



“Prepared for the Worst, Providing the Best”

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