



SLATER-MARIETTA FIRE DEPARTMENT
3001 GEER HWY
MARIETTA, SC 29661
PHONE: (864) 836-3143
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August 26, 2024

Greenville County Council
301 University Ridge, Suite N-4000
Greenville, SC 29601

RE: SLATER-MARIETTA FIRE DISTRICT

Honorable Chairman Tripp, Finance Chairman Kirven and County Council:

The Slater-Marietta Fire District, South Carolina (the "District") was created and established as a body politic and corporate, pursuant to Act No. 1170 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the year 1968, as amended. The District is located wholly in the County and was established for the purpose of providing fire protection services within the District.

The Greenville County (the "County") Council (the "Council"), as the governing body of the County, is empowered by Title 6, Chapter 11, Article 5 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended (the "Enabling Act") to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds pursuant to the provisions of the Enabling Act.

As you will recall, the District held a referendum for the issuance of a \$3 million General Obligation Bond, Series 2021 (the "21 Bond") on July 1, 2021. The referendum was successful, and pursuant to approval of Ordinance #5298 by Greenville County, the 21 Bond was issued for (i) the acquisition, construction, installation, furnishing and equipping of a new fire station; (ii) renovations to existing fire stations; and (iii) the acquisition of one or more fire trucks, brush trucks and various items of equipment for the District; and (iv) paying issuance costs. The 21 Bond closed on August 31, 2024.

The acquisition of the fire trucks, brush trucks, equipment, and renovations to existing facilities has been completed. However, the construction, furnishing, and equipping of the new fire station has not been completed. The new station, located at 4222 SC Highway 11, Marietta SC 29661, is currently under construction and progress has been made on the completion of significant structural components and site work. Likewise, earlier this summer, work began on certain finish components to the exterior as well as build-out and finish of the interior of the station. This project was competitively bid with the assistance of the architect of record, and the lowest bid was selected and contracts entered in the summer and fall of 2022. Delays in the work occurred in 2023 and 2024 as a result, in part, of in-project design changes made by the architect and contractor (and approved by the county), as well as the general labor market and material price conditions of the construction industry. Costs have increased for labor and materials since 2021, when the project was first budgeted. This summer, the District was also made aware that, among other things, certain issues

exist concerning the sufficiency of the work performed by the architect, contractor, and the contractor's subcontractors and material suppliers. The District has also recently been made aware of timing and delays related to this work caused by those working on site, and, thus the District has undertaken significant and proactive steps to investigate the extent that the project was: (1) underbid; and (2) constructed improperly with regard to the code, the approved plans, and industry standards. Accordingly, the District is exploring all legal remedies pursuant to its contracts with those involved in the project, their sureties, and their subcontractors. But, in the meantime, the new station remains vulnerable, incomplete, and/or constructed improperly due to all of these factors as outlined above. The District is prepared to proceed to finish the work properly, in accordance with the code and the plans, and utilize all avenues available to it in terms of remedying the cost challenges now faced for completion. In order to continue and complete the construction work, the District has identified consultants and contractors willing to complete the station and has priced such remedial and completion work directly with those individuals. Furthermore, the initial construction bids did not include several construction components required by code, nor did it include station FF&E, IT support and equipment, and other non-construction components required for an operating fire station. Therefore, all of this has now been accounted for in this application. Thus, the estimated full station completion total, including all work, professional services, and outfit of the station to make it fully and completely operational, is \$1,704,255.58—a portion of which will be paid from the currently remaining 21 Bond proceeds of \$604,255.58, for a total of \$1,100,000.00.

Pursuant to the Enabling Act, the District Board (the "Board") hereby petitions the Council to approve a public hearing and authorize the Board to issue general obligation bonds not exceeding \$1,275,000 in one or more series, as the Board shall determine, for (i) the completion of the acquisition, construction, installation, furnishing and equipping of a new fire station; and (iv) paying issuance costs. As we discussed in 2021, the District believes that its ISO may be improved with the location of the new station to be located on Highway 11. There would be no impact on the 2024 Tax Bill scheduled to go out later this year, as any debt issuance would occur after that time.

The District's readiness and training meets a high standard for fire service provision, and we currently maintain an ISO rating of 4. The District continues to find the most cost-effective solutions to provide for increasing operational costs, replacing outmoded equipment, and providing additional facilities. FY2021 operational, capital and debt service expenditures are projected at approximately \$521,000. The current millage for the District is 27.1 mills for operations/reserve maintenance and 8.9 mills for debt service.

We would like to make you aware of the following:

- The District covers approximately 51 square miles and is staffed by 3 full-time, 17 part-time, and has 20 volunteer firefighters.

