

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Workshop on Monday, May 13, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC with the Avery Fire Commission, Avery Sheriff's Office and Avery County Board of Education.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Glenn Johnson, Vice-Chair; Phyllis Forbes; Martha Hicks

Members Absent: Reo Griffith

**Call To Order**

Chairman Poteat called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.  
Chairman Poteat led prayer.

**Avery Fire Commission**

Avery Fire Commission Members Present: Daryl Smith, Chairman; Danny Clark; Joe Perry

Daryl Smith, Chairman of Avery Fire Commission, stated that the total for all departments is \$2,147,520 and total for Linville Central is \$202,725. As a quick overview, the differences in this year's budget and last year's budget is salaries of \$12,000, Group insurance up \$5500, grants up \$17,000 and we let them apply for \$20,000 this year on 50/50 matching grants; pensions was \$3400 more; building and truck insurance was up \$7000 over last year. That basically is where the increase was from last year to this year.

The majority of the increase for Linville Central Rescue is a full time paid person at \$41,000.

Tim Greene, Finance Officer, stated that last year's budget for the Fire Commission was \$2,192,500. The projected fire tax revenue for the upcoming year is \$2,218,000 at a 96% collection rate.

Daryl Smith said that the \$132,000 increase in budget also included a paid full time person at Linville Central Rescue at \$41,000, 2 QRV's and a vehicle for the Fire Department Coordinator at \$80,000. The fire department coordinator's vehicle is at a desperate situation now and needs to be replaced.

Martha Hicks questioned if the Elk Park Station would be open. Larry Cuthbertson, Linville Central Rescue Squad, said at this point the heat, electric and water was being paid for at the Elk Park Station which totaled around \$6000. Mr. Cuthbertson said unless there was some membership in that part of the county that the station would not be operational. He said that he had pulled the crash truck from the station because some things had been stolen from the crash truck.

Chairman Poteat stated that the Board needed to look at first what the fire tax revenue would generate and then the hard part comes what is above and beyond what the fire tax generates.

Martha Hicks questioned about the \$130,000 for building and land. Mr. Smith said that the fire commission was asking for additional monies for building and land. There is property behind the Frank Fire Department that perk holes have been dug and are awaiting if the health department will issue a permit.

Chairman Poteat questioned if the fire commission would like for the Board to cut their budget if they could not fund the full amount or if the fire commission would prefer to do that. Mr. Smith stated that the Board of Commissioners could do that.

**Recess**

Chairman Poteat called for a brief recess.

**Avery Sheriff's Office**

Chairman Poteat called the meeting back in session after a brief recess.

The Board was given a notebook of the Sheriff's Office budget.

Chairman Poteat said that the amount requested for the Sheriff's budget was \$2,149,821; amount requested for the jail is \$1,786,036.

Dallas Pate, Chief Detective, stated that the "extra pay" figure was \$85,280 and we have talked about this several times and based on the track record now I think we need to budget a little more than that. Tim Greene stated that the money for "extra pay" is budgeted in the salary line items. There was discussion about the "extra pay" or overtime. Mr. Greene said that the committee would need to meet again on this issue.

Rick Wise, Avery Sheriff's Office, explained that the Sheriff's Office had 12 vehicles with over 100,000 miles; five are road patrol and 3 four wheel drives that are 10 years old. We have asked for five vehicles. In the past I have been using radios out of older vehicles and have used them for about 10 years and this past January it was federally mandated that we go to narrowband and we could not use six of the radios. As far as vehicle maintenance, the price of tires has doubled. We would like to go with AWD which we would be better off in the long run because of gas mileage and not having to buy 4WD.

Keith Laws explained that the cost of ammunition had increased quite a bit. It is now taking 10-12 months to get ammunition. This ammunition is for mandated training. We are asking for what we have to do to qualify to continue to carry the firearms. We are not asking for an increase, the ammunition has just increased.

Troy Cook discussed the smart phones and digital cameras and other equipment that the Sheriff's office needed. There was discussion regarding an administrative assistant for the detectives.

Dallas Pate stated that the Sheriff's Office is asking for another school resource officer. Glenn Johnson questioned if this would be funded or initiated by the Sheriff's Office or school board. Dallas Pate answered that this position would be through the Sheriff's Office. Troy Cook stated that he was notified a few weeks ago about a grant for 2 resource officers for 3 years at a 75%/25% grant. This is a federal grant and the federal grant cycle begins in October.

Trina Cook, Chief Jailer, spoke about the jail budget. At this current time we do not have but one reserve officer and if I have someone sick, on vacation or training, I have to use a full time jailer. Discussion regarding each line item of the jail budget. There was discussion regarding a 15 passenger transport van. We could go with a smaller van but we have to go with what the Department of Corrections has at that time. Martha Hicks questioned roughly how many could be transported at one time. Ms. Cook stated that depended but last week when Superior Court was going on there were 6 people that needed to be transported so it took 3 deputies cars and 6 people to transport 6 people. Glenn Johnson questioned how often would that happen. Ms. Cook stated about every 2-3 months.

### **Recess**

Chairman Poteat called for a recess.

Chairman Poteat declared the meeting to be back in session after a recess.

### **Avery County Board of Education**

David Burluson, Superintendent of Avery County Schools, stated that he appreciated the Board of Commissioners. We want to be open and honest and transparent as can be. We are trying to bring to you what we need to continue the services at the level they are now. We have talked to parents, teachers, principals, our staff, Jeff Jaynes. Jeff and his staff work very hard to move monies around to maximize the funding from the State of North Carolina. We have come up with the budget based on what we believe is best for our students and continuing the services that we have right now. In this budget the primary goals are three fold: 1) To provide a healthy and safe environment. 2) Make sure we provide students educational opportunities no matter their ability, where they come from or where they want to go. 3) Make sure we have the facilities that will allow us to provide that education. This budget is divided into four areas: 1) Continuation budget with a 1 ½ % increase and a majority of that comes from legislative salary increases that could happen and if that does not happen we will not use that. 2) Safety Issues 3) Priority Needs 4) Other requests.

Mr. Greene stated that last year the amount of capital monies given to the school system was \$744,700 which included the Apple lease.

Chairman Poteat stated when you take pages 1 and 2 of the four pages it is slightly over \$744,700. Chairman Poteat said over the years we have not felt it is our place to tell you what is most important on these lists of requests. Our task is to come up with x amount of dollars and entrust you with how it is spent.

Discussion regarding another school resource officer. Chairman Poteat stated that the Board is keenly aware of the need and that in his opinion this should be new monies not monies coming out of the existing budget of the school system.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Phyllis Forbes and second by Glenn Johnson to adjourn this meeting at 8:20 p.m.**

**Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).**

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**Kenny Poteat, Chairman**  
**Avery County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk