

**Minutes of the February 4, 2020
Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners
Held at 5:30 pm in the School Board Office -
Yancey County Schools, Burnsville, North Carolina**

Present at the meeting held February 4, 2020 were Chairman Jeff Whitson, Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner David Grindstaff, Commissioner Mark Ledford, Commissioner Johnny Riddle, County Manager Lynn Austin, Finance Officer Brandi Burlison, County Attorney Donny Laws, and Clerk to the Board Sonya Morgan.

Present and representing Yancey County Schools (YCS) were School Board Chair Angie Weatherman, Board Member Norb McKinney, Board Member Jeanne Tyner, Board Member Wade Dahlberg, Board Member Edwin Fortner, Board Clerk Xan Robinson, Finance Officer Robbie Renfro, Superintendent Kathy Amos, and Curriculum Director Heather Cox.

Call to Order

Chairman Whitson called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and extended his appreciation to the Yancey County Board of Education for meeting with the Board to discuss their budget.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Whitson asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Riddle made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Grindstaff. By unanimous vote, motion was carried. (Attachment A) Chairman Whitson thanked the YCS staff and board for hosting and for the meal.

Joint Budget Meeting

Kathy Amos Superintendent presented *2020-2021 Local Budget Request - What the School System Can Do For Yancey County*. (Attachment B) Ms. Amos reviewed the data in the presentation and highlighted the three budget requests being made totaling \$212,580. A discussion ensued regarding the budget request and continued meetings between the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education. The Yancey County Board of Education adjourned their meeting.

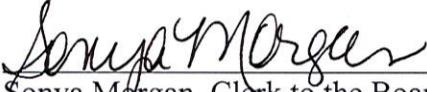
EMS Budget

County Manager Lynn Austin and Clay Carroll then discussed the budget for a proposed county Emergency Management Services (EMS) Department. County Manager Austin presented *EMS Option Comparisons* showing the current cost of EMS services with HCA and proposed options of the three companies that submitted bids to provide EMS services. (Attachment C) She then presented *Option 4: EMS 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget* which would be Yancey County running the service. (Attachment D) County Manager Austin indicated that the budget would cover the purchase of four fully equipped ambulances and two quick response vehicles. She also indicated that EMS services would be operated on a 24-hour basis as they are currently, using certified paramedics in certified vehicles to continue providing the great level of care Yancey County citizens are used to receiving. She further indicated that implementing the plan would generate revenue that would be collected using a billing agent. County Manager Austin also stated under a county run EMS she would pursue a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) grant to fund a Paramedicine program. Commissioner Ledford made a motion to move forward with the establishment of a County EMS Department. Commissioner Grindstaff seconded the motion. By unanimous vote the motion was approved.

Adjournment

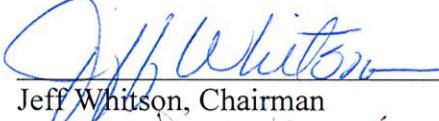
Having no further business, Commissioner Ledford made a motion to adjourn, with Commissioner Riddle seconding the motion. The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn.

Approved and authenticated this the 9th day of March 2020.

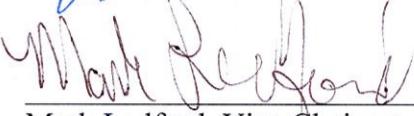


Sonya Morgan, Clerk to the Board

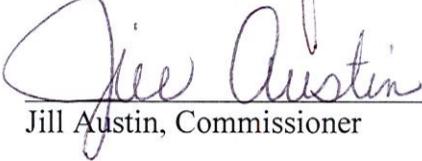




Jeff Whitson, Chairman



Mark Ledford, Vice Chairman



Jill Austin, Commissioner



David Grindstaff, Commissioner

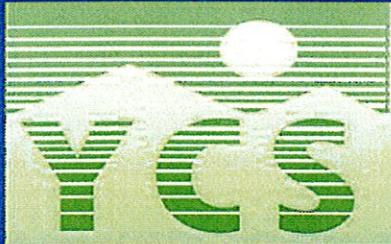
Johnny Riddle, Commissioner



Attachment A

**AGENDA
YANCEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2020
5:30 PM**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of the Agenda**
- III. Joint Budget Meeting with Yancey County School Board**
- IV. EMS Budget**
- V. Adjourn**

