



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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News Release

Commissioners Adopt Budget for FY 2012–2013

June 21, 2012, Monroe, NC – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Thursday adopted a 2012-2013 budget of \$228.35 million. The budget is \$9.15 million more than last year's original adopted budget of \$219.1 million.

The budget contains a decrease in the county tax rate from 66.5 cents to 66.0 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The budget is balanced with a \$1,012,349 contribution from the County's fund balance.

“The use of money from our fund balance is a departure from our FY 2012 budget that required no fund balance appropriation,” said county manager Cindy Coto. “Our goal continues to be to build a sustainable budget without the use of fund balance to balance our annual appropriations.”

The budget includes \$87.15 million in funding for Union County Public Schools, an increase of \$3.85 million from the previous year. This increase will provide \$1.7 million to pay for an increase in local teacher supplements and benefits, as well as an additional \$0.5 million increase in operating costs. The budget also contains \$5.267 million for capital funding to be paid with \$4 million from the County's capital fund and \$1.3 million from bond savings and bond savings from sales tax refunds. The capital funds will pay for technology and technology infrastructure (\$1.7 million), maintenance capital (\$3.3 million) and new school buses (\$267,000).

The \$87.15 million in school funding includes \$1.65 million from County pay-go capital to fund teacher assistant positions. Additional money coming from the state, which will fund 295 teaching assistant positions, combined with the County's appropriation of \$1.65 million, will allow the school system to rehire the total compliment of teacher assistant positions employed before the budget shortfall.

Additional budget highlights include:

- Two percent of Personnel Services line has been allocated to fund County employee pay increases as well as increased costs in benefits. This is the first pay increase for County staff in four years.
- Additional personnel added to Sheriff's Office, Building Inspections, Planning, Information Systems and Register of Deeds.
- Reduction or elimination of some Health Department and Department of Social Services non-mandated programs.
- Limited funding increases for outside agencies.

The adopted 2012-2013 budget will be available on the County's website (www.co.union.nc.us) on Friday.

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