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COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT January 20, 2023

Hiring Crisis

Many say that this country is in a hiring crisis, that COVID has changed the workforce and what people are looking for in a workplace. ICMA presented a webinar on Breaking Glass: 10 Ways to Combat the Hiring Crisis and Building the Emergency Services Team for Today and the Future, as well as others. Both provided great information that we can use to enhance our recruitment efforts. Recruiting and retention will be priorities for Luke and Katie in HR. Luke starts as the HR Officer tomorrow.

School Resource Officer Grant

As previously reported, the Yadkin County Public Schools was awarded the grant for the 3 additional School Resource Officers. The Board of Commissioners created the positions and a budget amendment will be coming for the positions, including the required 25% match. The County budgets 100% for the positions and is then reimbursed from the School System for the grant portion.

As these are new positions in the Sheriff's Office, they will need to be outfitted with a vehicles, uniforms and equipment. The cost is roughly \$68,000 per position and these are one time expenses. There will be other ongoing expenses such as fuel, uniforms, training, etc.

Holcomb Creosote Site

In 2011, the EPA created a SuperFund for the Holcomb Creosote Site. They have been testing and monitoring the site for various chemicals and have removed buildings, storage barrels, etc.

They have now receiving funding to conduct further clean-up on the site and held a public meeting last Wednesday. There were about 6-7 citizens in attendance. They plan to begin work in early March and complete the clean-up by year-end. The funding is coming to them through the Federal Infrastructure Funding. The Project Manager will be in Yadkinville at least one week per month.

New Construction Projects

When previously discussing the thoughts for a new Government Building for the Tax Office, LPA and Information Technology and the replacement of 2 EMS Outposts, we had estimated \$5,000,000 for the Governmental Building and \$400,000 each for the Outposts. I met with the Architect and the Contractor Thursday and the Government Building is close to the estimate, but the cost for each outpost is more than 3 times the estimate. We have reviewed areas we can reduce costs and I have had one initial meeting with Keith Vestal to review them. The Contractor will now put costs to them and we will meet again.