



CAHABA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

Professional and Compassionate Service

Grant R. Wilkinson
Board President

Floyd (Buddy) Wilks
Fire Chief

John Yancey
Deputy Chief



June 2026

Dear District Members,

Over the past year, we have worked to strengthen the services we provide for our community while remaining fiscally responsible. These efforts reflect our commitment to reliable emergency response, improved operations, careful stewardship of district resources, and high-quality service for our residents.

Firefighter Pay and Retention – By enhancing benefits and increasing firefighter pay, we improved employee retention. Higher retention allows our personnel to build experience and develop advanced skills, including EMT, paramedic, firefighting, and rescue certifications, instead of continually training new hires in basic duties. A more experienced and highly trained workforce strengthens our ability to respond effectively to the community.

Station 181 Renovation – Renovation of our oldest station, long overdue, is now underway. The improved living conditions and updated layout are important to retaining employees, supporting their health, and reducing turnout times for emergency calls.

Improved Wildland Fire and Search and Rescue Capabilities – As Oak Mountain State Park expands and the use of Dunnington Valley Park and Double Oak Park increases, our crews have strengthened our wildland fire and search-and-rescue response capabilities and resources, including a dedicated brush truck and second UTV, which was donated by Shelby County. These improvements also benefit nearby residential areas, where the wildland-urban interface remains an ongoing concern.

Looking ahead, we are focused on key goals that will make our district stronger in the future, including:

Station 181 Renovation Continues – Our most prominent project is making great progress. As of the end of May, work is on track with only minor changes or setbacks. Completion is expected by late September 2026, with move-in planned for early to mid-October 2026.

Insurance Service Organization (ISO) Review – Our ISO review is set for July 2026, a year earlier than usual at CVFD’s request. With the station renovation that year, we knew response and deployment data would be affected by relocating personnel and equipment. The early review was approved by ISO, and based on our internal assessments, we expect to maintain our current Class 2 Rating or possibly move up to a Class 1 Rating.

Becoming a Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Accredited Agency – Cahaba Valley is currently a Registered Agency with CPSE, which means we’re getting familiar with the accreditation process. Over the past few years, we’ve been using the accreditation model to shape our updated Strategic Plan, data collection, and reporting systems. Accreditation shows that we consistently self-assess, look for ways to improve, and stay transparent and accountable through genuine third-party verification and validation. Our goal is to become an Applicant Agency in early 2027.

Budget Consideration - To help mitigate the firefighter pay gap and inflation, the CVFD board has approved a 5% increase in district fees coming in Fiscal Year 2027. This change was made after careful consideration and is needed to help cover rising costs like utilities and fuel, while also supporting our efforts to keep our workforce stable and strong. The Board of Trustees and administrative staff are actively seeking federal, state, and local grants, along with donations and other funding sources, to help cover rising costs and reduce the impact of these increases on district members.

Highway 280
Station 181
5487 Highway 280 S
Birmingham, AL 35242

Mt Laurel
Station 183
60 Manning Place
Birmingham, AL 35242

Rex Lake
Station 184
1960 Rex Lake Road
Birmingham, AL 35094

Narrows
Station 185 (Admin/Business Office)
145 Narrows Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242

As was discussed in our recent Community Advisory Group meeting, our firefighters' pay continues to lag behind other departments in the area, which creates turnover in our workforce. Maintaining a strong, reliable team and covering essential day-to-day expenses are critical to ensuring that the Cahaba Valley Fire District can continue providing the high level of service our residents expect and deserve.

The additional revenue generated by this adjustment will be allocated strategically to ensure the continued safety and well-being of our community.

Residential Dues - Revenue from residential fire dues will continue to go toward supporting the salaries and benefits of our dedicated fire personnel. This helps us attract and keep skilled firefighters and paramedics, ensure we have enough staff for quick, effective emergency response, provide ongoing training and professional growth opportunities, and maintain the health and wellness of those who risk their lives for our community.

Commercial Dues - Revenue from commercial fire dues will go toward several important needs: keeping our fleet in top shape with regular maintenance and repairs, replacing older equipment with newer, more efficient apparatus to boost firefighting capabilities and speed up response times, renovating Station 181 across from Doug Baker Blvd to improve safety, efficiency, and the work environment for our team, and covering rising costs from inflation for essentials like fuel, equipment, and other operational necessities.

We appreciate your continued support, trust, and investment in the Cahaba Valley Fire District. Together, we can continue building a safer and stronger community for everyone we serve.

Yours in service,



Floyd "Buddy" Wilks
Fire Chief



Grant R. Wilkinson
President, CVFD Board



Tara Hill
VP, CVFD Board



Barry Stemmons
Secretary/Treasurer, CVFD Board










Ron Coblentz
Member, CVFD Board



Bill Stainback
Member, CVFD Board

Enclosure: FY2027 Billing Statement

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Customer Portal and Fee Schedule Increase

