



Canebrake Fire Department
1810 Fairview Road
Fountain Inn, SC 29644
864-862-0128

July 29, 2026

Honorable Benton Blount
Chairman, County Council

Honorable Garey Collins
Vice Chairman, Finance Committee

Honorable Rick Bradley cc
District 26 Councilor

Greenville County Council
301 University Ridge, Suite 2400
Greenville, SC 29601

RE: Canebrake Fire District

Dear Chairman Blount and Councilor Collins:

The Canebrake Fire District was chartered by Greenville County Council in May of 1985. Canebrake Fire District is a Special Tax District that serves to provide emergency services to the citizens of that district. The funding is generated through taxes levied in the form of a millage collected by the Greenville County Tax Collector and paid directly to Canebrake Fire District to provide said services. Our current operating budget is approximately \$1.2 million dollars for the current fiscal year running from July 1st 2026 to June 30th, 2027.

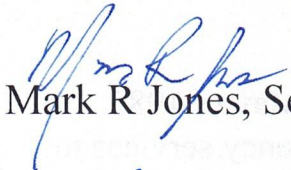
The District maintains a high state of readiness and training to ensure we meet a high standard for the fire service, and we are currently maintaining an ISO rating of 3, which we have maintained since July 01, 2017. Our District takes great pride in seeking the most economically

feasible means to provide equipment and training for the staff and employees to ensure we maintain a high state of readiness with the least financial impact on the citizens of our District. Our **FY 2026/2027** budget has been set at \$1,190,775. This is the minimum budget possible without any additional capital expenditure, raises, or staffing changes. Over the next couple of years, our District will need to replace all the Air Packs as they go out of age. We currently do not have the funds available to do that. Our current millage rate for our District is 37.80 mills. This covers our operating budget and debt service as it is taken directly from our operating budget.

The District Board of Commissioners makes every effort to assure the citizens of our District that we will provide the means for the best possible service by the most economical means. Due to the continued growth within our District (currently 5 subdivisions planned or in progress), Increased traffic on 418, Fairview and McKelvey Roads and the need for additional compensation for our First Responders, we are asking for a 4.9 mil increase which includes a three-year look-back as allowed under the current CPI and population increase. This is in accordance with the agreement voted on by the Board during our Annual Budget Workshop on 16 April 2026.

Please find attached the copy of the Fire District Millage Request Application, our 2025 Financial Audit Results, Five-Year Revenue and Expenditure Projection and Millage Resolution adopted by the Board. Thanks for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Chief Zac Terry or any member of the Board.

Kind Regards,



Mark R Jones, Secretary



John Snover, Chairman



Zac Terry, Fire Chief



Fire District Millage Request Application

Contact Information

District Name: Canebrake Fire District

Fire Chief's Name: Zac Terry

Mailing Address: 1810 Fairview Road

Contact Person's Name: Zac Terry

Address: 1810 Fairview Road

Phone: O 864-862-0128 / C 864-351-9514

State FDID Number : 23234

Email: Zterry@canebrakefd.com

City, State, Zip: Fountain Inn. SC 29644

Email: Zterry@canebrakefd.com

City, State, Zip: Fountain Inn. SC 29644

Fax: 864-862-0128

Financial Operations

- ☐ 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: **\$1,190,775**

Value of One Mill: **25.955**

FD Current Millage Rate: **37.80**

Value of Total Millage: **981,099**

Taxes collected last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) **\$1,017,021**

Supplemental non-tax income last fiscal year (grants, fundraisers, etc.) **\$64,756**

Staffing

Deployable:

Number of Paid Firefighters **4**

Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters **6**

Non-Deployable:

Number of Administrative Staff: **0**

Communications: **0**

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

Debt Service _____

(include annual amount of any/all payments on stations, apparatus, and equipment): We currently have \$1.5 million General Obligation Bond that was entered into in December 2018, with annual principal payments of \$64,000 to \$127,000 beginning 01 April 2020 through 01 April 2034; interest of 3.67%. The proceeds of this bond were used to construct the new station at 1810 Fairview Road, Fountain Inn, SC. This is being paid back directly from our operating budget without a millage rate to cover the cost of the bond debt service, approximately \$134,000 per year.

