROWN, FIRE CHIEF

May 8, 2024

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

### **RE: LAKE CUNNINGHAM FIRE DISTRICT**

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

The Lake Cunningham Fire District (the "District") was created pursuant to Act No. 1829 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the year 1972, as amended, (the "Act No. 1829") to provide fire protection services in an unincorporated portion of the County.

The District has 33 full-time firefighters, including a full-time Fire Chief and a Deputy Fire Chief, and five volunteer fire fighters. Of the 40 firefighters, 13 are EMTs.

The District's readiness and training meets a high standard for fire service provision, and we currently maintain an ISO rating of 2/2Y. In a district that continues to experience significant growth, we continue to look for the most cost-effective solutions to provide for increasing operational costs, replace outmoded equipment, and provide additional facilities. We strive to achieve continued improvement in employee performance through recruitment, training, and certification of both career and volunteer employees. The FY2024 operational and capital expenditures are projected at approximately \$4.5 million. The current operating millage for the District is 37.2 mils. The District does not currently have any outstanding debt.

Pursuant Act No. 1829, the District Board is authorized to annually levy, for operations and maintenance, ad valorem property tax millage not exceeding fifteen (15) mills. Furthermore, the provisions contained in the S.C. Code Sections 6-11-271 and 6-11-275, as amended, allow special purpose districts totally located within a county, which were in existence prior to March 7, 1973, and which have the statutory authority to annually levy taxes for operations and maintenance are authorized to modify their respective millage limitations provided the increase is first approved by the governing body of the district and by the governing body of the county in which the district by resolutions duly adopted. The District Board approved the increase of 28.8 mills in addition to the 15 mills millage limitation authorized by Act No. 1829, for a total millage of 43.8 mills, which represents a 6.6 mill increase from last year's ad valorem property tax millage levy.

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We would like to make you aware of the following:

- The District covers approximately 49.58 square miles and serves an estimated population 31,000 during the day and 40,800 at night.
- As faced by all fire districts, inflation has taken a significant toll on the District's operating and capital budgets.
- The District maintains By-laws, Purchasing Policies, Internal Controls Policies, and Credit Card 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 Capital Improvement Plan; a Resolution adopted by the District Board in support of the Revenue and Expenditure Projections; the County Fire Application, and the FY23 Audit. Please review the attached information and let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support and consideration for the District.

Very truly yours,

Adam Brown  
Fire Chief



Attachments



## Fire District Millage Request Application

### Contact Information

District Name: Lake Cunningham Fire District State FDID Number 23314  
Fire Chief's Name Adam Brown Email: abrown@lcfid.us  
Mailing Address 2802 N McElhaney Rd. City, State, Zip Greer, SC 29651  
Contact Person's Name: Adam Brown Email: abrown@lcfid.us  
Address: 2802 N McElhaney Rd. City, State, Zip Greer, SC 29651  
Phone: 864-895-1212 Fax: 864-895-9863

### 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 \$3,732,127.20 Value of One Mill \$100,326.00  
FD Current Millage Rate 37.2 Value of Total Millage \$3,732,127.20  
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) \$3,648,960  
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.) Interest: \$10,000  
Number of Paid Firefighters 35 Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters 5

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

Debt Service \$0.00  
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses \$4,518,620  
(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings \$671,000.00  
(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? 08/2022

Was your request granted? Yes

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

This increase assisted in maintaining our ISO rating, as well as allowing the department to continue its capital replacement plan. It also allowed the department to increase its personnel back to the original 33 firefighters which was decreased in 2020 due to competitiveness within the fire service industry.

**Performance Data**

ISO Rating 2/2Y

Year Rating Received 2019

Population Served (daytime) 31,000

Population Served (nighttime) 40,800

Number of Households 13,090

Number of Businesses 197

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) 1958

Number of Structure Fires 70

Number of MVA's 181

Number of Medical Calls 930

Number of Brush Fires 36

Number of Vehicle Fires 9

Number of Mutual Aid Calls 60

Other type calls 672

*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? **EMS regularly stages at our stations.**

