

CITY of FOUNTAIN INN

June 24, 2024

Greenville County Council

301 University Ridge, Suite N-4000

Greenville, SC 29601

RE: FOUNTAIN INN FIRE SERVICE AREA

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

In 2007, the City of Fountain Inn (the "City") and Greenville County (the "County") executed an Agreement (the "Agreement") for the Fountain Inn Fire Department (the "Department") to continue providing fire service within the Fountain Inn Fire Service Area (the "FSA"). The City, by contract with the County, has been providing fire service in the FSA for over 35 years.

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, the Department has 26 full-time and 8 part-time firefighters and 0 volunteers. Of the 34 firefighters, 4 are paramedics and 15 are EMTs.

The Department continues to find the most cost-effective solutions to provide for increasing operational costs, replacing outmoded equipment, and providing additional facilities for the FSA. 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. The Department's readiness and training meets a high standard for fire service provision, and the FSA currently maintains an ISO 2/2Y rating.

We are adding a new Station #3 in the FSA. The construction and equipping cost of Station #3 is preliminarily estimated at \$7.3 million. Based upon the allocated use of the facility, the Department proposes that 50% of the cost will be borne by the FSA and 50% by the City. The City, on behalf of the FSA, is seeking the County's approval to issue not-to-exceed \$3.8 million General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024B (the "GO24B"), which will require a debt service millage increase of 7.9 mills, current debt service millage is 5.9 mills.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

200 N. Main Street • Fountain Inn, SC 29644 • 864-862-4421 • Fax: 864-862-4812
Website: www.fountaininn.org

CITY of FOUNTAIN INN

The current operating millage for the FSA is 31.3 mills. The value of one mill is \$35,079. There will be a need for additional firefighters to staff the new Station #3 in the future, but the department is not requesting an operating millage increase at this time.

We would like to make you aware of the following:

- The FSA covers approximately 25 square miles, and the FSA's estimated population is 25,000/daytime and 13,000/nighttime and continues to grow significantly.
- With Station #3, it is estimated that response time will be reduced by 2.5 minutes within 2 miles of Station #3.
- The Department maintains By-laws, Purchasing Policies, Procurement Policies, and Financial 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 City Council 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 of the Department.

Sincerely,



Shawn M. Bell

Shawn Bell
City Administrator

Attachments

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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Fire District Millage Request Application

Contact Information

District Name: Fountain Inn Fire Department State FDID Number 23308
Fire Chief's Name Russell Alexander Email: russell.alexander@fountaininn.org
Mailing Address 200 N. Main St City, State, Zip Fountain Inn, SC 29644
Contact Person's Name: Russell Alexander Email: russell.alexander@fountaininn.org
Address: 200 N. Main St City, State, Zip Fountain Inn, SC 29644
Phone: 864-908-3598 Fax: _____

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 \$2,781,663 Value of One Mill 35,079
FD Current Millage Rate 37.2 Value of Total Millage 1,304,938
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) \$ 1,214,484
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.) \$ 27,302
Number of Paid Firefighters 25 Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters 0

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

Debt Service \$163,333
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses \$2,866,952
(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings 0
(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? 2021
Was your request granted? Yes

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

Performance Data

ISO Rating 2

Year Rating Received 2021

Population Served (daytime) 25000

Population Served (nighttime) 13000

Number of Households 7000

Number of Businesses 385

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) 2508

Number of Structure Fires 22

Number of MVA's 176

Number of Medical Calls 1540

Number of Brush Fires 27

Number of Vehicle Fires 10

Number of Mutual Aid Calls 56

*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? 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 our primary FSA, there are 6.9 miles of Carolina Piedmont Railroad which trafficked over 2,500 shipments of Hazardous Materials through our City in 2023; Interstate 385; Highways 14 and 418; Fountain Inn National Guard Armory; 4 FCC Registered Microwave Towers; Fountain Inn Natural Gas System serving 12,500+ customers; 2 High Pressure Transmission Gas Lines (500-700psi) belonging to Transco and Colonial Pipelines that run from Texas to New York; 16 Regulator Stations; multiple chemical plants, multiple Industrial Complexes to include Southchase Industrial Park. Fountain Inn Elementary, Bryson Elementary, Golden Strip Development Center, Rudolph Gordon School (K-8th Grade), Fountain Inn High School, and multiple multi-story apartment complexes.

