

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board
David Moxley, Vice Chairman
Cliff Collins, Commissioner
Marion Welborn, Commissioner
Frank Zachary, Commissioner*



*Ed Powell, County Attorney
Lisa Hughes, County Manager
Tanya Gentry, Clerk to the Board*

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

April 14, 2023

FY2024 Budget

All departmental and outside agency budget requests have been received, with the exception of Boonville Community Volunteer Fire Department who will have theirs in Monday. The General Fund requests, which includes all County departments except water/sewer and Solid Waste total \$48,609,083. This amount exceeds the originally adopted FY2023 budget by \$5,003,800. We are still waiting on final numbers for health insurance, workers' comp and property/liability insurance. These numbers will affect the requested budgeted amounts.

Representative Julia Howard has filed a bill to provide \$500,000 to the Town of Yadkinville for the Yadkinville Volunteer Fire Department. I spoke with Town Manager Mike Koser this morning and he was unaware of the request and what it was intended for. I provided Mike a copy of the bill. The Fire Department did not reference or include any information about it in their budget request to the County.

Tennis Courts

Dr. Martin notified me yesterday that they received the bids for the grading of the tennis courts at Forbush High School. The lowest bid was \$170,800, bringing the total project cost to \$767,769. They had an allocation of \$500,000 for this project.

Elections

I received a written request, as a follow-up to conversations I've had with Board of Elections Chair, Walter Shore. The request is in Exhibit 1 of this Report and pertains to staffing and rates of pay.

Salute to Heroes

If you know a citizen or anyone in Emergency Communications, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Services or Law Enforcement who has performed an act of heroism, demonstrated extraordinary courage or performed a humanitarian deed within the time frame of January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 please let me know. He or she may be nominated for the American Red Cross Salute to Heroes. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2023.

Facebook

Assistant County Manager, Brock Hall has assumed administration duties of the County's Facebook page. He will post weekly activities and accomplishments throughout the County. He will also post his After Action Report that he completes following Board meetings. This report is also posted on the County website.

EMS Outposts

We are still working on ideas to reduce the costs or look at alternatives for the two replacement outposts. Davie County is currently constructed a new outpost. It is metal construction, with 3 pull-through bays, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen, dayroom, office, storage and medical storage and they budgeted \$1.5 million for the project. Stokes County constructed in two years ago and the cost was \$834,000. It is also metal construction, 2 pull-through bays, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen, dayroom, utility room and storage. These outposts make the 4th in each of those counties. However, Stokes has 6 crews working out of the 4 outposts and a quick response vehicle.

CAD Request

I have received a request from Town Manager Mike Koser for the Town Police Department to have access to the County's CAD system. Communications Director Dylan Zachary, IT/GIS Director Steven Ratcliffe and I met to discuss the pros and cons of it, being that there is an associated cost with it and security concerns as it would required them to access our network. I am waiting on some financial information from Dylan and Steven to provide a proposal to the Town for an Interlocal Agreement if they decide to move forward. Dylan also stated that Jonesville has inquired about access to CAD as well.

Phone System

Century Link / Brightspeed finally ported over phone numbers this week for our new phone system. However, there were a few they didn't port over, including our main number (336-849-7900). So, we are having difficulties receiving calls. Steven is going to put an alert on our website notifying citizens and asking for their patience during the transition.

Upcoming Dates

June 7 & 8, the NCACC will host another Opioid Summit in Durham County. Registration is now open, so please let me know if you would like to attend this.

Lastly, the NCACC is hosting District meetings over the next several months and they have not provided a date for our District yet.

The NC City/County Managers' Conference will be June 22-24 in Wilmington, NC.

EXHIBIT A

Received By The



APR 12 2023

Yadkin County
Manager's Office

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
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Yadkinville, NC 27055

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Yadkinville, NC 27055
ebarnes@yadkincountync.gov

Phone: (336) 849-7907
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We would like to start by thanking you for your service to Yadkin County.

It is our understanding that you have done a pay study throughout the county in your efforts to adjust the pay scale for employees.

