



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

FY2022-2023 BUDGET EDITION



Critical issues facing our community and county government have never been greater as we progress in the 3rd decade of the 21st Century. The Randolph County Board of Commissioners holds regular public meetings on the first Monday of each month, beginning at 6:00 pm, in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room at the Historic Courthouse, 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, N.C. At each meeting, issues impacting our county and citizens are presented and evaluated by the County Commissioners.

Randolph County government is committed to providing citizens with the opportunity to access information and obtain the latest news and public updates regarding the county and its government. The Randolph Recap is a new addition to the Randolph County web page. It will provide monthly highlights and summaries from County Commissioner meetings. It will also highlight information on current issues facing the County Commissioners and the Departments and agencies of Randolph County government. The Randolph-Recap will serve as one of the various communication outlets, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and print media, that will update and communicate with our Randolph County citizens.

We hope the Randolph Recap is helpful to you and would appreciate your input and comments as we move forward.



Hal Johnson
Randolph County Manager



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AGENDA ITEMS:

June 6, 2022)

- County Department Proposals
- Outside Agencies
- Budget Adoption



In accordance with North Carolina law, the County Manager and County Finance Officer are required to present to the Board of County Commissioners, and the citizens of Randolph County, a proposed balanced budget for the next fiscal year 2022-2023. The law requires that the budget ordinance be adopted by July 1, 2022.

The total proposed budget is \$156,815,509. The budget is balanced. It maintains services at necessary levels to address the most urgent needs of the county. The proposed budget is financially sustainable. No increase in property tax is recommended in the proposed budget. The proposed budget retains the 2019 revenue neutral tax rate of 63.27 cents per \$100 valuation.

Our budgetary challenges this year are to again anticipate uncertainty in the economy. Those uncertainties still exist in this proposed budget. Challenges of the current tight labor market, rising inflation, and expected higher interest rates are trends that may impact economic growth. Every year we receive a sales tax Revenue forecast from the Fiscal Research Division, NC General Assembly. For this upcoming fiscal year, they are assuming a 2.7% sales tax growth statewide. This is substantially down from our current year of 12.6%.

While we are mindful of the current uncertain economic conditions, and the proposed budget allows us to plan for any eventuality, we believe that the future success of the megasite with Toyota Battery Manufacturing along with major expansions in some of our existing industries can lead to future transformative growth in Randolph County.



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County Departments

- **Randolph County Public Library** – The mission of the Randolph County Public Library is to provide for the informational and reading needs of the citizens at library sites through remote access, community outreach, and to patrons who are homebound or in care facilities. The library’s budget for 2022-2023 reflects three major new initiatives:
 - County operation of the Ramseur Public Library
 - The Randolph County History Museum Project
 - Elimination of overdue fines

The three initiatives account for 93% of the increase while general rising costs account for the remainder of the increase. The Proposed county revenue provided is \$2,165,458.

County Departments

- **Child Support Services** – The mission of Child Support Services is to assist families with establishing paternity for children born out of wedlock, establishing child support court orders, enforcing the collection of child support payments, and modifications of child support orders.

Child Support Services is seeking two additional manager positions. The proposed county revenue provided is \$180,600.

- **Veterans Services** – The mission of Veterans Services is to serve Randolph County veterans and their dependents, assuring that all VA claimants have the consistent availability of qualified representation and assistance in obtaining benefits administered by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Budget requests for the 2022-2023 fiscal year include two additional personnel to handle the increased workload. The proposed county revenue provided is \$289,649.

- **Department of Social Services** – The mission of Randolph County DSS is to serve by empowering, protecting, educating, and promoting stability.

Budget requests for Randolph County DSS include an additional paralegal and four FTEs. The proposed county revenue provided is \$9,661,503. (Decrease \$273,274)

- **Public Health** – The mission of Randolph County Public Health is to preserve, protect, and improve the health of the community by collection and dissemination of health information, education, and service programs aimed at the prevention of disease, protection of the environment, and improvement of the quality of life for our citizens.

The department of Public Health had no major budget requests. The proposed county revenue provided is \$3,703,831.

- **Public Works** – The mission of Randolph County Public Works is to ensure safe and efficient disposal, reduction, and recycling methods for all types of solid waste.

Budget requests for Public Works reflect changes in the transfer of the NC Scrap Tire Tax revenue to Waste Management. The proposed county revenue provided is \$80,334.



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County Departments

- **Soil and Water Conservation District**- The mission of the Soil and Water Conservation District is to develop and carry out programs for the conservation, protection, and development of soil, water, and related plant and animal resources within Randolph County.

