

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