

Buncombe County Government
 Summary of Budget Request



Budget Request and Justification	
Entity	<i>West Buncombe Fire Department</i>
Budget Request	<i>Increase Tax Rate _12 cents_ to _13.5 cents_ (Equals just over \$200,000) On a \$200,000 home owner would pay about \$30.00 more.</i>
Purpose of Request	<p><i>Describe how the increased funds will be utilized. To provide the following changes to services:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increase Staffing levels due to increased call volumes</i> • <i>Increase salaries for full & part time employees' to move more to a Living wage for the region.</i> • <i>New Sub Station being built (at a cost of 2.5 million)</i> • <i>Replace aging engine (at a cost of over half a million)</i> • <i>Ladder truck need within the next few years (at a cost of 1 million)</i>
Key Drivers for the Request	<p><i>Describe the drivers for this request</i></p> <p><i>Staffing and Capital expenders This has been recognized gap in our operations for over a decade due to the lack of funding opportunities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Response last year we answered 2851 calls for service</i> • <i>Population growth of our community is almost 17,000</i> • <i>¼ of calls for service occurred simultaneously (2 or more at the same time)</i> • <i>Length of calls (CPR scene time, MVAs, extended response of SHP& other agencies)</i> • <i>Manpower requirements on-scene due to size & construction structures</i> • <i>Increase of mutual aid requests</i> • <i>The inability to fill shifts with part-time personnel</i> • <i>NC OSFM Ratings & Inspection requirements for personnel & stations</i>
Communication	<p><i>How the Department will discuss the changes with the Community during the following meetings:</i></p> <p><i>Through community forum to be scheduled in this month along with ongoing communications with county staff on financial and budget items.</i></p>