



Fire District Millage Request Application

Contact Information

District Name: **Glassy Mtn Fire Service Area**

Fire Chief's Name: **Robert J. Staples**

Mailing Address: **2015 Hwy 11**

Contact Person's Name: **Kelley Murphy**

Address: **2015 HWY 11**

Phone: **864-895-4306**

State FDID Number: **23119**

Email: **rstaples@gmfd.net**

City, State, Zip: **Landrum, SC 29356**

Email: **kmurphy@gmfd.net**

City, State, Zip: **Landrum, SC 29356**

Fax: **864-895-4748**

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: **\$1,797,706**

Value of One Mill: **56,294**

FD Current Millage Rate: **27.6-Operating / 1.4-Bond**

Value of Total Millage: **1,632,526**

Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30): **\$1,553,714 (Operating) & \$78,812 (Bond)**

Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.): **\$287,155**

Staffing

Deployable:

Number of Paid Firefighters: **13 (Full-Time) / 11 (Part-Time)**

Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters: **15**

Non-Deployable:

Number of Administrative Staff: **1**

Number of EMTs/Paramedics(Non-Firefighters): **8**

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

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

Debt Service: **\$125,561 (2025)**

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

Operating Expenses: **\$1,797,706**

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

Reserve/Savings: **\$345,000**

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

When did your district last request a millage increase? **2023**

Was your request granted? **Yes**

If so, please detail your accomplishments with the additional revenue. **With little growth in our tax base, we were struggling to keep pace with inflation. The extra revenue is being utilized to keep up with wages, insurance, fuel, fleet maintenance, and other operating expenses.**

Performance Data

ISO Rating: **ISO Class 3/9**

Year Rating Received: **2018**

Population Served (daytime): **8,500**

Population Served (nighttime): **8,500**

Number of Households: **1607 (1,867-Vacant Residential)**

Number of Businesses: **39**

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) **875 (CY 2024)**

Number of Structure Fires: **13**

Number of MVAs: **61**

Number of Medical Calls: **374**

Number of Brush Fires: **17**

Number of Vehicle Fires: **5**

Number of Public Service Calls: **187**

Number Mutual Aid Calls Sent: **114**

Number Mutual Aid Calls Rec'd: **35**

Number of Hazmat Calls: **3**

Number of Rescue Calls: **3**

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 the 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 standards?	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 the 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 of your district. You may attach separate sheets as necessary to fully answer the questions.

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

Due to the terrain of our service area, there are many structures, commercial and residential, that are difficult to reach utilizing traditional firefighting methods and are extremely dangerous to our personnel. Additionally, with a large amount of heavily wooded and mountainous terrain, wildland fires can be extremely difficult to effectively combat. Searching for lost or wounded/ill hikers is also extremely challenging.

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

The Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area currently enjoys Automatic Aid Agreements with the Lake Cunningham, Slater-Marietta, River Falls, Gowensville, Landrum, Green River (NC), and Tigerville Fire departments. These agreements provide for the immediate dispatch and response of an Engine Company and/or Water Tender to structural fires within the agreed-to-border areas of each department's district. The GMFSA also participates in the Greenville County Fire Chiefs' Association and State of South Carolina Mutual Aid Agreements and provides aid as requested by any neighboring department.

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

The Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area enjoys a Public Protection Classification of 3/9. Factors that are used to determine the department's ISO rating include personnel/staffing, training, and operating equipment. The GMFSA strives to maintain its fleet of apparatus and to employ well-trained and certified personnel. Considering the current costs and production times of Fire Apparatus, the GMFSA board desires to be strategic in replacing an aging, obsolescent Fire Engine. Currently, we can assemble between 12 and 15 personnel on the scene of a structural or wildland fire. Without providing dependable, equipped apparatus, we would have a difficult time providing the personnel resources needed to combat these fires and that could put our ISO rating in jeopardy.

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

The Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area has the following Tax-Exempt properties in our district that require fire protection, annual inspections, and Emergency Medical Services responses throughout the year:

**Boy Scouts of America, Camp Old Indian
Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Conservation Area
Hope Academy
Les Mullinax Park
Lookup Lodge
Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve**

Churches:

**Lima Baptist Church
North Greenville Church
Lookup Lodge Chapel
Truth Tabernacle
The Cliffs at Glassy Chapel**

**Hopewell Baptist Church
Blue Ridge Church
Lima Church of God
Cherry Hill Church**

**Mountain Hill Community Church
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Glassy Mountain Baptist Church**

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 providing. 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.

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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

Page 1 – Debt Service: The GMFSA is currently paying debt service on two bonds. A 2015 Bond with a remaining balance of 300,000 which will be satisfied in 2030, and a 2023 Bond with a remaining balance of 363,000 which will be satisfied in 2033. The annual payments for these outstanding debts decreased in 2025 by approximately \$180,000, which will provide a decrease in bond millage by approximately 4.6 mills.