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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROPOSED FY22 BUDGET ADDRESSES ISSUES & RESPONDS TO GROWTH

Franklin County, May 19, 2021: *Franklin County Manager Kim Denton presented the Recommended FY22 Budget at the May 17 meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The recommended budget proposes a decreased tax rate of \$0.795 per \$100 in valuation, down one cent from the current tax rate of \$.805. Other recommended actions include additional personnel in response to growth, increases in Public Utilities Water and Sewer Rates as well as funding for next steps addressing Public Safety Radio needs.*

A public hearing for the Budget will be conducted on Monday, June 7 at 7:00 PM during the regular scheduled Board of Commissioner's Meeting being held at the Hamilton Hobgood Courthouse Annex. The Public Portal for Budget Comments is currently available on the Finance Department tab of the Franklin County website (www.franklincountync.us). Any public comments received through the portal will be shared by the Clerk to the Board with Commissioners prior to the June 7 public hearing.

Copies of the Recommended FY22 Budget are available on the Franklin County website under the Finance tab, in the office of the Clerk to the Board and at the Main Branch Library at 906 North Main Street, Louisburg, NC.

"Despite the impacts of the Pandemic, Franklin County has continued to experience predicted pre-Pandemic population growth numbers. This population growth has increased demand for services and the sheer volume of transactions for some departments," said Franklin County Manager Kim Denton. "The Recommended FY22 Budget addresses the identified needs and next steps required to deal with growth issues in our County."

Eleven new positions are included to address needs in the Planning/Inspections Department, Information Technology Department, Health Department, Emergency Services Department, Sheriff's Office, Finance Department, Aging Department and Communications Department.

Next steps for the Public Safety Radio System included in the recommended budget are funding for Subscriber Radio equipment for all mobile and handheld devices for users of \$4.6M. In addition, a System Upgrade will be pursued through a competitive process to identify the next generation public safety radio system for the County.

Franklin County Schools funding was included at their requested amount of \$21,221,872 for Operating Expenses and \$1.5M for Capital. Vance Granville Community College’s request of \$369,168 for operating expenses and \$20,000 for capital was also included in the recommended education funding.

Public Utilities has proposed Water and Sewer Rate increases that were included as requested in the table below:

FY22 PUBLIC UTILITIES RECOMMENDED WATER AND SEWER RATES		Effective with 9/2021 Billing			
		CURRENT		PROPOSED	
SERVICES		WATER	SEWER	WATER	SEWER
Low Volume User (LV)					
	<i>Base Rate (include 2,000 gallons)</i>	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 33.60	\$ 39.20
	<i>Consumption Rate per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons</i>	\$ 7.30	\$ 7.70	\$ 8.18	\$ 8.62
High Volume User (HV)					
	<i>Consumption Rate per 1,000 gallons</i>	\$ 5.75	\$ 7.70	\$ 6.44	\$ 8.62
Landlord Account					
	<i>Base Rate (include 2,000 gallons)</i>	\$ 5.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 5.60	\$ 7.84
	<i>Consumption Rate per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons</i>	\$ 7.30	\$ 7.70	\$ 8.18	\$ 8.62
Multi User					
	<i>Base Rate per connection</i>	\$ 11.00	\$ 27.50	\$ 12.32	\$ 30.80
	<i>Consumption Rate per 1,000 gallons</i>	\$ 5.75	\$ 7.70	\$ 6.44	\$ 8.62
Municipal Bulk Sale					
	<i>Consumption Rate per 1,000 gallons</i>	\$ 7.30	\$ 6.38	\$ 8.18	\$ 7.15

Other items included in the Budget were an EMS Comprehensive Assessment, nine new vehicles for new positions or to replace existing vehicles, facilities improvements at Triangle North Executive Airport and implementation of adjustments recommended by the 2020 Classification and Compensation Study. “Franklin County employees are our most valuable resource. Maintaining competitive wages and ensuring a positive return on the County’s investment in recruiting and training highly skilled employees is essential to the County’s success,” said Denton.

Three of the County's Fire Departments did request a change in their fire tax for FY22. Epsom Fire Department requested a decrease from 9.4 cents to 9.3 cents. Mitchiner's Crossroads Fire Department requested an increase from 6.5 cents to 7.5 cents. Central Fire District requested an increase from 8.75 cents to 9.75 cents. The requested Fire Tax Rate changes were recommended for adoption.

A Budget Work Session has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 26 at 6:00 PM at the Hamilton Hobgood Annex to discuss the recommended budget.

In conclusion, Manager Denton commended employees for their contributions, "The future of Franklin County is bright with many opportunities for advancement. The commitment of our employees has been clearly demonstrated through their response to the COVID19 Pandemic. The Pandemic has thrust unusual and untimely challenges on the County's workforce and our employees have responded with dignity, grace, and commitment."

For additional information, please contact Kim Denton, Franklin County Manager, at (919) 496-5994.

Franklin County Government is committed to effective and innovative public services for all Franklin County citizens and businesses.