

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RECESSED SESSION –APRIL 19, 2022**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Recessed Session on Monday, April 19, 2022, at 5:00p.m., at the Commissioner’s Board Room located at 69 N Main St., Marion, NC.

Members Present

Tony Brown, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Sheriff Ricky Buchanan; Chief Nathan Mace; Dir. William Kehler, ES Director; Lt. Andrew Pressley; Adrienne Jones

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Sheriff’s Staffing Update

Sheriff Ricky Buchanan gave an update on staffing needs within his department. He stated the pay needs were critical for his staff. In December, 2020 he requested a 15% pay increase for his staff, and the Board approved a 7.5% in January, 2021.

A copy of the McDowell County Sheriff’s Office Pay/Salary Study Results (2022) is with the agenda materials.

The proposed increase in salaries for the nine positions:

- Administrative Asst \$2,772
- Detention Officer \$3,066
- Deputy Sheriff \$5,178
- Sergeant \$3,552
- Detective \$8,172
- Lieutenant \$5,442
- Detective Lt. \$6,324
- Captain \$9,060
- Chief Deputy \$13,020

Sheriff Buchanan proposed to contribute from the Jail Revenue line item in 2022, \$275,000; \$200,000 in 2023; and \$150,000 in 2024 to go toward pay increases in order to recruit and retain staff.

Emergency Services Staffing Update

William Kehler, ES Director, gave an update on the staffing needs in his department. A copy of the Current State of EMS and 911 Workforce report is with the agenda materials.

Mr. Kehler noted the pandemic has brought forth rapid changes related to public safety workforce. Within public safety and healthcare, the burnout rate is excessive.

He also noted four different critical decision procedures that paramedics perform on patients, that the skill is performed by a Medical Doctor and nurse in the hospital setting. He also noted MTCC only had four paramedic graduates in 2021.

Proposed changes for EMS Entry Level:

- EMT \$33,258
- AEMT \$37,200
- Paramedic \$40,566
- Sgt. \$43,176
- Community Paramedic \$44,262
- Lt/FTO \$45,372
- Captain \$51,378
- Training Officer \$51,378
- Deputy Director \$68,376
- Director \$83,994

Proposed changes for 911 Entry Level:

- Telecommunicator 1 \$33,258
- Telecommunicator 11 \$37,200
- Sgt \$39,090
- Sgt/FTO \$41,076
- Lt. \$47,688
- 911 Manager \$61,902

Mr. Kehler noted recruitment and retention of quality medical individuals is critical at this time in our county.

Each Commissioner thanked Sheriff Buchanan and Director Kehler for their informative request, and their commitment to public safety for the citizens.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to adjourn at 7:27pm, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion carried.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman