



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

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County Manager Presents FY2016 Recommended Budget

FAYETTEVILLE – County Manager Amy Cannon presented the FY2016 recommended budget to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners tonight. The recommended budget, which includes the manager's message, is available online at http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/finance/budget_reports.aspx.

The recommended 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 recommended 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.

County employees have not received a cost-of-living increase in three years and the recommended budget includes \$2.3 million for a 3 percent pay raise. The recommended 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.

The recommended budget provides funding for the county schools at \$77,894,330, 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 is recommended to receive \$10.1 million for current expenses.

Cannon recommended \$8 million in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund be used to construct two new cells at the Ann Street Landfill and \$4.6 million to partially close four cells. She also requested that during FY2016, commissioners review the \$48 landfill fee because it has not increased since 1991.

The manager also recommended installment financing totaling \$9.6 million for the first three years of maintenance and repair projects to County facilities. The projects were outlined in assessments conducted in FY2015. The budget also includes \$100,000 for homelessness, and Cannon said the County would be partnering with the City of Fayetteville on several initiatives related to homelessness.

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The commissioners will meet again Thursday, May 28, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 564 of the Cumberland County Courthouse for a budget work session. A public hearing is set for Tuesday, June 2, at 7 p.m. in Room 118 of the Courthouse. Anyone interested in signing up to speak should contact the clerk's office at 910-678-7771 or cwhite@co.cumberland.nc.us. Citizens can watch the meeting live through the County's website at co.cumberland.nc.us or on Time Warner Channel 5 (Fayetteville/Cumberland Education TV).

Commissioners have scheduled the following budget meetings:

Thursday	May 28	5:30 p.m.	Budget Work Session	Room 564
Tuesday	June 2	7:00 p.m.	Budget Public Hearing	Room 118
Thursday	June 4	5:30 p.m.	Department Head Appeals/Work Session	Room 564
Monday	June 8	5:30 p.m.	Budget Work Session	Room 564
Wednesday	June 10	5:30 p.m.	Budget Work Session/Adoption	Room 564

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