



City of
SIMPSONVILLE

April 15, 2015

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

RE: SIMPSONVILLE FIRE SERVICE AREA

Honorable Chairman Taylor, Vice Chairman Kirven and Greenville County Council:

Pursuant to County Ordinance No. 3821, in 2005, the City of Simpsonville (the "City") and Greenville County (the "County") executed a ten-year agreement (the "Agreement") for the Simpsonville Fire Department (the "Department") to provide fire service within the Simpsonville Fire Service Area (the "FSA"). At this time, the City would like to request your consideration to renew this Agreement for an additional ten years as well as to approve an accompanying ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (the "CIP").

The Department's readiness and training meets a high standard for fire service provision. As a result, it has improved its ISO rating from 3 to 2. The County's cooperation with the City played a great part in making this jump.

The Department continues to find the most cost-effective solutions to provide for increased compensation and operational costs, replacing outmoded equipment, and providing additional facilities. Fiscal year 2015-2016 operational expenditures are projected at approximately \$4.7 million. Continuing previous capital improvement plans, the City anticipates expanding FSA facilities (the land for the additional substation was purchased from the FSA GO Bond, Series 2008B), replacing and adding additional equipment and adding personnel to provide fire protection and rescue services.

We ask that you consider the following:

- Population in the Greenville County portion of the FSA continues to grow; the County portion of the FSA covers 22 square miles and the City portion of the FSA covers 7.5 square miles.
- In their ISO rating, the Department scored 80.18 points. To achieve a class 2 rating, the minimum score is 80 points. The improvements in the ten-year CIP will be absolutely crucial in helping the Department maintain an ISO rating of 2.
- 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 operating millage for the Simpsonville FSA is 26.0 mils and 0.0 mils for debt service. In order to fund the CIP and adequately staff the FSA, additional millage increases are necessary to implement and staff the ten-year CIP. *The City is requesting a 15.1% operational millage increase (maximum CPI + population under the three-year lookback + current year millage caps pursuant to Statute), or 3.9 mils, which equates to an increase in revenues of approximately \$435,000. The City is also requesting a 4.6 debt millage increase, which will help finance the construction of station #5 in the FSA, the purchase of land for station #6 in the FSA, and necessary equipment that will serve the FSA. Such combined millage increase for operations and debt would equate to approximately \$34.15/\$100,000 home (or \$2.85/month).*

Attached you will find the updated ten-year revenue and expenditures projection and capital improvement program; the Resolution recently adopted by the City in support of the CIP; as well as the millage increase application. Please review the attached information and let us know if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your continued support and consideration of a renewed Agreement for the FSA.

Sincerely,

David C. Dyrhaug
City Administrator

Attachments

City of Simpsonville
South Carolina

A RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT A TEN YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE SIMPSONVILLE FIRE SERVICE AREA, GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the City of Simpsonville (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, the City Council seeks to renew the City's contract with the County to provide fire suppression and other fire protection related services to 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 services in the area; and

WHEREAS, it is the finding of the City Council, the Simpsonville 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, should enhance those services; and

WHEREAS, the City provides a full time, professionally managed and trained staff of firefighters who undergo rigorous continuing 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:

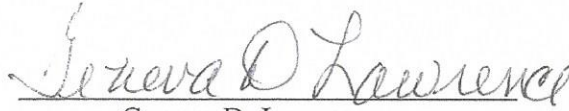
- Reduced response times for calls for service;
- Enhanced fire protection services being provided throughout the Fire Service Area; and
- The real potential for saving lives and increasing safety for firefighters.

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

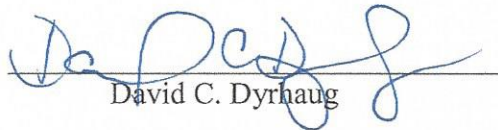
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administrator and the Simpsonville Fire Chief design and carry forward a plan to implement the Capital Improvement Program, subject to the receipt of funding and appropriation by Simpsonville City Council, and to seek adequate financing from Greenville County to fund the program.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS 14th DAY OF APRIL, 2015.

