Board of Commissioners' Agenda

December 17, 2024

Commission Meetings are held at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment is taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Call To Order

top

Discussion / Adjustment / Approval To Follow Agenda

top

Consent Agenda top

1. Approval of the combined December 2, 2024, Special, Briefing and Regular meeting minutes
2. Budget amendment to accept foster care donations from Helping at Risk Kids, Inc.
    - Budget amendment

Public Comment

top

Good News

top

Presentations & Updates top

1. First Quarter Financial Update – FY2025
    - Report
2. Continuum of Care Quarterly Update
3. School Consolidation Study Update

Public Hearings

top

County Manager's Report top

1. Hurricane Helene Update

Old Business

top

New Business ▲top

1. Approval of COVID Recovery Fund Reallocations
   - More information
2. Approval of the Disaster Leave Policy
   - Disaster Leave Policy
   - More information
3. Budget amendment for Disaster Rental Assistance funding from the State
   - Budget amendment
   - More information

Board Appointments ▲top

- No Board Appointments (appointments will reinstate in January, 2025)

Announcements

▲top

Closed Session / Open Session

▲top

Adjournment

▲top

MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2024.

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Special Meeting on December 2, 2024, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina to hold board interviews for the Equalization and Review Board.

Present: Commissioner Terri Wells, Commissioner Al Whitesides; Commissioner Amanda Edwards; Vice-Chair Parker Sloan; Commissioner Martin Moore.

Absent: Chairman Brownie Newman; Commissioner Beach-Ferrara.

The Board held interviews for the Equalization and Review Board; the following 8 candidates interviewed: Phil Blake; Alla Kolomiyets; Cade Justad-Sandberg; Dr. Glenda Weinert; Katerina Leeger; Randall Barnett; Preston Edwards; Terry Sutton; Kristen Brumley Chianese.

MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' BRIEFING MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2024.

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Briefing Meeting on December 2, 2024, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Brownie Newman; Commissioner Terri Wells, Commissioner Al Whitesides; Commissioner Amanda Edwards; Vice-Chair Parker Sloan; Commissioner Martin Moore.

Absent: Commissioner Beach-Ferrara.

The following item was reviewed.

Hurricane Helene Recovery Update

Avril Pinder, County Manager, provided the Tropical Storm Helen Update to the Board. She explained that staff has shifted from emergency response to short-term recovery and the beginning of long-term recovery planning. The County continues to work with FEMA to process individual assistance applications and support the rebuilding process. A portion of debris removal has been completed, with varying progress across different zones in the County. The County has also provided essential services, including water distribution, comfort stations, and sanitation. As of now, the County is preparing for long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts, with a focus on restoring pre-storm operating norms and enhancing resilience. Damage assessments have been completed for County properties, and remediation work is ongoing. The County has also worked to provide temporary housing solutions for displaced residents, including approval for mobile homes and manufactured housing. FEMA's direct housing assistance program is helping families find new housing options, with 172 households already approved. The County continues to work closely with FEMA to expedite the housing process, and FEMA has extended the deadline for displaced residents to December 12, 2024. She explained that Community briefings are now held three times a week, with updates available online. Relief programs include grants for small businesses and individuals, with over 800 small business applications and household grants now open. The Hazard Mitigation Grant program, which helps elevate or reinforce homes, remains open, and there will be additional in-person opportunities in January.

MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2024.

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Regular Meeting on December 2, 2024, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Brownie Newman; Commissioner Terri Wells, Commissioner Al Whitesides; Commissioner Amanda Edwards; Vice-Chair Parker Sloan; Commissioner Martin Moore.

Absent: Commissioner Beach-Ferrara.

Chairman Newman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and provided opening statements.

Consent Agenda

1. Accept the October 2024 Tax Collection Report
2. Budget Amendment to accept State Library provided recovery funds
3. Budget Amendment to accept funds from Dogwood Health Trust to support the Syringe Service Program

Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and approved unanimously.

Organizational Ceremony

Chairman Newman introduced the Organization Meeting section, in which Oaths of Office were provided. Drew Reisinger, Register of Deeds, provided the Oath of Office to Elected Chair, Amanda Edwards; Reisinger proved the Oath of Office to Jennifer Horton, elected to represent District 1; the Honorable Judge Scott, District Court Judge provided the Oath of Office to Terri Wells, reelected to represent District 2; and Reisinger provided the Oath of Office to Parker Sloan, reelected to represent District 3.

Chair Edwards acknowledged the devastating impact of Tropical Storm Helen in Buncombe County, noting that the past couple of months have been the most challenging in the County's history. She reassured the community that the Commission will continue working to restore and improve the County and she expressed excitement and honor in serving as the first Chairwoman of the Buncombe County Commission, thanking outgoing Chair Brownie Newman for paving the way. The meeting then recessed for a short break, with plans to reconvene at 5:30

Chair Edwards called the meeting back to order after a short recess. The first item of business was to select a new Vice-Chair. Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to nominate Commissioner Martin Moore to serve as Vice-Chair, the motion was seconded by Chair Edwards and approved unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

New Business

Bonding of County Officials

Curt Euler, Senior Attorney provide the background information. He explained that pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 161-4, the Register of Deeds is required to have a bond not less than $10,000 and no more than $50,000 for the for the safekeeping of the books and records, and for the faithful discharge of the duties of their office. The Register of Deeds, Andrew Mark Reisinger was elected for a new four (4) year term of office starting December 2, 2024 and his existing bond needs to be renewed for an additional four (4) years. Legal and Risk Department has secured the extension of the Mr. Reisinger's bond. In addition, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-72-20, the Board of Commissioners are required to conduct an annual review of the bonds issued to County Officials for the faithful performance of their duties. The County needs to review the existing bonds for the Tax Collector, Finance Director, Register of Deeds, Sheriff and a blanket bond covering all county officials. The Legal and Risk Department has contacted each official and asked for any changes to the official's bond. No material changes were noted and no material changes to the bonds are needed.

Commissioner Moore made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Wells and carried unanimously.

Adoption of the Commissioner's 2025 Meeting Schedule

Sarah Gross, Clerk to the Board introduced the 2025 regular meeting schedule. She explained that regular meetings would continue to be held on the first and third Tuesday of every month and that the first meeting in July has been cancelled.

Commissioner Wells made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Sloan and carried unanimously.

Budget amendment to accept funds from the Office of Violence Against Women

John Hudson, Budget Director provided the background information. He explained that the primary activities for requested funds include grant allocations to ensure continuity of two key Family Justice Center service components: 1) fund one Trauma Informed Legal Assistant (TILA) within the Office of the District Attorney 40th Judicial District, and 2) fund two Trauma Informed FJC Intake Specialists contracted through Helpmate for FY25. A portion of project funds will also be utilized for travel/training for FJC partner staff to attend OVW sponsored and/or Family Justice Center Alliance events in each project year. Total funding is $500,000 over a three-year period.

Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Moore and carried unanimously.

Budget amendment to accept funds from the US Department of Justice

John Hudson, Budget Director provided the background information. He explained that the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has applied for and been awarded a $400,000 grant from the US Department of Justice for Promoting Access to Crisis Teams (PACT). The grant will fund two (2) contracted Licensed Clinician positions who will be assigned to Corresponding units. The Co-responder program is an alternative crisis response model where law enforcement is paired with a behavioral health professional to respond to non-violent 911 call related to mental health or substance use crises. The grant will also provide two (2) vehicles for the program as well as training and medical supplies budget. The period of performance is October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026.

