



GASTON COUNTY UNIFIED FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION



NC Fire Chief Consulting is a Full-Service Fire Consulting Provider

- Strategic Planning
- Service Delivery Needs Analysis
- Standards of Coverage Analysis
- Contract Development and Facilitation
- Fire District Transition
- Transition of Private, Non-Profit Fire Department to Municipal Fire Department
- Fire Station Placement
- Fire Chief Selection and Promotional Processes
- Human Resource Assistance
- Professional Development, Mentoring and Coaching
- Human Resource Based Causation Analysis
- Interim Chief Fire Officer Leadership
- Fire Apparatus Evaluation and Fire Station Facility Analysis
- Capital Improvement Plan Review and Analysis
- Emergency Operations Post Incident Analysis





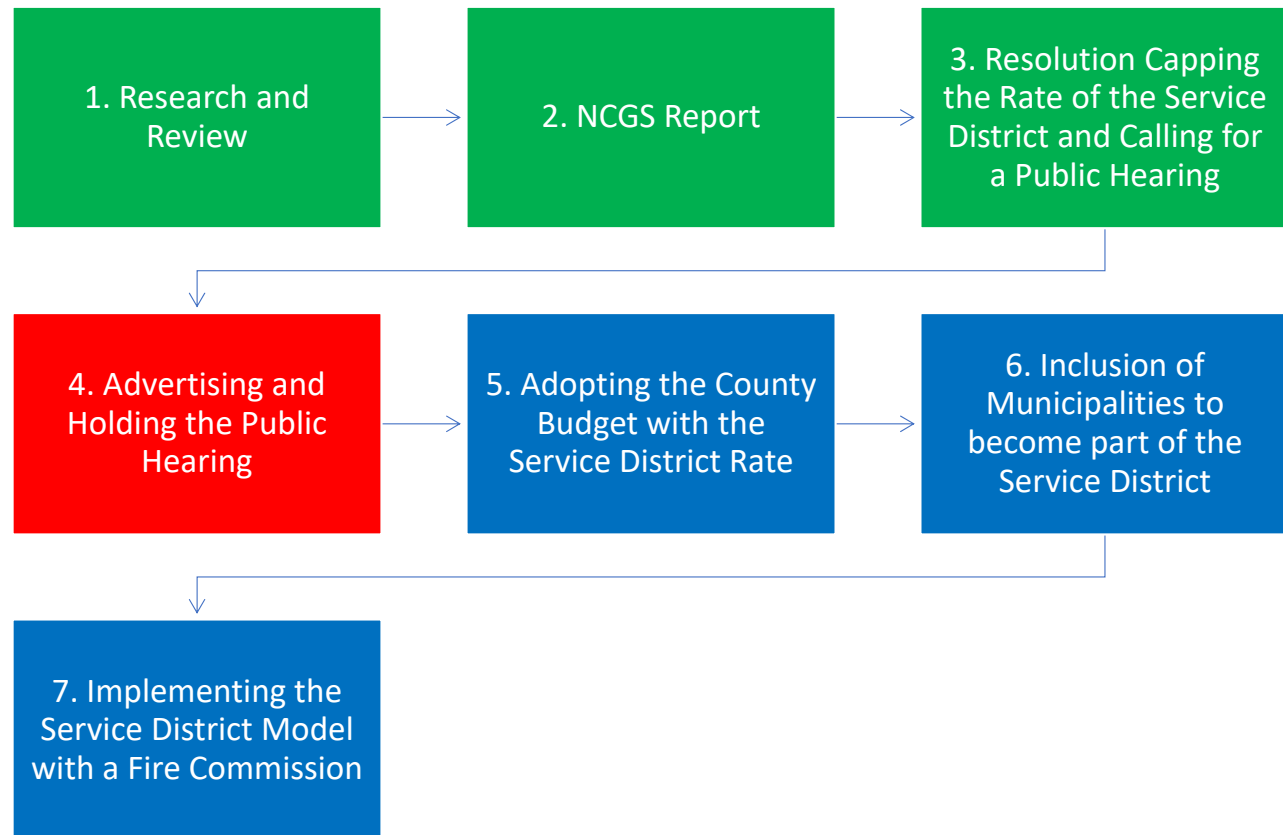
Five Key Goals for the Gaston County Unified Fire Protection Service District

1. Sustainable funding long-term to strengthen service delivery.
2. A higher level of equity in levels of service delivery across the unincorporated areas of Gaston County.
3. Establishing a strengthened governance structure with both fire service and resident involvement.
4. Develop dynamic funding formulas to reflect hazard and risk for each area and maintain balance with municipalities.
5. Establish a more equitable level of fire service taxation across the unincorporated areas of Gaston County to support these core, essential services.





North Carolina Process of Implementing a Fire Protection Service District





Specific Focus For Today's Discussion:

Public Hearing

Purpose of a Fire Protection Service District:

- To enable a sustainable funding system and governance structure that provides fire and rescue services to the people of Gaston County.

Scope of the Proposed Gaston County Fire Protection Service District:

- All unincorporated areas of Gaston County (areas outside of municipal limits).
- Municipalities may request to join the service district by resolution.





**Gaston
County
Commissioners
Must Find
All Four of
These
Findings
Apply...**

- 1. There is a demonstrable need for providing fire protection in the district.**
- 2. It is impossible or impracticable to provide those services on a countywide basis.**
- 3. It is economically feasible to provide the proposed services in the district without unreasonable or burdensome annual tax levies.**
- 4. There is demonstrable demand for the proposed services by persons residing in the district.**



Statutory Report Summary



1. A map of the proposed district showing its proposed boundaries.

2. A statement showing that the proposed fire protection service district meets the five (5) elements/standards in the N.C.G.S. as well as the four (4) key findings as outlined above.

3. A plan for providing fire protection services to the single unified fire protection district.





Service District Implementation Highlights

Mechanics of Contracting Fire Department Funding:

1. **Baseline funding** to each private, non-profit provider – using FY 21-22 funding as a base or a minimum of \$250K annually. This represents no loss for current contracting non-profit fire departments for FY 22-23.
2. **Service delivery enhancement** funding reflective of hazard, risk & need.
3. **Capital improvement** funding for fire apparatus replacement.
4. **Grant funding** for grant matches and multi-department joint service delivery projects.

FY 22-23 Unified Fire Protection Service District Tax Rate:

- Commissioners have followed N.C.G.S to set a cap of \$.15 per \$100 valuation.
- The amount will be set as part of the **annual budget process**.



Process Timeline Update



- **February 22, 2022**
Board adopted a resolution setting a cap on the proposed service district of \$.15 per \$100 valuation and jointly set a public hearing date to consider adoption of the new service district, with proper notifications to be made.
- **March 22, 2022**
Now holding the public hearing and may adopt the new service district, if so desired.
- **April - May, 2022**
Consider requests by resolution from municipalities that are interested in joining the service district.
Establish a Gaston County Fire Commission by naming members and adopting Fire Commission by-laws.
- **June, 2022**
Adopt the service district tax rate within the fiscal year 22-23 budget document.





Questions?

THANK YOU!