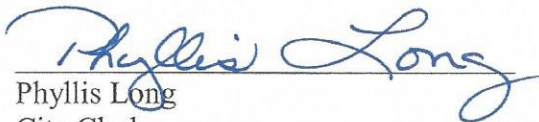
SIGNATURE OF MAYOR PRO TEM:


Geneva D. Lawrence

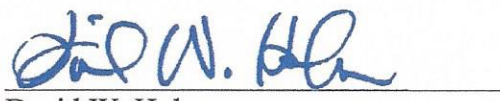
SIGNATURE OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR:


David C. Dyrhaug

ATTEST:


Phyllis Long
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


David W. Holmes
City Attorney



Fire District Millage Request Application

Contact Information

District Name: Simpsonville Fire Department State FDID Number 23323
Fire Chief's Name Wesley J. Williams Email: Chief@simpsonvillefd.com
Mailing Address 403 E. Curtis St. City, State, Zip Simpsonville SC 29681
Contact Person's Name: David Dyrhaug Email: ddyrhaug@simpsonville.com
Address: 118 N. E Main St. City, State, Zip Simpsonville, SC 29681
Phone: (864) 967-9526 Fax: (864) 967-9530

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 \$4,032,421 (FY 2014-15) Value of One Mill \$102,582 (FY 2014-15)
FD Current Millage Rate 26.0 mils Value of Total Millage \$2,667,142
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) \$2,895,741 (FY 2013-2014)
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.) \$6,003 (FY 2013-2014)
Number of Paid Firefighters 55 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 \$344,708 (this debt is paid for solely by the City; no County FSA debt millage attached to this)
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses \$3,657,281 (FY 2014-2015) – Budget Capital: \$375,140
(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings There is no specific designation within the City's General Fund Reserve broken down on a departmental basis. The City budgets needs related to the Fire Department in its annual Operating Budget.
(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? 2010

Was your request granted? Yes (.5 mils)

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

We received a five-tenth (.5) of a mill increase to add one additional personnel and associated operational costs.

Performance Data

ISO Rating 2 (80.18 points)
 Population Served (daytime) 13,038
 Number of Households 16,320

Year Rating Received 2013
 Population Served (nighttime) 43,081
 Number of Businesses 887

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) 2,434
 Number of Structure Fires 20
 Number of Medical Calls 1,461
 Number of Vehicle Fires 22

Number of MVA's 230
 Number of Brush Fires 32
 Number of Mutual Aid Calls 9

*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 the District, there are several locations that are classified as Hazardous according the International Fire Code based on the materials used and /or the manufacturing process itself. Included in this list is Kemet, Sealed Air/Cryovac, Royal Adhesives, Fitesa, and Milliken. Within the district we have large box stores, such as, Lowes, Home Depot, Wal-Mart and large shopping centers throughout.

There are four 4-story hotels and eleven multi-story apartment complexes with the District that require the need for an aerial apparatus due to height and/or size of the footprint of the building.

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

The Simpsonville Fire Department currently has a County wide mutual aide agreement and a State wide mutual aide agreement. We have a signed rapid intervention team agreement with the County Fire Chief's Association. We also work with neighboring department's to share information and recourses when needed.

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

We were last evaluated in May of 2013 and received a score of 80.18 giving us a class 2 rating (Class 2 Points 80-89.99). As you can see we only made a class 2 by .18 points. With the continued grow within our district we could very easily lose our rating if we do not continue to grow our services and protection. In 2009 we purchased land for the construction for a much needed station five to help with credits for station distribution, additional personnel and apparatus. We are asking for your assistance with funding these improvement as well as cost sharing regarding the Department Aerial apparatus and replacement Fire Engine that serve both the City and the FSA. By replacing the Aerial we can place the current (1996) unit in reserve and receive credits for having a reserve unit. All this would insure that we can maintain a stronger class 2 and not jeopardize losing it.

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

There are seven public schools, one hospital, and 27 churches located within the District. Those entities receive the same level of coverage as all other businesses.

Please assign a priority rating to your millage increase request from the following options: Priority 1

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