Operating Expenses _____

(include all normal operating expenses, including operational overhead and salary expenses) Operating expenses for the FY2025/2026 were \$1,116,635. This was \$34K over projection.

Reserve/Savings _____

(include any/all reserve and/or savings currently on hand for breakdowns, purchases or replacements) June 30th = \$613,607, but will drop to around \$300,000 in late September due to expenses outstripping income.

When did your district last request a millage increase? September 2022 _____

Was your request granted? Yes

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

Sincer our last millage increase we have been able to replace old tires and split rims on our older vehicles, equip our trucks with 5" feed lines in order to connect to the larger flow outlet on our available hydrants, purchase a new Ford F450 and outfit it as a Brush Truck, purchase a used tanker from Lexington Fire Department, staff all shifts with at least 3 employees for the crew safety and to better assure coverage to our district, add gear lockers on our bay, obtain the SC Fire Safe Community Designation from SC State Fire for the first time, repainted the exterior of all of our stations, relaunched our old headquarters as a new training facility in memory of Isaiah Kappenman, replaced the Chief's truck and repurposed his old truck as the "new" QRV vehicle, hired Greene Finney Cauley as our accounting firm, launched PORS retirement for our personnel. We also received a grant for a Cascade system to refill our SCBA tanks and purchased turnout gear for all of our employees.

Performance Data

ISO Rating:3

Year Rating Received: 2017

Population Served (daytime) 3600

Population Served (nighttime) 3800

Number of Households 1025

Number of Businesses

9

Total Number of Calls Last Year (fiscal year?) 554

Number of Structure Fires 18

Number of MVA's 44

Number of Medical Calls 326

Number of Brush Fires 32

Number of Vehicle Fires 1

Number of Public Service Calls 77

Number Mutual Aid Calls Sent 27

Number Mutual Aid Calls Rec'd 55

Number of Hazmat Calls 0

Number of Rescue Calls 39

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.

We have Colonial Pipeline that passes through part of our District. We have the new Kawonu Golf Club that will be opening in our district soon (Spring 2027). We do not know the extent of impact this will have. We currently do not have any high-rise buildings in our district that would require a ladder truck, but there are some 3 story hoses and the future of development in our district could change that. We do not have hydrants throughout our district, while some exist, we still are required to have tankers available to haul water. We have an old tanker that needs to be converted to a rescue truck, but we do not currently have funding to do so. We have requested a new tanker through the State Legislature, but it is currently stalled in the Budget process. We are hoping this grant will come through to allow us to keep the same level of service for years to come.

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

We have Mutual Aid agreements with Dunklin Fire District, South Greenville Fire District, Simpsonville Fire Department, Fountain Inn, Fire Department and Greenpond Fire District. We also render aid as needed into Laurens County and any other agencies as needed or requested by SC State Fire,

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

We want to convert 3 part-time positions to full-time positions. These shifts are filled by part-time employees from other departments, which work well in most cases, but as we saw during Hurricane Helene, these part-time employees were required by their full-time departments to fill a need at their home stations and could not be released to work for us. We had employees on duty for seven days straight! We also want to be prepared for the likelihood of staffing a second station in our district at some point in the future due to the growth in our district and the population that passes through every day on Fairview Road, McKelvey Road and Hiway 418. When we conducted our Budget Workshop this year it was apparent that we would not be able to convert the 3 positions from part-time to full-time. When we validated the Budget for FY2026/2027 even without changing anything, we would not be able to provide the same level of service and would likely have a negative impact on our ISO rating. We hope that we will be able to obtain enough funding to be able to give a salary/COLA adjustment to our staff.

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

We provide service to Fork Shoals Elementary School, Ralph Chandler Middle School, Fairview Presbyterian Church (Historic Building), Cedar Falls Baptist Church, Fork Shoals Baptist Church, Hillside Baptist Church and Pisgah United Methodist Church. We provide fire service to all these entities, plus educational training (fire prevention, fire drills, community fire programs) to the schools and medical response to all facilities. We also provide Fire Marshal Services. Cedar Falls Park, Greenville County Parks & Recreation, 95.12 Acres: Fire, medical first responder, swift water rescue

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.

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