

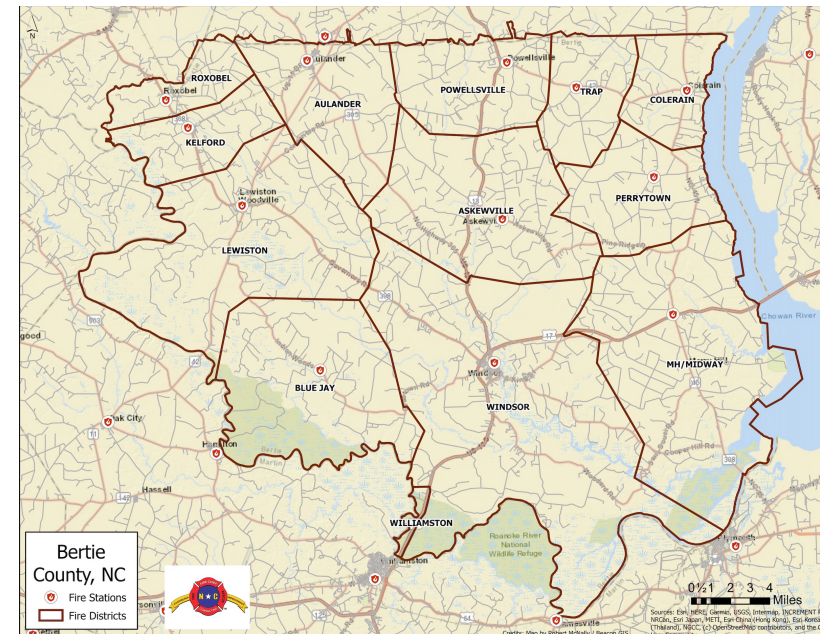


# BERTIE COUNTY

## FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

March, 2023

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# Significant Progress Was Made by Bertie County in 2020

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- NCFCC worked together with Bertie County in 2020 to assess the fire service delivery system and develop some system improvement recommendations, including the funding structure.





# Fire Protection Funding Models in North Carolina

- Principal fire protection funding models used by NC counties:
  1. **Rural Fire Tax Districts** (1960s and 1970s)
  2. **Service Districts** (1980s forward)
    - Can be individual, regional or countywide
    - Can include municipalities if the municipality desires to be part of the service district
  3. **General Fund Appropriation** (Bertie may be the very last county in NC using this model as primary)
    - Bertie County is currently providing \$30,000 to twelve (12) contracting fire departments
    - Approximately equal to \$.035 per \$100 of the ad valorem property valuation

