

# OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY

## Department Services

This includes funding for outside agencies related to public safety. The County contracts with Repay to provide Pretrial and Court Improvement Facilitator Services aimed at expediting movement of inmates through the criminal justice system and diverting them from the County jail. The Conflict Resolution Center was established in 1997 as a non-profit organization with a volunteer base whose mission is to promote and bring about the peaceful settlement of disputes and prevent the escalation of conflict through mediation, diverting these issues from district court. Lake Norman Marine Commission (LMNC) is funded equally by the four counties bordering Lake Norman (Catawba, Lincoln, Iredell, and Mecklenburg). LMNC was established in 1960 by the General Assembly to make regulations applicable to Lake Norman and its shoreline area concerning all matters relating to or affecting public recreation and water safety. LNMC's primary objectives are centered on boater safety and environmental issues. The budget includes the same funding as the current year to LNMC to maintain the navigational system on the lake, to control the Hydrilla exotic weed growth through continued introduction of sterile grass carp, to promote safe boating, and to maintain water quality on the lake.

## Budget Highlights

### OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY

Organization: 270050

	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Current	2017/18 Requested	2017/18 Adopted	Percent Change
<b>Revenues</b>					
General Fund	182,796	188,686	207,720	204,961	8.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$182,796</b>	<b>\$188,686</b>	<b>\$207,720</b>	<b>\$204,961</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Civil Air Patrol	371	405	405	405	0.0%
Conflict Resolution Center	13,000	13,000	15,759	13,000	0.0%
Lake Norman Marine Commission	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	0.0%
Repay					
Court Improvement Board	29,130	29,500	38,952	38,952	32.0%
Pretrial Services	113,295	118,781	125,604	125,604	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$182,796</b>	<b>\$188,686</b>	<b>\$207,720</b>	<b>\$204,961</b>	<b>37.8%</b>

The budget increased \$16,275 driven by the need to plan for a staff transition related to the December retirement of the long-term Director of Pretrial Services and the Court Improvement Facilitator. It will take a new director several months to learn the job and build relationships with judges, district attorneys, law enforcement, clerks, etc., which are critical to the success of the programs. Even with the funding increase, the combined programs provide an average return of \$11 per dollar invested.

## **EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS**

*Pretrial Services (\$6,823 increase):* The recommended budget increases funding to Pretrial Services by 5.7 percent to \$125,604 to allow new staff 6 months' overlap with the retiring Director.

*Lake Norman Marine Commission (Maintained):* Lake Norman Marine Commission (LNMC) is a 4-County effort between the counties bordering Lake Norman (Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg). LMNC was established in 1969 by the General Assembly to make regulations applicable to Lake Norman and its shoreline area concerning all matters relating to or affecting public recreation and water safety. LNMC's primary objectives are centered on boater safety and environmental issues with the majority of funds used to maintain the roughly 142 navigational aids on the lake and to support administrative efforts.

*Civil Air Patrol (maintained):* The budget continues annual funding of \$405 for the Civil Air Patrol. Funds are used to pay monthly telephone expenses.

*The Conflict Resolution Center (maintained):* County funds partially cover the cost of a certified District Court Mediator who attends court to divert cases from criminal and/or civil court that can potentially be settled through mediation and conflict resolution strategies. The Administrative Office of Courts stopped funding local mediation centers several years ago, but the General Assembly mandated that citizen vs. citizen warrants be referred to mediation. The budget maintains funding of \$13,000 annually to help cover the cost of a mediator attending court three days per week.

*Court Improvement Board Justice System Facilitator (\$9,452 increase):* The budget increased by 32 percent to \$38,952 for the Court Improvement Board, based on the County funding 49 percent of the Justice System Facilitator's time plus supplies and mileage and allowing the 6 months overlap in the director position.