

Buncombe County Government

Fire District Tax Rate Requests

FY20 Summary

Revised: 6/7/2019



Summary of Fire District Tax Rate Requests

This table presents a summary of requested increases, financial metrics and staff recommendations. This table only includes Fire Districts requesting tax rate increases and was revised June 7, 2019 to remove the Upper Hominy Fire District which is no longer seeking a tax rate increase.

District	Fire District Requested Rate	Purpose of Request	Operations Ratio ¹	Reserve Ratio ²	Staff Recommended Rate	Staff Notes
Enka	9.00 to 10.50; 1.50 cents; \$398K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Personnel (6) (\$398K) 	1.18 <i>(revenues exceed expenditures)</i>	1.57 <i>(approximately 1.5 years)</i>	10.50; 1.50 cents; \$398K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original request reduced by 1.5 cents. Intends to request additional 1.5 cents with FY21 budget. Current request is for staffing a substation with estimated completion date of July 2020. Staff believe this request may be somewhat early since sub-station has not been completed, but recognize need to identify and train staff prior to opening.
Fairview	11.50 to 14.50; 3.00 cents; \$544K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing: Increase current staff to NC State Average (\$38k); Hire 9 additional Firefighters to meet state and National requirements (\$388k) Equipment: Apparatus Replacement (\$150k) 	1.02 <i>(revenues slightly exceed expenditures)</i>	0.16 <i>(approximately 2 months)</i>	14.50; 3.00 cents; \$544K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original request reduced by 1.0 cent. Staff believe that additional personnel is needed in the currently under-staffed fire district. This equates to ~2.00 out of the 3.00 cent request. Staff believe that the additional 1.00 cent is needed to fund ongoing capital equipment replacement needs.
French Broad	15.00 to 17.00; 2.00 cents; \$56K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing: Increase Pay to State average and retain qualified employees (\$56k) 	1.04 <i>(revenues slightly exceed expenditures)</i>	1.03 <i>(approximately 1 year)</i>	17.00; 2.00 cents; \$56K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff believe that this request meets the needs of the district and is required to bring employees up to the State average.
Riceville	12.00 to 14.50; 2.50 cents; \$183K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing: Increase existing staff to living wage (\$80k), additional staffing (\$96k) Equipment: For new staff (\$8.5k) 	0.98 <i>(revenues nearly equal expenditures)</i>	0.34 <i>(approximately 4 months)</i>	14.50; 2.50 cents; \$183K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff believe that this request meets the needs of the district and is required to bring employees up to the State average.
West Buncombe	13.00 to 14.00; 1.00 cent; \$142K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing: 3 new supervisors for new substation (\$142K) 	1.20 <i>(revenues exceed expenditures)</i>	1.54 <i>(approximately 1.5 years)</i>	14.00; 1.00 cent; \$142K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff believe that this request meets the needs of the district and is required to bring employees up to the State average.

Notes:

1. The operations revenue compares revenues and expenditures. A ratio greater than 1.00 means that revenues exceed expenses.

2. The "reserve ratio" compares current assets (i.e., cash) to expenditures. A ratio of 1.00 equals approximately 1 year of reserves. Reserves are a planning tool for fire districts and can be used to finance large expenditures (e.g., apparatus, facilities).