



MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

125 West North Street • Post Office Box 608 Canton,
Mississippi 39046
601-855-5500 • Facsimile 601-855-5759
www.madison-co.com

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO LEVY A FOUR (4) MIL INCREASE FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING FIRE PROTECTION AND FOR THE OPERATION, SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE NEWLY ENLARGED SOUTHWEST MADISON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, pursuant to §19-5-189(2)(c) MS Code of 1972 (Annotated), which sets forth the process of levying millage increases for the purpose of supporting the operation, support, and maintenance of fire protection districts in the state of Mississippi (“fire millage”); and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2025, the Madison County Board of Supervisors approved the Request for a Millage Rate Increase presented to it by the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District, shown on Exhibit “A” attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, after finding that the Request For Millage Rate Increase was well taken, and to support the operation and maintenance of the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District, and its need for additional revenues, the Madison County Board of Supervisors has determined that a four (4) mil increase for fire protection is necessary and appropriate, increasing the current millage of 7.62 to 11.62 mils; and that such an increase in fire millage for the purposes of fire protection in the jurisdiction of the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District should be adopted by approval of the Resolution herein.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in order to defray the cost of fire protection in the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District., and in order to support the operation of the fire district, as a whole, the Madison County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to this Resolution, notices its Intent to Levy a Four-Mil Increase upon the users and patrons, and all who are otherwise affected, impacted and serviced by the offering of fire protection from the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District, the effect of which is to increase the fire millage from 7.62 mils, to 11.62 mils.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be published once per week, for a period of three (3) weeks, in a newspaper having a general circulation within the county, and by the posting of same at three (3) public places, for a period of twenty-one (21) days during the time of its publishing in the newspaper.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO LEVY A FOUR-MIL INCREASE TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF THE NEWLY ENLARGED JURISDICTION OF THE SOUTHWEST MADISON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT was made by Supervisor_____, and seconded by Supervisor _____, and said RESOLUTION OF INTENT was APPROVED, by the following vote:

District 1 Supervisor Casey Brannon _____

District 2 Supervisor Trey Baxter _____

District 3 Supervisor Gerald Steen _____

District 4 Supervisor Karl M. Banks _____

District 5 Supervisor Paul Griffin _____

ATTESTATION:

(SEAL)

Ronny Lott, Chancery Clerk

**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)

**Lake Lorman Corporation
108 Westline Drive
Madison, Mississippi 39110**

Madison County Board of Supervisors
P.O. 608
Canton, MS 39046

RE: Support of Proposed Millage Increase Requested by
Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District

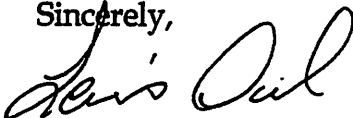
To Whom it May Concern:

Representatives of Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District (Fire District) at the March 2025 regular meeting of the board of directors (Directors) of Lake Lorman Corporation, informed Directors about the Fire District's proposed request for a four (4) millage point increase in ad valorem taxes. Lake Lorman's Directors understand the proposed tax increase is needed in order to continue the Fire District's ongoing improvement of fire protection and related services in its area of operations. Improvements to those services since the new fire station was constructed have been substantial. They are very much appreciated.

Lake Lorman's Directors unanimously support the Fire District's requested millage increase. Your support of the Fire District's proposed millage increase is respectfully requested.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,



Lewis Deel, President

Copy: Lake Lorman Corporation Board of Directors (via email)
Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District

From: Carol Heidelberg
To: Gerald Steen
Cc: Lake Cavalier; Whitney Burns; Jim Martin
Subject: Fire District
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 8:15:32 AM

Mr. Gerald Steen,

As President of the Board of Lake Cavalier, I want to state that we support the Fire District request for the 4 mil increase to help to serve our community. Please pass on our endorsement to the Board of Supervisors.

Please let me know if you need anything else from us concerning this matter.

Thank you ,

Carol Heidelberg
Lake Cavalier Board President