

**AGENDA
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING – PROJECT ENTERPRISE – BUILDING REUSE AGREEMENT: Jeff Wood, Economic Development Director**
- 2. CRAVEN-PAMLICO REGIONAL LIBRARY PRESENTATION: Julie Cox, Regional Director and Jeanne Holmgren, Assistant Regional Director**
- 3. METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) – BOUNDARY EXPANSION - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU): Deanna Trebil, Transportation Director**
- 4. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA TOPICS**
- 5. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Minutes of March 16, 2026 Regular Session**
 - B. Tax Releases and Refunds**
 - C. Veterans Services – Budget Amendment**
 - D. Sheriff – Panasonic Laptop Donation**
 - E. Proclamation Honoring Dorothy Hawkins Bryan as North Carolina Central University Centenarian**
 - F. Proclamation Recognizing “Line Worker Appreciation Day” in Craven County**

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

- 6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – PROJECT ENTERPRISE – BUILDING REUSE AGREEMENT: Jeff Wood, Economic Development Director**
- 7. CLEAN SWEEP – SUPER SWEEPER AWARDS: Pam Hawkins, Clean Sweep Coordinator**

8. **HEALTH – BUDGET AMENDMENT RELATED TO NEW ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD (EMR) SYSTEM LEASE FOR HOSPICE: Clayton Gaskins, Hospice Director**
9. **SOCIAL SERVICES – REVISION OF HOME COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT (HCCBG) FOR FY 2025-2026: Clayton Gaskins, Chairman**
10. **VETERANS SERVICES – NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (NCDMVA) GRANT AWARD – BUDGET AMENDMENT: Jeff Futrell, Veterans Services Director**
11. **SHERIFF – LAPTOP/RADAR PURCHASE – FORFEITURE FUNDS – BUDGET AMENDMENT: Sheriff Chip Hughes**
12. **APPOINTMENTS**
13. **COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT: Arey Grady**
14. **PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – GENERAL TOPICS**
15. **COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT: Jack Veit**
16. **COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**
17. **CLOSED SESSION**



1 **THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CRAVEN COUNTY MET IN REGULAR**
 2 **SESSION IN THE COMMISSIONERS’ ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY**
 3 **ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH**
 4 **CAROLINA, ON MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 6:00 PM.**

5
 6 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- 7 Chairman Denny Bucher
- 8 Vice-Chairman Jason R. Jones
- 9 Commissioner Chadwick Howard
- 10 Commissioner Sherry Hunt
- 11 Commissioner Tim Mason
- 12 Commissioner E. T. Mitchell
- 13 Commissioner Beatrice R. Smith

14
 15 **STAFF PRESENT:**

- 16 Jack B. Veit, III, County Manager
- 17 Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager
- 18 Arey Grady, County Attorney
- 19 Craig Warren, Finance Director
- 20 Shane Digan, Assistant to the County Manager
- 21 Abigail G. Wilson, Clerk to the Board

22
 23 County Attorney, Arey Grady, recited the following invocation, followed by the Pledge of
 24 Allegiance.

25
 26 *Eternal God, by whom alone all exists, through whom alone we all are sustained,*
 27 *in whom alone we all must seek direction and find purpose.*

28
 29 *We confess that we are a Nation and a County in progress, ever seeking to fulfill*
 30 *a divine mandate to establish liberty and justice for all the people. As such, we*
 31 *need Your guiding hand along the way of our pilgrimage. Look with favor, we*
 32 *pray, upon our Nation and our County and grant Your blessing for the journey.*

33
 34 *Equip, O Lord, these County Commissioners with uncommon wisdom,*
 35 *unwavering courage and unfailing dedication to seek, to know, and to do Your*
 36 *will.*

37
 38 *Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

39
 40 *Based upon the invocation given by Reverend Dr. C. Frederick Horbach at the*
 41 *06/22/2000 session of the US House of Representatives.*

42
 43 A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion
 44 was seconded by Commissioner Mason and carried in a 7-0 roll call vote.

45
 46 Chairman Bucher took a moment and welcomed nine members of the Leadership Craven class.
 47 He indicated that this is an organization that supports the professional growth and development
 48 of local business professionals. Annually, participants visit meetings of various local
 49 organizations to observe and learn. Each member introduced themselves. The Chairman also
 50 welcomed in attendance Joe Meadows, Library Board of Trustees Chairman and Clean Sweep
 51 Super Sweeper awardee of 2025.

