LAKE CUNNINGHAM
FIRE DEPARTMENT

COMMISSIONERS

R. DEAN CANNON
ROLAND E. PITTMAN
DAVID T. WELCHEL

COMMISSIONERS

SHERRI D. WILBANKS-STOKES
JASON H. WRIGHT
RICHARD BRADSHAW

ADAM BROWN, FIRE CHIEF

August 26, 2024

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

RE: LAKE CUNNINGHAM FIRE DISTRICT

Honorable Chairman Tripp, Vice Chairman Seman, Finance Chairman Kirven and Greenville County Council:

The Lake Cunningham Fire District (the "District") was created pursuant to Act No. 1829 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the year 1972, as amended, (the "Act No. 1829") to provide fire protection services in an unincorporated portion of the County.

The District has 33 full-time firefighters, including a full-time Fire Chief and a Deputy Fire Chief, and five volunteer fire fighters. Of the 40 firefighters, 13 are EMTs.

The District's readiness and training meets a high standard for fire service provision, and we currently maintain an ISO rating of 2/2Y. In a district that continues to experience significant growth, we continue to look for the most cost-effective solutions to provide for increasing operational costs, replace outmoded equipment, and provide additional facilities. We strive to achieve continued improvement in employee performance through recruitment, training, and certification of both career and volunteer employees. The District does not currently have any outstanding debt.

Pursuant to the Enabling Act, the District Board (the "Board") hereby petitions the Council to approve a public hearing and authorize the Board, subject to the favorable results of a Referendum to be held on or about 11/19/24, to issue general obligation bonds not exceeding $9,000,000 in one or more series, as the Board shall determine, for (i) the acquisition, construction, installation, furnishing and equipping of one or more new fire stations; and (iv) paying issuance costs. The District believes that its ISO may be improved with the construction of the new stations.

We would like to make you aware of the following:

- The District covers approximately 50 square miles and serves an estimated population 31,000 during the day and 40,800 at night.
- As faced by all fire districts, inflation has taken a significant toll on the District's operating and capital budgets.
- The District maintains By-laws, Purchasing Policies, Procurement Policies, Internal Controls Policies, Credit Card Policies, and Fund Balance Policies.
- The *most important reason* for these improvements is to improve upon the services that we provide our citizens.

Attached you will find the Financial Model, Fire District Millage Request Application, and 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,

Adam Brown
Fire Chief

Lake Cunningham Fire District
Financial Model and CIP
Prepared for August 26, 2024 Finance Committee
(Preliminary, Subject to Change)

		Audited	Projection				
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Revenues							
Property Taxes		$ 3,648,960	$ 3,827,583	$ 4,616,330	$ 4,708,657	$ 4,802,830	$ 4,898,886
Interest Income		$ 55,683	$ 58,872	$ 50,000	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
FEMA Grant			$ 204,000	$ 216,000			
Other Revenue		$ 32,413	$ 6,200	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Transfer from Reserves		$ -	$ 529,000	$ 264,000	$ -	$ 264,000	$ -
Total Revenues		**$ 3,737,056**	**$ 4,625,655**	**$ 5,151,330**	**$ 4,738,657**	**$ 5,096,830**	**$ 4,928,886**
Expenses							
General Operating Expenses		$ 3,205,915	$ 3,785,620	$ 3,872,850	$ 4,105,221	$ 4,591,534	$ 5,107,026
Capital Outlay (from Current Revenues)		$ 133,448	$ 733,000	$ 1,291,480	$ 500,000		
Total Operating Expenses		**$ 3,339,363**	**$ 4,518,620**	**$ 5,164,330**	**$ 4,605,221**	**$ 4,591,534**	**$ 5,107,026**
Net Operating Revenues		**$ 397,693**	**$ 107,035**	**$ (13,000)**	**$ 133,436**	**$ 505,295**	**$ (178,140)**
General Obligation Bonds / Lease Purchase							
Proposed GO BAN Series 2025		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 360,000	$ -	$ -
Proposed GO Bond Series 2026						$ 487,000	$ 487,000
Proposed Lease Purchase 2027		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 310,000
Total Debt Service		**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 360,000**	**$ 487,000**	**$ 797,000**
Surplus/Deficit		**$ 397,693**	**$ 107,035**	**$ (13,000)**	**$ (226,564)**	**$ 18,295**	**$ (975,140)**
Millage Components							
Operating Millage Levy [1]		37.2	37.2	43.8	43.8	43.8	43.8
Millage Adjustment Needed		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Proposed Debt Millage Levy		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	4.9
Millage Adjustment Needed		0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	1.3	0.0
Aggregate Adjusted		**37.2**	**37.2**	**43.8**	**47.4**	**48.7**	**48.7**
Proposed Increase Impact on Property with a Market Value	$200,000				**$ 28.80**	**$ 10.40**	

