

Planning for a Sustainable Future

Union County, North Carolina, Administrative Services

Follow-Up to Budget Focus Area #1:

Possible Bond Election Projects

Budget Focus Area #2:

Sustainable VFD Funding

Goals for Today

- Follow-Up to Bond Discussion
 - EDC Comments
 - Revised/Prioritized SPCC List
 - Brief UCPS Summary
- Board Direction Concerning Bond Elections
- Volunteer Fire Department Service Delivery Model
- Core Principles for Providing Base Fire Protection
- Funding Models in North Carolina
- Current Challenges Facing VFDs in Union County
- Solutions to Solve These Challenges
- Board Direction Concerning VFDs



BOND ELECTION FOLLOW-UP



Follow-Up to Bond Election Disc.

- Board Direction was to seek input from the Economic Development Commission
 - This was done at the 3/10/2015 Meeting
- Requested that SPCC Prioritize their Requests
 - Received Feedback from SPCC



Follow-Up to Bond Election Disc.

- Replacement and Expansion of Jail and Sheriff's Office
- Emergency Management Facility
- 4H Pavilion
- Cane Creek Park Improvements
- Historic Courthouse Renovations
- Jesse Helms Park Development
- Southwest Union Library
- Expansion of the Union West Regional Library

Estimated project costs will be developed when the list is narrowed to the preliminary slate.



EDC Comments

The EDC comments were focused on the concepts of workforce development and the various community organizations (County, SPCC, and UCPS) partnering to provide services versus the traditional service model.



Follow-Up to Bond Election Disc.

In Order of Priority:

- SPCC Multi-Purpose Building
- SPCC Building A Renovations
- SPCC Building B Renovations
- SPCC Center for Technology and Allied Health
- SPCC New Classroom Building
- SPCC Purchase of Rogers Road Property

Preliminary Estimate Provided By SPCC totals \$42.3 million.