52
 53 **PUBLIC HEARING – PROJECT ENTERPRISE – BUILDING REUSE AGREEMENT**

54
 55 Economic Development Director, Jeff Wood, requested the Board to go into public hearing, as
 56 advertised, to receive public comment on a proposed economic development project (Project
 57 Enterprise) involving the expansion of Chatsworth Products, an existing manufacturing operation
 58 in Craven County. The project includes the reuse and improvement of an existing industrial
 59 facility to support the manufacture of products and solutions related to information and
 60 communications technology, industrial automation, and information protection. He noted that the
 61 project anticipates a capital investment of approximately \$9.5 million and projects the creation of
 62 45 new permanent full-time jobs over a two-year period. He provided that in support of the

Municipality	% of County (2020)	Cost Share
Bridgeton	0.35%	\$184
Dover	0.35%	\$184
Cove City	0.38%	\$200
Vanceboro	0.86%	\$459
River Bend	2.88%	\$1,534
Trent Woods	4.04%	\$2,153
Havelock	16.50%	\$8,784
New Bern	31.07%	\$16,536
Craven County	43.57%	\$23,193
Total	100.00%	\$53,228

Expansion does not impact the total funding allocated

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A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the MOU to join the new organization, as presented, by execution of a resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and carried unanimously. Mr. Veit added that following the Board’s approval of the MOU, staff will send a letter signed by the Chairman to the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) giving official notice that the County is leaving the RPO and joining the newly established MPO in whole.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA TOPICS

Vice-Chairman Jones confirmed that there were no citizens signed up to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Mason to approve the consent agenda, inclusive of the Minutes of March 16, 2026 regular session, Tax Releases and Refunds (*Credits = \$9,783.08; Refunds = \$74.52*); Veterans Services Budget Amendment; Sheriff – Panasonic Laptop Donation; Proclamation Honoring Dorothy Hawkins Bryan as North Carolina Central University Centenarian and Proclamation recognizing “Line Worker Appreciation Day” in Craven County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and carried in a 7-0 roll call vote.

Chairman Bucher acknowledged the proclamation honoring Dorothy Hawkins Bryan as the North Carolina Central University Centenarian, which one is recognized for once they have turned 100 years of age, and mother to former County Clerk, Gwen Bryan. Mr. Curtis Forbes noted that Mrs. Bryan is now 103 years of age.

He also acknowledged the proclamation recognizing Line Worker Appreciation Day, and the linemen who work to ensure utility service is undisrupted or restored, especially during times of inclement weather.

Veterans Services

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015230-33427	\$5,000.00	1015230-42500	\$5,000.00
Veterans Services		Travel/Training	
TOTAL	\$5,000.00	TOTAL	\$5,000.00

Justification: The Veterans Services Office is requesting to accept and appropriate additional revenue of \$5,000 from General Fund to Travel/Training to provide funding for one (1) of the Veterans Services Officers to attend the National Association of County Veterans Services Officers (NACVSO) Conference. While at this conference the officer will obtain accreditation with the NACVSO and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to better serve the Veterans of Craven County.

173 **DOROTHY HAWKINS BRYAN HONORED AS**
 174 **NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY CENTENARIAN**

175
 176 **A PROCLAMATION**

177
 178 **WHEREAS**, Dorothy Hawkins Bryan was born in the Duffyfield Community of
 179 New Bern, one of five Children born to William and Minnie Hawkins in 1922, just prior to
 180 the Great Fire of New Bern; and

181
 182 **WHEREAS**, her father and mother temporarily moved their family to New Jersey
 183 during the Depression to seek additional work, where her mother worked for a family
 184 providing domestic services; and

185
 186 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Bryan attended West Street School in New Bern and graduated
 187 in 1940. She continued her education at North Carolina College for Negroes, now known
 188 as North Carolina Central University (NCCU), where Dr. James E. Shepard was the college
 189 president. She received a scholarship of \$75 from the local alumni chapter for the first year
 190 of tuition; and