Budget requests for the Soil and Water Conservation District include capital outlay equipment (three) needed to implement a new cost-share program (Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program) and to allow employees to perform their everyday duties. The proposed county revenue provided is \$285,003.

- **Planning and Zoning** - The mission of Randolph County planning and zoning is to administer a comprehensive and strategic planning program designed to maintain quality and sustainable growth within Randolph County.

The budget request from Planning and Zoning includes an additional GIS Planner position. The proposed county revenue provided is \$822,351.

County Departments

- **Cooperative Extension** - The North Carolina Cooperative Extension partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enriches the lives, land, and economy of North Carolina. Extension professionals provide education and technical assistance based on research from North Carolina's land grant universities, NC State University, and North Carolina A&T State University.

Budget requests from Randolph County Cooperative Extension show a minimal increase from FY 2021-2022. The proposed county revenue provided is \$703,838.

- **Juvenile Day Reporting Center** - The mission of Randolph County Juvenile Day Reporting Center is to provide multiple services to court-involved youth, at-risk youth, and their families to help ensure the safety of the community, the well-being of the juveniles, and to help the juveniles make positive life decisions in the future.

The budget request for Randolph County Juvenile Day Reporting Center includes; the addition of a program manager and the reclassification of two part-time transportation aids as full-time processing assistants. The proposed county revenue provided is \$133,390.

- **Adult Day Reporting Center** - The Randolph County Adult Day Reporting Center's Pre-Trial Release program mission is to enhance public safety and promote the successful re-integration of participants into the community.

ADRC is requesting a minimal budget increase in response to heightened fuel prices. The proposed county revenue provided is \$242,649.

- **Building Inspections** - The mission of Randolph County Building Inspections is to protect the public safety, health, and general welfare of the citizens and visitors to Randolph County through the administration and enforcement of the North Carolina State Building, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, Energy, Accessibility Codes, and Randolph County Unified Development Ordinance.

Budget requests for the Building Inspections department include monies for increased fuel prices, two additional trucks, and additional funding for the condemnation fund. The proposed county revenue provided is \$190,787.



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County Departments

- **Emergency Services** – The mission of Randolph County Emergency Services is to provide service to the community by preventing and minimizing loss of life, pain and suffering, property loss, and environmental damage from fire, natural disasters, and medical emergencies by offering education, prevention, and emergency response.

Budget requests for Emergency Services include twelve additional positions to handle the increased service demand. Additional requests include; four new ambulance replacements and one fire inspector truck replacement. The proposed county revenue to be provided is \$8,821, 187.

- **Animal Services**- The mission of Randolph County Animal Services is to safeguard the public by responding professionally to complaints related to animals, and to humanely manage abandoned animals by encouraging pet adoption.

Budget requests for Animal Services include no major budget increases. The proposed county revenue provided is \$871,221.

County Departments

- **Sheriff's Office** – The mission of the Randolph County Sheriff's Office is to protect and serve the citizens of Randolph County.

Budget requests for the Sheriff's Office include a 3% increase for all Sheriff's Office employees, 27 total law enforcement vehicles, a minor increase in operating expenditures, and a reclassification. The proposed county revenue to be provided is \$23,482,272.

- **Public Buildings (Maintenance)** – The mission of Public Buildings is to provide safe and functional facilities for the employees and citizens of Randolph County and to provide the service for properly maintaining the named-road sign program for the 911 emergency system.

Budget requests for Public Buildings (Maintenance) include a request for an additional Maintenance Technician to complete our staffing needs. Proposed county revenue provided is \$3,281,159.

- **Register of Deeds** – The mission of Randolph County Register of Deeds is to maintain the security, integrity, and public access to land, vital, and other records entrusted to the Register of Deeds while providing efficient and timely service.

The Randolph County Register of Deeds requests no increase in budget and will maintain expenditures at the same level as FY2021-2022. The proposed county revenue provided is \$326, 460.

- **Board of Elections** – The mission of the Randolph County Board of Elections is to conduct fair, accessible, and secure elections for all Randolph County voters and to assure the integrity of the electoral process.

The Randolph County Board of Elections is requesting a smaller base budget than in FY2021-2022, but is making an additional capital request of \$20k to install a bullet-resistant front counter at the elections office. The proposed county revenue provided is \$610,296.

- **Tax Department**- The mission of the Randolph County Tax Department is to accurately identify, list, appraise, and bill all taxable real and personal property in Randolph County as governed by North Carolina general statutes.

The Randolph County Tax Department requests an increase in operating expenses due to anticipated costs of a countywide reappraisal effective January 1, 2023. The proposed county revenue provided is \$2,640,695.



