

CLEAR SPRING FIRE - RESCUE

Headquarters - 3008 Woodruff Road • Simpsonville, SC 29681 • 864-288-1173 • Fax 864-213-9209
Station # 2 - 2435 East Georgia Road • Simpsonville, SC 29681 • 864-228-6090 • Fax 864-228-6091



June 16, 2026

Ted Lambrecht
Deputy County Administrator
Department of General Services
County of Greenville
301 University Ridge, Suite N-4000
Greenville, SC 29601

Dear Mr. Lambrecht,

On behalf of Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District, the Board of Fire Control is writing to request that Greenville County Council adopt a resolution to increase the current millage from 23.9 to 28.9 utilizing our look back.

Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District received a previous millage increase 4 years ago for the 2022 fiscal year.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter. Should you need further information we ask that you contact myself, or our Fire Chief, Larry Kardos.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Milam".

Todd Milam, Chairman
Board of Commissioners
Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District
864-895-8855



Fire District Millage Request Application

Contact Information

District Name:	Clear Spring Fire & Rescue	State FDID Number:	23233
Fire Chief's Name:	Larry Kardos	Email:	lkardos@clearspringfire.org
Mailing Address:	3008 Woodruff Rd	City, State, Zip:	Simpsonville, SC 29681
Contact Person's Name:	SAA	Email:	SAA
Address:	3008 Woodruff Rd	City, State, Zip:	Simpsonville, SC 29681
Phone:	864-288-1173	Fax:	N/A

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:	(FY 27') 3,574,900	Value of One Mill:	138,749
FD Current Millage Rate:	23.9 Operating	Value of Total Millage:	3,316,101
Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30): (FY26') 3,361,100			
Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.): \$15,000 (Duke Energy)			

Staffing

Deployable:

Number of Paid Firefighters:	26 (FTE)	Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters:	10
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Non-Deployable:

Number of Administrative Staff:	1 (Admin Assistant)	Communications:	N/A (MEDCOM)
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***For the following financial measurements, please provide a dollar amount.
(Any additional pertinent information can be detailed in an attached sheet.)***

Debt Service: **(FY26') \$532,000**
(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment)

Operating Expenses: **(FY27') \$3,574,900**
(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses)

Reserve/Savings: **\$5,255,000 (\$2,538,000 Capital outlay 26')**
(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements)

When did your district last request a millage increase? **2022**

Was your request granted? **Yes**

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

**** See attached****

Details of Accomplishments

Since the 2022 operating millage increase, Clear Spring Fire Rescue has used the revenue to improve staffing, equipment, emergency response, firefighter safety, and long-range planning.

The district increased scheduled staffing per shift, this reduces the district's dependence on volunteers whose availability cannot always be guaranteed.

In 2023, Clear Spring replaced its 2006 frontline engine with a new apparatus. The engine was purchased using capital funds.

Clear Spring has continued replacing turnout gear, helmets, boots, gloves, fire hoses, rescue tools, communications equipment, and other essential equipment according to their condition and service life.

The district has expanded firefighter training, officer development, and succession planning. These efforts improve emergency response, strengthen company officers, and prepare employees for future leadership responsibilities.

Clear Spring has strengthened automatic and mutual aid relationships with neighboring departments. The district also installed the PURVIS station alerting system to reduce the time between dispatch, station notification, and apparatus response.

These investments have placed Clear Spring in a stronger position to improve its ISO Class 2 rating and work toward Class 1. Additional staffing, training, dependable apparatus, equipment testing, pre-incident planning, communications all of which support that goal.

Community risk-reduction efforts have also expanded through inspections, pre-incident planning, smoke alarm assistance, public education, and outreach. This work contributed to Clear Spring receiving the 2024 Fire Safe South Carolina Community designation.

The district is now planning for the replacement of its 2016 engine, improvements to Station 2, operation of the new ladder truck, and development of an Advanced Life Support program, and adding more staffing. These projects are being planned before they become emergency expenses.

Clear Spring's accomplishments demonstrate that the revenue approved in 2022 was used for its intended purpose. The requested operating millage will allow the district to build on that progress, improve its ISO classification, retain qualified personnel, protect existing equipment and facilities, and continue improving emergency services for the community.

Performance Data

ISO Rating: 2/2X	Year Rating Received: 2021
Population Served (daytime): 16,500 Estimated	Population Served (nighttime): 22,000 Estimated
Number of Households: 8,124	Number of Businesses: 91

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?): **1194**

Number of Structure Fires: 14	Number of MVA's: 75
Number of Medical Calls: 668	Number of Brush Fires: 54
Number of Vehicle Fires: 2	Number of Public Service Calls: 343
Number Mutual Aid Calls Sent: 35	Number Mutual Aid Calls Rec'd: 14
Number of Hazmat Calls: 35	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 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.

Clear Spring protects several properties that can create complex or potentially dangerous emergencies. These include a memory-care facility, apartment communities, a school, daycare facilities, large retail businesses, medical offices, automotive businesses, fabrication facilities, and light-industrial properties.

Renewable Water Resources presents chemical, confined space, atmospheric, and mechanical hazards. The Enoree Landfill can involve, methane, unstable surfaces, and heavy machinery incidents. Insurance Auto Auctions stores more than 2,000 salvage vehicles, creating the potential for a large fire involving fuels, batteries, pressurized components, tires, and plastics.

These incidents may require dependable engines and aerial apparatus, additional personnel, technical rescue and extrication equipment, gas monitoring, hazardous-materials protection, firefighting foam, extended water supply, and assistance from neighboring departments.

