

# Commissioners Hear \$4.4 Million Budget Proposal

by Maru Amburn  
Chowan County taxes will not increase this year if the County Commissioners approve the budget submitted Monday night.

The proposed budget, prepared by the Finance Committee and County Manager Cliff Copeland, includes a 12 percent increase in expenditures over last year.

Copeland said \$4,408,021 will be needed to meet estimated county expenditures for FY 1984-85, which compare with a budgeted \$4,004,900 for FY 1983-84.

In his budget message, Copeland recommended that the county rate continue at 60.5 cents per \$100 valuation. The county tax base is \$286 million.

According to the county manager, aside from meeting the immediate needs of the county, the budget also allows for the "fund balance" to grow in the next year.

In the past, Chowan County has operated at a deficit and only over the past several years has the governing body been able to allow for a reserve fund in the event of a financial emergency, Copeland said.

The manager projected, in an interview Tuesday, that the county

reserve should reach \$200,000 in 1984, and increase from 1983's reserve of \$149,261.

Nearly 30 percent of proposed county expenditures will fund Edenton-Chowan Schools. The funding hike represents an increase from 1983's \$1.1 million to \$1.4 million.

"The county did not totally fund the Board of Education's request," Copeland said. "But the schools should be able to fund their budget with funds now held in reserve by the schools."

The 24 percent funding increase to the schools places an increased emphasis on maintenance of the school facilities.

"The Finance Committee was very emphatic in its request to the Board of Education that it fund and demand higher levels of maintenance in its school's facilities," Copeland noted.

In addition, the budget provides for separate funding for Walker School renovation project in the amount of \$89,000.

The town council announced Wednesday that they will hold a special meeting tonight (Thursday) to discuss the county's contribution to both the Recreation and Fire

Departments.

The Chowan County's participation in the Chowan/Edenton recreation program is increased in the draft budget by 21.5 percent.

While the Town of Edenton requested an increase in funding assistance to \$67,381, the budget appropriates an increase from \$49,162 to \$59,750. The county's percentage of program participation remains at 40 percent.

Also, the Town of Edenton requested that the county participation in the Edenton Fire Department be increased from \$39,508 to \$55,979.

The county budget provides for a \$49,142 contribution to the fire department which represents 29 percent of the Department budget.

If recommendations of the Finance Committee are approved, \$50,000 from the General Fund to Capital Projects fund is appropriated, which in combination with the \$75,000 received from the sale of the rescue squad building will be used to construct an Emergency Operation Center.

In his budget message, the county manager said monies are included for a 5 percent across-the-board salary increase for county

employees.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the county budget at a hearing scheduled for June 22 at 10:00 A.M. in the commissioner's meeting room.

In other action, the commissioners: -Recognized Sheriff Troy Toppin to present letters from Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. to the people who assisted the Johnny Owens family when their home was destroyed by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Owens, their son, Chris William Bembridge, Virginia Bembridge, Leroy Owens, and Tom McClenney were present.

Heard a request from leaders of the Edenton-Chowan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals that their organization be granted a key to unlock the chain blocking the entrance road the county dog pound. Commissioners agreed that only properly authorized officials should be given access to the animal shelter, due to the liability involved. A compromise agreement was reached between the SPCA and the county that certain hours during two days each week will be designated in order that those interested in pet adoption might have an opportunity to view dogs.



**YOUNG HERO**—Chris Owens wipes away tears as Sheriff Troy Toppin hands him a letter of recognition Monday from Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. Chris helped to save his mother when fire destroyed their trailer in April.

# THE CHOWAN HERALD



## Human Element

Six death row inmates escaped last Thursday from Mecklenburg Correctional Center in Boydton, Va. Two of the fugitives were apprehended Friday afternoon and the other four men remained on the run early this week.

Virginia prison officials had touted the facility as escape proof. The architects may have designed a model center, but the ingenious plot highlighted a flaw in anticipating the human element.

The inmates scored a victory when their carefully planned escape got them out of confinement. The decision to flee into North Carolina will prove to be faulty.