Commissioner Sloan made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Wells and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: December 17, 2024

Consent Agenda

Department:
Health and Human Services

Presenter(s):
John Hudson, Budget Director

Contact(s): David Sweat, HHS Director
Rebecca Smith, Social Work Division Director

Subject: Foster Care Donation

Brief Summary:
Helping At Risk Kids, Inc. (HARK) donated $30,000 to the HHS, Social Work Foster Care Holiday Gifting Program. Funds are intended for purchasing gifts for children, youth and young adults in Buncombe County's foster care system this holiday season. This donation was accepted and processed in compliance with the County donations policy.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented

ORDINANCE # 24-12-06

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Grant Projects Ordinance

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 17, 2024

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 17th day of December, 2024

Granting Agency:	Health and Human Services
Grant Name:	Foster Care Donation

Description:

Helping At Risk Kids, Inc. (HARK) donated $30,000 to the HHS, Social Work Foster Care Holiday Gifting Program. Funds are intended for purchasing gifts for children, youth and young adults in Buncombe County's foster care system this holiday season. This donation was accepted and processed in compliance with the County donations policy.

Funding Source: Helping At Risk Kids (HARK) Donation

Exhibit A:	**Increase (Decrease)**	
Account Description	**Revenues**	**Expenditures**
Revenue	$ 30,000	
Expenditures		$ 30,000
TOTAL	$ 30,000	$ 30,000

ATTEST:

Aarah Mrau

Clerk to the Board

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE:

By: Amanda Edwards

Chairman of the Board

Buncombe County
FY2025 1st Quarter Financial Report

Presented by

Melissa Moore

FY2025 1st Quarter Items for Review

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

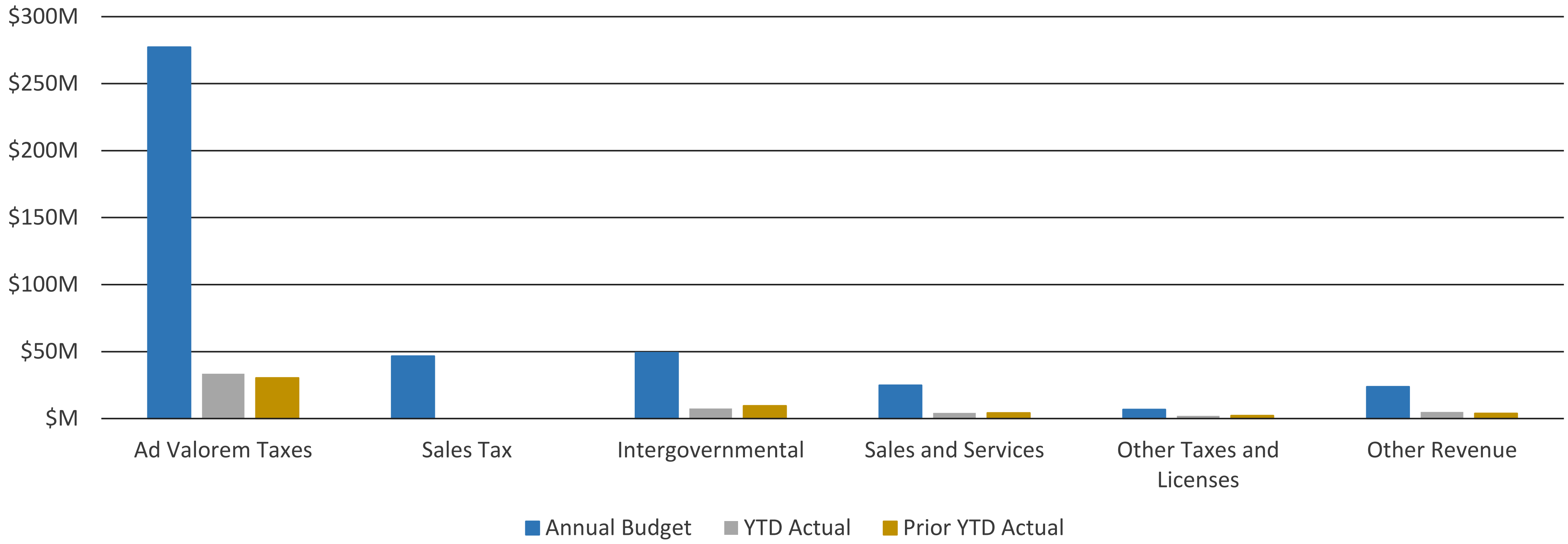
FY2025 General Fund Budget to Actual Revenue by Type

(in millions)

Q1 = 25% of the fiscal year

*Amended Budget = $440.4M
YTD Actual = $52.1M
PY YTD Actual = $50.2M

12.2% of budget, 3.8% increase from PY



*Includes Appropriated Fund Balance of $11.8M

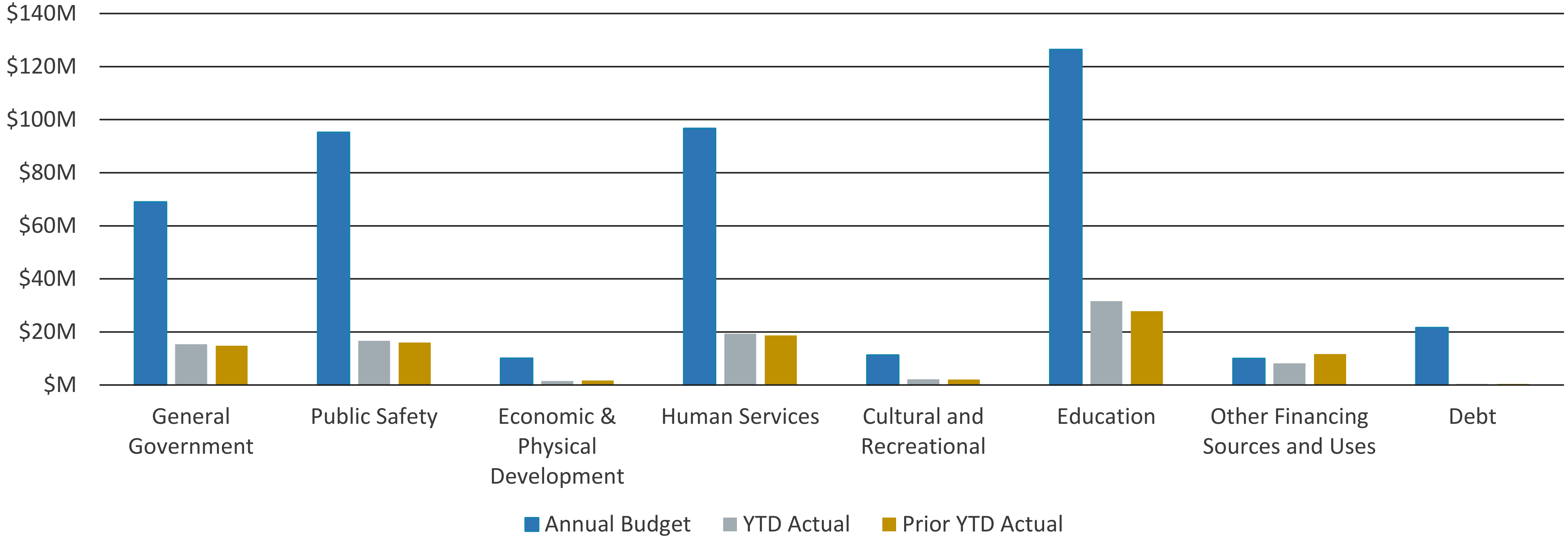
FY2025 General Fund Budget to Actual Expenditure by Function

(in millions)

