



## *“Prepared for the Worst, Providing the Best”*

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April 19, 2021

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

### **RE: TIGERVILLE FIRE DISTRICT**

Honorable Chairman Meadows and County Council Members:

The Tigerville Fire District (the “District”), hereby submits for your consideration a proposed plan for revenue adjustments and the issuance of refunding and new money debt for the District. The District was established by Greenville County Ordinance No. 638 on September 5, 1978. The District is located wholly in Greenville County and was established for the purpose of providing fire protection services within the District in the unincorporated area of the County.

The District's readiness and training meets a high standard for fire service provision, and we current maintain an ISO 4 rating. The District strives to find the most cost-effective solutions to provide for increasing operational costs, replacing outmoded equipment and maintaining current facilities. FY21 operational, capital, and debt service expenditures are projected at approximately \$408,000. The current operating millage for the District is 26.6 mils and the debt service millage is 3 mils.

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 1.7 mils for operations, 11 mils for maintenance of a reserve/fund balance as allowed under S.C. Code § 6-1-320(D) and an additional 3 mils for debt service. This assumes an approximate population growth/CPI for FY22 at 3%, slightly less than the FY21. For FY22, the total proposed millage increase of 15.7 mils will increase ad valorem taxes by approximately \$62.80 for each \$100,000 value.



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We would like for you to be aware of the following:

- The District includes approximately 31 square miles with a population of approximately 7,500.
- Currently the District has an ISO rating of 4 with no residences outside of 5 miles of a hydrant.
- Average response time in the District for 2020 was 5 minutes and 39 seconds.
- Full-time employees include Chief Gresham, three full-time firefighters who work a 24/48 rotation and a part-time Fire Marshal/training officer who works 15 hours per week. The volunteer staff consists of 27 firefighters and 4 support staff.
- Over the past 3 years, the District has requested funds from several sources to address issues. This has, in part, kept us from having to request an increase in taxes before now.
  - Vehicle exhaust removal system, FEMA grant, \$90,000
  - Volunteer tuition reimbursement, FEMA grant, \$257,600
  - Roadway safety improvement project, Greenville Legislative Delegation Transportation Committee, \$156,000
  - COVID-19-related medical equipment, CARES Act, \$19,881.54
  - EMT training for personnel and EMT-related equipment, Greenville County/Prisma EMT Grant Program, \$15,000
- Chief Gresham has hosted four informational meetings for residents and businesses located in the District. Residents during these meetings expressed their desire for the District to move forward with the plan and millage increases presented to them. The residents were advised of the following:
  - Proposed millage increase and GO Bond issuance
  - Projected ad valorem impact per \$100,000 value
  - Department plans for this increase in funding
  - Community benefits expected to be derived
- The proposed millage increase includes the following:
  - Providing EMT-level medical care
  - Hiring of part-time staff
  - Increasing full-time firefighter pay to become competitive with other fire departments within Greenville County



## ***“Prepared for the Worst, Providing the Best”***

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- The proposed general obligation bonds will refund the outstanding GO Bonds Series 2010, and provide funding for the replacement of a 47 year-old engine and a 29 year-old tanker.
- The most important reason for this request is to continue the District's providing superior services to our constituents and improving the safety of the District's firefighters.

It has been our desire to implement the above actions for years. 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 and GO Bond issuance is the only way for us to carry out our stated activities.

On behalf of the District, Chief Gresham and the District's firefighters, I respectfully ask that you consider this very important request. Please review the attached information, which includes a Resolution adopted by the District, a copy of the Financial Model (including the Capital Improvement Plan), Fire District Millage Request Application and a brief PowerPoint presentation. 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 and bond issuance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Gresham".

Gary Gresham  
Fire Chief

Attachments

**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT A FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE TIGERVILLE FIRE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Whereas**, the Tigerville Fire District (the "District") pursuant to an agreement with Greenville County (the "County") to provide fire protection services within the District; and

**Whereas**, in order to provide the required services and to meet the fire protection needs to the residents of the District, certain capital improvements must be undertaken; and

**Whereas**, proper planning and management for the provision of fire services in the District requires a long-range capital improvement plan (the "CIP") to keep up with and adequately respond to the growth and demand for service in the District; and

**Whereas**, it is the finding of the District that not only is the District's CIP necessary to adequately serve the needs of the residents of the District, but if implemented, will continue to enhance the level of those services; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the District hereby approves the CIP that is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the District design and carry forward a plan to implement the CIP and seek adequate required approvals from Greenville County to fund the CIP.

