

Board of Commissioners' Agenda

February 4, 2025

Commissioners' Briefing

Prior to the Regular Meeting, the Commission will hold a Briefing starting at 3:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, located at 200 College Street.

The Commission does not vote at the Briefing and there public comment is not taken.

February 4, 2025 Briefing Materials:

[AGENDA](#)

- A) [Public Service Property Tax Refund Request](#)
- B) [Helene Update](#)

Regular Commission Meeting

The Regular Meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, located at 200 College Street.

Public Comment is taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Call To Order

[▲top](#)

Discussion / Adjustment / Approval To Follow Agenda

[▲top](#)

Consent Agenda [▲top](#)

- [Approval of the January 21 combined Briefing and Regular meeting minutes](#)
- [Approval of the December 2024 Tax Collection Report](#)
- [Resolution Ordering the Advertising of Delinquent Real Estate Property Tax Liens](#)
 - [Resolution](#)
- [Approval of Occupancy Tax Penalty Waiver for Douglas Brown](#)
 - [20 Thurland Late Fee Waiver](#)
- [Resolution to approve the updated French Broad Metropolitan Memorandum of Understanding](#)
 - [Resolution](#)
- [Resolution Authorizing the Designation of Signature Authority for Section 5310 Funding Agreements](#)
 - [Resolution](#)
- [Budget Amendment to move available Conservation Easement Fund to Conservation Easement Administration](#)
 - [Budget Amendment](#)
- [Approval of the School Consolidation Study Letter to the NC General Assembly](#) - **ADDED 2/4/25**
following the Briefing meeting

Public Comment

[▲top](#)

Good News

[▲top](#)

Presentations [▲top](#)

1. [Fiscal Year 2025 Quarter 2 Financial Update](#)
 - [Q2 Financial Report](#)
 - [More Information](#)

Public Hearings

[▲top](#)

County Manager's Report

[▲top](#)

Old Business

[▲top](#)

New Business [▲top](#)

1. [Resolution in Support of the Eastern Hellbender’s Endangered Listing](#)
 - [Resolution](#)
2. [Budget Amendment for NC Hurricane Disaster Recovery Fund Award for Public Health](#)
 - [Budget Amendment](#)
3. [FTA Section 5307 Funding Recission – FY2026](#)
 - [More Information](#)

Board Appointments [▲top](#)

[February 4, 2025 Board Appointments](#)

- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council - 2 reappointments

Announcements [▲top](#)

- The next Briefing and Regular meeting will be held on February 18, 2025 starting and 3:00 p.m.

Closed Session / Open Session

[▲top](#)

[▲top](#)

Adjournment



Buncombe County Government

Avril M. Pinder, CPA, ICMA-CM
County Manager

Buncombe County Government
Commissioner Briefing
February 4th, 2025
3 pm
Commissioner's Chambers, 3rd floor

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------------|
| I. | Meeting called to order | Chair Edwards |
| II. | Review the Board's February 4 th agenda | Chair Edwards |
| III. | Staff updates | |
| | A) Public Service Property Tax Refund Request | 15 mins Eric Cregger |
| | B) Helene update | 30 mins Avril Pinder |
| IV. | Open Discussion | All |





Public Service Tax Refund Request

Presented by

Curt Euler



Delta Express & Carolina Transportation Refund Request

Total Request: \$216,719.40

- Their request is based on the fact that their property was listed as business personal property vs. public-service
- Public-service property valuation is managed by the State and uses a different valuation methodology



Timeline

2021: An audit resulted in a discovery of unreported assets by the companies

- Staff added assets to companies' listing forms as business personal property
- Companies signed the listing forms
- Companies did not appeal and paid their bills

2022-23: Listing forms did not reflect discovered assets again

- Staff added assets to companies' listing forms as business personal property
- Companies signed the listing forms
- Companies did not appeal and paid their bills

2024 : Staff asked NCDOR if the companies' "rolling stock" assets should be listed as public-service.

- NCDOR confirmed and created public-service discovery valuations for prior years.
- Companies submitted their refund request for previously paid bills as related to those "rolling stock" assets.



Legal Basis for Refund Request per § 105-381

Taxpayer's remedies.....

A valid defense shall include the following:

- a) tax imposed through clerical error;
- b) An illegal tax;
- c) A tax levied for an illegal purpose.



Duty of the Property Owner per § 105-306

It shall be the duty of the owner to list the property.....



Next Steps

2/18 - Vote to approve or deny refund request at regular BOC meeting

QUESTIONS?





HELENE UPDATE

Board of Commissioners | February 4, 2025



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Topics for Today

- **FEMA Individual Assistance** – Ina Chan
- **Housing/Transitional Sheltering Assistance** – Matt Cable
- **Permitting** – Bob Haynes
- **Debris** – Dane Pedersen
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** – Rafael Baptista
- **Small Business Assistance** – Lane Davis, David Fierro, and Joevan Palmer
- **Resources for Recovery** – Lillian Govus



Individual Assistance to Buncombe County Applicants

Total Individual Assistance	\$ 107,650,481
Housing Assistance	\$ 30,530,718
Repair & Replacement	\$ 28,027,194
Rental Assistance	\$ 2,476,143
Other Needs Assistance	\$ 77,119,763
Serious Needs	\$ 42,046,500
Displacement	\$ 21,332,376
Clean & Sanitize	\$ 5,343,300
Personal Property	\$ 6,119,434
Repair Line Item	
HVAC	\$ 1,439,472
Well	\$ 430,847
Septic	\$ 485,074
Road & Bridge	\$ 4,088,539
Retaining Wall	\$ 1,454,474
ADA Ramp	\$ 35,476
Mold Remediation	\$ 2,214,000

Registrations	87,229
Housing Assistance Referred	49,240
Inspections Issued	32,080
Receiving Rental Asst.	741
Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) Checked In	664 Households
Interested in Direct Housing (DH)	95 Households
Approved for DH	93 Households
Currently in TSA & DH Eligible	13 Households

Note: Data as of COB January 30, 2025



Federal Emergency Management Agency

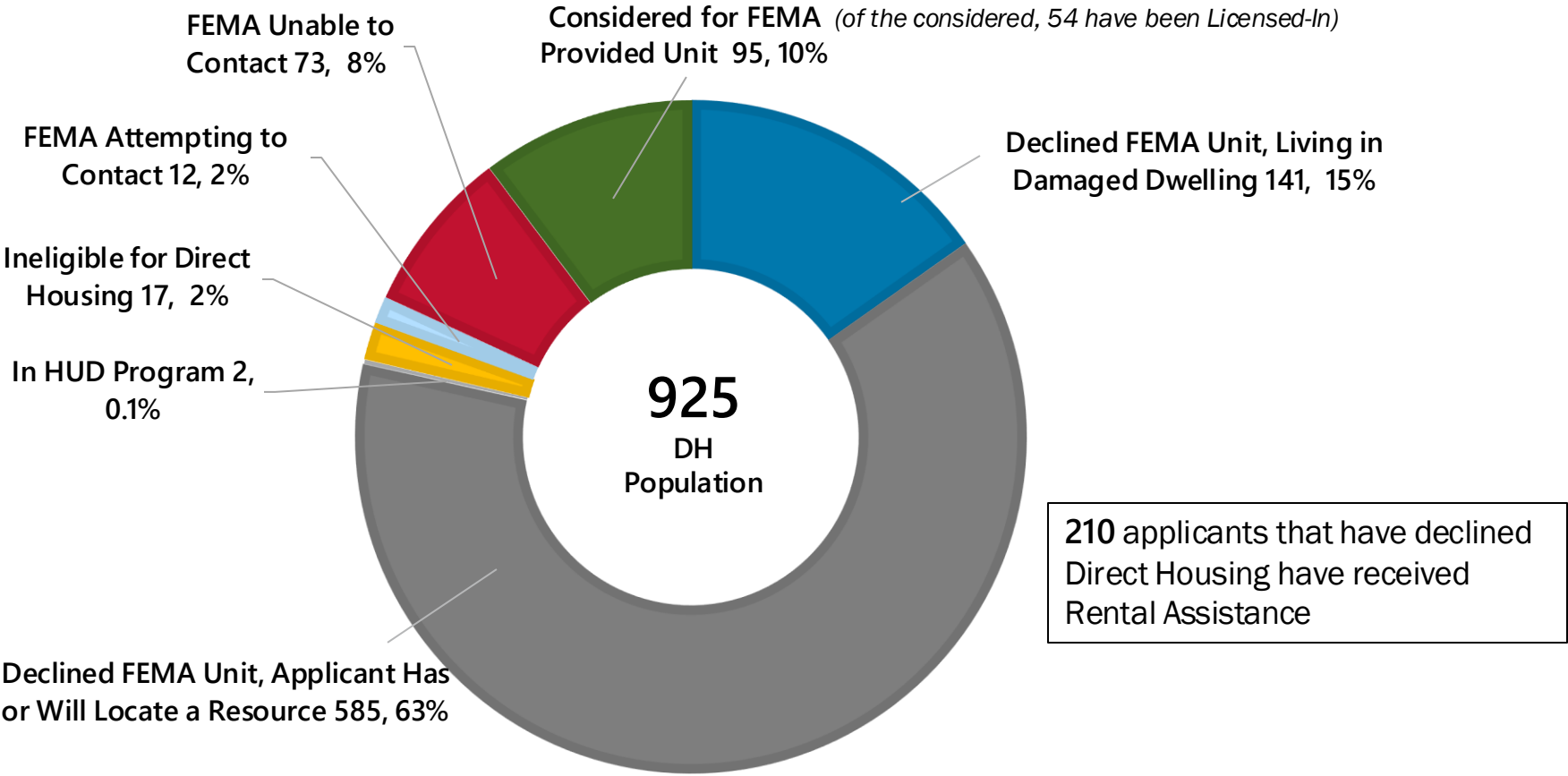


FEMA

FEMA Direct Housing Overview

Buncombe County

January 31, 2025



Up to a 200% FMR for Continued Rental Assistance is Approved for this disaster

Buncombe County HUD FMR Percentages				
FMR Percent	1 BR	2BR	3 BR	4 BR
100%	\$ 1,347	\$ 1,512	\$ 1,944	\$ 2,566
125%	\$ 1,684	\$ 1,890	\$ 2,430	\$ 3,208
150%	\$ 2,021	\$ 2,268	\$ 2,916	\$ 3,849
175%	\$ 2,357	\$ 2,646	\$ 3,402	\$ 4,491
200%	\$ 2,694	\$ 3,024	\$ 3,888	\$ 5,132

FEMA Overview

Buncombe County

January 31, 2025

Registration Deadline March 8, 2025

- Go to DisasterAssistance.gov,
- Use the [FEMA App](#)
- Call 800-621-3362
- Visit a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)

Open Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs)				
Location	City	County	Daily	Cumulative
DRC2 McDowell County Senior Center	MARION	MCDOWELL	45	5189
DRC3 Caldwell County Health and Human Services Center	LENOIR	CALDWELL	13	2214
DRC5 Appalachian Enterprise Center	BOONE	WATAUGA	15	2841
DRC6 Mitchell County Senior Center	BAKERSVILLE	MITCHELL	23	3530
DRC7 Blue Ridge Commons	HENDERSONVILLE	HENDERSON	89	9727
DRC9 Regional High Technology Center	WAYNESVILLE	HAYWOOD	25	3754
DRC10 Family Central Parks and Recreation Center	JEFFERSON	ASHE	19	2002
DRC11 Mayland Community College-Avery Campus	NEWLAND	AVERY	18	2237
DRC16 County Annex Facility (Old Ridge Hardware)	BURNSVILLE	YANCEY	64	5430
DRC26 Isothermal Community College	POLK	COLUMBUS	14	553
DRC27 Fairview Public Library	FAIRVIEW	BUNCOMBE	57	102
DRC28 Weaverville Town Hall	WEAVERVILLE	BUNCOMBE	26	43
TOTAL			408	64361

Questions?



Transitional Housing Assistance (TSA)

Resident Households in FEMA TSA: 762 (+61 since January 21)

Resident Households in TSA in Buncombe County: 585

- Households noticed ineligible 1/17 with check out by 2/8: **98**
- Households noticed ineligible 1/31 remaining in TSA with check out by 2/22: **125**
- Households eligible through 3/6: **362**

Resident Households in TSA outside of Buncombe County: 177

- Households noticed ineligible 1/17 with check out by 2/8: **27**
- Households noticed ineligible 1/31 remaining in TSA with check out by 2/22: **43**
- Households eligible through 3/6: **107**



Outreach to FEMA TSA Guests

County Staff (CD/HHS/CAPE) (12/14 - Present)

- Monitoring FEMA program updates
- Coordinating local TSA guest outreach efforts as state/federal partners mobilized
- Conducting direct outreach to hotel managers to interact with TSA guests
- Issuing CodeRed messaging to TSA guests on eligibility deadlines and resources

County Tetra Tech Community Navigators (12/14 - Present)

- Visited hotels and provided TSA guests with guidance and resource information



Outreach to FEMA TSA Guests

Disaster Case Management by NC Emergency Management (12/23 - Present)

- Assessing TSA guest needs and developing personalized recovery plans
- Leading TSA guest case management and referrals to resources

Multi-Agency Shelter Transition Team (MASTT) (1/9 - 1/29)

- Assisting TSA guests determined ineligible
- Assisting TSA guests who were pre-disaster unhoused in locating housing

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) (1/23 - Present)

- Canvassing all hotels in Buncombe County
- Meeting TSA guests in-person at high occupancy (double digit) TSA hotels regarding eligibility/FEMA assistance needs



Housing Recovery Progress

Temporary Housing Progress Since January 21:

- FEMA temporary housing units complete: + 53% (currently 55)
- FEMA rental assistance provided to households: + 17% (currently 769)

Cross-Departmental Staff Team Focusing on Permanence:

- Begin considering permanent housing solutions
- Begin evaluation of funding sources to support permanent housing solutions



Questions?



Permitting

DEVELOPMENT & PERMITS PORTAL

We are pleased to offer our residents, businesses and contractors access to permitting services online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With this service you can search permit records and review inspection results.

Contact

Permits & Inspections
Main Line

P: [\(828\) 250-5360](tel:(828)250-5360)

 **Permits & Inspections**
30 Valley Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Buncombe County Permits & Inspections provides building inspections and permitting services for all unincorporated areas of Buncombe County and through contractual agreements, provides these services for the towns of Biltmore Forest, Weaverville and Woodfin.



Non-Helene Residential Permit Activity

October 1 – January 28

Permit Type		Permit Type	% Change	
Residential Addition	42	Residential Addition	36	-16.67%
Residential Addition and Renovation	2	Residential Addition and Renovation	15	86.67%
Residential Detached Accessory	31	Residential Detached Accessory	18	-72.22%
Residential Detached Carport	6	Residential Detached Carport	2	-200.00%
Residential Detached Garage	14	Residential Detached Garage	14	0.00%
Residential HUD Manufactured Home	77	Residential HUD Manufactured Home	84	8.33%
Residential Modular Duplex	25	Residential Modular Duplex	0	-
Residential Modular Home	42	Residential Modular Home	11	-281.82%
Residential New Deck	83	Residential New Deck	59	-40.68%
Residential New Duplex	7	Residential New Duplex	10	30.00%
Residential New Foundation Only	1	Residential New Foundation Only	0	-
Residential New Single Family Site Built Home	243	Residential New Single Family Site Built Home	141	-72.34%
Residential New Townhouse	22	Residential New Townhouse	101	78.22%
Residential Renovation or Remodel	146	Residential Renovation or Remodel	143	-2.10%
Residential Retaining Wall	11	Residential Retaining Wall	6	-83.33%
Residential Solar - Ground-mounted	1	Residential Solar - Ground-mounted	4	75.00%
Residential Solar - Roof-mounted	73	Residential Solar - Roof-mounted	82	10.98%
Residential Structural Repair	38	Residential Structural Repair	89	57.30%
Residential Swimming Pool	15	Residential Swimming Pool	8	-87.50%
Trade	1458	Trade	2009	27.43%
Total	2337	Total	2832	17.48%

Note: Percent change comparing 10/2023 - 1/2024 to 10/2024 - 1/2025 period

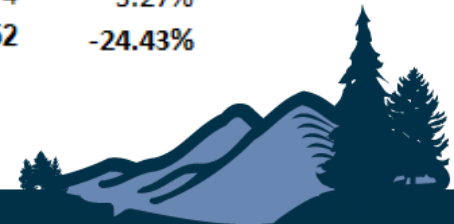


Non-Helene Commercial Permit Activity

October 1 – January 28

Permit Type		Permit Type		% Change	
Alcoholic Beverage Control Inspection	0	Alcoholic Beverage Control Inspection	10	100.00%	
Commercial Addition	3	Commercial Addition	4	25.00%	
Commercial Communications Tower or	0	Commercial Communications Tower or Equipment	7	100.00%	
Commercial Deck	4	Commercial Deck	1	-300.00%	
Commercial Foundation Only	0	Commercial Foundation Only	1	100.00%	
Commercial Interior Alteration	43	Commercial Interior Alteration	47	8.51%	
Commercial New Building	52	Commercial New Building	12	-333.33%	
Commercial Other	15	Commercial Other	23	34.78%	
Commercial Retaining Wall	28	Commercial Retaining Wall	12	-133.33%	
Commercial Sign	12	Commercial Sign	9	-33.33%	
Commercial Solar - Ground-mounted	1	Commercial Solar - Ground-mounted	0	-	
Commercial Solar - Roof-mounted	4	Commercial Solar - Roof-mounted	7	42.86%	
Commercial Swimming Pool	3	Commercial Swimming Pool	2	-50.00%	
Modular Office or Classroom	8	Daycare Inspection	1	-700.00%	
New Multifamily Building	58	New Multifamily Building	2	-2800.00%	
Trade	207	Trade	214	3.27%	
Total	438	Total	352	-24.43%	

Note: Percent change comparing 10/2023 - 1/2024 to 10/2024 - 1/2025 period



Questions?