Q1 = 25% of the fiscal year

Amended Budget = $440.4M
YTD Actual = $95.2M
PY YTD Actual = $93.1M

21.6% expended, 2.2% increase from PY



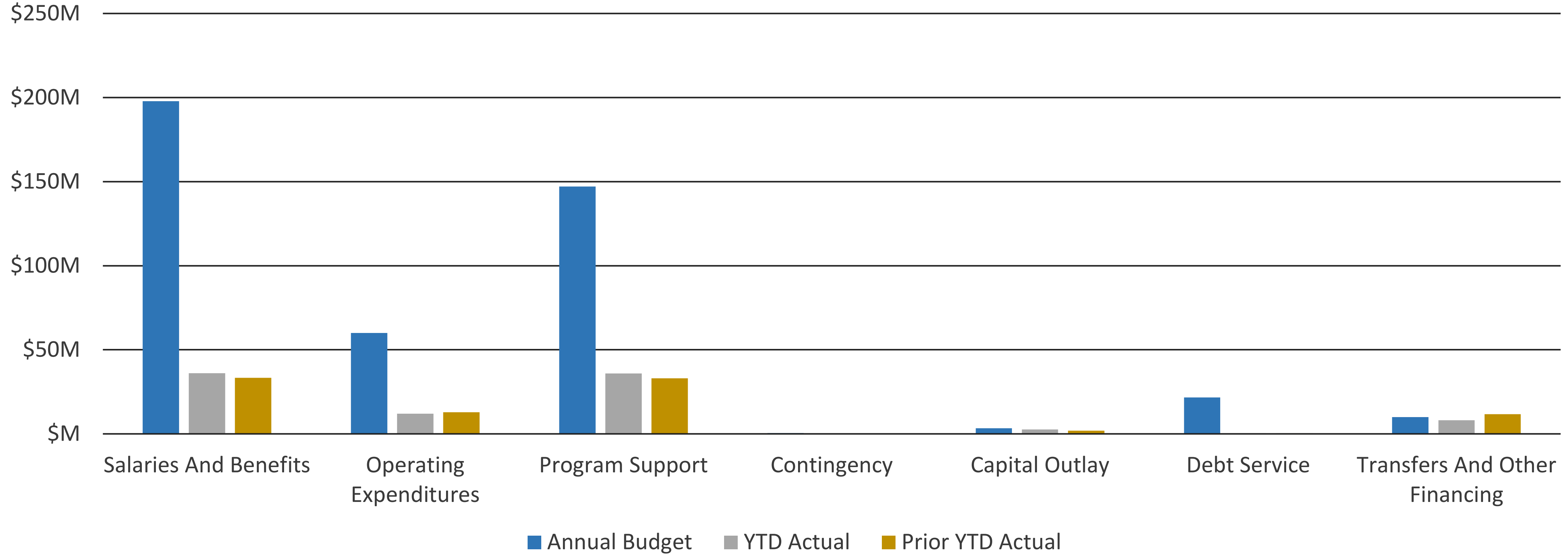
FY2025 General Fund Budget to Actual Expenditure by Category

(in millions)

Q1 = 25% of the fiscal year

Amended Budget = $440.4M
YTD Actual = $95.2M
PY YTD Actual = $93.1M

21.6% expended, 2.2% increase from PY

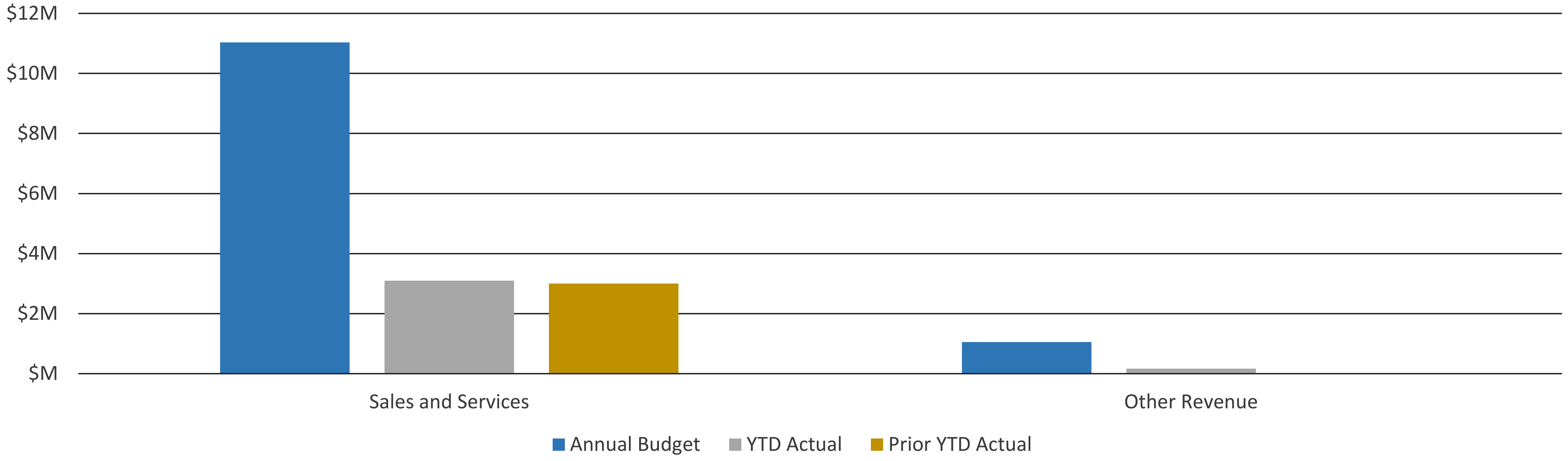


FY2025 Solid Waste Fund Budget to Actual Revenue by Type
(in millions)

Q1 = 25% of the fiscal year

*Amended Budget = $16.5M
YTD Actual = $3.3M
PY YTD Actual = $3.0M

19.8% of Budget, 8.7% increase from PY



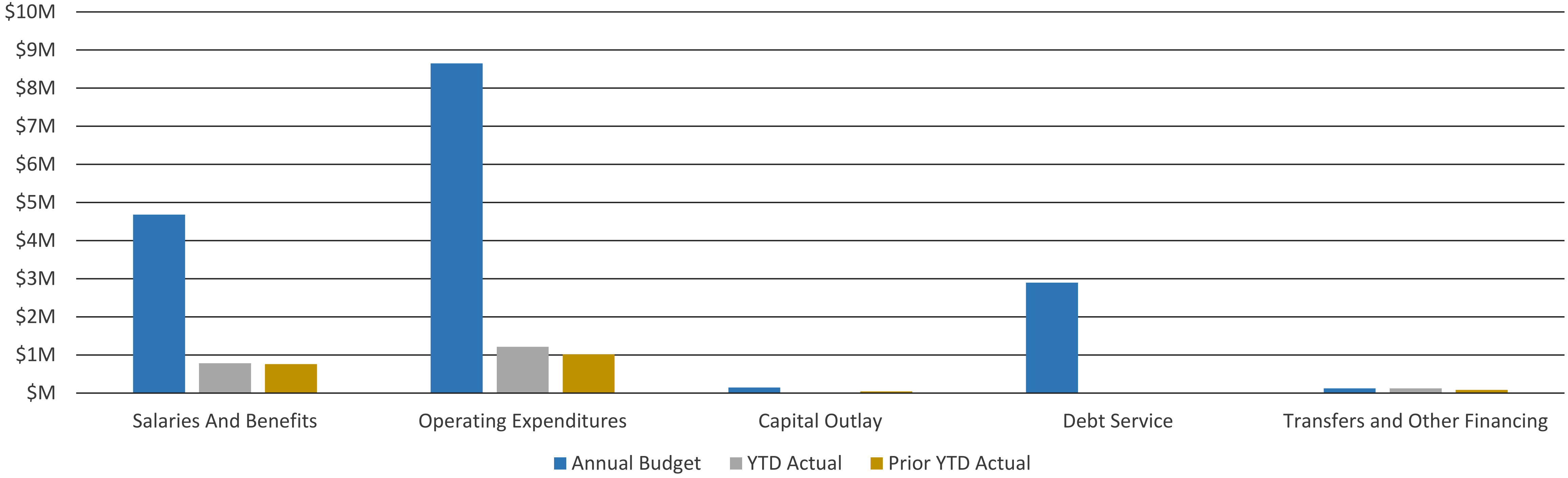
*Includes Appropriated Fund Balance of $4.4M

