

# Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

**AGENDA ITEM: ES&S Balotar System – Ballot on Demand**

**MEETING DATE: May 28, 2013**

**REQUESTED BY: Trena Parker, Director, Election Services**

**Background information: Buncombe County Election Services is working with ES&S on the acquisition of the Balotar System. This will allow Buncombe County to print ballots on demand (as needed basis). The system has passed the initial phase of certification by the NC State Board of Elections, with the stipulation that it must go through a pilot program. The pilot program period would be during the upcoming Municipal Elections in October and November with full implementation of the program during the 2014 elections.**

**Once the pilot program is complete and successful the purchase will consist of 8 units (to include laptop, printer and transportation cart) that will distributed and utilized during the One-stop Early Voting period. We will also have the ability to deploy this system to the heaviest Election Day voting locations to help reduce cost even further.**

**Pros:**

- 1. Substantially reduce the amount of money Buncombe County spends on ballot printing. Projected savings of \$250,000 thru the General Election of 2016 with continued savings going forward**
- 2. Reduction of poll worker error**
- 3. Improved Audit capabilities**
- 4. Improved accuracy for ballot distribution**
- 5. Reduction in labor costs (workers and rovers)**
- 6. Projected ancillary costs of \$100,000 thru 2016 with continued savings going forward**

**Cons:**

**None**

**Funds required: No new county funds - \$110,000 to be transferred to Capital Projects**

**Alternatives**