



# Alamance County Board of Commissioners AGENDA

April 1, 2024, 9:30 AM  
Commissioners' Meeting Room  
124 West Elm Street  
Graham, NC 27253

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRMAN PAISLEY
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - COMMISSIONER THOMPSON
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. PROCLAMATIONS
  - 4.a Proclamation: National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week 3  
Central Communications is asking the Board to consider recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week on April 14-20, 2024.
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS  
(Citizens may address the Board for no more than 3 minutes)  
  
For a complete review of the Public Comment Policy, please click here:  
  
<https://www.alamance-nc.com/commissioners/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/03/6-6-22-BOC-Public-Comment-and-Public-Hearing-Policy-Final-sm.pdf>
6. CONSENT AGENDA  
Items listed under Consent are generally of a routine nature. The Board may take action to approve/disapprove all items in a single vote. Any item may be withheld from a general action, to be discussed and voted upon separately at the discretion of the Board.
  - 6.a APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS
    - 6.a.1 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council(JCPC)- Larry Brown 5  
Consideration of the appointment of Judge Larry Brown to the JCPC as a representative of the Chief District Judge. This will fill the remainder of Brad Allen's term.
    - 6.a.2 Local Emergency Planning Committee For Hazardous Chemicals (LEPC) -Billie Wilson 6  
Consideration of the appointment of Billie Wilson to the LEPC.
    - 6.a.3 Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee – Mary Bozeman 7

Consideration of the reappointment of Mary Bozeman to another term on the Nursing Home CAC.

**6.b BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

**6.b.1 Budget Amendment 11**

8

Budget and Management Services recommends the Board approve and amend the General Fund to increase by \$118,545 and the State Appropriation Fund by \$800,000.

**6.c Revised Budget Resolution Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds**

10

Consideration of the revised budget resolution expenditure of opioid settlement funds for \$1,278,060.00 due to a technical error in one of the authorized strategy amounts.

**6.d APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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Minutes of February 19, 2024

Closed Session Minutes of March 18, 2024

**7. PRESENTATIONS/OTHER BUSINESS**

**7.a Proposed Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029**

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The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is being presented as information only at this meeting. The Manager is proposing the adoption of the CIP and Operating Budget at the Board's June 17th meeting.

**8. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**9. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**



## Alamance County Board of Commissioners

### ACTION ITEM AGENDA ITEM

**MEETING DATE:** 4/1/2024

**DATE SUBMITTED:** 3/25/2024

**FROM:** Stephen Sigmon

**DEPT:** Central Communications

**AGENDA TITLE:** Proclamation: National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

**TO:** Alamance County Board of Commissioners

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#### **ISSUE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

Central Communications is asking the Board to consider recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week on April 14-20, 2024.

#### **BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REQUEST:**

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) is held annually during the second week of April to honor public safety telecommunicators for their commitment, service, and sacrifice. Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office started NPSTW in 1981.

In 1994, President Clinton signed Presidential Proclamation 6667, declaring the second week of April as NPSTW. This is a time to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel nationwide who serve our communities, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends this recognition.

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#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Proclamation

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK

April 14-20, 2024

Whereas emergencies can occur at any time that require law enforcement, fire or emergency medical services;

Whereas when an emergency occurs the prompt response of sheriff deputies, police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property;

Whereas the safety of our law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Alamance County 911 Emergency Communications Center;

Whereas Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and Alamance County Telecommunicators are the first point of contact for any emergency for the entire county including all municipalities within Alamance County;

Whereas Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our sheriff deputies, police officers, firefighters and paramedics by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them pertinent information and ensuring their safety;

Whereas Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Alamance County 911 Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients by providing lifesaving instructions including but not limited to CPR, Childbirth, Choking, Bleeding Control, Mental Health Crisis;

Whereas each Telecommunicator has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Alamance County Board of Commissioners declares the week of April 14 through 20, 2024, to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Alamance County in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county, citizens and first-responders safe.

Signed this 1st day of April, 2024.