FY2025 Solid Waste Fund Budget to Actual Expenditure by Category
(in millions)

Q1 = 25% of the fiscal year

Amended Budget = $16.5M
YTD Actual = $2.1M
PY YTD Actual = $1.9M

12.9% expended, 11.5% increase from PY

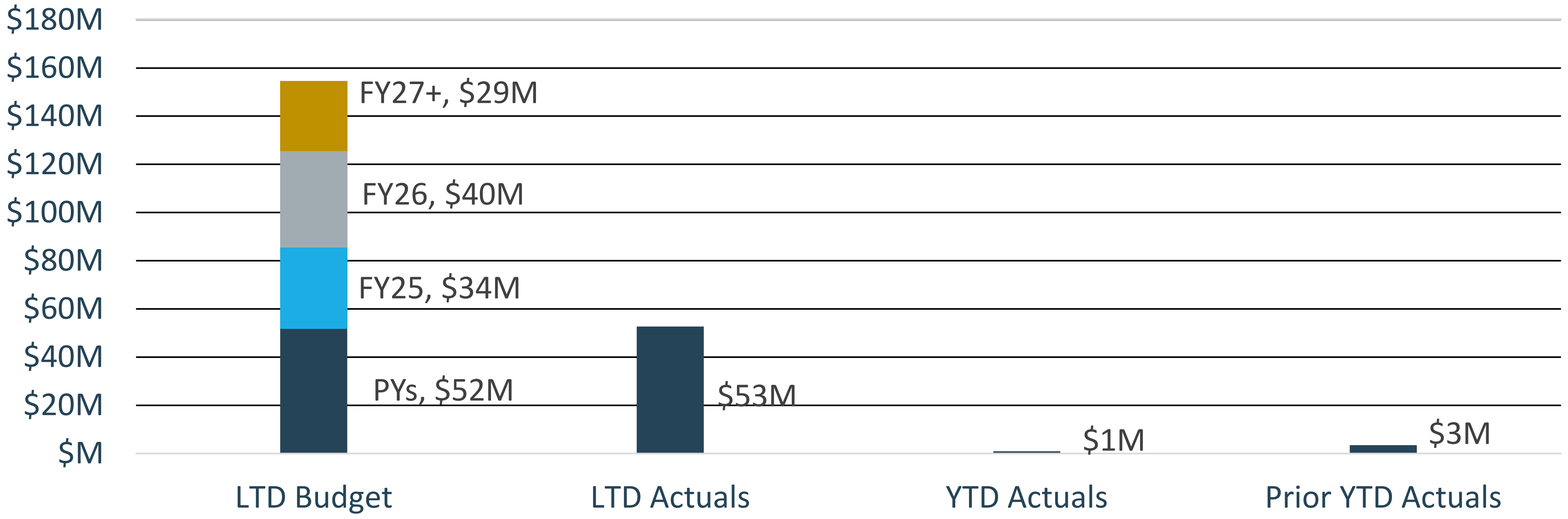


FY2025 County Capital Projects

(in millions)

LTD Budget = $154.6M
LTD Actuals = $52.8M
YTD Actuals = $1.0M
PY YTD Actuals = $3.4M

34.1% of Budget (LTD), 71.8% decrease from PY (YTD)



Questions?

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Quarterly Financial Report

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brownie Newman, Chair
Parker Sloan, Vice Chair
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara
Amanda Edwards
Martin Moore
Terri Wells
Al Whitesides

COUNTY MANAGER

Avril Pinder

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Melissa Moore

PREPARED BY

Finance Department

Table of Contents

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025

Quarter 1

September 30, 2024

Executive Summary

I am pleased to present you with Buncombe County's Quarterly Financial Report for the quarter ended September 30, 2024. This report includes General Fund budget versus actual, Q1 FY2025 year to date actuals versus Q1 FY2024 year to date actuals, a summary of major revenue sources, current net county cost actuals, Solid Waste summary, Capital Project overview, investments, and donation activity.

General Fund Revenues:

- Budget of $440.4 million, which includes $11.8 million of appropriated fund balance.
- Actuals year to date total $52.1 million, which is 11.8% of the amended budget and 3.8% greater than the same time prior year.
- Prior year actuals totaled $50.2 million.
- Current year increase in revenues are attributed to growth in property taxes.
- Property tax makes up $33.4 million, or 64% of revenues.

General Fund Expenditures:

- Budget of $440.4 million.
- Actuals year to date total $95.2 million, which is 21.6% of the amended budget and 2.2% greater than the same time prior year.
- Prior year actuals totaled $93.1 million.

Solid Waste Revenues:

- Budget of $16.5 million, which includes $4.4 million in appropriated fund balance.
- Actuals year to date total $3.3 million, which is 19.8% of the amended budget and 8.7% greater than the same time prior year.
- Prior year actuals totaled $3.0 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 $16.5 million.
- Actuals year to date total $2.1 million, which is 12.9% of the amended budget and 11.5% greater than the same time prior year.
- Prior year actuals totaled $1.9 million.
- Current year increase in expenditures is driven by Solid Waste Disposal Tax remitted to the North Carolina Department of Revenue and interfund transfers related to current year capital outlay.

County Capital Projects:

- Budget of $154.6 million.
- Life to date expenditures total $52.7 million, or 34.1% 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.

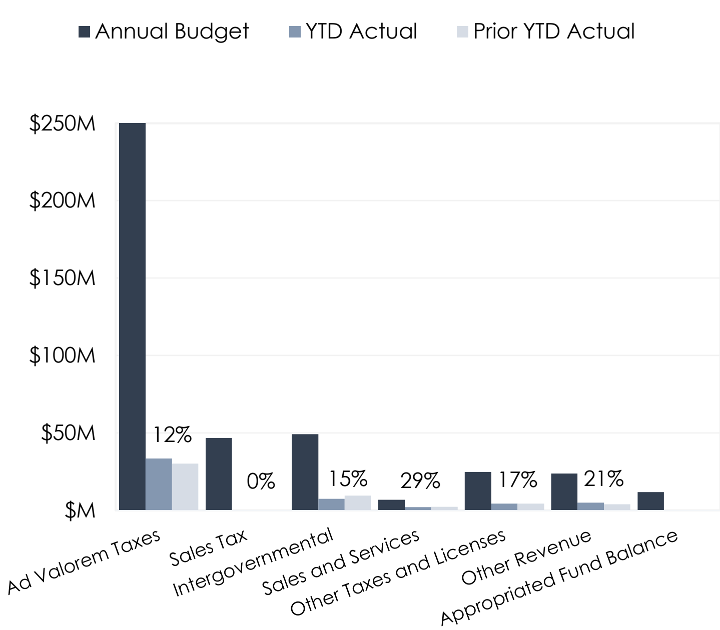
Melissa Moore
Finance Director

General Fund Overview

FY25 Quarter 1 General Fund revenues are approximately 12% of the budgeted amount. At the end of first quarter, the assumption is that revenues will be at least 25% of budget, however due to the timing and seasonality of revenue collection, this is not the case. Ad valorem taxes are largely collected between November-January. Local option sales tax is received on a three-month lag and will not be reflected in the actual totals until October. Intergovernmental revenues include grant revenue which is dependent on grant spending and reimbursement timing. See "General Fund Major Revenue Sources" for additional information.

