

**BOILING SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT**  
5020 PELHAM ROAD  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29615

Ph: (864) 288-5037

Fax: (864) 284-6146

May 12, 2020

Mr. John Hansley  
Deputy County Administrator  
Greenville County Square  
301 University Ridge, Suite 2400  
Greenville, SC 29601

Dear Mr. Hansley:

Boiling Springs fire District respectfully requests that the Greenville County Council, per its authority under State Law [Section 6-1-320(A)], adopt a resolution authorizing the District to increase its current millage of 27.4 mills for operations and maintenance, to 29.4 mills to partially meet the operational needs of the District for fiscal year 2020-2021 and to offset losses in fiscal years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 totaling \$14,073. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 calls for revenues of \$4,751,465 and expenditures of \$5,190,815.

The estimated millage of 2 mills, which is the equivalent of \$342,088, is necessary to meet a portion of the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget. There is a 1.7% increase in the operating budget from fiscal year 2019-2020 to 2020-2021, due primarily to increased healthcare costs, inflation, and other government-mandated costs.

Enclosed is a Resolution from the Commission approving the millage request, along with an Explanation of Millage Increase, and a copy of our Enabling Act. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOILING SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT

*William T. McDowell, Jr.*

William T. McDowell  
Chairman

Enclosures



**Performance Data**

ISO Rating Class 1  
 Population Served (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Households \_\_\_\_\_

Year Rating Received 2007  
 Population Served (nighttime) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Businesses \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) 2957

Number of Structure Fires 34  
 Number of Medical Calls 1106  
 Number of Vehicle Fires 7  
 Number Mutual Aid Calls Sent 182  
 Number of Hazmat Calls 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of MVA's 341  
 Number of Brush Fires 15  
 Number of Public Service Calls 394  
 Number Mutual Aid Calls Rec'd 245  
 Number of Rescue Calls 5 \_\_\_\_\_

*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.

BSFD provides fire protection and emergency services for numerous commercial, multi-family, and industrial occupancies that require a ladder truck. Some of these facilities include Michelin North America HQ, Bausch and Lomb, Scan Source, various hotels over 3 stories tall, nursing homes, and over 100 warehouse and manufacturing buildings. There are 16 apartment communities in our jurisdiction representing 3500 individual units. All of these complex are multi-story units requiring the use of ladder trucks for rescue and fire suppression.

In addition to fixed facilities and occupancies, we cover one of the busiest stretches of I-85. The tremendous volume of commercial traffic transiting the region requires us to be able to protect the public from the potential release of any number of deadly chemicals and materials that could be released in an accident. Specialized equipment such as gas meters and imaging cameras are required to ascertain the presence hazardous materials in order to protect the public and responders.

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

The Boiling Springs Fire District participates in the South Carolina Firefighter Mobilization Plan as well as the South Carolina Statewide Mutual Aid Plan. BSFD also participates in the Greenville County Mutual Aid Plan.

In addition to the county mutual aid plan, BSFD has a written, formalized automatic mutual aid agreement with Taylors FD, Pelham-Batesville FD and Greer FD to provide the closest appropriate resource for any emergency type occurring in any of the four communities. All four entities participate in a consolidated dispatch with the City of Greer hosting a unified dispatch center. We have also combined all emergency response operating procedures into a common response protocol to ensure consistent emergency scene operations.

Boiling Springs, Pelham-Batesville, and Greenville City share a separate mutual aid agreement in providing emergency response coverage in the I-85 corridor from the Spartanburg County line to approximately Laurens Road. This arrangement provides for better access and quicker response by the closest department based on the easiest access to a given location on the interstate.

Boiling Springs also provides personnel to the Greenville County HazMat and Technical Rescue Teams for which Greenville County provides funding for training and equipment.

Boiling Springs, Taylors, Greer, and Pelham-Batesville also share two training facilities owned by Taylors FD and Greer where we regularly train to support our automatic aid function.

