

FORSYTH COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ADDED ITEM
BRIEFING DRAFT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 15, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 24

- SUBJECT: A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO GREATER WINSTON-SALEM INC. FOR CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND REFINEMENT OF THE ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY STRATEGIES FOR AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM INDUSTRY IN FORSYTH COUNTY**
- B. AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE FUND BALANCE TO FUND THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND REFINEMENT OF THE ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY STRATEGIES FOR AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM INDUSTRY IN FORSYTH COUNTY**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Forsyth County has identified the growth of Smith Reynolds Airport and the aviation sector as a key economic development strategy through the Aerotropolis study that was overseen by Greater Winston-Salem Inc. This study produced three strategies for implementation including infrastructure development, land use, and economic development recruitment.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) was identified as a major growth opportunity within the aviation sector. On August 27, 2020, the Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Greater Winston-Salem Inc. to complete and implement a strategy that would focus on Forsyth County as the center of UAS industry in North Carolina. The report has been completed and distributed and it identifies additional actions to take to continue moving this industry development forward.

This item is necessary to approve another agreement with Greater Winston-Salem Inc. to continue development of the UAS industry and to appropriate \$150,000 of unreserved fund balance for this purpose. Specific deliverables are the continued development of an Unmanned Traffic Management Concept of Operations building on and refining the preliminary recommendations from the Federal Aviation Administration and North Carolina Department of Transportation; development of a proposal to submit to NASA's National Campaign to include Winston-Salem and Forsyth County as a partner location for Advanced Air Mobility focused research and testing, and preparation of Requests for Proposals for specific capital infrastructure investment necessary to meet industry requirements including radar and weather sensing equipment.

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
COUNTY MANAGER

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO GREATER WINSTON-SALEM INC. FOR CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND REFINEMENT OF THE ADVANCED AIRMOBILITY STRATEGIES FOR AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM INDUSTRY IN FORSYTH COUNTY

WHEREAS the Aerotropolis study regarding the future of aviation in Forsyth County was created with broad community participation and was facilitated by Greater Winston-Salem Inc.;

WHEREAS the Aerotropolis study determined that the development of Smith Reynolds Airport and the aviation sector is a key economic development strategy and the study specifically identified the growth of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) industry as a major growth area in the aviation sector and an opportunity for Forsyth County;

WHEREAS Forsyth County contracted with Greater Winston-Salem Inc. for the development of a UAS strategic plan and a report has been finalized and distributed highlighting further actions necessary to develop the UAS industry in Forsyth County; and

WHEREAS Greater Winston-Salem Inc. has requested \$150,000 from Forsyth County to continue intensive engagement with community partners and technical regulators and research and to evaluate specific capital infrastructure investments necessary to develop the UAS industry in Forsyth County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners that the Chairman or County Manager and Clerk to the Board are hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of Forsyth County, an agreement with Greater Winston-Salem Inc. in the amount of \$150,000 to finalize development of an Unmanned Traffic Management Concept of Operations over a five-month period, subject to a pre-audit certificate thereon by the County Chief Financial Officer, where applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney.

Adopted this 15th day of April 2021.