Q1 FY2025 Revenues

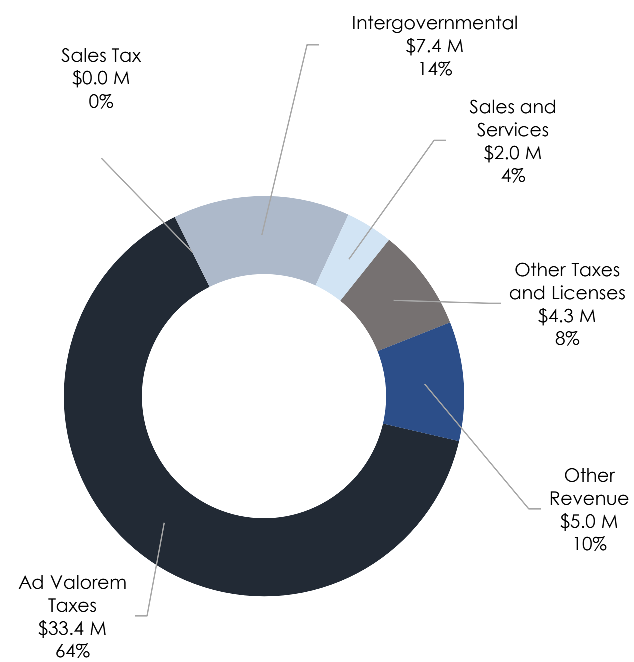
*General fund revenues budgeted, YTD actual, and prior YTD actual**



**Percentage labels represent actual revenues as a percent of budget*

Q1 FY2025 Revenues by Type

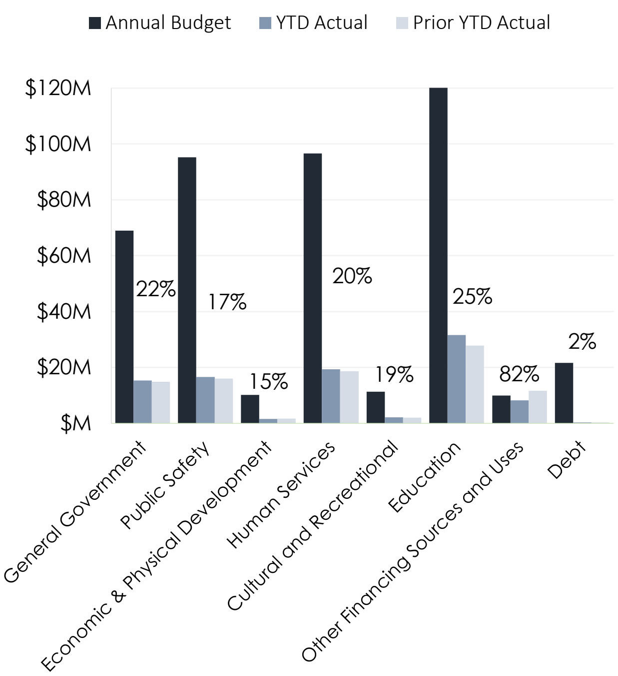
General fund YTD actual revenues



As of September 30, 2024, expenditure actuals are approximately 22% of the budgeted amount, which is approximately 2% greater than the same time last year, in line with expectations. Other Financing Sources and Uses actuals are 82% spent and relate to interfund transfers for pay-go capital costs and county matches for grants, posted at the beginning of each fiscal year. Debt Service payments typically occur in December and June of each fiscal year, resulting in low spending for the first quarter.

Q1 FY2025 Expenditures by Function

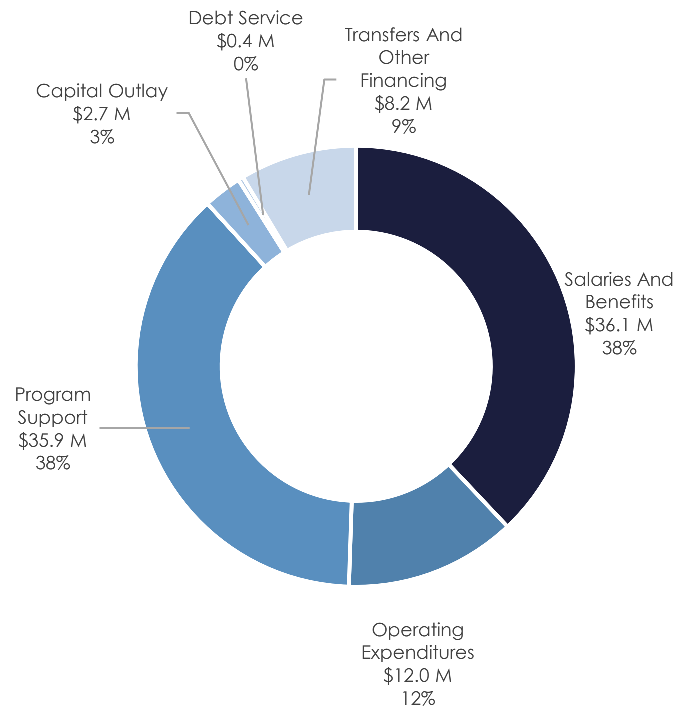
*General fund expenditures budgeted, YTD actual. and prior YTD actual**



**Percentage labels represent actual expenditures as a percent of budget*

Q1 FY2025 Expenditures by Type

YTD Actual General fund expenditures by major expenditure categories



Solid Waste Overview

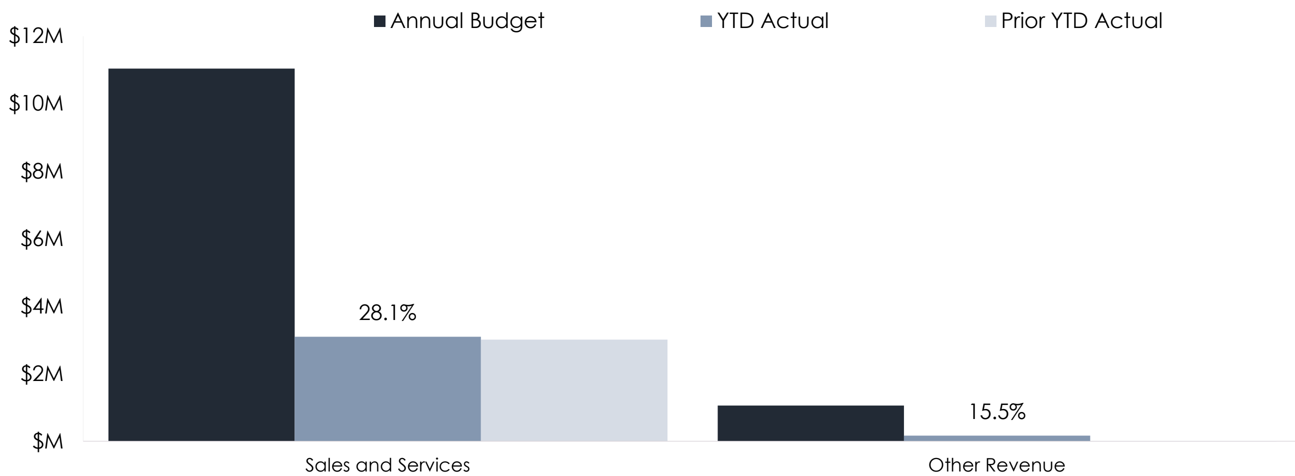
Solid Waste is made up of the Landfill and Transfer Station. The Transfer Station serves as a drop-off location for residential and commercial waste, which is then transferred to the Landfill.

The largest driver of revenues for the Solid Waste fund is Sales and Services. Year to date Sales and Services revenues as of Q1 FY2025 are ahead of prior year revenues, showing a 9% growth. Disposal rates are $45/ton at the Landfill and $52/ton at the Transfer Station.