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- Over the past three years, the District has requested funds from several sources to address issues. Grant funding has provided the following:
 - Health and Safety Grants
 - Fire Equipment Grants
 - Medical Equipment Grants
 - Staffing Grants
- The *most important reason* for these improvements is to improve upon the services that we provide our citizens.

Attached you will find the Fire District Millage Request Application and the FY23 Audit. Please review the attached information and let us know if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your continued support and consideration for the District.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z Crutchfield', with a stylized, overlapping 'Z' and 'C'.

Zachary Crutchfield
Fire Chief

Attachments



Fire District Millage Request Application

Contact Information

District Name: SLATER MARIETTA FIRE DISTRICT

State FDID Number: 57-0842-287 (23222)

Fire Chief's Name: Zachary Crutchfield

Email: zcrutchfield@slatermariettafd.com

Mailing Address: 3001 GEER HWY

City, State, Zip: MARIETTA, SC 29661

Contact Person's Name: Zachary Crutchfield

Email: zcrutchfield@slatermariettafd.com

Address: 3001 GEER HIGHWAY

City, State, Zip: MARIETTA, SC 29661

Phone: 864-836-3142

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: \$643,712

Value of One Mill: \$24,749.00

FD Current Millage Rate: 27.1 (Operating); 8.9 (Debt Service)

Value of Total Millage: 670,697.90

Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1, '23 -June 30, '24): \$670,697.00

Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.): \$0

Number of Paid Firefighters: 3 Full-Time 16 Part-time

Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters: 8

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

(Any additional pertinent information can be detailed in an attached sheet.)

Debt Service: \$246,862.42 (Includes GO Bond 2021 Debt Service)

(Include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses: \$681,718.70

(Include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings: \$288,000.000

(Include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases, or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? 2021

Was your request granted? YES

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

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Performance Data

ISO Rating: 4

Year Rating Received: 2019

Population served (daytime):10,000

Population served (nighttime):9,500

Number of Households: 4,500

Number of Businesses: 120

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?): 915

Number of Structure Fires: 17

Number of MVA's: 64

Number of Medical Calls: 567

Number of Brush Fires: 15

Number of Vehicle Fires: 10

Number of Mutual Aid Calls: 72

*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.

- 3 Textile plants
- Slater Hall (Old and wooden 3 story structure)
- Stowall water treatment plant
- Foothills Propane
- Nursing home
- Avalonia Special Needs Facility

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

- Statewide mutual aid agreement
- Countywide mutual aid agreement
- Pumpkin town Fire Department (Auto Aid)
- Dacusville Fire Department (Auto Aid)
- Tigerville Fire Department (Auto Aid)
- Glassy Mountain Fire Department (Auto Aid)
- North Greenville Fire Department (Auto Aid)
- Contractual Agreement for River Falls Fire Service Area

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

Slater Marietta has requested assistance for the SAFER grant through FEMA to support efforts in recruiting and retaining fire personnel. We are also looking to supplement our full- time personnel with more part-time personnel during the day-time hours. We currently have one part-time person each day for either an 9-, 15-, or 24-hour shift for 365 days a year; accompanied by one full-time employee. This millage increase will allow the department to increase pay for personnel to be comparable with neighboring departments and cost of living allowance (COLA).

The past awarded bond has helped to initiate the building of a station on Highway 11 just outside of Pleasant Ridge County Park, with a goal to staff that station with personnel trained at the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level. If this is accomplished Slater Marietta should go from an ISO 4 to an ISO 3.

Being able to keep up with COLA and other neighboring department pay, will allow the department to not only increase ISO rating but maintain trained personnel levels in accordance with industry standards.

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

Slater Marietta Fire District has Northwest Middle School and Slater Elementary School, as well as numerous churches. Slater Marietta Fire Department provides all hazard emergency response, fire inspections, as well as fire prevention education.

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

Priority 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; and
- A signed resolution from the governing body approving the operating/capital plan and millage increase.

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

In 2021, the Slater-Marietta Fire District used a millage increase to secure cost of living raises for both full-time and part-time personnel, improving recruitment and retention of valuable staff. The district also achieved emergency medical basic life support certification and acquired the necessary equipment, enabling personnel to operate at the EMT-Basic level and provide lifesaving services in rural areas. Additionally, via the GO bond, all four stations received essential repairs to the roofing system ensuring structural integrity of the station. One station was remodeled to provide accommodations for personnel, offering better amenities for volunteers and ensuring prompt emergency response. The department also replaced outdated apparatus to meet national industry standards and purchased new firefighting equipment for these vehicles. These updates enhance the department's ability to operate effectively and efficiently, benefiting both personnel and the community. The Department has also begun construction of a sub-station located at 4222 SC Hwy 11 to enhance call response for the Slater-Marietta and surrounding areas. To date, \$956,893.00 has been spent with \$604,000.00 remaining from the 2021 GO Bond proceeds.