

# **Budget Summary**

Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue, Inc.

2024-2025

## **History**

Since the establishment of Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue, Inc. in 1958, our objective has been to provide protection of life and property through firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical activities to the best of our ability.

## **Goals and Accomplishments**

Our notable accomplishments in the last year are as follows:

- In 2023 we answered a total of 2730 calls for service. This number was up from our 2022 number of 2472.
- We replaced our set of high-pressure air bags due to age and condition.
- We replaced all our SCBA due to age and updates in technology.
- We purchased turnout gear as part of our annual cycle of replacement to maintain in-date gear that meets the accepted standards for all personnel.
- We purchased a LUCAS device for Station 2, with help from the Village of Flat Rock ARP funds.
- We continue to update our training program to include additional training aids and props to better prepare our members. Also, we search out progressive opportunities to provide up to date and pertinent training to ensure personnel readiness.
- Our members continue to work to complete their NC Certifications. Our goal is to not only have all personnel certified but to ensure that they are capable and competent.
- We are continually evaluating our staffing needs and will add additional personnel as funds become available.
- We continue to look at our apparatus replacement needs, and plan to replace large and small apparatus per our standard replacement rotation. Our

replacement rotation plan is based on manufacturers recommendations, national standards, age, equipment reliability, department operational needs, and condition of the vehicle. We only add or replace apparatus as is required to ensure the readiness of our organization.

- Public image remains a top priority with Blue Ridge as we move forward with solid goals that will benefit the community. Also, we make great efforts to get out in the community and interact with the individuals we serve to educate and improve their overall safety.

### **Present and Future Needs**

Upon completing the upfitting of our Substation in Flat Rock, we began housing two staff for twenty-four-hour shifts to provide better coverage for the Village of Flat Rock and surrounding area. This has made a vast improvement in our ability to provide service in that area and reinforces the need for disbursement of our resources to additional areas of our district. Our organization answers a high number of calls for service, relative the area, and will continue to work to best meet this need.

We currently plan to hire additional staff as funds become available due to our call volume and the demand for our services continuing to grow.

Our truck committee is composed of paid and volunteer personnel who continue to work on truck replacement needs and specifications for needed apparatus. Due to manufacturer lead times and projected needs, we are working to spec large apparatus replacements and while we do not expect to take delivery of any new large apparatus this year we remain open to the idea of purchasing a used apparatus to allow for a reserve when our first out apparatus are out of service.

Small vehicle purchases such as those used for Brush Fires and Tactical trucks are still on our normal rotation for purchases.

While we continue to have a substantial need for capital improvement projects, we are limiting additional capital purchases to only what is necessary this budget year to help be better prepared for unknowns in the economy.

### **Annexation**

The impact of annexation by the City of Hendersonville continues to create concern as it causes stagnation of our budget leaving us in a unique position. We continue to provide services in these areas without compensation, by permission of the Hendersonville Fire Chief, because it is the right thing to do for the community.

## **Equipment**

Blue Ridge has nineteen apparatus, two ATVs, and a Fire Safety House. Strong emphasis is placed on Community Risk Reduction and Public Education through presentations made to the school system, homeowner associations, community clubs, and other local events.

## **Finances**

Our annual budget review with our Chief, Administrative Specialist, and Board of Directors continues to ensure that we stay on course with our annual budget.

We have submitted all the necessary forms and documents for our financial audit to Crowley and Lee, CPA for the fiscal year 2022 & 2023. As of 4/3/2024, we have not received our form 990 or the results of our financial audit. Carl Shaw, CPA (our previous CPA) has been working with them to finalize the audit and this has created some delays. We have expressed the need for expediency in completing the necessary documents. Upon receiving these items, we will review them and submit them as soon as possible.

## **Insurance Ratings**

We are a Class 3 and achieved that in 2018. The results of our latest rating performed in February 2023 showed improvement, but we currently remain a Class 3.

