



BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2020 Fire Tax District Proposal

BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Why The Fire Tax District

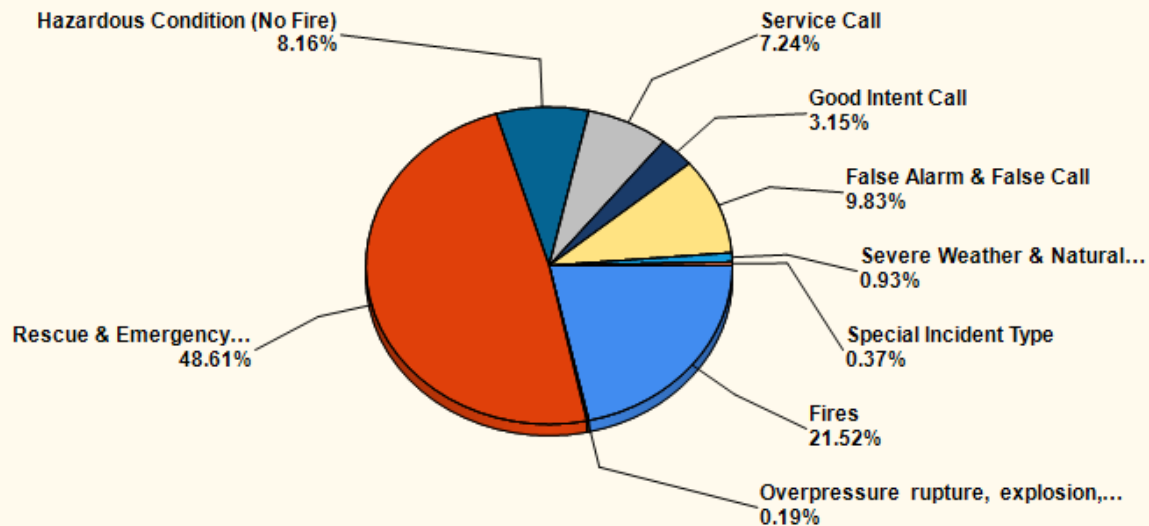


- Operation cost increasing
- Increase in Call Volume (11% past 5 years)
- Daytime Staffing Issues (7am - 6pm)
- Life Safety Equipment Replacement
- Improve ISO Rating
 - Quicker Response Times
 - Adequate Staffing and Training
 - Saving on homeowner's insurance
- Improves Life and Property Safety
- Maintain and Improves Levels of Service





Blacksburg Fire Departments Fire Response Incident Breakdown



TOTAL INCIDENT BREAKDOWN 2019

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	125	21.52%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	5	0.19%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	375	48.61%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	44	8.16%
Service Call	53	7.24%
Good Intent Call	44	3.15%
False Alarm & False Call	79	9.83%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	5	0.93%
Special Incident Type	11	0.37%
TOTAL	741	100.00%

BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

- BUSIEST VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IN CHEROKEE COUNTY

Blacksburg Fire Departments General Information



WHAT DOES IT COST

Gloves = \$130

Flash Hood = \$130

Helmet = \$795

Boots = \$600

Radio = \$500

Pagers = \$500

Air Pack = \$8,500

Turnout Gear

Total = \$11,155



Blacksburg Fire Departments Mutual Aid Assistance



Grassy Pond FD
Mutual Aid Fire Response



Cherokee Creek
Commercial Fire / Statewide
Immobilization



Gaffney City
Commercial Structure Fire

“ALWAYS” PROVIDING FIRE PROTECTION AND TRAINING THROUGHOUT CHEROKEE COUNTY
“Providing Mutual Aid to over 15 Fire Departments”

Blacksburg Fire Departments Accomplishments & Goals



Grant Funding

- Successfully wrote and received over \$250K from AFG grant
 - 35 Scott Air Pack (SCBA)
 - SCBA Pack = \$7,500
 - Cylinder = \$1,000
 - Face Piece = \$350
- Received \$10,000 Communication grant from SC Forestry Commission



Blacksburg Fire Department 2020 Plans and Expectations



- Creating Fire Tax Districts
 - In Progress
- Provide 24 Hours Fire Protection
- Safer Fire Apparatus for firefighters
- Lower ISO Rating for community
- Capital Purchase Rescue Engine



BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

"Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance"

104 E. Cherokee St. Blacksburg SC, 29702

Donovan Ford – Fire Chief – donovanford@blacksburgfire.com

Phone: 864-812-2685

WWW.BLACKSBURGFIREFIRE.COM



BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT INTENT & PURPOSE

The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department has an annual county budget of \$46,500 in expenses, but it receives \$0.00 of its operating budget income from fire property taxes. There has never been an increase in the rate of property taxes since the District's formation in the late 1900's. Since then there have been significant increases in insurance costs, fuel costs, life safety equipment, maintenance expenses, and operations cost. The District has been relying on donations to cover the difference between its annual expenses and its limited revenues. It is no longer feasible to rely on these sources as the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department's Board Members has determined that it is necessary to impose a Fire Tax on all of the landowners within the Fire District to produce enough revenue to meet the district's expenses. The proposed Fire Tax upon landowners within the Fire District would be at the rate of 15 Mills (\$0.015 or 1.5 Cents Per \$100.00) within the Fire Protection District. This tax would be collected by the Cherokee County Tax Collector to be included upon the annual property tax bills to landowners, starting _____.

The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department has provided effective, low cost public safety services to the residents, property owners and businesses within the district for over 130 years, while depending on volunteer firefighters to provide outstanding fire protection services. The modest Fire Tax being proposed will ensure the continued viability of this district at a low cost, high benefit for everyone within the fire district.



BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
"Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance"
104 E. Cherokee St. Blacksburg SC, 29702
Donovan Ford - Fire Chief
Phone: 864-839-6061 Email: donovanford@blacksburgfire.com
WWW.BLACKSBURGFIRE.COM



A PUBLIC QUESTION:

"TO LEVY A FIRE TAX TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES"

Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department Fire District:

SHALL the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department levy a Fire Tax at a rate not to exceed 15 Mills (\$0.015 or 1.5 cents per \$100.00) of the value of all taxable property within the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire District? This proposal would be used for Life Safety Equipment, Maintenance and Operations, Staffing Personnel, and Repairing Fire District's Infrastructure to enhance the current level of fire protection services to residents throughout Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department Fire District to avoid a significant reduction in the level of services presently being provided.

Blacksburg Fire Department Fire Tax District Information



2020 Fire Tax District

Price of a Fire Tax District

- Blacksburg Fire Department is seeking a Fire Tax District.
 - 15 Mills (\$0.015, or 1.5 cent per \$100)



Blacksburg Fire Department Fire Tax District Information



Fire Tax District figures and General Information

County Petition Needed = 10% of 660 = 66

Votes needed to pass = 51% of 660 = 336

Example:

Home Value = \$50,000
Percentage = 4% Millage Rate = 15Mills
= \$50,000 x 0.04% x 0.015 = \$30 Per Year

Blacksburg Fire Department Fire Tax District Information



Benefits & Advantages

- Improved life and property safety
- Lower ISO rating, therefore saving homeowners hundreds in homeowners insurance.
- Improve daytime staffing of qualified firefighters
- Replacement of aged and out of date life safety equipment
- Quicker and efficient response times



Blacksburg Fire Department

Methods of Advertising



- Social Media
 - Facebook, Instagram
- Website
 - www.blacksburgfire.com
- Newspapers
 - Gaffney Ledger, Spartanburg
 - Shelby Shopper, etc.
- Creating a formal Video
- News Media
 - Local and Outsource Outlets
- Mailing out information
- Churches and Community Events
- Door to Door
- US Postal Service
- Signage and Banners



BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 141 BLACKSBURG SC, 29702

Phone: 864-839-6061 Fire Chief Phone: 864-812-2685

WWW.BLACKSBURGFIRE.COM

Dear Residence, Supporters, and Citizens,

The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the generous support our community has given to their volunteer fire department over the years. The members of Blacksburg VFD and its board of directors have found that it is critical to seek a fire tax district in order to maintain and improve emergency services throughout the department's response area. With rising operating cost, aging Life Safety Equipment, and stricter NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) Regulations has demanded more funding to operate fire departments nations wide and your support plays a vital role in the ongoing effort for your Volunteer Firefighters to provide the fastest, most reliable fire protection and medical services you depend on.

