

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: APRIL 15, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 12

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE \$500,000 FROM UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE FOR YOUTH DETENTION COSTS

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS: Recommend Approval

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Youth detention costs have remained higher than anticipated over the past twelve months. On December 1, 2019, Raise-the-Age went into effect across North Carolina, which impacted youth alleged to have committed nonviolent offenses and ensures that youth up to 18 years old will be heard in juvenile court. The cost to house Forsyth County juveniles in various youth detention facilities, primarily in Guilford, had averaged \$265,000 from FY17-FY19. The FY20 Adopted Budget was kept at \$300,000 as the impact of Raise-the-Age was unknown. In fact, the impact of this legislation has caused Forsyth County's cost to exceed this amount by a significant margin. Actual costs in FY20 were \$507,154.

The FY21 Adopted Budget for youth detention was set at \$480,000 as it was anticipated that the COVID-19 pandemic could possibly reduce the number of youths being placed in a youth detention facility similar to how the Law Enforcement Detention Center population has decreased. Unfortunately, this has not occurred and youth detention costs are estimated to approach \$980,000 by the end of the year.

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: f. Dudley Watts, Jr. /AMS

COUNTY MANAGER

DATE: April 12, 2021

