

April 17, 2015

Greenville County Council
301 University Ridge, Suite 2400
Greenville, SC 29601

RE: FOUNTAIN INN FIRE SERVICE AREA

Honorable Chairman Taylor, Honorable Vice 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"). As you are aware, the City is entering the eighth year of the implementation of its Capital Improvement Plan to serve the FSA (the "CIP").

In order to fund the CIP and staff the Fire Department within the FSA, it was projected that additional millage increases would be required.

Eight years ago, the City endorsed and provided you with a ten-year Capital Improvement Program (the "CIP"), which included a comprehensive spreadsheet detailing associated capital and operational costs. We have attached an update of ten-year revenue and expense model, including capital improvements, which is a continuation of previous years' presentations.

The City, by contract with the County, has been providing fire service in the FSA for over 25 years. In 2014 ISO ratings in the FSA went from an ISO 5 to an ISO 4 in the City and a split ISO 5/9 in the County portion of the FSA to an ISO 4/4Y. ISO is moving to a system whereby there will be a single ISO rating for the City and the FSA area. The City believes the addition of three new firefighters in FY16 and three more in FY18, will result in a stronger ISO rating. There is already evidence that insurance rates have been lowered for those citizens located within five miles of the recently opened sub-station #2.

As you may recall from the City's first presentation in 2007 (for FY08), additional firefighters were projected once sub-station #2 was completed. In an effort to improve response time on the east side of our fire service area we have contracted with Clear Spring Fire Department to share their East Georgia Road Station. Last year the City hired three firefighters to help man Clear Spring FD. While the City has been able to add three additional firefighters, three additional dispatchers, two engines, SCBA's and a vehicle to support the FSA, continued growth requires the need for additional firefighters in the near future. We request funding to assist in hiring three additional firefighters. In order to fund these operational needs, we request a 15.1% operational millage increase (maximum CPI + population under the three-year look back + current year millage caps pursuant to Statute).



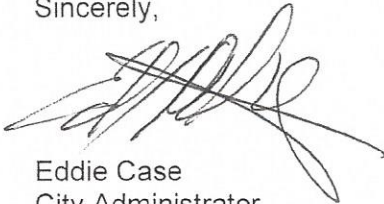
We ask that you once again consider the following:

- Fountain Inn Fire Service Area is continuing to experience growth.
- The County portion of the FSA covers 24.7 square miles and the City portion of the FSA covers 10 square miles.
- Response time has been reduced by approximately two minutes in certain portions of the FSA because of the addition of sub-station #2, personnel at Clear Spring FD, and the capital and personnel investment over the past eight years.
- The *most important reason* for these improvements is that lives will be saved and our firefighters will experience significant improvement in their personal safety.

The current millage for the Fountain Inn FSA is 32.7 mills, which includes 26.1 mills for operations and 6.6 mills for debt service. The City is requesting for the FSA a 15.1% millage increase for operations, which equates to a 3.94 mill increase. In addition, in order to provide funding for the FSA Capital Improvement Program through 2018, we request an additional 1.05 mills for debt service. Such combined 4.99 mills increase for operations and debt would equate to approximately \$19.99/\$100,000 home (or \$1.67/month).

Please review the attached information, which includes the Resolution adopted by City Council on April 9, 2015, in support of the ten-year CIP; the financial model including the Capital Improvement Program; and the millage request application. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your continued support and consideration of the FY2016 Agreement for the FSA.

Sincerely,



Eddie Case
City Administrator

Attachments

City of Fountain Inn
RESOLUTION 2015-007

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT A TEN YEAR
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 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 required services to meet the requirements of the contract and to meet the fire protection needs to the residents of the Fire Service Area certain capital improvements (the "Capital Improvement Program") must be undertaken; and

WHEREAS, proper planning and management for the provision of 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 the Capital Improvement Program 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 who continue to undergo rigorous additional training to be ready and skilled in fighting fires, saving lives and protecting property; and

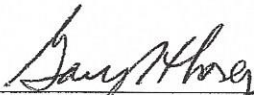
WHEREAS, it is the further finding of the City that the implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan will result in:

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

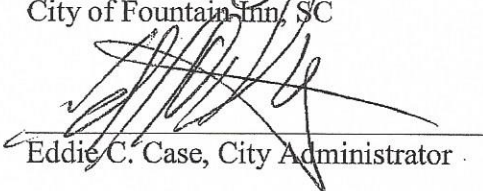
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Fountain Inn City Council hereby approves the Capital Improvement Plan for the Fire Service Area that is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the City Administrator design and carry forward a plan to implement the Capital Improvement Program and to seek adequate financing from Greenville County to fund the program.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS 9th DAY OF April, 2015.