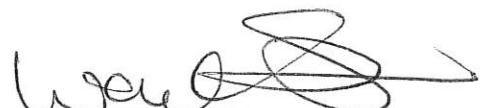
We, The Yadkin County Board of Elections, also did research of Director's pay of similar counties throughout the state. As a result of our research, and as approved in a January 2023 executive session, we request that the Director's salary be increased to \$55,000.00.

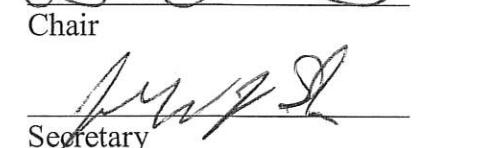
Along the same lines, we done a study of part time, and poll workers. We request that part time and poll worker pay be increased to \$15.00/hr. as approved at the April 4th, 2023 session.

Also, we will be losing a full time Assistant Director June 30, 2023 and will be in the process of filling that position ASAP.

Attached is our research on Director's salaries for similar size counties, and the statute for Director compensation.

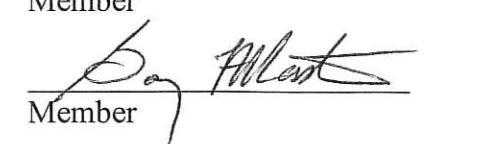
Additionally just FYI, attached is the total Election budget of similar size counties.


Chair


Secretary


Member


Member


Member

NC Counties with voter registration between
20,000 and 30,000 voters as of 12/10/2022

County	Registration	2022/2023 Election Budget	Voter ^(turnout) percentage in 2020 General Election
Ashe	20,087	307,832	81
Scotland	21,216	273,938	67
Bladen	22,317	422,887	75
*Currituck	23,080	222,985	74
Cherokee	23,249	344,820	73
Alexander	25,167	345,673	81
Transylvania	26,671	400,703	77
Person	27,897	375,294	79
Macon	28,152	338,003	77
Richmond	28,188	325,441	71
Vance	28,812	361,838	71
Pasquotank	29,445	358,215	69
Average		339,802	74.6
Yadkin Co	Elections Budget 2022/2023 25,015	216,270	81

* Currituck Co is in process of ~~increasing~~ budget
to 320,000 due to unusual circumstances.

NC counties with voter registration between 20,000 and 30,000 voters as of 12/10/2022

County	Registration	Directors Salary	Years of Experience As Director
Ashe	20,087	50,000	1 year
Scotland	21,216	66,465	17 years
Bladen	22,317	55,000	3 years
Currituck	23,080	55,000	8 months
Cherokee	23,249	67,572	27 years
Alexander	25,167	49,180	5 years
TRANSYLVANIA	26,671	61,500	14 years
Person	27,897	58,000	1 month
MACON	28,152	55,117	5 years
Richmond	28,188	45,000	6 months
VANCE	28,812	50,000	1 year
PASQUOTANK	29,445	50,000	3 years
Average		55,236	6 years + 5 months
4 counties with 3 to 5 years experience		52,324	

Director Elaine Barnes

YADKIN Co 25,015 44,359 7 years

Overview

The elections field has rapidly evolved over the past 10 years. Elections administration is a highly demanding and technical field. Elections administration is a highly specialized and niche field. It takes many years to acquire the knowledge and competency to effectively conduct elections and manage elections at the county level.

Competitive pay is essential in retaining experienced and talented individuals in these positions. Often the workload and the pay are not commensurate with each other.

- In January 2017 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated election infrastructure as a component of US Critical Infrastructure
- Increased reliance on technology with an emphasis on Cybersecurity
- Increased use of absentee by mail and early voting
- Increased number of early voting sites and hours of operation
- Increased need to work extraordinary hours
- Increased public records requests
- Fast pace changes in election procedures due to legislation and litigation

GS § 163-135

Compensation of Directors of Elections. - Compensation paid to directors of elections in all counties maintaining full-time registration (five days per week) shall be in the form of a salary in an amount recommended by the county board of elections and approved by the Board of County Commissioners and shall be commensurate with the salary paid to directors in counties similarly situated and similar in population and number of registered voters.