

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
May 16, 2022

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina met in a regular meeting on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, Granville Expo and Convention Center, 4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford.

Present were:

Chair: Tony W. Cozart

Commissioners: Jimmy Gooch Timothy Karan
Sue Hinman Russ May
Zelodis Jay David T. Smith

County Manager: Michael S. Felts
Assistant County Manager: Korena Weichel
County Attorney: James C. Wrenn, Jr.

News Reporters: David Murray – *Oxford Public Ledger*

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Tony W. Cozart called the meeting to order. He then recognized Commissioner Russ May for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Approved the Summary of Contingency and Use of Fund Balance report that showed the following balances:

General Contingency Balance	\$	14,000
School Bond D/S Contingency	\$	100,000
Environmental Disaster Contingency	\$	10,000
General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	4,485,783

- (B) Approved the following updated Records Retention and Disposition Schedules from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources:

2021 General Records Schedule: Local Government Agencies

2021 Program Records: Local Government Agencies

- (C) Approved the Request to North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for Lottery Distributions in the amount of \$567,384.80.

BOARD RECOGNIZED 275TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Commissioner Hinman asked the following committee members to come forward to be recognized for their work on the 275th Anniversary Celebration that was held July 24, 2021:

Chair: Commissioner Sue Hinman
Vice-Chair: Commissioner David Smith
Emily Champion (Town of Butner)
Toni-Anne Wheeler (City of Creedmoor)
Helen Amis (City of Oxford)
Dave Pavlus (Town of Stem)
Janet Parrot (Town of Stovall)
Zelodis Jay, Granville County Commissioners
Mark Pace (North Carolina Room, Richard H. Thornton Library)
Angela Allen (Granville County Tourism Development Authority)
Stephanie May (Granville County Historical Society Museum)
Patrice Wilkerson (Granville County)
Lynn Allred (Granville County)
Korena Weichel (Assistant County Manager – Granville County)

Commissioner Hinman stated that she could not have had the celebration without the hard work of the committee. Chair Cozart thanked the committee on behalf of the Board and read the following Resolution of Appreciation:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the County of Granville is based on a rich heritage which reached a landmark of 275 years of organization on June 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a Committee of County Leaders and Citizens was formed to organize a celebration for the County-wide participation and recognition; and

WHEREAS, Committee Chair Sue Hinman; Committee Vice-Chair David T. Smith; and the other Members of the Committee planned, organized, and implemented a festive celebration that took place on July 24, 2021 at the Granville Athletic Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granville County Board of Commissioners publicly recognizes the many hours of work and preparation performed by the 275th Anniversary Planning Committee in organizing a successful event that so proudly displayed the past and present of Granville County, North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution become a part of the permanent records of the Granville County Board of Commissioners.

ADOPTED, this the 16th day of May 2022.

Commissioner Hinman presented each member with a certificate, commemorative book, and coin on behalf of the Board. She then presented purple hats to the Commissioners and County Manager from her for their help with the event.

VAYA HEALTH PRESENTATION

The Vaya Health update was not presented as Elliot Clark, Regional Director of Community Relations for Vaya Health, could not attend the meeting.

AFTER HOLDING PUBLIC HEARING, THE BOARD APPROVED GRANT MATCHES AND INCENTIVES FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT DIAMOND – CERTAINTEED CORPORATION

Chairman Cozart stated that Granville County served notice that a hearing would be held to obtain the views of the public on the expansion of the CertainTeed facility in Granville County named Project Diamond. He then said that the purpose of this public hearing is to receive the views of the public on aiding and encouraging the location or expansion of industrial facilities in Granville County. He declared the public hearing open and recognized Harry Mills, Economic Director, for a brief overview.

Harry Mills, Economic Development Director, 310 Williamsboro Street, Oxford, NC, stated that this project was called Project Diamond, also known as CertainTeed. He noted that North Carolina General Statute 158-7.1 requires a public notice that was completed prior to the public hearing. He explained that Project Diamond, CertainTeed, is the relocation and expansion of a manufacturing and industrial facility in Granville County. CertainTeed will expand its existing building and construct a new building for the new product line. The company will invest approximately \$118.8 million and employ potentially 37 new employees. He requested a total \$250,000 incentive package which includes a 50% match towards the \$125,000 One NC Grant in the amount of \$62,500; a 5% match of the local incentive package of the potential Building Reuse Grant of \$250,000 in the amount of \$12,500; and a cash incentive of \$175,000; and the associated resolution.

Chairman Cozart announced those wishing to speak to come to the podium and give their name and address for the record and there were none. He asked if the Board had any questions. There were none and he then declared the public hearing closed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a \$62,500 match for the \$125,000 One NC Fund Grant; a \$12,500 match for the \$250,000 Building Reuse Grant; and \$175,000 cash incentive for Project Diamond , CertainTeed Corporation, and the following associated resolution.

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT

North Carolina Department of Commerce Building Reuse Program

WHEREAS, in June 2004, the North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 1352, authorizing funds to stimulate economic development and job creation in distressed areas through constructing critical water and wastewater facilities, addressing technology needs, renovation of vacant buildings, and implementation of research and demonstration projects; and,

WHEREAS, in July 2007, the General Assembly passed House Bill 1473 to expand the Economic Infrastructure Fund and to provide funding to facilitate economic transitions in rural communities; and,

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Department of Commerce' s Rural Economic Development Division' s Building Reuse Program was created to spur economic activity and job creation by assisting in the productive use of buildings in rural areas; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Granville is engaged in activities to assist in the productive use of buildings, specifically the renovation and an existing building and the construction of a new building for CertainTeed Corporation located at 200 CertainTeed Drive, Oxford, NC that will increase the number of jobs in the area; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Granville requested grant assistance from the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division's Building Reuse Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF GRANVILLE:

That the County of Granville will provide a total Incentive of 250,000.

