

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 18, 2024.

Present - Chairman:	Stephen M. Morris
Vice Chairman:	Lynn W. Shue
Commissioners:	Christopher A. Measmer
	Kenneth M. Wortman
	Timothy A. Furr

Also present were Mike Downs, County Manager; Rodney Harris, Deputy County Manager; Kelly Sifford, Assistant County Manager; Aalece Pugh, 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 2025 Budget Request**

Dr. Carol Spalding, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) President, Jonathan Chamberlain, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Chief Officer of College Environment, and Tara Trexler, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Chief Financial Officer, presented the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College FY25 budget presented a PowerPoint presentation to include the following topics:

- Who we are
- Fiscal 2025 Cabarrus County Budget Request Summary
  - Current operating budget request - \$4,584,500
  - Capital budget request - \$8,109,000
  - Total fiscal 2025 budget request - \$12,693,500
- Fiscal 2025 Cabarrus County Current Operating Expansion Requests
  - Salary and benefit increases - \$104,789
  - Utilities - \$15,752
  - Materials and services escalation - \$49,253
  - Contracted services escalation - \$37,792
  - Increased insurance premiums - \$60,517
  - Total FY25 current operating expansion request - \$268,103
- 2025 Capital Budget Requests
  - Annual capital allocation - \$500,000
  - NCRC Aseptic Simulation Lab - \$200,000
  - NCRC Security Upgrades - \$300,000
  - South Campus Building 201 Phased Renovations - \$7,109,000
  - Total FY2025 current operating expansion - \$8,109,000
- 5-Year Capital Budget Forecast
  - FY2026 Request
    - Building S203 Re-Roof - \$410,000
    - College Station Classrooms Build-Out - \$1,012,000
  - FY2028 Request
    - Workforce Innovations Center - \$47,000,000
  - FY2029 Request
    - Building S203 Renovations - \$7,000,000
  - FY2030 Request
    - South Campus Parking Lot Repave- \$3,000,000
  - FY2023-2024 Requested
    - Trinity Church Road Property Acquisition - +\$525,000

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

### **Kannapolis City Schools Presentation of FY 2025 Budget Request**

Kevin Garay, Kannapolis City Schools (KCS) Superintendent; Chris Triolo, Kannapolis City Schools Assistant Superintendent; Kim Greek, Kannapolis City Schools Human Resources and Finance; and Scott Rogers, Kannapolis City Schools Assistant Director of Operations; presented a PowerPoint presentation the Kannapolis City Schools FY25 budget request via a PowerPoint presentation that included the following information:

- Funding Categories
- Background on Cabarrus County Funding (FY 2024)
  - Instructional services - \$7,378,552 - 71.10%
  - One-time funding - \$198,072 - 1.91%
  - Charter schools - \$743,914 - 7.17%

- o Technology support services - \$552,874 - 5.33%
- o Building maintenance - \$1,260,567 - 12.15%
- o Ground maintenance - \$113,783 - 1.10%
- o Fines & forfeitures - \$130,000 - 1.25%
- o Total - \$10,377.762
- Background on Rowan County Funding (FY 2024)
- Esser funds received (2020 - 2024)
- Esser expenditures (2020 - 2024)
- Instructional services requests (FY 2025)
  - o Increases due to state salary increases
  - o Increases due to inflationary costs
  - o Increase due to maintaining Esser-funded positions
  - o Multi-language learner supports
  - o Exceptional children
  - o Student services
  - o Instructional technology
  - o Supplements FY 2025
  - o Technology requests
  - o Pay-Go FY 2025
  - o Deferred maintenance priorities
  - o Large capital - current projects
    - Fred L. Wilson expansion renovation
      - YCH Architects
        - o Construction documents
          - 50% complete by April 15<sup>th</sup>
          - Full documents complete by May 15<sup>th</sup>
        - Shelco
          - o Working with YCH on schematic design/conceptual budget completed
          - o Design development/50% construction document budget (early May)
      - Forest Park HVAC
        - Optima
          - o Mechanical design is 80% complete/electrical design near 50% complete
          - o Bids by summer 2024
- CIP-Deferred Maintenance
- CIP Construction Projects (Long-range construction needs)
  - o A.L. Brown Addition - \$25,000,000
  - o Jackson Park Addition - \$20,000,000
- CIP Renovation Projects (Long-range renovation needs)
  - o A.L. Brown Renovation - \$60,000,000

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

#### **Cabarrus County Schools Presentation of FY 2025 Budget Request**

Dr. John Kopicki, Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) Superintendent, and Phil Penn, Cabarrus County Schools Chief Financial Officer presented a PowerPoint presentation for their FY25 budget request to include the following topics:

