



New Hope Fire Department

4804 S. New Hope Rd. Belmont, NC 28012 704.825.7019

March 18, 2020

To: Gaston County Fire Advisory Board

Re: 2020-2021 Budget Request

New Hope Fire Department has served Southeastern Gaston County since 1953. The current primary response district is 14.87 square miles. The district is a diverse mixture of rural and urban settings including several waterfront neighborhoods with structures exceeding 6,000 sq. ft. In 2020 the department, along with Union Road Fire Department, will enter into a contract for service with the City of Gastonia for primary response coverage to Nolen Farms located off of Union Road.

In 2019, the department took delivery of a Pierce Enforcer Rescue-Engine. The new unit was placed in service in August and was the first purchase of a custom apparatus since 2001. Engine 50 was placed into service in 1993, followed by Tanker 50 in 1994. Brush 50 was replaced in 2018.

In 2005, the department added two part-time paid staff from 0830 until 1630 during weekdays. In 2015, the staffed hours were increased to include 0830-1630 coverage seven days per week as well as Friday and Saturday evenings until midnight. In 2019 coverage was once again expanded to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

The department is currently responsible for a debt of \$656,072.55 to Civic Federal Credit Union. For the 2020-2021 budget year, New Hope Fire Department is requesting a tax rate increase to .10 with a total operating budget of \$544,800. The New Hope Fire Department Board of Directors approved this tax rate increase and budget on Tuesday March 10, 2020. The proposed increase will be to give pay raises to part-time staff from \$10 per hour to \$12 per hour. The increase will also place \$35,000 into savings in preparation of purchasing a new engine within the next five years. Another line increase will be used for much needed station repairs and upgrades.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew L. Young
Fire Chief