That the County of Granville will provide 50% match of the \$125,000 One NC grant award for the project,

That the County of Granville will provide a 5% match of the 250,000 Building Reuse Grant,

That the County of Granville will provide for efficient administration, implementation, and operation/maintenance of the grant.

That the County Manager is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the North Carolina Department of Commerce may request in connection with the grant application and project; to make assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application and grant.

That the County of Granville has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to the grants pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 16th of May, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rosalyn Green, 4181 Shock Overton Road, Oxford, NC, stated that she was there to give kudos. She thanked County Manager Michael Felts for his kindness and attention to her and also the National Mary Potter Club and for working with them on the rehabilitation of the shop building. He said he always has his door open with kind remarks and guides her towards doing the right thing and making sure that reports were done in a timely manner. She told County Manager Felts that he will be missed and that hopefully, Granville County will get someone just like him. She continued that her next kudos go to Commissioner Hinman for

coming out to meet the representatives from Washington, D.C., the National Park Service, when they came out to do a site visit for the rehabilitation of the Mary Potter shop building. She noted that they admired Oxford, they admired the Mayor coming out, and also a representative from the Granville County Commissioners, Commissioner Sue Hinman. She continued that the representatives stated that the project is well worth it and noted that they also toured the museum, the gym, and other areas of Oxford and ate at Strong Arm Baking. She stated that Granville County made a great impression on the National Park Service Director of Grant Awarding, their Grant Manager, and also the representatives from N.C. State Historic Preservation. She thanked Commissioner Hinman for coming out and joining them. Ms. Green then invited the Board to the unveiling of the new name of Mary Potter School on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. and stated that they will be receiving an invitation.

Chairman Cozart thanked Ms. Green for her kind remarks, and he appreciated her sharing it with them.

AFTER HEARING RECOMMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET PRESENTATION, BOARD APPROVED SCHEDULING BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

County Manager, Mike Felts stated that the purpose of this item was for a presentation on the recommended fiscal year 2022-2023 budget presentation. He then presented the budget information as follows:

This binder contains the County's recommended annual budget as required by North Carolina General Statute §159 and the *Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act*. The budget is balanced and prepared in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the *Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act*.

Three general units comprise the document.

- I. **Continuation Budget** The first unit is the continuation budget for all funds necessary to carry out services authorized by the Granville County Board of Commissioners. This portion contains both the financial information and the narrative descriptions of each program in all funds for which the Board is responsible. In addition to the financial information, the continuation budget section also contains non-financial information about the County as well as a proposed fee manual. The fee manual describes the user fees that attempt to recover some or all of the costs of services from the direct beneficiaries of those services, rather than taxpayers.
- II. **Recommended Funding Enhancements**
The second unit contains the county manager's recommended funding enhancements. These are based on County Board input at the Board's Annual Retreat, general comments at other regular meetings, and State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Workshops.
- III. **Service Expansions**
The third unit contains detailed information on approximately 41 service expansions proposed by departments and outside agencies. These are "new and different" programs or activities that expand or decrease the current level of service to Granville County citizens and taxpayers.

THE ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

While budgeting is an ongoing process, the budget preparation season officially begins at the Board's planning retreat. During the planning sessions, Board Members discuss current programs and provide guidance to staff on what should be included in the service expansion process. The county manager then informs department managers of program ideas that the Board would like to see proposed in the new budget.

Section Three of the budget includes the budget calendar. Departments and outside agencies were reminded in late January to begin thinking about service expansions. Instructions and formal notification for continuation budget requests were sent out in February with service expansions due to be returned by mid-March. Individual departmental meetings were held in late March and throughout April to review and finalize the expenditure requests.

Revenues are generally the last item to be addressed because much of the property tax information and year-to-date historical data are not available until late April. Revenues and expenditures were finalized in May after another full review of revenues, expenditures, and projected fund balance.

GOALS

This budget is a product of the Board's vision of what Granville County will strive toward in the coming year. The long-standing values communicated during the annual planning retreat, special meetings, and regular monthly meetings are as follows:

- Continue to rely on financial plans and systems in the preparation of the proposed budget;
- Estimate revenues and expenditures conservatively to avoid expectations of unrealistic performance;
- Create an atmosphere where efforts to "spend down" during the fiscal year are discouraged;
- Present a budget that maintains the current level of programs and services provided to the public by County departments without a reduction, unless those reductions are caused by state or federal reductions;
- Present a budget that re-evaluates all expenditures in order to offset projected losses in revenue so that, in light of the current economic conditions, a tax increase is not needed for general government operations while allowing for policy review and potential service reductions or expansions based on other policy directives; and
- Present a budget that does not supplant funding cuts by state or federal governments, but instead recommends reductions to those programs and informs the public of the associated impacts.

The budget team prepared this document to meet the stated goals. Despite increasing operational costs, the proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 budget maintains all County programs and services at the current property tax rate as directed by the Board.

For fiscal year 2022-2023, additional emphasis was placed on the impacts of the State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The Local Fiscal Recovery Funds were made available through the American Rescue Plan to assist local governments as they work to drive local recovery efforts. On April 6, 2022, the Board of Commissioners met during a special work session to discuss the best methods to utilize the SLFRF revenues. The Board directed the use of the SLFRF toward infrastructure investments in broadband efforts and for revenue replacement options that will be directed toward governmental operations. With this determination made, the Board still desired to consider other program opportunities which came out of the SLFRF discussions, and these are included in the funding enhancement and service expansion sections of the budget.