Tar Heels' record of law enforcement rivals its reputation for good government—it is a habit. Officers take the oath to uphold the law seriously and nothing brings out the spirit of cooperation more than a fugitive on the run.

Law enforcement officers in North Carolina, as a group are well trained. The dedication they possess is brought into focus when the public is endangered.

Reassurance comes through confidence. Snacks and wine were reassurance for two felons as they rested in a Warrenton laundromat last Friday. This is false, short lived reassurance. The long lasting feeling comes through confidence such as can be derived from law enforcement. The model in North Carolina weighs heavily on the human element.

## Too Expensive

The Coastal Area Management Act has withstood assaults from many fronts. One of the primary reasons for the 1974 act to enjoy increasing popularity is the caliber of people on the Coastal Resources Commission and its Advisory Council.

Furthermore, The CRC has accomplished many things at relatively little expense to the state's taxpayers. Implementation of CAMA has enjoyed strong federal funding which is continuously threatened.

One of the most popular for budget cutters is the line item for travel, which includes per diem, etc. At a time when sharp pencils are being applied to budgets, is not the time to expand expenses. This, however, appears to be what the CRC is doing.

The 15-member CRC meets regularly. The 48-member Advisory Council at first jointly with the CRC but was pared down due to budget constraints. Five or six Advisory Council members continued to meet with CRC and the entire group met together twice a year. This is an adequate alternative.

The success of CAMA can be traced, without difficulty, to the grassroots. In the first eight years of existence. Twice a year, or more

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**NEW PUBLICATION**—Francis Inglis and Walter Abbe (right) present complimentary copies of EDENTON: A PORTRAIT IN WORDS AND PICTURES to Hobie Truesdell (left). Truesdell is president of First Colony Farms which provided funding assistance for the project.

## McArthur Joins In Search For Escapees

by Ron Anderson

N.C. Highway Patrolman Mike McArthur was on duty Friday evening June 1 when he received a call over his radio to proceed directly to Warrenton and assist in the search for four death-row inmates who escaped along with two other men from a maximum security Virginia prison.

McArthur was patrolling on Base Road when he received the call at 7:15. He turned his car around and headed for the Warrenton Command Post, the communications center for the search operations.

The six convicts escaped in a prison van from the prison at the Mecklenburg County Va. Maximum Security Correctional Institution Thursday night, May 31. Two of the condemned killers were recaptured in a laundromat in Warrenton the next day.

When McArthur arrived in Warrenton, he joined the search along with more than 200 federal, state and local officers from North Carolina and Virginia. Assisting in the continuing search are the FBI, SBI, County Sheriffs US Marshalls, and the N.C. Department of Correction.

McArthur worked until Saturday afternoon when he was replaced by another trooper from Tabor City.

He said that troopers are working 12 hour shifts out of the Command Post located in a motor home. The men are working in two teams; one team is a surveillance team and the other checks on any reports of sightings that may come in.

"It's tough, said McArthur, "you know those guys are there."

While he was in Warrenton there were a number of reports that the convicts had been sighted. In the morning hours McArthur said that he heard four gunshots. After checking two of them out, he found that local citizens were making sure their guns worked.

McArthur warns county residents that three of the escaped prisoners have family in nearby Martin Co. and said that its very likely they have friends in this county.

"These people are extremely dangerous," he said, "two are responsible for 11 murders and are suspects in 12 more."

Citizens of Chowan Co. are urged to keep outside lights on, keep windows locked, look in cars before getting in, not to get in cars with strangers, not to pick up hitchhikers or let children be in the presence of strangers.

Anyone having information that might possibly lead to the whereabouts of the convicts should contact the Chowan County Sheriff's Department, the Edenton Police Department or the Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol number to call is 335-4300; this number can be directly linked to the Warrenton Command Post.

"If anything comes up we would rather check it out and disprove it," said McArthur.

