

Buncombe County Government
 Summary of Budget Request



Budget Request and Justification	
Entity	<i>Barnardsville Volunteer Fire Department</i>
Budget Request	<i>Increase Tax Rate <u>\$.16/\$100</u> to <u>\$.20/\$100</u></i>
Purpose of Request	<p><i>We are requesting these funds so that we may be able to change our payroll methods to align more with other agencies in Buncombe county that provides ambulance service, and that method change will increase our payroll line by \$48,537.</i></p> <p><i>We also want to give our employees a better retirement plan. We currently offer only \$100 per month and are wanting to change that to a 6% match to the employee. This increase change would be an additional \$20,000 initially.</i></p> <p><i>We also have increased our Capitol Purchase Equipment budget by \$28,000. This is to purchase compliant PPE (turnout gear) and equipment for our firefighters.</i></p> <p><i>We have also put one cent of this request into our reserve fund, to ensure that we keep a level of reserves, suitable to operate without fear of an unforeseen incident of putting us in a place that would compromise our operating budget.</i></p> <p><i>We have an aging Fire Station that needs a lot of maintenance that we simply haven't had the funds to do over the last several years. We have just barely had enough funds to operate on for the last 30 years</i></p> <p><i>We struggle to maintain a fleet of apparatus that is NFPA compliant and this increase allows us to put some funds into our vehicle replacement fund to better prepare for this</i></p>



Key Drivers for the Request

We here at Barnardsville Vol Fire Department have chosen to provide a very high level of services to our citizens. We have been a fire department for 60 years and for the past 54 years have elected to operate an Ambulance to take care of our community. We are now operating at the Paramedic level and they expect us to maintain this service. Being able to get and retain Paramedics in a very competitive occupation requires that we offer pay and benefits that will make them want to stay with us.

We are also looking to have to purchase a new ambulance in the next couple of years

We also have a tanker and rescue truck that are over 30 years old that need replacing

The operations ratio numbers that were provided to us by Buncombe County, shows that for 2016 we were at a 1.00 meaning that we spent exactly what we brought in and for 2017 we were at 0.92, meaning we had a revenue shortfall. We cannot continue down this trend to remain financially stable.

Communication

All of our Board meetings and budget workshops are always open to the public as well as the County Commissioners meetings for citizens to ask questions and get answers.

We also have facebook, website, local newsletter

The fire chief is available during normal business hours and email or by phone to answer any questions and concerns as well as any or our Board of Director members