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

The lack of an operating millage increase for the last 3 years has already impacted our ISO rating. In 2012 BSFD retrogressed from a Class 1 rating to a Class 2. This was due to a redistribution of manpower after an ISO survey required an additional fire station. Greenville County Council approved a \$2,000,000 GO Bond for the new fire station in 2011. The millage increase approved by County Council in 2013 and 2016 was instrumental in helping our department maintain its ISO Class 1 rating to date.

This millage increase will help us maintain our ISO Class 1 by funding the firefighters we already have on staff.

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

There are currently 5 properties in our jurisdiction that have a FILOT agreement in place. These are large, high value properties that receive fire protection and emergency service at a reduced cost.

The number of churches, schools, and health care facilities that are tax-exempt dwarf the number of FILOT Arrangements in our district. There are 11 nursing home or other health care occupancies, 3 schools, and 16 churches in our jurisdiction that do not pay taxes. However, these facilities typically present a higher risk during a fire due to their construction features and number of people affected and therefore require more resources during an emergency.

In addition, the number of health care facilities in our area continue to impact the number of medical calls we are responding to each year. As these companies reduce staff they are accessing emergency services more often to address more and more patient issues. A trend that is becoming more prevalent is to use the local fire departments for medical assistance rather than EMS, since the local fire department does not have the ability to charge fees for these services.

*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.

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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](mailto:jhansley@greenvillecounty.org)

**BOILING SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**

Anticipated inflation on expenses no
Cost of Living - Payroll
Benefits
Tax Revenues from Growth
Investment and Other Rev
2015 Millage

	2	2
	25.7	25.7
	0.6	0.6
	<b>2017 Projection</b>	<b>2017 Actual</b>
Operating millage		
Debt service millage		
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Operating Taxes	3,929,086	4,265,931
Debt Service Taxes	257,921	129,839
Investment Earnings	13,339	21,280
Federal Grants	-	1,683,900
Donations - World Trade Center Memorial	705	50
Other	39,965	52,018
<b>TOTAL REVENUES ALL SOURCES</b>	<b>4,241,016</b>	<b>6,153,018</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Current:		
Salaries	2,132,536.31	2,061,588.00
Employee Benefits (Includes Retirement)	1,357,670.86	1,419,375.00
Dues and Subscriptions	5,802	7,380
Fuel	37,123	33,979
Insurance	190,217	153,781
Maintenance:		
Buildings and Grounds	28,730	35,757
Equipment	12,610	10,704
Vehicle	49,388	47,330
Meals	6,104	6,020
Miscellaneous	20,623	29,425
Office Supplies	18,463	23,251
Professional Fees	17,801	23,390
Protective Clothing & Uniforms	162,768	147,283
Public Relations	27,985	27,162
Training	36,062	7,534
Conferences	7,516	13,283
Utilities	68,309	76,114
Hail damage expenditures		245,241
Grant expenditures		1,683,900
Capital Outlay	200,000	113,056
Debt Service:		
Gen Fund Principal		
Gen Fund Interest		
Debt Ser Principal	224,403	376,425
Debt Ser Interest	33,518	78,328
Issuance Costs		62,519

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>4,637,626</u>	<u>6,682,825</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>(396,610)</u>	<u>(529,807)</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>		
Sale of Capital Assets		-
Proceeds from issuance of debt		
Insurance Proceeds		189,948
Issuance of Bond Anticipation Note, USDA Loan, Lease Purchase		2,358,418
<b>TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,548,366</u>
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES</b>	(396,610)	2,018,559
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of Year	<u>2,626,051</u>	<u>2,580,188</u>
Prior Period Adjustments		
<b>FUND BALANCE, End of Year</b>	<u>2,229,441</u>	<u>4,598,747</u>
<b>Fund balance as a percent of total expenditures</b>		69%
<b>Population extrapolated</b>		28,266
<b>Tax revenue per capita</b>		156



