

Goose Creek Island VFD
5036 Lowland Rd. Lowland, NC
Tel 252-229-5098
goosecreekislandvfd@gmail.com

MAY 30, 2017

Pamlico County Fire Marshal

202 Main St. Bayboro, NC 28515

The Goose Creek Island Volunteer Fire Department is humbly requesting an increase in funding. We have grown leaps and bounds since 2011 when Hurricane Irene destroyed everything we had. It was a blessing to receive the Fire Tax for our district a couple years back and also to receive the Hazard Mitigation Buyout Program to assist us with relocating and building a new building outside of the flood zone. We have been very studious with our funds and financing and are now experiencing the reality of meeting minimum requirements and maintaining standards. We currently have the remaining balance of our building financed for \$17,200 annually for the next 9 years. We have been utilizing the State Grant and it has allowed us to get all of our Protective Gear in compliance. We are currently in need of another Tanker truck as we have used "Hand me downs" for the last 20 years and are at a point where our current truck needs replacement. We also are in need of purchasing tires for at least 3 of the trucks with some ranging over 20 years old. The department recently passed it State Inspection without any issues and it is our goal to reduce the insurance rating within the fire district. Additional funding will allow us to move in the direction of improvement of insurance ratings and safety measures. We understand that we are the youngest department on the fire tax revenue program and we fill that a tax increase at this time will be problematic within our community. We would like to ask the Pamlico County Commissioners to consider an appropriation on top of the current \$6,966 we are already appropriated. Based off our current funding levels and our needs assessment, we kindly request an additional \$6,000 bringing the appropriation total to \$12,966 annually which will do what the original appropriation was designed for and offset the rising insurance costs we are experiencing annually. If this request is granted, it will greatly improve our capabilities and allow us to progress in the right direction to save our citizens hard earned money on their homeowners insurance. If there are any questions or further information needed, we will be more than glad to discuss our current situation with County Officials. We would like to thank you for considering our request and allowing us to present our concerns and issues at the last meeting.



Bobby Hacker, Chief

GOOSE CREEK ISLAND VFD

OLYMPIA VFD

394 Olympia Rd.
New Bern, NC 28560

Chief Jonathon Mills
(252) 635-6833 Dept.
olympiavfd@gmail.com
(252) 671-5255 Cell

May 30, 2017

Dear Pamlico County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Olympia Volunteer Fire Department, we are requesting an increase of an additional \$10,000.00 in the County Allotment. Due to increases in operating expenses, equipment/apparatus replacement mandates, and general NFPA requirements, we are in need of additional funding. This funding would allow the department to better meet the requirements set forth by NFPA. Also, in an effort to better serve our community and ease the burden of homeowner insurance costs, Olympia VFD is working towards lowering our ISO rating. This ISO rating process will require Olympia VFD to purchase additional equipment that we currently do not have or must replace. These are recurring expenses that Olympia VFD incurs. We request this funding to meet the goal of ensuring the safety of our volunteer members and providing the best service available to our community.

Breakdown:

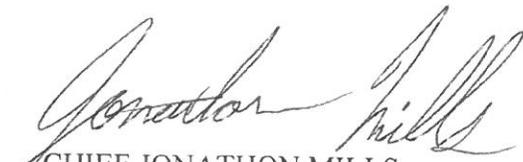
\$ 2,000.00 Annual Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Flow Test: NFPA 1852

\$ 1,000.00 Annual Hydraulic Extrication Service Test

\$ 4,000.00 Assist in Covering Annual Insurance Policy

\$ 2,500.00 Acquiring Additional Equipment Required to Lower ISO Rating Required by NCOSFM

\$ 500.00 CPA Fee for End of Year Financials and 990 Forms



CHIEF JONATHON MILLS



Grantsboro Silverhill V.F.D

P.O Box 5 Grantsboro NC, 28529

Ph. (252) 745-2222

suggs.daniel@yahoo.com

The Grantsboro Silverhill VFD is proud to protect the citizens of Grantsboro and of Pamlico County with exceptional service, however it has been facing severe issues over the past years. This has made it difficult to improve our service to citizens of Pamlico County.

Some Issues we are facing:

1. Increased Call Volume.
2. Volunteer Recruitment and Retention.
3. Increased training requirements.
4. Growing Community without revenue increases to cover it.
5. Equipment cost increasing.
6. Increasing cost of maintaining services.