Debris Management

- Right of Way Collection as of 1/23/2025
 - **814,900.7 cubic yards & 63,390 tons of soil**
- Temporary Debris Management Sites
 - Sites reviewed and approved by NC Department Environment Quality
 - **5 sites** being used by USACE contractor
 - Debris is sorted and processed at sites; include grinding of organic debris into mulch
 - Debris taken to locations outside of Buncombe County for permanent disposal

Temporary Debris Management Site Locations

Beacon - 190 Railroad St, Swannanoa

Cane Creek Pool - 590 Lower Brush Creek, Fairview

Julian Shoals - Julian Shoals Drive, Asheville

Old Landfill - 2495 Riverside Drive, Woodfin

Enka Commerce Park - 264/274 Enka Heritage Parkway, Candler



Private Property Debris Removal

- **2,501 applications** as of 1/29/2025
 - **215 applications for demolition**, 25 are from commercial properties
 - **95 commercial property application** total
 - **1,172 site inspections** have been completed
 - **1,078 completed applications** have been provided to FEMA
- Community canvassing continues with focus on local businesses
- Intake centers are scheduled to remain open through the end of February – locations are in Fairview, Swannanoa, Barnardsville, and Black Mountain
- USACE has awarded contract and debris removal began today





CALL CENTER

LOCATION

**828-250-6100,
option 2**

HOURS

7:00a – 7:00p
7 Days a Week

DURATION

Open through
February 28



INTAKE CENTERS

**Asheville
Mall**
3 S. Tunnel Rd

Closing 1/29

Open through
January 29

**Fairview Library
New DRC**
1 Taylor Rd

8:00a – 5:00p
M-F
9a-2p Sat

Open through
February 28

**Swannanoa
Fire Rescue**
510 Bee Tree Rd

8:00a – 5:00p
Wed-Sat

Open through
February 28

**Barnardsville
Fire Station**
100 Dillingham Rd

8:00a – 5:00p
Wed-Sat

Open through
February 28

**Black Mountain
Library**
105 N. Dougherty St

8:00a – 5:00p
Wed-Sat

Open through
February 28

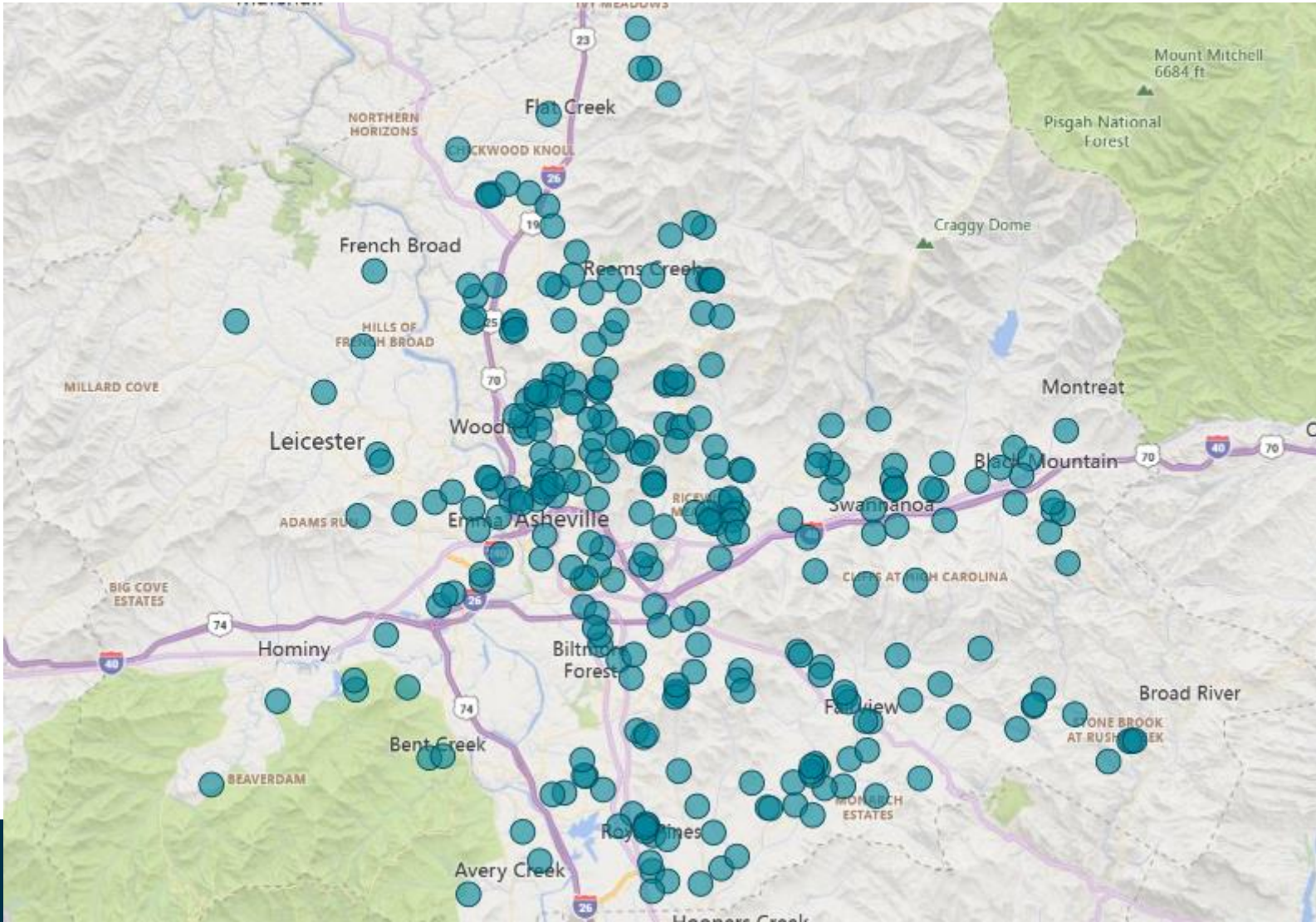


WEBSITE

www.OneBuncombe.org



Locations of PPDR Pickup - 1st Batch of 300



2/4/2025

**Private
Property
Debris
Removal
Notification
Form**

APN : _____

ADDRESS : _____

INITIAL SITE ASSESSMENT : _____

TITLED PROPERTY REMOVAL COMPLETE : _____

HHW REMOVAL COMPLETE : _____

DEBRIS REMOVAL COMPLETE : _____

PARCEL CLEARANCE COMPLETE : _____



2,352

Total Applications

72.74%

Percentage of All Unincorporated Applications

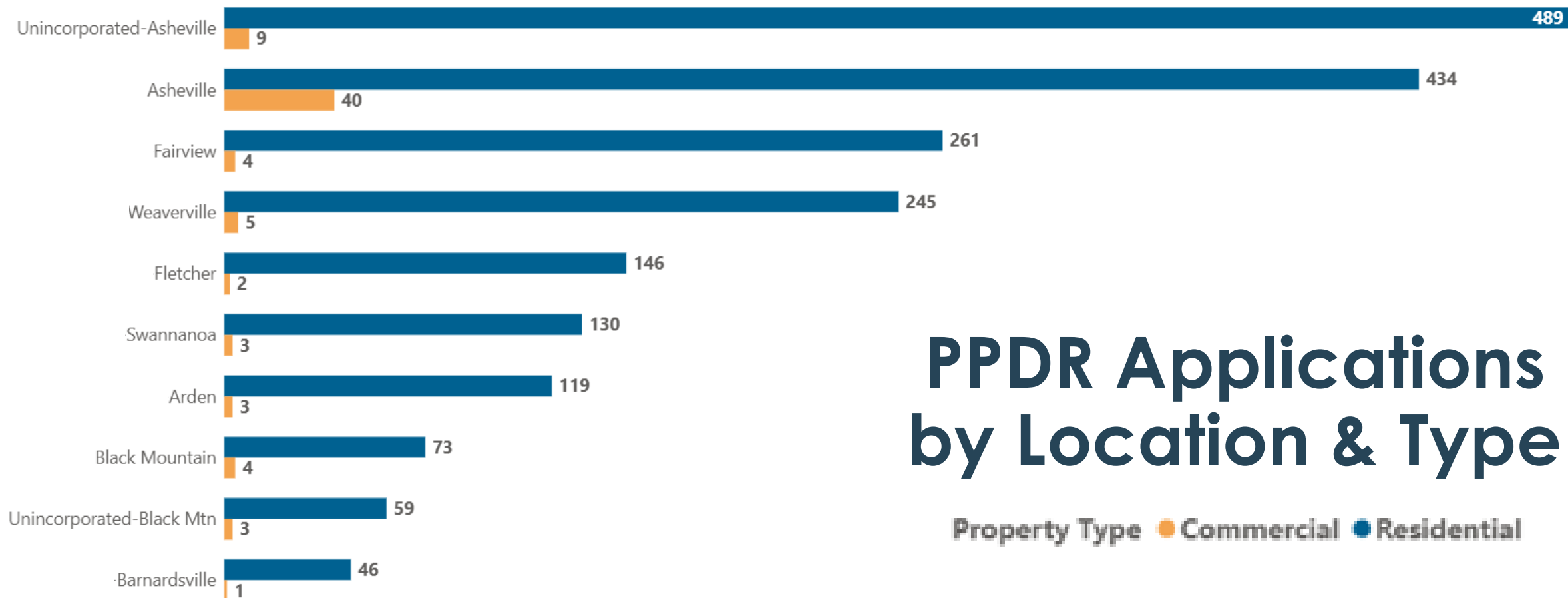
20.13%

Percentage of City of Asheville Applications

3.27%

Percentage of Town of Black Mountain Applications

Top 10 Application Locations (Geolocated Based on Parcel)



PPDR Applications by Location & Type

Property Type ● Commercial ● Residential



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



2/4/2025

Waterway Debris Removal

Waterways debris removal has begun!

- Crews began removing waterway debris in Azalea Park, Buncombe County, North Carolina over the weekend using equipment with environmental protection in mind.
- Each piece of equipment uses biodegradable hydraulic fluids, is fitted with low PSI tires to reduce ground disturbance and is pre-checked to ensure it is clean and free from leaks.



Removal of Title Property

Title Property removal process is underway

- County has contracted with 4 local towing companies to remove storm damaged property such as vehicles & vessels
- Vehicles in the right of way are being tagged in unincorporated areas of county; vehicles can be towed seven days after being tagged
- As of 1/29/25, 9 vehicles have been tagged for removal



Questions?



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- HMGP made available after a Presidential Declaration & Funded by FEMA
- HMGP focus is ensuring effective Governmental actions incorporate critical mitigation measures to reduce risk during post-disaster reconstruction
- Focused on breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction and repeated damages
- HMGP is competitive with \$1.5 billion to be allocated across North Carolina for Helene
- Specific Focus Areas:
 - Community-wide risk reduction projects
 - Improving resilience of key infrastructure and resource life-lines
 - Encouraging conservation of the floodplain
 - Increasing future mitigation planning



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Specific Programs

- **Acquisition, elevation or reconstruction of private property** within Buncombe County (Priority 1)
- **Landslide stabilization and mitigation** (Priority 2)
- Funding for **government projects to improve resilience and decrease risk** in future storms (Priority 3)
 - Examples include:
 - Making public infrastructure more resilient
 - Wildfire risk mitigation
 - Community-wide projects that increase resilience and reduce risk

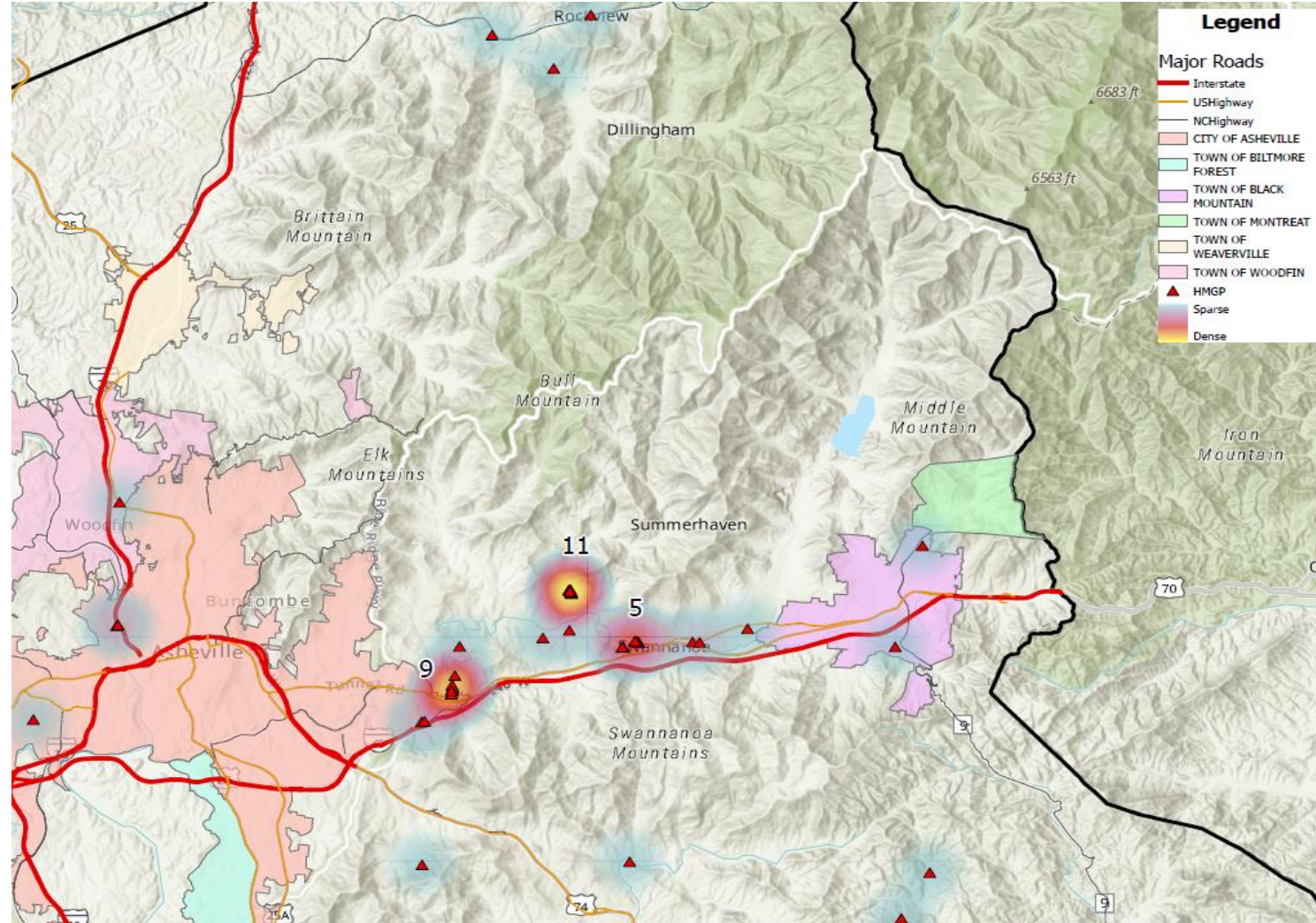


HMGP Private Property Application Summary

Application Type	Buncombe County	City of Asheville	Town of Weaverville	Town of Black Mountain	Total
Acquistion	92	56	8	20	176
Elevation	18	9	2	7	36
Reconstruction	1	1			2
Landslide	3	3	1		7
Total	114	69	11	27	221



Locations of HMGP Applications – 1st batch of 23



HMGP Interlocal Agreements

- Municipalities have been asked to select one of two options for acquisition decision-making
 - Option 1:
 - Utilize the County decision matrix for properties within their limits
 - Option 2:
 - Utilize their own decision-making criteria for properties within their limits
- Each municipality can make its own acquisition decision. If the decision is to deny, the county retains the right to approve the acquisition and retain ownership of the property or exercise the right of refusal



HMGP Current Status

- North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) is processing applications in batches, first batch is 23 applications
- NCEM is accepting residential and commercial applications though October 31st, 2025
- Buncombe County promoting program & encouraging property owners to apply for both Private Property Debris Removal and HMGP
- Buncombe County is actively identifying potential public infrastructure projects for HMGP



Upcoming Requests for Board Action

- Delegation of signature authority for HMGP project applications to the County Manager
- Authorization of interlocal agreements with local municipalities regarding HMGP applications within their municipal limits



Questions?





U.S. Small Business
Administration

Overview of the SBA Disaster Loan Program

Lane Davis, David Fierro, and Joevan Palmer

Types of Loans

- **Home Disaster Loans**
 - **Homeowners** – may be eligible for up to \$500K to repair or replace real estate property and up to \$100K to repair or replace personal property, including automobiles.
 - **Renters** – may be eligible for up to \$100K to repair or replace personal property
- **Businesses and Non-Profits (Physical Damages)** – may be eligible for up to \$2 million to repair or replace real estate, business contents, inventory, machinery and equipment
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)** - Businesses and Non-Profits – may be eligible for up to \$2 million for **working capital** for ongoing expenses; does not cover loss of income or profits.

Note: Loan amounts are based on the verified loss performed by a Loss Verifier for physical damage and by a Loan Officer for Economic Injury. [Businesses can borrow a total of \$2 million; exceptions can be made for major employers.]



Why Apply For An SBA Disaster Loan?

- ☐ No fee to apply
- ☐ Low interest rates
- ☒ **No payments and no interest for the first 12 months**
- ☐ No prepayment penalty
- ☐ No late fees
- ☐ Funds available prior to insurance settlement



- ☐ Flexible terms (up to 30 years)
- ☐ May apply for mitigation funds
- ☐ Loan can be modified
- ☐ No obligation to take the loan if approved
- ☐ No collateral for loans up to \$50K for homeowners/renters and \$100K for businesses/ non-profits (Presidential)
- ☐ Can accept a partial amount
- ☐ May be eligible for refinancing existing mortgage or relocation



What is the Process to Apply?

- ❑ Applicants may **apply online** at SBA's secured website: lending.sba.gov - *If you are having technical issues with creating an account, call (833) 572-0502 for assistance.*
- ❑ Applicants may **apply in person** at a Business Recovery Center or Disaster Recovery Center, where an SBA customer service representative will assist you with inputting your application. *SBA center locations can be found by looking up the declaration at <https://lending.sba.gov/search-disaster/> or by calling (800) 659-2955.*
- ❑ **Key Dates and Deadlines:** **March 8, 2025** for physical damage for homes and businesses. **June 30, 2025** for EIDL.



Questions?



RESOURCES FOR RECOVERY

ONE
BUNCOMBE
HELENE
RECOVERY
SERIES



ONE BUNCOMBE
buncombeready.org | (828) 250-6100

DO YOU NEED HELP TO RECOVER FROM HELENE?

Buncombe County and partners are hosting a series of recovery resource events where you can drop-in and ask questions, apply, and learn more about what support is available.

Barnardsville Fire Station, Barnardsville

100 Dillingham Rd. | Thurs., Feb. 13, 5-7P

Owen High School, Black Mountain

99 State Rd. 2468 | Thurs., Feb. 20, 5-7P

Reynolds High School, Asheville

1 Rocket Dr. | Tues., Feb. 25, 5-7P

Leicester Community Center, Leicester

2979 New Leicester Hwy. | Thurs., Feb. 27, 5-7P

Partners include:

- American Red Cross
- Buncombe County Libraries
- Buncombe County Parks
- Buncombe County Permits
- Buncombe County Planning
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- FCC Environmental
- FEMA
- NC Disaster Case Management
- NC Emergency Management (Hazard Mitigation)
- NC Medicaid
- WIC



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



2/4/2025

Recovery Resource Guide

Covers

- Transitional Sheltering Assistance Eligibility
- Housing
- Food & Goods
- Health
- Financial & Legal Help

Can also call (828) 250-6100 for One Buncombe Call Center

Online at www.buncombeready.org

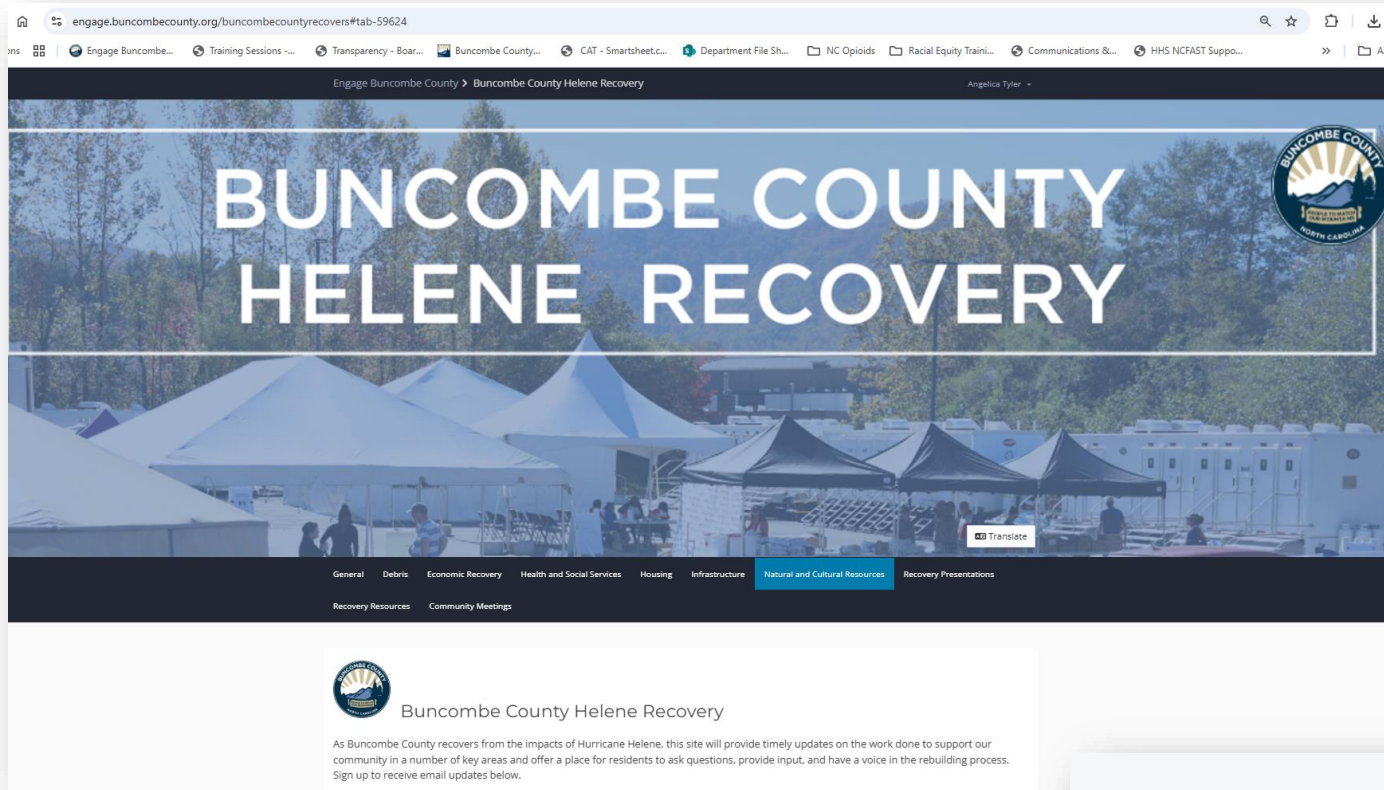


Helene Recovery Website

engage.buncombecounty.org/buncomberecovers

Helene recovery-focused site
Engage.buncombecounty.org

- Interactive content & engagement
- Timelines
- Progress Updates
- Calendar of Events
- Live-stream meeting options



Sign up to receive updates
on Buncombe County Helene
Recovery:

Email

SUBSCRIBE



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



2/4/2025

Questions?