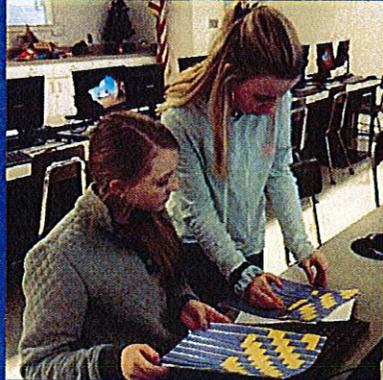


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2020-2021 Local Budget Request

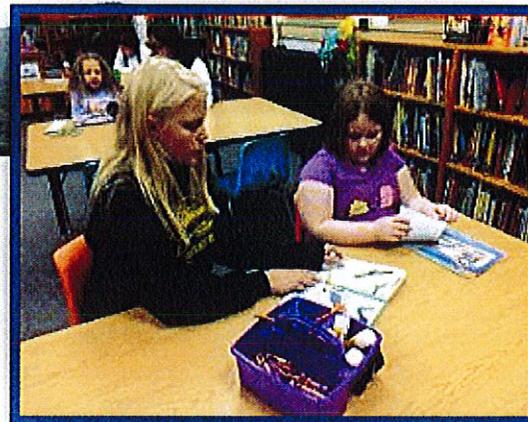
What the School System Can Do For Yancey County



Attachment B

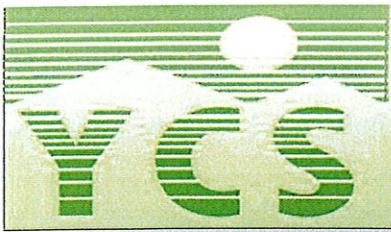


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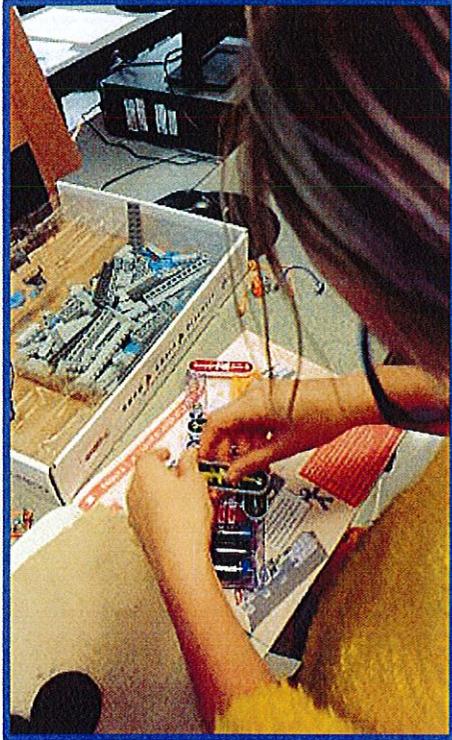


Positive Statistics:

- We serve 2,110 students Pre-K - 12th grade
- We serve 2,056 students K-12
- Ranked the 16th Best School District out of 115 NC School Systems (www.niche.com)
- Ranked 3rd Best School District out of 16 School Systems in WNC based on our test scores in Grades 3-12. (Polk and Henderson) (www.dpi.nc.gov)
- 92% Graduation Rate (www.dpi.nc.gov)
- 71.5% of our graduates enroll in post-secondary studies
- 96.2% of our Career and Technical Educations (CTE) Students had the highest technical attainment scores in the state
- 54 CTE Students enrolled in Internships and 915 Credentials Earned