191
 192 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Bryan graduated from North Carolina Central University in
 193 1944 with a bachelor's degree in history. There were only four males to graduate in her
 194 class due to many others having left because of World War II. In 1949, she married Samuel
 195 Bryan of New Bern, and fellow North Carolina Central University alumnus, who, at the
 196 time, was a dental student at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and

197
 198 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Bryan held her first teaching job as a long-term substitute
 199 teacher at Rocky Run School, followed by eight years working at Vanceboro School.
 200 During this time, teachers without vehicles had to take a bus to work and sometimes found
 201 a ride to work on the mail truck. This inspired her to learn how to drive and purchase her
 202 own car; and

203
 204 **WHEREAS**, she held her longest tenure in her teaching career as a 7th grade
 205 teacher at James City Elementary School in the early 1950s. Her salary at that time was
 206 approximately \$60 per month. Mrs. Bryan went on to continue her education and earned a
 207 master's degree in history in 1962 at NCCU. When schools integrated, she transferred to
 208 New Bern High School in 1971 where she taught U.S. History and African American
 209 History until her retirement in 1983; and

210
 211 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Bryan is a lifelong member of First Missionary Baptist Church
 212 and has one daughter and one granddaughter. She celebrated her 100th birthday in
 213 November 2022.

214
 215 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Craven County Board of
 216 Commissioners acknowledges Dorothy Hawkins Bryan for her achievements as a teacher
 217 in Craven County Schools and for devoting her lifelong profession to making a positive
 218 impact on the lives of students and the community at-large.

219
 220 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that the **CRAVEN**
 221 **COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** does hereby proclaim Dorothy Hawkins
 222 Bryan, of the graduating class of 1944 and 1962, as the North Carolina Central University
 223 Centenarian among her peers of the Mid-Eastern North Carolina University Alumni
 224 Association.

225
 226 Adopted this 6th day of April, 2026.

227
 228 **LINE WORKER APPRECIATION DAY**

229
 230 **A Proclamation**

231
 232 **WHEREAS**, on April 10, 2013, a resolution was passed in the United States Senate to
 233 recognize April 18 annually as National Lineman (Line Worker) Appreciation Day; and

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 235 **WHEREAS**, the profession of the electrical line worker is steeped in personal, family,
 236 and professional tradition; and



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WHEREAS, line workers are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety officials, and to expedite the return of vital electrical power to our communities; and

WHEREAS, these brave men and women work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, risking and sometimes losing their lives to keep electricity flowing; and

WHEREAS, line workers are often faced with dangerous conditions, far from their families, as they work to construct and maintain energy infrastructure throughout the State of North Carolina and the United States; and

WHEREAS, line workers must use their technical knowledge, physical strength and ingenuity to achieve success in challenges they face every day; and

WHEREAS, Craven County thanks these skilled and heroic line workers who brave hurricanes, ice storms, snowstorms, floods, and other natural disasters to maintain our community’s energy grid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Denny Bucher, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Craven County, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 18, 2026, as “Line Worker Appreciation Day” in Craven County.

Adopted this 6th day of April, 2026.

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT ENTERPRISE – BUILDING REUSE AGREEMENT AND RESOLUTION**

In follow-up to the public hearing, Jeff Wood requested the Board accept the Building Reuse Grant from the NC Department of Commerce Building Reuse Program and authorize the County Manager to sign all related documents. He relayed the grant award is in the amount of \$360,000 on behalf of Project Enterprise (Chatsworth Products), which includes the local county match of \$18,000, five percent of the total grant award. A copy of the grant award letter and resolution was provided to the Board for their review. Chairman Bucher shared supportive comments of the project noting this to be a great project for the community. A motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to accept the North Carolina Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant authorizing the following resolution and providing a local match. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and carried in a 7-0 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APPROVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

WHEREAS, Craven County (hereinafter “County”) has determined that County has historically suffered a degree of economic and fiscal distress which can be remedied in part by the expansion of industries currently located in County and the location of new industries in County; and,

WHEREAS, the expansion and location of industries in County will benefit County and its citizens by increasing and diversifying both the personal property and real property ad valorem tax bases which will increase tax revenue, and resulting ancillary economic activity will increase sales tax revenues, all of which will make available to County more funds with which to improve the general health, safety and welfare of County’s citizens; by providing a greater number of jobs with higher salaries and better benefits than are now available to citizens of County; by stimulating secondary economic activity which is directly beneficial to County and its citizens, including residential real estate development and the expansion of