Mutual Aid concerns includes: Hillcrest Hospital with 56 beds; Multiple Senior Care Facilities, Hillcrest High School, Bryson Middle School, Perry Correctional Facility, Greenville Technical College Brashier Campus, Fountain Inn Christian School; Owings Industrial Park; Woodfield Industrial Park; Heritage Park (hosts concerts and other large events with a large influx of people); and 9 Cell Towers.

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

The Fountain Inn Fire Department participates in the South Carolina Firefighter Mobilization Plan as well as the South Carolina Statewide Mutual Aid Plan. FIFD also participates in the Greenville County Mutual Aid Plan. In addition to the county mutual aid plan, FIFD has written automatic aid agreement with South Greenville, Clear Spring, Simpsonville, Canebroke, and Laurens County Fire Service to Provide resources for structure fires occurring in either community. Fountain Inn also provides personnel to the Greenville County HazMat and Technical Rescue Teams for which Greenville County provides funding for training and equipment.

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

With our last ISO evaluation we were able to move from a 4/4Y to a 2/2Y. This rating could be decreased more with the addition of personnel. With our continued growth within our district we could very easily increase our rating if we do not continue to grow our services and protection. We are asking for your assistance with funding these improvements of adding 9 personnel and a sub-station in the FSA. The City recently funded the replacement of our Aerial apparatus (a 1992 model that serves both our FSA and city) and for this reason we ask for your assistance. All of this would insure that we lower our current ISO and that we will be able to provide a better service for our FSA and city.

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

There are a large number of occupancies in our Fire Service Area that receive protection at a free or reduced cost due to FILOT. We also have a large number of churches, healthcare, and educational facilities that are tax-exempt. These facilities typically have a higher risk during a fire due to the content, size, and construction features. Along with this we continue to conduct fire inspections and fire education to these facilities.

Priority 1

Please assign a priority rating to your millage increase request from the following options:

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; 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

City of Fountain Inn

RESOLUTION 2024-003

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT A FIVE-YEAR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR THE FOUNTAIN INN FIRE SERVICE AREA, GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, the city of Fountain Inn (the City) has a contract with Greenville County (the "County") to provide fire suppression and other fire protection related services to county residents residing outside the City Limits (the "Fire Service Area"); and

WHEREAS, in order to provide the services required pursuant to the contract, as well as those expected by the residents of the Fire Service Area, certain capital improvements must be undertaken; and

WHEREAS, proper planning and management for the provision of the fire services in the Fire Service Area requires a long range, ten year plan to keep up with and adequately respond to the growth and demand for service in the area; and

WHEREAS, it is the finding of the City Council, the Fountain Inn Fire Chief and the City Administrator that not only is a five-year Revenue and Expenditure Plan (the "Plan") necessary to adequately serve the needs of the residents of the Fire Service Area, but if implemented, will greatly enhance the level of those services; and

WHEREAS, the City provides a full time, professionally trained staff of firefighters certified as EMT's who continue to undergo rigorous additional training to be ready and skilled in fighting fires, saving lives, and protecting property; and

WHEREAS, it is further finding of the City that the implementation of the Revenue and Expenditure Plan will result in:

- Reduced response times for calls of service.
- Reduce ISO rating resulting in potential savings in homeowner's and commercial property insurance premiums.
- Enhanced fire protection services being provided throughout the Fire Service Area.
- The real potential for saving lives and increasing safety for firefighters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that City Council hereby approves the Plan for the Fire Service Area that is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Council, and the City Administrator design and carry forward a plan to implement the Plan and to seek adequate financing from the County to fund the program located in the Fire Service Area.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS 11th DAY OF APRIL, 2024.