The service expansion budget consists of expenditures that generally "change" something about operations. Examples include new positions, new equipment (not just replacement), new programs, acceptance of various grants, and initiatives to address employee compensation. Funding all service expansions would require more than \$6 million in additional General Fund revenue. The Board may wish to consider other sources of revenue to fund these additional services. Some of the initiatives may appropriately be considered for partial funding, future funding, or be incorporated into an overall plan such as the capital improvement program or recreation master plan.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The recommended budget reflects both the strength of the County from a financial perspective and the significant challenges faced by the Board. The majority of general governmental activities are accounted for in the General Fund.

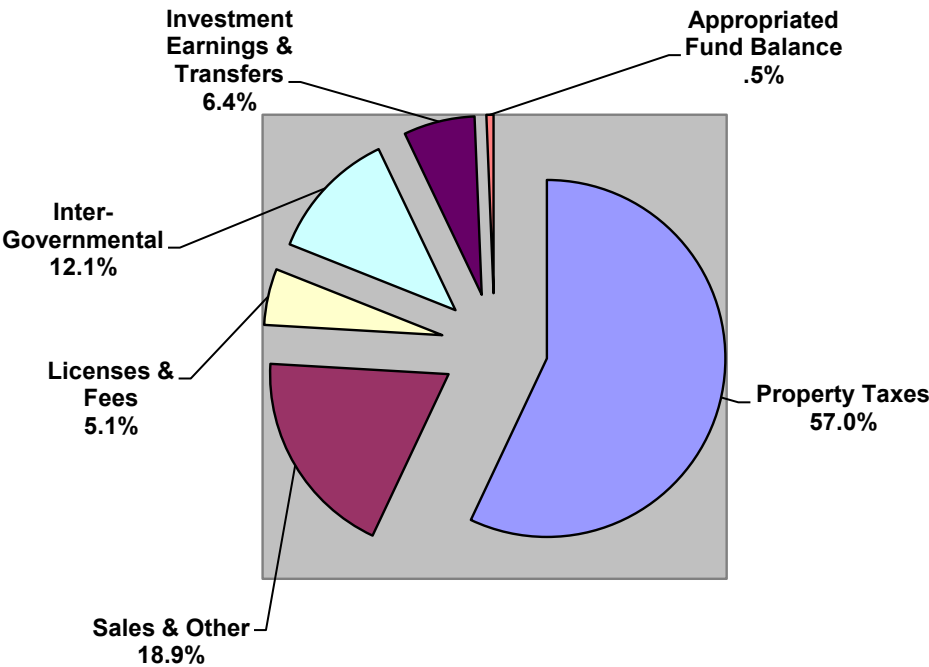
- ⇒ Much of the work in preparing the budget focused on critically evaluating all revenues and expenditures in an effort to adjust to the current economic conditions.
- ⇒ The estimated tax base of \$5,306,654,084 for fiscal year 2022-2023 is projected to provide revenues of \$44,009,780 at the recommended tax rate of \$0.84 for each \$100 of assessed valuation assuming a 98.73% collection rate. The tax collection rate compared to last year increased slightly at .30%
- ⇒ The recommended budget appropriates \$500,000 from fund balance (.5% of General Fund expenditures) in order to maintain current levels of County provided programs and services. Total recommended revenues, including appropriated fund balance, are \$77,737,238.
- ⇒ The fiscal year 2022-2023 recommended budget includes budget estimates for the newly formed Fire Protection & Rescue Service Tax District and recommends a tax rate of \$.06 for each \$100 of assessed valuation of property located in the service tax district.

Key Drivers for the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget:

- **Health Insurance Increase.** Granville County is self-funded, and we re-evaluate our anticipated and maximum claim liability and budget within this range. For fiscal year 2022-2023, the County increased the employer's funding to the health plan by approximately 10% and plan to use the health plan's fund balance to balance out any remaining funding needs. This is an increase of approximately **\$290,700** to the County's operating budget over the previous year.
- **Retirement Rate Increase.** For the upcoming fiscal year budget, the required employer contribution for employee retirement has increased approximately .81% from 11.35% to 12.16%. This is an increase, not accounting for salary increases, of approximately **\$130,000**.
- **Debt Service.** Debt service has been monitored closely over the past several years and has been an anticipated driver in our overall operating budget. Fiscal year 2020-2021 was the planned peak year for debt service payment (principal and interest) requirements. For fiscal year 2022-2023, we see a reduction of **\$1,305,713**.
- **Merit Pay Program.** Not including a one-year suspension of the merit pay program to implement the pay and classification study in fiscal year 2020-2021, the County has maintained the program for employees since 1998. The recommended budget accounts for the merit pay program with merit adjustments authorized up to a maximum of 4%. The estimated cost of this program is approximately **\$562,725**.
- **Health & Medical Increase.** Based on planned increases, this budget contains a \$75,000 program increase for the Public Health Department's general allocation and a \$24,000 program increase for the hospital for the EMS allocation. This is a total programmed increase of **\$99,000**.
- **Recreation.** During previous fiscal years, the County reduced funding for the recreation mini-grant program. Funding for this program was partially restored in fiscal year 2021-2022 and this year additional funding of \$34,000 was applied to bring the program closer to the year-over-year funding level. Funding of \$120,000 to provide for a revised Recreation Master Plan, as directed during the Board's Planning Retreat, is also included. These items impact the budget by **\$154,000**.
- **Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC).** Granville County maintains a 25/75 funding level with Vance County for the VGCC main campus. This year, based on funding requests for operating and capital needs for the college, Vance County increased recurring operating funding and provided a one-time increase for capital outlay needs. The total increase to Granville County's budget in order to maintain the 25/75 funding level is **\$449,070**.