Since 1889, The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department was organized to serve the residents and businesses of Blacksburg SC. With a growing residential and industrial population comes with larger area of responsibility and we are always in service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. There is no question, we are in very difficult economic times and nevertheless, firefighting and emergency services on a 24/7 basis is a very expensive business. While allocations from the Town of Blacksburg and Cherokee County covers portion of our expenses, creating a Fire Tax District will provide great benefits for the citizens of Blacksburg SC in multiple ways.

As Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department has recently overcome many obstacles while still providing the greatest fire service protection possible, we still face challenges and disadvantages as the driving cost of emergency services increase yearly. From staffing, training, funding, recruitment and retention, sacrifices are made daily to ensure fire service protection is provided to the citizens of Blacksburg.

We are dependent on the response and generosity of residents like you. Your financial support is what gives our Volunteers the ability to keep responding every day. Within the packet provided you will find document that will provide a clearer point of view and explanation of what the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department is attempting to achieve. Therefore, show your support and vote Tuesday August 11, 2020 to help establish a fire tax district within your area. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**TO SUPPORT THE FIRE TAX
VOTE ON AUGUST 11, 2020!**

CONTACT US AT: chief@blacksburgfire.com // 864-839-6061// CHIEF DONOVAN FORD 864-812-2688



BLACKSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department mission is to provide superior fire protection for its community. With “Life Safety” being our top priority, the proposed Fire Tax District intention is to improve the quality of services in which we provide to our community by providing 24-hour staffing, adequate staffing for fire related incidents, and upgrading/improving life safety equipment needs. Responding to over 700 emergency calls in 2019, the need for adequate equipment and staffing is ever so paramount. We hope that this document will provide you with an understanding of the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Departments mission and how we intend to improve our Fire Protection Services for the community.



FIRE PROTECTION

Organized in 1889, The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department has provided ***SUPERIOR*** Fire Service Protection for over 130 Years. Strategically located in the core of Blacksburg, we are composed of 35 well trained volunteers that provides the best fire protection for our community and surrounding areas. With an *Insurance Service Organization Rating (ISO) of a Class 3 (SCALE of 1-10, 1 being the best)*, we intend to uphold great standards for our community by creating a Fire Tax District. This will be accomplished by providing adequate staffing for all Fire and Medical emergencies 24 hours a day.

The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department provides *Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Basic and Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials Mitigation, Fire Prevention, Fire Inspections and Investigations, Public Education, and Mutual Aid Responses not only to the City of Blacksburg, but neighboring Counties and State agencies as well.* Blacksburg Fire Department is consistently working to achieve and maintaining the highest level of professionalism on behalf of those we serve. Therefore, on ***August 11, 2020***, The Blacksburg Volunteer needs your vote to help create the Blacksburg Fire Protection Fire Tax District.

FIRE TAX DISTRICT BENEFITS

- *IMPROVED* Life and Property Safety
- *Lower ISO Rating*, Thereby Potentially Saving Homeowners Hundreds of Dollars in Homeowners Insurance.
- *Improve Daytime Staffing* of Qualified Firefighters
- *Replacement of Aged and Out of Date Life Safety Equipment*
- Quicker and Efficient Response Times
- *AGGRESSIVE FIREGROUND TACTICS* and Training Program Methods
- *Effective Policies, Procedures, And Guidelines for Safer Operation Standards*
- Adequate Apparatus and Rescue Equipment
- *“High Level of Professionalism”* from Fire Department Members
- Specialized Equipment: Extrication, Rope Ops, & Hazmat Operations

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- *UNSTABLE FUNDING*
- *INADEQUATE DAYTIME STAFFING*
- *REPLACEMENT OF LIFE SAFETY EQUIPMENT (PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, APPARATUS)*
- *INCENTIVE/RETENTION PROGRAM*
- *NO TRAINING FACILITIES/FIRE TRAINING GROUNDS*
- *BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS*

WHAT'S THE COST?

