



Board Bulletin

May 15, 2015

FY 15-16 Recommended Budget Preview

The FY 2015-2016 Manager's recommended budget will be presented to the Board for consideration on Monday, May 18. Below please find several highlights of the recommended budget:

- **No tax rate increase recommended**

- **Additional funding for education**

The budget recommends a 1% increase in current expense funding for both the Stanly County School System (\$96,666) and Stanly Community College (\$12,805)

\$310,000 grant toward the School System's requested STEM facility upgrades as well as STEM supplies and materials.

\$86,000 grant for an increase in teacher supplements. It is proposed these dollars be increased for three (3) fiscal years to see what impact it has on teacher recruitment and retention.

\$55,000 capital grant for Stanly Community College to make strategic energy efficiency investments (new boilers, HVAC controls, etc.) to reduce on-going operational expenditures.

- **Additional funding for public safety equipment**

The budget recommends increased funding to replace Sheriff's Office vehicles and laptops, EMS ambulances and equipment and maintain the new emergency radio system.

- **Investing in employees**

An additional \$30,000 is proposed for the County's pay-for-performance (merit) plan as well as the continuation of the wellness clinic and insurance gainsharing.

- **Continued support for economic development**

Funding for existing industry initiatives and incentives is maintained. Further it is recommended an additional \$20,000 be allocated for industrial site development activities.

Capital & Special Projects Update

Below please find a summary of activity as it relates to several on-going capital projects:

1. **Tarheel Challenge Academy** – It is anticipated the General Contractor will reach substantial completion on the project by Friday, May 29.

The Tarheel Challenge staff is currently working to obtain a landscaping design for the property and it is anticipated bids will be let in the next 30-45 days.

2. **Emergency Radio System** – The County's 700 MHz frequency application is currently being prepared by a consultant for submission to the FCC. It is anticipated the FCC review process will take 30-60 days.

A group of County staff and representatives from municipal law enforcement and volunteer fire will be going to Chicago, Illinois in mid June for our radio system staging event. This will provide the County with a first-hand look at how our system will perform once implemented on-site in Stanly County.

3. **Fiber/Broadband Study** – ECC Technologies is currently working to finalize the RFP that will be utilized to seek specific per foot pricing quotes for the installation of fiber in Stanly County. It is envisioned the RFP will be published in early June. Bids should be finalized by mid-July.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

BOCC Regular Meeting	Monday, May 18 7:00 PM Commons Meeting Room
Memorial Day Holiday	Monday, May 25 County Offices Closed
Stanly COG Meeting	Tuesday, May 26 6:30 PM Locust FBC