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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2018

Fauquier County Board of Supervisors Adopts FY 2019 Budget, Calendar Year 2018 Tax Rates, FY 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Program, and FY 2020 Fiscal Plan

Warrenton, Virginia – The Fauquier County Board of Supervisors adopted the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, Calendar Year 2018 tax rates, Fiscal Years 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and FY 2020 fiscal plan on March 22, 2018.

The FY 2019 adopted budget totals \$330.9 million beginning July 1, 2018. General Fund expenditures total \$184.1 million, a reduction of \$1.04 million or -0.6% over the FY 2018 adopted budget, partially attributable to the shift of all fire and rescue related costs to the fire and rescue levy fund. General Fund expenditures includes an additional \$3.2 million in local support to the School Division to offset a reduction in State funding and provide sufficient funding for compensation increases for school personnel, similar to the 2.4% compensation increase approved for County personnel in FY 2019. In addition, the adopted budget includes approximately \$0.7 million allocated to school security for the establishment of additional school resource and school security officers. The adopted budget also includes thirteen additional career fire and rescue positions to establish twenty-hour, seven day a week staffing at one additional volunteer station and three-person staffing at an existing twenty-hour volunteer station.

The adopted budget reduced the Calendar Year 2018 overall real estate tax rate from the previous \$1.039 overall rate by \$0.057 (five and seven-tenths cents) to an overall rate of \$0.982, based on the effects of the 2018 quadrennial reassessment and adjustments for additional fire and rescue funding. As a result of the general reassessment the average residential assessment increased by 17.7% based on the 2018 reassessment from \$321,300 to \$378,000. The adopted Calendar Year 2018 overall real estate tax rate of \$0.982 would increase the average homeowner's tax bill by \$374, or 11.1%, from \$3,352 to \$3,726.

The adopted Capital Improvement Plan totals \$72.2 million from FY 2019 through FY 2023, with an additional \$218.1 million designated for future fiscal years. Over the five-year planning period (FY 2019-FY 2023), \$5.3 million would be allocated for public safety and fire and rescue projects, \$2.7 million for parks and recreational projects, \$7.6 million for environmental services projects, \$22.1 million for utility and infrastructure projects including \$16.0 million for broadband development, \$0.2 million for Airport projects, and \$34.3 million for school division projects.

The FY 2020 draft fiscal plan totals \$325.3 million, with General Fund expenditures totaling \$187.8 million. The General Fund is set to increase by 1.99% in FY 2020, including an additional \$2.1 million in local support to the School Division. The FY 2020 plan does anticipate an additional real estate tax increase, specifically in the fire and rescue levy, of approximately \$0.012 to fund additional fire and rescue career staffing needs. The FY 2020 budget also anticipates a cost-of-living adjustment increases for County employees to keep pace with inflation.

Information about the FY 2019 budget process, the proposed budget document, and a summary of the FY 2019 adopted budget are available on the Fauquier County website at <http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-h-z/management-and-budget>.

The detailed FY 2019 adopted budget will be posted on the Fauquier County website in June 2018.

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