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County Departments

- **Information Technology** – The Randolph County Department of Information Technology’s mission is to enhance the delivery of County governmental services through the effective use of technology.

The Randolph County Department of Information Technology is requesting increased funding to implement cybersecurity improvements. The proposed county revenue provided is \$3,081,538.

- **Human Resources**- The Randolph County Department of Human Resources' mission is to provide and administer personnel services for Randolph County Government consistent with the federal, state, and local regulations including administration of all policies, recruitment and selection, personnel records, benefits, classification and pay, safety, and training.

Human Resources is requesting the addition of an Administrative Assistant. The proposed county revenue provided is \$538,375.

- **Administration** – Randolph County Administration’s mission is to oversee the implementation of public policy as determined by elected officials.

The administration is requesting a Reporting Specialist. The proposed county revenue provided is \$3,955,048.

Commissioners Comments

“The budget is balanced with no tax increase. We are strained right now. Requests from our departments have a lot to do with labor. The cost of labor and retention is a major issue in the county. Specifically, law enforcement, public service, public safety issues all of these things are increasing in cost, and we have been presented a budget that’s balanced with the same tax rate,” said Chairman Darrell Frye.



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Fire Departments/Rescue Squad

The Fire Districts Tax Fund accounts for the collection and distribution of voter-approved property taxes, levied to provide fire protection for nineteen special fire districts. The County contracts with municipal and volunteer fire departments to provide these services. The Board of Commissioners set each district's tax rate during the annual budget process. The taxes levied for each district are distributed monthly to the fire departments which service that area.

- **Ash-Rand Rescue Squad & EMS** - “This year we have asked for additional funding to pay for one position, weekday, eight to five pm each day to assist with responding to service calls every day,” said Larry Pugh, President, Ash-Rand Rescue Squad & EMS, Board of Directors.
- **Climax Fire Department** - “We are asking for a tax rate increase above fifteen cents and we take that very seriously. We felt like we should fully justify that. We, like small businesses everywhere, are being impacted by inflation,” said Chief, Gary McGee. Chief McGee cited personnel struggles of a decreased amount of volunteer firefighters, struggle to pay competitive wages, and increased demand as current challenges faced by the Climax Fire Department. An increase from \$0.15 to \$0.1763 is being requested for the Climax fire district, which serves both Randolph and Guilford County, residents.

“This would give you the third largest budget in the county. But you were seventh in the number of calls. I have heard about the different things you are doing with life-saving programs, but there is a gap there,” said Vice-Chairman David Allen.

Chief McGee stated that there had been significant struggles with recruitment and retention, especially terms of competition with surrounding areas and seeking talented employees.

- **Farmer Fire Department** - “Right now the Farmer Fire Department has the lowest tax rate in the county at 0.092 cents, we are asking for 0.12 which is the county average fire tax.” Chief Tracy Boyles. Chief Boyles cited increased fuel costs, dated equipment leading to higher maintenance costs, and a goal to increase insurance rating as reasons that a tax increase was requested. “At the Farmer Fire department, we are debt-free, that is through hard work and being good caretakers of our taxpayer’s money,” said Chief Boyles.



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Outside Agencies

- **City of Asheboro** – The City of Asheboro requested \$1.5 million for phase 2 of the McCrary Ballpark Renovations. **“As you all know sports have become a real economic engine and Asheboro is known for its baseball. The park, which was recently given to the City was in great need of an update,”** explained Mayor David Smith.
- **Randolph County Senior Adults Association** – Randolph County Senior Adults Association is requesting flat funding of \$302,585. **“I would like to mention that Randolph County is the third greatest source of support for Randolph County Senior Adults Association. We are always appreciative of that, and are asking for flat support equal to the same amount we have asked for, for the past three years,”** said Mark Hensley, Executive Director, Randolph County Senior Adults.
- **Lydia’s Place**- Lydia’s Place addresses the need for a shelter for women and families in Randolph County. **“The need for a shelter for women and families has been growing in Randolph County. Women and families have been willing to seek shelter in other counties. However, because unhoused populations are growing in other counties there are fewer beds available for Randolph County residents,”** said Rev. Alexis Coleman, Executive Director, Lydia’s Place. Costs for facility upgrades total \$390k, and the shelter plans to be open by September 1, 2022.
- **OE Enterprises** – OE Enterprises creates opportunities for personal and professional growth for persons with disabilities and other barriers to employment. **“We want to thank you so much for including us in your budget and our programming that works to support this population in Randolph County. Your funding goes directly to support Randolph County citizens and allows the population we serve to live, work, and thrive right here in our community,”** said Margaret Samuels, Executive Director.
- **Boys and Girls Club of High Point** – **“We wanted to thank you for your long-term support of our program in Randolph County. We are getting back to service numbers similar to what we had before the pandemic,”** said Floyd Johnson, President, and CEO, Boys and Girls Club. **“What we have found is that for every dollar invested in us, we can find matching support of ten dollars,”** said Johnson.

