



CLEAR SPRING FIRE-RESCUE

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"PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY"

June 25th, 2026

Executive Committee
South Carolina State Firefighters' Association
Executive Director Jamie Helms
151 West Park Boulevard
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Letter of Intent for 4th Vice President Candidacy

Dear Executive Director Helms, Executive Committee, and Association Members:

Please accept this letter as my official notice of intent to announce my candidacy for 4th Vice President of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association.

My journey in the fire service began over 20 years ago as a volunteer firefighter. Like many of you, I learned early that this profession is built on service, sacrifice, and a commitment to something bigger than ourselves. Those early years shaped my respect for the traditions of the fire service and the generations of firefighters who built the foundation we continue to stand on today. Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to serve in both fire and emergency medical services, giving me the opportunity to understand our profession from the perspective of a volunteer firefighter, EMS provider, company officer, and chief officer. I have continued my commitment to Clear Spring Fire & Rescue, progressing through the ranks from firefighter to Fire Chief.

I believe leadership is built on trust, service, and developing people. I am a Nationally Registered Paramedic and a graduate of the UNC Charlotte Fire and Rescue Management Institute, the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association Leadership Institute Class of 2022, and the South Carolina Fire Chiefs Association Chief Officers Program. I have also had the privilege of serving in regional and statewide leadership roles, including Third Vice President of the Greenville County Fire Chiefs Association, service on association committees, the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association EMS Committee, and currently as Strategic Planning Chair for the Association.

I am seeking this opportunity because I believe in the South Carolina fire service and the members who make it strong. Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to learn from those who invested their time, knowledge, and experience into helping me grow as a firefighter and leader. I believe it is our responsibility to continue that investment by developing others, strengthening our organizations, and supporting firefighters at every level of service.

If elected as 4th Vice President, I will serve with humility, transparency, and commitment. I will bring the perspective of someone who has served at multiple levels of emergency services and who understands that our greatest strength is the people who make up the South Carolina fire service.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully,

Larry Kardos
Fire Chief

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