**DONE IN REGULAR MEETING** this 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tigerville Fire District  
Financial Model

Fiscal Year	Budget		Projection			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Operating Revenues</b>						
Donations & Fund Raising	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
North Greenville University	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
County Tax Allocation	\$ 377,566	\$ 419,695	\$ 453,215	\$ 460,013	\$ 508,160	\$ 515,783
Operating Millage						
Operating Millage Adjustment	\$ 26,823	\$ 26,823	\$ 26,823	\$ 26,823	\$ 26,823	\$ 26,823
Millage Maintenance	\$ 173,558	\$ 173,558	\$ 176,161	\$ 178,804	\$ 181,486	\$ 184,208
Interest Income						
FEMA SAFER Grant						
Other Income						
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 407,566</b>	<b>\$ 650,075</b>	<b>\$ 659,377</b>	<b>\$ 668,817</b>	<b>\$ 719,646</b>	<b>\$ 729,991</b>
<b>Operating &amp; Maintenance Expenses</b>						
<b>Personnel</b>						
Payroll	\$ 178,507	\$ 317,672	\$ 322,437	\$ 327,274	\$ 332,183	\$ 337,165
SS Payroll, Unemployment Tax & Medicare	\$ 14,281	\$ 25,414	\$ 25,795	\$ 26,182	\$ 26,575	\$ 26,973
Retirement	\$ 34,344	\$ 61,120	\$ 65,261	\$ 69,512	\$ 70,555	\$ 71,613
Group Health	\$ 25,879	\$ 76,800	\$ 77,952	\$ 79,121	\$ 80,308	\$ 81,513
Workers Comp Insurance	\$ 15,471	\$ 25,602	\$ 25,986	\$ 26,376	\$ 26,771	\$ 27,173
Volunteer Incentive	\$ 20,466	\$ 8,071	\$ 8,192	\$ 8,315	\$ 8,440	\$ 8,566
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 288,948</b>	<b>\$ 514,678</b>	<b>\$ 525,623</b>	<b>\$ 536,780</b>	<b>\$ 544,832</b>	<b>\$ 553,004</b>
Insurance	\$ 16,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,300	\$ 20,605	\$ 20,914	\$ 21,227
Utilities	\$ 20,092	\$ 20,920	\$ 21,234	\$ 21,552	\$ 21,876	\$ 22,204
Fuel	\$ 7,772	\$ 7,772	\$ 7,889	\$ 8,007	\$ 8,127	\$ 8,249
Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 24,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,465	\$ 31,937	\$ 32,416	\$ 32,902
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 6,744	\$ 7,045	\$ 7,150	\$ 7,257	\$ 7,366	\$ 7,477
Fire Fighting EMT Equipment	\$ 15,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,270	\$ 18,544	\$ 18,822	\$ 19,105
Physical, Training & Fitness	\$ 9,810	\$ 10,810	\$ 10,972	\$ 11,137	\$ 11,304	\$ 11,473
Laundry & Uniforms	\$ 3,750	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,060	\$ 4,121	\$ 4,183	\$ 4,245
Supplies	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,466	\$ 4,533	\$ 4,601	\$ 4,670
Professional Legal & Accounting	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,568	\$ 4,636	\$ 4,706	\$ 4,776
Compliance	\$ 2,450	\$ 2,950	\$ 2,994	\$ 3,039	\$ 3,085	\$ 3,131
Travel, PR, Awards						
<b>Operating &amp; Maintenance Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 407,566</b>	<b>\$ 650,175</b>	<b>\$ 653,152</b>	<b>\$ 676,372</b>	<b>\$ 686,518</b>	<b>\$ 696,816</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ (100)</b>	<b>\$ (3,776)</b>	<b>\$ (7,555)</b>	<b>\$ 33,128</b>	<b>\$ 33,175</b>
<b>General Obligations</b>						
GO Obligations						
Series 2010B GO	\$ 47,150					
Series 2011A GO		\$ 44,312	\$ 43,320	\$ 46,900	\$ 44,440	
Series 2021B GO		\$ 52,776	\$ 52,900	\$ 47,213	\$ 51,640	\$ 95,953
Capital Improvements		\$ (97,088)	\$ (96,220)	\$ (94,113)	\$ (96,080)	\$ (95,953)
GO Debt Millage						
<b>Total Current &amp; Proposed Obligations</b>	<b>\$ (47,150)</b>	<b>\$ (52,776)</b>	<b>\$ (52,900)</b>	<b>\$ (47,213)</b>	<b>\$ (44,640)</b>	<b>\$ 95,953</b>
<b>FSA Millage Limitation</b>						
Operating Millage Adjustment		1.70	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00
Operating Millage	26.60	28.30	28.30	28.30	30.80	30.80
Debt/General Obligation Adjustment		3.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Debt/GO Portion	3.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Millage Maintenance	29.60	45.30	45.30	45.30	47.80	47.80
Total Millage	0.00	15.70	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00
Millage Increase Requested						
Based Upon		\$15,778				
Impact on Property with Market Value of	\$ -	\$ 63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ -

Analysis is forward looking, based upon certain assumptions and inputs. Actual results may differ from projections.

Tigerville Fire District  
Capital Improvement Plan

DESCRIPTION	FUNDING SOURCE	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	TOTAL
Engine #84 Replacement	GO Bonds	\$ 640,000					\$ 640,000
Tanker #84 Replacement	GO Bonds	\$ 360,000					\$ 360,000
Skid Unit for Brush Truck	Pay-Go		\$ 15,000				\$ 15,000
Chief's Vehicle	Pay-Go	\$ 70,000					\$ 70,000
Turnout Gear	Grant		\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 45,000
Squad Vehicle	Lease Purchase				\$ 70,000		\$ 70,000
Fire Apparatus	Pay-Go	\$ 45,000					\$ 45,000
Fire Hose	Grant		\$ 30,000				\$ 30,000
Gear Extractor	Grant					\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Rescue Equipment	Grant					\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Station Repairs/Maintenance	Pay-Go			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,115,000</b>	<b>\$ 60,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>\$ 95,000</b>	<b>\$ 53,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,348,000</b>



## Fire District Millage Request Application

### Contact Information

District Name: Tigerville Fire Department      State FDID Number: 23230  
Fire Chief's Name: Gary A. Gresham      Email: chief@tigervillefd.com  
Mailing Address: 2605 Highway 414      City, State, Zip: Travelers Rest, SC 29690  
Contact Person's Name: Gary Gresham      Email: chief@tigervillefd.com  
Address: 2605 Highway 414      City, State, Zip: Travelers Rest, SC 29690  
Phone: 864-895-8855      Fax: 864-895-8891

### 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, lease purchase transaction approval

FD Annual Budget (FY21): \$408,000      Value of one Mill: \$15,778  
FD Current Millage Rate: 26.6      Value of Total Millage: \$ 419,694.80  
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30): \$ 405,865.21  
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.): \$ 85,758.97

### Staffing

Deployable:  
Number of Paid Firefighters: 5      Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters: 31  
Non-Deployable:  
Number of Administrative Staff: 0      Communications: 0

***For the following financial measurements, please provide a dollar amount.***

### **Fiscal Year 2020**

Debt Service: **\$47,150**  
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)  
Operating Expenses: **\$408,000**  
(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)  
Reserve/Savings: Approximately **300,000**  
(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? **2019**

Was your request granted? **Yes**

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

### **Personnel Costs**

**Performance Data**

ISO Rating:	4	Year Rating Received:	2015
Population served (daytime):	9500	Population served (nighttime):	7500
Number of Households:	1400	Number of Businesses:	28
Total Number of Calls Last Year (2020)	498		
Number of Structure Fires	16	Number of MVA's	29
Number of Medical Calls	196	Number of Brush Fires	10
Number of Vehicle Fires	2	Number of Public Service Calls	119
Number of Mutual Aid Calls Sent	40	Number of Mutual Aid Calls Rec'd	25
Number of Hazmat Calls	3	Number of Rescue Calls	4
Number of others	119		

*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



1. **Please describe any businesses or structures which require special equipment or represent potentially dangerous calls.**

While not a structure, the department covers a portion of Highway 25. Used by a number of large trucks, this highway requires us to carry additional equipment should an accident occur with one of these vehicles. Additionally, we cover North Greenville University with over 110 buildings. Because of the height of some buildings, we are required by ISO to outfit an aerial apparatus.