- Agenda
  - o Objectives and background material
  - o Continuation budget
  - o Expansion requests
  - o Capital budget
  - o Key dates
- Objectives
  - o Create a budget that supports the D25 Strategic plan
  - o Create a budget that aligns resources where they are most needed
  - o Present the budget in a way that the material is accessible to everyone
  - o Be transparent around what is a need and what is a want
  - o Don't sacrifice the long term to solve a short-term need
  - o Make the 2023-2024 deficit a one-time experience
- Key Assumptions
  - o Annual salary increases as adopted in the last legislative session
  - o Position allotments that more closely resemble actual state funding

- Inflation assumptions per Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
- Internal estimates around growth in student enrollment (ADM), with 603 new students expected
- Any one-off developments with a significant impact (ex: utility rate increases)
- Continuation budget
  - Summary
  - Certified staffing
  - Classified staffing
  - Non-personnel: Instructional support
  - Non-personnel: Facilities
  - Non-personnel: Technology
  - Expansion Requests
    - Personnel
    - Loss of Federal Funds (ESSER)
    - Student Safety
    - Curriculum and Enrollment Growth
    - Freeze of One-Time Funds
- Capital Budget
  - Capital Outlay 2025
    - Mobile unit upfit - \$35,000
    - Fine arts capital equipment expansion and replacement - \$140,000
    - Work trucks - \$35,000
    - School furniture replacement - \$240,000
    - Core collection of books/resources - \$75,000
    - Service vehicles for planners (2) - replacements - \$60,000
    - Activity buses (2) - \$300,000
    - McKinney Vento Vans (3) - \$135,000
    - Total capital budget outlay - \$1,020,000
  - Projects \$25,000 - \$499,000
  - Capital improvement plan
- Summary

There was discussion throughout the presentation. During discussion, Dr. Kopicki, Mr. Penn, and Chuck Taylor, Cabarrus County Schools Director of Facilities, responded to questions from the Board.

#### **Break**

The Board took a short break at 6:54 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

#### **Fire Districts - Presentation of FY 2025 Budget Requests**

Jacob Thompson, Chief Fire Marshal, provided an introduction at the beginning of each fire department's presentation.

- Harrisburg Rural: The current tax rate is \$0.15 per \$100 value. This rate would generate \$2,321,278.13; the revenue neutral rate of \$0.103 would generate \$1,695,801.35. The fire department requested to maintain the fire tax rate of \$0.15. Chief Dunn presented a PowerPoint presentation, which included the following:
  - History
  - Harrisburg Fire District
  - Harrisburg Fire Department FY25 Increases
    - Salaries - 22.35%
    - Workers Compensation - 28.33%
    - Physicals - 64%
    - Employee Insurance - 31%
    - Building and Grounds - 20.71%
    - Equipment - 25.33%
    - Tires - 17.46%
    - Casualty Insurance/Bonds - 23.53%
    - Radios - 12%
    - PPE - 20.43%
    - Engine Replacement - 69% (from 2018 pricing)
  - 2023 Highlights
    - 2933 Total Incidents which is a 6.5% increase from 2022
    - 4287 Unit Responses
    - 78% of home value saved from structure fires



- 13,000 kids and 300 adults interacted with our fire safety programs
  - Town of Harrisburg Resolution (passed by Harrisburg Town Council)
- Richfield-Misenheimer: The fire department requested a fire tax rate of \$0.07, which is the current rate. This rate would generate \$21,089.25. The revenue neutral rate of \$0.046 would generate \$14,839.21. Chief Dunn reported the following needs:
  - Replacement of 2021 model apparatus; sharing the cost increase with Stanly County
  - Updating the station (it was built in 1987).
- Allen Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD): The current fire tax rate is \$0.11, which generates \$1,252,107.30. The revenue neutral rate of \$0.072 would generate \$877,771.10. Chiefs Dozier and Barbee, presented a PowerPoint presentation to include:
  - AVFD Established in 1959
    - One Fire Station
    - Covers 19 square miles
    - Population of approximately 5,000 people
    - 2 high-traffic highways: NC 49 and US 601
    - Combination part-time/volunteer, with three personnel staffed 24/7/365
    - 2023 Call Volume: 1,099 (Second busiest in Cabarrus County)
      - Odell - 1,254
      - Mt. Pleasant - 1,077
      - Midland - 1,024
  - Current needs overview
    - Portable radio replacement
    - Turnout gear replacement
    - Staff salary increase
    - Building addition
    - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) replacement
    - Support vehicle replacement
  - Summary

Chief Slocum and Captain Simmons were in attendance.