## **Manpower**

We are a combination department with 1 full-time Fire Chief, 1 full-time Deputy Chief, 1 full-time Battalion Chief, 1 paid full time Administrative Specialist/firefighter, 15 full-time Firefighters, 24 Volunteers, 3 Junior Firefighters, and 33 Lifetime Members. Our roster consists of experienced and generous members who bring a multitude of talents to the department. The ability to recruit, train, and keep our volunteers is key to providing cost-effective fire protection to our district.

Current personnel certifications include 3 Paramedics, 2 Advanced EMTs, 30 EMTs, 28 Certified Firefighters, 10 State Instructors, 15 State Certified Officers, 21 RTs, 3 Certified Divers, 5 Confined Space Technicians, 5 Trench Technicians, 23 Urban Interface Firefighting, and 19 Child Safety Seat Technicians.

## **District**

Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue Protection District covers two thirds of the Village of Flat Rock, East Flat Rock, meets with the South end of the City of Hendersonville and extends into a special use district in the Big Hungry and Pot Shoals areas. Acquired in 2006, this district is a special

use district that allows us to provide coverage for any structure over the Henderson County line into Polk County that is within our Six Mile coverage area. A contract was signed with Polk County in June 2016.

### **Substations**

Facilities include the main station which is located at 2503 Old Spartanburg Road, and one substation which is located at 61 Village Center Drive.

### **Fy 24/25 Plans**

As we have not seen adequate increases from year to year in our budget, we cannot reduce our current tax rate without creating the possibility/likelihood of laying off personnel before the end of a four-year budget cycle. It is possible to maintain our current staffing level, but it would eliminate our ability to remain competitive in pay and benefits with other departments in the area. We do have the benefit (to employees) of participating in the state retirement system, but as a department it requires over 12% more to pay an employee the same amount as other departments. To this end we are requesting to stay at our current tax rate.

We remain diligent in our quest to increase our contingency fund to adequate levels. We recognize the need for constructing two additional stations and plan to continue to pursue that goal. We are moving forward with plans to adjust our apparatus fleet to achieve the most efficient mix for our protection district.

It is our intention to be as responsible as possible with the resources afforded to us by our community. While we strive to accomplish this every day, the current economy and other factors beyond our control have our resources spread pretty thin with no signs of letting up. All of this means that we will continue to search for the most efficient way to operate while remaining competent and capable to provide for the needs of our community.

Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue

2024-2025 REVENUES

	A	B	C	D	E
1	ITEM DESCRIPTION	2023-2024 BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE	2024-2025 BUDGET	INCREASE/DECREASE
2			AS OF		
3	REVENUE				
4	PRESENT/REQUESTED TAX RATE				
5	ACTUAL HENDERSON COUNTY REVENUE RECEIVED				
6	Henderson County Ad Valorem Taxes	\$2,066,745.17	\$2,190,187.02	\$2,198,323.46	\$131,578.29
7	Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10	HazMat Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Interest Income	\$500.00	\$350.83	\$500.00	\$0.00
12	Miscellaneous	\$5,000.00	\$2,366.39		(\$5,000.00)
13	NC County Sales Tax Refund	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
14	NC Fuel Tax Refund	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
15	Other Income (City, Other Counties, Town)	\$1,053,012.41	\$846,739.11	\$1,125,043.96	\$72,031.55
16	Rental Income	\$10,500.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$19,500.00
17	Sales of Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18	Total Revenues	\$3,140,257.58	\$3,039,643.35	\$3,358,367.42	\$218,109.84
19					
20					
21	FOOTNOTES				

