



**COUNTY OF FAUQUIER
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McCulla releases FY 2021 & FY 2022 Proposed Budget

Warrenton, Virginia – County Administrator Paul S. McCulla today released to the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors his proposed budgets for the Fauquier County government for Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2021 and FY 2022). The proposed budgets continue the County’s biennial budget presentation including budgets for both FY 2021 and FY 2022. The Board of Supervisors may, legally, only adopt a final budget and tax rates for FY 2021 and Tax Year 2020. The draft FY 2022 budget and tax rates for 2021 may only be finally adopted next year through the same statutorily mandated process for adopting budgets and tax rates.

The FY 2021 proposed budget totals \$357.93 million and recommends an overall real estate tax rate of \$1.030 per \$100 of assessed value. The proposed \$1.030 overall real estate tax rate increases the present \$0.994 overall rate by \$0.036 (three and six-tenths cents). The proposed overall real estate tax rate includes \$0.874 for the general rate, an increase of \$0.019 (one and nine-tenths cent) primarily to fund commitments from the FY 2020 adopted budget process for compression and compensation funding for the School Division and County departments; a fire and rescue levy rate of \$0.150, a \$0.017 (one and seven-tenths cent) increase in the fire and rescue levy primarily to fund 15.0 additional career staffing position; and no adjustment in the conservation easement service district levy.

The County has advertised a Tax Year 2020 overall real estate tax rate of \$1.048, which includes the planned FY 2022 recommended rate increase in the fire and rescue levy of \$0.008 and \$0.01 in the general real estate rate. While this is higher than the County Administrator’s recommended overall real estate tax rate of \$1.030 for Tax Year 2020, this allows the Board of Supervisors

flexibility to adopt both the FY 2021 and FY 2022 recommended rates as well to make other adjustments that occur during the budget deliberations.

The following chart sets forth the County Administrator’s recommended tax rates as well as the overall impact on the average homeowner’s tax bill:

Tax Rate Change	Tax Year 2019	Tax Year 2020	Tax Year 2020 Change
Overall Real Estate Tax Rate:	\$0.994	\$1.030	\$ 0.036
Real Estate – General	\$0.855	\$0.874	\$ 0.019
Real Estate – Fire & Rescue	\$0.133	\$0.150	\$ 0.017
Real Estate – Conservation Easement District	\$0.006	\$0.006	\$ 0.000

Annual Tax Bill Change	Tax Year 2019	Tax Year 2020	Tax Year 2020 Change
Average Residential Assessment: \$378,000	\$3,757.32	\$3,893.40	\$ 136.08

Note: All tax bills also include \$13.64 per parcel fee for the County-wide Stormwater Management Fee, but not displayed above.

The FY 2021 proposed budget totals \$357.93 million, with General Fund expenditures totaling \$198.54 million, an overall increase of \$27.2 million; primarily due to an increase in appropriated capital projects from FY 2020 to FY 2021 of \$13.6 million, School Operating Fund increase of \$6.5 million, and General Fund increase of \$9.2 million including \$5.3 million in local transfer support to other funds. Overall local tax funding would increase by \$11 million or 5.9% under the proposed budget, including \$2.8 million for Schools; \$1.7 million for fire and rescue operations; and \$1.2 million supporting capital and debt service needs. Additional available revenue focused on addressing those compensation adjustments committed to under the FY 2020 adopted budget for compression and market compensation rates for the School Division, compression adjustments for the County workforce, and a 2.5% compensation adjustment for County employees.

The FY 2022 proposed budget, which serves as a draft plan, totals \$371.2 million with General Fund expenditures totaling \$203.3 million, overall increase of \$6.3 million primarily due to increases in capital projects, school division funding, and fire and rescue services. Overall local tax funding would increase by \$4.7 million or 2.4%. The FY 2022 proposed General Fund budget includes an increase of \$4.8 million or 2.0%, primarily funding an increase to the School Division of \$2.9 million, which equates to approximately 60% of the projected General Fund increase in FY 2022. The balance of General Fund local tax funding proposed in FY 2022 would be allocated to increased debt service payments based on the proposed CIP and 1.5% compensation increase for County employees. In addition, local tax funding in support of fire and rescue services will support the full year costs of the positions proposed for FY 2021, increased debt service payments based on the proposed CIP, and a 3% increase in the operating contributions to volunteer fire and rescue companies.

The proposed Capital Improvement Plan totals \$99.5 million from FY 2021 through FY 2025, with an additional \$189.4 million designated for future fiscal years. Over the five-year planning period (FY 2021-FY 2025), \$7.2 million would be allocated for public safety and fire and rescue projects, \$2.6 million for judicial administration, \$9.6 million for parks and recreational projects, \$0.25 million for environmental services projects, \$14.93 million for utility and infrastructure

projects including \$8.0 million for broadband development, \$0.26 million for Airport projects, and \$57.45 million for school division projects.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the FY 2021 proposed budget, to be held on March 19, 2020 beginning at 7:00pm at Fauquier High School, 705 Waterloo Road, Warrenton, Virginia. If residents cannot attend the public hearings they may also provide their comments to the Board of Supervisors by email at BOS@fauquiercounty.gov. Information about the FY 2021 and FY 2022 proposed budget and Board work sessions can be found on the Fauquier County website <http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-h-z/management-and-budget>.

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