- School System.** The Granville County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education have worked together over the past several years to better align the needs of the school system with available funding without requiring year-over-year tax rate increases. For fiscal year 2022-2023, school related debt service savings of \$268,431 were rolled into the school system’s annual budget increase request for capital and operating, creating a net zero change from last year’s adopted budget. The remaining balance of the school’s current expense request of \$251,244 for inflationary increase is included in the funding enhancement section of the budget document, and the impact of the state’s minimum wage requirement of \$1,408,000 is included in the service expansion section.
- Fire Protection.** In prior years, the County provided funding for fire protection through property tax revenues, which is not a dedicated funding source. The County Board of Commissioners recognize that all residents deserve an equitable response when a fire occurs, including highly-trained firefighters who are located nearby and who have the necessary critical equipment to save life and property. The Board realizes there is a need for a dedicated funding source and believed the most sustainable answer was the creation of a fire protection & rescue service district as the primary funding structure within the unincorporated areas of Granville County. The county manager is recommending a tax rate of \$.06 for each \$100 of assessed valuation of property located in the service tax district. For the unincorporated area of the county, this is anticipated to raise approximately \$1,875,733 in service district taxes. This represents approximately \$729,825 more than the recurring funding for fire services in the fiscal year 2021-2022 annual budget.

Sources of Revenue for the General Fund in the fiscal year 2022-23 recommended budget:



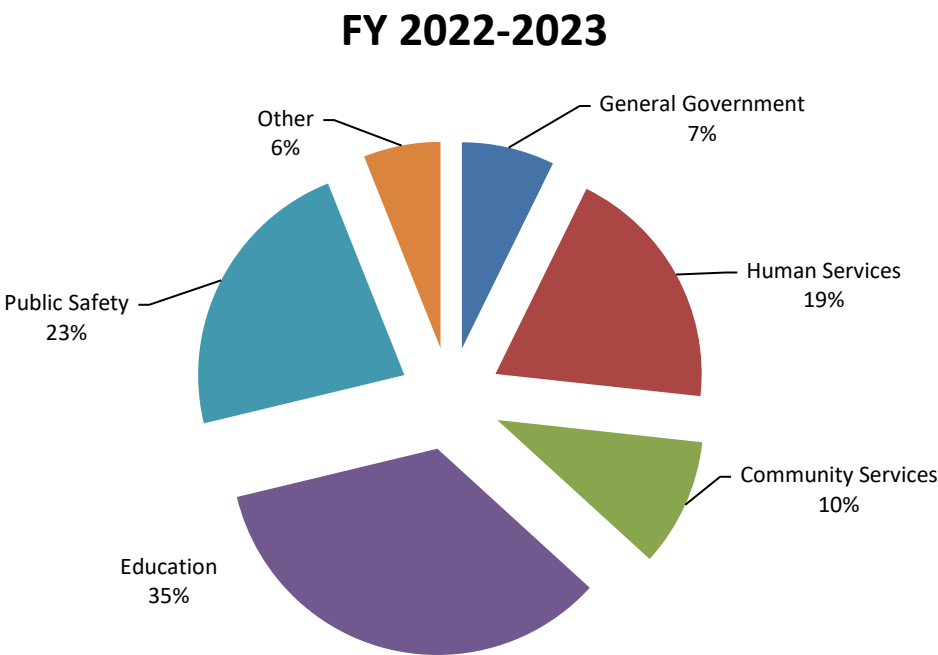
The following table shows the historical tax rate for the previous nine years plus the proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Fiscal Year	Tax Rate	Years Since Last Revaluation Year
2013-2014	\$0.830	4
2014-2015	\$0.830	5
2015-2016	\$0.830	6
2016-2017	\$0.880	7
2017-2018	\$0.880	8
2018-2019	\$0.840	1
2019-2020	\$0.840	2
2020-2021	\$0.840	3
2021-2022	\$0.840	4
2022-2023	\$0.840	5

- ⇒ Collection efforts within the tax department over the last fiscal year have continued and the collection rate has increased from 98.43% to 98.73%.
- ⇒ Sales and Other Related Taxes are expected to increase approximately 9% over the fiscal year 2021-2022 amended budget.
- ⇒ Licenses, Fees, and Other Revenues are expected to increase by approximately 1.9% when compared with the fiscal year 2021-2022 amended budget. This is mostly due to fees associated with the housing of state and federal inmates.
- ⇒ Restricted and Intergovernmental Revenue is expected to decrease by 1% from the fiscal year 2021-2022 amended budget primarily due to a change in state funding associated with the social services department and other grant funding. This category experiences the most change throughout the year based on the availability of grants during the year.
- ⇒ Investment earnings are expected to decrease due to the utilization of construction project funding and the impact on investment earning rates due to the slowdown of the economy.
- ⇒ The recommended budget appropriates \$500,000 in fund balance. Based on the fiscal year 2022-2023 recommended budget, the fund balance is projected to be 36% of expenditures as of June 30, 2023 which is just above the County’s targeted range of 30% - 35%.

General Fund Expenditures

Overall, the County’s general operating expenditures increased \$277,568 which is a little less than 1% when compared to last year’s approved budget amount. Most departments held or reduced their operating budgets through this budget process. For departments that had increases, the increases were primarily due to increases in wages, health insurance premiums, and retirement contributions.



General Government – Accounts for 7% of the County’s General Fund Expenditures. General Government includes budgets for Governing Board, Administration, Board of Elections, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Internal Auditing, Register of Deeds, Tax Administration, and General Services.

Human Services Departments – Accounts for 19% of the General Fund Expenditures. This includes funding to the Hospital, Public Health Department, VAYA, Senior Services, Social Services and Veteran Services.

Community Services – Accounts for 10% of the General Fund Expenditures. This includes budgets for Cooperative Extension, Addressing/GIS, Inspections, Planning, Construction Administration, Economic Development, Libraries, Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Soil & water conservation.

Education – Accounts for 35% of the County's General Fund Expenditures. This includes funding to the Granville County Public School System and to Vance-Granville Community College.

Public Safety – Accounts for 23% of the General Fund Expenditures. This includes funding for Animal Management, Detention Center, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, Forestry Administration, and other emergency services.

Area Projects, Non-Departmental Items, Contributions to Other Funds, and Contingency account for the remaining 6% of the County's General Fund Expenditures.

OTHER FUNDS WHICH ARE ANNUALLY BUDGETED AND INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET DOCUMENT INCLUDE:

Emergency Telephone System Fund (ETSF)

This fund allocates and accounts for the allowable expenditures of the E-911 telecommunications surcharges. The Fund expenditures are budgeted at \$363,724.

R.H. Thornton Library Memorial Fund

This fund is a special revenue fund used to account for the receipts and disbursements made on behalf of the Granville County Library System. The fund is budgeted at \$20,000.

Solid Waste Management – MSW Landfills

The budget provides \$5,701,570 for operation of the County's municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill. Tipping fees for the landfill are recommended to remain at \$38 per ton.

Solid Waste Management – Convenience Centers

The budget for the operation of the convenience centers is \$1,478,800.

Stormwater Management

The budget allocates funding for the Stormwater Management Operations fund to primarily provide services related to the state-mandated Falls Lake Rules. The fund is budgeted at \$351,828.

County Health Plan

The budget provides \$3,689,110 for the County Health Plan. Employer and Employee contributions provide the funding to cover the costs of anticipated claims and administration.

Department of Justice/Treasury Forfeiture Funds

The budget allocates \$500,000 for the Department of Justice/Treasury Forfeiture Funds revenue and expenditures.

DSS Contributions and Entrusted Funds

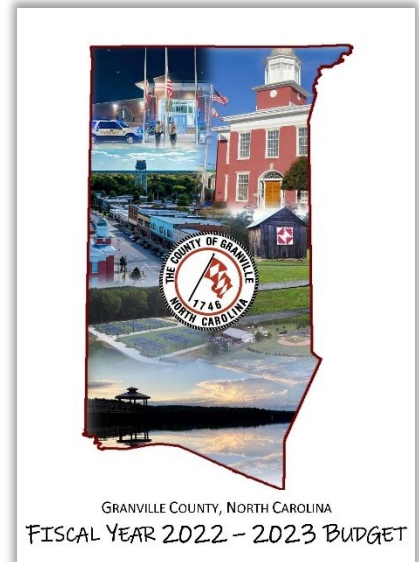
The budget allocates \$200,000 for the DSS Contributions and Entrusted Funds revenue and expenditures.

Sheriff's Special Fund

The budget allocates \$30,000 for the Sheriff's Special Fund revenue and expenditures.

SO, IN SUMMARY: The recommended budget continues current operations and maintains the Ad Valorem tax rate at the prior year's level, in accordance with the Board's directive at the annual planning session, despite the increasing costs of providing these services. This budget also includes a recommendation to fund the newly created Fire Protection & Rescue Service Tax District in a manner consistent with the needs of the County. The local and state economies in fiscal year 2022-2023 and the actions of the state and federal government will be important factors in the performance of this budget. Granville County staff will continue to build relationships with our state representatives and various associations in order to influence positive change for our County.

The Granville County Board of Commissioners has provided consistent and conservative allocation of resources and has acted responsibly in its efforts to maintain services. I believe the County has adequate reserves to remain flexible in the coming years, and staff will continue to monitor the impact of recovery efforts and work to keep the Board informed of the changing economy.



I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNITION THOSE THAT HELPED WITH THIS BUDGET

Department managers and key employees did an outstanding job of compiling their departmental budget requests to meet the County's mission of providing residents with an array of services to enhance their quality of life, through a responsive, effective, and efficient local government. The people working for Granville County Government care about their community and take pride in providing services that make life better for others.

Putting together a budget and producing a budget document requires significant collaboration and communication. The administrative team, under the leadership of Assistant County Manager Korena Weichel, did an outstanding job in refreshing the look and structure of the County's budget document to create an informative and functional document that serves as a management tool and an outline from which to debate policy. The finance department, under the leadership of Finance Director Steve McNally, were invaluable in the development of the annual budget and I appreciate their assistance. And I need to provide a very special thanks to Debra Weary and administrative staff for their support and for making sure that the business of the County continued while many County employees completed the efforts to compile this recommended budget. Thank you!

