



FY26 Service Delivery Option for Volunteer Fire Districts (VFD)

BOCC Public Policy Workshop

April 22, 2025

Presentation Outline

- Funding history of VFDs
- Tax Rate Calculation
- VFD Requests
- Funding Option



VFD Funding History

- **Pre-FY2012 – Each VFD granted \$80k**
- FY2012-18 – Grant amounts established based on requests and service areas
- FY2020– Contract amounts adjusted to increase hourly rate from \$13 to \$15 per hour and \$50k per station capital funding
- FY2022 – Increased capital to \$85k per station, funding for 3FF per station and capital funding for Steele Creek Station 3
- FY2023 - Standardized at \$956,960 per station – funding for 4FF per station.
- FY2023 - Standardized at \$17/hr for 3 FF and Chief at \$20/hr.
- FY2024 - Standardized at \$20/hr for 3 FF and Chief at \$24/hr, increased capital include first responder (MEDIC) funding allowance – typically **\$1,150,840** per VFD.
- FY2025 – Additional \$100k for inflation and capital – typically **\$1,250,840** per VFD.



Tax Rate

ETJ	FY16	FY17	FY18-19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Charlotte	6¢	7¢	8¢	6.67¢	7.5¢	8.0¢	10.15¢	8.76¢	8.76¢
Cornelius	5¢	5.7¢	5.7¢	3.62¢	6.12¢	6.12¢	6.12¢	4.53¢	4.53¢
Davidson	6¢	5.5¢	8.5¢	6.50¢	8.90¢	8.90¢	8.90¢	7.08¢	7.08¢
Huntersville	5¢	5¢	5¢	4.10¢	4.56¢	5.80¢	6.63¢	6.53¢	8.95¢
Mint Hill	7¢	8¢	8¢	7¢	7¢	7.50¢	7.50¢	6¢	6¢



Charlotte District

Approved FY25 Funding

Standardized	Adopted FY24	Additional Allowance	Approved FY25	Change from FY24 to FY25
Huntersville & Rural	\$1,100,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 1,175,000	\$ 75,000
Cooks	\$1,150,840	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,250,840	\$ 100,000
Robinson	\$1,150,840	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,250,840	\$ 100,000
Steele Creek	\$4,448,532	\$ 300,000	\$ 4,748,532	\$ 300,000
Carolina	\$1,150,840	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,250,840	\$ 100,000
West Meck	\$1,700,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 100,000
Long Creek	\$1,150,840	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,250,840	\$ 100,000
Total	\$ 11,841,892	\$ 875,000	\$ 12,726,892	\$ 875,000



Charlotte District VFDs

- Carolina Volunteer Fire Department – 1 Station
- Cooks Volunteer Fire Department – 1 Station
- Charlotte Rural (City of Charlotte)
- Huntersville Volunteer Fire Department
- Long Creek Volunteer Fire Department – 1 Station
- Robinson Volunteer Fire Department – 1 Station
- Steele Creek Volunteer Fire Department – 3 Stations*
- West Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Department – 2 Units



Response Categories

- 52C-Alarm-Carbon Monoxide
- 52F-Alarm-FIRE
- 53-Citizen Assist/Service Call *(Routine)*
- 55-Electrical Hazard
- 56-Elevator/Escalator Rescue
- 59-Fuel Spill - Routine
- 60-Gas Leak INSIDE
- 60-Gas Leak OUTSIDE
- 63-Lightning STRUCTURE
- 64-Marine Fire

- 65-Mutual Aid/Assist
- 66-Odor (Strange/Unknown) *(Routine)*
- 67-Outside Fire
- 67-Outside Fire Multi
- 68-Smoke Investigate(Outside) *(Routine)*
- 69-Structure Fire
- 72-Water Rescue
- 73-Watercraft in Distress
- 77- Motor Vehicle Collision



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FY26 VFD Funding



Challenges

- Staffing and response configurations continue to be a challenge
- Voluntary annexations continue to reduce taxable area
- State Audit compliance concerns



State Notification

- **Failure to meet the minimum requirements** for a certified department will lead to a change in the rating classification of the department and the fire district(s) it serves to a Class 10 rating.
- Your department currently holds a Class 4/9E rating.
- If this rating classification were implemented, the change to a Class 10 would affect **all property insurance premium calculations** for residential occupancy insured under Homeowner policies and other special schedule surveyed property.



