



May 3, 2024

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

RE: Mauldin Fire Service Area Millage Increase Request

Honorable Chairman Tripp and Members of Greenville County Council:

As you know, the City of Mauldin and Greenville County have for many years now partnered to provide superior fire service coverage to the residents and businesses within the Mauldin Fire Service Area. Through this partnership, we have purchased new equipment, built a new fire station headquarters, and delivered the resources needed to maintain the City's and FSA's ISO 1 rating. However, as we evaluate staffing levels for the future and service demands currently faced, we believe Mauldin Fire Department staffing levels must increase to provide a workforce trained and ready to serve the FSA when the bell tolls.

To meet our growing demand for public safety services within the City and throughout the FSA, Mauldin City Council has begun the process of adopting a 6 mill tax increase for City residents and businesses as part of the FY2025 Budget. Mauldin City Council is also seeking a 3 mill tax increase in the FSA to share in the cost of increasing fire department personnel to meet our growing demand. With both of these increases, the City will invest in hiring 4 police officers, 3 firefighters, and 4 staff members for our sanitation and public works programs. The 3 mill tax increase request from the FSA will specifically and only be used to hire 3 firefighters and purchase all required equipment to support the operations of our new quick response vehicles (QRVs).

In 2023, the City began purchasing and outfitting 2 quick response vehicles to provide more flexible medical emergency services throughout the FSA and City. These vehicles will be stocked with various medical equipment and will be deployed to medical scenes more efficiently and at lower cost than deploying a full engine. This ultimately will save on the wear and tear of larger, more expensive apparatus and will enhance the capabilities of the department. These new vehicles are currently being outfitted and should be operational at about the same time these new firefighters are hired.

As you know, growth throughout the FSA is unabating and will likely continue for many years. The County recently approved new developments along Ashmore Bridge Road and Log Shoals Road. These new developments will require the addition of new personnel to not only provide services, but to help maintain the FSA's ISO 1 rating. The largest of these new communities will be an age-targeted development, which by nature will demand increased services. This is why the City is not only focused on increasing its departmental workforce, but also beginning to identify locations for a new fire station in the FSA. The City hopes to purchase or be donated a tract of land in sufficient proximity to these new developments to construct the department's 5th station. Once built, the new station will need to be outfitted with personnel and equipment. The City forecasts that this new station will need to be built and operational by no later than 2030.





The City's request for a millage increase does not come lightly or without forethought of the impact on the FSA taxpayers. It is estimated that based on an owner-occupied median home value of \$220,000, the increase of 3 mills will cost approximately \$26.47 per year or about \$2.21 per month. Again, this increase for the hiring of 3 new firefighters will enhance the department's capabilities and ensure the FSA's and City's able to maintain an ISO 1 rating.

To further illustrate and document this request, attached are the following documents:

- Map of the Department's stations in FSA and City, and recent new developments in FSA
- Updated five-year financial model for the Department
- Updated five-year Department CIP
- Draft Resolution by City Council (will be approved on May 20th)
- Fire District Millage Request Application

In closing, the City remains a dedicated partner to the County and surrounding FSAs to provide superior fire protection services, medical response, and education to save lives and protect property. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to speaking with you more about the department's future and how we can work together to enhance the quality of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Seth Duncan', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Seth Duncan
City Administrator