*Alamance County Board of Commissioners*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*John Paisley, Jr., Chairman*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Tory Frink, Clerk to the Board*



**Alamance County Board of Commissioners**

**ACTION ITEM AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE:** 4/1/2024

**DATE SUBMITTED:** 3/21/2024

**FROM:** Tory Frink

**DEPT:** County Clerk's Office

**AGENDA TITLE:** Juvenile Crime Prevention Council(JCPC)- Larry Brown

**TO:** Alamance County Board of Commissioners

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**ISSUE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

Consideration of the appointment of Judge Larry Brown to the JCPC as a representative of the Chief District Judge. This will fill the remainder of Brad Allen's term.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REQUEST:**

Term will expire 12/31/2024 due to filling the remainder of Brad Allen's term.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

JCPC has recommended this appointment.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**



**Alamance County Board of Commissioners**

**ACTION ITEM AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE:** 4/1/2024

**DATE SUBMITTED:** 3/19/2024

**FROM:** Tory Frink

**DEPT:** County Clerk's Office

**AGENDA TITLE:** Local Emergency Planning Committee For Hazardous Chemicals (LEPC) -  
Billie Wilson

**TO:** Alamance County Board of Commissioners

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**ISSUE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

Consideration of the appointment of Billie Wilson to the LEPC.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REQUEST:**

By law the applicant's facility is required to have an active member affiliated with the LEPC.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

LEPC has recommended this appointment.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**



**Alamance County Board of Commissioners**

**ACTION ITEM AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE:** 4/1/2024

**DATE SUBMITTED:** 3/15/2024

**FROM:** Tory Frink

**DEPT:** County Clerk's Office

**AGENDA TITLE:** Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee – Mary Bozeman

**TO:** Alamance County Board of Commissioners

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**ISSUE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

Consideration of the reappointment of Mary Bozeman to another term on the Nursing Home CAC.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REQUEST:**

New term expiration would be December 31, 2026.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

PTRC Area on Aging Staff has recommended this reappointment.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**



## **Alamance County Board of Commissioners**

### **BUDGET AMENDMENT AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE:** 4/1/2024

**DATE SUBMITTED:** 3/22/2024

**FROM:** Rebecca Crawford

**DEPT:** Budget and Management Services

**AGENDA TITLE:** Budget Amendment 11

**TO:** Alamance County Board of Commissioners

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#### **ISSUE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

Budget and Management Services recommends the Board approve and amend the General Fund to increase by \$118,545 and the State Appropriation Fund by \$800,000.

#### **BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REQUEST:**

##### **General Fund**

##### **1. Health**

- a. The Environmental Health Department received notification of \$68,545 from the Food Protection and Facilities Branch/Environmental Health Section of the Division of Public Health (AA874). Funds will be used to support local Food and Lodging programs and activities. This amendment will appropriate \$68,545 to the General Fund. No county match is required.
- b. The Health Department has received additional funding that provides a \$50,000 grant in each year of 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to each local health department. Funding will support activities authorized under the General Aid-to-Counties Agreement Addendum (AA110). This amendment will appropriate \$50,000 to the General Fund for FY24 and FY25. No county match is required.

##### **State Appropriation Fund**

##### **2. Budget**

- a. The State of North Carolina has appropriated \$800,000 in pass-through grant funds to Volunteer Fire Departments within Alamance County with an equal award of \$100,000 to each fire department. Funding will be used to support equipment needs for the fire departments. This amendment will appropriate \$800,000 to the State Appropriation Fund. No county match is required.



**Budget Amendment 11 Fund Summary**

<b>Budget Amendment Items</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>State Appropriation Fund</b>
<b>FY23-24 Current Revised Budget</b>	<b>\$ 235,234,757</b>	<b>\$ 9,737,417</b>
1.a. Health - Food and Lodging	\$ 68,545	
1.b. Health - Additional Aid to Counties	\$ 50,000	
2.a. Budget - Fire Departments		\$ 800,000
<b>FY23-24 New Revised Budget</b>	<b>\$ 235,353,302</b>	<b>\$ 10,537,417</b>
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>\$ 118,545</b>	<b>\$ 800,000</b>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Budget and Management Services recommends the Board approve and amend the General Fund to increase by \$118,545 and the State Appropriation Fund by \$800,000.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**



**Alamance County Board of Commissioners**

**ACTION ITEM AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE:** 4/1/2024

**DATE SUBMITTED:** 3/25/2024

**FROM:** Tony Lo Giudice

**DEPT:** Public Health

**AGENDA TITLE:** Revised Budget Resolution Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds

**TO:** Alamance County Board of Commissioners

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**ISSUE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

Consideration of the revised budget resolution expenditure of opioid settlement funds for \$1,278,060.00 due to a technical error in one of the authorized strategy amounts.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REQUEST:**

The total amount of \$1,278,060.00 is correct.

