



# COUNTY OF VANCE, NORTH CAROLINA

122 YOUNG STREET, SUITE B  
HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA 27536

D. SCOTT ELLIOTT  
INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER  
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KELLY H. GRISSOM  
CLERK TO BOARD  
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## NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

To: Sean A. Alston, Sr.  
R. Dan Brummitt  
Carolyn Faines  
Thomas S. Hester, Jr.  
Leo Kelly, Jr.  
Archie B. Taylor, Jr.

From: Kelly H. Grissom, Clerk to the Board *KG*

Date: June 7, 2023

Re: **Special Called Meeting**

This memorandum will serve as notice that Chair Yolanda Feimster has called a special meeting for Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Vance County Administration Building, 122 Young Street, Henderson, NC. See agenda items below:

1. Public Safety Committee Report
2. FY 2023-24 Budget Ordinance
3. Amendment of Holiday Schedule to include Juneteenth
4. Other items as necessary

c: Chair Yolanda Feimster

### **Public Safety Committee**

The Committee (Alston, Brummitt, and Faines); Feimster and Taylor attending, met on Wednesday June 7, 2023.

Also in discussion were representatives from; Bearpond FD, Cokesbury FD, Drewry FD, Epsom FD, Hicksboro FD, Kittrell FD, Townsville FD, Watkins FD, and Vance County Fire Department.

**Fire Restructuring and Budget Proposal:** The committee recapped previous discussions on redistricting and increased department turnouts to structure fires. The committee also discussed a fire restructuring and budget proposal. The proposal included:

#### **July 1, 2023 implementation**

- Hiring freeze on Vance County Fire Department positions
  - Currently four vacant positions within County fire department
- Increase part time pay to \$16/hr
  - Increase of \$386,922 annually over Manager's Recommended budget from fire tax
- \$25,000 for an outside consultant for implementation recommendation
  - Consultant would assist staff with navigating legal and administrative implementation of reorganization

#### **October 1, 2023 implementation**

- Reorganize Vance County Fire Department to Goldenbelt Fire Department
- Reclassify Vance County Fire Chief to Fire Marshall
  - Position will be responsible for training and support for all non-profit departments and serve as liaison to non-profit and county departments
- Reclassify Battalion Chief as Battalion Chief/Fire Chief
- Eliminate all paid part-time Vance County Fire Department (Goldenbelt) positions
  - Save one paid part-time position for legacy employee
  - Through attrition of Full Time Employees, savings would be used to pay for part-time employees
- Reduce Goldenbelt Fire Department operating budget to \$110,000 annually
  - Excludes salaries and portions of county owned debt
- Increase funding to all non-profit fire departments by \$10,000 annually from the manager's recommended budget
  - Increase of \$90,000 annually over Manager's Recommended budget
- Increase Drewry, Hicksboro, and new Goldenbelt departments by an additional \$10,000 annually for substation operation
  - Increase of \$30,000 annually over Manager's Recommended budget
- Use fire tax fund balance to pay debt on Kerr Lake Fire Substation
  - Current annual debt service payment is \$20,875
  - Total debt is \$93,937

There were questions about how Commissioners expect the county department to attract volunteers from the public when there has been a 25% decrease in volunteer firefighters since 1985. Also, there is an assumption in this model that Goldenbelt employees and volunteers are expected to fundraise an estimated \$111,000 to \$165,000 annually to supplement county funding to a county

department. Without adequate funding and staffing, residents and businesses within the entire county could see an increase in their Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings, causing increases in insurance premiums. Commissioners explained this is a multiyear phase in and the implementation study could address some of these issues. *Recommendation: the Committee unanimously approved the Public Safety Fire Restructuring and Budget Proposal.*

**Public Safety Committee Fire Restructuring and Budget Proposal**

As presented and recommended by the  
Public Safety Committee on June 7, 2023.

