



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

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## Commissioners Approve FY2016 Budget

FAYETTEVILLE – The Board of County Commissioners approved the FY2016 budget tonight. The budget provides \$526 million in total expenditures across all funds, with a General Fund total of \$319 million, which is \$4.5 million, or 1.4 percent, more than in FY2015.

The budget maintains the property tax rate at 74 cents per \$100 valuation, the same as the current year. Each one cent on the tax rate is projected to generate \$2.2 million in real, personal and motor vehicle taxes.

Permanent county employees will receive a 3 percent cost-of-living increase, the first across-the-board increase in three years.

The budget includes \$737,780 for 15 new positions, including two business analysts for the newly created Enterprise Solutions Division; four Sheriff's Office detectives; three Emergency Services telecommunicators and a communication training officer; three Child Support agents; and a lab technologist and environmental health specialist for the Health Department. Funding will continue for 35 time-limited positions at the Department of Social Services.

The budget provides funding for the county schools at \$77,894,329, which includes \$911,446 in additional funding in conjunction with the school funding agreement approved by the commissioners and Board of Education. Fayetteville Technical Community College will receive \$10.1 million for current expenses. The board approved \$205,000 through Dec. 31 for the Economic Development Alliance.

The budget includes \$8 million in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for constructing two new cells at the Ann Street Landfill and \$4.6 million to partially close four cells.

Installment financing totaling \$9.6 million for the first three years is included for maintenance and repair projects to County facilities that were outlined in assessments conducted in FY2015. The budget also includes \$100,000 for homelessness initiatives in partnership with the City of Fayetteville.

“This budget accomplishes what we wanted it to with a 3 percent pay raise for our workforce, much needed repairs to our facilities, important technology improvements and a tax rate that remains the same for our citizens. Our department heads deserve recognition for their support, and I'm excited about the new Business Intelligence initiative to review and improve our processes,” said Chairman Kenneth Edge.

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