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.  
The Lake Cunningham Fire District covers multiple potentially dangerous locations within its district. One location is the Hansen Rock Quarry which requires the training and use of specialized equipment in order to reach both an occupant in confined or high-angle locations. The depth of the quarry is over 400 feet from street level, plus the types of vehicles and equipment utilized by the quarry are large in size compared to our own vehicles. A second such location is the Greenville County Sherriff's Office Training Center. The center houses a building with an abundance of live ammunition and weapons for use during training and tactical events for the GCSO. Third, the Greer Water Treatment plant is also responded to by this agency. This location stores deadly and caustic solutions for the treatment of water purification. Finally, although not in our district, the Lake Cunningham FD surrounds the two largest bodies of water in Greenville County, Lakes Robinson and Cunningham. Our aid agreement with the City of Greer requires the specialized training of our personnel in advances water rescue and boat operations. Beginning in 2021, the Commission of Public works started to allow recreational swimming in the lakes, which has already led to additional call volume on the two bodies of water.
  
2. Please list any mutual aid agreements or operational or resource sharing agreements your district participates in with other fire districts. The Lake Cunningham Fire District has Automatic Mutual aid with all of our surrounding fire districts, including those in Spartanburg County. These districts are Gowensville, Glassy Mountain, Tigerville, N Greenville, Piedmont Park, Taylors, City of Greer, Tyger River, and Holly Springs. We are members of the Greenville County Mutual Aid Agreement and the South Carolina Mutual Aid Agreement. The LCFD is available at any time for mutual aid as requested.
  
3. Please describe how, if at all, the requested millage increase will impact your district's ISO ratings.  
Yes, Lake Cunningham has been in need of apparatus replacement, station remodels, and the construction of a new station on the East side of our district in the Jordan Rd area. With the increase we intend to utilize it in the beginning for capital expenses i.e. apparatus replacement, station remodels, etc. Then once the new station is constructed the revenue increase will be utilized for the staffing needs that come with it, which will improve the 2Y ISO area of our district which is essentially no protection according to ISO.
  
4. Please describe the tax-exempt properties in your district and the services you provide to these entities.  
LCFD has 31 religious' organizations, 2 high schools (Blue Ridge HS \* Greer Middle Charter HS), 1 middle school (Blue Ridge Middle School), 1 elementary school (Skyland Elementary), and 1 Greenville Tech campus (Benson). Plus, the O'Neal Camp transfer station and County Roads & Bridges site, plus the Greenville County Sherriff's Office Training Center are all located within our district. The department provides the same services to these entities, along with fire prevention and fire safety program, as well as public education when required or requested.

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)

Lake Cunningham Fire District  
Financial Model and CIP  
Prepared May 8, 2024  
(Preliminary, Subject to Change)

		Audited	Projection				
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Revenues</b>							
Property Taxes		\$ 3,648,960	\$ 3,827,583	\$ 3,920,719	\$ 3,999,133	\$ 4,079,116	\$ 4,160,698
Interest Income		\$ 55,683	\$ 58,872	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
FEMA Grant			\$ 204,000				
Other Revenue		\$ 32,413	\$ 6,200	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Transfer from Reserves		\$ -	\$ 529,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>\$ 3,737,056</b>	<b>\$ 4,625,655</b>	<b>\$ 3,975,719</b>	<b>\$ 4,029,133</b>	<b>\$ 4,109,116</b>	<b>\$ 4,190,698</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
General Operating Expenses		\$ 3,205,915	\$ 3,785,620	\$ 3,775,061	\$ 4,001,565	\$ 4,481,659	\$ 4,990,558
Capital Outlay (from Current Revenues)		\$ 133,448	\$ 733,000	\$ 865,000	\$ 500,000		
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 3,339,363</b>	<b>\$ 4,518,620</b>	<b>\$ 4,640,061</b>	<b>\$ 4,501,565</b>	<b>\$ 4,481,659</b>	<b>\$ 4,990,558</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenues</b>		<b>\$ 397,693</b>	<b>\$ 107,035</b>	<b>\$ (664,342)</b>	<b>\$ (472,431)</b>	<b>\$ (372,542)</b>	<b>\$ (799,860)</b>
<b>General Obligation Bonds / Lease Purchase</b>							
Proposed GO Bonds Series 2027		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 385,000
Proposed Lease Purchase 2027		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 310,000
<b>Total Debt Service</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 695,000</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>\$ 397,693</b>	<b>\$ 107,035</b>	<b>\$ (664,342)</b>	<b>\$ (472,431)</b>	<b>\$ (372,542)</b>	<b>\$ (1,494,860)</b>
<b>Millage Components</b>							
Operating Millage Levy <sup>1</sup>		37.2	37.2	37.2	43.8	43.8	43.8
Millage Adjustment Needed		0.0	0.0	6.6	0.0	0.0	2.9
Debt Millage Levy <sup>1</sup>		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6
Millage Adjustment Needed							
<b>Aggregate Adjusted</b>		<b>37.2</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>50.3</b>
<b>Impact on Property with a Market Value of</b>	\$100,000			\$ 26.40			