Q1 FY2025 expenditures are approximately 12% greater than prior year expenditures due to an increase in leased equipment costs, timing of Solid Waste Disposal Tax remitted to the North Carolina Department of Revenue, and interfund transfers for capital equipment in the current year. As the fiscal year progresses, Buncombe County Finance will monitor spending activity and note any anomalies against prior year trends and current year budget.

Q1 FY2025 Revenues

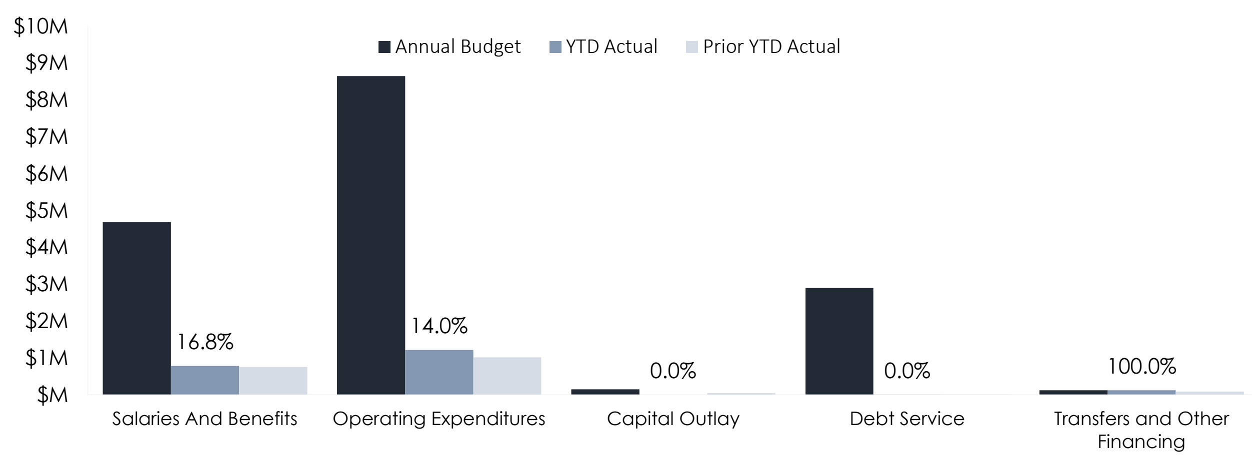
*Solid Waste fund revenues budgeted, YTD actual, and prior YTD actual**



**Percentage labels represent actual revenues as a percent of budget*

Q1 FY2025 Expenditures by Category

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

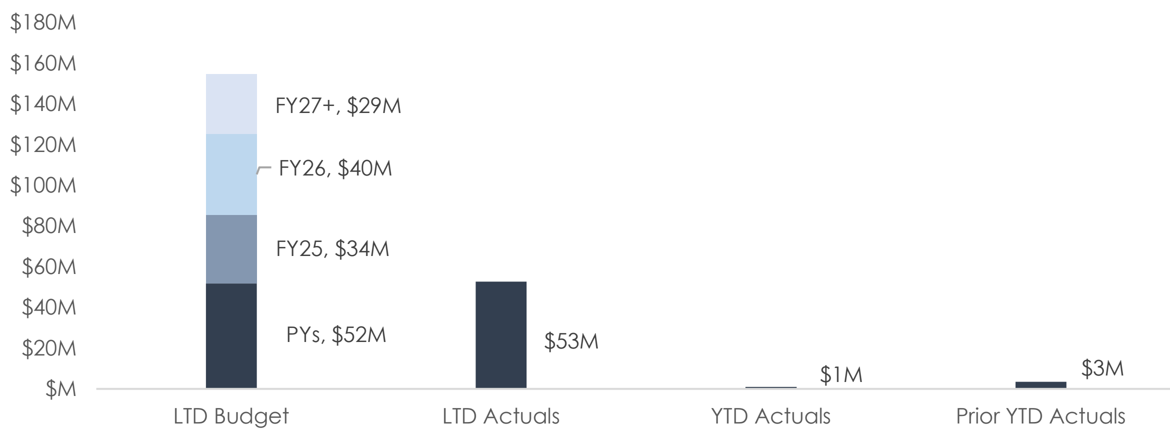


**Percentage labels represent actual expenditures as a percent of budget*

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 SEP 30	Total
Monetary:	**$ 19,831**
Library	16,560
Sheriff's Office	3,271
Grand Total	**$ 19,831**

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 *per $100 of Assessed Valuation*	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 first quarter, $33.4 million of property tax revenues were received which is 12.0% of the budgeted amount. Last year same time collection rate was 11.9%.

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.

Sales tax revenues related to FY25 will begin to post in the second quarter.

Intergovernmental

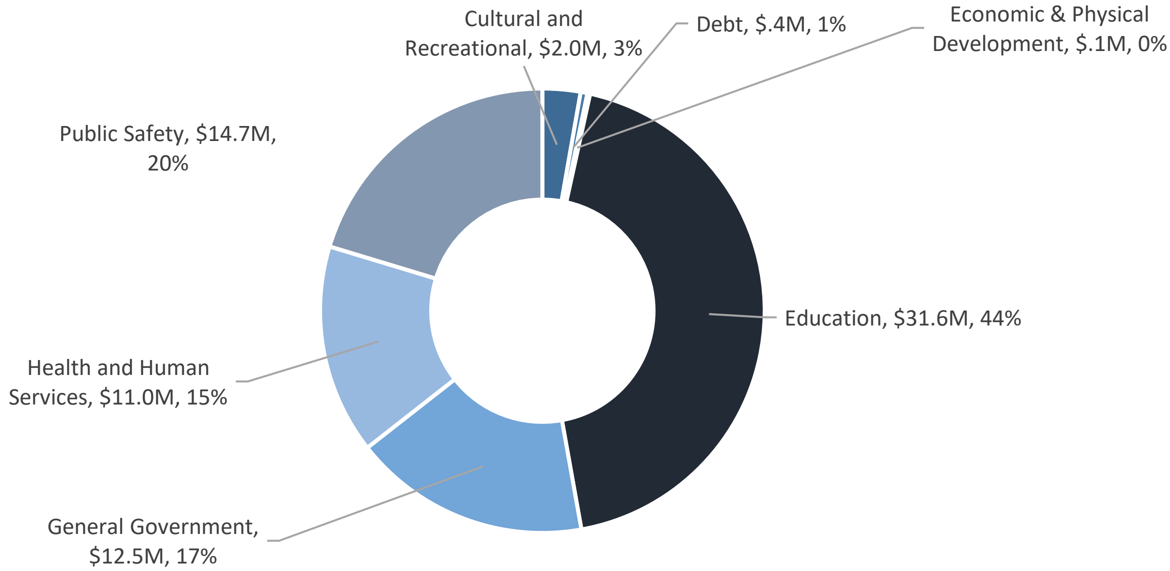
Intergovernmental revenues include grants and programmatic payments from federal, state, and other local government units. These revenues account for 11.2% of General Fund budgeted revenues. The majority of these revenues are generated from the County's Health and Human Services function, which is comprised 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 first quarter, $7.4 million, or 15.1%, 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.

