



News Release

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County Manager Announces Leadership Team Changes

FAYETTEVILLE – County Manager Amy Cannon has announced immediate changes to the county's senior leadership team. The Board of Commissioners hired Cannon as county manager on June 9. She served as the deputy county manager for three years.

Deputy County Manager

James Lawson is the new deputy county manager. Lawson has been the assistant county manager for human resource development and support services for four years. He has been with the county for 19 years and was the human resources director for 12 years.

A graduate of Westover High School, Lawson served nine years in the Air Force working in military personnel. He joined the county's personnel department in 1995.

Lawson holds an associate's degree in resource management from the Community College of the Air Force and a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Maryland.

Assistant County Manager

Melissa Cardinali is the new assistant county manager for finance and administrative services. Cardinali has been the county's finance director since August 2013 and was the financial services director for the City of Sanford for 15 years.

Cardinali has more than 23 years of experience in local government finance. She is a North Carolina Certified Public Finance Officer and has served on the Government Finance Officers' Association Special Review Committee. During each of her 15 years as Sanford's financial services director, the city was awarded the Certificate of Excellence for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers' Association.

A native of Chapel Hill, she holds a bachelor's of science degree in business administration with a concentration in finance from East Carolina University. She has also worked as a portfolio administrator with the City of Durham; and as the finance director, accounting supervisor and tax collector for the Town of Southern Pines.

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Governmental Affairs Officer

Public Information Director Sally Shutt is joining the senior leadership team as the governmental affairs officer, a redefined role. She will continue to oversee the county's communications, strategic initiatives and legislative affairs programs. Shutt has been with the county for eight years, having served as the public information director for five years and the library's marketing and communications manager for three years.

A native of Fayetteville and graduate of Cape Fear High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in mass communication and media arts from the University of Southern Illinois in Carbondale.

The county's senior leadership team also includes Assistant County Manager for Auxiliary Services Quentin McPhatter, who has been with the county since January and was the former deputy city manager of Kingsland, Ga. He has a background in planning and public safety.

"These individuals with their respective areas of expertise create a well-rounded team. They along with our talented department heads are up to the task of moving the county forward," Cannon said.

"As a leadership team, we can build a more efficient organization, one focused on enhancing service to our citizens and developing plans to help us through the difficult times on the horizon," Cannon said.

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