- Concord Fire Department (covers Concord Rural and Jackson Park areas): A fire tax rate of \$0.125 was requested for Concord-Rural. It is less than current rate. The requested rate would generate 43,294.28. The revenue neutral rate, \$0.15, would generate \$65,549.04.
- Jackson Park requests a rate of \$0.125, which would generate \$307,393.45; the revenue neutral rate of \$0.102 would generate \$307,464.69. Chief Williams presented a PowerPoint presentation to include the following topics:
  - District Coverage
  - County Revenue Neutral Proposal
  - Current Fire Rate FY24
  - City Finance Numbers
- Cold Water: Requested to remain at the current fire tax rate of \$0.08. The rate generates \$578,025.43; the revenue neutral rate of \$0.055 would generate \$422,670.84. Chief Preddy provided information in connection with the following:
  - Personnel salary increase
  - Purchase of new engine
- Flowes Store Fire Department: Requested a fire tax rate of \$0.10, which is the current rate. This rate would generate \$517,073.33. The revenue neutral rate, \$0.074, would generate \$402,660.27. Chief Houston and Captain Anthony Messina (also a member of the Flowes Store Fire Department Board) presented a PowerPoint to include the following:
  - Funding Usage

- Additional staff and staffing costs
  - Additional funding for firefighter equipment
  - Lowered ISO rating to a 3
  - Junior firefighter program
- Georgeville Volunteer Fire Department: Requested a fire tax rate of \$0.09, generating \$529,122.45. The revenue neutral rate of \$0.06 would generate \$376,722.11. Chief Blackwelder advised of the need to replace oxygen units (currently replacing ten per year). personnel increase and salary increase, volunteer payouts, and the purchase of a new truck.
  - Gold Hill Fire Department: Requested to remain at the current fire tax rate of \$0.09, which would generate \$85,085.38. The revenue neutral rate of \$0.068 would generate \$67,430.50. Chief Brock reported on the need to replace oxygen tanks, purchase an engine tanker, and an increase in personnel salaries.
  - Kannapolis Rural: Chief Fire Marshal Jacob Thompson presented the request to continue the current fire tax rate of \$0.10, which generates an income of \$366,557.40. The revenue neutral rate, of \$0.066 would generate \$298,987.46.
  - Mt. Mitchell: Reported the requested rate of \$0.10 would generate \$231,325.56 and the revenue neutral rate of \$0.067 would generate \$165,386.22. Chief Harrington and Assistant Chief Ritchie advised the funding would be utilized for staffing and gear replacements. This is a split department with Rowan County providing \$128,000 per year.
  - Mt. Pleasant Rural: The Town of Mt. Pleasant Fire Department also covers the Mt. Pleasant rural area. The department has requested a fire tax rate of \$0.11 (slightly lower than their current rate; it would generate \$1,044,034.98; the revenue neutral rate of \$0.08 would generate \$800,893.53. Chief Sneed and Assistant Chief Watts presented information regarding personnel, personnel salaries, engine maintenance, and capital reserve.
  - Northeast Cabarrus: Requested a fire tax rate of \$0.12 generating revenue of \$351,614.45; the revenue neutral rate of \$0.087 would generate \$239,046.82. Chief Brown and Assistant Chief Smith advised the funds would be used for apparatus maintenance, updating fleet, personnel salaries, and yearly turn out gear replacement.
  - Odell: Requested to stay revenue neutral at the rate of \$0.059, which would generate \$1,403,456.0. This would allow them to sustain current services.
  - Rimer Volunteer Fire Department: Reported the current rate is \$0.12, however, a rate of \$0.10 was requested. The requested rate would generate \$564,941.45 whereas a revenue neutral rate of \$0.083 would generate \$415,368.85. Chief Ennis and Mr. Ritchie, Rimer Volunteer Fire Department Board President, provided the tax revenues would fund fuel, utilities, insurance, radio replacement, truck maintenance and replacement, and equipment such as turnout gear.
  - Midland Fire Department: Requested a fire district tax rate of \$0.10 generating \$1,821,222.52; the revenue neutral rate of \$0.085 would generate \$1,593,601.52. Chief Yow and Chief Coley presented the five-year strategic plan for the Midland Fire Department that included the following:
    - o Mission statement
    - o Chief statement
    - o Department overview
      - History
      - Operations
        - Goal 1 - Improve radio communications
        - Goal 2 - Evaluate current department respiratory protection equipment and prepare for replacement
        - Goal 3 - Evaluate and improve staffing
        - Goal 4 - Evaluate and improve infrastructure of the fire department

- Goal 5 - Evaluate current fleet and fleet replacement program
- Goal 6 - Evaluate current unit deployment model and adapt to continued development
- Training
  - Goal 1 - Increase multi-agency training opportunities
  - Goal 2 - Purchase training division cadre turnout gear
  - Goal 3 - Outfit training facility with exterior lighting and privacy fencing
  - Goal 4 - Outside training at no cost to the member
  - Goal 5 - Install water source and driveway to training grounds
- Education and Public Information
  - Goal 1 - Reinforce fire education through various programs within the community
  - Goal 2 - Provide continual information

A discussion ensued throughout all the presentations. During discussions, Mr. Thompson, Rodney Harris, Deputy County Manager, and the fire department representatives responded to questions from the Board.

**General Board Discussion**

There was a brief discussion regarding tax rates, projects, schools, budget, and volunteer fire departments' needs.

Vice Chairman Shue thanked Rodney Harris, Deputy County Manager, for his service to Cabarrus County.

**Adjourn**

**UPON MOTION** of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Commissioner Measmer and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.



*Lauren Linker*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board