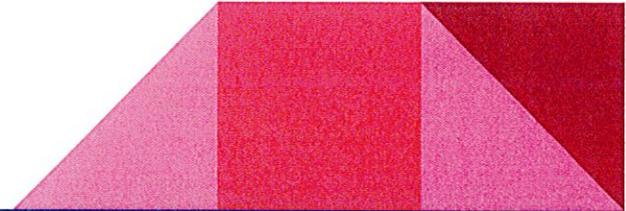


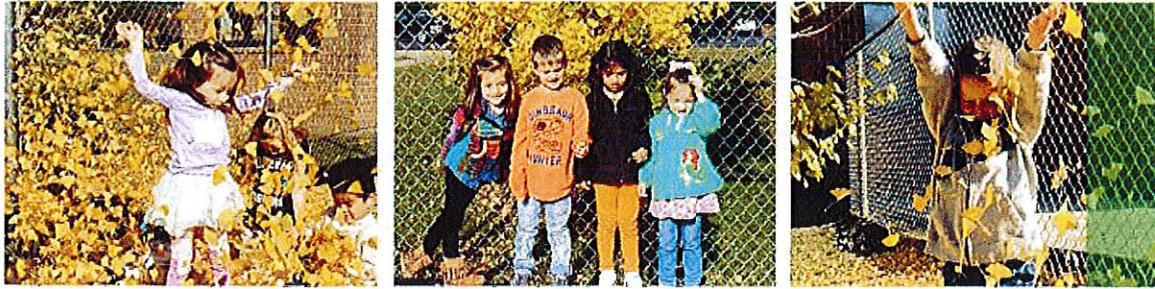
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Areas of Focus:

- Student Attendance
- K-8 Literacy- all students reading on grade level
- Maker Spaces and STEAM Lessons
- Create a District Strategic Plan
- Long-Range Facilities Plan
- Remain a High Performing School District





With Our Local Budget Needs - What Can YCS Do For You???

- Keep all students safe, happy and healthy
- Increase Student Achievement
- Maintain a High Graduation Rate
- Prepare students for the High Tech Business and Industry Workforce and Post Secondary Studies





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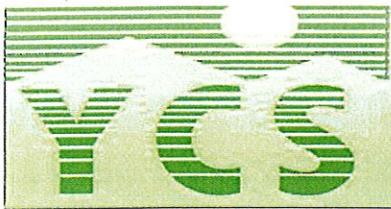


North Carolina Statistics for Yancey County:

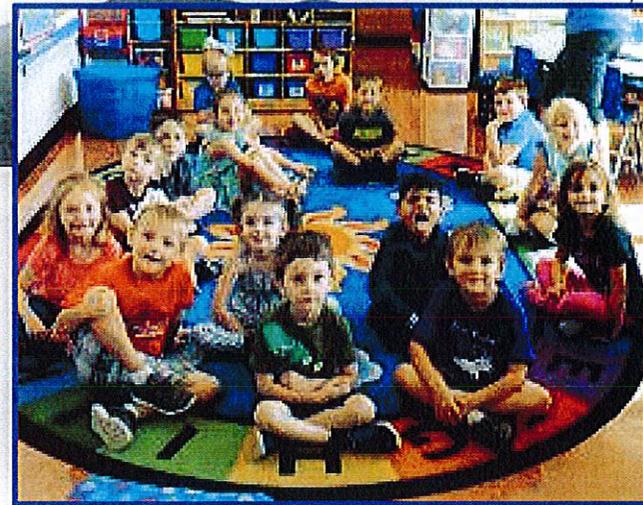
- Out of 100 counties YC is Ranked 18th in the state for the ability to pay the school system
- Out of 100 counties YC is Ranked 84th in the state for the amount of money provided to the school system
- The Request is over the next 3 years to pay the state average for each YCS student
 - The state average is \$1,652 per student
 - Right now YC spends \$1,408 per student
 - The difference of \$244 per student
 - $\$244 \times 2,056 \text{ ADM} = \$501,664$ divided by 3 years = \$167,221.33
 - Request an increase of \$167,221.33 per year for the next three years to reach the state average of \$1,652 per student local spending

(Public School Forum - 2019 Local School Finance Study)





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Phase I - 2019-2020

Requested by the School Board

- Four Teaching Positions - \$225,000
- Salary Step for Non-Certified Staff- \$75,000