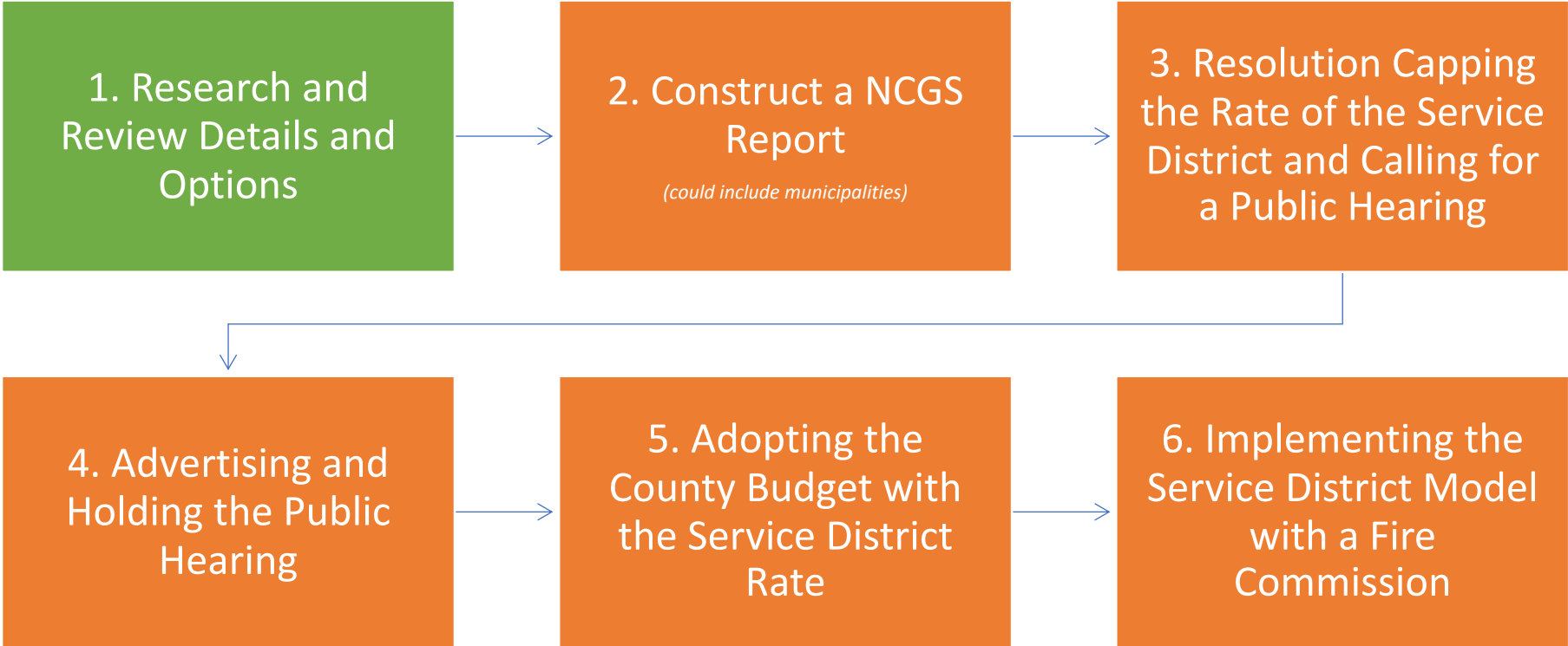


# Now We Are in 2023, What is Next?

- Bertie County Staff with assistance from NCFCC is developing a Fire Protection Service District Implementation Plan to bring back to the Bertie Commissioners for consideration. This plan will:
  1. Provide for **sustainable funding** to enable continued fire service operations in Bertie County.
  2. Provide a designated funding method for necessary life saving equipment (fire engines/tankers) for core public safety services for contracting fire departments.
  3. Provide a funding method to provide firefighters with essential safety equipment (gear/radios/breathing air, etc.), tools and training for firefighters to protect the lives and property of the people of Bertie County.



# Typical Process of Implementing a Fire Protection Service District In North Carolina



# Points of Interest on North Carolina Fire Protection Service Districts:



County Service Districts cannot encompass the entire county jurisdiction.



Municipalities may voluntarily choose to be a part of a County Service District through adopting a resolution.



County Service Districts are enabled by North Carolina General When adopting this resolution, municipalities release their control/ownership of the service (such as fire protection) as well as primary funding responsibility by releasing that responsibility to the County Commissioners.



With adoption of the resolution, a municipality is providing the Bertie County Commissioners authorization to tax the property owners within the municipality for fire and rescue services the same as property owners in the unincorporated areas of the county.



# Typical NC Fire Protection Service District Models:



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**SINGLE**, unified fire protection service district for unincorporated areas (and joining municipalities).

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**REGIONAL** geographical fire protection service district within unincorporated areas (and joining municipalities).

# Financial Information:

Bertie County currently provides 12 fire departments \$30,000 annually from the County General Fund for financial support, or **\$360,000** per year.

Fire District	Tax Valuation
Askewville	\$80,785,945
Aulander	\$34,539,330
Blue Jay	\$33,827,073
Colerain	\$42,947,277
Kelford	\$26,166,968
Lewiston	\$89,182,883
MH/Midway	\$187,524,436
Perrytown	\$64,051,093
Powellsville	\$59,676,235
Roxobel	\$11,293,293
Trap	\$36,895,739
Windsor	\$218,526,775
	\$885,417,047

To generate enough funds from the service district to just equal the amount of funding the fire departments are receiving now would require a tax rate of **\$.04066** for unincorporated areas.

This amount would not provide for any expansion or growth which is needed in Bertie County. This would be for status quo only.





# Municipal Inclusion:

- Municipal inclusion in the service district could make a major difference in the service district scope and the tax rate necessary to support the service district.
- Each municipality must determine if they want to join the service district or not.
- The Bertie County Board of Commissioners decides to accept the municipality or not into the service district.

District	Incorp. %	Unincorp. %
Askewville	9.21%	90.79%
Aulander	37.32%	62.68%
Colerain	19.07%	80.93%
Kelford	23.72%	76.28%
Lewiston	13.90%	86.10%
Powellsville	9.57%	90.43%
Roxobel	43.31%	56.69%
Windsor	33.61%	66.39%



## Comparison with Municipal Inclusion:

- Tax Rate Needed for the Service District to generate \$360,000 WITHOUT municipalities: **\$.04066**
- Tax Rate Needed for the Service District to generate the total funding of \$818,950 WITH all municipalities: **\$.07105**
- These above amounts would not provide for any expansion or growth which is needed in Bertie County. This would be for status quo only.

Askewville	\$2,000
Aulander	\$48,150
Blue Jay	
Colerain	\$12,400
Kelford	\$7,000
Lewiston	\$7,500
MH/Midway	
Perrytown	
Powellsville	\$0
Roxobel	\$7,000
Trap	
Windsor	\$374,900



