



Broad River Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

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April 18, 2017

The Board of Broad River Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department unanimously approved the following:

- Maintain the same current Mil Rate of 14.
- Rutherford County budget at a Mil Rate of 14 being the same as our residents.
- FY2018 budget as written and submitted by Chief Brent Hayner.

The decision to not lower the current Mil Rate of 14 to the county recommended revenue neutral of 13.8 was based on justifications which are listed below. We would also like to include a brief history of the department to provide a better understanding.

Prior to 2008 the department had no paid staff relying solely on volunteers who responded to approximately 80 calls each year, and had an average response time of 14 minutes. In 2008 one full-time position was added while maintaining one part-time position M-F daytime. In 2015 the department added a second full-time position while lowering the number of days' part-time staff are utilized. The department now responds to an average of 290 calls per year with an average 6-minute response time. By removing some of the burden placed on volunteers outside of responses such as apparatus checks, record keeping, equipment maintenance, etc. we have seen a higher volunteer response to alarms. Additionally, Broad River Fire & Rescue has been awarded over \$480,000 in grant funding since 2009 from state, federal, and local sources. We have found ways of cutting costs while staying committed to providing the best possible service to the residents we serve and our visitors. Broad River Fire & Rescue remained at a Mil Rate of 12 for a number of years despite decline in economy, cutting costs anywhere possible and all while providing a better service. It is important to note that our residents were hugely in support of the increase to 14 based on their knowledge of the challenges we face.

The following were decision factors used deciding rather to lower our current Mil Rate to revenue neutral or remain at the current 14. This is a .2 difference resulting in \$3,413.

- Employee(s) added to the department supported 401k.
- Rising costs of normal operating expenses.
- Three fire apparatus exceeding NFPA recommended life span with one being the first out engine at Shumont station. There is an existing replacement plan in place.
- Added expenses related to volunteer recruitment & retention. Volunteers and their willingness to respond to alarms is crucial in rural areas such as ours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Brent Hayner