

Budget Update: March 10, 2026

Following the monthly meeting on March 9, 2026, the Simsbury Fire District has officially approved a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This proposal will be the primary focus of our scheduled Budget Workshop.

Financial Philosophy and Debt-Free Operations

The Fire District continues to operate under a "pay-as-you-go" philosophy, prioritizing the purchase of products and services without resorting to borrowing. This commitment to fiscal responsibility directly benefits Simsbury taxpayers, as the District remains entirely debt-free with no taxpayer funds allocated to interest or debt service.

Budget Breakdown and Key Drivers

While we strive for efficiency, the proposed budget reflects necessary adjustments to maintain our high standard of public safety:

- **Operating Budget:** The recurring operating budget is projected to increase by **2.62%**. This is driven largely by a 14.8% estimated increase in health insurance costs provided through the Town of Simsbury.
- **Capital Projects:** Funding for current and future capital improvements will see a **78.98%** increase. This surge is primarily due to the accelerated replacement of the training grounds' Burn Building, which became an urgent priority several years ahead of schedule.
- **Strategic Transfers:** The budget includes a **\$300,000** transfer from the Unassigned Fund Balance into a new "Training Building and Grounds Improvements" account. This joins **\$482,000** already allocated for this purpose that will be transferred from the "Station Improvements" account.

Tax Impact

Based on the current town grand list, the Fire District proposes an adjustment to the tax mill rate from **1.14 to 1.33 mills** (an increase of 0.19 mills) to support these essential safety infrastructure investments. For a home with an assessed value of \$350,000, the proposed increase of **0.19 mills** would result in an annual tax increase of approximately **\$66.50 per year**, or about **\$5.54 per month**.

Join the Discussion

We invite all residents to attend our Budget Workshop to learn more about these figures and the future of our fire services:

- **When:** Thursday, March 12, 2026, at **6:00 PM**
- **Where:** Simsbury Fire District Main Station, 871 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury, CT

The Fire District is committed to a transparent and open process. If you have questions or require further information, please contact District Administrator **Kimberly Ouimette** at **860-658-1971** or via email at **kouimette@simsburyfd.org**.