Blacksburg Fire Department is seeking what is termed as “**15 Mills.**” This simply means that the tax rate is \$0.015, or 1.5 cent per \$100. The table below will provide estimated examples:

HOW TO CALCULATE

EXAMPLE

Home Value = \$50,000

Percentage = 4% Millage Rate = 15Mills

= \$50,000 x 0.04% x 0.015 = \$30 Per Year

<u>Home Value</u>	<u>Taxes Per Year</u>
\$20,000.00	\$12.00
\$30,000.00	\$18.00
\$40,000.00	\$24.00
\$50,000.00	\$30.00
\$60,000.00	\$36.00
\$70,000.00	\$42.00
\$80,000.00	\$48.00
\$90,000.00	\$54.00
\$100,000.00	\$60.00
\$120,000.00	\$72.00
\$140,000.00	\$84.00
\$160,000.00	\$96.00
\$180,000.00	\$108.00
\$200,000.00	\$120.00
\$220,000.00	\$132.00
\$240,000.00	\$144.00
\$260,000.00	\$156.00
\$280,000.00	\$168.00
\$300,000.00	\$180.00
\$400,000.00	\$240.00
\$500,000.00	\$300.00

Operational Cost



Outfitting Single Firefighter:

Gloves = \$130

Flash Hood = \$130

Helmet = \$795

Boots = \$600

Radio = \$500

Pagers = \$500

Air Pack = \$8,500

Turnout Gear = \$4,000

Total = \$15,155

Essential Life Safety Equipment

JAWS OF LIFE \$32,000 Per Set

Rescue Equipment = \$12,000

Thermal Imaging Cameras = \$6,000 Per

***GAS Meters = \$1,500 (calibrate monthly)**

***Truck Maintenance & Repairs = \$20,000**

Fire Hose Per Truck = \$10,000

Hazmat Materials = \$5,000

Outfitting One Fire Apparatus = \$120,000

Unexpected Disasters = \$5,000 (COVID-19)

Starred items are reoccurring annually cost and can fluctuate frequently

Save The Dates

April 2020

- 04/04 – Petition Signing for Blacksburg City Limits
- 04/11 – Petition Signing for Blacksburg County Limits
- 04/14 – Town of Blacksburg Council Meeting (Approval)

May 2020

- 05/01 – Posting of Tax District Video
- 05/04 – Cherokee County Council Meeting (Approval) for County Fire Tax District
- 05/14 – Public In-House Information Session @ Blacksburg Fire Dept. starting at 6:00pm

June 2020

- 06/11 - Public In-House Information Session @ Blacksburg Fire Dept. starting at 6:00pm

July 2020

- 07/09 - Public In-House Information Session @ Blacksburg Fire Dept.

August 2020

- 08/11 – Voting day for Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department Tax District

Contact Information

WWW.BLACKSBURGFIREFIRE.COM

Email: Chief@Blacksburgfire.com

FIRE CHIEF Phone: (864) 812-2685

Fire Dept. Phone: (864) 839-6061

Also Visit our Facebook Page, Webpage, and Local Media for updates

BLACKSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT TAX DISTRICT FACTS



Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department Fire Tax District Facts

When: August 11, 2020

Location: At Your Voting Location

**For More Information
Please Contact**

Fire Chief: Donovan Ford

Cell Phone: (864) 812-2685

Email:

donovanford@blacksburgfire.com

"The mission of the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department is to preserve lives and property in our community by providing life safety, emergency services and educational programs while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and care."

DID YOU KNOW ?

- The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department has provided fire and emergency services over 130 years
- The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department provides mutual aid assistance to over 15 fire departments.
- Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department is one of three fire department without a Fire Tax District.
- Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department is the busiest all volunteer fire department in Cherokee County.
- Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department responds to over 700 emergency calls per year and increasing.
- Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department is all volunteer and no staffing.

WE HAVE
LESS THAN 6 MINUTES



Having adequate resources and manpower to keep times below 6 minutes is critical for public safety.