End of Presentation

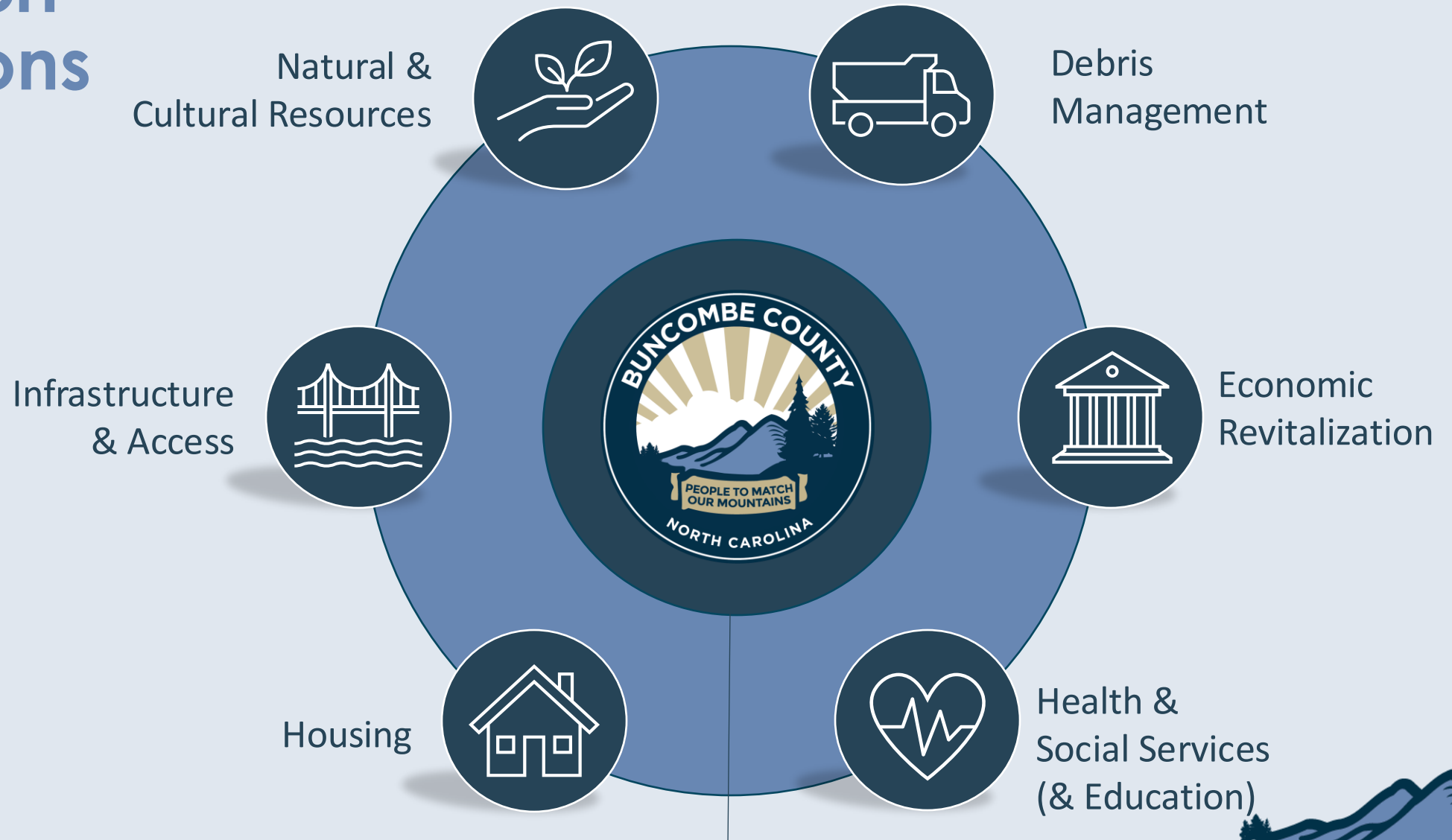


APPENDIX – DATA UPDATES

Reference Data by Recovery Support Function



Recovery Support Functions



Foundational



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



2/4/2025

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT



Focused on storm debris, including solutions for debris removal on public and private property and waterways, managing specialized debris types, evaluating hazardous materials considerations, coordinating disposal, and exploring sustainable re-use of debris.



DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

- Cubic yards of debris collected: 902,508 (20%+ increase over last update)
- Tons of mud, silt and soil collected: 69,612 (22%+ increase over last update)
- PPDR applications received: 2,554 (18%+ increase over last update)
- PPDR applications ready for site inspection: 346 (16%+ decrease from last update)
- PPDR applications delivered to FEMA: 1,078 (87%+ increase over last update)
- PPDR inspections complete: 1,171 (59%+ increase over last update)
- % of applications received on-line: 56%
- % of applications received in-person: 44%
- % of applications requesting debris removal only: 92%
- % of applications requesting debris and demolition: 8%
- % of applications requesting demolition only: 1%



ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION



Focused on stimulating economic recovery, supporting local businesses, responding to workforce needs, and ensuring the long-term economic stability and prosperity of the area with a focus on revitalization of critical economic sectors



ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

- Asheville-Buncombe "Rebuilding Together" Business Grant www.mountainbizworks.org/helene/fund/
 - 843 applications received totaling more than \$18M (no change compared to prior update)
 - Buncombe County Only
 - 137 small businesses awarded grants, totaling \$1,567,480 (no change compared to prior update)



ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Small Business Association Loans

	Home Loans	For Profit Business Loans	Nonprofit Business Loans	Total
Number of Applications	1648	1,955	55	3658
Number of Loan Offers	623	5574	3	1200
Number of Loans Disbursed	400	353	1	754
\$ Amount of Loans Disbursed	\$15,962,349	\$12,768,437	\$13,000	\$28,743,786

Same information as previous update; staff are currently developing a data sharing agreement to receive regular updates from SBA



ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Unemployment Estimates: Revised October 2024 and November 2024

	Reported Oct 2024	Revised Oct 2024	Reported Nov 2024*	Reported Jan 2025
Buncombe County	8.8%	10.4%	7.2%	Not yet reported
Asheville Metro**	7.4%	8.5%	6.1%	Not yet reported

***Asheville Metro includes Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Madison counties

Helene Impact on County Unemployment Rankings November 2024

County	Labor Force*	Unemployment **	Rate	Rank
Yancey	8,480	522	6.2	96
Avery	7,897	504	6.4	97
Madison	10,328	677	6.6	98
Buncombe	147,359	10,621	7.2	99
Mitchell	6,643	591	8.9	100

*Number of people working in Buncombe County

** Number of people unemployed



HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



Focused on ensuring the health and well-being of residents with attention to the social determinants of health, including consideration of medical, behavioral, educational, and environmental health concerns and social service recovery needs



HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

- Applications submitted for individual assistance thru Buncombe Co.: 5,827 (no change compared to last update)
- Applications approved for individual assistance: 255 (73%+ increase over prior update)
- Funds approved for individual assistance: \$1,061,619 (91%+ increase over prior update)
- Total loads of laundry at Community Care Sites: 47,522 (8%+ increase over prior update)
- Total number of showers at Community Care Sites: 43,590 (2%+ increase over prior update)
- Number of vaccines provided at Community Care Sites: 1,022 (vaccine administration ended 12/16)
- Mass care meals provided (avg. / day): 1,500 (no change from prior update)
- Current individuals in emergency shelters: Shelter closed as of 13/31
- NC DHHS Disaster Energy Assistance: \$257,268 (out of \$1,259,509 total allocated)
- NC DHHS Disaster Adult Service Assistance: \$2,551 (out of \$157,618 total allocated)
- NC DHHS Disaster Child Welfare Assistance: \$61,325 (out of \$469,011 total allocated)
- NC DHHS Disaster Rental Assistance: \$0 (out of \$199,296 total allocated)



EDUCATION

- The number of homeless (unhoused) students identified under the McKinney-Vento Act in **Asheville City Schools** is currently at 225; the number is 1298 for **Buncombe County School**
 - For **ACS**, **74** of these cases are due to Helene
 - For **BCS**, **883** cases are due to Helene
- *(As of January 8th)* All but 2 of **Buncombe County Schools** sites have resumed normal water usage after receiving lead test results
 - 2 sites still awaiting test results
- All **Asheville City Schools** continue to use bottled water and are awaiting lead testing results



HOUSING



Focused on supporting people in moving toward housing permanence through home repair, removing barriers to temporary housing units, connecting survivors to short- and long-term rental, and coordinating rental and mortgage assistance for survivor households with economic impacts



HOUSING

- Residential units destroyed: 344 (<1%+ increase over prior update)
- Residential units with major damage: 694 (7%+ increase over prior update)
- Residential units with habitability repairs: 9,341 (3%+ increase over prior update)
- Total residential units damaged: 10,379 (3%+ increase over prior update)
- Households currently in TSA: 762 (9%+ increase over prior update)
- Households approved for FEMA direct housing: 92 (12%- decrease from prior update)
- FEMA temporary housing units complete: 55 (53%+ increase over prior update)
- FEMA temporary housing units in-progress: 28 (28%- decrease from prior update)
- Households approved for rental assistance: 769 (17%+ increase over prior update)



INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS



Focused on restoring and enhancing essential public infrastructure and accessibility to private property, including comprehensive damage assessments, coordination of repairs/restoration, and mitigation of future hazards such as floods and landslides



INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS

- 222 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) applications have been submitted to NCEM (71% increase over last update)
 - 176 for acquisition & 38 for elevation/reconstruction & 7 for landslides
- Helene related building permit apps filed across 1,200+ unique locations (2% increase over last update)
- Helene related building inspections conducted at 800+ unique locations (4% increase over last update)
- 300+ private addresses assessed for bridge damage by Fire Marshall
- 1,000+ landslides occurred in the County with 400+ damaging roads and structures
- 1,400 assessments conducted of properties in flood plain with letters of significant damage being sent
 - County standing up free surveyor program for household appealing significant damage determination



NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES



Focused on the restoration and sustainable management of natural and cultural resources, including capabilities to maintain, conserve, renew, and rehabilitate resources such as parks, farmland, watersheds and streambanks in alignment with environmental and historical preservation laws



NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Emergency watershed protection potential applicants identified: 369 (11% decrease* compared to last update)
 - **this reflects the removal of landslide sites from the list of applicants*
- 7 County parks open to the public (no change compared to prior update)
- 12 County libraries open to the public (1 additional library opened since prior update)





FOUNDATIONAL

Focused on coordinating the resources needed for an effective recovery for and linking recovery with organizational operations –such as grants & funding, data sharing, county property damage, staffing considerations, communications, funding, facilities, fleet, human capital and technology



FOUNDATIONAL

- \$12.01 M expended for Helene; \$12.54 M committed
- 1 Category A* project submitted in FEMA grants portal
 - Submitted: \$68,240,087.00 (no change compared to prior update)
 - Received: \$34,120,044.00 (no change compared to prior update)
 - **expedited funding*
- 28 active staff reassignments being managed by HR
- 100 internal county staffing vacancies (not including BCSO)
- Insurance claim for County-owned assets:
 - Claims submitted: \$1.07 M
 - Claim received: \$128,643
- Recovery-related grant funding:
 - Requested: \$3.4 M
 - Awarded: \$600,000



MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
BRIEFING MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 5:00 p.m.

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Briefing Meeting on January 21, 2025, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Amanda Edwards; Vice-Chair Martin Moore; Commissioner Terri Wells; Commissioner Al Whitesides; Commissioner Parker Sloan; Commissioner Jennifer Horton; and Commissioner Drew Ball.

The following items were discussed:

- Helene Update

Avril Pinder, County Manager introduced the following staff to provide updates regarding the ongoing recovery efforts. Matthew Cable provided an update on housing. Cable reported that 701 Buncombe County households are currently in FEMA TSA and that 105 households have been approved for FEMA Temporary Direct Housing. Additionally, 183 Temporary Use Permits have been issued. Kristy Smith provided an update on debris. Smith reported that 752,697.9 cubic yards & 57,160.3 tons of soil have been collected in the right of way. Additionally, 2,160 applications have been submitted for Private Property Debris removal. Matt Evans provided an update on Public Assistance, he explained that the purpose is to provide funding for emergency assistance to save lives and protect property and assist with funding for permanently restoring community infrastructure affected by a federally declared incident and that there are two types, emergency work and permanent work. He further explained that Buncombe County is working with Tetra Tech to complete inventory of FEMA Public Assistance projects, including all anticipated emergency work and permanent work which currently includes 40+ County locations with damage. The project list is due to FEMA on March 3, 2025 and scheduled site inspections for permanent work will be ongoing. Lillian Govus, Communications Director announced upcoming recovery resource engagements to connect community members to resources. She explained that there were four upcoming events that are drop in and open to all. The locations are Barnardsville Fire Station, Barnardsville on Thurs., Feb 13; Owen High School, Black Mountain on Thurs., Feb 20, 5-7P Reynolds High School on Tues., Feb 25, 5-7P Leicester Community Center. Lastly, Govus announced the new transparency dashboard with information and data related to storm recovery efforts. The dashboard is available at BuncombeCounty.org/Transparency. Rachael Sawyer introduced Brenna Minor with Tetra Tech to provide the update regarding the Disaster Recovery Contract. Minor highlighted accomplishments which include Community Navigation Services; Disaster Response EOC Augmentation; PPDR Services; FEMA Public Assistance Operational Planning Support; Floodplain Management Services; Housing and Long-Term Recovery Support. Sawyer explained that staff is anticipating bringing a budget amendment forward in February to prioritize work requiring specialized expertise.

- Internal Audit Report

Robb Hartman, Internal Audit Director provided background on the internal audit status. Hartman explained that the Audit Committee held a meeting this morning and voted to update the Audit Charter, it will change from Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards to Global Internal Audit Standards to ensuring compliance with new Global IIA standards. The updated is effective January 1, 2025. Hartman further explained that his work shifted during Helene Recovery and that he is currently an office of one due to the hiring freeze. Hartman noted his next steps for FY 2026 would be to 1) consider software needs; 2) develop departmental strategic plan; and 3) train new auditors.

- French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Memorandum of Understanding

William High, Lead Transportation Planner provided background information. He explained that the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) is an intergovernmental partnership for transportation decisions in the Census Designated Urban Asheville area and that local transportation investments are prioritized through the FBRMPO. Currently governed by a 2013 Memorandum of Understanding. He explained the 4 proposed changes to the current MOU: 1) Board Membership Change; 2) TCC Membership Changes; 3) Cost Sharing Section Addition; and 4) NCDOT Approved Formatting. The proposed changes as outlined will come before the Board of Commissioners at the next meeting on February 4 for a vote on the changes.

- Federal Transit Administration Funding Rescission

William High, Lead Transportation Planner provided background information. He explained that there are two sections; 1) funding for urban area transit; and 2) funding allocations are divided from the annual apportionment. He reviewed the FY2025 rescission which included Buncombe County rescinded \$1.37M in 5307 funds to the City of Asheville with the following requests: • Accepting the funds under the expectation that no additional funds will be requested for the continued operation of the New Leicester Highway Extension & Route 170 in FY2025 (Complete); Rescinding \$138,830 in FY2025 Section 5310 Traditional funds to Buncombe County to support County transportation for older adults and individuals with disabilities (Complete); Evaluating WE2 Route changes to improve safer connection to Buncombe County's Enka-Candler Trailblazer Route (Anticipated Start in FY25); and Evaluating increased trip frequency for the S3 and S6 routes serving south Asheville (Anticipated Start in FY25). FY2026 rescission considerations include: 1) Consider rescinding funds to the City to prevent return of funds to FTA, which conditions should include: The City not requesting additional funds for the continued operation of the New Leicester Highway Extension & Route 170 in FY2026; and the City not applying for Section 5310 Traditional funds for FY2026 so that Buncombe County can compete for a larger share of funds that directly support County transportation for older adults and individuals with disabilities; Evaluating WE2 Route changes to improve safer connection to Buncombe County's Enka-Candler Trailblazer Route (Anticipated Start in FY26); and Evaluating increased trip frequency for the S3 and S6 routes serving south Asheville (Anticipated Start in FY26). 2) The Board may also consider any conditions that advance transit and transportation with the City of Asheville and Buncombe County. The proposed changes as outlined will come before the Board of Commissioners at the next meeting on February 4 for a vote on the changes.

Following the agenda items, Commissioner Sloan introduced the drafted Resolution in Support of the Eastern Hellbender's Endangered Listing. He provided background information and requested that the proposed Resolution of Support be added to an upcoming agenda.

MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 5:00 p.m.

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Regular Meeting on January 21, 2025, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Amanda Edwards; Vice-Chair Martin Moore; Commissioner Terri Wells; Commissioner Al Whitesides; Commissioner Parker Sloan; Commissioner Jennifer Horton; and Commissioner Drew Ball.

Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and provided opening statements. Commissioner Sloan made the motion to adjust the agenda to hold public comment for New Business No. 2 regarding education funding and to limit public comment to two minutes so that everyone would have a chance to speak on this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Horton and carried unanimously.

1. Approval of the January 7, 2025, combined Briefing and Regular meeting minutes
2. Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Displays

Public Comment

Cathy Deblaker thanked the Commissioners for their service and then shared her experience of trying to convert a mobile home park into an RV park for disaster victims but faced delays and policy obstacles from the planning department, including the need for road improvements and additional facilities. She explained that she is seeking guidance and assistance from the board to navigate the issues.

Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing to consider rezoning application at 14 Hitching Post Lane

Shannon Capezzali, Planner III introduced ZPH2024-00034 Hitching Post Map Amendment. She explained that Barney Danzansky of Equity Development Group, LLC has applied to rezone a 10.35 acre portion of one (1) parcel of land identified as tax lot PIN 9619-86-2572 (14 Hitching Post Lane) from R-2 Residential to CS Commercial Service. She explained that Staff recommends that the rezoning of the parcel be approved as it is consistent with the recommendations from the Comprehensive Plan for utility types, density, proximity to transportation corridor, location outside of overlay districts and high/moderate hazard stability areas, and is located in close proximity to other CS zoned areas along the same corridor. While not completely consistent with the G.E.C. map, this area could be appropriate for more intense development as Leicester Hwy emerges as a commercial corridor. The proposed rezoning would allow additional uses in the CS district that are not currently allowed in the R-2 districts. Examples of uses that would be allowed after the rezoning include commercial planned unit developments, veterinary clinics, banks, cargo and freight terminals, commercial greenhouses, Hotels and motels, kennels, manufacturing operations, medical clinics, vehicle impoundment,

repair, and sales lots, gas stations, fitness centers, business offices, restaurants, retail, business schools, warehousing and mini-storage, vacation rental complexes, and more.

Chair Edwards opened the Public Hearing at 5:17 p.m. The Attorney for the project further explained the proposal. There were no other speakers, and the Chair closed the Public Hearing at 5:21 p.m.

Commissioner Whiteside made the motion to approve; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Wells and carried unanimously.

2. Public Hearing to consider request for additional funds from the North Carolina Recovery Housing Program

Victoria Reichard, Behavioral Health Manager provided background on the request. She explained that in August of 2024, Buncombe County accepted a \$1,000,000 award from NC Commerce through the CDBG Recovery Housing Program (RHP) to support Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministries (ABCCM) in expanding Transformation Village by constructing a 4 story, 64-unit building with 32-units dedicated to women and mothers with children in recovery from substance use. The total cost of the building is estimated to be \$5,000,000. ABCCM has been working to secure the additional funds needed to execute the project. Prior to Hurricane Helene there was a need for recovery housing with wrap-round support and now there is an even greater need to rebuild lost infrastructure. By requesting additional funds for this project from NC Commerce, our community will be equipped to increase the number of new beds available while at the same time focusing on utilizing available funds and resources to rebuild lost infrastructure. The additional request of funds would be in the amount of \$2,800,000.

Chair Edwards opened the Public Hearing at 5:24. There were no public speakers, and the Public Hearing closed at 5:24

Commissioner Moore made the motion to approve the resolution to request additional funds from NC Commerce for the CDBG-RHP. Commissioner Wells seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously

New Business

1. External audit contract amendment and FY 2024 Audit report

Melissa Moore, Finance Director provided background on the Contract amendment. She explained that the audit has been completed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. An amendment to the audit contract is required to increase the contract amount and reflect the audit completion date. During the audit process, Mauldin & Jenkins identified additional grant programs requiring review based on Federal and State expenditure thresholds. Audit of the additional programs expanded contract scope and cost by \$23,000, for a final contract amount of \$215,000. Due to interruptions of business caused by Hurricane Helene, audit review was

completed in January 2025. The contract amendment requests extension through January 31, 2025, to allow for any additional administrative processes needed to close the audit. She explained that this contract extension does not impact information presented in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). She noted that the contract amendment was reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee at its January 21, 2025 meeting.

Moore introduced Tim Lyons who provided the audit presentation for Mauldin & Jenkins remotely. Lyons noted that the County was issued an unmodified, or “clean” opinion on basic financial statements. He explained that this is the best opinion that can be received and explained that per North Carolina General Statutes, local governments must have an independent financial audit each year. As a recipient of significant Federal and State grant funding, Buncombe County must also be audited annually for compliance with certain grant guidelines and related regulations. Lyons further explained the findings.

The Commissioners asked about restricted and unrestricted funds as it related to the General Fund. Commissioner Horton asked about the one item identified as a materials weakness. Lyons explained that there was a small discrepancy in the number of minutes on time sheets in a report. He explained that there is limited amount of leeway in the audit report, and therefore this is a common report.

The Commissioners asked about the County’s bond rating. Melissa Moore, Finance Director explained that the County’s policy and the requirement to maintain AAA Bond Rating are both 15%. She further explained that the rating allows the County to access better interest rates. If downgraded, the interest rates would be higher to pay off the bonds.

Commissioner Wells made the motion to approve the amended fiscal year 2024 external audit contract and accept the audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitesides and carried unanimously.

2. Budget amendment to consider education appropriation reductions based on prevailing economic conditions

Chair Edwards provided background information on this item and explained that per NCGS 159-13(b)(9) the Schools will have the opportunity to present information on the impact of the proposed reduction.

Sarah Thornburg, the Asheville City School (ACS) Board Chair spoke first. She thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to provide additional information on behalf of the ACS Board. Thornburg noted four requests of the Commissioners: 1) confirmation and an acknowledgement that if the County's projected revenue loss is less than predicted for the current budget year or if recovery funds are later received into the County's general fund that the county will reimburse both school districts directly for funds being reduced; 2) when county staff are looking for other places to reduce general expenses by 4% that it not cut programs which support schools such as School nurses and early childhood education programs. She noted that such cuts would be an addition to the 4% reduction which creates an even greater

disproportionate burden on our school districts; 3) that later this spring the Commissioners approve Asheville City Schools returning to the 12 cent supplemental tax rate. She noted that the Commissioners had previously lowered the rate to 10.62%; and 4) ask the County Commissioners continue to collaborate with the schools as well sharing information as early and often as possible and joining and conversations to find better solutions to the challenges faced by school districts.

Following the Chair, Dr. Maggie Fehrman, ASC Superintendent spoke to the Commissioners. She emphasized ACS's commitment to preparing students with the skills, knowledge, and character to succeed, highlighting its efforts to close the achievement gap, improve student proficiency, and invest in staff. She noted that the district has already made significant reductions, including closing a school, cutting department budgets, and reorganizing the central office. Despite these efforts, ACS faces mandatory increases such as adjustments to pay tables and insurance premiums. Dr. Fehrman expressed concerns that a 4% cut would be disruptive to operations and urged commissioners to consider reducing the cut or deferring it to the 2025-2026 budget cycle. Additionally, she noted the compounded financial challenges, including decreased supplemental taxes and sales taxes, as well as ongoing issues with potable water in schools. Dr. Fehrman invited the Commissioners and County Manager to attend a strategic plan community launch event on February 1st to learn more about the district's efforts to address the achievement gap and reimagine the K-12 experience.

Chair Edwards clarified that the language in the proposed Budget Amendment does state that funds will be returned if the federal or state government appropriate funds that can be used for this purpose, then another amendment may be brought forward to restore funding to the school systems.

Rob Elliot, Chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Education spoke next. Elliot expressed concerns about the potential impacts of a mid-year budget cut to the school system and highlighted North Carolina's low public-school funding compared to other states. The Chairman emphasized the county's strong local support for education but cautioned that a 4% reduction would be problematic, especially given the added challenges post-Hurricane Helene. He noted that the school system faces an increased number of students requiring support and staffing and services could be at risk if the cuts are implemented. They called for greater collaboration with the County Commissioners and advocacy with the General Assembly for quicker release of Hurricane relief funds to avoid further disruptions in the coming school year.

Dr. Jackson, Superintendent, followed and spoke about the partnership the schools have built with Buncombe County government. He then outlined the preexisting challenges in FY2024-25 for Buncombe County schools (BCS) which include: Loss of ESSER (COVID) funds; unanticipated reduction of Federal Title I funds of \$1,174,304; a drastic increase in Multi-Language student numbers not matched with state funding (2,994 ML students as of January 9, 2025); reduction of staffing to 44.2 positions to reduce costs through attrition; and the need to use over \$6M fund balance to balance the 24-25 budget as of the Dec. 5, 2024 budget amendment. He also highlighted that \$6M of the fund balance is being used to balance the 24-25 budget and that 24-25 is the first year without the federal ESSERS funding. With the

Opportunity Scholarship impact, there is a \$1,892,000 loss for Buncombe County. Jackson explained that the timing of the reduction would equate to more per month; noting that BCS are 7 months into FY 24/25, a 4% cut to the annual allocation (\$3,971,874) with only 5 months left in the fiscal year equates to a 10.4% cut over the last five months of the year, at a time when our students are most vulnerable – post-Hurricane Helene. Lastly, he requested that the Commissioners do not reduce funding with only approximately five months left in the fiscal year, as there is not enough time to implement strategies and/or reductions to offset the proposed amount.

The Commissioners asked questions about the state and federal assistance and agreed more funding and support would be necessary. Chair Edwards noted that EESR funds were a one-time fund.

Following a 10-minute recess, the Chair called the meeting back to order. The Commissioners requested more information about the local fund balances for the schools. John Hudson, Budget Director reported that ACS currently has 12.7M in funds and BCS has 19M in local fund balance.

The Chair opened the public comment period for this agenda item, during which the following 18 speakers voiced their support for schools and expressed opposition to any reduction in the funds allocated to them:

1. Pepi Acebo
2. Jess Mclean
3. Jen Hampton
4. Jason Gilmore
5. Arria Williams
6. Ingrid Baley
7. Laura Cleaveland
8. Timothy Lloyd
9. Alex Chambers
10. Sadie Grogan
11. Stephanie Hellert
12. Amy Wiesner
13. Lissa Pedersen
14. Ariawnee Lott
15. Samantha Aycock
16. Andy Erickson
17. Joan Hoffman
18. Shanna Peele

Following public comment, John Hudson, Budget Director provided background information for the County funding request. He explained that given the effects of Helene, the County continues to restrict spending and reduce the budget where available. Per NCGS 159-13(b)(9), a reduction to the local current expense funds of our K12 education partners can only

take place where "prevailing economic conditions" cause a general reduction in county expenditures. Buncombe County has directed staff to reduce general fund expenses, targeting 4% overall. Therefore, this amendment seeks to reduce the local current expense appropriations for Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools in the amounts of \$718,577 and \$3,971,874, respectively, for a total of \$4,690,451, or 4%. These dollars will shift to the General Government functional area, outside of any department's operational budgets. Should the federal or state government appropriate funds that can be used for this purpose, then another amendment may be brought forward to restore funding to the school systems.

Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to approve the proposed education reduction budget amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sloan.

The Commissioner's further discussed the need for State and Federal funding and the difficult decision before them.

Commissioner Moore asked the school leaders what opportunities there are for collaboration. Dr. Jackson responded that using their fund balances is the only option for BCS at this point. Dr. Fehrman noted that ACS relies on cash flow and that these would get them through the remaining fiscal year, and that collaboration and resources would be necessary in the future to maintain staffing and programming.

The vote passed 5-2 with Commissioner Horton and Commissioner Moore voting no.

3. Budget amendment to consider reduction in General Fund Transfers

John Hudson, Budget Director explained that as a result of prevailing economic conditions and the anticipated impact to recurring revenue, a request is being made to reduce General Fund transfers in the amount of \$999,916. Reductions being made include the Reappraisal Fund (\$325,000) and Special Projects Ordinance for Future Conservation Easements (\$596,342) and Early Childhood Education (\$78,574). Amounts reduced have not been identified for specific allocations in the current fiscal year and the delay of the 2025 property reappraisal evaluation. This will result in reducing the budget for appropriation of fund balance.

- a. Budget amendment for Future Conservation Easements, Early Childhood Education Fund
- b. Budget amendment for Internal Fund Transfers – General Fund
- c. Budget amendment for Reappraisal Reserve Fund

Commissioner Ball made a motion to modify budget amendment A, to remove Early Childhood Education Fund from reduction. The modification motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to approve the following two budget amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Horton and carried unanimously.

4. Budget amendment for Helene Recovery Housing Assistance Grant to CDBG funds

E.B. Odderstol provided background information. She explained that the City of Asheville has allotted \$624,000 of CDBG funds from the Declared Disaster Recovery (DDRF) Grant to Buncombe County to provide rental assistance to residents of Asheville via the county's Helene Recovery Housing Assistance Grant program, of which \$62,400 can be used for administrative costs of the program.

Commissioner Wells made the motion to 1) authorize the County Manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement with City of Asheville for CDBG-DDRF Funds; and 2) Approve the Budget Amendment for CDBG-DDRF Funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sloan and carried unanimously.

5. Budget amendment to accept Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Accessible Parks grant

Allison Dains, Parks & Recreation Director provided background information. She explained that this action is to accept \$500,000 that the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has awarded Buncombe County in NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Accessible Parks grant dollars. Awarded funds will be used to replace the existing playground at the Buncombe County Sports Park with ADA accessible playground while also improving drainage conditions at the site as well. Matching funds have already been budgeted within the Enka Recreation Destination - Phase II project and that no additional County funding required.

Commissioner Moore made the motion to accept the grant and to approve the budget amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ball and carried unanimously.

Board Appointments

Co-Kerma Hines was reappointed to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Commissioner Moore inquired if Andy Bobowski was eligible to serve in the DA's office and the Board agreed to postpone his reappointment until that information was received and verified.

Lee Ann Smith was reappointed to the Library Advisory Board.

Announcements

The Chair announced that the next Briefing and Regular meeting will be held on February 4, 2025 in the Commission Chambers starting at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.



Tax Collections

Jennifer Pike
Tax Collector

Consent Agenda 2/04/2025

Department: Tax Collections

Presenter: Jennifer Pike

Contact: Jennifer Pike

Subject: Approval of December 2024 Tax Collection Report

Brief Summary:

NCGS 105-350 requires the Tax Collector to submit a report showing the amount of taxes collected.

In the month of December, the majority of mortgage servicing payments have been processed. A significant number of payments are processed the last week of December 2024 and the first week or two of January 2025. Adjustments to the total levy through the remainder of fiscal year 2025 will be due to registered motor vehicle levy and regular property value discoveries or releases.

As of December 31, 2024, the total levy billed for fiscal year 2025 is 75.68% collected, as compared to 76.11% for fiscal year 2024, as of the end of December.

Below is Buncombe County year to date reporting for fiscal year 2025, as of December 31, 2024.

Current Year Collections

Fiscal Year 2025	Personal Property	Public Service	Real Estate	Motor Vehicles	Total
Total Levy	\$ 16,510,034.58	\$ 5,308,122.20	\$ 234,631,251.36	\$ 9,035,888.54	\$ 265,485,296.68
Amount Collected	\$ 10,495,606.21	\$ 575,462.35	\$ 180,863,731.40	\$ 8,994,052.44	\$ 200,928,852.40
Unpaid Balance	\$ 6,014,428.37	\$ 4,732,659.85	\$ 53,767,519.96	\$ 41,836.10	\$ 64,556,444.28
Interest Collected	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,563.51	\$ 61,588.10	\$ 91,151.61
FY25 Collection %	63.57%	10.84%	77.08%	99.54%	75.68%
FY24 Collection %	72.40%	13.10%	76.92%	99.57%	76.11%

Total fiscal year 2025 year to date collections, property tax and interest **\$ 201,020,004.01**

Prior Year Collections

Prior Years 2015-2024	Personal Property	Real Estate	Total
Amount Collected	\$ 44,881.68	\$ 124,202.08	\$ 169,083.76
Interest Collected	\$ 7,156.36	\$ 11,633.06	\$ 18,789.42

Total prior year collections, fiscal year to date **\$ 187,873.18**

***Total property tax released December 2024 due to taxable value adjustments** **\$ 59,217.98**

***Total refunds processed December 2024** **\$ 385,293.36**

***Detailed information for releases and refunds is available in Tax Collections.**

Recommended Action: Approve collection report on consent agenda.

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: Approve as recommended



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action
Meeting Date: 2/4/2025

Consent Agenda

Department: Tax Collections
Presenter(s): Jennifer Pike
Contact(s): Jennifer Pike
Subject: Resolution Ordering the Advertising of Delinquent Real Estate Property Tax Liens

Brief Summary:

Pursuant to N. C. General Statute 105-369(a) the first Monday in February of each year, the tax collector must report the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property to the governing body. Upon receipt of the report, the governing body must order the tax collector to advertise the tax liens. Advertisement of current year delinquent real property tax liens is a required step in the collection process and is not an indicator real property has begun or will go through foreclosure proceedings due to delinquent property tax. Currently planning for the advertisement to run in May or early June.

[**View Delinquent Current Year Real Property Tax as of February 3, 2025**](#)

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Adoption of resolution

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: Recommends approval

RESOLUTION NO. 25-02-01

RESOLUTION ORDERING THE ADVERTISING OF DELINQUENT
REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX LIENS

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-369(a) requires that a county tax collector report to the governing body the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of said report, pursuant to that same statute, the governing body must order the tax collector to advertise the tax liens; and

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Tax Collector has reported to this board the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the Buncombe County Tax Collector is hereby ordered to advertise the tax liens by posting a notice of the liens at the Buncombe County Courthouse and by publishing each lien at least one time in one or more newspapers having general circulation in the taxing unit, in conformity with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-369.
2. That this resolution be effective upon adoption.

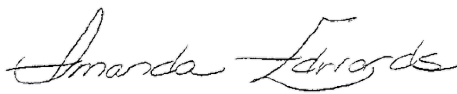
Adopted this 4th day of February, 2025.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

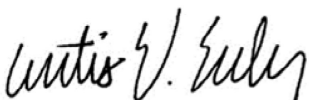


Sarah Gross, Clerk

By: 

Amanda Edwards, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM



County Attorney



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

Consent Agenda

Department: Tax Collections

Presenter(s): Jennifer Pike

Contact(s): Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector

Subject: Request to waive occupancy tax penalty for Douglas Brown

Brief Summary:

Douglas Brown has requested a waiver of Occupancy Tax penalty incurred. Payments due 9/21/2020, 11/20/2020, 12/21/2020, 3/22/2021, 5/20/2022, 1/20/2023, 7/20/2023, 11/20/2023, 1/22/2024, 6/20/2024, 8/20/2024, and 9/20/2024 were dropped in our drop box at 94 Coxe Avenue after the respective due dates. The late reporting and payment resulted in penalties assessed in the amount of \$40.48. A two-step process is required for granting a penalty waiver, approval by both the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority (BCTDA) and Buncombe County Board of Commissioners. The BCTDA has recommended waiving the \$40.48 in penalties since it is under \$500, and there has been no prior penalty waiver. Following approval, Buncombe County Tax Collections will remove the penalties currently showing as a balance on Douglas Brown's account.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approval of Occupancy Tax penalty waiver, in the amount of \$40.48, for Douglas Brown.

County Manager's comments and Recommendations:

County Manager recommends approval as presented.

Sarah Myers

From: doug14brown@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:47 PM
To: Sarah Myers
Subject: RE: Acc't 2355 - 20 Thurland late fee waiver

Sarah,
Thank you. I will send a hard copy to the 27 College Place address.

Below is a copy of my waiver request and reasons.

Buncombe County TDA
c/o Explore Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau
Vic Isley, TDA Staff Liaison
27 College Place
Asheville, NC 28801

January 13, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

A couple months ago (fall of 2024) these outstanding amounts were pointed out to me by the Tax Department. I had no idea these were outstanding. Here are my concerns:

- 1) The Adjusted amounts due are not, even for the three instances when my payment was after the 20th of those months, "a penalty equal to 5% of the amount of the tax" as per Buncombe County Monthly remittance Form. So, where do those "adjusted" amounts come from?
- 2) The VRBO Financial Reporting is quite straightforward: It gives one gross sales for the month; it provides the 3rd party fees collected; and that is where I get my data to pay the county's 6% fee. So, how does the county arrive at a "Total Due" amount for several months which are different from my "Total Paid" amounts? Where are you getting your information from? If it is different from my information, how am I supposed to know that?
- 3) Lastly, when does the city inform someone about discrepancies? Four years later? By chance? My first discrepancies existed in 2019; the most significant discrepancy occurred in November of 2020. Over four years! My phone number is on each Monthly Remittance Form.

