

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

9:00 AM

BUDGET SESSION

Second Floor Conference Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair Jerry D. Powers
Commissioner Russell Killen
Commissioner Wes Greene
Commissioner Mike Eldreth*

BUDGET SESSION

Present: 5 - Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman Jerry D. Powers, Commissioner Mike Eldreth, Commissioner Russell Killen and Commissioner Wes Greene

I. 8:30 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**Airport**

No changes made.

Ambulance & Rescue (Ambulance Service, Rescue Squad, Warrensville Ambulance)

County Commissioners along with Patty Gambill, Emergency Mgt. Coordinator, Adam Stumb, County Manager and Sandy Long, Finance Officer discussed in length a proposed County Ambulance Service. They discussed the contract with Ashe Medics ending in exactly 5 years. A unanimous decision was made by all Commissioners to begin the process and to start the County owned Ambulance Service on June 30th, 2030 at 12:00 PM. Sandy stated that steps need to be taken, to involve the community and explain tax rates. A unanimous decision was made by all Commissioners to raise the Rescue EMS Tax an additional 4/10 of one cent to establish and equip a county-run Ambulance Service when the current contract with Ashe Medics ends June 30, 2030. Chris Lambert, Tax administrator was brought in and asked how much time he needed to administer the EMS Tax increase. Chris stated that he couldn't do anything until the Budget was approved. He stated that he could then implement it in sufficient time.

Animal Control

No changes made.

Communications (Dispatch Operations)

Budget increase from \$998,946 to \$1,005,846.

Cooperative Extension Service

No changes made.

Corrections (Jail Operations)

No changes made.

Cultural Arts

No changes made.

Debt Service

No changes made.

Economic Development

No changes made.

Education

No changes made.

Emergency Management

Budget Increase from \$329,367 to \$550,007.

E911 Coordinator

No changes made.

E911 Special Revenue Fund

No changes made.

Fire

No changes made.

Fund Transfers

No changes made.

Health

No changes made.

Human Service Agencies

Budget Increase from \$1,722,772 to \$1,730,772.

Law Enforcement (Sheriff's Office)

No changes made.

Medical Examiner

No changes made.

Parks & Recreation Department

Budget decrease from \$1,247,982 to \$1,187,846.

Planning Department

No changes made.

Public Buildings

No changes made.

Social Services (DSS)

Budget decrease from \$11,243,491 to \$10,973,991.

Soil Conservation

No changes made.

Veterans Services

No changes made.

X. Adjournment

At the conclusion of the FY 25/26 Budget Session Chairman McNeil went around the room asking each commissioner if they were in agreement with the budget and the decisions they made. Each commissioner answered with a yes.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn the FY 25/26 Budget Sessions at 11:32 am. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

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