



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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### News Release

## Commissioners Adopt Budget for FY 2014–2015

**July 1, 2014, Monroe, NC** – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday adopted the FY 2015 Operating and Capital Budget of \$406,491,014. The budget appropriates a total of \$344,794,514 for operating and an additional \$61,696,500 funding for capital. The budget includes a tax rate of 76.14 cents per \$100 of assessed value, a 15.4 percent increase from the current tax rate of 66.0 cents.

"We were faced with a decision tonight that did not come lightly to anyone on this board," said Chairman Frank Aikmus. "Budget development is always a difficult process of allocating resources for various services that citizens expect and need. I commend everyone on the board and staff for the time spent developing this budget."

The largest expenditure in the adopted budget is the \$106.7 million in funding for Union County Public Schools related costs. These costs include \$87.1 million for current expense funding and \$19.6 million of capital contributions. The Board of Commissioners requested that the UCPS Board of Education consider directing the use of the FY 2015 funding of \$87.1 million as follows:

- \$83,021,859 is to be used for the base budget for general expense funding
- \$161,654 is to fund the increase in "State" benefits costs
- \$1,923,110 is to fund increased teacher supplements
- \$791,261 for the local portion of state funded pay increases
- \$500,000 savings from efficiencies identified by UCPS
- \$340,778 for the increase in teacher supplements at high priority schools
- \$1,097,322 for merit increases for locally funded employees
- \$261,900 for utility cost increases

In addition to UCPS funding, \$78,582,074 of the budget provides for Water and Sewer Utility operations, E911 funding, benefits funds, and other funds necessary to provide services to Union County residents. Highlights include:

- \$1.6 million for South Piedmont Community College for deferred capital maintenance
- \$150,000 for South Piedmont Community College for a welding lab at the Center for Technology and Health Education
- \$177,000 for the Register of Deeds Redaction Project
- \$12,000 for the Warbirds over Monroe Air Show

The Manager's Amended Proposed FY 2015 Operating and Capital Budget can be found at <http://www.unioncountync.gov/Divisions/Budget.aspx>.

Beginning Wednesday, a "Union County Conversation" episode focusing on the adopted budget can be seen on Union County's government channel, UCTV 16, daily at 7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and on the county's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/UnionCountyNC1](http://www.youtube.com/UnionCountyNC1). The program features BOCC Chairman Frank Aikmus, County Manager Cindy Coto and Executive Director of Administrative Services and CFO Jeff Yates.

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