Under the “Second Strategy Authorized”:

d. Amount authorized should be \$716,561.00

The previously adopted resolution on March 18, 2024, had \$561,666.00 listed under the “Second Strategy Authorized,” which was the wrong amount.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the adoption of the revised resolution.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF ALAMANCE  
TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

**WHEREAS** Alamance County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals;

**WHEREAS** the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions (“Opioid Settlement Funds”) are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation (“MOA”);

**WHEREAS** Alamance County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA;

**WHEREAS** section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, in alignment with the NC MOA, Alamance County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized
  - a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning
  - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
  - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_
  - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$16,000
  - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date July 1, 2024 through End date June 30, 2026
  - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: To support professional development training related to evidence-based strategies for county staff; including travel-related expenses.
  - g. Provider: Alamance County Government
2. Second strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services
  - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
  - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_
  - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$ 716,561
  - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date July 1, 2024 through End date June 30, 2026
  - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding to support county-embedded Peer Support Specialist in the Alamance County Detention Center \$141,139; Recovery Court Coordinator \$ 161,842.00; to support a portion of the lease Alamance Behavioral Health Center to provide services to individuals with OUD \$ 413,580.00.
  - g. Provider: Alamance County Government and Vaya Health
3. Third authorized strategy
- a. Name of strategy: Naloxone Distribution
  - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
  - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: \_\_\_\_7\_\_\_\_
  - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$145,499.00
  - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date July 1, 2024 through End date June 30, 2026
  - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding to purchase naloxone and supplies for overdose kits to be distributed to the Alamance County community
  - g. Provider: Alamance County Health Department
4. Fourth authorized strategy
- a. Name of strategy: Post Overdose Response Team
  - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
  - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: \_\_\_\_8\_\_\_\_
  - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$ 400,000.00
  - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date July 1, 2024 through End date June 30, 2026
  - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding to support the implementation of a post-overdose response team in Alamance County
  - g. Provider: Partnership between Alamance County Health Department and Public Safety

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$1,278,060.00

Adopted this 18th day of March, 2024

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John Paisley, Chair  
Alamance County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Tory M. Fink, Clerk to the Board

**COUNTY SEAL**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS FOR ALAMANCE COUNTY**

**February 19, 2024, 6:30 PM  
Commissioners' Meeting Room  
124 West Elm Street  
Graham, NC 27253**

Board Members Present: Chairman John Paisley Jr  
Vice-Chair Steve Carter  
Commissioner William "Bill" T. Lashley  
Commissioner Pamela Thompson  
Commissioner Craig Turner

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**CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRMAN PAISLEY**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - CHAIRMAN PAISLEY**

Chairman Paisley recognized Sheriff Terry Johnson and Byron Tucker of the Alamance County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office held its very first Annual Promotion Ceremony to recognize employees who were being promoted and receiving special awards.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by:** Commissioner Lashley

**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ed Priola, a Mebane resident, said he wanted to weigh in on the budget. He spoke that folks were struggling and it was a difficult time for taxpayers. He asked that the Board keep that in mind as they begin to consider the budget.

Bill Gomory, ACC Board of Trustee, spoke in support of ACC's budget request for the upcoming year. He mentioned that ACC was running an estimated \$600,000 deficit in operating funds. Mr. Gomory commented that this was no coincidence that this was half of the difference between the college's budget request last year and what was funded. He blamed inflation and the addition of two new buildings with the added cost of utilities. Mr. Gomory said that ACC's budget

request was not about want but about need. He urged the Board to fully fund the college's budget request.

Jeff Throneburg, a licensed general contractor and President of the Alamance-Caswell Homebuilders Association, spoke that he was there to bring two significant challenges impacting their ability to do business in the county to the Board's attention. He shared that his members had discussed the growing delays in securing approval for septic systems from Environmental Health and then a subsequent building permit from the county. Mr. Throneburg stressed concern over the 6-8 weeks timeframe for completion and at times 10 weeks. He said that builders are waiting 8-14 weeks before a project can start which proves costly for the local custom builders. He asked the Board to help find solutions for the building community.

Leonard Harrison, a county resident, spoke about the school system and their continued requests for more money.

Henry Vines, spoke about the \$7.7 million that he saw on the agenda going into the American Rescue Funds and Renovation Programs. He questioned how the county could have \$7.7 million left over from last year.

Jessica Simmons, voiced concerns over property taxes. She suggested trimming the fat by starting with a list of non-essential services. She urged the Board to stop reaching in the pockets of Alamance County residents.