292 existing services and businesses; by increasing and improving the infrastructure of County; by
293 increasing the economic opportunity available to County's citizens and by improving the
294 general technical training of County's workforce; and,

295 WHEREAS, **CHATSWORTH PRODUCTS, INC.** (hereinafter "Chatsworth"), which
296 manufactures infrastructure hardware and equipment for the information and communication
297 technology industries, intends to expand its current operations by substantially improving its
298 facilities located at 901 Industrial Drive in the Craven County Industrial Park, such
299 improvements expected to result in an investment of \$11,000,000.00 and the creation of 45
300 new full-time jobs at an average weekly wage of \$938.00; and,

301 WHEREAS, Chatsworth's expansion of its current operations will result in the creation
302 of new jobs which will aid tremendously in remedying the previously identified economic and
303 fiscal distresses suffered by County and its citizens; and,

304 WHEREAS, in an effort to reward and support Chatsworth's investment and to
305 encourage similar investments by other industries, County does desire to provide Chatsworth
306 a \$360,000 building reuse grant (the "Grant") from the North Carolina Department of
307 Commerce (through the Rural Infrastructure Authority and the Rural Economic Development
308 Division); and,

309 WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 158-7.1(a), provides:

310 **Each county and city in this State is authorized to**
311 **make appropriations for economic development**
312 **purposes. These appropriations must be determined**
313 **by the governing body of the city or county to increase**
314 **the population, taxable property, agricultural**
315 **industries, employment, industrial output, or**
316 **business prospects of the city or county. These**
317 **appropriations may be funded by the levy of property**
318 **taxes pursuant to G.S. 153A-149 and 160A-209 and by**
319 **the allocation of other revenues whose use is not**
320 **otherwise restricted by law.**

321
322 WHEREAS, County has determined that the probable hourly average wage to be paid to
323 employees to be employed at the New Facility is \$938.00 per week; and,

324 WHEREAS, on February 2, 2026, and after proper public notice, pursuant to N.C. Gen.
325 Stat. § 158-7.1 the Board of Commissioners for County held a public hearing concerning its
326 intent to award the Grant; and,

327 WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of County does desire to award the Grant to
328 Chatsworth, by and through agreements attached hereto and incorporated herein by
329 reference, and does further desire that this RESOLUTION serve as a memorial of the actions
330 taken by the Board of Commissioners on this matter.

331 Now, therefore, be it resolved as follows:

332 Section 1. That the agreements attached hereto and incorporated herein by
333 reference are hereby ratified and approved in their entirety.

334 Section 2. That, pursuant to the aforesaid agreements, County shall execute and
335 deliver such documents and instruments as may be reasonably necessary in the opinion of
336 counsel to County to accomplish the purposes of said Agreement.

337 Section 3. That the Chairman, Clerk to the Board, Manager, Assistant Managers,
338 Economic Developer, County Attorney and such other officers and agents of County are hereby
339 authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in the opinion of counsel to County to
340 effectuate any of the transactions contemplated herein.

341 Section 4. That this RESOLUTION be entered in the official minutes of the Board of
342 Commissioners of County and that the Clerk to the Board certify copies of this RESOLUTION
343 as may be necessary in the opinion of counsel to County.

344 This the 6th day of April, 2026.

345 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: CLEAN SWEEP**
346 **SUPER SWEEPER AWARDS**

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348
349 Craven County Clean Sweep Committee Coordinator, Pam Hawkins, recognized on behalf of the
350 committee, the Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and
351 Mr. Ronald Boyce as two very deserving recipients of the 2026 Super Sweeper Awards. She
352 stated the award was established by the Clean Sweep Committee in the Fall of 2023 to help grow
353 the program, as well as recognize individuals or groups that go above and beyond in helping
354 keep Craven County clean and free of litter. Ms. Hawkins recognized Clean Sweep Committee
355 Members in the audience and thanked them for their support. Photo opportunities were taken of
356 the award recipients with their guests. Chairman Bucher expressed the Board’s deepest thanks
357 and appreciation for their efforts.