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

The department maintains automatic aid agreements with the following departments:

- Slater-Marietta
- Glassy Mountain
- Lake Cunningham
- North Greenville

Additionally, we are a part of the county-wide and state-wide mutual aid agreements.

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

Approving the requested millage increase will allow us to hire a second firefighter per shift, meaning the department will have two personnel on duty at all times. This will, at a minimum, allow us to maintain our current ISO Class 4 rating. Adding this second firefighter will improve our overall ISO score within that Class 4 rating and there is a chance that this additional person could move the department to a Class 3. Additionally, by increasing the pay of our current full-time employees we will be able to retain personnel who are well-versed in the various requirements of ISO. Retaining these personnel will ensure that through the years we will continue to meet the various ISO requirements.

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

We provide all fire department/emergency services for two public elementary schools and 12 churches. We provide all of these same services for North Greenville University but in addition we provide on-site medical coverage for large sporting events or other gatherings and provide training and support for an on-campus Emergency Medical Response Team.

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

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

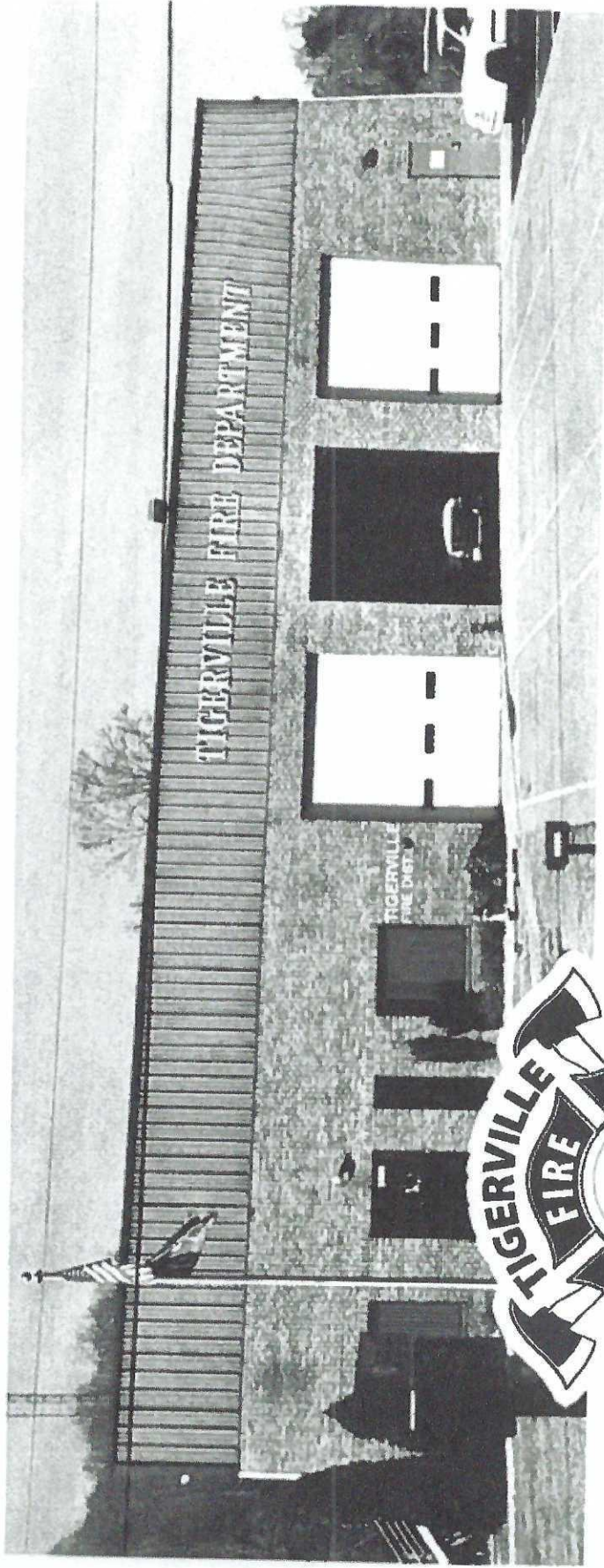
I, \_\_\_\_\_, County Council representative to this fire district, Support /  
Do Not Support this request.