Facts and Figures of GSVFD:

1. Department responded to 165 calls in 2016 up from 65 in 2006.
2. Increase in fuel and maintenance cost from all the additional use.
3. Equipment not meeting correct standards.
4. Building built in 1952 (65 years old).
5. Our newest Engine is a 2004 bough in February 2017.
6. Our airpacks have steel bottles (heavy) and are 15+ years old.
7. Our extrication tools are 35+ years old and need work.
8. Hwy 55-306 intersection up to 17,000 cars per day (DOT Counters).

Factors affecting GSVFD:

1. Buying equipment through state grants.
2. Applying for AFG grant, Walmart grant, Firehouse Sub etc.
3. Maintaining volunteers with training requirements.
4. Outdated equipment due to budget restraints.
5. Maintaining expected service levers.

Improvement Goals:

1. Lower ISO rating to save tax payers money on insurance.
2. Update trucks to current standards NFPA 1901.

3. Update airpacks to current standards and uniformity.
4. Update extrication equipment to improve quality or service.
5. Build new station to better house our trucks and serve as a place for fire prevention education.

How increase will help reach our goals:

1. Be able to use state grant to full potential.
2. Pay our debt down sooner.
3. Buy necessary equipment to lower ISO.
4. Start a replacement schedule on trucks.
5. Buy three airpacks per year.

Factors currently helping GSVFD:

1. We refinance our trucks to lower interest for shorter term.
2. Town of Grantsboro donated \$10,000 in 2016 and 2017.
3. \$10,000 in 2017 went to buying 2004 American La France Engine.

Grantsboro VFD is responsible for protecting the majority of commercial buildings in Pamlico, as well as being centrally located. This makes Grantsboro respond to calls covering Entire County.

Our current tax rate is at 0.055 we are asking to increase it to 0.065.



ARAPAHOE VOLUNTEER FIRE - RESCUE, INC.

8233 Hwy 306 South
Arapahoe, NC 28510
Phone (252) 249-1901
Fax (252) 249-2830

To: Tim Buck, Pamlico County Manager

Cc: Chris Murray, Fire Marshal / Bobby Hacker, Chair of Fire Chief Commission

Re: Tax Increase for Arapahoe Fire District

Please find the attached request and supporting documents from the Arapahoe Fire-Rescue, Inc. department for the upcoming fiscal year.

As outlined in the FY 17-18 Budget Package submitted by the Arapahoe Fire-Rescue, Inc. Department, we are requesting to seek an increase of .00077 cents on the hundred bringing our total tax rate to .0004/100. This request comes after identifying several items on our Needs Assessment that need to be addressed over the next few years. The members, officers, and board of directors at Arapahoe Fire-Rescue have been very tactful in spending and debt services over the past 5 years. We are currently working within a plan to replace outdated equipment that doesn't meet current standards. In the past 2 years we have expended our Capital Projects fund to cover much needed equipment and supplies that allowed us to achieve a lower Insurance Rating on an almost flawless performance for the Office of State Fire Marshal in March of 2017. We have identified that costs of services are trending at a rate that current funding cannot sustain. We are very proud of our accomplishments and are pressing on to continue to provide the Top Service we can while maintaining Insurance Ratings and meeting State and National Standards.

Below is the highlighted Debt Service Plan we are currently in with Local Government Federal Credit Union. It is our goal to pay some of these notes off early in order to assist with funding future projects with minimal impact to the District Tax Rate.

Building Loan: Maturity: 8/31/2036 Annual Payment: \$31,493.42 Int. Rate: 3.95 Fixed

Engine Loan: Maturity: 8/31/2028 Annual Payment: \$16,693.56 Int. Rate: 3.00 Fixed

Rescue Loan: Maturity: 8/31/2023 Annual Payment: \$11,745.60 Int. Rate: 2.50 Fixed

Squad Loan: Maturity: 8/31/2021 Annual Payment: \$5,669.46 Int. Rate: 2.25 Fixed

Tanker Loan: Maturity: 2/20/21 Annual Payment: \$11,745.84 Int. Rate: 2.50 Fixed

We are annually utilizing the NCOSFM State Grant to offset some of the cost associated with business. We are somewhat limited on what is allotted to the State Grant as it is a 50/50 matching grant and with rising cost of maintenance and services, we are not able to utilize to the fullest extent. The additional requested tax increase will allow us to maintain what we currently have and also provide for additional projects in the near future such as replacing a 1991 Fire Engine (2nd out /Reserve as required by ISO) and also replacing a 1989 Rescue Boat that previously served Pamlico County Rescue Squad. Arapahoe is currently the only Agency in Pamlico County providing Water Rescue and Heavy Rescue Services that span County Wide. We would like to continue these services, but sustainability at the current funding may inhibit that.



