



JACKSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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To: Jackson County Board of Commissioners
From: Don Adams *DA*
Date: May 11, 2021
Subject: Summary of Budget Discussions with VFDs

On April 26, 2021 County staff met with five fire chiefs. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the \$400,000 that may become available in the fire fund if Cullowhee VFD becomes a full-time operation. Cashiers-Glenville VFD, Cullowhee VFD and Highlands VFD did not attend because funding for their operations will be handled differently.

The following were in attendance of this meeting:

1. Chief Brian McMahan, Balsam-Willets-Ochre Hill Fire Department
2. Chief Terry McCall, Canada Fire & Rescue Department
3. Chief Kent Moore, Qualla Fire & Rescue Department
4. Chief Mike Beck, Sylva Fire Department
5. Chief Floyd Green, Savannah Fire Department
6. Don Adams, County Manager
7. Todd Dillard, Director of Emergency Management
8. Michael Forbis, Fire Marshall

The following was discussed regarding additional funds:

1. The five fire chiefs above agreed that an additional administrative person at each fire house would greatly assist in their operations. Estimated costs (including all benefits) for all five positions are \$270,910.
2. The fire chiefs would also like to see some type of pay per call provided to each member who responds to an emergency. It is recommended that this pay per call be set at \$12 per call. The remaining \$129,090 would be used to cover these costs.
3. The fire chiefs also discussed that there are needs regarding personal protective equipment. It is requested that the Commissioners consider assisting with these needs. It is requested that Jackson County be prepared to expend up to \$50,000 per department (\$250,000) to match other funding sources (grants, donations, Town of Sylva) to go towards the purchases of personal protective equipment. This would be an allocation from the County's fund balance.