County Manager Felts stated that that was the completion of the Summary of the 2022-2023 recommended budget. He then requested two things:

- 1) Requested that the County Board of Commissioners call for a budget public hearing during the Board's regular meeting to be held on June 6, 2022.
- 2) Requested a public hearing related to the fire protection and rescue service tax district. He stated that the clerk had provided the Board with a copy of a draft resolution calling for a public hearing to consider adding the Town of Stovall to the Granville County Fire Protection Service District at the request of the Town of Stovall. He continued that they would ask that the resolution be considered and approved that calls for that public hearing to be on June 20, 2022, at the regular meeting of the Granville County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Felts noted that Stovall is the only municipality to date that has asked to join the fire protection service district. If any municipalities were to ask to join by May 22, 2022, he would ask that the Board allow them to also include them in the public hearing. He noted that May

22, 2022 is the last official date that they can make notice to the County and still provide the required four-week notice to their residents that they have asked to be included in the service district and be in the public hearing on June 20, 2023.

In closing, County Manager Felts announced that the Board Chair has set a budget work session scheduled for May 31, 2022, here at the Expo Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. and noted that it is expected to be an all-day session. He stated that he was happy to answer any questions if there were any at that time.

Chair Cozart thanked County Manager Felts and stated that he presented a lot of information in the budget. He stated that he was amazed that they would be looking at still having a 36% fund balance and that it was impressive with all that has gone on.

County Manager stated that given where we are going with funding enhancements and some of the service expansions, it is better than we had anticipated so we have a little flexibility as we move into that process.

Chair Cozart noted that they did have a request as noted that the Board have a budget public hearing at their regular meeting on June 6, 2022 and asked for a motion to that regard.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved holding the budget public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 budget on June 6, 2022 during the regular meeting.

BOARD APPROVED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADDING THE TOWN OF STOVALL TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT AT THE REQUEST OF THE TOWN OF STOVALL

Chair Cozart noted that County Manager Felts explained that Stovall had asked to be included in the fire protection service district and that a public hearing would need to be held on June 20, 2022. He asked that if other municipalities request before the deadline of May 22, 2022, they be added to that public hearing.

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the public hearing for the Town of Stovall and any other possible municipalities to be added to the Granville County Fire Protection Service District at their requests and the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADDING
THE TOWN OF STOVALL TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT
AT THE REQUEST OF THE TOWN OF STOVALL**

WHEREAS, the Town of Stovall adopted a resolution on May 10, 2022 requesting the Granville County Board of Commissioners to include the Town of Stovall in the Granville County Fire Protection Service District; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Stovall has been funding their fire and rescue services through the Town's municipal General Fund; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes ("NCGS") § 153A-303 prescribes a process whereby municipalities may request the Granville County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") to consider including municipalities within the county's fire protection service district, which has been created in order to finance, provide, or maintain certain services in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided, or maintained for the entire County; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stovall acknowledges their responsibility for mailing written notice at least four weeks before the date of the public hearing to all property owners as shown by the county tax records as of the preceding January 1 of all property located in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stovall acknowledges their responsibility to make available a report containing certain specified information to be prepared and filed with the Clerk to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized by NCGS § 153A-303 to extend service districts and levy additional taxes in a county service district to finance the level of service provided in the district that is not provided in the entire county.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

The Granville County Board of Commissioners resolves to call for a public hearing on June 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Granville County Expo and Convention Center at 4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, to consider the request from the Town of Stovall to include the Town of Stovall in the Granville County Fire Protection Service District effective July 1, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

That the Clerk to the Board is hereby directed to make such publication of the notice of public hearing regarding the proposed extension of the Granville County Fire Protection Service District as set forth in NCGS § 153A-303.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Commissioner May stated that he did not have anything to report at this time but noted that the legislators were going back into the long session in a week or two.

**BOARD APPOINTED CHAD MCHENRY TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Vice Chair Russ May stated that Marshall Floyd, unfortunately, passed away and District 4 is nominating the name of Chad McHenry to fill that position on Granville County Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Affairs.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Chad McHenry (District 4) to the Granville County Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Affairs.

BOARD APPROVED TWO ONE-STOP SITES IF NEEDED FOR SECOND PRIMARY/RUNOFF ELECTION ON JULY 26, 2022

Chair Cozart stated that the Board of Elections requested approval to operate just one One-Stop site in the event of a second primary/runoff election is required on July 26, 2022. The Board of Elections met on May 10th and discussed the One-Stop needs for a July 26th primary runoff if it is needed. The Board of Elections is considering just having a One-Stop site which will be in Oxford at the Oxford Public Works building. The second site in Creedmoor at the South Branch Library was mandated by the County Commissioners several years ago. The Board of Elections is seeking approval to utilize just one One-Stop site location for a second primary runoff or direction to operate two One-Stop sites. Chair Cozart noted that the County Manager commented in the agenda item that it is significant cost-savings to the county to operate only one One-Stop site should a second primary runoff be needed. Chair Cozart referred Board members to the recommendation they had in their packets related to having just one One-Stop voting site for a primary or a runoff on July 26, 2022.

Commissioner May stated that he would like two locations for the runoff should there be the need for one. He explained that on the southern end, he recommended one in Creedmoor as the Board directed years ago. He continued that he understood the cost savings, but he also understands the convenience of people having to travel to vote and there is a significant population down south.

Commissioner Gooch stated that he also felt the need for two one-stop sites in the county. He continued that partially 60% of our population is in the southern end and honestly, in some districts down there, it is a long haul to Oxford, and he feared that the voters could be viewed as voter suppression.

Commissioner Karan agreed with both Commissioners May and Gooch in that people are creatures of habit, especially in voting and if they have it in their brain that it's a second primary, they will go to the place that they voted previously. He said that going a block or two to the wrong voting site is one thing, but going nine miles out of the way and then having to go another nine miles to get to where you need to vote is a completely different story. He continued that he understood that it is expensive, but what needs to be done is that we pressure

our legislators to do away with the 40% rule so that winner can win the primary election and move on.