<sup>1</sup> Per County Auditor Statement for 2/29/24

Adjusted Levy	\$ 86,484,720
Motor Vehicles	\$ 14,739,580
DNR Boat Monthly	\$ 709,290
DNR Motor Monthly	\$ 205,200
<b>Total Adjusted Levy</b>	<b>\$ 102,138,790</b>
Less item 18	\$ (83,940)
Less Uncollectables @ 2%	\$ (1,728,015)
<b>Adjusted Collectable Levy</b>	<b>\$ 100,326,835</b>
Value of 1 mill	\$ 100,326
<b>Millage</b>	<b>37.2</b>

**Lake Cunningham Fire District  
Financial Model and CIP  
Prepared May 8, 2024  
(Preliminary, Subject to Change)**

DESCRIPTION	FUNDING SOURCE	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	TOTAL
Brush Truck	Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 204,000					\$ 204,000
Brush Truck FEMA	FEMA	\$ 204,000					\$ 204,000
Ladder / Engine (Delivery 2027)	Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 325,000					\$ 325,000
	Capital Reserve Fund		\$ 300,000	\$ 635,000			\$ 935,000
	Lease Purchase				\$ 1,875,000		\$ 1,875,000
Headquarters Remodel	Pay Go		\$ 400,000				\$ 400,000
PURVIS (Station alerting)	Pay-Go		\$ 100,000				\$ 100,000
New Station Construction	GO				\$ 5,000,000		\$ 5,000,000
Battalion Chiefs Vehicle	Pay-Go		\$ 65,000				\$ 65,000
Station Vehicle	Pay-Go			\$ 65,000			\$ 65,000
							\$ -
							\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 733,000</b>	<b>\$ 865,000</b>	<b>\$ 700,000</b>	<b>\$ 6,875,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9,173,000</b>



**A RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION FOR PURPOSES OF APPROVING A FIVE-YEAR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE PLAN AND AN INCREASE TO THE MILLAGE LIMITATION ESTABLISHED FOR THE LAKE CUNNINGHAM FIRE DISTRICT AND TO REQUEST GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INCREASE OF THE MILLAGE LIMITATION.**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake Cunningham Fire District (the "District") is a special purpose district, located wholly within Greenville County (the "County"); and

**WHEREAS**, the District was created by Act No 1829 of 1972, as amended, by the South Carolina General Assembly, which established the District's Board of Fire Control (the "Board") as the governing body for the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the District approves the five-year revenue and expenditure plan, including the capital improvement plan (the "Plan"), to adequately serve the needs of the residents of the District and respond to the growing demand for services in the District.

**WHEREAS**, the Board is an elected body authorized pursuant to Act No. 1829 of 1972, as amended, to annually levy, for operations and maintenance, ad valorem property tax millage not exceeding fifteen (15) mills; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the provisions contained in the S.C. Code Sections 6-11-271 and 6-11-275, as amended, special purpose districts totally located within a county, which were in existence prior to March 7, 1973, and which have the statutory authority to annually levy taxes for operations and maintenance are authorized to modify their respective millage limitations provided the increase is first approved by the governing body of the district and by the governing body of the county in which the district is located by resolutions duly adopted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board approves the increase of twenty-eight point eight (28.8) mills in addition to the fifteen (15) mills millage limitation authorized by Act No. 1829 of 1972, for a total millage of forty-three point eight (43.8) mills, which represents a six point six (6.6) mill increase from last year's ad valorem property tax millage levy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board requests that County Council approve the modification to the millage limitation authorized by law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the millage increase authorized by this Resolution and effectuated pursuant to the provisions of S.C. Code Sections 6-11-271 and 6-11-275, as amended, is effective only for the tax year 2024-2025.

**DONE IN MEETING THIS** 16<sup>th</sup> **DAY OF April, 2024.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
Lake Cunningham Fire District Board of Fire Control