

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met for a Budget Meeting in the Multipurpose Room at the Cabarrus County Governmental Center in Concord, North Carolina at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Present - Chairman: Stephen M. Morris
 Vice Chairman: Lynn W. Shue
 Commissioners: Christopher A. Measmer
 Barbara C. Strang
 Kenneth M. Wortman

Also present were Mike Downs, County Manager; Rodney Harris, Deputy County Manager; Kyle Bilafer, Assistant County Manager; Kelly Sifford, Assistant County Manager; and Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Morris called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Rowan Cabarrus Community College Presentation of FY 2024 Budget Request

Dr. Carol Spalding, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) President, Jonathan Chamberlain, RCCC Chief Officer of College Environment, and Kelly Kluttz, Chief Financial Officer, presented the RCCC FY24 budget request via a PowerPoint presentation that included the following topics:

- 2018-2023 Strategic Plan Themes
 - Learn
 - Engage
 - Innovate
 - Lead
- Key Cabarrus County Programs
- Strategic Priority
 - Land acquisition
 - Renovating current South Campus buildings
 - Constructing a new workforce innovation center
- Fiscal 2024 Cabarrus County Budget Request Summary
 - Current operating budget request - \$4,316,003
 - Capital budget request - \$58,860,000
 - Total fiscal 2024 budget request - \$63,176,003
- Fiscal 2024 Cabarrus County Current Operating Expansion Requests
 - Salary and benefit increases - \$51,235
 - Utilities - \$74,800
 - Add two staff at 50% - \$119,908
 - Preventative maintenance services - \$95,000
 - Increased insurance premiums - \$23,500
 - Total FY24 current operating expansion request - \$364,443
- 2024 Capital Budget Requests
 - Annual capital allocation - \$500,000
 - South campus building, S201 HVAC - \$5,335,000
 - South campus building, S201 phased renovation - \$5,500,000
 - Workforce innovations center - \$47,000,000
 - Trinity Church Road property acquisition - \$525,000
 - Total FY2024 current operating expansion - \$58,860,000
- Workforce Innovations Center - \$47,000,000
- Trinity Church Road Property Acquisition - \$525,000
- Future Capital Budget Requests
 - 2025
 - College station classroom buildout - \$800,000
 - Building S203 renovation - \$3,310,000
 - NCRC 2nd floor (Nursing) refresh - \$3,000,000
 - 2026
 - NCRC 1st floor remodel - \$4,000,000
 - Southern Cabarrus Campus land acquisition - \$1,000,000
 - 2027
 - NCPC 3rd floor refresh - \$3,000,000
 - 2028
 - Dominion Energy property acquisition - \$1,500,000
 - 2029
 - South Campus Building 5000 Technical Programs Building - \$45,000,000
- Anticipated Needs

There was discussion throughout the presentation. During discussions, Dr. Spalding, Mr. Chamberlain and Ms. Kluttz responded to questions from the Board.

Kannapolis City Schools Presentation of FY 2024 Budget Request

Kevin Garay, Kannapolis City Schools (KCS) Superintendent, Chip Buckwell, KCS Interim Director of Operations, Scott Rogers, KCS Assistant Director of Operations, Kim Greek, KCS Human Resources and Finance Officer, and Chris Triolo, KCS Assistant Superintendent, presented the KCS FY24 budget request via a PowerPoint presentation that included the following information:

- Who Are We
 - Enrollment - 5,425 students
 - Staff - 835
- Funding Categories
- Cabarrus County Funding
 - Instruction services - \$7,047,629 - 74.39%
 - Charter schools - \$586,050 - 6.19%
 - Technology support services - \$528,078 - 5.57%
 - Building maintenance - \$1,042,348 - 11.00%
 - Ground maintenance - \$270,364 - 2.85%
- KCS Priorities for Cabarrus County Funding
 - Maintain funding that continues to support current expenses already committed for position, supplements and resources
 - Expand funding to address and increase in the local supplements, rising costs of utilities, Science of Reading implementation and immediate capital needs

There was discussion throughout the presentation. During discussion, Mr. Garay, Dr. Buckwell, Ms. Greek, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Triolo responded to questions from the Board.

Cabarrus County Schools Presentation of FY 2023 Budget Request

Dr. John Kopicki, Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) Superintendent and Carol Herndon, CCS Chief Financial Officer, presented their FY24 budget request via a PowerPoint presentation that included the following topics:

- Local Budget Development Process
- State Per Pupil Expenditure - Actual vs Inflation Adjusted
- State Per Pupil Rank
- Function/Purpose - FY2022/2023
 - Instructional services - 45.4%
 - Instructional support - 1.7%
 - District office support - 24.6%
 - Utilities - 7.7%
 - Maintenance services - 14.1%
 - Charter schools - 6.5%
- Expenditure Type - FY2022/2023
 - Salaries and benefits - 58%
 - Contracted services - 3%
 - Gas/diesel, oil, tires/tubes - 2%
 - Utilities - 7%
 - Supplies - 5%
 - Computer software - 2%
 - Repairs and Maintenance - 4%
 - Professional development - 2%
 - Computer equipment - 4%
 - Charter schools - 7%
 - Other - 6%
- Locally Funded Positions
 - Certified - 136
 - Classified - 255
- Enrollment Trends
- Programmatic Commitments
 - School resource officers (SROs) in every school
 - 8 SISP resources (2 counselors, 2 psychologists and 4 social workers)
 - Program choice instructional opportunities (IB, STEM, DLI, etc.)
 - VEX robotics opportunities in 34 schools
 - Credit recovery resources in all traditional high schools
 - Instructional technology facilitators in all traditional schools
 - Athletic trainers in most Middle and High schools
- Funding Considerations
 - Operating expense - continuation

- o Operating expenses - expansion
 - Technology
 - General
 - Facilities and maintenance department (FMD)
- o Capital outlay
- Deferred Operating Expense needs
 - o Career and college promise support
 - o Junior Achievement Biz Town and Finance Park participation
- Local Budget Operating Expense Requests for CCS and Charter Schools 2023-2024
- Capital Plan

There was discussion throughout the presentation. During discussion, Dr. Kopicki and Ms. Herndon responded to questions from the Board.

Break

The Board took a short break at 6:32 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:45 p.m.

Fire Departments Tax Increase Request for FY 2024 - Allen

Jason Burnett, Emergency Management Director, stated representatives from four fire departments will be presenting their FY24 tax increase requests.

Chris Whiting, Allen Volunteer Fire Department Deputy Chief, and Mike Faggart, Allen Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors President, presented a request for a two-cent fire district tax increase (from \$.09 to \$.11) for FY24. The increase would allow continued service level, purchase required new/upgraded equipment, and building upgrades.

A discussion ensued. During discussion, Mr. Burnett, Jacob Thompson, Fire Marshal, and Mr. Whiting responded to questions from the Board.

Fire Departments Tax Increase Request for FY 2024 - Mount Mitchell

Scott Thomas, Mount Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors President, and Tim Hayes, Mount Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors Vice President, presented a request for a 1.74 cent fire district tax increase, bringing the tax total to \$.10 for upcoming FY24. The increase would allow the purchase of needed operating supplies that have seen a cost increase as well as needed/graded radio equipment and staffing.

Fire Departments Tax Increase Request for FY 2024 - Odell

Jeremy Burris, Odell Volunteer Fire Department Chief presented a request for a 1.7 cent fire district tax increase via a PowerPoint presentation, bringing the total to \$.085. Topics included the following information:

- About Us
 - o ISO rating
 - o Response data
 - o Automatic aid agreement in place
 - o Contract with Kannapolis for western growth area
 - o AVL dispatch and closes unit response with Concord and Kannapolis
- Staffing
- Proposed Tax Rate
 - o Justification
 - Increased part-time staffing at station 2
 - Increased operational cost
 - Vehicle capital purchases
 - Communications replacement
 - o Proposal
 - Increase staffing at station from 2 to 3 personnel
 - Provides two effective firefighting companies
 - Increased call volume
 - Duplication of calls
 - Ensure adequate staffing in district
- Current Tax Rate to Proposed Tax Rate
- Allocated Funding
- Impacts on the Odell Residents

A discussion ensued. During discussion, Mr. Burris, Jacob Thompson, Fire Marshal, and Mike Downs, County Manager; responded to questions from the Board. Dan Brown, Odell Board of Directors Vice President, was also in attendance.

Fire Departments Tax Increase Request for FY 2024 - Rimer

Dylan Ennis, Rimer Volunteer Fire Department Chief, presented a request for a fire district tax increase of 3.2 cents, bringing the total to \$.12. The increase would provide for increased cost of standard supplies, utilities, needed/upgraded equipment (radios) and staffing.

Chief Ennis stated that the new ISO rating would reduce resident's homeowner's insurance an average of \$300 per year, of which the requested fire district tax increase would cost residents approximately \$96 per year. Thus, residents would still see an annual fire savings.

Marty Ritchie, Rimer Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors President, was also in attendance.

Fire Department - Mount Pleasant Staffing Grant Allotment Request for FY 2024

Dustin Sneed, Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department Chief, presented a request for approval of the sum of \$27,240 for a staffing grant (90.8% of the \$30,000 grant). This would allow the continuation of the current level of service. Additionally, Mount Pleasant currently does not receive any staffing grant funds.

A discussion ensued. During discussion, Mr. Sneed, Jason Burnett, Emergency Management Director, Mike Downs, County Manager, and Jacob Thompson, Fire Marshal, responded to questions from the Board.

General Board Discussion

There was lengthy discussion regarding tax rates, projects and the schools, and volunteer fire department's needs.

Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Strang, seconded by Vice Chairman Shue and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.



Lauren Linker

Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board