Increase Per Year

n payroll related	2.0%	Most current Southeast CPI Per Chief Combination of 6% for health and reti
	3.0%	
	5.0%	
	1.0%	
	0%	
	23.700	

	0	0				
	25.7	25.7	25.7	27.4	25.7	27.4
	2.1	1.8	2.1	1.8	2.6	1.8
<b>2018 Projection</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Projection</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Projection</b>	<b>2020 Forecasted</b>	
3,968,377	4,483,636	4,008,061	4,786,580	4,048,141	4,650,000	
534,251	375,925	479,722	366,518	596,300	365,000	
13,339	30,661	13,339	41,489	13,339	20,000	
-	-	-	67,455	-		
-	150	-	500	-		
39,965	81,521	39,965	27,694	39,965	39,965	
<b>4,555,932</b>	<b>4,971,893</b>	<b>4,541,087</b>	<b>5,290,236</b>	<b>4,697,745</b>	<b>5,074,965</b>	4,709,965
2,196,512.40	2,242,605	2,262,408	2,405,409	2,330,280	2,410,000	
1,461,956.25	1,583,845	1,675,619	1,658,232	1,725,888	1,800,000	
5,918	7,429	6,037	8,731	6,157	6,000	
37,865	41,060	38,622	40,793	39,395	40,000	
156,857	137,473	159,994	150,824	163,194	165,000	
29,304	35,502	29,890	37,289	30,488	45,000	
12,862	5,748	13,119	33,611	13,381	9,500	
50,376	49,013	51,383	46,081	52,411	47,000	
6,226	8,048	6,351	4,821	6,478	6,800	
21,035	25,356	21,456	37,777	21,885	45,000	
23,716	29,308	24,190	26,051	24,674	28,000	
23,858	47,450	24,335	39,414	24,822	40,000	
13,023	21,719	13,284	17,092	13,549	36,000	
28,544	25,973	29,115	26,881	29,698	30,000	
16,383	14,065	16,711	24,994	42,045	48,000	
13,549	10,105	13,820	10,381	14,096	18,000	
69,675	82,998	71,068	91,966	72,490	95,000	
	1,373		10,443			
	10,037		-			
60,000	2,237,975	1,600,000	163,723	3,500,000	120,000	
			137,303	0	142,552	
			21,910	0	17,050	
443,217	452,670	397,890	253,669	466,394	260,103	
91,034	132,192	81,832	107,208	129,906	100,611	
	100	70,000	-	80,000	-	

<u>4,761,910</u>	<u>7,202,043</u>	<u>6,607,123</u>	<u>5,354,603</u>	<u>8,787,229</u>	<u>5,509,616</u>	
<u>(205,978)</u>	<u>(2,230,150)</u>	<u>(2,066,036)</u>	<u>(64,367)</u>	<u>(4,089,484)</u>	<u>(434,651)</u>	
		1,600,000.00	176,945	3,500,000.00	4,000	
	79,951				14,000	
	200,807				290,000	
<u>-</u>	<u>280,758</u>	<u>1,600,000</u>	<u>176,945</u>	<u>3,500,000</u>	<u>308,000</u>	
(205,978)	(1,949,392)	(466,036)	112,578	(589,484)	(126,651)	
<u>2,229,441</u>	<u>4,598,747</u>	<u>2,023,463</u>	<u>2,649,355</u>	<u>1,557,427</u>	<u>2,761,934</u>	
<u><b>2,023,463</b></u>	<u><b>2,649,355</b></u>	<u><b>1,557,427</b></u>	<u><b>2,761,934</b></u>	<u><b>967,943</b></u>	<u><b>2,635,283</b></u>	
	37%		52%		48%	
	28,453		28,639		28,953	
\$	171		\$	180	\$	173