Medora Burke Scoll, Vice-President of ABSS Association of Educators, shared that their members were worried and feeling vulnerable about the prospect of immediate layoffs and hiring freezes due to ABSS's budget shortfall. She encouraged the Board to put another quarter-cent sales tax referendum on the November ballot. She said ABSS was looking at an ugly choice right now of not making payroll, whether to pay bills or layoff desperately needed educators.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Moved by:** Commissioner Lashley

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Turner

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

### **APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS**

**AC Senior Services Committee- Patricia Davis**

**Alamance County Transportation Authority ACTA- John Andoh**

**Conference Scholarship Application Request - Alamance County Public Libraries**

**Application Request for a Library State Technology Act Planning Grant - Alamance County Public Libraries**

## **Land and Water Grant Application Request - Alamance Parks**

### **Parking Lease for Spaces at South Maple Street**

### **TAX REFUNDS**

#### **Tax Refunds, Releases and Exemption-Extensions Jan-Feb 2024 - TAX-2024-005**

Approval of tax refunds and releases; a copy of the tax refunds are set forth hereafter.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the regular minutes of February 5, 2024 as amended.

### **PRESENTATIONS/OTHER BUSINESS**

### **BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

\* Removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.\*

#### **Budget Amendment 8**

Commissioner Lashley inquired about the increase to the general fund by \$7,743,054 and where that money came from. Susan Evans, Finance Officer, explained that \$7,389,652 from the general fund would be transferred to the county's capital reserve fund for future county projects. She continued that the current fiscal policy allowed unassigned fund balance above the 20% target to be transferred to the county's capital reserved project fund for future projects as approved by the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Evans said the balance from the fiscal year 2023 audit was 23.7% and they were moving that excess fund balance. Commissioner Lashey had other questions about the budget amendment. Ms. Evans deferred those questions to Rebecca Crawford.

Rebecca Crawford, Budget and Management Services Director, explained that they were requesting to do a final allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA ) funding. She said they were requesting to appropriate \$1,872,030 in accrued interest for ARPA to the same project. She referred to the agenda packet for details of what the approved projects would look like. Ms. Crawford noted that they were going to reallocate unspent funds that were originally allocated for an after hours social worker. She explained that position was through the Department of Social Services (DSS) and DSS had decided to use alternative funding which freed up those funds. She continued there was \$9.2 million in unallocated ARPA funds that they were asking to allocate. She said that was how they came to the total of \$11,219,298, which they recommended being allocated towards purchasing the diversion center project.

Commissioner Lashley asked what options did they have for this money. He said he was looking at options from staff.



Ms. Evans answered that they were in a different place. She said they were looking at some capital projects that must be completed in fiscal year 2024-25. She said the purchase of the diversion center was discussed at the Board Retreat. She continued that they would bring a request before the Board for approval to use part of that \$7 million to purchase that building. She said they would be using the fund balance for a one-time purchase, which is what you would want to use it for, and not recurring operational expenses.

Commissioner Lashley said he liked the recommendation from Ms. Evans. He agreed that was how it needed to be handled since there were projects that they put off last year.

Commissioner Turner asked about the 20%. Ms. Evans explained that it was based on 20% of the prior year's expenditures in the general fund. He asked why the county had that policy of keeping 20% in the fund balance. Ms. Evans responded that the county had adopted that policy back in 2018 when they were preparing for the bond referendum. She commented that it demonstrated to credit rating agencies that the county was focused on what was going to happen in the future and having the reserves that a government would need. She mentioned that one month of the county's operational expenditures was 8%. Ms. Evans spoke that if the county experienced a catastrophic event, it would have roughly less than three months of operating revenues.

**Moved by:** Chairman Paisley

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Lashley

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

### **Introduction of New ACC President & ACC Update - Dr. Ken Ingle, President of Alamance Community College**

Dr. Ken Ingle, ACC President, gave an update and highlighted the ACC team's work to serve the community. He said ACC offered over 66 programs, 20 programs had been added since 2013, and ACC graduated over 800 students this past year. He discussed the increased use of the facilities and enrollment increases. Dr. Ingle said ACC's enrollment had increased by over 8% in full-time equivalency enrollment (FTE). He said they saw a positive impact on the community and the workforce. Dr. Ingle anticipated new costs due to expected Duke Energy rate increases and insurance rate increases. Dr. Ingle announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the Public Safety Training Center was on Friday.

### **Davenport Financial Model Update**

Ted Cole, Davenport, provided updated information on the Capital Planning Model. Mr. Cole presented a five-year look at the Capital Plan Model. Mr. Cole directed the Board to a version of the Capital Plan with a placeholder for a courthouse project at \$45 million. He noted that between the county, the school system, and ACC, about \$173 million in capital projects were

identified. Mr. Coles discussed debt that might be issued to fund certain parts of the capital program.

Mr. Cole continued that within the school model, they assumed the remaining general obligation authorization from the voters to be issued in 2024 was about \$19.5 million. He emphasized that these were bonds that were approved but not yet issued. He said there was about \$3.8 million remaining of general obligation authorization remaining for ACC that might be issued in 2025. Mr. Cole said the Board would have to initiate the issuance of that debt when and if they determined it to be appropriate. Mr. Cole discussed a model for the county for about \$49.5 million, which included \$45 million for the courthouse, and then the remaining would be debt associated with an EMS Substation and an elderly services facility. Mr. Cole said the capacity was within the policies to assume additional debt. He mentioned a shortfall in fiscal year 2026 of about \$3.9 million. He said that was the equivalent of about 1.5 pennies on the current tax rate.

Mr. Cole reviewed the next scenario model with a \$70 million courthouse project. He noted a \$6 million shortfall in fiscal year 2026. He said more capital was running through this model with a larger debt issuance. He said this would equate to about 2.5 pennies worth of revenue. Mr. Cole advised both of those scenarios required additional dollars. He said if the courthouse was stripped out entirely, then most of those other projects could be funded without an impact. He mentioned about \$7 million of accumulated reserves that were not currently being utilized. Mr. Cole said one of the goals was to help put some perspective on what capacity or affordability exists within the county model.

Mr. Cole discussed the setup of the ABSS model. He informed the Board that a level of conservatism was built into that model in prior years, so it would support the issuance of that \$19.5 million in remaining bond authorization. He said that no additional revenues were needed for that model beyond what was assumed. Mr. Cole assured the Board that based on the current projections, they were sufficient to cover not only the current outstanding debt for the schools but the incremental or potential \$19.5 million. He offered another option: the Board could take the \$19.5 million and a little over \$2 million in premium, which would be additional dollars available to spend on projects. He said this could yield about \$21.7 million because the estimated \$2.2 million was not guaranteed. Again, he offered that the Board was not required to take that premium and could lower the amount of bonds issued and only take the \$19.5 million.

#### **Roofing and HVAC Assessment Studies- Interim Report - Brian Baker, Asst. County Manager**

Brian Baker, Assistant County Manager, gave an update on the consolidated roof/HVAC priority list with the most pressing needs for the school system. He noted that the list included some of the high schools that were already funded. He said contracts were started to replace those roofs. Mr. Baker said the price tag was not to make everything new at that particular school but to fix the most pressing issues.

Chairman Paisley asked about Southern Alamance High School and Graham High School contracts. Greg Hook, ABSS Chief Operations Officer, answered that they were finalizing the contract for Graham High School and still finishing the design work for Southern Alamance High School.

Commissioner Turner clarified if there was an ask that night or what staff needed from the Board. County Manager York explained that the information was a follow-up to the request for staff to narrow the list down from what was presented the last time. She said they had just heard from Ted Cole, Davenport, about the bond issuance. She continued if they wanted to consider issuing the bonds at the earliest or most rapid pace, it would be helpful to know if they wanted staff to start moving toward the issuance of the bonds. County Manager York said they could use the prioritized list and begin the early stages of working with Davenport and the Local Government Commission (LGC) towards the bond issuance. Commissioner Turner spoke that \$21.9 million had been identified in immediate needs, and an estimated \$21.7 million in available funds for ABSS's Capital Improvement Plan. He said they could afford that with no additional taxes or revenues. He thought they should get that going as soon as possible to have a bond issuance by June with the money in hand at the same time as the contracts.

Chairman Paisley asked if there was a consensus among the Board to allow staff to move forward with issuing the bonds. It was the consensus of the Board to allow staff to move forward on the issuance of the bonds.

#### **Staffing and Compensation Concerns - Sheriff Terry Johnson**

Sheriff Terry Johnson gave a presentation about the staffing and compensation issues his office faced. He continued that he currently had 291 employed, but his office had 347 positions allotted. Sheriff Johnson said his office was understaffed by 56 personnel. He described some of the 34 assaults that had occurred on detention center staff this year. Sheriff Johnson said they have had to call officers back in as soon as they got off their 12-hour shift. He noted that in the first several months of fiscal year 2023, his office had already paid out \$218,119.40 in detention overtime.