Requested in September by Kathy Amos and Robbie Renfro

- A teacher at Micaville Elementary School
- A teacher at Blue Ridge Elementary School due to the state class size averages requirement
- The request was denied
- A combination class was created at Micaville for grades 3 and 4; and a part time retired teacher was hired at Blue Ridge Elementary School for the 31 kids in one class and 32 kids in the other 5th grade classroom.
- A 2019-2020 state budget was not passed so we are currently opperating on a continuation budget



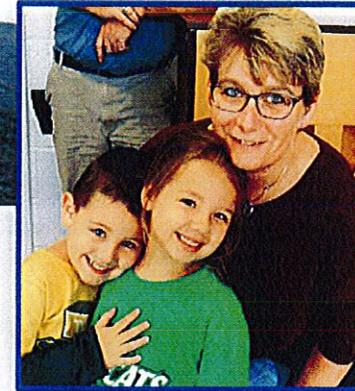
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Phase II - 2020-2021

Requests

- 1.) Step increase for Non-Certified Staff
(custodial, teacher assistants, clerical)
 - Retain our dedicated,
hard working employees
 - Staff Morale and appreciation

\$75,000





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Phase II - 2020-2021

Requests

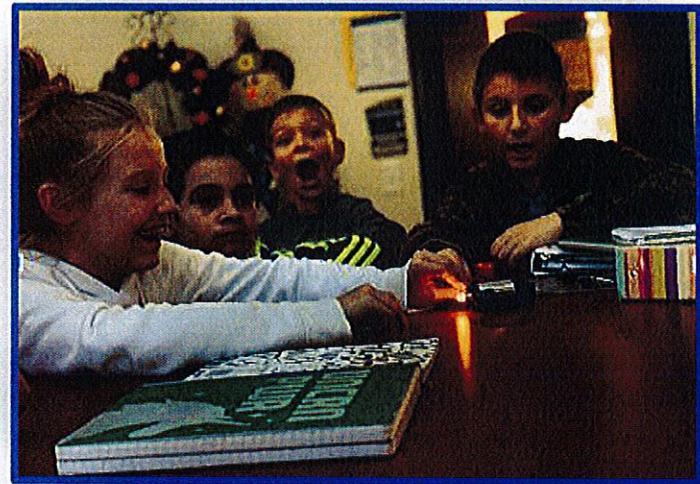
2.) Two Special Area Teachers for Elementary School

Project Lead The Way - Project Launch: <https://www.pltw.org/>

- Support community workforce development and research careers
- Offer students hands on activities with a trained teacher
- Assist with testing and other school duties
- Assist with after school clubs and activities
- Increase time in the master schedule for small literacy groups
- Build a firm foundation of support for the students and the teachers

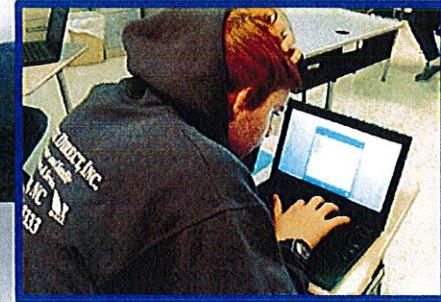
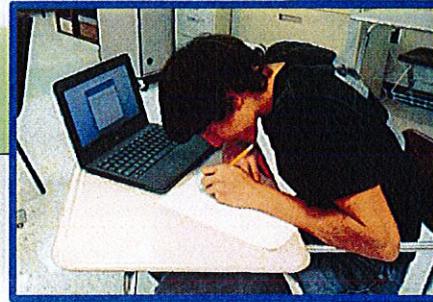
Total Request - \$102,000

<https://www.pltw.org/our-programs>





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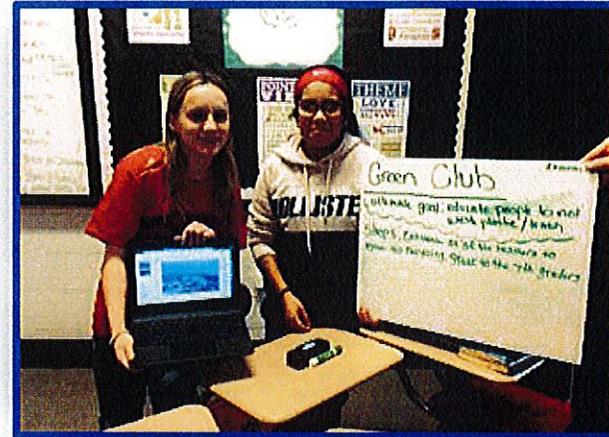
Phase II - 2020-2021

Requests

3.) Revise the ChromeBook Allotment to include 8th grade 1:1 **\$35,580**

- Current \$72,750 + Request \$35,580 = \$108,300

Total Budget Requests: \$212,580





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Phase II - 2020-2021

Grants

Golden Leaf

Project Lead The Way Program in Middle Schools

\$150,000

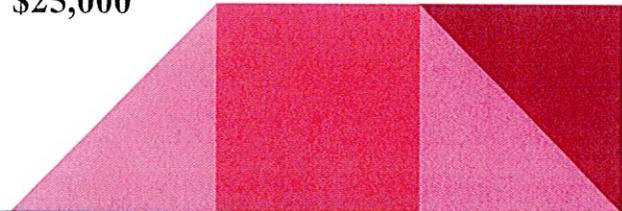
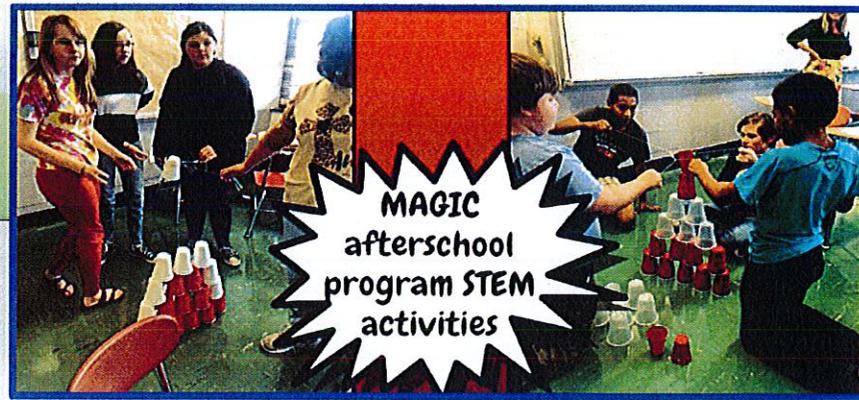
- Vertical Planning for our Ele/MS/High School classes
- Align with our local business and industry needs

AMY Wellness

- 2 Activity Buses
- Summer Enrichment Camps and Summer Feeding Program

\$187,490

\$25,000





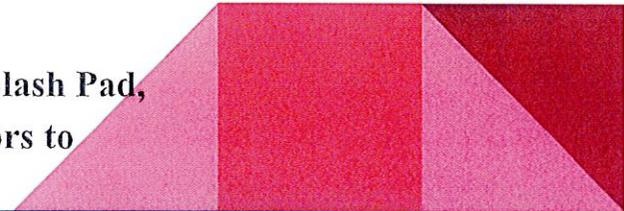
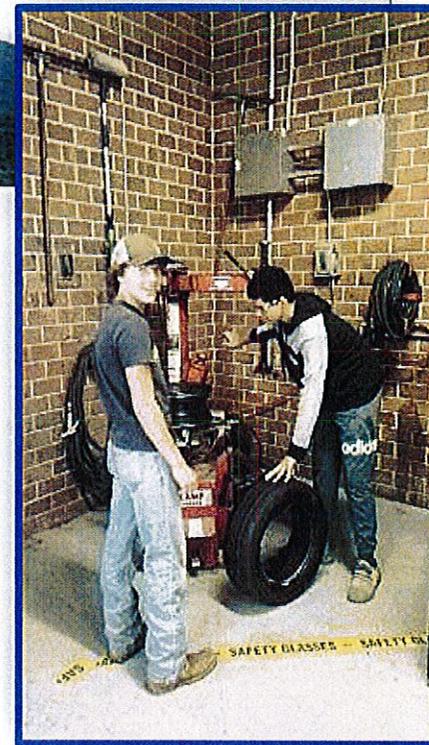
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AMY Wellness