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; an
- 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](mailto:jhansley@greenvillecounty.org)



## COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

**TUE | APRIL 6, 2021 | 6:00 PM**

**THU | APRIL 8, 2021 | 6:00 PM**

**TUE | APRIL 12, 2021 | 6:00 PM**

Come learn about the Tigerville Fire Department's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan to better serve residents in the district and the strategy proposed to finance it.

**TIGERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**2605 HIGHWAY 414**

**TRAVELERS REST, SC 29690**



**2021 Finance Committee  
Chief Gary Gresham**

# Our Personnel

**Paid Staff**

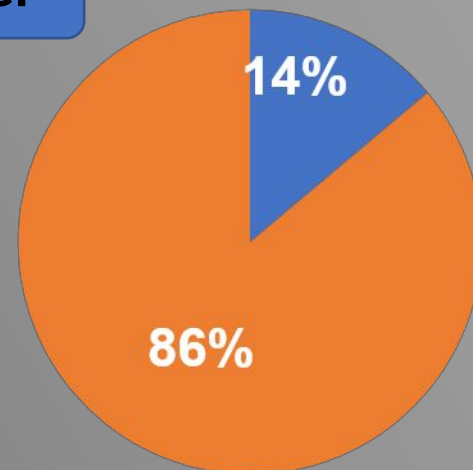
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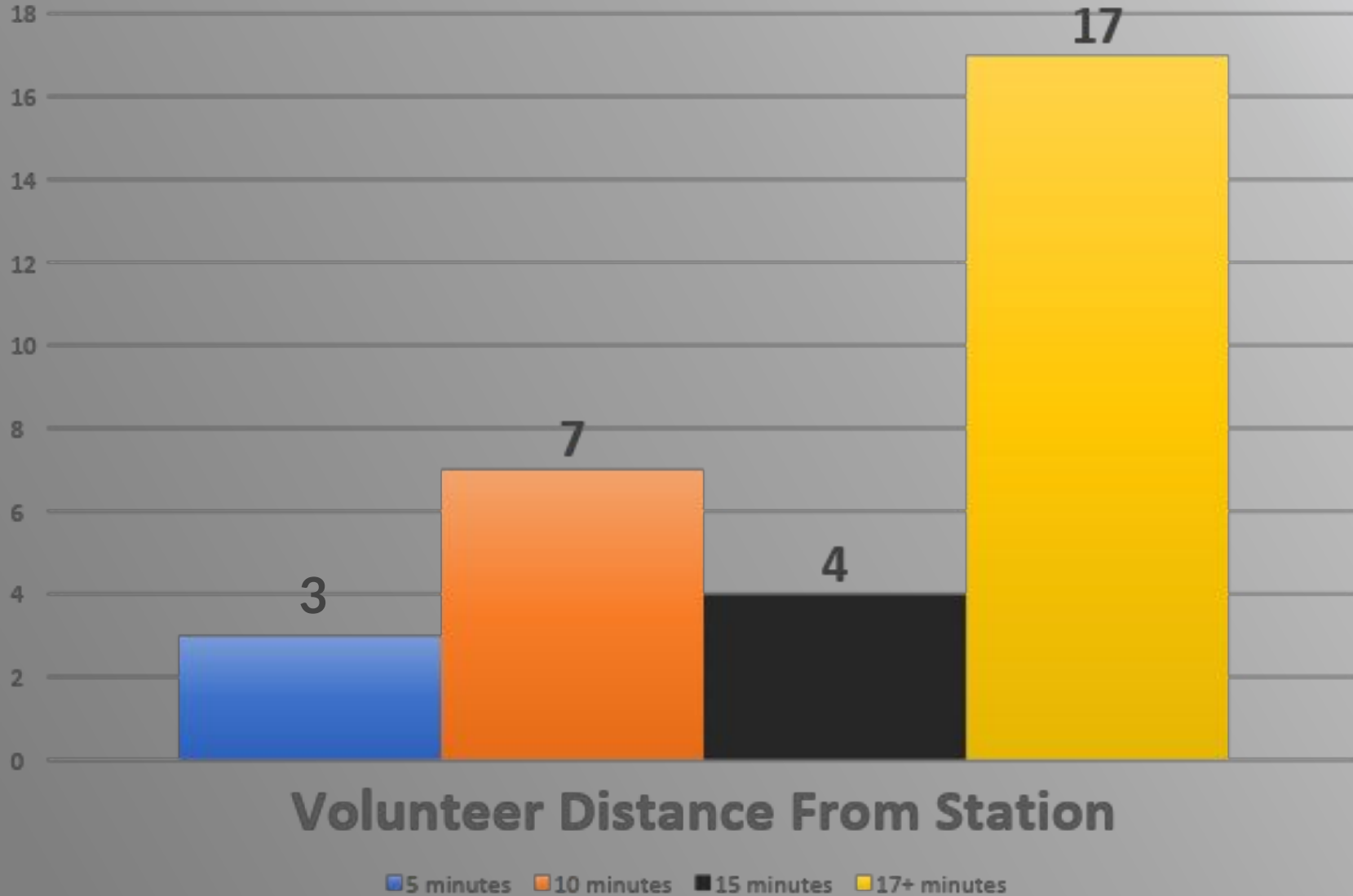
1 part-time training officer

