



THE TOWN OF RUTHERFORD COLLEGE  
FY 2020 - 2021 BUDGET TRANSMITTAL LETTER

June 1, 2020

**Office of the Town Manager**

The Honorable Gary McClure, Mayor  
Members of the Town Council  
Rutherford College, NC

Mayor McClure and Members of Council:

Pursuant to Section §159 – 11 of the North Carolina General Statutes, I am pleased to present the Town of Rutherford College's FY2020 – 2021 recommended budget for your review and consideration. The \$1,769,750 spending document is balanced and maintains the property tax rate of \$.12 per hundred dollars of valuation.

The proposed General Fund budget totals \$784,650 which includes an allotment of \$70,000 to fund street improvements and an appropriation of \$65,000 to subsidize design and construction work for the Town's 5-acre Greenway. Due to the financial uncertainty from COVID-19, I wanted to take a more operational approach in relation to funding projects. The administration will continue its emphasis on functioning efficiently and providing the public optimal service delivery.

The recommended Water & Sewer Fund budget totals \$710,100. Consistent with Town Council policy, utility rates are adjusted periodically based upon the whole cost of the resource. Due to the Governor's Executive Order in relation to public utilities and rate increases from the Town of Valdese and Burke County, the administration is recommending a 4% rate increase to continue to operate at current levels of service.

The recommended Powell Bill Fund budget is \$117,000, which represents no significant change from the current year's appropriation. The Street Improvement Program (SIP) has had tremendous success with repairing/resurfacing residential roads and as the Town Council allows, the administration will continue to implement the program in its entirety. To date, the Town has paved approximately 4.60 miles of its public streets. The recommended allotment will subsidize Phase 12 of the SIP and will allow the administration to continue monitoring its Right of Ways, drainage swales and storm drains appropriately.

The recommended Business Development Fund budget is \$158,000, which represents an 8% increase in funding from the current year. As I have mentioned in prior years, the success of this fund is indicative of the administration's focus on local industry development and establishing a substantial, commercial economy here in Rutherford College. Public transit, park developments and wi-fi capabilities all fall under this category and are funded appropriately. The

administration will continue to support local businesses by providing low-interest loans and other incentives to encourage growth and foster individual entrepreneurship.

In closing, due to COVID-19, I wanted to provide the council with a relatively conservative budget document that the administration may have to adjust periodically. The operational approach adopted by this administration has yielded tremendous results ranging from economic development to expanding new services (public transit). The administration will continue to provide effective and efficient service and will move forward in relation to scheduled capital improvement projects. I am confident that the country will move beyond this plague and I am also confident that the Town Government of Rutherford College will be here for its citizens in their time of need.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth B. Geathers Jr.  
Town Manager