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

Clear Spring Fire Rescue participates in automatic and mutual aid arrangements with Simpsonville, Mauldin, Fountain Inn, Pelham-Batesville, Reidville (Spartanburg), and Durbin Creek fire departments (Laurens)

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

Clear Spring Fire Rescue currently has an ISO Class 2 Public Protection Classification. The requested operating millage increase will support the district's efforts to improve its classification and work toward ISO Class 1.

ISO considers staffing, training, apparatus, equipment, communications, water supply, testing, documentation, pre-incident planning, and community-risk-reduction activities. The additional operating revenue will help Clear Spring improve the areas under its direct control where noted areas were needing improvements.

The funding will support firefighter staffing and retention, training, apparatus and equipment testing, equipment replacement, and emergency communications. It will also help provide the personnel and operating support needed for the new ladder truck.

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

The Clear Spring Fire District includes Monarch Elementary School and several churches or religious properties that are generally tax exempt.

Clear Spring provides these properties with the same emergency services provided throughout the district. These services include fire suppression, emergency medical response, rescue, and severe-weather assistance.

The district also provides fire-safety education, fire-drill assistance, smoke-alarm support, fire extinguisher education, and help develop emergency plans.

Although these properties do not pay ad valorem taxes, protecting them still requires personnel, apparatus, equipment, training, inspections, and emergency planning.

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

All applications should be mailed or emailed to:
Greenville County Finance Committee
Ted Lambrecht, Deputy County Administrator
301 University Ridge, Suite N-4000
Greenville, SC 29601

or

tlambrecht@greenvillecounty.org

**CLEAR SPRING FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT
SIMPSONVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
	Projection	Projection	Projection	Projection	Projection
REVENUES					
Property Taxes	3,530,000	3,635,900	3,744,977	3,857,326	3,973,046
Interest Income	120,000	80,000	80,000	40,000	40,000
TOTAL REVENUES ALL SOURCES	3,650,000	3,715,900	3,824,977	3,897,326	4,013,046
EXPENDITURES					
Personnel Services:					
Salaries/Wages	1,932,034	2,456,867	2,702,553	2,972,809	3,270,090
Health Insurance	749,867	979,423	1,077,366	1,185,102	1,303,613
Retirement	381,912	487,225	535,948	589,542	648,497
Social Security Tax	145,043	184,917	203,409	223,750	246,125
Computer Expense	49,000	49,980	50,980	51,999	53,039
Gasoline/Diesel Fuel	33,000	33,660	34,333	35,020	35,720
Utilities	50,000	51,000	52,020	53,060	54,122
Radios and Pagers	5,000	5,100	5,202	5,306	5,412
Repairs and Maintenance	90,000	91,800	93,636	95,509	97,419
Small Equipment	57,000	58,140	59,303	60,489	61,699
Training	35,000	35,700	36,414	37,142	37,885
Uniforms	25,000	25,500	26,010	26,530	27,061
Membership Dues	500	510	520	531	541
Medical Supplies	15,000	15,300	15,606	15,918	16,236
Insurance - Liability	68,800	70,176	71,580	73,011	74,471
Insurance - Workers Comp	50,000	51,000	52,020	53,060	54,122
Professional Services	31,500	32,130	32,773	33,428	34,097
Miscellaneous	5,500	5,610	5,722	5,837	5,953
Capital Outlay	2,538,270	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	6,262,425	4,634,039	5,055,394	5,518,044	6,026,101
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(2,612,425)	(918,139)	(1,230,417)	(1,620,718)	(2,013,055)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of Year	5,281,801	2,669,376	1,751,237	520,820	(1,099,897)
FUND BALANCE, End of Year	2,669,376	1,751,237	520,820	(1,099,897)	(3,112,952)

*Capital Outlay consists of \$1.3 million for new fire engine, \$1.1 million for various other trianing and facility

A RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION FOR PURPOSES OF APPROVING AN INCREASE TO THE CURRENT MILLAGE LIMITATIONS ESTABLISHED FOR THE CLEAR SPRINGS FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT AND TO REQUEST GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INCREASE OF MILLAGE LIMITATION.

WHEREAS, the Clear Springs Fire and Rescue District is a special purpose tax district, located wholly within the County of Greenville; and

WHEREAS, the Clear Springs Fire and Rescue District (originally East Simpsonville Fire) was created in 1981 by Ordinance 879, as amended, of the Greenville County Council, which established the Clear Springs Board of Fire Control as the governing body for the Clear Springs Fire and Rescue District; and

WHEREAS, the Clear Springs Board of Fire Control is an appointed body authorized pursuant to Ordinance 879, as amended, to request of Greenville County Council an increase to ad valorem property tax millage for operations and maintenance, due to a reduction from the twenty-seven and five tenths (27.5) resulting from the County's 2025 countywide reassessment and the rollback millage calculation required by S.C. Code § 12-37-251(E); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clear Springs Board of Fire Control approves the increase of five (5) mills bringing the total millage for operations and maintenance to a total of twenty-eight and nine tenths (28.9) mills, which is an increase of five mills from last year's ad valorem property tax millage levy of twenty-three and nine tenths (23.9) after the countywide reassessment and the rollback millage calculation required by S.C. Code § 12-37-251(E).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clear Springs Board of Fire Control requests that Greenville County Council approve, by resolution, the increase in millage to twenty-eight and nine tenths (28.9) mills.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the millage increase authorized by this Resolution and effectuated pursuant to the provisions of Greenville County Council Ordinance 879, as amended, is effective beginning with tax year 2026-2027.

DONE IN MEETING THIS 16 DAY OF June, 2026.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Todd Milam".

Todd Milam, Chairman

Clear Springs Fire and Rescue Board of Commissioners