SIGNATURE OF MAYOR:



G. P. Mcleer, Jr.

Fountain Inn Fire Service Area
 Projected Revenues and Expenditures
 SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND FUTURE MARKET CONDITIONS
 Prepared June 20, 2024

	Projection					
	Unaudited 2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Revenues						
Fountain Inn FSA Property Taxes	1,214,484	1,297,234	1,336,151	1,376,236	1,417,523	1,460,048
Additional Millage			329,743	336,338	343,065	349,926
City of Fountain Inn	1,625,166	1,426,490	1,838,805	1,861,683	2,282,525	2,853,990
Innovapad	6,985	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Grant Revenue	12,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	8,317	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Revenues	2,866,952	2,735,224	3,516,699	3,586,257	4,055,113	4,675,964
Expenses						
Personnel Expenses	2,243,570	2,321,277	2,886,310	2,947,697	3,322,269	3,711,286
Operating Expense	623,382	413,947	630,389	638,559	732,844	964,679
Total Operating Expenses	2,866,952	2,735,224	3,516,699	3,586,257	4,055,113	4,675,964
Net Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cash Funded Capital Projects						
Capital Projects	-	-	60,000	25,000	55,000	40,000
Total Cash Funded Capital Projects	-	-	60,000	25,000	55,000	40,000
Change in Fund Balance	-	-	(60,000)	(25,000)	(55,000)	(40,000)

Debt						
Series 2019 IPRB (Ladder Truck Portion)	163,333	163,017	162,568	162,986	163,239	163,325
Proposed FSA GO Bond 2024C			125,000	328,000	328,000	328,000
Total Debt Payments	163,333	163,017	287,568	490,986	491,239	491,325

Millage Components - FSA						
Operating Millage Levy	31.30	31.30	31.30	31.30	31.30	31.30
Millage Adjustment Needed						
Debt Millage Levy	5.90	5.90	5.90	8.50	13.80	13.80
Millage Adjustment Needed				5.30		
Total	37.20	37.20	39.80	45.10	45.10	45.10

Impact on Property with a Market Value of	\$200,000	\$20.80	\$42.40
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¹ Per County Auditor Statement for 2/29/24

Adjusted Levy	\$ 32,485,494
Motor Vehicles	\$ 14,739,580
DNR Boat Monthly	\$ 709,290
DNR Motor Monthly	\$ 205,200
Total Adjusted Levy	\$ 48,139,564
Less Item 18	\$ (83,940)
Less Uncollectables @ 2%	\$ (1,728,015)
Adjusted Collectable Levy	\$ 46,327,609
Value of 1 mill	\$ 100,326
Millage	37.2

Fountain Inn Fire Service Area
 Projected Revenues and Expenditures
 SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND FUTURE MARKET CONDITIONS
 Prepared June 20, 2024

Description	Funding Source	Projected				
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Engine Replacement	Capital Reserve		900,000	1,000,000		1,250,000
Station Upgrades	Capital Reserve	21,600				
Rescue Truck	Capital Reserve		200,000			
Extrication Equipment	Capital Reserve		90,000			
Ram 2500 Truck	Capital Reserve	68,405				
Mobile Command Trailer/Truck	Capital Reserve		50,000			
MDT	Pay As You Go		15,000		15,000	
Paratech Gold & Highway Kit	Capital Reserve			112,000		
Radio Replacement	Capital Reserve		300,000			
Bunker Gear Replacements	Pay As You Go		25,000	25,000	40,000	40,000
Equipment and Hose 1.75, 2.5, 3.5 inch	Capital Reserve		85,000			
OTAP/TDMA upgrade for radios	Capital Reserve		7,000			
Hydro Fussion	Capital Reserve		25,000			
Air bags (out of date)	Capital Reserve		25,000			
Hotel Packs	Capital Reserve		16,000			
Hose Testter	Capital Reserve		4,000			
SCBA Replacement	ARPA Funds	2,879				
Training Center Build in Progress	State Earmark	1,000,000				
Station 3	State Earmark		3,650,000			
Station 3 - FSA GO	FSA GO Bond		3,650,000			
Station Alerting text to voice	Pay As You Go		20,000			
HQ	TBD				10,000,000	
		1,092,884	9,012,000	1,187,000	10,055,000	1,290,000