Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier
Requested by: Administration
Date of introduction: April 9, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 24-055

AMEND THE FY2025 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET: REALLOCATE $8,000,000 FROM THE REASSESSMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL FUND TAX STABILIZATION RESERVE ACCOUNT AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR PAY PLAN INCREASES FOR ALL CERTIFIED POLICE CLASSIFICATIONS

WHEREAS, County Council established the Reassessment Reserve Account via Ordinance 19-016 on March 14, 2019; and

WHEREAS, County Council approved the transfer of $26,640,000 from the General Fund Tax Stabilization Reserve Account to the Reassessment Reserve Account via Ordinance 21-014 on March 16, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the estimated balance of the Reassessment Reserve Account will be $10,000,000 upon completion of the current reassessment project, including the appeal process; and

WHEREAS, approval is requested to transfer $8,000,000 from the Reassessment Reserve Account to the General Fund Tax Stabilization Reserve Account; and

WHEREAS, approval is also requested to appropriate $8,000,000 from the General Fund Tax Stabilization Reserve Account to fund pay plan increases for all certified police classifications effective July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the revenue measures heretofore adopted by the County Council, are, in the opinion of the County Executive, estimated to yield sums at least sufficient to balance the proposed expenditures as set forth in the Approved FY2025 Annual Operating Budget as hereinafter amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNTY OF NEW CASTLE HEREBY ORDAINS: (10/13^{ths} of all the members elected to the County Council concurring therein):

Section 1. The Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, is hereby amended by deleting the material stricken and adding the material underscored on the attached "Exhibit A."

Section 2. The foregoing amendment shall be considered a part of the Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and shall be effective retroactively as though incorporated initially in the Annual Operating Budget.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by County Council and approval by the County Executive, or as otherwise provided in 9 *Del. C.* § 1156.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on: 5/28/24

Karen Hartley-Nagle
President of County Council
of New Castle County

Approved on: June 6, 2024

Matthew Meyer
County Executive
New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance, if approved, reallocates $8,000,000 from the Reassessment Reserve Account to the General Fund Tax Stabilization Reserve Account. This Ordinance further amends the FY2025 Approved Operating Budget by appropriating $8,000,000 from the General Fund Tax Stabilization Reserve Account to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Police Salaries and Benefits Budget Line Items. These funds are needed to fund pay plan increases for all certified police classifications.

FISCAL NOTE: This Ordinance, if approved, reallocates $8,000,000 from the Reassessment Reserve Account to the General Fund Tax Stabilization Reserve Account. This Ordinance further amends the FY2025 Approved Operating Budget by appropriating $8,000,000 from the General Fund Tax Stabilization Reserve Account to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Police Salaries and Benefits Budget Line Items. These funds are needed to fund pay plan increases for all certified police classifications.

The revised FY2025 Approved Operating Budget will be $350,427,908. The Reassessment Reserve Account balance upon passage of this Ordinance will be $2,000,000. The General Fund Tax Stabilization Reserve balance upon passage of this Ordinance will be $63,193,549.

COUNTY COUNCIL			
Salaries and Wages		$	2,552,351
Benefits			1,493,866
Training and Civic Affairs			70,388
Communication and Utilities			17,483
Materials and Supplies			62,776
Contractual Services			256,588
Equipment			1,600
Grants and Fixed Charges			440,233
Operating Transfer Charges			175,627
Total		***$***	***5,070,912***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions	***35***		

COUNTY EXECUTIVE			
Salaries and Wages		$	2,033,684
Benefits			1,190,296
Training and Civic Affairs			31,904
Communication and Utilities			16,798
Materials and Supplies			22,236
Contractual Services			148,565
Equipment			1,000
Grants and Fixed Charges			43,000
Contingency			55,000
Operating Transfer Charges			105,264
Total		***$***	***3,647,747***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions	***17***		

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION			
Salaries and Wages		$	12,986,061
Benefits			7,506,461
Training and Civic Affairs			132,825
Communication and Utilities			8,258,220
Materials and Supplies			162,673
Contractual Services			6,855,976
Equipment			392,900
Grants and Fixed Charges			3,932,350
Operating Transfer Charges			1,142,324
Operating Transfer Credits			(12,812,422)
Total		***$***	***28,557,368***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions	***168***		

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS		
Salaries and Wages	$	27,135,440
Benefits		15,765,968
Training and Civic Affairs		45,445
Communication and Utilities		26,068,271
Materials and Supplies		4,565,701
Contractual Services		10,843,698
Equipment		483,333
Grants and Fixed Charges		1,192,757
Land and Structures		35,000
Operating Transfer Charges		4,574,405
Operating Transfer Credits		(7,722,122)
Total	***$***	***82,987,896***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions 389		

DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE		
Salaries and Wages	$	8,156,971
Benefits		4,742,077
Training and Civic Affairs		66,975
Communication and Utilities		111,242
Materials and Supplies		101,727
Contractual Services		1,447,909
Equipment		44,940
Grants and Fixed Charges		56,500
Operating Transfer Charges		1,061,595
Total	***$***	***15,789,936***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions 112		

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Salaries and Wages	$	12,519,168
Benefits		5,565,327
Training and Civic Affairs		18,560
Communication and Utilities		1,069,498
Materials and Supplies		1,429,039
Contractual Services		2,214,606
Equipment		18,900
Grants and Fixed Charges		3,235,149
Operating Transfer Charges		1,175,272
Operating Transfer Credits		(225,977)
Total	***$***	***27,019,542***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions 162		

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY			
Salaries and Wages		~~71,332,068~~	$ 77,332,068
Benefits		~~40,954,368~~	42,954,368
Training and Civic Affairs			206,456
Communication and Utilities			1,008,304
Materials and Supplies			1,069,526
Contractual Services			2,251,228
Equipment			1,660,283
Grants and Fixed Charges			7,278,357
Operating Transfer Charges			7,843,655
Total		***~~133,604,245~~***	***$ 141,604,245***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions	***728***		
REGISTER OF WILLS			
Salaries and Wages			$ 1,159,211
Benefits			660,186
Training and Civic Affairs			34,950
Communication and Utilities			12,209
Materials and Supplies			10,053
Contractual Services			62,715
Equipment			2,800
Operating Transfer Charges			82,214
Total			***$ 2,024,338***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions	***20***		

RECORDER OF DEEDS			
Salaries and Wages		$	1,256,525
Benefits			723,402
Training and Civic Affairs			40,170
Communication and Utilities			33,689
Materials and Supplies			12,398
Contractual Services			82,718
Equipment			6,150
Grants and Fixed Charges			18,350
Operating Transfer Charges			162,265
Total		$	***2,335,667***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions	***23***		
SHERIFF			
Salaries and Wages		$	1,380,772
Benefits			804,406
Training and Civic Affairs			29,452
Communication and Utilities			14,993
Materials and Supplies			21,259
Contractual Services			55,999
Equipment			5,000
Operating Transfer Charges			142,020
Total		***$***	***2,453,901***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions	***21***		
CLERK OF THE PEACE			
Salaries and Wages		$	483,477
Benefits			282,975
Training and Civic Affairs			9,600
Communication and Utilities			5,484
Materials and Supplies			8,754
Contractual Services			18,268
Equipment Replacement			6,000
Operating Transfer Charges			30,824
Total		***$***	***845,382***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions	***7***		
DEBT SERVICE			
Debt Service		$	45,778,427
Total		***$***	***45,778,427***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions			

ETHICS COMMISSION		
Salaries and Wages	$	40,200
Benefits		4,181
Training and Civic Affairs		10,500
Communication and Utilities		1,898
Materials and Supplies		2,450
Contractual Services		235,747
Equipment		500
Operating Transfer Charges		6,360
Total	***$***	***301,836***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions ***0***		
COUNCIL CONTINGENCY		
Contingency	$	250,000
Total	***$***	***250,000***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions		
EXECUTIVE CONTINGENCY		
Contingency	$	600,000
Total	***$***	***600,000***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions		
PERSONNEL CONTINGENCY		
Contingency	$	455,000
Total	***$***	***455,000***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions		
ATTRITION CONTINGENCY		
Personal Services - Salaries and Wages	$	(6,164,693)
Personal Services - Employee Benefits	$	(3,608,135)
Total	***$***	***(9,772,828)***
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions		
ONE-TIME CONTINGENCY		
Contingency	$	478,539
Total	***$***	***478,539***

NEW CASTLE COUNTY			
Salaries and Wages		~~134,871,235~~	$ 140,871,235
Benefits		~~76,085,378~~	78,085,378
Training and Civic Affairs			697,225
Communication and Utilities			36,618,089
Materials and Supplies			7,468,592
Contractual Services			24,474,017
Equipment			2,623,406
Grants and Fixed Charges			16,196,696
Debt Service			45,778,427
Land and Structures			35,000
Contingency			1,838,539
Operating Transfer Charges			16,501,825
Operating Transfer Credits			(20,760,521)
Sub-Total New Castle County		~~***342,427,908***~~	***$*** **350,427,908**
Total Authorized Full-Time Positions	*1,682*		

RESERVE ACCOUNTS ANTICIPATED BALANCES AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

Tax Stabilization Reserve Account	63,193,549
Sewer Rate Stabilization Reserve Account	7,482,353
General Fund Budget Reserve Account	44,592,418
Sewer Fund Budget Reserve Account	18,872,304
Total Reserves:	**134,140,624**