

Dottie Sherrill
Mayor

The Town of
Weaverville
NORTH CAROLINA

Doug Dearth
Council Member

Patrick Fitzsimmons
Council Member

Doug Jackson
Council Member

Andrew Nagle
Council Member

John Penley
Council Member

April 17, 2017

Buncombe County Commissioners
Wanda Greene, County Manager
200 College St.
Asheville, NC 28801

Dear Buncombe County Commissioners and Ms. Greene:

Please allow us to begin by thanking the Board of Commissioners and County Manager for your support of fire and emergency services within Buncombe County. We have a great working relationship within the various departments in the County and, in working collaboratively, we have built a system of excellent service delivery to the residents and visitors as emergencies arise.


Over the past number of years the fire departments have been forced to tighten their belts and pinch every penny, as has the county as a whole, due to the struggling economy. Needed purchases and programs have had to be delayed or not done at all as a result of the economic climate we have experienced. The Weaverville Fire Department, who serves the citizens of the North Buncombe Fire District, has not been able to add much needed personnel due to this reason and has not seen an increase in personnel since 1998.

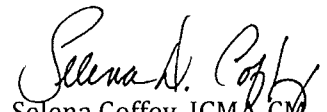
With the revaluation and the subsequent possibility of an increase in tax revenue, we see an opportunity to try to more adequately address our community's service demands by hiring much needed firefighters. By consensus of Town Council and endorsement by Town Manager Selena Coffey, we have applied for a federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. If awarded, the grant could help us reach our longstanding goal of adding necessary personnel. While this grant will only pay a portion of the expenses of the personnel expenses, it would allow us the ability to bring the additional firefighters onboard now and assume the full cost afterwards with projected growth within the Town of Weaverville and the North Buncombe Fire District. Our current plan is to hire 6 firefighters, which would add 2 additional firefighters to each of our 3 operational shifts. The addition of these firefighters will allow us the ability to respond more efficiently and safely to emergencies that are occurring with multiple calls at the same time. Multiple simultaneous calls has become the norm with our service area growth. Hiring additional firefighters will provide sufficient staffing to safely and immediately enter Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) atmospheres such as burning buildings.

Without the potential increase in revenue as a result of the revaluation this will continue to be a much needed advancement within our department that simply cannot be afforded and therefore be postponed yet again. With this initiative being such a high priority for our department we would request to stay at our current tax rate of 11.2 cents per \$100 of valuation. This rate, coupled with the Town Manager's proposed budgeted tax rate of \$0.40 cents (above the revenue neutral rate of \$0.36 cents), will allow the Weaverville Fire Department to move forward and remain viable even past the period funded via the SAFER grant, should it be awarded to us.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please feel free to contact Town Manager Selena Coffey or myself if we can be of assistance or answer any questions as they may relate to this request.

Respectfully Submitted,


Ted Williams
Fire Chief
Town of Weaverville


Selena Coffey, ICMA-CM
Town Manager
Town of Weaverville

FY 2017-2018 PROPOSED BUDGET
TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE

	FY 2016-2017 BUDGET	FY 2017-2018 REQUESTS	FY 2017-2018 TM PROPOSED	\$ INCREASE PROPOSED	% INCREASE PROPOSED
FIRE DEPARTMENT					
010-430-434-12100 SALARIES & WAGES	\$938,352	\$985,270	\$985,270	\$46,918	5.0%
010-430-434-12110 OVERTIME	\$49,000	\$51,450	\$51,450	\$2,450	5.0%
010-430-434-12800 RELIEF PAY	\$24,000	\$87,600	\$87,600	\$63,600	265.0%
010-430-434-18100 FICA	\$77,369	\$86,010	\$86,010	\$8,641	11.2%
010-430-434-18200 RETIREMENT	\$73,361	\$75,162	\$74,644	\$1,283	1.7%
010-430-434-18400 RETIREE HEALTH INSURAN	\$0	\$0	\$6,632	\$6,632	#DIV/0!
010-430-434-18210 401-K MATCH	\$59,242	\$62,203	\$62,203	\$2,961	5.0%
010-430-434-18300 HEALTH INSURANCE	\$159,093	\$159,093	\$186,199	\$27,106	17.0%
010-430-434-19000 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$500	14.3%
010-430-434-25000 VEHICLE SUPPLIES	\$20,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	(\$2,000)	-10.0%
010-430-434-26000 SUPPLIES / MATERIALS	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-26100 MEDICAL VACCINATIONS	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-26150 PREVENTION SUPPLIES	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-26260 MEDICAL EQUIP & SUPPLI	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-26600 CONTRIBUTORY EXPENSE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
010-430-434-26900 UNIFORMS	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-31000 TRAVEL & TRAINING	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-32100 TELEPHONE	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-33100 UTILITIES	\$17,500	\$15,000	\$15,000	(\$2,500)	-14.3%
010-430-434-35100 BUILDING REPAIR / MAINT	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-35200 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-35300 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-39500 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-40450 INSURANCE	\$74,812	\$74,812	\$82,293	\$7,481	10.0%
010-430-434-50100 SMALL EQUIPMENT	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$0	0.0%
010-430-434-50500 CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$5,000	12.5%
TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$1,720,729	\$1,848,100	\$1,888,802	\$168,073	9.8%

**Weaverville Fire Department
Annual Debt Service Obligations**

Fire Truck Loan	\$53,541
Fire Truck Loan	\$149,413
<u>Fire Station Loan</u>	<u>\$255,021</u>
Total Annual Debt Service	\$457,975