## 2024-2025 EXPENDITURES

	A	B	C	D	E
1	ITEM DESCRIPTION	2023-2024 BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE	2024-2025 BUDGET	INCREASE/DECREASE
2			AS OF		
3	EXPENDITURES				
4	Administrative Cost				
5	Annual Payment - Apparatus	\$110,000.00	\$17,091.96	\$110,000.00	\$0.00
6	Annual Payment - Building	\$100,000.00	\$70,432.38	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
7	Annual Payment - Other Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Appreciation and Award Banquets	\$10,000.00	\$5,669.92	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
9	Bank Charges	\$200.00	\$393.47	\$200.00	\$0.00
10	Building Fund	\$0.00	\$320,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Chaplain	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
12	Computer	\$21,500.00	\$24,712.89	\$21,500.00	\$0.00
13	Contingency Funds	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
14	Contract Labor (Part-Time Clerk)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	County/State Tax	\$1,000.00	\$762.98	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
16	Discretionary Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	Deposits/Down Payment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18	Dues/Subscriptions	\$21,500.00	\$4,102.00	\$21,500.00	\$0.00
19	Expendable Supplies	\$14,500.00	\$4,904.55	\$14,500.00	\$0.00
20	Flowers/Gifts	\$10,000.00	\$5,022.56	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
21	Food	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
22	Insurance - Building, Business Umbrella, Error	\$51,000.00	\$47,591.00	\$51,000.00	\$0.00
23	Legal and Professional Fees	\$17,200.00	\$9,360.73	\$17,200.00	\$0.00
24	Licenses and Permits	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
25	Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$79.90	\$1,217.42	\$717.42
26	Office Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$2,056.31	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
27	Public Relations	\$5,000.00	\$3,009.45	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
28	Rent	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
29	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
30	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
31	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
32	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
33	<b>Total Administrative Cost</b>	<b>\$469,900.00</b>	<b>\$515,190.10</b>	<b>\$470,617.42</b>	<b>\$717.42</b>

## 2024-2025 EXPENDITURES

	A	B	C	D	E
34		<b>2023-2024 BUDGET</b>	<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	<b>2024-2025 BUDGET</b>	<b>INCREASE/DECREASE</b>
35	<b>Operational Cost</b>				
36	Breathing Apparatus	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
37	Communications (radios, pagers, cell phone)	\$60,500.00	\$53.39	\$60,500.00	\$0.00
38	EMT Supplies & Equipment	\$55,370.00	\$7,253.27	\$50,000.00	(\$5,370.00)
39	Firefighting Supplies & Equipment	\$75,000.00	\$27,651.99	\$50,000.00	(\$25,000.00)
40	Firefighting Equipment Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$335.82	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
41	Fuel	\$45,000.00	\$38,053.29	\$50,000.00	\$5,000.00
42	Hazardous Materials Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
43	Infection Control	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
44	Maintenance/Repair of Apparatus	\$55,000.00	\$45,058.12	\$65,000.00	\$10,000.00
45	Physical Fitness	\$11,000.00	\$7,362.00	\$11,000.00	\$0.00
46	Rehabilitation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
47	Rescue Equipment	\$26,000.00	\$5,879.57	\$20,000.00	(\$6,000.00)
48	Training	\$41,000.00	\$34,801.78	\$50,000.00	\$9,000.00
49	Turn Out Gear	\$98,850.00	\$135,014.26	\$100,000.00	\$1,150.00
50	Uniforms	\$44,000.00	\$16,417.32	\$44,000.00	\$0.00
51	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
52	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
53	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
54	<b>Total Operational Cost</b>	<b>\$520,720.00</b>	<b>\$317,880.81</b>	<b>\$509,500.00</b>	<b>(\$11,220.00)</b>
55	<b>PERSONNEL COST</b>				
56	<b>Payroll</b>				
57	Gross Full-Time Pay	\$1,025,000.00	\$677,791.96	\$1,152,000.00	\$127,000.00
58	Gross Part-Time Pay	\$50,000.00	\$40,818.09	\$60,000.00	\$10,000.00
59	Gross Overtime Pay	\$265,000.00	\$215,682.39	\$290,000.00	\$25,000.00
60	Gross Holiday Pay	\$25,000.00	\$11,934.64	\$32,000.00	\$7,000.00
61	Employer's Payroll Taxes (6.2% Soc. Sec. 1.45%)	\$85,000.00	\$56,718.61	\$95,000.00	\$10,000.00
62	Bonus	0	0		\$0.00
63	Vol./FF Reimbursement/Stipend	0	0	25000	\$25,000.00
64	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
65	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
66	<i>(Optional Line Item)</i>				\$0.00
67	<b>Total Payroll Cost</b>	<b>\$1,450,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,002,945.69</b>	<b>\$1,654,000.00</b>	<b>\$204,000.00</b>
68	<b>Benefits</b>				
69	Employer's Retirement Contribution	200000	140709.95	225000	\$25,000.00
70	Supplemental Retirement 401k/457			50000	\$50,000.00
71	Health Insurance	275000	181700.69	300000	\$25,000.00

