



**Ordinance Establishing an Economic Development Incentive Grant Fund
for Mitchell County**

WHEREAS, economic development and growth in employment within Mitchell County are essential goals of Mitchell County and are necessary to prevent decrease in population and declines in tax revenues necessary to pay for essential government services to the citizens of Mitchell County; and

WHEREAS, local governmental incentives to promote economic development and employment and employment are authorized by law and employed by numerous local government units in North Carolina as a means of attraction new employment and expanding employment by existing employees within jurisdiction of the local government; and

WHEREAS, Mitchell County has sustained significant decreases in the number of manufacturing jobs within the county and there now exists a substantial number of vacant manufacturing facilities within the county which with renovations and improvements could be made suitable for housing manufacturing enterprises which could provide employment opportunities for citizens of Mitchell County, and

WHEREAS, renovations and improvements to existing manufacturing facilities will prevent their deterioration and depreciation, enhance their value and contribute to the ad valorem tax revenues available to Mitchell County and prevent future decreases in ad valorem tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, increased employment will result in increased money available for the purchase of goods within Mitchell County and increase sales tax revenues to Mitchell County; and

WHEREAS, incentives are essential to the attraction of manufacturing and commercial operations, which will provide increases employment and increased revenues to Mitchell County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED

1. That there is hereby established an Economic Development Incentive Grant Fund to be

used to provide assistance to private enterprises desiring to locate industrial and commercial enterprises in existing vacant manufacturing facilities located in Mitchell County or desiring to expand existing facilities or to construct new facilities which will provide new or additional employment opportunities to the citizens of Mitchell County.

2. That the Board of Commissioners of Mitchell County is authorized to make appropriation from the tax revenues paid to Mitchell County to the economic development incentive fund and to award grants from said fund to private enterprises to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.

3. That the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission is directed to prepare and present to the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners a plan and formula for the awarding of incentive grants from the economic development incentive fund to private enterprises which will assure location within existing vacant manufacturing facilities located in Mitchell County or which will assure the expansion of existing facilities or the construction of new facilities in Mitchell County and which will assure additional employment opportunities to the citizens of Mitchell County. In making said plan and formula the Mitchell County Economic Development Commissioner shall consider at least the following criteria:
 - a. The number of new employment positions that will be assured by the awarding of grant and the length of time of the assurance.

 - b. The capital expenditure to be made by the private enterprise from sources of income other than the grant to be awarded from the Mitchell County Economic Development Incentive Grant Fund.

 - c. The availability of other grant funds from government or private sources conditioned upon matching funds contributed from the Mitchell County Economic Development Incentive Grant Fund.

 - d. The average wage to be paid by the private enterprises for employment positions created in Mitchell County.

Based on these criteria the Mitchell County Economic Development Commissioner shall make recommendations to the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners as to any grant award and the maximum amount of the grant award. Any recommendation to make any grant award shall not be binding on the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners and no grant award shall be made except by affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners.

4. All awards of grants from the Economic Development Incentive Grant Fund shall be made pursuant to a written grant award agreement executed by Mitchell County and the grant award agreement executed by Mitchell County and the grant recipient. The grant award agreement shall designate the maximum amount of the grant and all conditions to the award of the grant including, but not limited to, the minimum number of new employment positions that are to be created in Mitchell County by the grant recipient.

5. Money may be appropriated to or withdrawn from the Mitchell County Economic Development Incentive Grant Fund at any time by an affirmative vote of a majority or the members of the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners. No money obligated to be disbursed pursuant to an executed grant award agreement may be withdrawn from the fund except on failure of the recipient to comply with the terms of the grant award agreement.

Read and approved by the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting on the 2nd day of May 2005.

Mitchell County Board of Commissioners

By: Keith Masters
Chairman

Attest:

Kathy Young
Clerk to the Board