358
359 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: HEALTH**
360 **BUDGET AMENDMENT RELATED TO NEW ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD**
361 **(EMR) SYSTEM LEASE FOR HOSPICE**

362
363 Hospice Director, Clayton Gaskins, requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount
364 of \$65,715 to enter into a 3-year contract to implement a new Electronic Medical Record
365 (EMR) system, Hospice Tools. He informed the Board that the current system has not met
366 staff’s needs for many years. Over the last two years, multiple EMR systems have been
367 researched and evaluated by staff and recommended the County consider approval to
368 implement Hospice Tools. He added that the system is implemented through a multi-year
369 "subscription-as-a-service" contract. In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards
370 Board (GASB) Statement No. 96, staff have determined that this contract meets the criteria for
371 a Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) because it provides the
372 County access to specific services and devices for a set fee and duration. Due to the
373 government accounting standards, it is required that the total amount of the contract be
374 recorded as a capital outlay within the Non-Departmental organization. He noted that the
375 County will incur cost savings over time with the proposed new system. The lease amortization
376 schedule was provided for the Board’s reference and review. Chairman Bucher provided
377 supportive comments of Hospice and thanked Mr. Gaskins and his team for the tough job they
378 do. A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the following budget
379 amendment, in the amount of \$65,715, related to the determination of Hospice Tools as a
380 SBITA as required by GASB Statement No. 96. The motion was seconded by Commissioner
381 Smith and carried in a 7-0 roll call vote.

382
383 *Health/Hospice*

384	385	386	387	388	389
	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT	
	1014290-39101	65,715.00	1014290-47300	\$65,715.00	
	Lease/SBITA Proceeds		C/Outlay-Lease/SBITA		

390 TOTAL \$65,715.00 TOTAL \$65,715.00

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**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOCIAL SERVICES
REVISION OF HOME COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT (HCCBG) FOR
FY 2025-2026**


396 Craven Aging Planning Board Chairman, Clayton Gaskins, informed the Board that the Craven
397 Aging Planning Board recommends a budget amendment to reallocate funds across four
398 programmatic line items reflected in the FY26 HCCBG DAAS-732 funding plan, as provided.
399 He provided clarification as to the increase and decrease that occurred across the four lines
400 which left a \$0 balance.

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<u>Program</u>	<u>Original Funding</u>	<u>Revised Funding</u>
Senior Center Ops	\$10,000	\$21,746
Care Management	\$86,972	\$63,500
IHA II	\$128,000	\$145,500
IHA III	\$8,274	\$2,500

408 A motion was made by Commissioner Mason to approve the following budget amendment, in
409 the amount of \$0.00, related to the reallocation of funds between DSS programmatic line items,
410 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and carried in a 7-0 roll call
411 vote.
412

NAME AND ADDRESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDER Craven County DSS 2818 Neuse Blvd New Bern, NC 28560		Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults County Funding Plan Provider Services Summary						DAAS-732 (updated 4-4-22) County _____ Craven July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 REVISION # 2 , DATE : 2.6.26						
Services	Ser. Delivery (Check One)		A Block Grant Funding				B Required Local Match	C Net* Serv Cost	D NSIP Subsidy	E Total Funding	F Projected HCCBG Units	G Projected Reimburse Rate	H Projected HCCBG Clients	I Projected Total Units
	Direct	Purch.	Access	In-Home	Other	Total								
Transportation	X		47500			47500	5278	52778		52778	4785	11.0299	50	4785
Congregate		X			67041	67041	7449	74490	6906	81396	8632	8.6295	75	8632
HDM		X		209464		209464	23274	232738	27736	260474	34670	6.713	200	34670
Senior Ctr Ops		X			21746	21746	2416	24162		24162				
Care Management		X	63500			63500	7056	70556		70556				
IHA Level II		X		145500		145500	16167	161667		161667	6308	25.6302	21	6308
IHA Level III		X		2500		2500	278	2778		2778	108	25.6072	0	108
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Total			111000	357464	88787	557251	61918	619169	34641	653810	54503		346	54503

Certification of required minimum local match availability. Required local match will be expended simultaneously with Block Grant Funding.	 Authorized Signature, Title Community Service Provider	2-9-2026 Date	
_____ Signature, County Finance Officer	_____ Date	_____ Signature, Chairman, Board of Commissioners	_____ Date

