

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BRIEFING DRAFT

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 27, 2020 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 7A -7B

SUBJECT: A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO GREATER WINSTON-SALEM INC., FOR THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

B. AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE COMMITTED AND ASSIGNED GENERAL FUND BALANCE TO FUND THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

(COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)

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. Greater Winston-Salem Inc., has proposed a contract to complete and implement a strategy that would focus on Forsyth County as the center of UAS industry in North Carolina. This appropriation provides Greater Winston-Salem Inc., with funding for a 120-day period to complete this work.

Funding is available from committed fund balance for Economic Development and assigned fund balance of unused incentive funds.

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO
GREATER WINSTON-SALEM INC., FOR THE CREATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

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; and

WHEREAS Greater Winston-Salem Inc., has requested \$125,000 from Forsyth County to retain an expert in the UAS field in order to create and implement a strategic plan to increase Forsyth County's ability to develop and recruit UAS companies to 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 \$125,000 to create and implement a UAS strategic plan over a 120-day period, subject to pre-audit certificate by the County Chief Financial Officer, where applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney.

Adopted this 27th day of August, 2020.