Q1 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	Budget	Q1 FY2025 YTD Actual	LTD Actual	% of Expended	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
Debt								
Fund 341 Administration	4,663,994		4,662,974	99.98%	-	-	-	-
Emergency Services								
FY20 Garren Creek Tower Retrofit	884,825		637,249	72.0%	-	-	-	-
FY25 Shelter Resiliency Generator Project	2,301,000		-	0.0%	100,000	1,500,000	701,000	
General Services								
Detention Center Cooling Tower Replacement	376,940		338,128	89.7%	-	-	-	-
FY20 Fleet and General Services Complex	10,084,093	483,087	3,393,284	33.6%	6,690,809	-	-	-
FY20 Interchange Building	468,641		17,400	3.7%	100,000	351,241	-	-
FY20 Parking Lot Improvements Countywide	946,523	11,000	937,584	99.1%	8,939	-	-	-
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	(106,625)	10,345,062	97.7%	247,666	-	-	-
FY22 40 Coxe Interior Renovation	1,213,615		1,200,194	98.9%	13,421	-	-	-
FY22 Administration Building Envelope Repair	-	(124,801)	-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
FY22 BAS System for Detention Center	174,052		-	0.0%	174,052	-	-	-
FY22 Lake Julian Bathroom Additions	674,160	23,377	506,306	75.1%	167,854	-	-	-
FY22 New Restroom Facility for Sports Park	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	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%	1,749,458	4,260,902	-	-
FY23 Facility Assessment - Renovation	4,010,000	14,617	296,501	7.4%	516,253	972,183	2,225,063	-
FY23 Library Renovation	691,654		-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
FY23 Solar on Schools & Public Buildings	5,587,850		1,329,850	23.8%	258,000	4,000,000	-	-
FY23 West Asheville EMS Base Design	650,000	2,552	47,809	7.4%	120,438	-	-	-
FY24 200 College St. Renovation	4,958,869	124,801	823,561	16.6%	3,000,000	1,135,308	-	-
FY24 35 Woodfin Renovation for Forward Facing Facility	6,847,480	44,158	377,778	5.5%	6,469,702	-	-	-
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	128,898	324,680	2.2%	2,000,000	12,771,891	-	-

Appendix C
Capital Projects List

COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS					Projected Spend*			
EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT	Budget	Q1 FY2025 YTD Actual	LTD Actual	% of Expended	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
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		609,904	46.0%	715,588	-	-	-
FY24 New Storage Facility - Design	4,212,000	9,828	42,120	1.0%	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		-	0.0%	3,814,670	-	-	-
FY25 Comprehensive Facility Assessment Renovation & Repair	251,683		-	0.0%	83,894	83,894	83,894	-
FY25 Countywide Roofing & Parking Decks Renovation & Repair	2,476,365	14,800	14,800	0.6%	1,200,000	1,261,565	-	-
FY25 Detention Center Dryer Installation	300,000		-	0.0%	245,000	-	-	-
FY25 Detention Center Facility Assessment Renovation & Repair	1,852,576	128,000	128,000	6.9%	-	100,000	816,000	808,576
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	300,000		-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Governing Body								
BOC Contingency	23,435		-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Information Technology								
FY21 Broadband Projects	200,442	19,128	158,900	79.3%	-	-	-	-
FY24 Fire Station Alerting/Paging	2,000,000		-	0.0%	2,000,000	-	-	-
FY25 PSIP Core System Replacement	10,000,000	19,754	19,754	0.2%	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	6,977,466		6,901,091	98.9%	-	-	-	-
Recreation Services								
FY20 Grading and Paving of Old Playground at Lake Julian	180,000		-	0.0%		180,000	-	-
FY20 Lake Julian Shelter Replacements	100,000	27,533	99,869	99.9%	-	-	-	-
FY22 Buncombe County Sports Park Dog Park	80,500		77,479	96.2%	-	-	-	-
FY23 Recreation Services Master Plan	315,175	18,784	133,569	42.4%	55,536	126,070	-	-
Greenways Contingency	148,849		-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Hominy Creek Greenway	-		-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Orchard Street Park	150,000		-	0.0%	49,500	49,500	51,000	-
Reems Creek Greenway	600,000		-	0.0%	-	-	-	600,000
Silverline Park	650,000		650,000	100.0%	-	-	-	-

Appendix C
Capital Projects List

COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS					Projected Spend*			
EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT	Budget	Q1 FY2025 YTD Actual	LTD Actual	% of Expended	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
Woodfin Greenway: Beaverdam Creek	4,060,557	17,773	202,487	5.0%	-	1,015,680	2,842,390	-
Woodfin Greenway: Highway 251	10,992,444	4,566	1,004,651	9.1%	-	2,293,082	7,694,711	-
Sustainability								
FY25 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	425,930		-	0.0%	300,000	125,930	-	-
Total Capital Projects	**154,559,211**	**975,380**	**52,753,731**	**34.1%**	**32,622,414**	**40,040,355**	**19,692,408**	**2,158,576**

* Projections subject to change

Appendix D
General Fund Budget Amendments

Adopted General Fund Budget:	**7/1/2024**	**$**	**440,025,235**
First Quarter Amendments:			
County Match related to Broadband Infrastructure (Economic Development)	September		411,408
Amended General Fund Budget	**9/30/2024**	**$**	**440,436,643**

Appendix E Fund Report

SUMMARY ANNUAL FUNDS	Annual Budget	Revenue		Expenditures	
FUND		YTD Actual	% of Budget	YTD Actual	% of Budget
100 General	440,436,643	52,146,747	11.8%	95,185,941	21.8%
120 Air Quality	1,349,960	346,981	25.7%	155,062	13.9%
220 Occupancy Tax	40,000,000	6,692,807	16.7%	6,692,807	16.7%
221 Reappraisal Reserve Fund	916,550	-	0.0%	156,000	21.1%
223 911	360,130	14,307	4.0%	432,288	18.1%
225 ROD Automation	153,000	32,764	21.4%	9,550	6.4%
226 Register of Deeds	320,000	66,781	20.9%	44,740	11.2%
228 Special Taxing Districts	68,348,257	5,829,633	8.5%	8,840,939	13.1%
229 Opioid Settlement	3,314,860	2,070,230	62.5%	635,992	23.5%
230 Transportation	6,634,098	16,342	0.2%	1,344,442	19.6%
231 Woodfin PDF	794,058	210	0.0%	-	0.0%
270 Forfeitures	208,000	77,902	37.5%	14,387	12.0%
272 Sondley Estate Trust Fund	-	(634)	0.0%	-	0.0%
273 School Fines and Forfeitures	2,000,000	182,946	9.1%	48,565	2.4%
276 Representative Payee	500,000	158,178	31.6%	109,492	21.9%
466 Solid Waste	16,500,089	3,261,250	19.8%	2,123,775	13.3%
467 Real-Time Intelligence Center	210,000	11,556	5.5%	-	0.0%
469 Inmate Commissary	453,411	21,994	4.9%	92,922	19.2%
480 Health and Dental Insurance	39,318,854	7,494,902	19.1%	9,161,561	23.8%
481 LGERS Stabilization	357,422	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
482 Medicare Benefits	1,064,417	8,400	0.8%	285,741	36.2%
483 Workers' Compensation	1,874,957	-	0.0%	126,647	14.6%
484 Property and Liability Insurance	2,606,866	-	0.0%	67,592	2.9%
575 Inmate Trust	-	432	0.0%	-	0.0%
577 Municipal Tax Collections	-	12,610,802	0.0%	10,070,835	0.0%
Total Annual Funds	**627,721,572**	**91,044,530**	**14.5%**	**135,599,277**	**21.8%**

SUMMARY MULTI-YEAR FUNDS	Annual Budget	Revenue		Expenditures	
FUND		LTD Actual	% of Budget	LTD Actual	% of Budget
224 Special Programs	63,941,436	42,425,015	66.3%	22,587,185	33.4%
326 Public School Capital Needs Fund	395,197,095	352,188,960	89.1%	295,653,591	82.8%
327 Grant Projects	137,027,689	103,601,103	75.6%	85,703,971	64.7%
333 AB Tech	222,822,822	209,310,256	93.9%	190,246,968	91.9%
335 Public School ADM Sales Tax and Lottery Projects	109,332,585	77,408,011	70.8%	78,049,170	90.7%
341 Capital Project	154,559,211	83,263,702	53.9%	52,754,051	36.7%
342 Landfill Capital Projects	15,211,211	14,961,211	98.4%	12,932,540	69.1%
343 Housing/Open Space Bond Projects	44,230,889	15,168,787	34.3%	346,547	2.0%
Total Multi-Year Funds	**1,142,322,938**	**898,327,044**	**78.6%**	**738,274,023**	**71.7%**

