



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Formally Approve FY2018 Budget Ordinance

FAYETTEVILLE – The Board of County Commissioners formally approved the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Ordinance during tonight’s Board of Commissioners meeting. The budget includes a total general fund budget of \$323,622,861, a \$3.7 million reduction over FY2017.

The vote was 4-3. Commissioners Glenn Adams, Larry Lancaster, Jeannette Council and Charles Evans voted in favor, while Marshall Faircloth, Jimmy Keefe, Michael Boose voted against the budget.

The budget increases the property tax rate from 74 cents to 79.9 cents, which is 1.7 cents above the revenue neutral rate of 78.2 cents. Cumberland County conducted a revaluation effective Jan. 1, 2017, which resulted in a \$4.8 million reduction in taxable value. The revenue-neutral tax rate is the rate estimated to produce revenue equal to the amount collected in the previous fiscal year, plus natural growth, if no reappraisal had occurred. A penny on the tax rate is expected to generate \$2.2 million.

The budget includes:

- The elimination of 90 positions, 41 full-time and 49 part-time, from 10 different departments. Currently, 53 of the positions are filled and 37 are vacant.
- The elimination of 67 service hours a week across the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center system.
- A restructuring of the Law Library services in the Courthouse.
- A 2-percent cost-of-living raise for County employees that will go into effect mid-year.
- Changes in service delivery at the Department of Public Health’s Dental Clinic. The budget includes \$5,000 for school screenings and \$30,000 for possible partnership opportunities with dental providers to offer limited Dental Clinic hours or services for the uninsured.
- Closing the Adult Health Clinic and providing \$70,000 to fund an additional day of coverage per week by Cumberland HealthNET at the Public Health Center.
- An \$8 increase in the Solid Waste Fee, from \$48 to \$56 a year.
- \$4.8 million for Mental Health funding.

Cumberland County Schools will receive \$80,362,412 for current year expenses. Fayetteville Technical Community College will receive \$12,101,992.

Community Funding – Some agencies that received funding in this year’s budget had their funding reduced by 15 percent. The Boys and Girls Club, Child Advocacy Center, Cumberland County Coordinating Council on Older Adults, Cumberland Veterans Council, Southeast North Carolina Radio Reading, Vision Resource Center and the 2-1-1 information referral system sponsored by United Way were renewed at current levels.

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