- 2 Mental Health Counselors
to work in our MS Student Health Centers
- Jason Project - 10 HS/MS Students Served

Dogwood Trust - Community Health and Wellness

- New Roofs at CRMS and EYMS 3 million
- New HVAC at MHHS, CRMS and EYMS 5 million
- Server for YCS 120,000.00
- New Desktops and Chrome Books for 1:1 in YCS 3 million
- Technology Infrastructure in our Community - Internet
- Purchase Multi Use Property for Green Schools, Community Park/Splash Pad, YMCA, YC Recreation Department/Fields, Teacher Housing/Professors to Visit Region to Conduct Research and Teach Classes



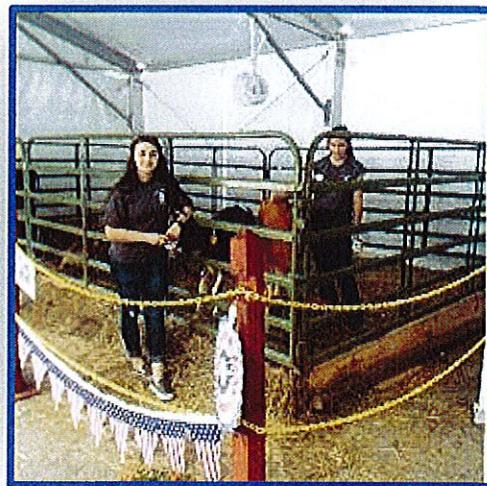
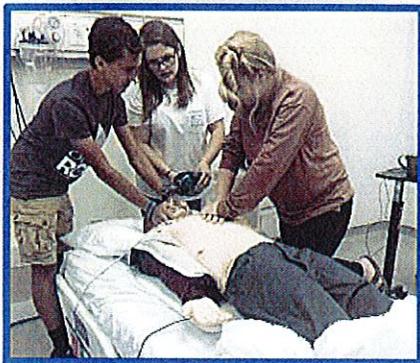


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Phase III - 2021-2022

- **Secure State Capital Needs Funds** **\$10.5 million**
- **Secure Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund** **\$10 million**

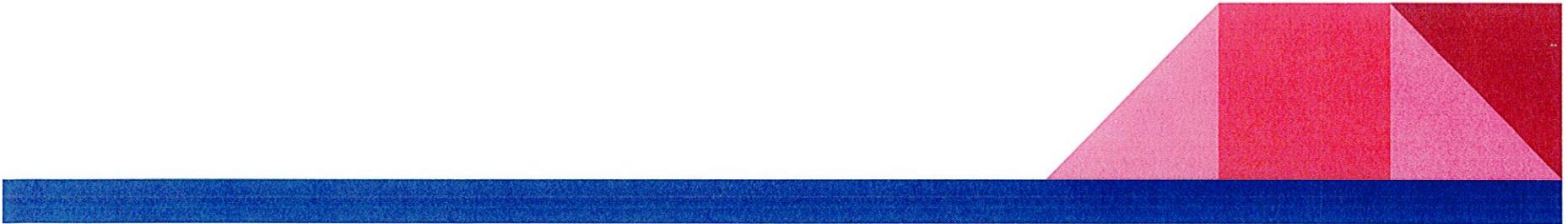




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Phase IV - 2022-2023



EMS OPTION COMPARISONS

	YANCEY CO CONTRIBUTION	INCREASE OF:
CURRENT EMS CONTRACT WITH HCA	\$1,140,887.00	

OPTION 1: AMR - LIFEGUARD AMBULANCE SERVICE	\$1,600,000.00	\$459,113.00
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OPTION 2: WATAUGA MEDICS		
YEAR 1	\$1,675,000.00	\$534,113.00
YEAR 2	\$1,677,000.00	\$536,113.00
YEAR 3	\$1,685,000.00	\$544,113.00
YEAR 4	\$1,687,000.00	\$546,113.00
YEAR 5	\$1,695,000.00	\$554,113.00