rement and 2% for other

	29.4 1.8	29.4 1.8	29.4 1.8	29.4 2.2	29.4 2.2	29.4 2.2	29.4 2.2
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
	<b>Projection</b>	<b>Projection</b>	<b>Projection</b>	<b>Projection</b>	<b>Projection</b>	<b>Projection</b>	<b>Projection</b>
	5,039,310	5,089,703	5,140,600	5,192,006	5,243,926	5,296,366	5,349,329
	355,043	330,992	331,572	401,407	401,795	402,077	401,247
	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	39,965	39,965	39,965	39,965	39,965	39,965	39,965
	<b>5,449,318</b>	<b>5,475,660</b>	<b>5,527,137</b>	<b>5,648,378</b>	<b>5,700,686</b>	<b>5,753,408</b>	<b>5,805,541</b>
	5,094,275						
	2,482,300	2,556,769	2,633,472	2,712,476	2,793,851	2,877,666	2,963,996
	1,890,000	1,946,700	2,005,101	2,065,254	2,127,212	2,191,028	2,256,759
	6,120	6,242	6,367	6,495	6,624	6,757	6,892
	40,183	40,986	41,806	42,642	43,495	44,365	45,252
	166,457	169,787	173,182	176,646	180,179	183,783	187,458
	45,900	46,818	47,754	48,709	49,684	50,677	51,691
	13,649	13,922	14,201	14,485	14,774	15,070	15,371
	47,940	48,899	49,877	50,874	51,892	52,930	53,988
	6,607	6,739	6,874	7,012	7,152	7,295	7,441
	45,900	46,818	47,754	48,709	49,684	50,677	51,691
	28,560	29,131	29,714	30,308	30,914	31,533	32,163
	40,800	41,616	42,448	43,297	44,163	45,046	45,947
	20,000	20,400	190,808	21,224	21,649	22,082	22,523
	30,292	30,897	31,515	32,146	32,789	33,444	34,113
	36,000	36,720	37,454	38,203	38,968	39,747	40,542
	14,378	14,666	14,959	15,258	15,563	15,874	16,192
	96,900	98,838	100,815	102,831	104,888	106,985	109,125
	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	-
	148,012	147,373	-	-	-	-	-
	11,590	5,910	-	-	-	-	-
	261,219	243,859	250,149	290,845	298,465	306,176	312,982
	93,824	87,133	81,423	110,562	103,330	95,901	88,265
	-						

<b>5,526,631</b>	<b>5,640,224</b>	<b>6,805,674</b>	<b>5,857,977</b>	<b>6,015,274</b>	<b>6,177,036</b>	<b>6,342,392</b>
<b>(77,313)</b>	<b>(164,563)</b>	<b>(1,278,537)</b>	<b>(209,599)</b>	<b>(314,587)</b>	<b>(423,628)</b>	<b>(536,851)</b>
		1,000,000				
<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
(77,313)	(164,563)	(278,537)	(209,599)	(314,587)	(423,628)	(536,851)
2,635,283	2,557,970	2,393,407	2,114,870	1,905,271	1,590,684	1,167,056
<b>2,557,970</b>	<b>2,393,407</b>	<b>2,114,870</b>	<b>1,905,271</b>	<b>1,590,684</b>	<b>1,167,056</b>	<b>630,205</b>
46%	42%	31%	33%	26%	19%	10%
29,268	29,587	29,910	30,232			
\$ 184	\$ 183	\$ 183	\$ 185			

	29.4	29.4	29.4
	0.9	0.9	0.9
<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	
<b>Projection</b>	<b>Projection</b>	<b>Projection</b>	
5,402,823	5,456,851	5,511,419	
166,341	166,341	166,341	
15,000	15,000	15,000	
39,965	39,965	39,965	
<b>5,624,129</b>	<b>5,678,157</b>	<b>5,732,725</b>	