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We will be more than glad to discuss these issues with Local Government Officials if need be. We have been very blessed to accomplish what we have in the past 7 years. We are awaiting the official blessing of the State Fire Marshal and Insurance Services Organization with our new "District Wide" rating. We are confident that this new and improved rating will save home and business owners several hundred dollars a year on property insurance. It is a must that this agency now maintains this rating and the associated standards that apply to it. Again, we would like to thank the Pamlico County Fire Chief's Commission, the Pamlico County Manager, and the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners for considering this request.

Jeff Hochteil, Chief

Seth Brinson, President



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FIRE - RESCUE, INC.**

8233 Hwy 306 South
Arapahoe, NC 28510
Phone (252) 249-1901
Fax (252) 249-2830

Pamlico County Fire Marshal

Pamlico County Manager's Office

Re: Annual Budget Package

Enclosed you will find the annual budget submission for Arapahoe Fire-Rescue, Inc. As in the past, we have provided prior fiscal year documents, current fiscal year documents, current account statements, and prior year tax filings. We feel very confident in our finances, but do have some concerns over the next couple of years. Recently, the agency re-financed our Building, Engine, Tanker, Rescue, and Squad truck with Local Government Federal Credit Union. This move allowed us to have individual notes on each financed item instead of a blanket loan covering all. Also, this allowed us to drastically reduce the loan term from 20 years to each loan having a separate term. These documents are also attached within this package.

Over the past 7 years, we have made leaps and bounds in equipment improvements and State and National compliance requirements including a reduction in our Insurance Rating District wide which will be released in the next 90 days. We were very conservative in effort to build up a Capital Fund at which we have expended that last 2 fiscal years to outright purchase some needed and required items. In the prior fiscal year, we were able to secure all (New to Us) Scott SCBA Air Packs from our partner departments in Raleigh and Charlotte, NC. The relationship with these other agencies afforded us the ability to purchase 17 units less than a year old for around \$40,000. The original project cost new from the manufacturer was around \$112,000 which we could not afford. We were then able to assist Olympia Fire Department in acquiring our old units. In the current fiscal year, we were able to purchase a new Breathing Air compressor for \$32,000. We were also able to assist Vandemere Fire Department with acquiring our old compressor for their station. With the purchase of the new Breathing Air Compressor this year, we are compliant with the NFPA standards that came into effect when we purchased the Air Packs last year. We also allow other agencies to utilize our compressor with no cost to them. Last, in the current budget year we were also able to purchase existing equipment from Pamlico Co. Rescue Squad costing around \$9,000. This equipment supplements the current Rescue Truck we operate that often runs Countywide as it is the only of its kind in Pamlico County. These purchases and projects have cost around \$82,000 over the last two budget years and we dwindled our Cash on Hand down significantly.

With the trending rates of property valuation and tax collections, our revenues from Pamlico County are slightly growing annually. Originally the Pamlico County Commissioners approved our Fire District for a 0.035 cent on the hundred tax rate. The past 7 years, the tax rate has been the same (lowered) to 0.0323 and we have adapted and overcame deficits. As with anything, cost of services has continued to rise over the past 10 years and we have remained at a very small increase of revenue annually. Call volumes are up, costs are up, and volunteerism is down. In order for us to maintain the lowered insurance rating along with State and National requirements, we will in the future be requesting more revenue from the tax base of Pamlico County. We understand that everyone's budget is tight and no one wants to hear or see a tax increase, but survivability is our top priority. As most of us have learned



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in our lives, nothing is free. We will continue to not only serve the citizens of our Fire District, but also the citizens of Pamlico County and neighboring jurisdictions.

Respectfully,

Jeff Hochteil, Chief



Triangle Volunteer Fire Department
Station 17
Fire - EMS - Dive Team

Post Office Box 128, Bayboro, NC 28515
(252)745-5645

To Whom It May Concern,

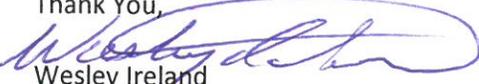
As discussed at the recent county budget meeting, Triangle Volunteer Fire Department, as well as the other fire departments in Pamlico County, is in serious need of increased revenue. Initially, Triangle had a tax rate of 3.5 but during the re-evaluation in 2012 that rate went to 3.0, which generates us (between Bayboro, Alliance, and Stonewall) roughly \$53,000.00 a year. This is just simply not enough to maintain our current debt, remain compliant with NFPA standards on equipment, as well as building maintenance on an aging building, insurance, workers comp, and everything else required.