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DSS 5212/5217

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015212-33419 HCCBG In Home	(\$11,746.00)	1015212-44000 Contract Services	(\$11,746.00)
1015217-33126 Senior Center Operations	\$11,746.00	1015217-47321 Capital Outlay \$500-\$4,999	\$11,746.00
TOTAL	\$ 0.00	TOTAL	\$ 0.00

429 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: VETERANS SERVICES**
 430 **NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 431 **(NCDMVA) GRANT AWARD**
 432

433 Veterans Services Director, Jeff Futrell, requested approval of a budget amendment in the
 434 amount of \$20,000 to accept a grant award to support Veterans Services work in serving
 435 veterans of the community. He added that in 2025, Craven County applied for an NC
 436 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) grant and was awarded \$20,000 in
 437 February 2026 in support of Veterans Services work. A copy of the Application-Contract Grant
 438 Program for County Veterans Services Offices was provided for the Board’s review. Mr.
 439 Futrell provided that these funds will support training efforts and capital items for staff to
 440 receive accreditation to effectively support veterans in the community. As requested, he
 441 clarified that the \$5,000 budget amendment request on the consent agenda comes from State
 442 appropriations, a grant program designed to provide support for county veterans’ offices (CVO)
 443 in providing services to veterans and is separate from this request. He further provided an
 444 update on the State’s report with the following statistics in response to Commissioner Hunt’s
 445 supportive comments regarding their efforts in supporting veterans:
 446

447 Craven County Data for VA Expenditures FY24
 448

449	Craven County Total Population	104,167
450	• Veteran Population in Craven County	14,237
451	• State Comparison	10 th
452		
453	Total Direct and Indirect Expenditures	\$257,666,571
454	• State Comparison	10 th
455		
456	Direct Expenditures	\$185,529,140
457	• State Comparison	7 th
458		

459 A motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to approve the following budget amendment, in the
 460 amount of \$20,000, related to the acceptance of a grant award to support veterans services work
 461 in serving veterans of the community. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell
 462 and carried in a 7-0 roll call vote.
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464 *Veterans Services*
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466	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
467				
468	1015230-33427	\$20,000.00	1015230-42500	\$ 8,000.00
469	Veterans Services		Travel/Training	
470			1015230-42700	\$ 6,000.00
471			Advertising	
472			1015230-47321	\$ 4,000.00
473			Capital Outlay \$500-\$4,999	
474			1015230-43201	\$ 2,000.00
475			Supplies-Office	
476				
477	TOTAL	\$20,000.00	TOTAL	\$20,000.00
478				

479 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SHERIFF**
 480 **LAPTOP/RADAR PURCHASE-FORFEITURE FUNDS**
 481 **BUDGET AMENDMENT**
 482

483 Chairman Bucher read aloud the following information provided for the Board’s consideration
 484 to request a budget amendment in the amount of \$21,675. Captain Stevan Liszewski of the
 485 Craven County Sheriff’s Office was present to represent the Sheriff’s Office and in support of
 486 the request.
 487

488 The Sheriff’s Office is currently working with County Administration and Information
 489 Technology to replace outdated equipment using forfeiture funds. The Sheriff’s Office is
 490 requesting approval to transfer these funds to the appropriate budget line to complete the

491 purchase of laptops and corresponding chargers. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office plans to
 492 purchase radar units for the interdiction team. With the attached budget amendment, in the
 493 amount of \$21,675, and the \$5,000 already budgeted, staff can complete this purchase. Quotes
 494 from Law and Order Technology, LLC and Kustom Signals, Inc. were provided for the Board's
 495 review. Mr. Veit added for clarification that due to the projected price increase of the
 496 equipment, the timing of this request was necessary to acquire the equipment at a better price.
 497 A motion was made by Commissioner Smith to approve the following budget amendment, in
 498 the amount of \$21,675.00, to complete the purchase of laptops and corresponding chargers for
 499 the Sheriff's Office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and carried in a 7-0
 500 roll call vote.