Sheriff Johnson invited Lieutenant Starnes to share his experience as an officer who was assaulted and speak about his experience in the detention center. He said he was now conscious of the need for additional staffing and each officer's risks. He said it was important for the Board of Commissioners to address the needs of law enforcement and all emergency services. Lieutenant Starnes said that better pay and benefits would help address the needs of the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Johnson reiterated that Lieutenant Starnes had been one of the 34 assaulted by an inmate. He said lack of staffing was one of the reasons. Sheriff Johnson said he was responsible for every officer working in that detention center. He asked the Board to reassess some of the plans.

Sheriff Johnson spoke as the keeper of the detention center; he was legally obligated to house the most dangerous and mentally deranged individuals of society arrested in Alamance County.

Sheriff Johnson further described the challenges he was facing when he supposed to have 23 detention center officers on a shift and had not had that number in the last two years. He said there were 12 deputy vacancies, and he was supposed to have 13 deputies on a shift. He said he was losing experienced officers to other law enforcement agencies. He noted that his office had received 101,922 calls for service in 2023. Sheriff Johnson reiterated that his office had lost 80 employees over the last two years due to better pay and benefits with other agencies, retirement, and termination. He reported that the Burlington Police Department offered \$10,000 more and a better benefits package. He mentioned that other county departments were experiencing staffing shortages as well.

Sheriff Johnson advised that every elected official's sworn duty was to provide public safety regardless of political affiliation, as they represent every person in Alamance County. He said that Alamance County was the 15th largest county in the state, with a reported population of 178,943, and he thought it was over 200,000 because some people did not want to be counted. He said this county was the 13th lowest taxed county in the state, with a tax rate of 43.2 cents per 100. Sheriff Johnson pleaded with the Board to help him protect this county, even if it meant raising taxes, but his job was to protect the county's residents. He noted that the surrounding counties had higher tax rates and comparable counties with smaller populations yet higher tax rates. Sheriff Johnson spoke about his tenure as sheriff of this county for 22 years and how the county has maintained one of the lowest tax rates while the county's population has experienced continued growth. He said they could not continue to kick the can down the road if they were going to keep up with the county's growth.

Sheriff Johnson discussed the county's geographical location and how it was an attraction for drug trafficking and drug cartels. He emphasized that the county was in a serious situation. He said they have got to come together to create competitive salaries and benefits so they do not continue to lose officers to other law enforcement agencies. He provided comparable salary data with other neighboring agencies. He stressed that due to the number of staff shortages, many of the officers could not take compensation time.

Commissioner Lashley said he wanted to help law enforcement and thought it spoke to what was going on in the county. He said they needed to give staff direction to see what they could do to help law enforcement.

Chairman Paisley asked if anything could be done to address the officers who were earning comp time but unable to take it. County Attorney Stevens answered that he thought comp time could be paid differently between county offices. He said that the threshold for accumulation of comp time was higher for emergency services personnel than for other positions. He opined that adopting a policy allowing that time to be paid out for holidays would be permissible. County Attorney Stevens further explained that the Sheriff's Office staff were not county employees as

the Sheriff's Office was a separate and distinct office. He said that the county managed their benefits and pay because it was more cost-effective. Sheriff Johnson said that he was told by the Sheriff's Association Attorney that the County Commissioners could set different pay scales to avoid compression.

Chairman Paisley asked staff to review numbers and come back to the Board with some ideas and suggestions at the next meeting.

County Manager York explained that they were looking at paying out holiday pay maybe twice a year instead of those employees banking that. She said staff would work with Sheriff Johnson to see what options might be enticing.

Commissioner Thompson mentioned the mental difficulties that the officers had when they were overworked. She said that even if the Sheriff's Office still had shortages, it was still a dangerous environment because the officers were mentally exhausted. She said the shortages was the issue and should be the focus. Commissioner Thompson said Sheriff Johnson needed a full staff.

Vice-Chair Carter agreed that something had to be done, and the idea of different payscales in the departments was not a bad idea, and they needed to use ingenuity to come up with some ways to make things happen.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report given.

#### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

No report given.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Lashley said that Ms. Simmons, the public comment speaker, made many good points. He thought she was wrong in her assumption of the county's fund balance. He said the county had no shortfall in the fund balance and was very strong. He said the bond rating proved that. Commissioner Lashley said they needed to pay attention to what Sheriff Johnson said and focus on the safety and security of the citizens. He said that might cost extra money.

Commissioner Lashley said he wanted to reiterate his previous comments that he had made at the Board Retreat that the tax rate could rise to almost a dime. He said there were a lot of needs and a lot of hard decisions that would need to be made. He said County Commissioners will need to explain why to the voters and taxpayers.

