



# Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

8110 Silk Hope – Gum Springs Road, Siler City, NC 27344

February 16, 2026

Dear Chatham County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department, we respectfully request the Commissioners' permission to hold a public hearing regarding several significant capital purchases and related financing that are being pursued in the best interest of the community we serve.

The department intends to seek and utilize tax-exempt financing through local financial institutions for these purchases, using funds entrusted to the Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department. We are currently soliciting proposals from several local banks to ensure the most responsible and cost-effective financing options are selected.

With the Commissioners' approval, the public hearing would be held at a date and time to be determined at Silk Hope Fire Station 7, located at 8110 Silk Hope Gum Springs Road, Siler City, North Carolina 27344.

The proposed purchases and projects include the following:

Land acquisition for a new fire station:

The department plans to purchase just over three (3) acres of land located at the corner of Highway 64 and Buckner Clark Road for the construction of a new fire station. The purchase price is \$500,000, to be financed through a secured ten-year loan at an interest rate of 4.88 percent from HomeTrust Bank.

Construction of Station 21:

Following the land acquisition, the department will begin soliciting contractors for the construction of Station 21 on the newly acquired property. The anticipated construction budget is estimated to range between \$3 million and \$6 million.

Apparatus purchases:

The department is also in the process of acquiring three new fire apparatuses:

- One Sutphen engine, already ordered, with an expected delivery in Spring 2025 at a cost of \$1.2 million.
- One Four Guys 3,500-gallon tanker, already ordered, with an expected delivery in 2027 at a cost of \$850,000.
- One additional engine, currently being evaluated for purchase by late 2026, with an anticipated budget of \$1.4 million.

While these investments are substantial, they are necessary to meet the growing demands of the district and to maintain a high standard of fire protection and emergency response. Upon



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completion, these improvements will help ensure that residents within the Hope Fire District fall within the lowest insurance rating radius, while also allowing for faster, safer, and more professional emergency responses.

It is our intent to proceed efficiently while prioritizing transparency, community engagement, and public input. Holding a public hearing will provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions, offer comments, and better understand the need and benefits of these investments.

We respectfully request the Commissioners' approval to proceed with scheduling this public hearing and appreciate your continued support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Wright".

Joseph Wright  
President, Board of Directors  
Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Gaines".

Mark Gaines  
Fire Chief  
Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department