NOTABLE SLCs

Three additional firefighters – Brevard Fire Department requests funds to continue its evolution into a fully full-time department and hire three new full-time firefighters. This addition would give BFD six full-time firefighters (and a full-time Chief) and enable it to exercise a modified LA 24-hour schedule with two full-time firefighters per shift, supplemented by part-time firefighters when needed.

A letter from Chief Bobby Cooper explaining the need and the reasons for the request is included in the appendices.

Though it is taxed, BFD can continue to operate under its current staffing model, so this is a voluntary request designed to bring stability, security, and improved service to the residents of Brevard and Sylvan Valley 2 fire districts. Staff has not cut services or costs in other areas to fund this proposal. The size of the ask (approximately $265,000) also makes this request difficult to "squeeze in". Therefore staff is recommending that this proposal only be funded with a $.02 property tax increase dedicated exclusively to this purpose.

Though BFD's budget is split 55%/45% between Brevard and Transylvania County, staff's recent meeting with County staff left us with the impression that the county deems this staffing model to be above and beyond the service level they've established for the rural fire districts they fund, and would therefore not be willing to fund 45% of this proposal's cost. If this were to move forward, City of Brevard taxpayers would be underwriting enhanced services to county residents in the Sylvan Valley 2 fire district.

Enhanced stormwater maintenance – Stormwater programs are ubiquitous across the state, as municipalities in urban counties (including Buncombe and Henderson) are required by the Federal Clean Water Act to maintain them. The programs are typically "enterprise funds" paid for with fees charged to property owners.

Brevard's program would be voluntary, inspired by the growing number of failures to the stormwater conveyance system that have been observed in recent years causing localized flooding and posing hazards to structures. It is also inspired by the findings of the 2007 *Stormwater Master Plan* conducted by McGill and Associates which showed the need for new or refreshed streams, culverts, and retention structures. Like FCWA-mandated programs, Brevard's program would be an enterprise funded with fees charged to property owners.

Staff have been in touch with Land of Sky Regional Council staff and stormwater staff from other municipalities to help us figure out what Brevard's program should look like. Based on their consultation, staff recommend Brevard start simple with a flat $5/mo. fee per property. This would yield approximately $250,000/yr. in revenue for a full year ($187,500 in FY25)

FY25 will be a "startup" year for Brevard's stormwater program. Some of the revenue will go towards updating the 2007 plan (either to match a grant or to pay for it outright). Staff will work with the Public Works Committee (and City Council) to develop a prioritization method for maintenance and repair projects. Any funds not used for updating the study will be used to supplement GF maintenance dollars to make ad hoc repairs. Staff will also spend FY25 working with PWC to develop a rate model that more fairly distributes the cost (i.e., those who most contribute to run-off pay more than those who don't).

After FY25 staff further recommend that the annual revenue be divided 1/3 for stormwater maintenance and 2/3 to be placed in a capital reserve account for future use on the capital projects identified in the updated *Master Plan*.

A presentation with information on Black Mountain's program -a potential model program for Brevard- is included in the appendices.