A HOUSE FIRE WILL
DOUBLE
IN SIZE EVERY 30-60 SECONDS

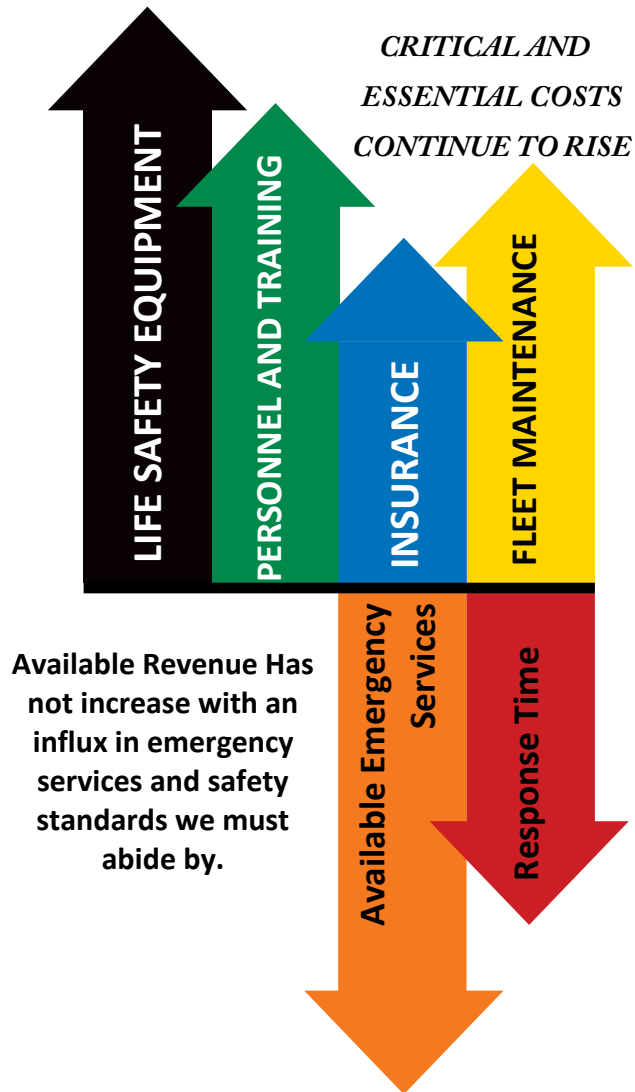
Fire doubles in size every 30-60 seconds. Materials in a room fire can simultaneously ignite (flashover) in as little as 4 minutes. Once flashover takes place, there is little or no chance for survival. The amount of time it takes to receive this help can double.



After 8 minutes, a Non-breathing person Has little chance for Survival.

BLACKSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT TAX DISTRICT FACTS

Why the Fire Tax District?



What has The Blacksburg Fire Department Done?

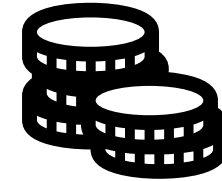
- The Fire Department has reduced expenditures, prepared and implemented adequate budgets.
- Established a 1, 3, 5, and 10-year strategic plan, preparing for future growth; having a vision and goals.
- Grants/partnerships with other agencies, and proper planning has been in place to help provide the best services for tax dollars.

What will happen if the Tax District Fails?

- The failure will result in slower response times to all emergencies.
- Increasing homeowners Insurance Rating with higher ISO rating due to staffing, response times, and documentation.
- Safety for firefighters with out of date life safety equipment.

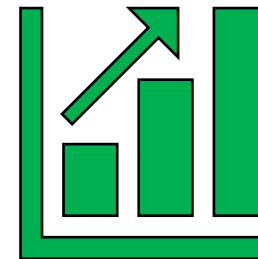
What The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department Is Asking For...

Less Than



TWENTY CENTS PER DAY!!!

- The proposed Fire Tax District voted on August 11, 2020, seeks to charge on average:
- AVERAGE \$0.20 CENTS PER DAY.
- AVERAGE \$6.00 PER MONTH
- AVERAGE \$74.00 PER YEAR.



Average Monthly Increase In Cost To The Average Homeowner

Donovan Ford, Fire Chief

Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department



CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: Donovanford@blacksburgfire.com

Email: Chief@blacksburgfire.com

Fire Department Phone: 864-839-6061

Website: WWW.Blacksburgfire.com

Facebook: [Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department](#)