**Volunteers**

31 firefighters and support staff



# Volunteer Response Times



**Average time for a volunteer to respond - 15 minutes**



# Financial Accomplishments

2011-2021

## 2011 GO bond – \$600,000 total

- Paid off equipment lease agreements
- Paid off USDA loan for building
- Purchased miscellaneous small equipment for station
- Four years remaining on this bond



# Where Did We Want To Be?

2011-2021

## 2013 Strategic Goals

Build a cash reserve of \$270,000 by 2020

Improve our ISO rating to a 4 by 2018

- Reduces taxpayers' fire insurance premiums
- Improves our fire service to the community

Increase the number of volunteers by 30% by 2018





# Large Project Achievements

2011-2021

Installing 100% exhaust removal system in bay

Purchased new SCBAs (air packs)

Purchased a compressed air system to fill air cylinders

Upgraded our radio communications

Upgraded rescue equipment

Improved parts of the station (partial completion)



# Financial Accomplishments

2011-2021

Federal Grants Awarded – \$908,772 total

## Major Items

Platform apparatus **\$380,000**

Replace all SCBAs **\$120,134**

Volunteer tuition reimbursement **\$257,600 available**

Diesel exhaust system **\$85,714**



# Financial Accomplishments

2011-2021

North Greenville University annual pledge - \$25,000 per year

- Began in 2004

Yearly department fundraisers

- Average of \$5,000 per year

Greenville Legislative Delegation Transportation Committee

- \$156,000 for Roadway Safety Improvement Project



# Where Did We Fall Short?



Not able to hire a second firefighter per shift

Did not move to the EMT level



Not able to replace our engine or tanker



# What Are Our Needs?

Increase both pay and benefits for personnel

We must retain personnel who know and care about our district

Become competitive with other fire departments in our county to attract best candidates

Add one additional firefighter for all three shifts

Replace two apparatus

One engine is 47 years old

Tanker is unsafe / not designed to serve as fire truck

Improve our level of medical training

Provide various medications and more advanced treatments



# Solutions

Increased pay/benefits  
Hire additional firefighter  
Train to EMT level



Operating millage /  
Current reserve  
on-hand

Restore  
fund  
balance



Reserve /  
Fund Balance  
Millage

Replace  
apparatus



GO Bond



# What Is The Cost?



Operations  
Millage  
Reserve /  
Fund Balance  
Millage

**\$51**  
per year

or

**\$4.25**  
per month

These amounts are per \$100,000 of county-assessed value



# What Is The Cost?



GO Bond

**\$12**

per year

or

**\$1**

per month

These amounts are per \$100,000 of county-assessed value





# Consideration

GO Bond

15 year Bond

Apparatus prices  
increases 5% per year

Apparatus price increase  
at 5% over 5 years = \$276,281

Cost of delaying this five years outweighs interest payment over 15 year term



# What Are The Benefits?

## Increased Community Safety

### **Retain highly trained staff to respond to calls**

- More classes
- Greater department knowledge

### **Ensure two personnel are at the station at all times**

- More hands to help translates to a better outcome during an incident

### **Provide a higher level of care on medical calls**

- Life-saving medication administration



# What Are The Benefits?

## Apparatus

### **Increased reliability of a newer vehicle**

- Fewer mechanical breakdowns
- Easier access to parts

### **Improved safety features for fire personnel**

- Current vehicle not designed for its purpose



# Questions?