	General Fund DB/CR	General Fund Recommended Budget	Fire Tax DB/CR	Fire Tax Recommended Budget	
Freezing 4 Vance County Fire Positions	(242,068.64)				
Reclassiy Chief	0.00				
Eliminate 10PT and leave 1 Legacy Empl at County Station	(35,000.00)				
Remove Overtime	(30,000.00)				
Leave County Staff in Place to combine with new Volunteers					
Increase Current Private/Non-Profit Funding			\$100,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	Bearpond, Cokesbury, Drewry, Hicksboro, Kittrell, Townsville, Watkins,
Rescue Squad	8,625.00	110,000.00			
Additional Increase for Non-Profit Substations			\$30,000.00	\$0.00	
Increase Part Time Non-Profit Remimbursment to \$16/hr			\$386,922.00	\$957,224.00	Leave extra hours at Bearpond and Hicksboro, and increase to \$16/hr
New Goldenelt Non-Profit Part Time			\$107,478.00	\$0.00	
Payoff Kerr Lake and Fire Engine			\$93,937.00		Pay off Kerr Lake
			\$718,337.00	\$624,400.00	Recurring Loss to

		New Budget	New Budget	
REGULAR SALARIES INCLUDING FIRE MARSHAL	836,766	594,697	12,000.00	12,000.00 TELEPHONE & POSTAGE
PART-TIME SALARIES (LEGACY EMPLOYEE)	65,000	20,000		SPECIAL CONTRACTED SERVICES
OVERTIME	30,000	-	18,000.00	18,000.00 CONTRACTED SERVICES-FINANCIAL RPTS
LONGEVITY PAY	1,600	1,600	500.00	500.00 TAX REFUNDS
FICA EXPENSE	71,280	47,147		CAPITAL OUTLAY
GROUP INSURANCE	153,600	118,800	2,000.00	2,000.00 ADMINISTRATION FEES
RETIREMENT LOCAL GOV'T	101,450	91,520	1,193,005.00	957,224.00 NON PROFIT DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE
TELEPHONE & POSTAGE	8,000			33,900.00 KERR LAKE SUBSTATION
UTILITIES	19,000		110,000.00	100,000.00 BEARPOND NON-PROFIT FD
TRAVEL/TRAINING	6,000		110,000.00	100,000.00 COKESBURY NON-PROFIT FD
MAINTENANCE BUILDING & GROUNDS	8,000		110,000.00	100,000.00 DREWRY NON-PROFIT FD
MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT	5,000		110,000.00	100,000.00 EPSOM NON-PROFIT FD
MAINTENANCE VEHICLES	25,000		110,000.00	100,000.00 HICKSBORO NON-PROFIT FD
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	-		110,000.00	100,000.00 KITTRELL NON-PROFIT FD
ADVERTISING	-		110,000.00	100,000.00 TOWNVILLE NON-PROFIT FD
AUTO SUPPLIES	1,500		110,000.00	100,000.00 WATKINS NON-PROFIT FD
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000		110,000.00	100,000.00 GOLDEN BELT NON-PROFIT FD- NEW
DEPARTMENTAL SUPPLIES	4,500		30,000.00	30,000.00 ROTATING CAPITAL PYMT
UNIFORMS	13,500		30,000.00	NON-PROFIT SUBSTATIONS
WORKMENS COMP INSURANCE	23,560	23,560	107,478.00	100,760.00 RESCUE SQUAD PT ASSISTANCE
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			107,478.00	NEW GOLDEN BELT PART TIME ASSISTANCE
CONTRACTED SERVICES	6,800			2,054,384.00
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,000		2,490,461.00	(436,077.00) DIFFERENCE
INSURANCE & BONDS	34,561	34,561		
PEST CONTROL				
CAPITAL OUTLAY	70,600			
NON-CAPITALIZED ASSETS	2,000			
LEASE PURCHASE PRINCIPAL	70,794	51,587		
LEASE PURCHASE INTEREST	4,278	3,100		
FUEL	20,000			
FIRE PREVENTION	4,500			
FIRE EQUIPMENT	11,000			
PHYSICALS				
FOREST FIRE CONTROL				
INCIDENT BILLING FEES	1,000			
NEW PROPOSED FUNDING		120,000		
	1,603,289	1,106,572		

Discssion Today

343,593	VC Operating Expenses
(58,121)	Hold Hatmless Employee Expenses????
285,472	
120,000	Suupport from VC
165,472	With paying Truck Debt
110,785	Without paying Truck Debt