OPTION 3: HCA /MISSION HEALTH		
YEAR 1	\$1,859,245.00	\$718,358.00
YEAR 2	\$1,974,135.00	\$833,248.00
YEAR 3	\$2,086,207.00	\$945,320.00
YEAR 4	\$2,138,270.00	\$997,383.00
YEAR 5	\$2,136,564.00	\$995,677.00

Attachment C

OPTION 4:**EMS 2020-2021 PRELIMINARY BUDGET*******THESE NUMBERS ARE ESTIMATES ONLY*******EXPENSES**

5121	SALARIES & WAGES	\$1,056,104.00
5122	OVERTIME WAGES	\$278,862.00
5126	PART-TIME WAGES	\$72,800.00
5181	FICA/MEDICARE	\$107,695.00
5182	RETIREMENT	\$120,681.00
5183	HEALTH INS	\$131,651.00
5185	UNEMPLOYMENT INS	\$16,555.00
518305	LIFE INSURANCE	\$1,008.00
518306	LONG TERM DISABILITY INS	\$4,172.00
5186	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$86,666.00
5239	VACCINATIONS/DRUG TESTING	\$1,000.00
5211	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	\$1,000.00
5212	UNIFORMS	\$9,450.00
5260	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$1,000.00
5341	PRINTING	\$500.00
	MEDICAL SUPPLIES	\$50,000.00
5238	MEDICATIONS	\$40,000.00
5251	FUEL	\$54,000.00
5252	TIRES	\$15,000.00
5311	TRAVEL - MILEAGE	\$500.00
5312	TRAVEL - EXPENSES	\$500.00
5321	TELEPHONE	\$3,000.00
5325	POSTAGE	\$250.00
5331	ELECTRICITY	\$3,000.00
5334	WATER/SEWER	\$3,000.00
5333	GAS	\$2,000.00
5341	COPIER LEASE	\$450.00
5352	R&M EQUIPMENT	\$2,000.00
	VEHICLE (HIGHWAY USE)	\$800.00
5353	R&M VEHICLES	\$8,000.00
	OXYGEN	\$12,000.00

5440	SERVICE & MAINT CONT(HAZ WASTE)	\$9,331.00	
	SPECIAL EVENT STAGING	\$1,500.00	
5392	LAUNDRY	\$3,000.00	
5395	TRAINING	\$500.00	
5451	LIABILITY/VEHICLE INSURANCE	\$32,668.00	
5491	DUES/SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$250.00	
5550	CAPITAL - EQUIPMENT	\$190,000.00	
5540	CAPITAL - VEHICLES	\$220,000.00	**see note below
		\$2,540,893.00	

REVENUES

INSURANCE & MEDICAID BILLING	\$2,100,000.00
YANCEY COUNTY	
CONTRIBUTION	\$440,893.00

**THIS INCLUDES 4 FULLY EQUIPPED AMBULANCES (F-450) AND
2 - QUICK RESPONSE VEHICLES (4X4 EXPEDITIONS WITH EQUIPMENT)

PROS:

- Keep our Paramedics
- Keep the pay the same
- Ensure the great level of care we are use to for our Yancey County Citizens
- Maintaining the equipment/building to a satisfactory level
- Best option for the money... we are always going to pay out but this is the only way to recapture some revenue back to offset the expense. When we pay out through a contract- that is their profit that they are making basically... IF THE LOW BID IS \$1.6 AND IT WILL COST US \$430,000 TO PROVIDE THE SAME SERVICE THEN THE COMPANY IS PROFITING APPROX \$1.17 MILLION OFF OF THE COUNTY. Yancey County is not making money but we should save money which is just as good.

CONS:

- Yancey County would hold the risk....
- Workers Comp- this is a higher level of risk (like Deputies, Detention Officers, etc)
- Medical Malpractice insurance added on to the County Policy
- We can always expect for EMS to cost money-will probably not be a money maker at any point