501
 502 *Sheriff's Office*

503

504	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
506	1154310-33100	\$21,675.00	1154310-47321	\$21,675.00
507	Federal Drug Forfeitures		Capital Outlay \$500-\$4,999	
509	TOTAL	\$21,675.00	TOTAL	\$21,675.00

510
 511 **APPOINTMENTS**

512
 513 *Pending*

514
 515 Chairman Bucher recognized the following boards and commissions and their pending
 516 appointments.

- 517
- 518 • Craven Aging Planning Board (NC Senior Tar Heel Rep; 60+/Client Rep)
 - 519 • Craven County Clean Sweep Committee (2 Vacancies)
 - 520 • Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (Under 21)

521
 522 *Current*

523
 524 There were no current appointments at this time.

525
 526 *Upcoming*

527
 528 There were no upcoming appointments at this time.

529
 530 **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

531
 532 *Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 1013 Bloomfield Street (City of New Bern)-Parcel*
 533 *Number 8-006-208*

534
 535 County Attorney, Arey Grady, informed the Board that the County has received an offer in the
 536 amount of \$3,000.00 for this real property, which was acquired jointly with the City of New
 537 Bern through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$
 538 15,032.34. He stated that the tax value of this property is \$6,000.00. Copies of the Offer to
 539 Purchase, Foreclosure Deed, GIS information, and proposed resolution approving the offer and
 540 authorizing the upset bid process were provided for the Board's review. Mr. Grady noted that
 541 this property is jointly owned with the City of New Bern, which has already approved this
 542 initial offer. He suggested the Board approve this transaction, and adopt the proposed
 543 resolution, which will in turn authorize advertisement for upset bids. He informed the Board
 544 that once the upset bid process is concluded, this transaction will be brought back before the
 545 Board of Commissioners for final approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell to
 546 adopt the following resolution approving the transaction and authorizing the upset bid process
 547 for Parcel Number 8-006-208. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason and carried
 548 unanimously.

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**CRAVEN COUNTY
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OFFER TO PURCHASE
SUBJECT TO UPSET BIDS**

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WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern own certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 8-006-208 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County and the City of New Bern in deed recorded in Book 2805, Page 0458 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern have received an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, a copy of said offer being attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and,

WHEREAS, the City of New Bern has previously approved said offer: and,

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners is authorized to sell Craven County’s interest in real property pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CRAVEN COUNTY THAT:

- 1. The Craven County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the initiation of the upset bid process for the Real Property by advertising notice of the offer to purchase in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.
- 2. The County Manager, the Assistant County Manager, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and/or County Attorney are authorized to take all actions necessary to accomplish the transactions contemplated by this Resolution.

ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF April, 2026.

Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 1017 Bloomfield Street (City of New Bern)-Parcel Number 8-006-206

Mr. Grady informed the Board that the County has received an offer in the amount of \$3,000.00 for this real property, which was acquired jointly with the City of New Bern through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$10,485.53. He stated the tax value of this property is \$6,000.00. Copies of the Offer to Purchase, Foreclosure Deed, GIS information, and proposed resolution approving the offer and authorizing the upset bid process were provided for the Board’s review. He noted that this property is jointly owned with the City of New Bern, which has already approved this initial offer. Mr. Grady suggested the Board of Commissioners approve this transaction, and the proposed resolution should be adopted, which will in turn authorize advertisement for upset bids. He informed the Board that once the upset bid process is concluded, this transaction will be brought back before the Board of Commissioners for final approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Mason to adopt the following resolution approving the transaction and authorizing the upset bid process for Parcel Number 8-006-206. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and carried unanimously.

**CRAVEN COUNTY
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OFFER TO PURCHASE
SUBJECT TO UPSET BIDS**

WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern own certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 8-006-206 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County and the City of New Bern in deed recorded in Book 3544, Page 729 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern have received an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, a copy of said offer being attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and,

WHEREAS, the City of New Bern has previously approved said offer: and,

614 WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners is authorized to sell Craven
615 County's interest in real property pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.

616
617 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
618 CRAVEN COUNTY THAT:

619 1. The Craven County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the initiation of the
620 upset bid process for the Real Property by advertising notice of the offer to purchase in accordance
621 with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.

622 2. The County Manager, the Assistant County Manager, the Clerk to the Board of
623 Commissioners and/or County Attorney are authorized to take all actions necessary to accomplish
624 the transactions contemplated by this Resolution.

625
626 ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF April, 2026.