## 2024-2025 EXPENDITURES

	A	B	C	D	E
72	Dental Insurance	10000	4023.48	10000	\$0.00
73	Vision Insurance	10000	4023.47	10000	\$0.00
74	Supplemental Insurance plans				\$0.00
75	State Firemen's Pension Fund	0	0		\$0.00
76	Insurance - Life	3000	2914.15	3000	\$0.00
77	(Optional Line Item)				\$0.00
78	(Optional Line Item)				\$0.00
79	(Optional Line Item)				\$0.00
80	<b>Total Benefits Cost</b>	<b>\$498,000.00</b>	<b>\$333,371.74</b>	<b>\$598,000.00</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
81					
82	<b>STATIONS:</b>				
83	<b>MAIN STATION</b>				
84	Building Maint	23000	11334	40000	\$17,000.00
85	Cable	3500	2480	3500	\$0.00
86	Electric	9000	6906.99	12000	\$3,000.00
87	Garbage	6600	3922.33	7500	\$900.00
88	Grounds Upkeep	4000	1600	4000	\$0.00
89	Heating Fuel	5000	4314	5000	\$0.00
90	Station Supplies	7000	2007.46	7500	\$500.00
91	Telephone	12000	8438.35	12000	\$0.00
92	Water	\$1,200.00	\$612.86	\$1,500.00	\$300.00
93	<b>STATION #2</b>				
94	Building Maint	9000	0	15000	\$6,000.00
95	Cable	3500	2480	3500	\$0.00
96	Electric	4000	2302.33	5000	\$1,000.00
97	Garbage	500	0	500	\$0.00
98	Grounds Upkeep	2000	0	3000	\$1,000.00
99	Heating Fuel	3000	2653	3000	\$0.00
100	Station Supplies	2000	753.15	2500	\$500.00
101	Telephone	0	0	0	\$0.00
102	Water	600	344.73	750	\$150.00
103					
104	<b>STATION #3</b>				
105	Building Maint				\$0.00
106	Cable				\$0.00
107	Electric				\$0.00
108	Garbage				\$0.00
109	Grounds Upkeep				\$0.00
110	Heating Fuel				\$0.00



## 2024-2025 EXPENDITURES

	A	B	C	D	E
111	Station Supplies				\$0.00
112	Telephone				\$0.00
113	Water				\$0.00
114					
115	<b>STATION #4</b>				
116	Building Maint				\$0.00
117	Cable				\$0.00
118	Electric				\$0.00
119	Garbage				\$0.00
120	Grounds Upkeep				\$0.00
121	Heating Fuel				\$0.00
122	Station Supplies				\$0.00
123	Telephone				\$0.00
124	Water				\$0.00
125					
126	<b>Total Station Cost</b>	\$95,900.00	\$50,149.20	\$126,250.00	\$30,350.00
127					
128	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$3,034,520.00	\$2,219,537.54	\$3,358,367.42	\$323,847.42

**CURRENT ASSETS****AS OF**

<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>
Bonds, Certificates of Deposit, Stock	
General Checking	\$876,471.59
Savings	
Truck Fund	
Building Fund	\$26,391.25
Future Needs	\$218,076.78
Contingency Fund	\$804,946.21
<hr/>	
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$1,925,885.83</b>

Notes:



## 2023/2024 TAX RATE WORKSHEET FOR

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
<b>TOTAL DISTRICT TAX ASSESSMENT 2024-2025</b>	<b>\$1,743,317,571.00</b>
Divided by 100	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,433,175.71</b>
Multiplied by requested tax rate	0.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,266,312.84</b>
*Multiplied by tax collection percentage (97%)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,198,323.46</b>
Subtract Training Center Assessment	
Add Projected Payments in Lieu of Taxes	
<b>**TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,198,323.46</b>
** Revenue is projected because it does not reflect tax discoveries, releases or refunds.	
* Collection percentage based on last complete year of collections.	