

Callie Steger
Lee County

On July 1, 2014 I interviewed Lee county commissioner Kirk Smith. We met at the Mcswain Extension center in Sanford.

Mr. Smith has served as a county commissioner since December 2012. During the interview I asked Mr. Smith if there were responsibilities involved in the county commissioner's job that he was not aware of when elected. He responded by saying he did not realize that he would have to be on so many different boards and committees. A few of his board memberships include Lee County Fire Advisory Board, Sandhills Mental Health, and the Local Emergency Planning committee.

Mr. Smith's main priorities are fire safety and taxes. One of Mr. Smith's long term concerns for Lee County is the ownership of the water and sewer systems. They are currently controlled by the city. This causes higher taxes to be applied to these utilities, because it allows for customers to be charged both city and county taxes for these services. Another concern he has for the county is the lack of fire stations. The county is in need of more stations to help increase better call times. Currently the city of Sanford has three fire stations, and the entire county has a total of eight stations (this includes the three from Sanford).

By interviewing Mr. Smith I learned more about what my county commissioner's are responsible for in my county. I also have learned how they keep my county running and try to help the citizens of Lee County.