Charlotte District

FY26 Requests – Salaries, Operational & Capital

Departments	FY26 Budget Request	FY25 Allocation	Difference
Huntersville & Rural	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 1,175,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Cooks	\$ 1,378,000.00	\$ 1,250,840.00	\$ 127,160.00
Robinson	\$ 1,286,800.00	\$ 1,250,840.00	\$ 35,960.00
Steele Creek	\$ 5,144,050.00	\$ 4,748,532.00	\$ 395,518.00
Carolina	\$ 1,570,000.00	\$ 1,250,840.00	\$ 319,160.00
West Meck	\$ 1,799,412.00	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ (588.00)
Long Creek	\$ 1,414,880.04	\$ 1,250,840.00	\$ 164,040.04
County FMO	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00
Total	\$ 13,993,142.04	\$ 12,726,892.00	\$ 1,266,250.04



Tax Values & Revenue Estimates – FY26

FPSD	FY 2025 Estimated Value	FY24 Tax Rate	Collection Rate	2025 Estimate Revenue
Charlotte	\$ 15,101,148,328	8.76	99%	\$ 13,096,323

Note: Estimated value includes Real Estate and Personal Property such as cars etc.



Tax Rate Comparison

ETJ	FY16	FY17	FY18-19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Charlotte	6¢	7¢	8¢	6.67¢	7.5¢	8.0¢	10.15¢	8.76¢	8.76¢	9.62¢*
Cornelius	5¢	5.7¢	5.7¢	3.62¢	6.12¢	6.12¢	6.12¢	4.53¢	4.53¢	4.53¢
Davidson	6¢	5.5¢	8.5¢	6.50¢	8.90¢	8.90¢	8.90¢	7.08¢	7.08¢	7.60¢
Huntersville	5¢	5¢	5¢	4.10¢	4.56¢	5.80¢	6.63¢	6.53¢	8.95¢	9.25¢
Mint Hill	7¢	8¢	8¢	7¢	7¢	7.50¢	7.50¢	6¢	6¢	6.50¢



Considerations

- Continue staffing at four (4) personnel per station
- Full funding of capital and operation of Steele Creek Station 3
- Sustain rate of \$20/hr for 3 FF and Chief at \$24/hr
- Continue allocation to account for MEDIC related supply expenses
- Require in-station presence of four FFs for response



Additional Considerations for FY26

- Fund one **Senior Deputy Fire Marshal** (reclassified from a vacant code enforcement position) to manage contract and performance obligations
- Fund Fire Marshal educator (\$100k) from the Fire District tax
- Supplement approximately \$55k from fund balance for remaining appropriation in lieu of tax rate increase



Charlotte District

FY26 Funding Proposal

Standardized	Adopted FY25	Total Proposed FY26	Change from FY25 to FY26
Huntersville & Rural	\$ 1,175,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 25,000
Cooks	\$ 1,250,840	\$ 1,250,840	
Robinson	\$ 1,250,840	\$ 1,250,840	
Steele Creek	\$ 4,748,532	\$ 4,748,532	
Carolina	\$ 1,250,840	\$ 1,250,840	
West Meck	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000	
Long Creek	\$ 1,250,840	\$ 1,350,840	\$ 100,000*
County FMO		\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Total	\$ 12,726,892	\$ 13,051,892	\$ 325,000



Recommended Tax Rate

ETJ	FY16	FY17	FY18-19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Charlotte	6¢	7¢	8¢	6.67¢	7.5¢	8.0¢	10.15¢	8.76¢	8.76¢	8.76¢
Cornelius	5¢	5.7¢	5.7¢	3.62¢	6.12¢	6.12¢	6.12¢	4.53¢	4.53¢	4.53¢
Davidson	6¢	5.5¢	8.5¢	6.50¢	8.90¢	8.90¢	8.90¢	7.08¢	7.08¢	7.60¢
Huntersville	5¢	5¢	5¢	4.10¢	4.56¢	5.80¢	6.63¢	6.53¢	8.95¢	9.25¢
Mint Hill	7¢	8¢	8¢	7¢	7¢	7.50¢	7.50¢	6¢	6¢	6.50¢



Questions?