627
628 *Six Remnant Defendants Settlement ("RDSA") – Action Required*

629
630 Mr. Grady presented for consideration adoption of a resolution approving six Remnant
631 Defendants Settlement (RDSA) in the National Opioid Litigation. He provided that a new
632 national settlement has been finalized in the nationwide opioid litigation with the following six
633 additional opioid distributor/dispenser defendants under the Remnant Defendants' Settlement
634 Agreement dated February 23, 2026: Associated Pharmacies, Inc. (and American Associated
635 Pharmacies); J.M. Smith, CO.; Morris and Dixon; Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.;
636 North Carolina Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; and United Natural Foods, Inc. (and
637 SuperValu). The total value of this national settlement is \$97,625,000. He indicated that Craven
638 County would receive a portion of this amount which is undetermined at this time. The
639 National opioid counsel strongly recommends participation in the settlement and represents that
640 it follows the national framework used in prior resolutions and provides additional abatement
641 funding without the expense and delay of continued litigation. A copy of the proposed
642 Resolution by the County of Craven Approving and Authorizing Execution of the Remnant
643 Defendants' Settlement Agreement between Local Governments and the Six Remnant
644 Defendants in the National Opioid Litigation was provided for the Board's review. Mr. Grady
645 addressed brief questions related to this new settlement. A motion was made by Commissioner
646 Hunt to adopt the following resolution approving the Remnant Defendants' Settlement
647 Agreement (RDSA) between Local Governments and the Six Remnant Defendants in the
648 National Opioid Litigation and authorizing the approval process. The motion was seconded by
649 Commissioner Mason and carried in a 7-0 roll call vote.

650
651 **RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN**
652 **APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE REMNANT**
653 **DEFENDANTS' SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**
654 **AND THE SIX REMNANT DEFENDANTS IN THE NATIONAL OPIOID LITIGATION**

655
656 WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic has taken the lives of more than 41,500 North
657 Carolinians; and

658
659 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total economic
660 burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including
661 the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement;
662 and

663
664 WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of
665 local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical
666 distribution companies, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their
667 misconduct; and

668
669 WHEREAS, previous settlements have been reached in litigation against numerous opioid
670 manufacturers and distributors as well as their subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors named
671 in those settlements; and

672
673 WHEREAS, settlements have now been reached in litigation against six regional
674 distributor/dispenser defendants in the amount of \$97,625,000.00, the terms of which are
675 embodied in the six (6) Remnant Defendants' Settlement Agreement ("RDSA"); and

738 Commissioner Howard reported on his attendance at the Future Forum conference and the
739 positive experience he had gathering with education and business leaders from our community.
740 He will participate in an upcoming constituent service in the community tomorrow regarding a
741 variety of topics raised by citizens, such as home demolition, sink hole, abandoned vehicles,
742 cemetery, noise abatement, NCDOT changes, private roads, to name a few. He recognized in
743 attendance Capt. Liszewski, of the Havelock community, and has served in the Sheriff's Office
744 for many years.

745
746 Commissioner Mitchell had nothing to report.

747
748 Commissioner Smith added that Mrs. Bryan was also a graduate of the West Street High School,
749 the first black high school for students in Craven County. She felt this was noteworthy due to the
750 efforts of community members to save the school.

751
752 Vice-Chairman Jones and Chairman Bucher had nothing to report.

753
754 **CLOSED SESSION**

755
756 Chairman Bucher stated the Board is being requested to go into closed session pursuant to
757 N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) regarding the case of Long v Craven County et al, and N.C.G.S. 143-
758 318.11(a)(5) regarding the purchase of real property. At 7:08 PM, a motion was made by
759 Commissioner Mitchell to enter into closed session for the purposes stated. The motion was
760 seconded by Vice-Chairman Jones and carried unanimously. A five-minute break was taken.

761
762 Attorney Grady provided that the Board of Commissioners met in closed session for the purposes
763 stated and no action was taken.

764
765 At 7:49 PM, a motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chairman Jones. The motion was seconded
766 by Commissioner Mason and carried unanimously.

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771 _____
772 Chairman Dennis K. Bucher

773 Craven County Board of Commissioners

774
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776

777 _____
778 Abigail G. Wilson
779 Clerk to the Board