We are asking for your consideration on a 1.5 cent increase to bring us to 4.5 cent. The reason for this is the fact that we have an engine still in service that is 30 years old that has to be replaced (the NFPA requires trucks to be retired at 25 years). Our 1st out engine is 17 years old and will be at the end of its life cycle very soon. We also have 12 air packs that are anywhere from 12 to 20+ years old that desperately need to be replaced as well. Our building is 34 years old and is in a constant state of repair. Not to mention all the other equipment needed, all required insurances, fuel, maintenance, and supplies.

As I'm sure most of you know, roughly about 1/3rd of the property value in our fire district is county or state government property and therefore not taxable. The increase we are asking for will generate us around \$27,000.00 additional revenue per year, which will allow us the ability to assume the additional debt required to purchase a new engine. FYI: the price of a new engine comparable to the one we purchased in 2000 for \$150,000.00 is now between \$280,000.00 and \$308,000.00.

Our current contracts state that the town of Bayboro's fire tax will be paid to us through the county at the rate levied by the board of commissioners, while Alliance and Stonewall both agree by contract to pay directly the amount levied by said board. If this increase is granted we will work with the towns anyway possible to make this as smooth as possible.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. This much needed increase (if granted) will definitely benefit our members by keeping us more safe and making us much more efficient at what we do. It will benefit our community and county overall by making us more reliable, self sufficient, and one day provide an even lower ISO rating for our district.

Thank You,

Wesley Ireland
Chief, TVFD

Reelsboro Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Inc.
Station 9
105 Holland Drive New Bern NC 28560
Telephone: 252-745-7870 Fax: 252-745-7870



To: Pamlico County Fire Marshal, Chris Murray

Re: Reelsboro Fire Department Funding

Reelsboro Fire Department would like to request an increase in funding to meet the demands that are being placed upon the department. We are currently in a position where we are the busiest department in Pamlico County averaging 35 calls for service per month in 2017. We are on track for another record year of over 300 calls this year. We feel the need to provide the best Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services in our community and are at a point where we are having to consider what services to cut in order to continue to operate. The calls for service are taxing not only on the equipment, but on the personnel also.

As you know, we lost a 1999 Pierce Fire Engine due to chassis issues that were found after the Western NC Wildfire deployment. Our insurance paid the truck off, but the current funding doesn't allow to purchase another truck. We currently have a 2012 Tanker that has proven to be a valuable piece of equipment as it is often called to all areas of Pamlico County due to the amount of water it hauls, a 1990 Tanker, and a 1992 Fire Engine that is reaching an age where it doesn't need to be a "First Out" engine. The amount of increase of calls over the last few years has really taken a toll on our equipment as we are wearing items out at a rate of 3:1 compared to some of the other departments in Pamlico County. We are on schedule to pay off our Brush Truck this year which will free some funding in the budget to put towards a new apparatus. We have also consolidated our 2012 Tanker and Building into a lower interest loan in effort to minimize the annual debt service. We are currently paying a note of around \$30,000 per year. We have seen a significant increase in maintenance and repair on our equipment along with wear and tear of our gear. Due to losing the 1999 Pierce Engine this year, we were not able to commit any funds to the NCOSFM State Grant. We are also looking at an increase in Insurance Costs when adding another truck to our fleet. As of now, we are not eligible to apply for a District Rating and Grading due to not having the required fire apparatus. It is our goal to achieve a Ratings and Grading in effort to lower the insurance rating and provide a cost reduction to our citizens.

This year alone, we are predicting expenditures in the area of \$36,000 on insurance, maintenance and repair, fuel/gas items on top of the \$30,000 note payment plus the annual operating costs of the business. One major milestone we have accomplished, is the addition of the Accounting Firm RSM McGladrey. These folks are now handling all of our finances along with our federal tax filings. This has added an addition \$5,000 cost to the current year budget as there was many items to be addressed for a full comprehensive snapshot of our funding and filings. We feel confident that we are making do with

what we have, but we are not able to progress to meet the State and National Standards and at the rate of Calls for Service we are growing, we will continue to fall further behind.

We would like to request an additional allotment of annual funds from Pamlico County totaling \$10,000 or a 1 cents on the hundred tax increase. We know that no one wants to pay any more taxes, but we also don't want to have to cut valuable services. We will work with the Fire Marshal's Office and Pamlico County Government Officials on this project and assist with anything that is needed or asked of us. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Dwayne Croom, Chief

5/26/2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwayne Croom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.