

Buncombe County Government
 Summary of Budget Request



Budget Request and Justification	
Entity	<i>Broad River Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department</i>
Budget Request	<i>Increase Tax Rate 14 to 16</i>
Purpose of Request	<p><i>Describe how the increased funds will be utilized.</i></p> <p><i>To provide the following changes to services:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increased times station will be staffed. Currently M-F 8-4</i> <p><i>To fund the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New Engine replacing one which is 1988 model straight drive.</i> • <i>New sub-station currently being planned with expected in service Spring 2019.</i> • <i>Addition & Replacement of structural firefighting gear. Current gear exceeding 9 years most exceeds 11.</i> • <i>Completing mobile radio installations in apparatus, adding handhelds to 6 Firefighter/EMT who currently do not have one.</i> • <i>Increase in all salaries with 3 year plan to have all positions meeting average.</i>
Key Drivers for the Request	<p><i>For the past 8 years we have actively pursued grant funding and been awarded nearly \$1 million dollars with focus being to get equipment and apparatus up to current standards. In 2008 our 8-10 year goal was to lower our insurance rating from a class 9 to minimum class 6. We have just requested a rating inspection likely to be done in the early summer of 2019. We cover over 110 square miles with two stations leaving a large percentage of homeowners out of our 6 mile range, some exceeding 7 miles. These residents would not currently benefit from a lower rating. Knowing this we have secured property towards the north end of our district and are working with contractors for a single bay station. This addition will put 99% of our residents within 5 miles of one of the three stations and provide a very substantial insurance premium relief to all taxpayers. The savings on insurance far out weighs even the requested Mil Rate. By recently adding an Engine it provided us with the equipment needed to place a new sub-station into service. Over the past 18 months we have risen in an average of 20 volunteers to our current 32. All of these are in need of gear, uniforms, radios, etc. The cost of outfitting a volunteer is not cheap but far less than adding full time salaried positions.</i></p>



Communication

How the Department will discuss the changes with the Community during the following meetings:

We have annual meetings with a large portion of our community attending and being well informed of our needs. Being a small rural community has the benefit of most residents either actively involved in the fire department or having relatives who are. Members have discussed needs and our plans with area residents continuously over the past few years hoping to keep them not only well informed but encouraged to participate. To date we feel strongly that we have the majority of our residents support. The department will also be issuing an E-Newsletter to our residents explaining more in depth our plans, goals, needs, and how we will succeed providing them better services while saving over 20% on annual premiums.