Identification of the four convicts is as follows: Linwood Earl Briley, 25, medium skinned black male,

5'9", 170 lbs.; Lem D. Tuggle Jr., 32, white male, 5'9", 220 lbs.; Willie Leroy Jones, 25, dark skinned black male, 6', 160 lbs. and James Dyrall Briley, 23, dark skinned black male, 6'3", 180 lbs.

Trooper McArthur said that he would have probably been in Warrenton on Tuesday to continue the search there if it wasn't for vacation time. Trooper Charles Ely from Currituck took his place.

## Voter Turnout Light Tuesday

H. Edward Knox, former Charlotte mayor, was the choice of Chowan County democrats in the gubernatorial runoff election Tuesday.

Knox was defeated in the statewide nomination vote for governor by Attorney General Rufus Edmisten. Edmisten, who carried 81 of North Carolina's 100 counties, will face U.S. Rep. James G. Martin in the general election on November 6.

Turnout was light with less than 20 percent of county democrats casting ballots.

Long before the polls closed at 7:30 Tuesday, County Elections Supervisor Felix Chambers predicted a turnout of around 20 percent as compared with 38 percent in the May 8 general election. The low voter turnout was despite warm, sunny weather conditions.

With 100 percent of precincts (Continued On Page 4)

## Primary Source Materials Used In New Edenton Pictorial Book

Skilled photography and carefully selected text will surely make the newly published, EDENTON A PORTRAIT IN WORDS AND PICTURES, a collectors' item. Five thousand copies of the book arrived in Edenton this week.

The soft-cover pictorial documentary features black and white photographs by prize-winning photographer Elizabeth Matheson of Raleigh. The pictures present many of Edenton's interesting features from a distinctive perspective.

Text for the 61-page book is taken from primary source materials such as historic journals, 19th century newspapers, wills, deeds and commercial documents. Quotations

run the gamut from George Fox's 1672 journal to the locally famous "Greenfield Blues."

A number of dedicated people of considerable talent participated in the project including Anna Blair and Trudie White, of Elizabeth City, Carole Davenport, formerly of Edenton, Frances Inglis, Maxine Bullard, Laura Lee Ticknor, Marcia Crandall and Elizabeth Vann Moore, all of Edenton.

Funding assistance for the project was provided by First Colony Farms, James R. Ellis, R.J. Reynolds / Avoca Division, and Peoples Bank and Trust Company.

EDENTON A PORTRAIT IN WORDS AND PICTURES may be purchased for \$8.95 at the Barker House Gift Shop.

## Master Teacher Bonus Plan Presented At Local Board Of Education Meeting

By Ron Anderson

After a cruise aboard the America II on Monday afternoon, the Board of Education faced a full agenda at a regular School Board meeting.

Past and present members of the board were invited for dinner and a 3½ hour cruise by Commander James H. Ryan LCDR, USN, (ret.) and Chief Petty Officer Doug Campbell, naval science instructors at John A. Holmes High. The cruise expressed the officer's appreciation to board members for all the work they have done to bring the America II to Edenton.

A Master Teacher Bonus Plan update was the first matter of business on the board's agenda. Five of six teachers working on the plan present at the meeting. All of these teachers were selected as Teacher of the Year.

Spokeswoman Brenda Winborne said that the plan (still in a rough draft) favors a "career ladder"

concept rather than a "merit pay" system. Teachers would not be competing for rewards, but climbing a career ladder.

Under the plan, teachers would be divided into six levels beginning with the Beginning Teacher Program and ending with the Senior Master Teacher program. Salaries would start at \$15,000 a year for a level one and climb to \$47,000 at level six. A form of merit pay (bonuses) is included in the pay scale for each year because all teachers surveyed felt the need for some form of it.

A mandatory requirement is that all teachers reach level four (Career Teacher), the level at which the study group believes most of the teachers will stay.

To go on to levels five and six, teachers must apply and go before a committee. But Winborne explained that "if a teacher is not happy at levels five and six, you may

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**CRUISE**—School Board member Eugene Jordan (left) and former board member Thomas Paul Griffin enjoy dinner on the America II on Monday, June 4. Over 30 people who were instrumental in plans for the NJROTC vessel attended the cruise.