RESOLUTION NO. 2026-26

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY PROPERTY TAX INCREASE DEDICATED TO FUNDING THREE ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS FOR THE BREVARD FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Brevard Fire Department responds to approximately 2,800 incidents annually, making it the busiest fire department in Transylvania County by a significant margin; and

WHEREAS, the County's next closest fire department responds to fewer than 1,000 incidents per year while maintaining the same level of county-funded staffing; and

WHEREAS, despite substantially higher operational demand, the Brevard Fire Department currently operates with only three full-time engineers and a paid Fire Chief supplemented by part-time personnel; and

WHEREAS, during Fiscal Year 2025, Transylvania County established a minimum staffing benchmark of four full-time positions for County fire departments and provided funding assistance to departments below that threshold; and

WHEREAS, the Brevard Fire Department did not receive additional staffing assistance from Transylvania County because it already maintained four funded positions; and

WHEREAS, the Brevard Fire Department continues to experience increased call volumes and growing service demands, including overlapping incidents that increase response times and impact the department's ability to effectively manage concurrent emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard and the Sylvan Valley II Fire District serve as the urban hub of Transylvania County, and additional staffing is necessary to provide adequate emergency response coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Brevard Fire Department has experienced an increase in requests for personnel to provide apparatus drivers for Transylvania County Emergency Medical Services during periods when EMS transport units are committed to other calls and supervisory personnel are required to respond; and

WHEREAS, under North Carolina law, county commissioners possess limited mechanisms for increasing revenue, with property taxes serving as the primary method for funding county operations and public safety services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

Section 1. The City of Brevard formally supports Transylvania County's consideration of a targeted property tax increase for the purpose of funding approximately 47% of the cost of three additional full-time firefighter positions for the Brevard Fire Department, per the current city/county cost-sharing arrangement.

Section 2. The Brevard City Council finds that the requested staffing increase is necessary to maintain adequate emergency response capability and public safety services within the City of Brevard and the Sylvan Valley II Fire District.

Section 3. The Brevard City Council further supports continued partnership efforts between the City of Brevard and Transylvania County to ensure appropriate staffing resources are available to meet increased operational demands and the growing need for emergency services.

Section 4. The City's adoption of this resolution shall serve as formal expression of support for Transylvania County's consideration of additional public safety funding through a targeted property tax increase and shall not obligate the City of Brevard to independently fund the requested positions in full.

Adopted and approved this the 18th day of May 2026.

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Maureen Copelof
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC
City Clerk

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