Commissioner Russ May said he would like to make a motion to have two one-stop sites to address comments made so all voters will have the opportunity to go to the poll closest to their residence. Commissioner Jimmy Gooch seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hinman asked if there were numbers for how many people voted in Oxford and how many have voted in Creedmoor.

County Manager Felts stated that numbers for this election are not available yet.

Commissioner Hinman stated that that would make a difference in her decision.

Commissioner May stated that there were early voting sites at Tar River Elementary, South Branch Library, and then one location in Oxford. He said that the two locations of South Branch Library and Tar River Elementary would probably be comparable to the one site in Oxford.

When Chair Cozart called for a vote on the motion, it passed unanimously to approve two One-Stop sites in the event a second Primary/Runoff election is required on July 26, 2022

BOARD APPROVED LIMITED-TIME SUSPENSION OF FEES FOR ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS TO PULL DOGS

Chair Cozart stated that the purpose of this request is to request the limited-time suspension of the fees for animal rescue organizations. He stated that the Animal Shelter is requesting to have the fees suspended for rescue organizations to pull dogs from the Granville County Animal Shelter in light of the anticipated acquisition of several dogs which will result in the opening of the old shelter. Having the pull fees waived will assist Animal Management Staff in urging rescue organizations to pull dogs so the Shelter can operate more efficiently in the hopes of consolidating dogs into one shelter over time. He added that the County Manager recommends approval of the Animal Management Director's recommendation.

Commissioner Smith asked how long this suspension will last.

County Manager Felts stated that he would ask that it be waived until we can consolidate back to one shelter location. He continued that as long as he has two shelters open, he would like to have it waived.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a limited-time suspension of fees for animal rescue organizations to pull dogs.

BOARD APPROVED SCHOOL CATEGORY 1 CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING

Chair Cozart stated that the purpose of this item was to authorize County staff to budget and transfer prior approved funding to Granville County Public Schools to address Category 1 Capital Outlay Projects. He continued that in late June 2021, the School System was required to make an emergency repair to a fire alarm system for a school facility. Due to the timing of the need, and after visiting with County Administration staff and the School Liaisons, the County agreed to provide all \$100,000 from the school project contingency funds and the school system agreed to utilize their own local fund balance for the urgent project. The County also agreed to set aside \$500,000 of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds when they determined the final rules for the use of funds.

Chair Cozart stated further that we have discussed this in the past and that the recommendation is to authorize the County Finance Director to appropriate \$500,000 of County General Fund Balance to support the Category 1 Capital Outlay allocation and remit the funds to the Granville County Public School System.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved authorizing the Finance Director to appropriate \$500,000 of County General Fund Balance to support the Category 1 Capital Outlay allocation and remit the funds to the Granville County Public School System.

BOARD APPROVED THE PAYOUT OF COMPENSATORY TIME FOR TWO EXEMPT POSITIONS

Chair Cozart stated that the purpose of this item is to request the payout of compensatory time for two exempt employees. He continued that the Granville County Personnel Policy allows for exempt (non-elected) positions to earn compensatory time on an hour-for-hour basis beyond their regular workweek of 37.5 hours based on historical practices.

He noted the recommendation from County Manager recommending authorization of the payout of compensatory leave for the two exempt positions as requested by the General Services Director and Board of Elections based on the inability to utilize the time under any reasonable conditions. He then asked if there were any questions and/or comments needed for clarification from the County Manager on this issue.

Commissioner May asked if there was a cap that they are placed on so that we don't get to these excessive numbers.

County Manager Felts stated that the non-exempt employees have a cap but at the time they reach their cap, those extra hours are paid out so regular non-exempt employees have a cap of 240 hours. A non-exempt law enforcement officer, they have a cap of 480 hours by statute. He continued that exempt employees, which are typically your department heads and supervisors that are exempt, do not have a cap. It is a benefit that you provide, and he stated that he should note, that if an exempt employee leaves service with Granville County, you are not obligated to pay these compensatory hours. He stated further that for the most part, most positions are able to earn some and use it and it stays well-balanced, but these two particular departments just have an incredible burden put on them for time that the hours accumulate over time and there is just not the ability to utilize them. He stated that the last time the request was brought to the Board was about ten years ago and the time before that was about 10 years as well. He stated that this is a ten-year accumulation and that it is not something that just happened in a short period of time.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and unanimously carried, the Board approved t authorizing the payout of compensatory leave for the two exempt positions, General Services Director and Board of Elections Director, based on the inability to utilize the time under any reasonable conditions with funding from the current budget non-departmental cost center.

Commissioner Smith stated that he noticed that Gary Bowen was in attendance of the meeting and that he was aware that Mr. Bowen works a lot of hours, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. He thanked Mr. Bowen for his dedication.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney Wrenn stated that he did not have anything to report but that he did have a couple of matters for attorney-client privilege.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Hinman reported that the Commissioners were invited to go to Vance-Granville Community College for their graduation. She noted that she and Commissioners Cozart and May attended and noted that the young people were very impressive. She continued that as hard as the last two years have been to get this accomplished during Covid and not knowing when you would or would not be in class, they got the job done and they understood their assignment. She stated that Commissioner Cozart also understood his assignment

awesomely and that he did a very good job of speaking at the commencement ceremony and thanked him for doing so.

Commissioner thanked Commissioner Hinman for her statement.