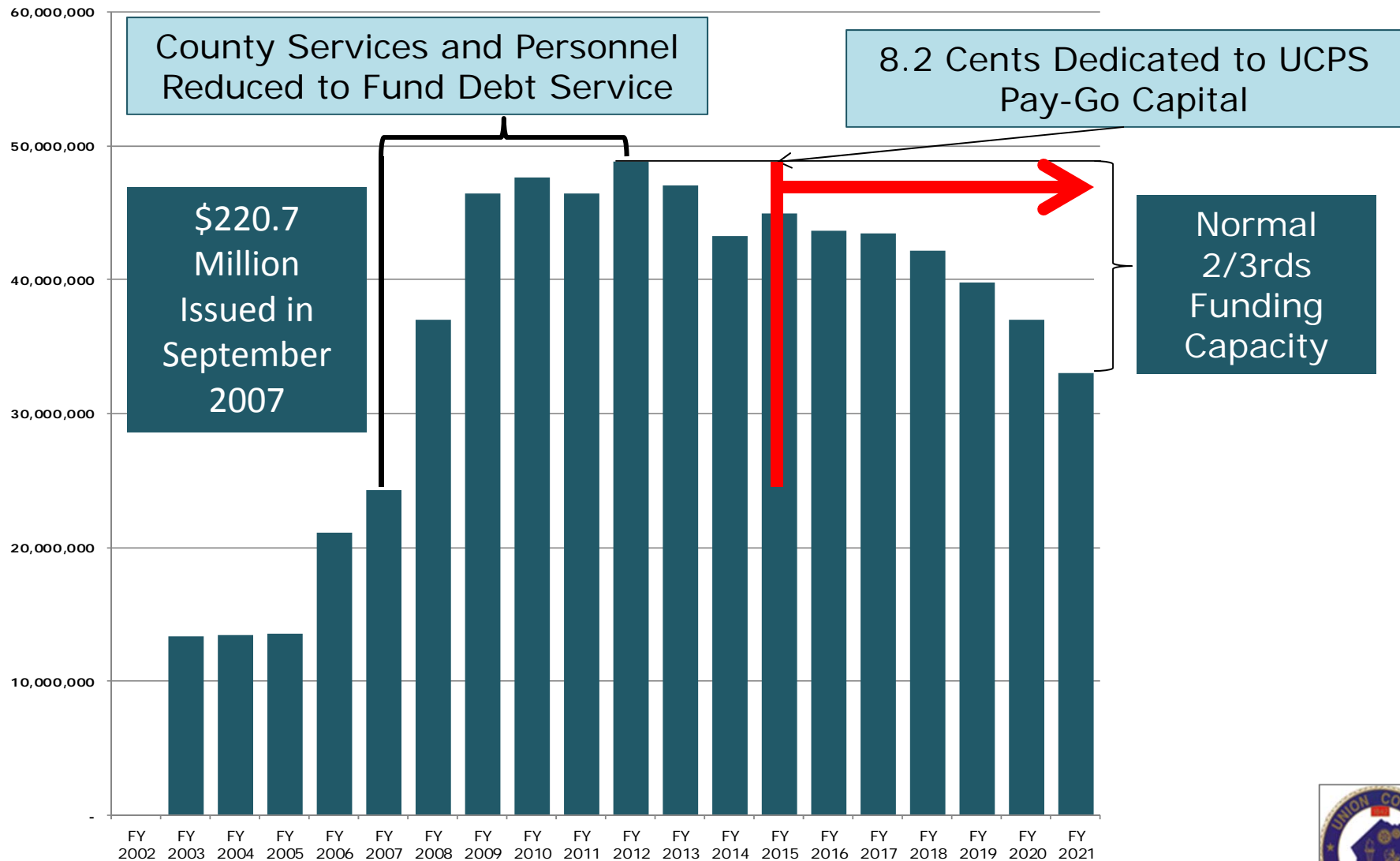


UCPS Proposed Bond Projects

- The Joint Working Group has not reviewed the approved project listing.
 - Next Meeting is on the 18th.
- The ongoing capital projects are approximately \$20 million annually over the next eight years.
 - Emerging maintenance will be roughly 10%.
 - Includes approximately \$1 million for transportation and IT needs.
 - Includes the ongoing funding of roofing projects.
- The brick and mortar projects are approximately \$227 million.
 - Looking for approximately \$13 million to start projects in fall of 2015.
 - Remaining projects would run through 2020.
 - Largely eliminates the use of portable classrooms throughout the County.
 - Would meet projected capacity needs through 2026.



2/3rds Bonds Re-Visited



Board Direction

Three Step Process:

1. Which Projects?
 - County and SPCC
2. Preferred Election Date
3. Approval of the Process

The Joint Working Group will make a recommendation concerning the UCPS projects for BOCC consideration at a later date.



SUSTAINABLE VFD FUNDING



The County Service Delivery Model

- Generally how are County Services Funded?
 - Base level of services?
- Readiness to Serve v. Use Basis
 - Taxes v. Fees for Services?



Core Principles

- Uniformity of the Base Level of Service Regardless of Density.
- Uniformity of Base Level of Service regardless of the ability to pay.
- Fire Protection and Suppression is a part of the Total Public Safety Effort of Union County.
- Funding Methods and Levels are determined by the BOCC.
- Adequate Staffing, Equipment, and Facilities are Essential.

Sustainability is an underlying core principle that is the basis for the entire process.



Funding Models in NC

- Fire Fees
 - Fee for Usage Model
 - Unique to Union County and Brunswick County
 - Done to Avoid the Taxation of Farm Equipment
- Rural Fire Protection Districts
 - County has two, Hemby Bridge and Stallings
 - Tax Rates and Contracts for Services are at the Discretion of the BOCC
 - NO RIGHT TO SERVE
 - Funding From Tax Must Be Used in District
 - Proportional Sales Tax Allocation
- County Fire Service Districts
 - County has three, Springs, Waxhaw, and Wesley Chapel
 - Tax Rates and Contracts for Services are at the Discretion of the BOCC
 - NO RIGHT TO SERVE
 - Funding From Tax Must Be Used in District
 - Proportional Sales Tax Allocation