I request a waiver for \$40.48 for the reasons above, and I look forward to an explanation about how the county determines an "Amount Due" different from data I get from VRBO from which my "Total Paid" amount is determined.

Thank you for your consideration,

Doug Brown, Asheville resident
doug14brown@gmail.com

From: Sarah Myers <smyers@exploreasheville.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:07 AM
To: doug14brown@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Acc't 2355 - 20 Thurland late fee waiver

Good Morning, Doug.

Thank you for your note. I am sorry for the delay in notifying you of next steps. I've recently taken over for Julia.

I have verified the \$40.48 total due with the Buncombe County Tax Collections office, and I would like to include your waiver request on the Agenda for the January 29, 2025 BCTDA Meeting.

To do so, I need to receive the penalty waiver request in writing, as detailed in the attached policy.

Please be in touch with questions,
Sarah



Sarah Myers She/Her ([what is this?](#))
Manager, Executive & Strategy
P: 828.333.5831
smyers@exploreasheville.com
27 College Place Asheville, NC 28801



From: Doug Brown <doug14brown@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 1:16 PM
To: Julia Simpson <jsimpson@exploreasheville.com>
Subject: Acc't 2355 - 20 Thurland late fee waiver

Dear Julia,

Nichole Blake at the Buncombe Tax Dept recently informed me about an accumulation of late fees since 2019 for a total of \$40.48. I am requesting a waiver of these fees please.

Five years have passed. Had Nichole or someone at the Tax Dept picked up the phone and left a message or had emailed me back in 2020 I would have been alerted that my payments were a day or two late; I usually drop them in the box in front of the office on Coxe Ave.

It is frustrating to get this notice so many years later especially during this time of year and after the hurricane.

Now that I am aware that my payments are sometimes late, I will drop them off a day or two earlier to avoid this. Thank you for your consideration.

Pls advise how to proceed.

Best regards,

Doug Brown
(618) 556-0592
20 Thurland Ave., AVL #2355

Sarah Myers

From: Michael Boyko <Michael.Boyko@buncombecounty.org>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:36 AM
To: Sarah Myers
Cc: Nichole Blake; Elliott Suess
Subject: RE: 20 Thurland Penalty Waiver Request

Hi Sarah,
The County can confirm that the balance due is \$40.48, from a series of small late fees incurred over the past few years.
There have been no other penalty waivers on this account.
Let us know if you need anything else.
Thanks, and have a lovely day.

Regards,



Michael Boyko

He/Him

Tax Collections

Daily Collections Supervisor

(828) 250-4912

michael.boyko@buncombecounty.org

Physical: 94 Coxe Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801

Mailing: PO Box 3140, Asheville, NC 28802

Respect. Integrity. Collaboration. Honesty. Equity.

[Facebook](#) • [X](#) • [Threads](#) • [Instagram](#) • [YouTube](#) • [LinkedIn](#)

From: Nichole Blake <Nichole.Blake@buncombecounty.org>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Michael Boyko <Michael.Boyko@buncombecounty.org>
Subject: Fw: 20 Thurland Penalty Waiver Request

From: Sarah Myers
<smyers@exploreasheville.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:19 AM
To: Elliott Suess

<Elliott.Suess@buncombecounty.org>; Nichole Blake <Nichole.Blake@buncombecounty.org>
Subject: 20 Thurland Penalty Waiver Request



BC Email Security couldn't recognize this email as this is the first time you have received an email from this sender smyers@exploreasheville.com.

Hi, Nichole and Elliott.

Happy Monday. I am relying on Julia Simpson's records here at Explore Asheville to follow up with you both on a penalty waiver request we received from Douglas Brown (see below). We are planning to bring the penalty waiver request before the BCTDA board later this month. In the past, the county has verified the penalty amount that is owed.

Would you be able to assist with the amount confirmation and let me know if there have been any late payments or penalties waived in the past for this property or any other insights on this penalty?

Thank you for your help.

Best,
Sarah



POWERED BY | Buncombe County Tourism
Development Authority



Sarah Myers She/Her ([what is this?](#))

Manager, Executive & Strategy

P: 828.333.5831

smyers@exploreasheville.com

27 College Place Asheville, NC 28801

From: Doug Brown <doug14brown@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 1:16 PM
To: Julia Simpson <jsimpson@exploreasheville.com>
Subject: Acc't 2355 - 20 Thurland late fee waiver

Dear Julia,

Nichole Blake at the Buncombe Tax Dept recently informed me about an accumulation of late fees since 2019 for a total of \$40.48. I am requesting a waiver of these fees please.

Five years have passed. Had Nichole or someone at the Tax Dept picked up the phone and left a message or had emailed me back in 2020 I would have been alerted that my payments were a day or two late; I usually drop them in the box in front of the office on Coxe Ave.

It is frustrating to get this notice so many years later especially during this time of year and after the hurricane.

Now that I am aware that my payments are sometimes late, I will drop them off a day or two earlier to avoid this. Thank you for your consideration.

Pls advise how to proceed.

Best regards,

Doug Brown
(618) 556-0592
20 Thurland Ave., AVL #2355

Sign up to receive emergency texts directly from Buncombe County for breaking health and safety news. Text **BCALERT** on your smart phone to **99411** to receive alerts on important information such as floods, communicable disease, county office closings, and relevant traffic safety notifications OR visit buncombeready.org

Email correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

This electronic communication may contain information that is confidential, privileged, proprietary, or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure. Additionally, the unauthorized disclosure of juvenile, health, legally privileged, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information may be prohibited by law. If you have received this email in error, you are hereby notified that you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy, or disseminate this communication, any part of it, or any attachments. Please notify the sender immediately and delete all records of this email. There is no intent on the part of the sender to waive any privilege that may attach to this communication.



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

Consent Agenda

Department: Planning & Development

Presenter(s): William High

Contact(s): William High

Subject: Resolution to Approve New FBRMPO Memorandum of Understanding

Brief Summary:

As the regional transportation planning coordinating agency, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) is made up of member governments within the Census Designated Urbanized Area for Asheville. The urbanized area is made up of four counties (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Madison) and their municipalities.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Buncombe County and the FBRMPO was most recently adopted in 2013. The Census Designated Urbanized Area for Asheville was updated with the 2020 Census which means a new MOU that describes membership, clarifies appointments, establishes cost sharing, and ensures compliance with federal regulations has been developed. Per the 2020 Census, the urbanized area no longer includes Transylvania County.

The new MOU alters the membership to remove Transylvania County from the MPO, clarifies the urban and rural transit representatives to the Board, and adds non-voting members.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

The Board of Commissioners resolve to approve the new French Broad River MPO Memorandum of Understanding.

County Manager's Comments & Recommendations:

County Manager recommends as presented.

RESOLUTION # 25-02-02

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THAT WHEREAS, it is recognized that a proper transportation system to support movement within and through the French Broad River MPO planning area is highly desirable element of a comprehensive plan for the orderly growth and development of the area, and;

WHEREAS, there are a number of governmental jurisdictions within the French Broad River MPO planning area which have been authorized with implementation and regulatory responsibilities for transportation by North Carolina General Statutes, and;

WHEREAS, it is desirable that coordinated, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning processes be maintained in the French Broad River MPO planning area to ensure that the transportation system is maintained on an efficient and economical basis commensurate with the public health, safety and welfare, and;

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding between the City/Town/Village/County of Asheville, Biltmore Forest, Black Mountain, Buncombe, Canton, Clyde, Flat Rock, Fletcher, Haywood, Henderson, Hendersonville, Laurel Park, Madison, Maggie Valley, Mars Hill, Mills River, Montreat, Waynesville, Weaverville, Woodfin, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation has been entered into that sets forth the responsibilities and working arrangements for maintaining a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process, and;

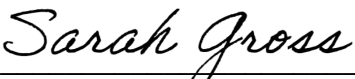
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, NORTH CAROLINA:

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the City/Town/Village/County of Asheville, Biltmore Forest, Black Mountain, Buncombe, Canton, Clyde, Flat Rock, Fletcher, Haywood, Henderson, Hendersonville, Laurel Park, Madison, Maggie Valley, Mars Hill, Mills River, Montreat, Waynesville, Weaverville, Woodfin, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation be approved and that the Chair and County Clerk are hereby directed to enter into and execute the Memorandum of Understanding.

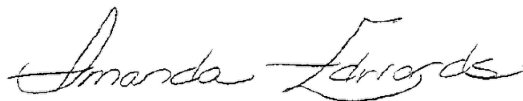
Adopted by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners in regular session this 4 day of February 2025.

ATTEST
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE

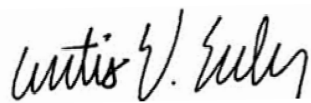


Sarah Gross, Clerk



Amanda Edwards, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM



County Attorney



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

Consent Agenda

Department: Planning & Development

Presenter(s): William High

Contact(s): William High

Subject: Resolution Authorizing the Designation of Signature Authority for Section 5310 Funding Agreements

Brief Summary:

The City of Asheville requests Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funding subrecipients complete a designation of signature authority to complete associated funding agreements. Buncombe County, as a subrecipient of Section 5310 funding, adheres to FTA guidance and regulations. Completion of a designation of signature authority will allow Buncombe County to complete Section 5310 funding agreements.

County staff request that designation of signature authority be provided to the County Manager or his or her designee for a five-year period to allow future annual agreements completion without additional Board action. This five-year period approval is consistent with our designation of signature authority process for Section 5311 funding received through the North Carolina Department of Transportation,

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Motion to approve resolution authorizing the designation of signature authority with the City of Asheville Department of Transportation for grant years FY 2025 to FY 2029 for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 USC 5310.

County Manager's Comments & Recommendations:

County Manager recommends as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-02-03

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF SIGNATURE AUTHORITY WITH THE
CITY OF ASHEVILLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FOR GRANT YEARS FY 2025 – FY 2029, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE
AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. 5310, UNITED STATES CODE, OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES
ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
OR STATE STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville Department of Transportation has been delegated authority to disburse federal financial assistance for transit projects as allocated throughout the United States by urbanized area;

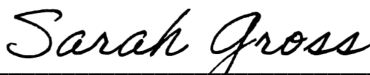
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Buncombe County Manager, Assistant County Manager, or his or her designee, to execute and file an agreement for federal assistance on behalf of Buncombe County with the City of Asheville for federal assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 5310 United States Code, other federal statutes or state statutes authorizing a project administered by the Federal Transit Administration.
2. That the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Buncombe County Manager, Assistant County Manager, or his or her designee to execute and file with its applications the annual certifications and assurances or other documents the City of Asheville requires before finalizing a federal assistance grant or cooperative agreement.
3. That the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Buncombe County Manager, Assistant County Manager, or his or her designee to execute grant and cooperative agreements with the City of Asheville on behalf of Buncombe County.
4. That this Resolution is effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this 4th day of February, 2025.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

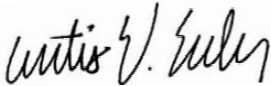


Sarah Gross, Clerk to the Board

By: 

Amanda Edwards, Chairperson

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



County Attorney

5310 DESIGNEE CERTIFICATION FORM

The undersigned duly qualified Clerk to the Board, acting on behalf of Buncombe County, certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners held on the 4th day of February, 2025.

Sarah Gross

(Signature of Recording Officer)

(COUNTY SEAL)

Sarah Gross, Clerk to the Board

(Title of Recording Officer)

04/05/25

(Date)



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

Consent Agenda

Department:

Agriculture and Land Resources

Presenter(s):

John Hudson, Budget Director

Contact(s):

Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture and Land Resources Director
Ariel Zijp, Farmland Preservation Manager

Subject:

Move available Conservation Easement funds to Conservation Easement Administration

Brief Summary:

This Budget Amendment requests remaining funds in the amount of \$45,400 from the cancelled Harlan/Dizoff Farm Conservation Easement Project be moved to the Conservation Easements Administration project to provide additional funding for easement program due diligence. Examples of funding for easement program due diligence include: preliminary title review, legal advice, restricted use appraisals to determine estimates of easement purchase costs for potential Conservation Easement projects before they complete board approval process. This ensures the responsible and equitable use of Conservation Easement funds.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented



BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Special Projects Ordinance

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 4, 2025

WHEREAS, the Budget Director recommends and the Board now desires to amend the FY2024-2025 Special Projects outlined below in Exhibit "A" to the budget,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the FY2024-2025 amendments listed in Exhibit A below be hereby adopted.
2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 4th day of February, 2025

Project Name: Harlan/Dizoff Farm - Conservation Easements Administration

Description:

This Budget Amendment requests remaining funds in the amount of \$45,400 from the cancelled Harlan/Dizoff Farm Conservation Easement Project be moved to the Conservation Easements Administration project to provide additional funding for easement program due diligence.

Funding Source: Previously allocated Conservation Easement funds.
No new County dollars required.

Exhibit A: Account Description	Increase (Decrease)	
	Revenues	Expenditures
Harlan/Dizoff Farm	\$ (45,400)	\$ (45,400)
Conservation Easement Administration	\$ 45,400	\$ 45,400
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -

ATTEST:

Sarah Gross
Clerk to the Board

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE:**

By: *Amanda L. Driggs*
Chair of the Board

DRAFT

Dear NCGA and to whom it may concern,

As you are aware, the State-mandated school consolidation study required by [insert local bill name] is now complete.

This comprehensive study, conducted by Prismatic Services, Inc., has provided valuable insights into the fiscal health, demographic trends, school facility capacity, and public opinion concerning both school districts. The findings have equipped the Buncombe County Commission, as well as both school boards, with essential data that will guide us in making informed decisions for the benefit of our community.

We are encouraged by the study's identification of areas for shared cooperation, improved operations, and cost savings through targeted consolidation of specific services. While these potential cost savings may be modest in the context of the total combined school district budgets, we strongly believe that implementing these recommendations will strengthen our school systems and improve efficiencies.

The study highlighted several key findings that are important to note:

- **Demographic Trends:** Both districts are experiencing shifts in student populations, with certain areas facing declining enrollment while others see growth. Understanding these trends is crucial for effective resource allocation.
- **Facility Utilization:** There is an imbalance in facility usage, with some schools operating under capacity. Addressing this can lead to better resource management and potential cost savings.
- **Public Opinion:** Community feedback indicates a strong desire to maintain the unique identities of each district while exploring collaborative opportunities to enhance educational offerings.
- **Student Performance:** Although both school systems are making significant efforts to reduce the achievement gaps, neither has yet demonstrated that it is on a certain path to success in addressing said gaps. That said, Prismatic agrees that consolidation of ACS and BCS by itself would likely not lead to improved student outcomes.

We agree with Prismatic that the most effective and pragmatic path forward is not the full consolidation of Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools but rather a strategic consolidation of shared services, optimization of facility usage, increased collaboration among all entities, and enhanced flexibility for student enrollment within district boundaries. These steps will allow us to maximize resources while maintaining the unique strengths of each district.

With the insights gained from the school consolidation study, Buncombe County aims to achieve the following system-wide improvements and financial efficiencies:

- **Shared Services:** ACS and BCS shall initiate discussions on expanding shared services, including but not limited to child nutrition, transportation, and facilities maintenance, and shall report the conclusions of these discussions to the County Commission.
- **Facility Optimization:** After closely tracking the demographic and enrollment trends identified by Prismatic, both ACS and BCS shall assess opportunities for optimizing facility usage and implement strategic school closures while ensuring appropriate class sizes and equitable access to education.
- **Collaborative Planning:** Buncombe County requests that both ACS and BCS Boards meet on a quarterly basis to discuss common areas of strategic importance and collaborate on annual budget development.
- **Long-Term Budgeting:** Buncombe County Commission, in partnership with the ACS and BCS Boards, shall develop a five-year forward-looking budget planning document, updated annually through a joint budget retreat involving all three Boards.
- **Enrollment Flexibility:** Both School Boards shall work together to revisit enrollment practices and boundary lines, particularly near the BCS and ACS boundary, to address legacy issues and provide greater flexibility for families.

We are committed to working collaboratively to ensure that our public schools remain strong, efficient, and well-supported for the benefit of all students. We appreciate your attention to these important issues and look forward to continued partnership in strengthening our education system.

Sincerely,



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action
Meeting Date: 2/4/2025

Presentations

Department: Finance

Presenter(s): Melissa Moore, Finance Director

Contact(s): Melissa Moore, Finance Director

Subject: FY2025 2nd Quarter Financial Update

Brief Summary: Staff will provide the Board with an update on financials for the second quarter of fiscal year 2025.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: No action is required

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: None

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Quarterly Financial Report

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Martin Moore, Vice Chair
Drew Ball
Jennifer Horton
Parker Sloan
Terri Wells
Al Whitesides

COUNTY MANAGER

Avril Pinder

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Melissa Moore

PREPARED BY

Finance Department



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
General Fund Overview	2
Solid Waste Overview	4
Capital Projects Overview	5
Donations	6
Appendix A – General Fund Major Revenue Sources	i
Appendix B – Net County Cost	ii
Appendix C – Capital Projects List	iii
Appendix D – General Fund Budget Amendments	iv
Appendix E – Fund Report	v
Appendix F – General Fund By Function Report	vi
Financial Policies	vii

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025

Quarter 2

December 31, 2024

Executive Summary

I am pleased to present you with Buncombe County's Quarterly Financial Report for the quarter ended December 31, 2024. This report includes General Fund budget versus actual, Q2 FY2025 year to date actuals versus Q2 FY2024 year to date actuals, a summary of major revenue sources, current net county cost actuals, Solid Waste summary, Capital Project overview, and donation activity.

General Fund Revenues:

- Budget of \$444.6 million, which includes \$15.7 million of appropriated fund balance.
- Actuals year to date total \$236.4 million, which is 53.2% of the amended budget and 4% less than the same time prior year.
- Prior year actuals totaled \$246.7 million.
- Ad Valorem revenues and Sales Tax revenues are down 3% each, and Intergovernmental revenues are down 12%
- Property tax makes up \$181.8 million, or 77% of Quarter 2 revenues.

General Fund Expenditures:

- Budget of \$444.6 million.
- Actuals year to date total \$213.3 million, which is 48.0% of the amended budget and 3.0% greater than the same time prior year.
- Prior year actuals totaled \$207.0 million.

Solid Waste Revenues:

- Budget of \$18.5 million, which includes \$4.4 million in appropriated fund balance.
- Actuals year to date total \$7.7 million, which is 41.7% of the amended budget and 23.8% greater than the same time prior year.
- Prior year actuals totaled \$6.2 million.
- Current year increase in revenues is driven by interfund transfer revenue related to Compost Facility Savings from the Solid Waste Capital Projects Fund and growth in Disposal Fees.

Solid Waste Expenditures:

- Budget of \$18.5 million.
- Actuals year to date total \$6.5 million, which is 35.0% of the amended budget and 5.6% greater than the same time prior year.
- Prior year actuals totaled \$6.1 million.
- Current year increase in expenditures is driven by interfund transfers related to current year capital outlay, Solid Waste Disposal Taxes remitted to the State of North Carolina, increases in equipment leases, and indirect costs charged to the Solid Waste Fund.

County Capital Projects:

- Budget of \$155.4 million.
- Life to date expenditures total \$56.8 million, or 36.5% of budget.
- Due to the long-term nature of capital projects, a significant portion of expenditures may not occur in the year the budget was established.