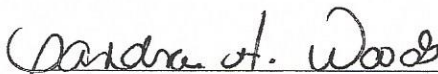


Gary H. Long, Mayor
City of Fountain Inn, SC



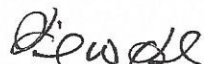
Eddie C. Case, City Administrator

ATTEST:



Sandra H. Woods
City Clerk & Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



David W. Holmes
City Attorney



Fire District Millage Request Application
Contact Information

District Name: Fountain Inn FSA State FDID Number 23308
Fire Chief's Name Ronnie Myers Email: ronnie.myers@fountaininn.org
Mailing Address ronnie.myers@fountaininn.org City, State, Zip Fountain Inn, S.C. 29644
Contact Person's Name: Ronnie Myers Email: ronnie.myers@fountaininn.org
Address: 200 North Main St City, State, Zip Fountain Inn, S.C. 29644
Phone: (864) 862-0010 Fax: (864) 409-0164

Financial Operations

Please Check One of the Following Options:

- Our district is seeking to maintain our current millage rate
[checked] Our district is seeking a millage rate increase
Our district is seeking bond approval

FD Annual Budget 1,310,366.12 Value of One Mill 23097.00
FD Current Millage Rate 26.10 Value of Total Millage 602,831.00
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) 692,078.00 G.C., Annual Lauren Co Contract 206,388.00
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.) 1700.00
Number of Paid Firefighters 20 Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters 2

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

Debt Service FSA GO Bonds Series 2007 and Series 2010 = \$194,000.00 ANNUALLY
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses 1,310,366.12
(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? April, 2011
Was your request granted? No

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

Performance Data

ISO Rating 4/4Y
 Population Served (daytime) 12,500
 Number of Households 5652

Year Rating Received 2014
 Population Served (nighttime) 13000 - 5000 G.C.
 Number of Businesses 355

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) 2179
 Number of Structure Fires 10/6/6
 Number of Medical Calls 796/307/316
 Number of Vehicle Fires 7/6/3

Number of MVA's 64/75/39
 Number of Brush Fires 10/16/17
 Number of Mutual Aid Calls 1/39/15

City/G.C./L.C.

*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.

See Attachment.

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

We have State wide Mutual Aid, Greenville Co. mutual aid which includes surrounding district of Simpsonville, Carbrake, Clem Springs which we have an Automatic Mutual Aid with. We also mutual Aid with surrounding Lauren Co. Fire Districts

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

2014 Fountain Inn Fire District had an I.S.O. analysis that scored 5.20 out of 15 points due to the lack of on-duty and on-call firefighters. With adding three fighters in 2016 and three more in 2018, that should bring out Personell score up.

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

We have Churches, Schools, Community Center that we provide Fire Inspection, Fire Education Fire Suppression and Medical Services to.

Attachment

1. Describe any business or structure which requires special equipment or represent potentially dangerous calls.

-Nicca: contains large quantities of acid based products that are highly flammable as well as organic solvents which are highly flammable.

-Ameri-Pak: manufacture and store large quantities of plastics. Also contain large silos of plastic pellets which have the potential of an engulfment hazard.

-AVX: manufacturer of electronic capacitors which have the capabilities to store electric energy. This building also has areas that can only be accessed via an aerial apparatus.

-Holly Oak Chemical: supplier of large quantities of solvent based chemicals. This business also has multiple buildings that will require and aerial apparatus.

-Riches Bakery: contains large quantities of Ammonia gas. This building also has need of an aerial apparatus to be able to gain access.

-Faurecia: This is a plastic injection molding facility that requires us to need our aerial apparatus to gain access to the roof which contains exhaust stacks which catch fire.

-Grainger: a facility that contains and ships a variety of merchandise from solvents to petroleum based products. This facility is also over 1 Million sqft and would require an aerial apparatus.

-Fisher Barton: contains salt vats which are heated. These are highly corrosive and hazardous to human health.

-Williams Pipeline: this is a large supplier of Natural Gas.

-Two (2) Cellular Phone Towers: this would require an aerial apparatus.

-Four (4) Water Towers: this would require an aerial apparatus.

-Rail Road: there is a railway that carries various merchandise through the center of Fountain Inn. There are also times were petroleum products travel via the railway i.e.... E85, etc...

-Colonial Pipeline: this is the largest supplier of both petroleum and diesel on the east coast. There are multiple transfer or boost stations inside our district.

-Gen III: contains large quantities of flammable gasses used for welding. This business is also close to residential homes.

Question #1 continued:

-ReWa Water Treatment Plant: this facility contains chemicals used for waste water treatment as well as has large silos of treated waste water which has the potential for submersion or engulfment hazards.

IPS packaging: this is a large custom shipping and packaging facility which contains large amounts of packaging materials i.e. cardboard and plastics. This facility is also in close proximity of residential homes. This facility would also need an aerial apparatus.

-Lanexx: this is a large warehouse containing large amounts of merchandise to be shipped many petroleum based.

-Anderson Hardwoods: this is a large manufacturing facility of hardwood flooring products. This facility also is a warehouse for large quantities of hardwood flooring. This facility would be in need of an aerial apparatus.

-Quellen Manor Nursing Home: contains large quantities of elderly residence many of which are physically disabled. There are also small condominium suits that are in close proximity to this facility.

-Fountain Inn Nursing Home: contains large quantities of elderly residence many of which are physically disabled.

-Two (2) Mental Health Facilities: both facilities contain residence that are both physically and mentally handicapped.

-Two (2) Industrial Parks: these industrial parks contain over 30 facilities that range in size and height. Many contain varieties of petroleum based materials used both in the manufacturing or shipping of materials.

Please assign a priority rating to your millage increase request from the following options: 2

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. *Personnel is needed to improve our ISO ratings and we are needing to replace turn out gear and 5" supply hose*

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