# Geographical Regional Service District Approach:

			MUNICIPALITIES IN	MUNICIPALITIES OUT
Askeville		Incorporated	\$12,722,692	
Askeville		Unincorporated	\$80,785,945	\$80,785,945
Blue Jay		Unincorporated	\$33,827,073	\$33,827,073
MH/Midway		Unincorporated	\$187,524,436	\$187,524,436
Windsor		Incorporated	\$183,023,365	
Windsor		Unincorporated	\$218,526,775	\$218,526,775
			\$716,410,286	\$520,664,229
		Required tax rate	<b>\$0.0694</b>	<b>\$0.0230</b>
			MUNICIPALITIES IN	MUNICIPALITIES OUT
Askeville		Incorporated	\$2,000	
Askeville		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
Blue Jay		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
MH/Midway		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
Windsor		Incorporated	\$374,900	
Windsor		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
		County Cost	\$496,900	\$120,000

			MUNICIPALITIES IN	MUNICIPALITIES OUT
Aulander		Incorporated	\$26,462,660	
Aulander		Unincorporated	\$34,539,330	\$34,539,330
Kelford		Incorporated	\$5,400,310	
Kelford		Unincorporated	\$26,166,968	\$26,166,968
Lewiston		Incorporated	\$16,646,391	
Lewiston		Unincorporated	\$89,182,883	\$89,182,883
Roxobel		Incorporated	\$8,306,913	
Roxobel		Unincorporated	\$11,293,293	\$11,293,293
			\$217,998,748	\$161,182,474
		Required tax rate	<b>\$0.0870</b>	<b>\$0.0744</b>
			MUNICIPALITIES IN	MUNICIPALITIES OUT
Aulander		Incorporated	\$48,150	
Aulander		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
Kelford		Incorporated	\$7,000	
Kelford		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
Lewiston		Incorporated	\$7,500	
Lewiston		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
Roxobel		Incorporated	\$7,000	
Roxobel		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
		County Cost	\$189,650	\$120,000



# Geographical Regional Service District Approach:

			MUNICIPALITIES IN	MUNICIPALITIES OUT
Colerain		Incorporated	\$12,040,616	
Colerain		Unincorporated	\$42,947,277	\$42,947,277
Perrytown		Unincorporated	\$64,051,093	\$64,051,093
Trap		Unincorporated	\$36,895,739	\$36,895,739
Powellsville		Incorporated	\$8,349,772	
Powellsville		Unincorporated	\$59,676,235	\$59,676,235
			\$223,960,732	\$203,570,344
		Required tax rate	<b>\$0.0591</b>	<b>\$0.0589</b>
			MUNICIPALITIES IN	MUNICIPALITIES OUT
Colerain		Incorporated	\$12,400	
Colerain		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
Perrytown		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
Trap		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
Powellsville		Incorporated	\$0	
Powellsville		Unincorporated	\$30,000	\$30,000
		County Cost	\$132,400	\$120,000





# Fire Commission:

- Bertie County Commissioners are ultimately responsible for any fire protection service district.
- Often County Commissioners name a Fire Commission for the service district to be advisory to the Board of Commissioners.
- Membership is usually representative of some fire service leadership, such as the Firefighters Association President, and residents or consumers that live in the service district. It may include county staff as ex-officio members and a County Commissioner liaison.



# What Will be the Service District Benefits and Outcomes?



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Addressing the most critical gaps in service delivery in Bertie County.

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Sustainable, long-term funding structure/system for both operations and capital needs.

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More similar levels of service across the county long-term.

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More uniform inclusion and engagement by municipalities that choose to be a part of the service district.

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Many counties experience improved insurance ratings across the county by addressing some of the most critical needs. Improved insurance ratings can result in lower insurance premiums.

TOWN OF \_\_\_\_\_, NORTH CAROLINA  
RESOLUTION INCLUDING THE TOWN OF \_\_\_\_\_ WITHIN THE BERTIE COUNTY  
FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE TAX DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS: the Bertie County Board of Commissioners (Board) intend to create a county service tax district for the purpose of financing fire protection as authorized in G.S. 153A-301, and;

WHEREAS: the Board intends to establish such a district as outlined in G.S. 153A-302, and;

WHEREAS; pursuant to G.S. 153A-302(a) territory lying within the corporate limits of a municipality or sanitary district may not be included in a county service tax district unless the governing body of the municipality or sanitary district agrees by resolution to such inclusion, and;

WHEREAS; expenses related to the provision of fire protection services are increasing due to increased fire facilities, staff, and apparatus required to maintain service levels, and:

WHEREAS, the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ desires to be included in the Bertie County Fire Protection Service Tax District, and

WHEREAS: Bertie County will contract for fire protection services within the boundaries of the fire protection service tax district, and;

WHEREAS: all citizens within the corporate limits of \_\_\_\_\_ will be taxed at a uniform rate established by the Bertie County Board of Commissioners for the fire protection service tax district;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the \_\_\_\_\_ Town Council hereby declare their desire to be included within the Bertie County Fire Protection Service Tax District and authorize a limit in the rate of tax being levied to a maximum of fifteen cents (\$0.15) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of property subject to taxation consistent with the limitations of G.S. 153A-307.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 while in regular session.

ATTEST: |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Next Steps...



# Questions







**THANK YOU!**

North Carolina Fire Chief Consulting  
336-266-7998 ♦ [www.NCFireChief.com](http://www.NCFireChief.com)

