CALDWELL COUNTY
RESOLUTION 20-24
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
ROBERT "ROBBIE" LEE WILKIE
41 YEARS OF SERVICE

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WILKIE HAS SERVED THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY FOR 41 YEARS. BEGINNING HIS SERVICE WITH NORTH CATAWBA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM 1983-2005, CONTINUING HIS SERVICE WITH THE CITY OF LENOIR FIRE DEPARTMENT 1988-2005. IN 2005 HE WAS APPOINTED COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL INVESTIGATING MORE THAN 400 FIRES. DURING THIS TIME, HE AIDED EVERY FIRE DEPARTMENT IN LOWERING THEIR INSURANCE SERVICE OFFICE RATING, AN INDUSTRY STANDARD OF HOW WELL A FIRE DEPARTMENT CAN PROTECT ITS CITIZENS FROM FIRE, AND SAVING MILLIONS IN INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR EVERY CITIZEN, HE ALSO WAS THE HANDLER FOR THE COUNTY'S FIRST ACCELERANT DETECTION K-9 "EMBER"; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WAS APPOINTED TO SERVE AS EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR FOR CALDWELL COUNTY IN 2012. IN THIS ROLE, HE WAS DISPATCHED ON MULTIPLE DEPLOYMENTS AROUND THE STATE, MOST NOTABLY DURING HURRICANE IRENE, WHERE HE SERVED AS THE OPERATIONS CHIEF FOR PAMLICO COUNTY AND THE INTERIM INCIDENT COMMANDER; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE ALSO OBTAINED HIS LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION SERVING AS A RESERVE OFFICER WITH THE GRANITE FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND STILL TODAY AS A RESERVE DEPUTY WITH THE CALDWELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. HIS MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING WAS VITAL IN HIGH PROFILE CASES OF OFFICER ADAM KLUTZ SHOOTING AND THE MURDER OF ZAHRA BAKER. HIS DIVERSE BACKGROUND SERVED AS A CATALYST THAT ALLOWED FOR INTEROPERABILITY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES THAT REMAINS UNTIL THIS DAY. AS DIRECTOR, HE CLOSED EVERY LETTER AND MESSAGE WITH "TOGETHER IN SERVICE." HE EMBODIED AND LIVED THE MANTRA EACH DAY; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WILKIE RETIRED FROM CALDWELL COUNTY IN 2015 AND SUBSEQUENTLY WAS ELECTED TO THE OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER IN 2016. ROBBIE'S CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SIGNIFICANT; THE REMODELING AND EXPANSION OF GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE EXPANSION OF THE SOUTHERN BRANCH LIBRARY, SERVING ON THE LIBRARY BOARD, UPGRADING WATER METERS TO AUTOMATED METER READING, FLOOD WARNING SIRENS IN WILSON CREEK, LUCAS DEVICES ON AMBULANCES, IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE EVIDENCE ROOM, COUNSELING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, A NEW HYBRID MODEL FOR ANIMAL CARE AND ENFORCEMENT, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WAS INFLUENTIAL IN REBUILDING THE COUNTY'S FLEETS FROM THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE TO BEING BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND SAFE IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES. APPROVING THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW EMS BASES IN VALMEAD AND LOWER CREEK, THE REMODEL OF HUDSON EMS BASE, RENOVATING THE FORMER GRACE CHAPEL FIRE DEPARTMENT INTO AN EMS BASE, AND LOCATING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAJAH'S MOUNTAIN EMS BASE. THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW WATER TOWERS AT TEMPLE HILL AND COLLETTSVILLE, NEW ANIMAL SHELTER, BOARD OF ELECTIONS EXPANSION AND RENOVATION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES WITH RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE, RENOVATION OF MULTIPLE CONVENIENCE SITES, A NEW REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, UPDATING THE COUNTY SEAL AND FLAG, AND PURCHASING A SITE AND DESIGN FOR THE NEW CALDWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO IMPROVE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND PAY. INCLUDING INCREASED VACATION ACCRUAL, PARENTAL LEAVE, MULTIPLE PAY STUDIES, MERIT PAY, EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT, COMPENSATORY AND FLEX TIME, WORK FROM HOME POLICY, ADDITIONAL HOLIDAYS, AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WILKIE IS KNOWN TO BE A MAN OF FEW WORDS, BUT WHEN HE SPEAKS THE WHOLE ROOM LISTENS. HIS ADVICE TO ALL: "LEAVE IT BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT." A STUDENT OF MARTIAL ARTS. HE GIVES BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY, HIS FAITH, AND IS A DEVOTED HUSBAND TO HIS WIFE CARLENE AND A LOVING FATHER TO DAUGHTER MELINDA.

WHEREAS; ROBBIE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT NOTHING HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GRACE OF HIS LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLICLY COMMEND **ROBERT LEE WILKIE** FOR HIS **41** YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY.

ADOPTED THIS THE 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Michael W. LaBrose, Vice Chairman

Donnie Potter, Commissioner

Jeff Branch, Commissioner

Abby Rich, County Clerk