3,052,916	3,144,503	3,238,838
2,324,462	2,394,195	2,466,021
7,030	7,171	7,314
46,157	47,080	48,022
191,207	195,031	198,932
52,725	53,779	54,855
15,679	15,992	16,312
55,068	56,169	57,293
7,590	7,741	7,896
52,725	53,779	54,855
32,806	33,463	34,132
46,866	47,804	48,760
22,974	23,433	23,902
34,795	35,491	36,201
41,353	42,180	43,023
16,516	16,846	17,183
111,308	113,534	115,804
-	-	6,500,000
-	-	-
-	-	-
85,887	88,893	92,004
80,454	77,448	74,337

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<b>6,278,517</b>	<b>6,454,534</b>	<b>13,135,685</b>
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<b>(654,388)</b>	<b>(776,377)</b>	<b>(7,402,959)</b>
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6,500,000

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<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,500,000</b>
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(654,388)	(776,377)	(902,959)	(4,338,802)
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630,205	(24,183)	(800,560)
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<b>(24,183)</b>	<b>(800,560)</b>	<b>(1,703,519)</b>
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0%

-12%

-13%

#### Financial History

1. Fiscal years 2015 to 2018 had an average net loss of \$98,782
2. County Council approved a 1.7 millage increase beginning with fiscal year 2019
3. Fiscal year 2019 was favorable \$113k and fiscal year 2020 is projected to be \$126k unfavorable. So the District has almost broken even over the last two years.
4. Fiscal year 2021 is forecasted to be \$445k unfavorable with the losses growing each year
5. The District's fund balance at the end of the 2015 fiscal year was 72% of annual operating expenditures and the District's fund balance is forecasted to be 48% at the end of 2020, go below 2 months (16.7%) in 2024 and go into the negative during the 2025 fiscal year
6. Our current total operating and debt service tax revenue per capita is \$180 (as of June 30, 2019) using County population estimates.

#### Primary reasons for growing loss are:

1. Health care expenditures (\$796k in 2019) are growing faster than property tax revenue (the only major revenue source for the District)-11.3% increase for the 2020-21 fiscal year.
2. Retirement expenditures (\$375k in 2019) are growing faster than property tax revenue (the only major revenue source for the District). We anticipate the 1% rate increase will be cancelled effective this July 1<sup>st</sup>, but the rate will likely continue to increase 1% in future years. The 1% increase effective July 1, 2019 amounted to an approximately 8% increase in retirement expenditures.
3. District is forecasting for salary increases to be 3% to keep up with the market and other nonpayroll expenditures to increase 2%, which represents the Southeast Consumer Price Index current information as of March, 2020.
4. As a result of the pandemic, we do not know how our financial condition will be impacted, but we would not be surprised if there was a negative impact on assessed values and therefore our property tax revenue over the next year or two.

#### How has the District responded?

1. BSFD participates in an automatic mutual aid consortium with 3 neighboring fire departments in which equipment, apparatus, and personnel are shared on a daily basis. This arrangement provides the necessary resources to be utilized on emergency scenes without the cost of overtime to call personnel in to help. We are utilizing personnel already on duty in various fire houses throughout the participating jurisdictions.
2. The same four departments have also combined our separate dispatch functions into one central communications center. This has resulted in a significant cost saving to Boiling Springs since we do not have to maintain a separate dispatch center.
3. Our mutual aid consortium also shares 2 training facilities will eliminates the need for separate costly training centers for each department.
4. We continue to pursue grants from a variety of sources to help pay for capital projects and equipment.
5. We are constantly exploring opportunities to unify and share facilities and services to enhance service delivery and increase financial efficiencies.

What do the projections show?

1. A 2 mill increase to 29.4 mills projects a 2021 loss of \$77k, a 2022 loss of \$164k and increasing losses in future years. Fund balance would go below 2 months in 2027 and negative in 2029.
2. This 2 mill increase would project to an operating and debt service tax revenue per capita of \$186 in 2021, or a \$6 increase compared to 2019.

What is the District requesting?

1. A 2 mill increase to 29.4 mills effective for the 2020-21 fiscal year.