

**SOUTHWEST MADISON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
801 Lake Cavalier Road
Ridgeland, MS 39157
May 2, 2025**

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: greg.higginbotham@madison-co.com

Madison County Board of Supervisors
c/o Gregg Higginbotham, Administrator
P.O. Box 608
Canton, MS 39046

Re: SWMDFPD Millage Rate.

Dear Sirs:

As you will recall on May 22, 2012, the Lake Lorman Utility District was merged into the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District. Realizing the need to update facilities in 2017 the Madison County Board of Supervisors acquired a tract of land situated at the Southwest corner of the intersection of Lake Cavalier Road and Coker Road and constructed a new fire station.

Since its opening the District has provided fire protection and emergency medical services to all residents within the District primarily by volunteer firefighters from the new station located at 801 Lake Cavalier Road. The District has gradually added part-time paid staff at the new station Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00pm. To enhance fire protection and emergency medical services to our residents the District Board of Commissioners' goal is to staff the station 24/7 but we are not there yet.

Our payroll expense for FY2024 was 81% of revenues. The current millage rate for the District is 7.62 mills. In order to properly fund full-time staffing, it will be necessary to increase the millage rate assessed for each household within the District. At its last meeting, the District's Board of Commissioners decided that an increase in the millage rate within the District is necessary to staff our new station 24/7. Around-the-clock staffing will enhance the fire protection services within our District and will likely result in an improved fire rating and reduced insurance premiums for the households within the District.

Over the last three years Southwest has responded to an average of 105 emergencies including fires and emergency medical services, the majority of which are EMS. Since we began staffing with paid firefighters, response times have decreased resulting in an increase of overall quality of services.

Due to the economy of rising costs, we cannot maintain the current level of staffing much less achieve 24/7 without a millage increase. Accordingly, the Board of Commissioners respectfully request a four (4) mill increase from 7.62 to 11.62.

Greg Higginbotham
May 2, 2025
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Please place this request on the Board of Supervisor's' Agenda at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely Yours,

SOUTHWEST MADISON COUNTY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



JAMES L. MARTIN, Secretary/Treasurer

Enclosure

c: Gerald Steen (via email)

Board of Commissioners (via email)