The information following this summary will give a more in-depth look at the County's overall standing at the end of this quarter.

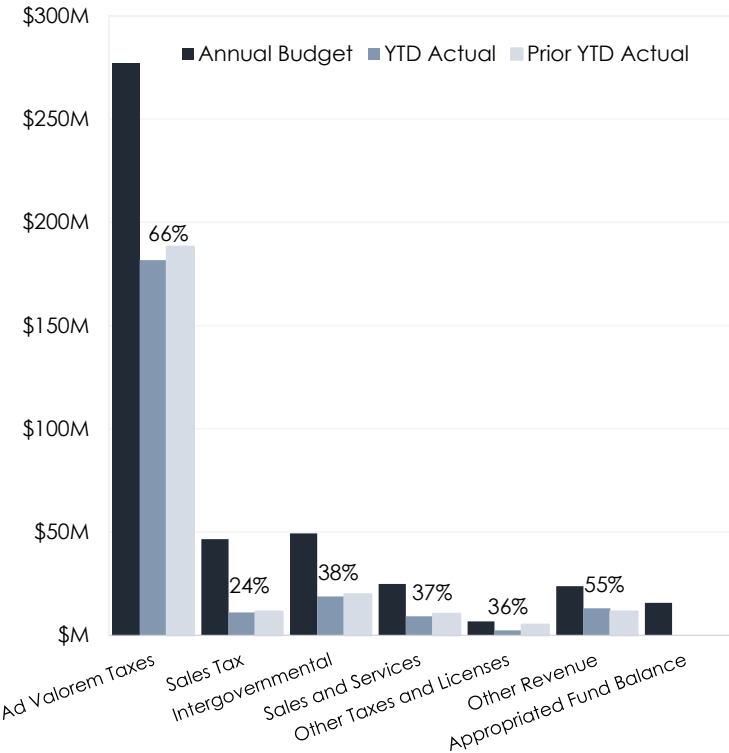
Melissa Moore
Finance Director

General Fund Overview

FY25 Quarter 2 General Fund revenues are approximately 53% of the budgeted amount. Ad valorem taxes are largely collected between November-January, and collections through December are 66%, which trails last year same time collection of 74%. Local option sales tax is received on a three-month lag, where Quarter 2 accounts July, August, and September sales. Local option sales tax to revenues to date are approximately 24% of budget and are slightly behind prior year revenues by \$393,350, or 3%. Intergovernmental revenues include grant revenue which is dependent on grant spending and reimbursement timing. See “General Fund Major Revenue Sources” for additional information.

Q2 FY2025 Revenues

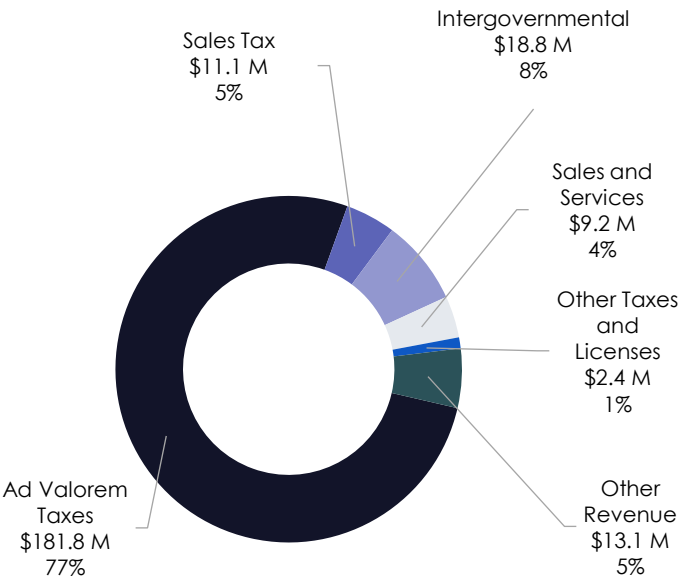
General fund revenues budgeted, YTD actual, and prior year YTD actual*



*Percentage labels represent actual revenues as a percent of budget

Q2 FY2025 Revenues by Type

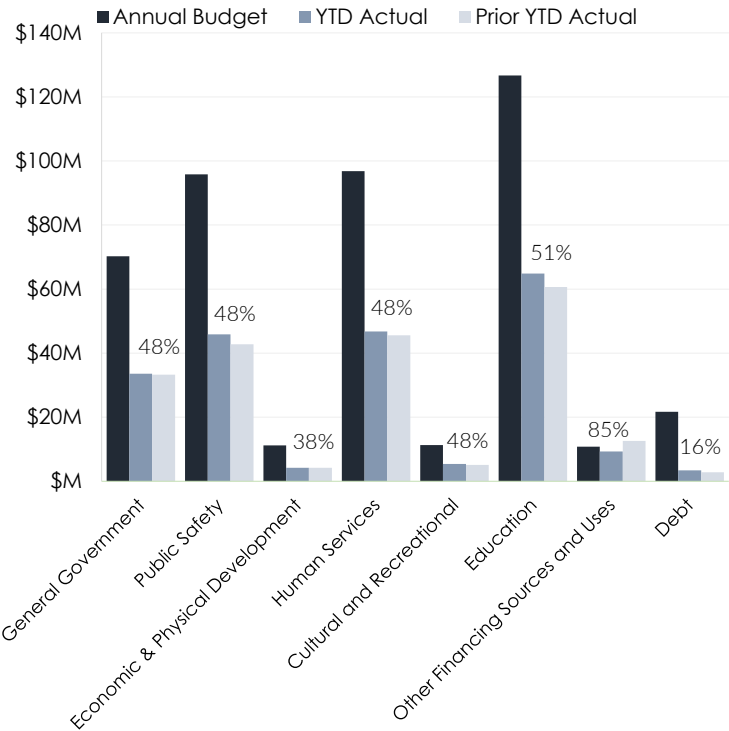
General fund YTD actual revenues



As of December 31, 2024, expenditure actuals are approximately 48% of the budgeted amount, which is approximately 3% greater than the prior year. Debt Service is approximately 20% higher, due to the addition of 2024 Limited Obligation Bonds and General Obligation Bonds, where interest payments started in December. Capital Outlay is approximately 19% higher than prior year actuals, attributed to vehicle and ambulance purchases. Salaries and Benefits are approximately 7% higher than same time last year actuals, but remain in line with budget expectations at 49% of budget spent. Program Support is approximately 4% higher than same time last year actuals, where education funding makes up 82% of the total Program Support expenditures to date.

Q2 FY2025 Expenditures by Function

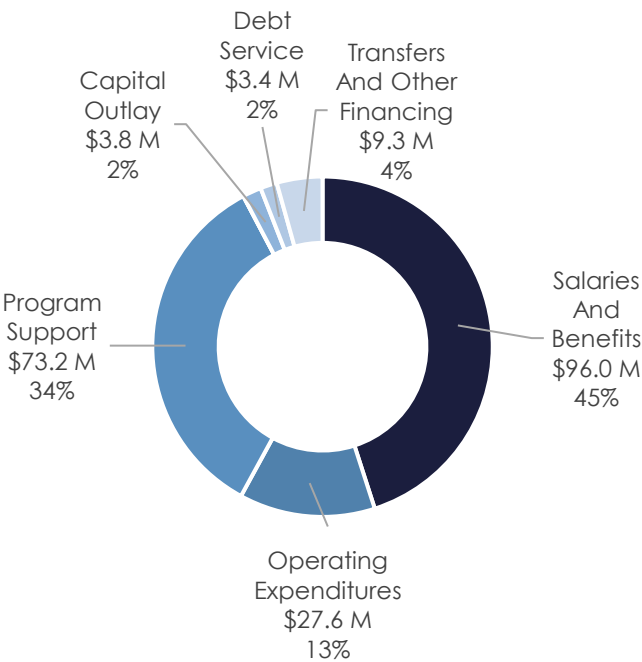
General fund expenditures budgeted, YTD actual, and prior YTD actual*



*Percentage labels represent actual expenditures as a percent of budget

Q2 FY2025 Expenditures by Type

YTD Actual General fund expenditures by major expenditure categories



Solid Waste Overview

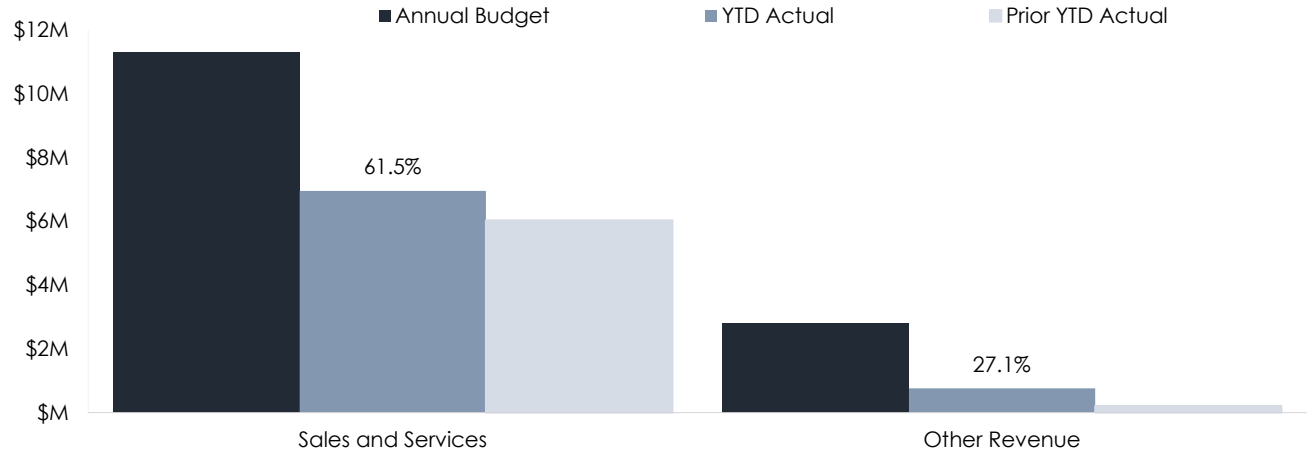
Solid Waste is made up of the Landfill and Transfer Station. The Transfer Station serves as a drop-off location for residential and commercial waste, which is then transferred to the Landfill.

The largest driver of revenues for the Solid Waste fund is Sales and Services. Year to date Sales and Services revenues as of Q2 FY2025 are ahead of prior year revenues, showing a 15% growth. Disposal rates are \$45/ton at the Landfill and \$52/ton at the Transfer Station.

Q2 FY2025 expenditures are approximately 6% greater than prior year expenditures. Indirect Cost charges, costs assigned for General Fund support, to the Solid Waste Fund in the current year account for the largest year over year increase, at 55%. Capital Outlay and Debt Service spending are lower than same time last year, at 29% and 19% lower, respectively. Salaries and Benefits and Operating Expenditures are within expectations.

Q2 FY2025 Revenues

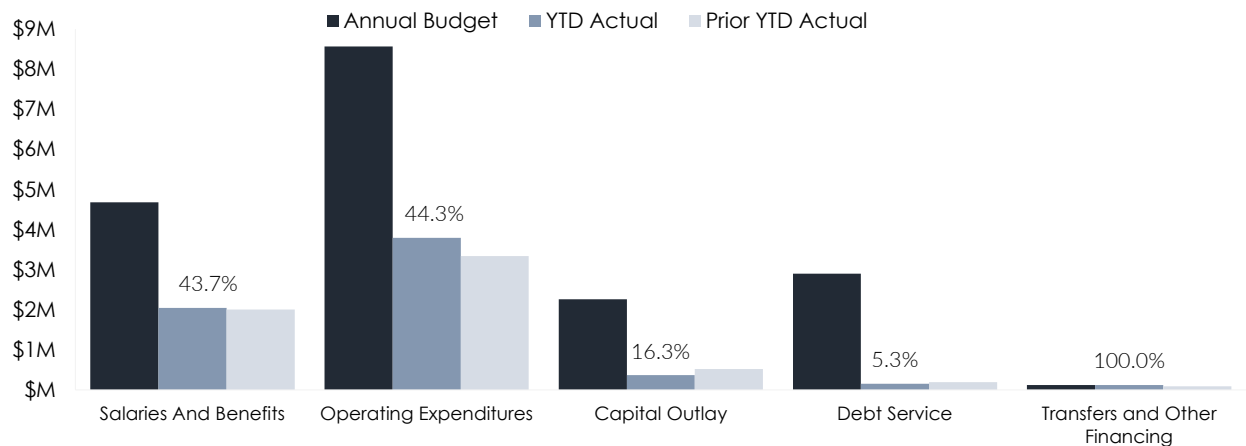
Solid Waste fund revenues budgeted, YTD actual, and prior YTD actual*



*Percentage labels represent actual revenues as a percent of budget

Q2 FY2025 Expenditures by Category

Solid Waste fund expenditures budgeted, YTD actual, and prior YTD actual*

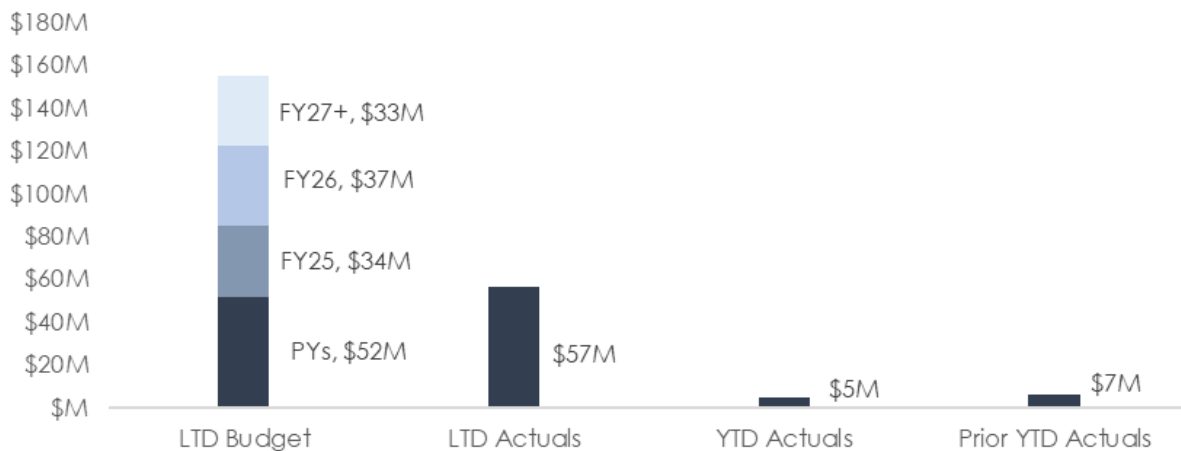


*Percentage labels represent actual expenditures as a percent of budget

Capital Projects

Capital projects are typically owned and funded by the County. Capital projects include construction, renovation, demolition projects, major maintenance, or acquisition of land or other assets. On an annual basis, capital projects are presented to the Board for approval. Capital projects typically take years to complete due to the extensive amount of work that must go into planning, procuring goods and services, designing, and construction. Life to date budget below depicts the estimated future spend. See Appendix C for more information.

Capital Project Expenditures



Donations

The Board-adopted Donation Policy identifies cash, cash equivalent, or real or personal property as acceptable donations. Donations may only be accepted when they have a purpose consistent with Buncombe County’s goals and objectives. Buncombe County may choose to reject donations with an implied or express condition of advocacy or discrimination based on political, religious, or other group affiliation.

DONATIONS MADE TO BUNCOMBE COUNTY – FY25 - FOR THE QUARTER ENDING	
DEC 31	Total
Monetary:	\$ 106,935
Division of Social Services	41,070
Emergency Services	21,246
Family Justice Center	5,000
Library	16,810
Sheriff's Office	22,809
Grand Total	\$ 106,935

Appendix A

General Fund Major Revenue Sources

Property Tax

Property taxes are the single largest source of revenue for counties in North Carolina, accounting for 63% of Buncombe County's General Fund budgeted revenues for FY2025. Both real property and personal property are subject to taxation unless specifically exempted or excluded. Property values are assessed January 1st of each year, are due September 1st, and are payable without interest at any time through the following January 5th. This results in the largest portion of property taxes being received in December and early January of the fiscal year.

FY2025 Estimated Property Tax Revenue		
Assessed Valuation		\$ 53,646,145,354
Tax Rate <i>per \$100 of Assessed Valuation</i>	x	\$ 0.5176
Tax Levy		\$ 277,672,448
Estimated Collection Rate	x	99.75%
Estimated Revenue		\$ 276,978,267
Value of 1 Cent		\$ 5,351,203

At the end of the second quarter, \$181.8 million of property tax revenues were received which is 65.5% of the budgeted amount. Last year same time collection rate was 73.8%.

Sales Tax

The County levies four local-option retail sales and use taxes that total 2.25%. Approximately 65% of the 2.25% levied by the County impacts the General Fund:

Amount	State Legislation G.S. 105 -	Local Legislation/ Commission Action	Distribution and Use Restrictions
1%	Article 39	Senate Bill 888 Ratified June 21, 2016	50% School Capital Commission Fund Remaining proceeds distributed to other taxing districts and County General Fund.
0.50%	Article 40		30% Public Schools ADM Capital Projects Fund Remaining proceeds distributed to other taxing districts and County General Fund.
0.50%	Article 42		60% Public Schools ADM Capital Projects Fund Remaining proceeds distributed to other taxing districts and County General Fund.
0.25%	Article 46	Resolution #17-06-03 Adopted June 6, 2017	100% Article 46 Capital Projects Fund (currently designated for AB-Tech capital and operating needs).

Sales tax is tracked closely throughout the year given its unpredictable and volatile nature. Economic trends such as consumer spending, inflation, and unemployment rates correlate with sales tax revenues. Sales tax proceeds are collected by retailers and remitted to the NC Department of Revenue (DOR). The DOR allocates a portion of the revenues to counties on either a point-of-origin or per capita basis based on statutes governing each article of sales tax. The remittance and distribution schedule results in a three month lag in sales tax receipts.

General Fund Sales Tax revenues represent July, August, and September sales. At the end of the second quarter, \$11.1 million, or 23.7%, of estimated sales tax revenues were received. Prior Year sales tax revenues showed \$11.5 million. Hurricane Helene hit the area on the morning of September 27, following days of extreme rain, disrupting major infrastructure and retail. The County will continue to closely monitor sales tax trends.

Intergovernmental

Intergovernmental revenues include grants and programmatic payments from federal, state, and other local government units. These revenues account for 11.2% of General Fund budgeted revenues. The majority of these revenues are generated from the County's Health and Human Services function, which is comprised of Public Health, Social Services, and other Youth and Aging Services. These services generate approximately 84.9% of all intergovernmental revenues. These revenues are often received on a reimbursement basis. At the end of the second quarter, \$18.8 million, or 38.1%, of estimated intergovernmental revenues were received.