Vice-Chair Carter spoke that Sheriff Johnson had already pointed out that Alamance County was growing. He continued that they do not have a choice if people are moving here and businesses are being built. He said they wanted balanced growth and so much going on in the county that they had to be prepared for.

Chairman Paisley addressed Mr. Throneburg's comments about permitting. He said they were working with county administration to make changes to help expedite those permits. He said there were a few speakers on taxes, but he could not make any promises to the voters until he was presented with the proposed budget. Chairman Paisley said they were trying to turn things around with the school system with less finger-pointing and more working together.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Carter, seconded by Commissioner Lashley, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:39 P.M.

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John Paisley, Jr., Chairman

Alamance County Board of Commissioners

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Tory M. Frink, Clerk to the Board

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS FOR ALAMANCE COUNTY**

**March 4, 2024, 9:30 AM  
Commissioners' Meeting Room  
124 West Elm Street  
Graham, NC 27253**

Board Members Present: Chairman John Paisley Jr  
Vice-Chair Steve Carter  
Commissioner William "Bill" T. Lashley  
Commissioner Pamela Thompson  
Commissioner Craig Turner

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**CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRMAN PAISLEY**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - COMMISSIONER LASHLEY**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**Seconded by:** Chairman Paisley

Moved item #6c. Public Safety Compensation to item # 6a. due to Sheriff Johnson and his staff attending a funeral. Item # 5f. Resolution Regarding Residency Requirement of Appointed Board & Committee Members was removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

George Hunt, a former District Attorney, expressed concerns about the jail's underpaid detention center officers and school teachers. He commented that taxes needed to be raised.

Lee Johnson, a Cummings High School graduate, compared pictures of the football fields at Williams High School to those at Cummings High School. He asked the Commissioners to return the \$250,000 to the school system to be used for the football field and stadium at Cummings High School.

Stuart Smith, a Mebane resident, asked the Board to consider the county's most important asset during the budget season: its employees. Mr. Smith shared information that he had gathered about the history of county employee salaries.

Jeff Wood, a Haw River resident, expressed concerns about run-down inhabitable properties within the county. Mr. Wood requested that an ordinance be created and put in place that would require property owners to make their property respectable and livable.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Moved by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Lashley

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

### **APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS**

**Nursing Home CAC – Sarah Powell**

### **BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

#### **Budget Amendment 9**

#### **Audit Contract**

Approval of the audit services contract for fiscal year 2023-24 not to exceed \$144,200 and to be filed with the Local Government Commission. This authorizes Susan Evans, Finance Officer, to execute the engagement letter.

#### **Parks Grant Application Request – Complete the Trails**

#### **Grant Request Recreation & Parks**

### **PRESENTATIONS/OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Public Safety Compensation**

County Manager York introduced the item and reminded the Board that Sheriff Johnson had made a presentation at the last meeting describing his office's difficulties with recruiting and retaining staff. She continued that staff met and put together a plan for compensation enhancements for the Board's consideration.

County Manager York asked the Board to consider paying out balances to all public safety entities their earned holiday leave balances beginning in April. She requested that the funding source for this be lapsed salaries. She said they have verified that all of those public safety departments had enough in lapse salaries to pay out in the April paychecks. She said a balance



down to 40 hours would be paid in order to leave some to use to supplement vacation leave or other uses.

Commissioner Turner asked for the total cost or the total hours. County Manager York answered the estimated total cost was \$444,806.39. She said this was one-time payout, but they would like to bring a policy to the Board for consideration where the payout was maybe twice a year. County Manager York shared that they were continuing to work with Baker Tilly, the consultants on the Phase One Market Study, to look at a separate plan for the public safety employees. She noted they were asking Baker Tilly to help reclassify some of the red-lined jobs. She said the Sheriff's Office was looking to provide a pay differential for those employees working in the Investigations Unit. County Manager York reiterated that she was asking the Board to approve paying out those holiday balances down to 40 hours.

The following compensation strategies and plans for improving compensation were proposed:

1. Payout Holiday Accrual balances for any balances over 40 hours (EMS, CCOM, Sheriff's Office) as of 4/15/2024. Payout on 4/25/2024 from lapsed salary.
2. Staff will propose a policy for paying out holiday accrual balances twice annually (Dec and June) depending on availability of funds in the departmental operating budgets.
3. Compensate all individuals working holidays at time and a half for time worked on holidays. This will also be included in the new proposed policy.
4. Working towards a separate public safety pay scale to be implemented as part of the phase 2 market salary study.
5. Realign job classes to factor in pay differentials and additional compensation for July 1, 2024. This realignment will focus on addressing red-lined positions.
6. The Sheriff's Office will submit a budget request to provide a pay differential for investigation unit assignments.

