

Ashe County Business Recruitment

Ashe County's forward-thinking and unified leadership allows it to overcome obstacles to land economic development deals.

Ashe County has challenges related to direct highway connections in terms of business recruitment. But thanks to unified leadership, the County has overcome these obstacles to land impressive recruitment projects.

Nexsen Pruet Economic Development Attorney Ernie Pearson feels he has been fortunate to have the opportunity to assist the County on a number of occasions through the years, and to share, in a small way, in its successes.

When the County was recruiting Smith Aerospace parts fabrication facility, Ernie assisted in negotiating a prudent and conservative incentive agreement. Later, when this facility was sold, the terms of that agreement protected the County's interests going forward.

County leaders have been very forward-thinking in supporting the creation and funding of Ashe County Job Development, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that partners with the County to promote economic development. Ernie had a role in the formation of this nonprofit. He also assisted the County and nonprofit in negotiating the donation of two industrial buildings to the nonprofit from a company that closed its operations. These buildings are valuable tools in recruiting new industries. The nonprofit is today one of the most well-endowed such economic development nonprofits in the state.

Most recently, Ernie was retained by the County in preparing an incentive agreement for G.E. Aviation to expand an existing facility that will manufacture components for jet aircraft engines. Ernie commented, "*Ashe County is an example of what happens when elected leadership gets behind an economic development effort - they are unified and committed to seeing it through.*" He added, "*The credit goes to the local leadership for all of their successes. But I am gratified to know that I could assist them with these steps forward.*"