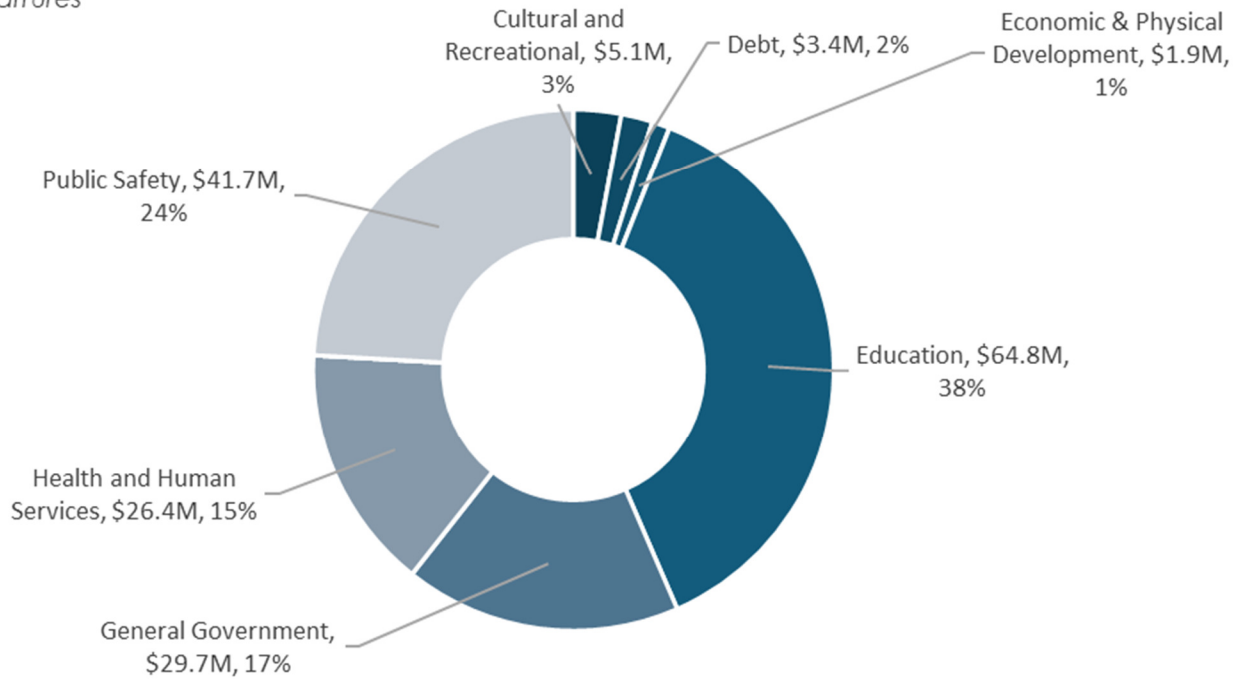
Appendix B

Net County Cost

The net county cost breakdown of General Fund expenditures provides information on the functions that are supported by general purpose revenues such as property tax and sales tax. This breakdown nets out other revenues such as state and federal allocations and program generated revenues, creates a more precise way to view direct cost impact to property taxpayers, and shifts the ranking of functions by expenditures in notable ways. For example, the total expenditures budget for Health and Human Services is higher than the budgeted amount for Public Safety but as shown below, this relationship is reversed after intergovernmental and other Health and Human Services-specific revenues are considered.

Q2 FY2025 Net County Cost

YTD actual net cost after function-specific revenues are subtracted from expenditures



Appendix C Capital Projects List

COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS						Projected Spend*			
EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT	Project Complete/Notes	Budget	Q2 FY2025 YTD Actual	LTD Actual	% of Expended	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
Debt									
Fund 341 Administration		4,663,994		4,702,714	100.83%	-	-	-	-
Emergency Services									
FY20 Garren Creek Tower Retrofit	X	884,825		637,249	72.0%	-	-	-	-
FY25 Shelter Resiliency Generator Project		2,301,000		-	0.0%	100,000	1,500,000	701,000	
FY23-24 Ambulances		854,640	554,495	554,495					
General Services									
Detention Center Cooling Tower Replacement	X	376,940		338,128	89.7%	-	-	-	-
FY20 Fleet and General Services Complex		10,227,532	1,577,365	4,487,562	43.9%	5,739,970	-	-	-
FY20 Interchange Building		468,641	10,500	27,900	6.0%	100,000	351,241	-	-
FY20 Parking Lot Improvements Countywide	X	946,523	16,000	942,584	99.6%	3,939	-	-	-
FY21 Courthouse Repairs		596,239	-	378,819	63.5%	217,420	-	-	-
FY21 Jail Repairs		786,358	8,905	75,160	9.6%	355,599	355,599	-	-
FY21 Solar on Public Facilities		10,592,728	(81,942)	10,369,745	97.9%	247,666	-	-	-
FY22 40 Coxe Interior Renovation	X	1,213,615		1,200,194	98.9%	13,421	-	-	-
FY22 Administration Building Envelope Repair	Consolidated into FY24 200 College St. Renovation Project	-	(124,801)	-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
FY22 BAS System for Detention Center		174,052		-	0.0%	174,052	-	-	-
FY22 Lake Julian Bathroom Additions		674,160	46,701	529,630	78.6%	167,854	-	-	-
FY22 New Restroom Facility for Sports Park	X	159,000		152,061	95.6%	-	-	-	-
FY22 Planning for Forward Facing Building		200,000		186,000	93.0%	14,000	-	-	-
FY22 Solar Panel Installation Phase 2	X	400,000		330,237	82.6%	-	-	-	-
FY23 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure		120,000		78,100	65.1%	31,000	-	-	-
FY23 EMS East Base Construction		6,600,000	33,946	589,640	8.9%	1,100,000	4,910,360	-	-
FY23 Facility Assessment - Renovation		4,010,000	100,211	382,096	9.5%	516,253	972,183	2,139,468	-
FY23 Library Renovation		691,654		-	0.0%	30,000	207,496	454,158	-
FY23 Solar on Schools & Public Buildings	X	5,587,850		1,329,850	23.8%	125,000	-	-	-
FY23 West Asheville EMS Base Design	X	650,000	2,552	47,809	7.4%	-	-	-	-
FY24 200 College St. Renovation		4,958,869	164,090	862,850	17.4%	3,000,000	1,096,019	-	-
FY24 35 Woodfin Renovation for Forward Facing Facility		6,847,480	1,034,460	1,368,080	20.0%	5,479,400	-	-	-
FY24 Comprehensive Facility Assessment Renovation & Repair		1,235,625	71,300	144,683	11.7%	200,000	890,942	-	-
FY24 County Courthouse Renovation & Repair		15,096,571	237,688	433,470	2.9%	2,000,000	12,663,101	-	-
FY24 Countywide Paving (includes Lake Julian Park)		3,033,350		-	0.0%	1,000,000	2,033,350	-	-
FY24 Detention Center Facility Assessment Renovation & Repair		1,325,492	420,931	1,030,835	77.8%	147,312	-	-	-
FY24 New Storage Facility - Design		4,212,000	30,888	63,180	1.5%	176,530	1,500,000	2,493,350	-
FY25 205 College St. Renovation & Repair		1,231,217		-	0.0%	130,000	1,101,217	-	
FY25 35 Woodfin 911 Backup Center Renovation		3,814,670	390,082	390,082	10.2%	3,424,588	-	-	-
FY25 Comprehensive Facility Assessment Renovation & Repair		251,683		-	0.0%	83,894	83,894	83,894	-

Appendix C Capital Projects List

COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS						Projected Spend*			
EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT	Project Complete/Notes	Budget	Q2 FY2025 YTD Actual	LTD Actual	% of Expended	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
FY25 Countywide Roofing & Parking Decks Renovation & Repair		2,512,926	14,800	14,800	0.6%	900,000	1,598,126	-	-
FY25 Detention Center Dryer Installation		300,000		-	0.0%	245,000	-	-	-
FY25 Detention Center Facility Assessment Renovation & Repair		1,852,576	282,080	282,080	15.2%	267,507	237,806	532,592	532,592
FY25 EMS Local Base – Design		750,000		-	0.0%	-	525,000	225,000	-
FY25 EMS Regional Base - Land & Design		1,760,000		-	0.0%	-	1,200,000	560,000	-
FY25 New Parks and Recreation Facility – Design		217,084		-	0.0%	217,084	-	-	-
Sidewalks - General		207,000		-	0.0%	-	207,000	-	-
Warren Wilson Pool	Canceled	300,000		-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Governing Body									
BOC Contingency		23,435		-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Information Technology									
FY21 Broadband Projects	X	200,442	20,484	160,255	80.0%	-	-	-	-
FY24 Fire Station Alerting/Paging		2,000,000		320	0.0%	2,000,000	-	-	-
FY25 PSIP Core System Replacement		10,000,000	36,212	36,212	0.4%	200,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	750,000
Interfund Transfers									
Fund 341 Administration		15,602,759		15,538,049	99.6%	-	-	-	-
Library									
East Asheville Library	X	6,977,466		6,901,091	98.9%	-	-	-	-
Recreation Services									
FY20 Grading and Paving of Old Playground at Lake Julian		-		-	0.0%		-	-	-
FY20 Lake Julian Shelter Replacements	X	100,000	27,533	99,869	99.9%	-	-	-	-
FY22 Buncombe County Sports Park Dog Park	X	80,500		77,479	96.2%	-	-	-	-
FY23 Recreation Services Master Plan		315,175	66,093	180,878	57.4%	8,227	126,070	-	-
Greenways Contingency		148,849		-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Hominy Creek Greenway		-		-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Orchard Street Park	Pending proposal	150,000		-	0.0%	49,500	49,500	51,000	-
Reems Creek Greenway		600,000	94	94	0.0%	-	-	-	600,000
Silverline Park	X	650,000		650,000	100.0%	-	-	-	-
Woodfin Greenway: Beaverdam Creek		4,060,557	37,678	222,392	5.5%	-	995,775	2,842,390	-
Woodfin Greenway: Highway 251		10,992,444	6,126	1,006,212	9.2%	-	2,291,522	7,694,711	-
Sustainability									
FY25 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure		425,930		-	0.0%	300,000	125,930	-	-
Total Capital Projects		155,413,851	4,984,472	56,802,884	36.5%	28,765,215	37,022,132	19,777,563	1,882,592

* Projections subject to change

Appendix D
General Fund Budget Amendments

Adopted General Fund Budget:		7/1/2024 \$	440,025,235
First Quarter Amendments:			
County Match related to Broadband Infrastructure (Economic Development)	September		411,408
Second Quarter Amendments:			
Acceptance of Donations (Libraries)	October		16,560
Budget Carryforwards	October		3,976,304
North Carolina Disaster Rental Assistance Program (HHS)	December		199,296
Amended General Fund Budget		12/31/2024 \$	444,628,803

Appendix E Fund Report

SUMMARY ANNUAL FUNDS FUND	Annual Budget	Revenue		Expenditures	
		YTD Actual	% of Budget	YTD Actual	% of Budget
100 General	444,628,803	236,426,118	53.2%	213,280,497	48.0%
120 Air Quality	1,349,960	460,678	34.1%	655,657	48.6%
220 Occupancy Tax	40,000,000	11,113,340	27.8%	11,113,340	27.8%
221 Reappraisal Reserve Fund	916,550	-	0.0%	329,786	36.0%
223 911	1,736,815	110,375	6.4%	488,893	28.1%
225 ROD Automation	153,000	71,234	46.6%	23,875	15.6%
226 Register of Deeds	320,000	113,460	35.5%	85,549	26.7%
228 Special Taxing Districts	68,348,257	39,280,537	57.5%	26,023,823	38.1%
229 Opioid Settlement	3,314,860	314,855	9.5%	1,337,122	40.3%
230 Transportation	8,677,457	499,216	5.8%	2,368,063	27.3%
231 Woodfin PDF	794,058	210	0.0%	146,925	18.5%
270 Forfeitures	208,000	109,282	52.5%	14,856	7.1%
272 Sondley Estate Trust Fund	-	17,742	0.0%	-	0.0%
273 School Fines and Forfeitures	2,000,000	360,465	18.0%	266,709	13.3%
276 Representative Payee	500,000	310,079	62.0%	246,668	49.3%
466 Solid Waste	18,535,710	7,720,504	41.7%	6,489,986	35.0%
467 Real-Time Intelligence Center	210,000	11,556	5.5%	-	0.0%
469 Inmate Commissary	453,411	184,886	40.8%	199,337	44.0%
480 Health and Dental Insurance	39,318,854	22,081,270	56.2%	18,998,950	48.3%
481 LGERS Stabilization	357,422	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
482 Medicare Benefits	1,064,417	928,112	87.2%	504,706	47.4%
483 Workers' Compensation	1,874,957	1,324,394	70.6%	572,491	30.5%
484 Property and Liability Insurance	2,606,866	2,073,949	79.6%	1,617,051	62.0%
Total Annual Funds	637,369,397	323,512,263	50.8%	284,764,283	45.8%

SUMMARY MULTI-YEAR FUNDS FUND	Annual Budget	Revenue		Expenditures	
		LTD Actual	% of Budget	LTD Actual	% of Budget
224 Special Programs	63,965,662	42,460,839	66.4%	23,792,433	37.2%
326 Public School Capital Needs Fund	395,197,095	359,879,741	91.1%	310,117,770	78.5%
327 Grant Projects	168,248,442	139,452,031	82.9%	105,526,557	62.7%
333 AB Tech	222,822,822	214,406,603	96.2%	196,225,065	88.1%
335 Public School ADM Sales Tax and Lottery Projects	109,332,585	83,756,828	76.6%	84,141,232	77.0%
341 Capital Project	155,413,851	84,605,190	54.4%	56,802,884	36.5%
342 Landfill Capital Projects	15,211,211	14,961,211	98.4%	13,238,033	87.0%
343 Housing/Open Space Bond Projects	44,230,889	15,618,407	35.3%	404,511	0.9%
Total Multi-Year Funds	1,174,422,557	955,140,851	81.3%	790,248,484	76.7%

Appendix F General Fund By Function Report

SUMMARY GENERAL FUND FUNCTION	Annual Budget	Revenue		Expenditures		
		YTD Actual	% of Budget	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	% of Budget
Cultural and Recreational	644,940	273,996	42.5%	11,323,089	5,388,392	47.6%
Debt	3,955,294	4,289	0.1%	21,656,974	3,378,454	15.6%
Economic & Physical Development	5,470,054	2,300,454	42.1%	11,161,938	4,220,258	37.8%
Education	-	-		126,724,467	64,806,056	
General Government	10,791,848	3,880,979	36.0%	70,259,347	33,616,788	47.8%
General Revenues	339,470,885	200,381,015	59.0%	-	-	0.0%
Health and Human Services	46,554,826	20,361,739	43.7%	96,862,767	46,739,248	48.3%
Other Financing Sources and Uses	20,796,261	5,052,543	24.3%	10,845,574	9,258,471	85.4%
Public Safety	16,944,695	4,171,104	24.6%	95,794,647	45,872,829	47.9%
Total General Fund	444,628,803	236,426,118	53.2%	444,628,803	213,280,497	48.0%

Relevant Financial Policies

[Fund Balance Policy](#)

[Debt Policy](#)

[Debt Transparency Dashboard](#)

[Investment Policy](#)



Buncombe County FY2025 2nd Quarter Financial Report

Presented by

Melissa Moore



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



FY2025 2nd Quarter Items for Review

- ✓ General Fund Budget to Actual Summary
- ✓ Solid Waste Fund- Enterprise Fund
- ✓ County Capital Projects



FY2025 General Fund Budget to Actual

Revenue by Type

(in millions)

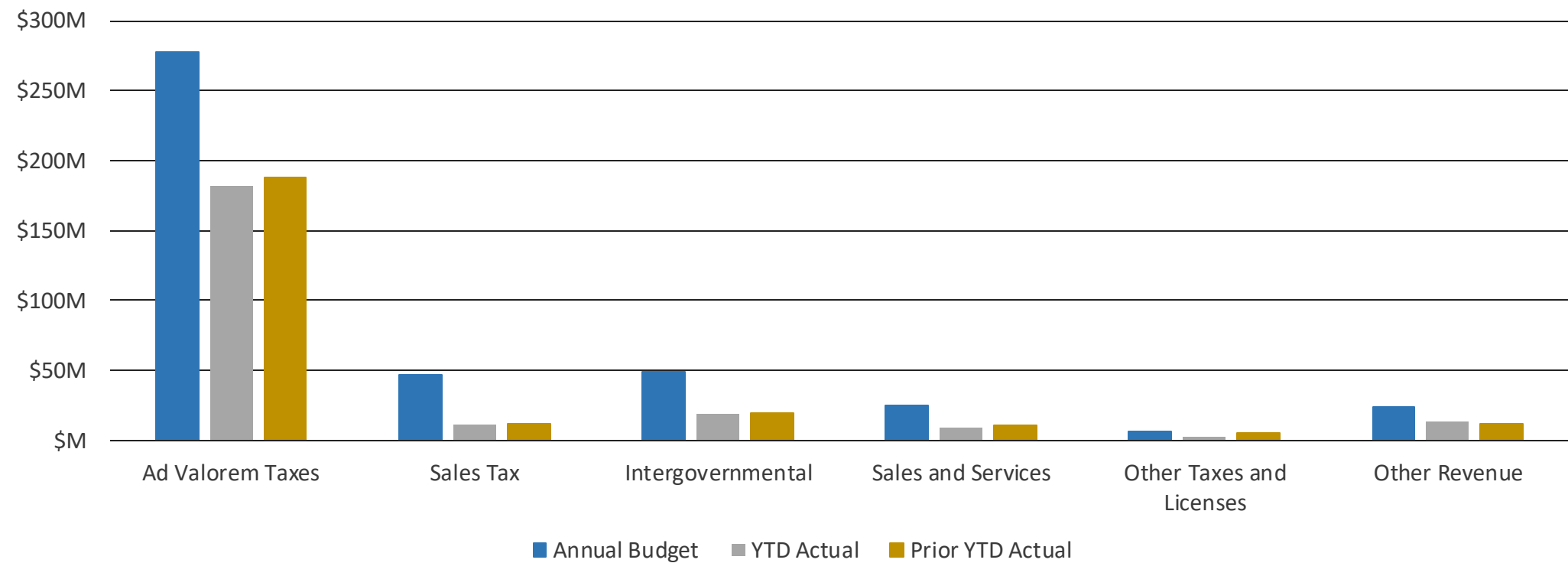
Q2 = 50% of the fiscal year

*Amended Budget = \$444.6M

YTD Actual = \$263.4M

PY YTD Actual = \$246.7M

53.2% of budget, 4.2% decrease from PY



*Includes Appropriated Fund Balance of \$15.7M

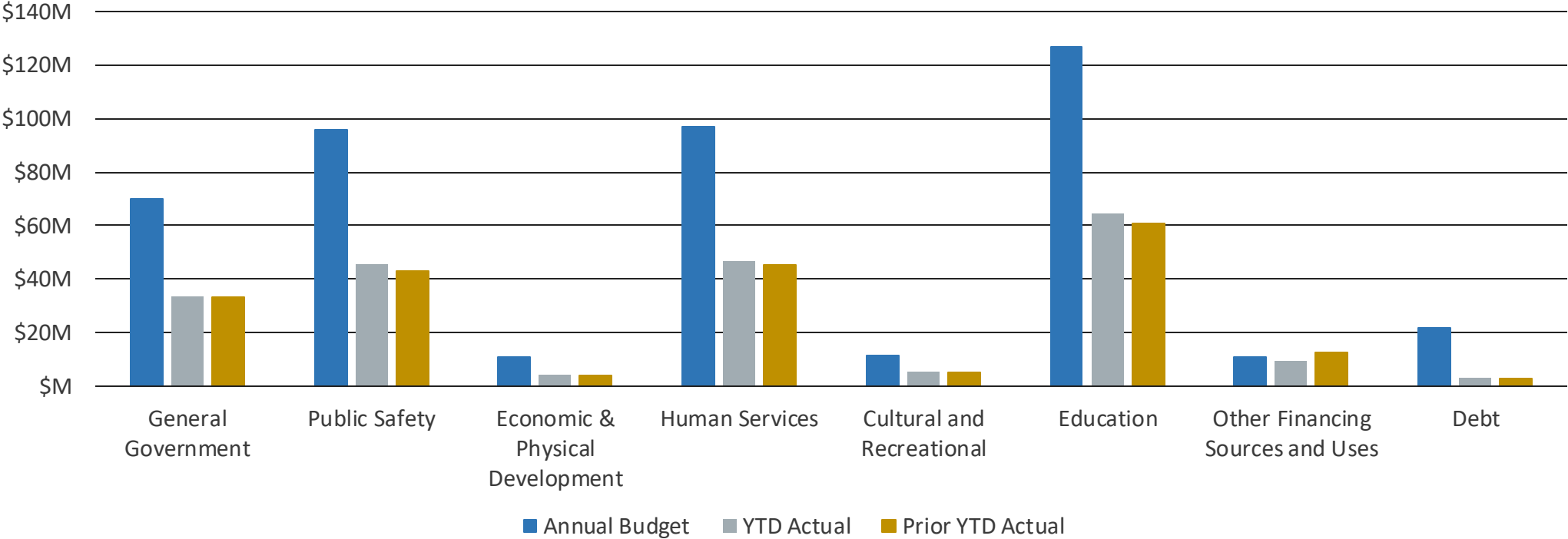
FY2025 General Fund Budget to Actual Expenditure by Function

