



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

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Contact: Sally Shutt, Public Information Director
910-437-1921, sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us

County Commissioners Approve FY2017 Budget

FAYETTEVILLE – The Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the FY2017 annual budget tonight. The budget provides \$430 million in total expenditures across all operating funds, with a General Fund total of \$327 million, which is approximately \$7.3 million, or 2.28 percent, more than in FY2016.

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 \$2.33 million in real, personal and motor vehicle taxes.

The budget includes a one-time \$800 stipend for all full-time employees hired before July 1, 2016, and on the County's payroll for the pay period ending July 23, 2016. Part-time employees will receive a prorated amount. The budget does not include a cost-of-living raise.

The recommended budget includes \$78,729,271 for Cumberland County Schools, an increase of \$834,942 in accordance with the school funding agreement approved by the commissioners and the Board of Education in FY2014.

Fayetteville Technical Community College will receive \$10.6 million for current expenses, an increase of \$523,271 over the current year, as well as \$945,000 for capital expenses and \$334,489 for debt service.

General Fund Capital Outlay is budgeted at \$1 million, including \$809,045 to replace voting machines. The State Board of Elections has mandated changing the state's voting process by returning to a paper ballot and the County is required to purchase the new machines by 2018.

The budget also includes \$309,819 for five new positions: assistant County engineer; project manager in Information Services; administrative support in the Gun Permits section of the Sheriff's Office; Solid Waste container site attendant, and a pharmacy tech for the Employee Pharmacy, which will be open an additional 13 hours a week, including Saturday mornings.

“The commissioners are pleased with the budget. It holds the line on taxes and provides for limited growth,” said Chairman Marshall Faircloth. “The budget will allow the County to operate effectively and efficiently.”

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