**Moved by:** Chairman Paisley

**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

Moved for adoption of compensation Strategy 1. The Payout of Holiday Accrual balances for any balances over 40 hours (EMS, CCOM, Sheriff's Office) as of 4/15/2024. Pay out on 4/25/2024 from lapsed salary; and instruct staff to look at including Strategies 2.-6. in the upcoming budget.

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

**Event Center Feasibility Study Final Report - Grace VandeVisser, Executive Director, Alamance County Visitors Bureau**

Grace VandeVisser, Executive Director of the Alamance County Visitors Bureau, introduced Lexi Cuff, Project Manager for Hunden Partners, who gave a presentation remotely on the final report of the Event Center Feasibility Study.

**Alamance County Community Services Agency Update - Danielle Fields, Executive Director of Alamance County Community Services Agency**

Danielle Fields, Executive Director of Alamance County Community Services Agency (ACCSA), gave an update on ACCSA. She reported that on December 18, 2023, Governor Cooper designated Alamance County Community Services Agency as the Community Action Agency to provide community services and block grant-funded services in Rockingham, Caswell, and Person Counties, expanding the service area to the four-county region.

**Resolution Regarding Residency Requirement of Appointed Board & Committee Members**

Commissioner Turner said he did not have an issue with the resolution's intent. He had concerns with the language in paragraph 2. He explained the challenges of the board's requirements for specific industry representatives, particularly with the Tourism Development Authority. He said those positions could be hard to fill and questioned whether the carve-out for the employment exemption was too narrow.

County Attorney Stevens said he understood the concern. He said the desire was to make sure the applicant's interests were more aligned with the Alamance community based on residency within the county. He had drafted suggested language "members of appointed boards who serve only as required by their employment, or as an industry representative, are exempt from this requirement, so long as they are residents of North Carolina." Commissioner Turner offered that would work.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Turner

**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

Moved for adoption of the Resolution Regarding Residency Requirement of Appointed Board and Committee Members with the amended language "members of appointed boards who serve only as required by their employment, or as an industry representative, are exempt from this requirement, so long as they are residents of North Carolina."

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

**Board of Health Appointment**

Commissioner Lashley spoke that the Board of Health had reviewed and met with both applicants for the professional engineer vacancy on the Board of Health. He said that both applicants were qualified. He said the Board of Health had recommended Dan Paist.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Lashley

**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

Moved for the appointment of Dan Paist to the Board of Health to fill the professional engineer vacancy.

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

County Attorney Stevens spoke that his staff had been in contact with Mr. Wood, one of the public comment speakers.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

County Manager York informed the Commissioners that the December 2023 Investment Report had been included in their agenda packets.

### **December 2023 Investment Report**

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Thompson thanked Mr. Johnson for coming to speak about Cummings High School.

Vice-Chair Carter said many issues have come up with ABSS, and they have not spent the funds.

Chairman Paisley said he had spoken with both speakers prior to the meeting, and he appreciated them bringing this to the Board's attention.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Lashley, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 A.M.

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John Paisley, Jr., Chairman

Alamance County Board of Commissioners

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Tory M. Frink, Clerk to the Board



## Alamance County Board of Commissioners

### INFORMATION ITEM AGENDA ITEM

**MEETING DATE:** 4/1/2024

**DATE SUBMITTED:** 3/22/2024

**FROM:** Heidi York

**DEPT:** County Manager's Office

**AGENDA TITLE:** Proposed Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029

**TO:** Alamance County Board of Commissioners

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#### **ISSUE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is being presented as information only at this meeting. The Manager is proposing the adoption of the CIP and Operating Budget at the Board's June 17th meeting.

#### **BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REQUEST:**

The CIP is a planning tool for implementing large capital projects. The CIP includes projects costing \$50,000 or greater from County Departments, Alamance Community College, and the Alamance Burlington School System.

This Capital Program paves the way for the Recommended Budget as it will provide an estimate of funding needed for capital projects, a main driver of spending and needs in the upcoming Fiscal Year. This Plan identifies needed capital projects and anticipates the impacts on operating costs as well. These capital projects span the next five fiscal years, though the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY24-25) is the only year where a funding commitment is needed from the Board.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive the Proposed FY24-25 Capital Budget and FY25-29 Capital Improvement Plan and provide staff with input and feedback.

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#### **ATTACHMENTS:**