



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-0217, **Version:** 1

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**Item:**

**Lease Agreement with the State of North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
(Forest Service)**

**Date of BOCC Meeting:** May 13, 2019

**Request for Board Action:**

The Board is requested to approve a new Lease Agreement with the State of North Carolina, through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), for the NC Forest Service, and authorize the County Manager to execute the lease. The lease is for approximately 1254 square feet of office space in the fifth floor of the County Administrative Building II.

Durham County has a cooperative agreement with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide for the protection, development, and management of forest land within the County. The staff costs to provide this service are shared between the County and the State, with the County paying 40% and the State paying 60%. The NC Forest Service is a division within the NCDA&CS. NCDA&CS requires a lease for the space that the Forest Service staff occupies. All communities that have a Forest Service agreement in place provide office space at a nominal rate of \$1/yr.

This lease essentially replaces the prior lease to reflect that the Forest Service's location has been moved to the County Administrative II Building. The Forest Service staff were previously located in the Cooperative Extension building at 721 Foster Street. They occupied that space for at least two decades before being relocated to the County Administrative II Building in September 2018. The decision was made to move the Forest Service to provide them with the office and storage space they needed, and to relieve the cramped office conditions for the Cooperative Extension. This is a one-year lease, with 4 additional one-year renewal periods. The lease also includes two surface parking spaces for Forest Service vehicles. The lease amount is \$1/year.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:** The attached Lease Agreement with the state of North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Forest Service) supports Goal 3 "Safe Community", and Goal 4 "Environmental Stewardship and Community Prosperity".

**Resource Persons:** Jane Korest, Open Space and Real Estate Division Manager; Nancy Mitchell, Sr. Real Estate Officer

**County Manager's Recommendation:** The County Manager recommends that the Board approve a new Lease Agreement with the State of North Carolina, through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, for the NC Forest Service, and authorize the County Manager to execute the lease.

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_