“We have been funding this program for a long time and it has been great having you around in our community,” said Chairman Darrell Frye.



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Outside Agencies

- **Shelter of Hope** – “I would like to say thank you for all your support over the years. We want to extend a special thank you for your support and dedication in the past,” said Paulette Handy, Administrator, Shelter of Hope. The Shelter of Hope provides its residents with three meals per day, access to shower and laundry facilities, and recently connected with Connecting Bridges, a substance abuse therapy program. The Shelter of Hope requested \$25k in County funding.
- **Family Crisis Center** – “I would like to thank the commissioners for your support over so many years. The Family Crisis center has been serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1978 in our community. We also serve victims of human trafficking,” said Dare Spicer, Executive Director, Family Crisis Center. “We are asking for the same funding in the amount of 75,000 that we have asked for over the last couple of years. This is so important because it serves as a match and allows us to receive about \$400k in matching,” said Spicer.
- **Randolph Art’s Guild** - “Part of the reason that we are asking for an increase in county funding from previous years, is due to the fact that we lost our two major funding sources in the fall festival and rummage sale. Past funding has certainly been appreciated. Our application requests an increase in funding so that we can return to full programming,” said Mike Miller, Executive Director, Randolph County Arts Guild.
- **Communities in Schools** – The mission of Communities in Schools is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. “What we are trying to do is facilitate the meeting of needs in the schools. We are grateful for all the past support and funding,” said Paula Owens.

Commissioner's Comments

“This is the County Budget, and we are dealing with public tax funds, property tax funds, sales tax dollars, and other general sources of revenue that we may have. We are also dealing with ARPA funds that the county has received in the amount of \$28M that will be targeted towards infrastructure, but some of these projects could be funded by ARPA funds or Strategic Planning fund,” said Chairman Frye.



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Budget Adoption

Commissioner Frye opened the meeting and shared that many challenges would be addressed within the FY2022-2023 budget including; inflation, issues compounded from the pandemic, issues with law enforcement, challenges with hiring and retention, and emergency management support.

“We’ve focused on issues related to the pandemic and the work that has been involved. It is not just about the budget, but our ARPA funds and Strategic planning money that is all a part of this process. We have taken some from all three of those areas to try to put a budget together that addresses all of these issues. I think that this budget addresses some serious issues and needs that have been building over the past years, but as always there are some things that we are not able to fund,” said Chairman Frye.

Chairman Frye also shared that this would be the first time that the Randolph County Board of Commissioners would be adopting a budget under new state regulations. The law prevents commissioners from voting on a budget for boards that they sit on.

- **FY2021-2022 Budget Amendments** - Will Massie, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager explained that there would be a few budget amendments on some pass-through funds, to ensure that there was enough expenditure budget to cover any collections. This included occupancy tax collections, timber receipts, fire district taxes, and school district taxes.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to close out budget amendments for FY2021-2022.

- **School Taxes** -
 - Archdale/Trinity Supplemental Schools – *The Randolph County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve supplemental tax at the current rate of \$0.0922.*
 - Asheboro City Schools Supplemental Tax – *The Randolph County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the supplemental tax at the current existing rate of \$0.1439.*



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Budget Adoption

- **Fire Tax Districts**

- Climax Fire Department – *The Randolph County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved an increase in the tax rate for Climax at \$0.1763.*

“Chief McGee does a great job. However, it needs to be pointed out that this tax rate is 18% above anyone else in the county. It is actually the third-highest expense in the county. I know that this is a good department, we need to make sure that we run it efficiently and continue to run it efficiently,” said Commissioner Allen.

- Farmer Fire Department -*Randolph County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved an increase in the tax rate for Farmer Fire District at \$ 0.12.*

“Farmer fire department runs itself efficiently with one of the lowest rates in the County. It is a low rate and they do a good job,” said Commissioner McDowell.

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a motion to retain the fire rates as presented, with no changes to the tax rate for the remaining departments.

- **Fees**

- No changes were made to the building and electrical plumbing permit fees, emergency services fees, or planning and zoning fees.
- *The Randolph County Board of Commissioners voted to unanimously approve the Randolph County Department of Public Health fee schedule as presented.*

"I would like to thank the members of the Department of Public Health for their leadership during a very challenging time period, and helping to get us where we are now," said Commissioner Haywood.