[1] Per County Auditor Statement for 6/30/24

Adjusted Levy	$	86,196,670
Motor Vehicles	$	14,739,580
DNR Boat Monthly	$	709,290
DNR Motor Monthly	$	205,200
Total Adjusted Levy	**$**	**101,850,740**
Less item 18	$	(54,500)
Less Uncollectables @ 2%	$	(1,722,843)
Adjusted Collectable Levy	**$**	**100,073,397**
Value of 1 mill	**$**	**100,073**
Millage		**37.2**
Total Millage with FY25 CPI+Pop Approval		**43.8**

Fire District Millage Request Application

Contact Information

District Name:_Lake Cunningham Fire District_____State FDID Number __23314_____

Fire Chief's Name __Adam Brown_____ Email: _abrown@lcfd.us_____

Mailing Address_2802 N McElhaney Rd._____City, State, Zip __Greer, SC 29651_____

Contact Person's Name: _Adam Brown _____ Email: _____abrown@lcfd.us_____

Address: _2802 N McElhaney Rd. _____ City, State, Zip ____Greer, SC 29651_____

Phone: __864-895-1212_____ Fax: __864-895-9863_____

Financial Operations

Please Check One of the Following Options:

_____Our district is seeking to maintain our current millage rate

_X___Our district is seeking a millage rate increase

_____Our district is seeking bond approval

FD Annual Budget __$3,732,127.20_____ Value of One Mill _$100,326.00_____

FD Current Millage Rate __43.8_____ Value of Total Millage__$3,722,715.60_____

Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) ____$3,648,960_____

Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.) ___Interest: $10,000_____

Number of Paid Firefighters __35_____ Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters____5____

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

Debt Service ____$0.00_____
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses____$4,518,620_____
(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings ___$671,000.00_____
(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? __05/2024_____
Was your request granted? _____Yes_____
If so, please detail your accomplishments with the additional revenue? (You may attach a separate sheet if necessary.)
This increase was recently approved and will be on the 2024 Tax Bill in October 2024.

Performance Data

ISO Rating __2/2Y_____ Year Rating Received __2019_____

Population Served (daytime)_31,000_____ Population Served (nighttime)_40,800_____

Number of Households __13,090_____ Number of Businesses ___197_____

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) 1958_____

Number of Structure Fires ___70_____ Number of MVA's ___181_____

Number of Medical Calls ___930_____ Number of Brush Fires____36_____

Number of Vehicle Fires ____9_____ Number of Mutual Aid Calls___60_____

Other type calls ____672____

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? EMS regularly stages at our stations.	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.
   The Lake Cunningham Fire District covers multiple potentially dangerous locations within its district. One location is the Hansen Rock Quarry which requires the training and use of specialized equipment in order to reach both an occupant in confined or high-angle locations. The depth of the quarry is over 400 feet from street level, plus the types of vehicles and equipment utilized by the quarry are large in size compared to our own vehicles. A second such location is the Greenville County Sherriff's Office Training Center. The center houses a building with an abundance of live ammunition and weapons for use during training and tactical events for the GCSO. Third, the Greer Water Treatment plant is also responded to by this agency. This location stores deadly and caustic solutions for the treatment of water purification. Finally, although not in our district, the Lake Cunningham FD surrounds the two largest bodies of water in Greenville County, Lakes Robinson and Cunningham. Our aid agreement with the City of Greer requires the specialized training of our personnel in advances water rescue and boat operations. Beginning in 2021, the Commission of Public works started to allow recreational swimming in the lakes, which has already led to additional call volume on the two bodies of water.

2. Please list any mutual aid agreements or operational or resource sharing agreements your district participates in with other fire districts. The Lake Cunningham Fire District has Automatic Mutual aid with all of our surrounding fire districts, including those in Spartanburg County. These districts are Gowensville, Glassy Mountain, Tigerville, N Greenville, Piedmont Park, Taylors, City of Greer, Tyger River, and Holly Springs. We are members of the Greenville County Mutual Aid Agreement and the South Carolina Mutual Aid Agreement. The LCFD is available at any time for mutual aid as requested.

3. Please describe how, if at all, the requested millage increase will impact your district's ISO ratings.
   Yes, Lake Cunningham has been in need of apparatus replacement, station remodels, and the construction of a new station on the East side of our district in the Jordan Rd area. With the increase we intend to utilize it in the beginning for capital expenses i.e. apparatus replacement, station remodels, etc. Then once the new station is constructed the revenue increase will be utilized for the staffing needs that come with it, which will improve the 2Y ISO area of our district which is essentially no protection according to ISO.

4. Please describe the tax-exempt properties in your district and the services you provide to these entities.
   LCFD has 31 religious' organizations, 2 high schools (Blue Ridge HS * Greer Middle Charter HS), 1 middle school (Blue Ridge Middle School), 1 elementary school (Skyland Elementary), and 1 Greenville Tech campus (Benson). Plus, the O'Neal Camp transfer station and County Roads & Bridges site, plus the Greenville County Sherriff's Office Training Center are all located within our district. The department provides the same services to these entities, along with fire prevention and fire safety program, as well as public education when required or requested.

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.**