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## **BUDGET MEETING APRIL 7, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Pineville, NC met in a Budget Workshop on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in Town Hall Council Chambers.

### Attendance:

Mayor: David Phillips

Mayor Pro Tem: Ed Samaha

Council Members: Amelia Stinson-Wesley, Chris McDonough, Danielle Moore

Town Manager: Ryan Spitzer

Asst Town Manager/Finance Director: Chris Tucker

Town Clerk: Lisa Snyder

Fire Chief: Mike Gerin

Police Chief: Mike Hudgins

Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:58 pm. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, Chris Tucker, began the budget meeting by stating that Public Safety will have its own session. This year, they make up 46% of the budget. Again, we are fundamentally balanced with no change to the service levels.

Chief Gerin began his presentation by saying that he has not asked for an increase in staffing since 2017. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to handle multiple calls. He acknowledged that Council has been good to his department. They currently have four people and two trucks. Most calls are sent by the squad to save wear and tear on the fire truck. They also take care of the ETJ. He highlighted that cardiac arrest calls involve four people doing CPR. The City of Charlotte sends eight people on each cardiac call.

He added that two people can't do a house fire by themselves, especially if an EMS call comes in at the same time. He would like to add one firefighter to his department (two part-timers). In 2024, they had two or more calls come in at the same time 252 times. They had three or more calls at the same time 44 times. He noted that two or more calls clean out the fire house.

Two new part-timers will cost \$400,000. This will create a tax increase of a penny or find cuts elsewhere in the budget.

Chief Hudgins gave his presentation and began sharing his department's vision and mission statement. He shared FY25 goals and FY26 goals. In addition, he discussed Stratified Policing at length. Stratified Policing means that police presence can reduce crime and disorder IF precisely delivered in hot spots. A hot spot can be where multiple calls are received most often.

Chief Hudgins outlined his proposed budget. He had two “asks.” He requested a co-responder position for his team to assist with mental health. The estimated cost for this position is \$171,700 which includes benefits. These costs could potentially be split with Mint Hill.

He also requested a rank structure change justification. He explained that the rank structure change would move administrative tasks up the chain and free up more time for sergeants to be on the road. His estimate for this change is \$93,000.

He requested a message board to place by Dover Street and Johnston Road. The cost for this would be split with Parks and Recreation.

Finance Director/Asst. Town Manager Tucker summarized and said that they will have final numbers at the next budget session. He and Council had a general discussion about the options for both Fire and Police.

Mr. Tucker reminded Council that the next budget meeting is Thursday, April 17th at 6:00 pm and will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers. This session will deal with Electric and the PCS fund.

Council Member McDonough moved to adjourn the meeting followed by a second made by Council Member Moore. Adjournment was at 8:55 pm.

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Mayor David Phillips

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk Lisa Snyder