



**RESERVOIR
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

FIRE CHIEF
JOSH SWALES

July 31, 2025

Rankin County Board of Supervisors
Attn: Craig Slay, Esq.
211 E Government St
Brandon, MS 39042

Mr. Slay,

I am submitting this letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Reservoir Fire Protection District (RFPD). On July 9, 2025 RFPD's Board of Commissioners called a special meeting to discuss the future revenue of RFPD and potential options to increase funding. The property owners within the boundaries of RFPD are currently paying 9 mils of property tax generating roughly \$2.7 million for the total budget, the last milage increase for RFPD was in 2009 and was a 2 mil increase. The RFPD has reached a point since the last increase roughly 16 years ago that inflation has surpassed the growth of the district rendering us unable to stay competitive with other local Fire Departments not only in pay but also in purchasing much needed up to date equipment for our highly skilled Firefighters to do their job more effectively.

After much discussion by the Board of Commissioners it was decided unanimously that we needed a 4 mil increase to improve our funding levels and effectively operate the RFPD and continuously work improve the fire rating for the benefit of the citizens of the district.

We are humbly and officially asking the Rankin County Board of Supervisors to consider this tax increase for the Reservoir Fire Protection District so that we may to continue to hire, train, and equip the best Firefighters in the State of Mississippi.

Respectfully,

Josh Swales, Fire Chief
Reservoir Fire Protection District