Vice-Chairman Allen also pointed out that several public health fees decreased.



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Budget Adoption

- **Randolph County EDC**- *Randolph County Commissioners voted to approve the motion to appropriate \$367,950 to the Randolph County EDC.*

“We have really gotten a great return on our investment. They do such a great job,” said Hope Haywood.

“I will say that this is a 10% increase, but all the EDC’s funding comes primarily from the County and all the other municipalities. The other municipalities have also been asked to increase their giving by ten percent,” said Vice-Chairman Allen.

- **Sandhills Center** – *Randolph County Commissioners voted to approve the appropriation of \$844,000 of funding to Sandhills Center.*

“While Sandhills Center is not a county agency, I think we could not have picked a better partner. They are well managed, they are requesting the same amount that they have for the past ten years now, and they’ve managed their funding well,” said Chairman Frye.



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Budget Adoption

- County Manager's Proposed Budget Highlights for FY2022-2023

- Management of Ramseur Library (\$158,879)
- Reclassification of Two positions in Juvenile Day Reporting Center (\$23,432)
- 5% cost of living adjustment for all county employees
- 500k for merit pay divided among Sheriff's Office, Department of Public Health, Emergency Services, and the Department of Social Services (ARPA funds)
- Recommendation for a 2% pay increase for Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services employees (\$492,902)
- The proposed increase of current expense funding for both Asheboro City and Randolph County School Systems (\$677,290 to RCSS, \$193,710 to ACS)
- Additional 100K in capital to both school systems
- Funding for RCC (\$221,100)
- Shelter of Hope (\$30,000 from Strategic Planning Fund)
- OE Enterprises (\$35,000)

"The total budget increase is \$2,223,219, we are appropriating additional sales tax projections of \$796,067. We have some restricted governmental dollars, Ramseur library fees that will be added, interests on investments and there will be \$1,250,000, which will be taken from the fund balance. The tax rate will remain at 63.27 cents- it does not change," said Chairman Frye.

"I hope we're not painting ourselves into a hole. With inflation and rising interest rate, there is concern in my opinion of what we are going to do next year. Overall, I think it is a good budget. But I would caution us that next year will be awfully tough. I just want to caution folks as far as expectations go, that we were able to fund a lot of necessary things without increasing taxes but that will be hard to do next year if the economy does not grow," said Vice-Chairman Allen

Randolph County Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the budget ordinance for FY2022-2023 and retain the current tax rate at 63.27 cents.

The full FY2022-2023 proposed budget can be found [HERE](#).



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Budget Adoption

- Strategic Planning Grant Funds

- *Randolph County Commissioners appropriated \$30,000 for the Shelter of Hope from the Strategic Planning Fund.*
- *Randolph County Commissioners appropriated \$90,000 for Emmy's House from the Strategic Planning Fund.*
- *Randolph County Commissioners appropriated \$500,000 to the City of Asheboro for McCrary Park renovations from the Strategic Planning Fund.*

"Asheboro is a good partner. But with the Randolph Health issue, we have a ten million dollar debt that we have to take care of. I would much rather have a hospital. I realize that recreation is important, but we have to have the hospital. We have to - for the well being of our community and economic development," said Vice-Chairman Allen.

"The budget we just passed includes \$1,120,00 for the first debt payment on saving our hospital. That payment will be here for the next ten years. The county is paying for all of that. It is all on the county to pay back that money," said Chairman Frye.

"The programs that Asheboro and Randolph County have are second to none county-wise. I would like to see us do this to help them out. It would be hard for the city to do this, even with ARPA funds to do everything they want to do with McCrary Park," said Commissioner McDowell.

- *Randolph County Commissioners appropriated \$100,000 for Lydia's Place from the Strategic Planning Fund.*

"I think we're very fortunate to have a faith-based group that would be willing to get this off the ground. That has the vision and is making that commitment," said Commissioner Haywood.

- North Carolina Children's Home Society TogetherWorks Program-

"This is an opportunity for us to get expertise that we do not have in the field of working with children and families. When you look at the list of organizations and departments in this proposal, all of which are already funded, they've had input as to what the needs are. I see all of those leaders working as hard as they can to make a dent in the problems we're facing with our families and children. But this is an opportunity for someone else to help us figure out things we can do that are more effective," said Commissioner Haywood.

"The assessment is currently incomplete. Some information has been provided in summary, but not in detail. I think we can address this when we have more information," said Vice-Chairman Allen.

"I don't think that we have all the accurate information we should have to make this kind of commitment," said Commissioner McDowell.

A full listing of Randolph County Strategic Planning Initiative Funded Programs can be found [HERE](#).