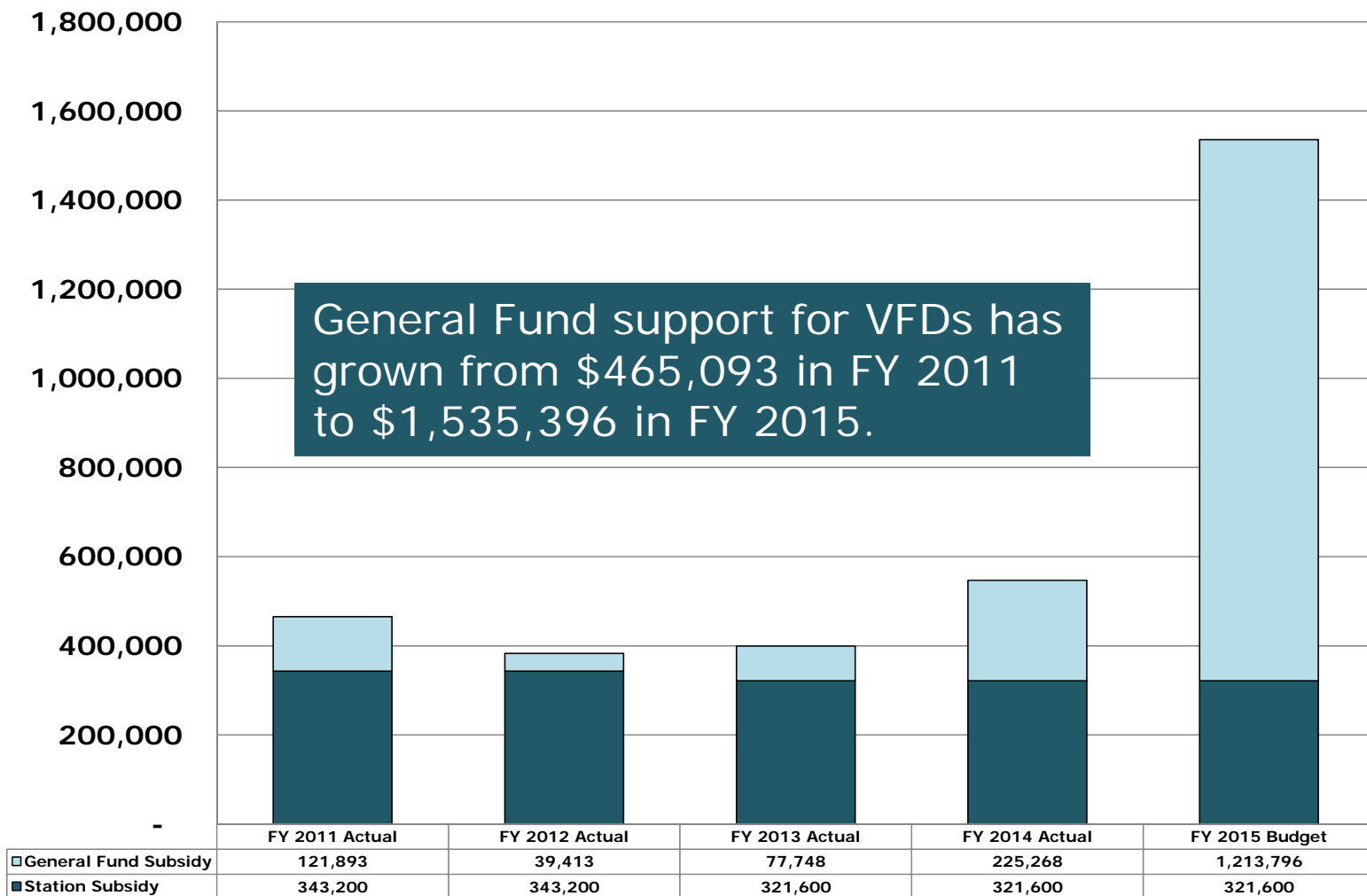
Current Challenges Faced

- At the VFDs
 - Staffing
 - Equipment
 - Facilities
- Funding and Sustainability
- Outdated Service Contracts
- Weddington/Providence Fire Issue

There is not a standard level of fire protection throughout the County.



General Fund Support for VFDs



Possible Solutions

- Funding Options
 - Status Quo
 - Individual Fire Service Districts
 - A Hybrid County-Wide General Tax for Fire Service
 - County-Wide General Tax for Fire Services
- Resource Allocation Model
- Service Delivery Contracts
- Weddington/Providence Path Forward

Establishing Fiscal and Service Delivery Sustainability.



Board Direction

Three Step Process:

1. Direction Concerning Funding Model
2. Direction Concerning Resource Allocation Model
3. Direction Concerning Contracts

The Weddington/Providence path forward is based on the first three decisions.



Read the Focus Area Working Papers at
www.unioncountync.gov