(in millions)

Q2 = 50% of the fiscal year

Amended Budget = \$444.6M
YTD Actual = \$213.3M
PY YTD Actual = \$207.0M

48.0% expended, 3.0% increase from PY



FY2025 General Fund Budget to Actual Expenditure by Category

(in millions)

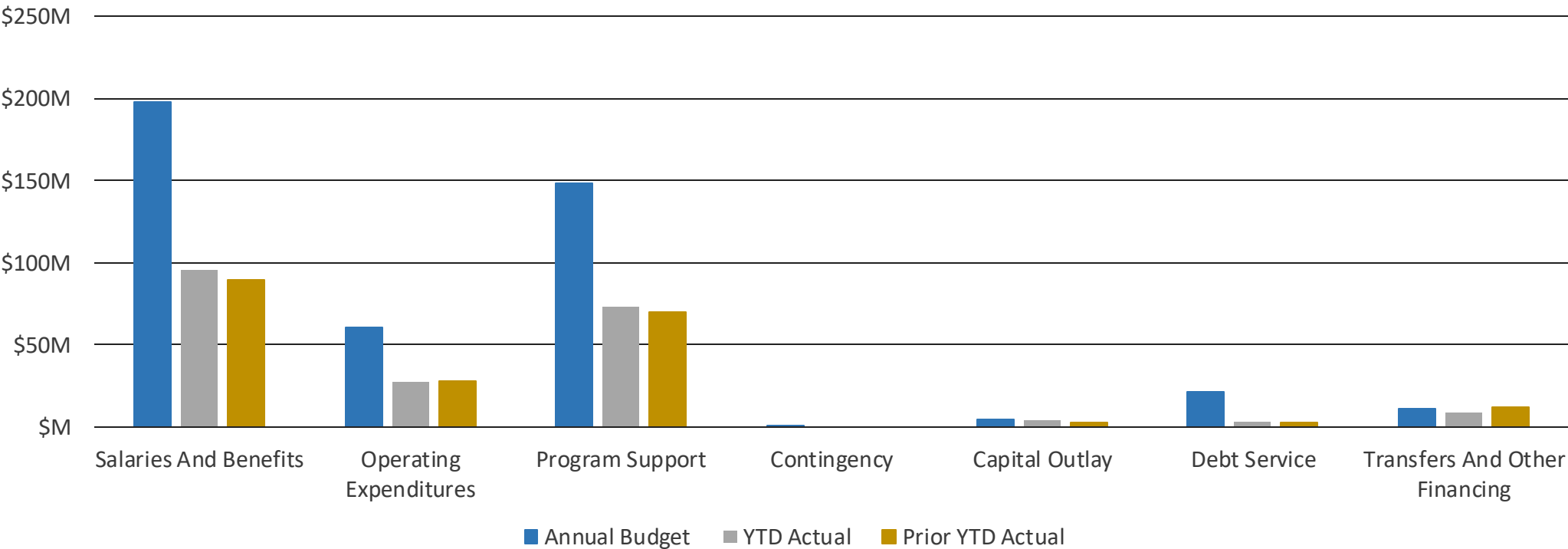
Q2 = 50% of the fiscal year

Amended Budget = \$444.6M

YTD Actual = \$213.3M

PY YTD Actual = \$207.0M

48.0% expended, 3.0% increase from PY



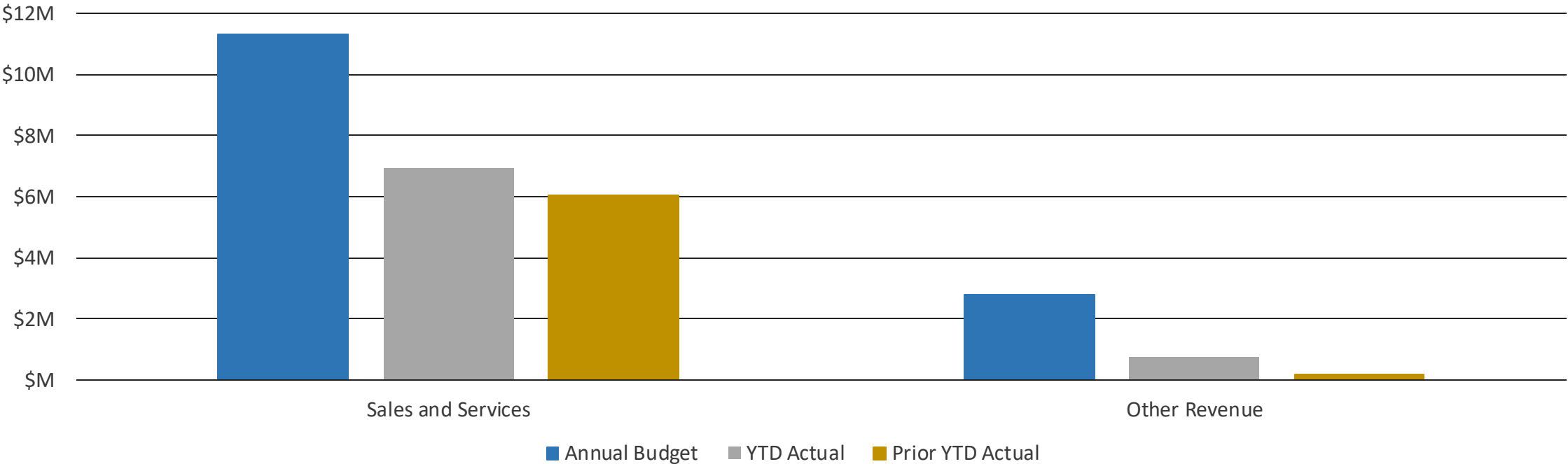
FY2025 Solid Waste Fund Budget to Actual Revenue by Type

(in millions)

Q2 = 50% of the fiscal year

*Amended Budget = \$18.5M
YTD Actual = \$7.7M
PY YTD Actual = \$6.2M

41.7% of Budget, 23.8% increase from PY



*Includes Appropriated Fund Balance of \$4.4M

FY2025 Solid Waste Fund Budget to Actual Expenditure by Category

(in millions)

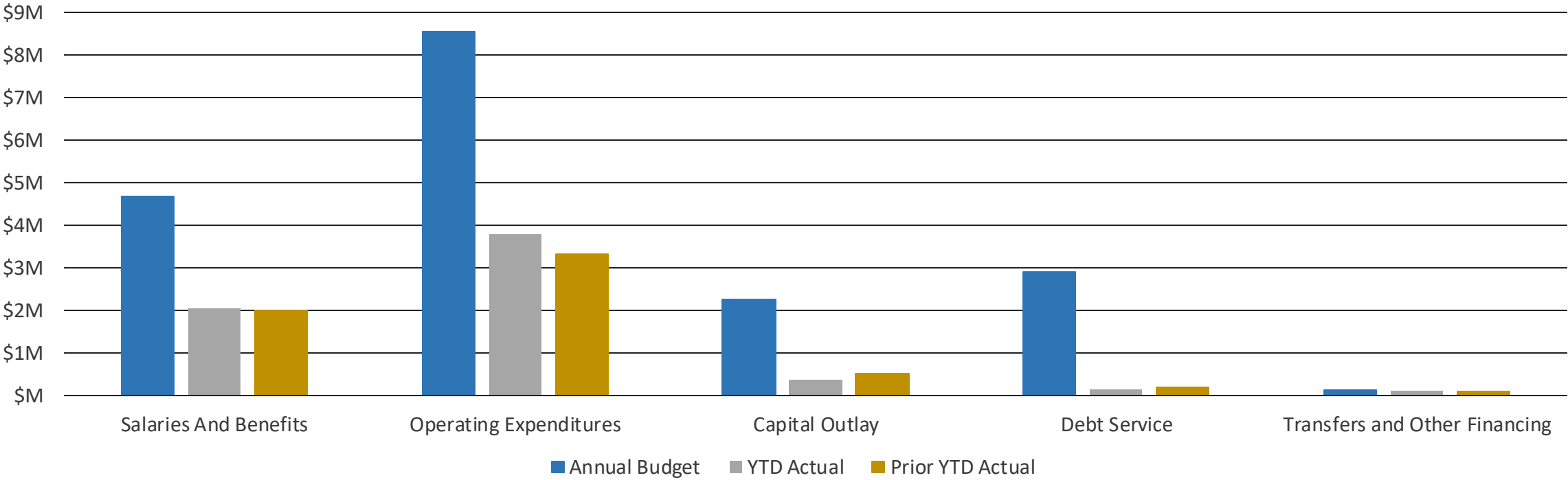
Q2 = 50% of the fiscal year

Amended Budget = \$18.5M

YTD Actual = \$6.5M

PY YTD Actual = \$6.1M

35.0% expended, 5.6% increase from PY



FY2025 County Capital Projects

(in millions)

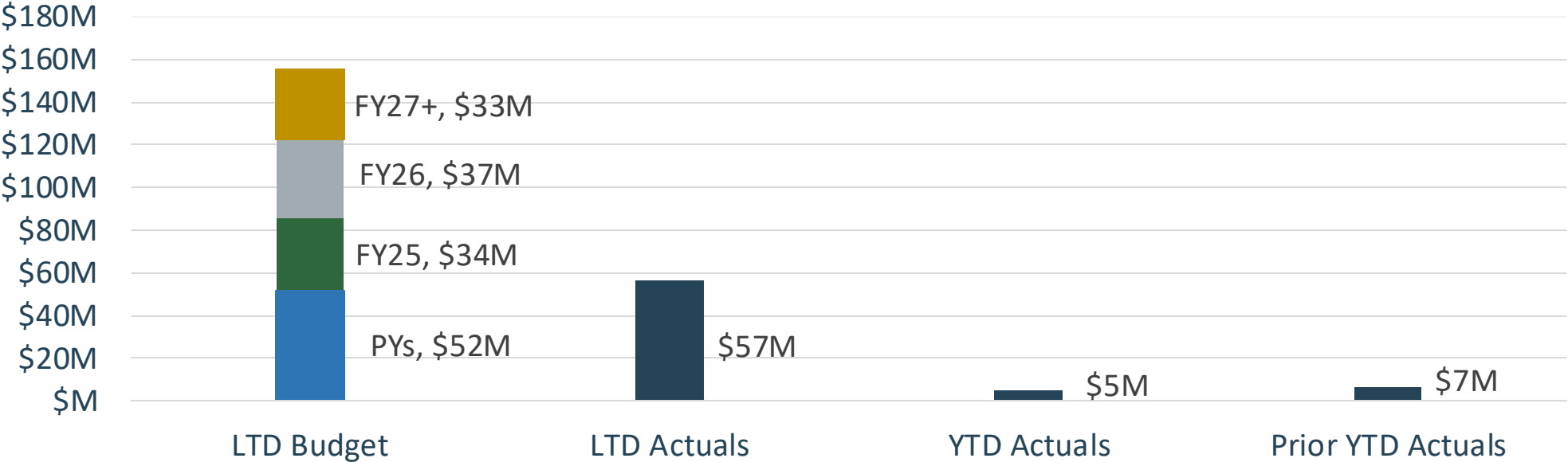
LTD Budget = \$155.4M

LTD Actuals = \$56.8M

YTD Actuals = \$5.0M

PY YTD Actuals = \$6.5M

36.5% of Budget (LTD), 23.9% decrease from PY (YTD)



Questions?





Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

New Business

Department: Governing Body **Presenter(s):** Commissioner Sloan

Contact(s): Commissioner Sloan

Subject: Resolution in support of the Eastern Hellbender's Endangered Listing

Brief Summary:

On December 12th, 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposal to list the eastern hellbender as an endangered species throughout its range under the Endangered Species Act. And as part of that process, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin to accept public comments for a 60-day period as a part of that listing. Buncombe County has the duty to express its full and unwavering support for the endangered listing proposal for the eastern hellbender, so we can preserve this important species for future generations. The proposed resolution will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a public comment and stance of North Carolina's 7th largest County & that is home to eastern hellbenders.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Motion to approve the resolution to support the Eastern Hellbender's Endangered Listing.

County Manager's Comments & Recommendations:

County Manager recommends as presented

RESOLUTION NO. 25-02-05

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EASTERN HELLBENDER'S ENDANGERED LISTING

WHEREAS, on December 12th, 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposal to list the eastern hellbender as an endangered species throughout its range under the Endangered Species Act.; and,

WHEREAS, as part of that process, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin to accept public comments for a 60-day period as a part of that listing; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County views the Endangered Species Act and the listing of species as key to the preservation of biodiversity across the country and believes in its core purpose; and,

WHEREAS, the impacts of Hurricane Helene have damaged the natural environment across Appalachia, destroying and polluting essential habitat, which will require governmental investment and intervention to repair and stabilize; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is home to eastern hellbender populations and tributaries of the French Broad, and has consistently sought to improve water quality, streambanks, and conserve the natural environment to safeguard habitat for the wildlife in our County; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is the elected representative body of the 269,000+ citizens in our community, many of which are committed to the preservation and protection of the natural world and the creatures that inhabit it; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County has the duty to express its full and unwavering support for the endangered listing proposal for the eastern hellbender, so we can preserve this important species for future generations; and,

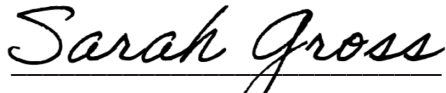
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Commission, North Carolina as follows:

1. Submits this resolution to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an official public comment and stance of North Carolina's 7th largest County & that is home to eastern hellbenders; and,
2. That this resolution is sent to our Members of Congress, Representative Edwards and Senators Budd and Tillis displaying our support for this federal policy and listing as key for successful conservation.

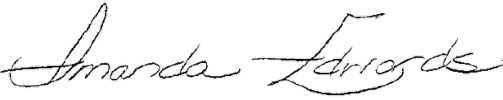
Adopted this 4th day of February, 2025.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

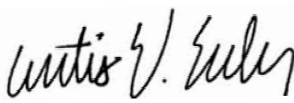


Sarah Gross, Clerk

By: 

Amanda Edwards, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM



County Attorney



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

New Business

Department:

Health and Human Services

Presenter(s):

John Hudson, Budget Director

Contact(s):

Ellis Matheson, Public Health Director

Subject:

NC Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery Fund Award

Brief Summary:

The state is disbursing Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Fund in the amount of \$2,166,210 to help restore local health department essential functions and address the post-disaster needs of the local public health system during recovery to be used through 2030. Initially, funds will be used to ensure full service delivery for school nursing and animal shelter operations this year while further guidance is sought for eligible uses.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented



BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Grant Projects Ordinance

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 4, 2025

WHEREAS, the Budget Director recommends and the Board now desires to amend the FY2024-2025 Grants Projects outlined below in Exhibit "A" to the budget,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the FY2024-2025 amendments listed in Exhibit A below be hereby adopted.
2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 4th day of February, 2025

Granting Agency:	NC Department of Health and Human Services
Grant Name:	Hurricane Helene Essential Functions Support

Description:

The state is disbursing Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Fund in the amount of \$2,166,210 to help restore local health department essential functions and address the post-disaster needs of the local public health system during recovery to be used through 2030. Initially, funds will be used to ensure full service delivery for school nursing and animal shelter operations this year while further guidance is sought for eligible uses.

Funding Source:	NC Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery Fund
Award ID:	
CFDA Listing:	

Exhibit A: Account Description	Increase (Decrease)	
	Revenues	Expenditures
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 2,166,210	
Expenditures		\$ 2,166,210
TOTAL	\$ 2,166,210	\$ 2,166,210

ATTEST:

Sarah Gross

Clerk to the Board

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE:**

By: *Amanda Edwards*

Chair of the Board



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

New Business

Department: Planning & Development

Presenter(s): William High

Contact(s): William High

Subject: FY 2026 FTA Section 5307 Funding Rescission

Brief Summary:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requests subrecipients spend expiring transit funds. Buncombe County, because of existing FTA CARES and ARPA funding that must be spent before regular annual funding, will be unable to spend expiring regular funds in advance of expiration. Recognizing these constraints, and in support of the City of Asheville's funding needs for its ART transit system, County transportation staff recommend the Board of Commissioners consideration of rescinding funds to the City of Asheville to support its FY2026 transit activities. The following funding amounts in the following funding categories are recommended to be rescinded:

- \$782,544 in FY2020 Section 5307 annual allocations, and
- \$81,794 in FY2020 Section 5307 JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute).

County transportation staff recommend rescinding funds consistent with prior practice. The County has previously rescinded Section 5307 funds to support specific City of Asheville ART transit routes in the recent four (4) fiscal years with additional conditions applied in the last rescission.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Motion to rescind \$864,338 of suballocated FTA Section 5307 annual and JARC funds to support the ART transit system in FY 2026 conditional on the City of Asheville:

- Accepting the funds under the expectation that no additional funds will be requested for the continued operation of the New Leicester Highway Extension & Route 170 in FY2026, and
- Not seeking any FY26 Section 5310 traditional funds to support eligible services to provide Buncombe County additional opportunities to receive funds; and
- Evaluating WE2 Route changes to improve safer connections to Buncombe County's Enka-Candler Trailblazer Route; and
- Evaluating increased trip frequency for the S3 and S6 routes serving south Asheville.
-

County Manager's Comments & Recommendations:

County Manager recommends as presented.



FTA SECTION 5307 TRANSIT FUNDING

Presented by

William High, Lead Transportation Planner

Planning and Development Department, Community Development Division

February 4, 2025



FY 2026 5307 FUNDS AT RISK

ANNUAL = \$782,544

JARC = \$81,794

TOTAL= \$864,338



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Motion to rescind \$864,338 of suballocated FTA Section 5307 annual and JARC funds to support the ART transit system in FY 2026 conditional on the City of Asheville:

- Accepting the funds under the expectation that no additional funds will be requested for the continued operation of the New Leicester Highway Extension & Route 170 in FY2026; and
- Not seeking any FY26 Section 5310 traditional funds to support eligible services to provide Buncombe County additional opportunities to receive funds; and
- Evaluating WE2 Route changes to improve safer connections to Buncombe County's Enka-Candler Trailblazer Route; and
- Evaluating increased trip frequency for the S3 and S6 routes serving south Asheville.



February 4, 2025

**Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (Advisory, 2-year terms)
(2 reappointments)**

NAME	ZIP CODE	REQUIREMENT	EMPLOYER	RACE	GENDER	HISPANIC, LATINO OR SPANISH ORIGIN?	AGE	YEARS IN COUNTY
*Don Johnson <i>(reappointment)</i>	28711	Member of Faith Community	Retired pastor	White	Male		55+	6
*Andy Bobowski <i>(reappointment)</i>	28704	Community Member at-large	Backrs	White	Male	No	35-54	4