Commissioner May stated that they attended the liaison meeting with the schools and hopefully they can work to some type of consensus. He continued that it must be understood that the County Manager has prepared the budget in a way we can best fund the schools based upon our budget needs as well, and as all too often that Commissioners are pitted against the school board and that is not all the way it should be. He stated further that they both have responsibilities to fund a broad range of services and that includes our children as well as the adults that reside in Granville County. Commissioner May stated that he is confident through the process that we are going to do our very best to come to something that is amenable and meets those needs the best we can. Commissioner May continued that he had an opportunity to attend Dr. Cozart's 18th anniversary celebration at his church and it was an incredible event. He noted that Dr. Cozart is not only loved by his community in Warren County, but he is also loved by those in Granville County. He stated that Dr. Cozart did not preach at his anniversary celebration but that he did preach at the Vance-Granville Community College Commencement exercise which was very good. In closing, he noted that he also attended South Granville High School's girls' softball third-round game, a boys' baseball third-round game and at the same time they had a concert that actually filled the auditorium. He said that there is a lot to be proud of what's going on at South Granville High School and he appreciates the leadership of the new Principal Kevin Ferrell and the good things that they are seeing there. He stated further that he is very proud of the Board for taking the steps that it has taken for the fire service districts. He stated that the consultant has done an exceptional job as well as our County Manager in working through it and meeting the needs of the 12-volunteer departments and on top of that, making sure that our services are equitable. Again, he commended the Board for tackling this issue.

Commissioner Karan stated that he just wanted to give another congratulatory remark to Mr. Mills and the economic development commission of his team, with it being a two-man show at this point. He stated that CertainTeed, retaining them in this area with the 37 jobs will go with \$1.2 million dollar reinvestment in their areas is a big part of what Mr. Mills does; keeping the folks that we have currently happy. He stated that workforce has become a pretty

big part of that as well. He also wanted to give out accolades to the Environmental Affairs Committee with Commissioner Jay for responding so quickly to his plea around a stakeholders group for groundwater resources. That committee has chosen to form that subcommittee and study those resources, so he is very appreciative of how responsive government can be when a citizen reaches out and we are there to say that we do not have all the answers, but we are going to try and find out and along the way, we will educate the folks as we go.

He continued that as a point of information, the City of Creedmoor appointed Ed Gleason to fill the remainder of the term of City Commissioner Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown and Emma Albright was sworn in tonight as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Commissioner Gooch stated that since the last meeting, he attended the regular monthly meeting for the Soil Conservation Committee. He said those guys do a tremendous job with very little recognition and they ask very little from the county and thanked them for what they do. He reported that he and Commissioner Jay worked the Spring Clean-Out event on Saturday and things were a little bit slower than expected probably due to rain and the threat of rain. He stated further that he got to attend the South Granville High School Spring Concert with Commissioner May and he stated that it felt really good to be back in South Granville High School. He stated that they were celebrating a teacher who retired after serving there 25 years. He noted that he and Bobby Wheeler missed that teacher by about 25 years as they both graduated from South Granville 50 years ago.

Commissioner Jay reported that while Commissioners Gooch and May were at the concert, he and Commissioner Hinman were at Northern Granville Middle School where students received their Work Keys Certificate. He thanked Economic Development Director Harry Mills for getting Bandag, CertainTeed, and Vance-Granville to attend the program. After students received their certificates, they visited those company representatives and inquired about the workforce at each facility.

Commissioner Smith stated that he owed Chair Cozart an apology for not being able to attend his 18th anniversary, but that his church was in a vote to call their pastor. He reflected back 18 years ago when he and the late Reverend and Deputy Sheriff, Robert Blackwell, and John Wimbush attended Dr. Cozart's first sermon at Cooks Chapel Baptist Church. Fast forward 18 years, he stated that Dr. Cozart is still there and that says a lot for a church. He

continued that he congratulates him and look forward to many more years there at Cook's Chapel.

Chair Tony Cozart thanked Commissioner Smith. He continued that with all the graduations coming up, he really enjoys when you get to see the faces of the students like at the Vance-Granville graduation. He stated that while Granville County has a budget, it really comes alive at such events. He continued that when you see former students come back f to honor their former teacher at the South Granville High School event; it just lets you know that we have a lot going on and the advancement because some of these young people, they have gone on and made great careers. So, the seeds that we plant with our young people are important. He continued that he is so proud that students are positioning themselves to feed into the system and not take from the system. He continued that he just wanted to thank the Board for what they do and noted how important the encouragement that we are able to give out to our young people is because all of us one day want to see that bucket bigger of people pouring into a system so that it will not be so hard on those who are trying to take care of others who have all kinds of mental health and physical problems. He thanked the Board for their encouragement and support, and he appreciates it so much.

Chair Cozart stated that he also wanted to commend Economic Development Director Harry Mills as he has heard so many wonderful things about how the industrial community has really reached out to the employees at Santa Fe and how the management at Santa Fe has been able to have other industries reach out to their employees. He added that it is heart-warming to see people working hard trying to help the Sante Fe employees get placed in other companies. He stated that many of them are Granville County citizens and we surely want the best for them. He thanked Mr. Mills for all the work that he has been doing in trying to make those connections.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Commissioner Sue Hinman noted that she wished everyone could have seen Chair Cozart's face when they said that all the children graduated from Vance-Granville Community College. She said you would have thought each one of them was his child and it just made everyone, including her feel great. She stated that Chair Cozart did a great job.

BOARD WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board went into closed session as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session.

BOARD ADJOURNED

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra A. Weary, NCMCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board