Appendix F General Fund By Function Report

SUMMARY GENERAL FUND	Revenue			Expenditures		
FUNCTION	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	% of Budget	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	% of Budget
Cultural and Recreational	628,380	148,934	23.7%	11,306,529	2,148,212	19.0%
Debt	3,955,294	2,000	0.1%	21,656,974	356,514	1.6%
Economic & Physical Development	5,470,054	1,398,904	25.6%	10,124,783	1,542,409	15.2%
General Government	10,791,848	2,894,380	26.8%	126,475,477	31,640,903	25.0%
General Revenues	339,470,885	37,434,583	11.0%	68,966,012	15,366,104	22.3%
Health and Human Services	46,355,530	8,314,639	17.9%	96,663,471	19,344,410	20.0%
Other Financing Sources and Uses	16,819,957	51,768	0.3%	9,990,934	8,178,584	81.9%
Public Safety	16,944,695	1,901,539	11.2%	95,252,463	16,608,805	17.4%
Total General Fund	**440,436,643**	**52,146,747**	**11.8%**	**440,436,643**	**95,185,941**	**21.6%**

Relevant Financial Policies

[Fund Balance Policy]

[Debt Policy]

[Debt Transparency Dashboard]

[Investment Policy]

CONTINUUM OF CARE UPDATE

Presented by

Lacy Hoyle, Homelessness Program Manager

Community Development Division

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

December 17, 2024

CoC BOARD ACTIVITY

- Recommendations to the Asheville City Council:
  - Modify deed restriction on former Ramada site to include affordable units
  - Allocate City ARPA funding to support emergency shelter:
    - $278,000 for Code Purple response
    - $222,000 for additional capacity and supportive services
- Amended Coordinated Entry Policy to include Back@Home Program
- Approved new application cycle to fill vacant CoC Board seats
- Established 3 New Workgroups:
  - Coordinated Entry
  - Point-In-Time
  - Compensation for People with Lived/Living Experience of Homelessness
- Approved CoC Program Funding Consolidated Application

HUD CoC PROGRAM 2024 APPLICATION

Rank	Applicant	Recommended Project	Funding
1	City of Asheville	NC-501 HMIS	$63,744
2	Helpmate	Housing Supports for DV Survivors New 2024 (RRH)	$86,883
3	Helpmate	Housing Supports for DV Survivors Renewal 2024 (RRH)	$297,809
4	Homeward Bound	Shelter Plus Care Asheville/Buncombe (PSH)	$511,132
5	Homeward Bound	Permanent Supportive Housing 2 (PSH)	$99,617
6	Homeward Bound	Bridge to Recovery (PSH)	$495,645
7	Homeward Bound	Permanent Supportive Housing 1 (PSH)	$330,242
8	Homeward Bound	Permanent Supportive Housing 5 (PSH)	$242,413
9	City of Asheville	NC-501 Coordinated Entry	$244,904
N/A	City of Asheville	Planning Grant	$102,043
		Total	**2,474,432**

RRH: Rapid Rehousing
PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing

CoC PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSE TO HURRICANE HELENE

- **Pre-Storm Action:**
  - Service provider and public safety staff provided direct outreach and communications to unsheltered individuals to facilitate access to Code Purple locations
  - ABCCM opened Code Purple sheltering on September 26, 2024
- **Storm Response:**
  - Evacuated ABCCM Code Purple participants and Veteran residents to County/Red Cross Shelters due to flooding
  - Lead Agency and County staff performed regular outreach (site visits and calls) with shelter providers and housing agencies to assess needs and facilitate information/resource access
  - Service providers coordinated with Red Cross on missing persons
  - Service providers connected individuals with FEMA assistance
  - Coordination with Red Cross to support shelter residents and solve for continued shelter need

SHELTER UPDATE

- **Code Purple Shelter:**
  ABCCM operating at Transformation Village (Women & Children) and 20 20th Street (Men)
- **Disaster-Related Shelter:**
  WNC Rescue Ministries is operating at Gold's Gym (through 12/31/24);
  Buncombe County DSS Staff and other partners are supporting shelter resident transitions
- **Buncombe County ARPA Funded Projects:**
  - **Safe Shelter:** Permitting process is ongoing, 5 additional beds in operation for Code Purple support
  - **Haywood Street Respite:** Construction for expansion anticipated to begin April 1, 2025
  - **The Salvation Army:** Resumed regular operations soon after storm; maintains pre-storm capacity and use

QUESTIONS?

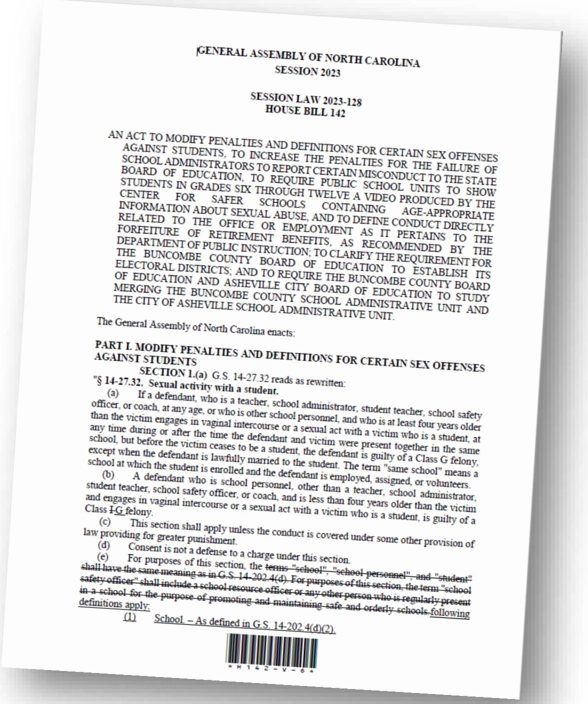
School Consolidation Feasibility Study

Rachael Sawyer, Buncombe County Strategic Partnerships Director

December 2024

Project Background

- North Carolina General Assembly mandated that the Asheville City and Buncombe County school systems jointly study the feasibility of a merger
- House Bill 142 / SL 2023-128 was signed by the Governor on September 29, 2023
- Asheville City Board of Education & Buncombe County Board of Education voted to designate Buncombe County Government as the lead entity for the project
- Buncombe County Commissioners accepted lead role on October 17, 2023



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

SESSION LAW 2023-128
HOUSE BILL 142

AN ACT TO MODIFY PENALTIES AND DEFINITIONS FOR CERTAIN SEX OFFENSES AGAINST STUDENTS, TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR THE FAILURE OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS TO REPORT CERTAIN MISCONDUCT TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL UNITS TO SHOW STUDENTS IN GRADES SIX THROUGH TWELVE A VIDEO PRODUCED BY THE CENTER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS CONTAINING AGE-APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE, AND TO DEFINE CONDUCT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT AS IT PERTAINS TO THE FORFEITURE OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION; TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH ITS ELECTORAL DISTRICTS; AND TO REQUIRE THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO STUDY MERGING THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT AND THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. MODIFY PENALTIES AND DEFINITIONS FOR CERTAIN SEX OFFENSES AGAINST STUDENTS

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 14-27.32 reads as rewritten:

"**§ 14-27.32. Sexual activity with a student.**

(a) If a defendant, who is a teacher, school administrator, student teacher, school safety officer, or coach, at any age, or who is other school personnel, and who is at least four years older than the victim engages in vaginal intercourse or a sexual act with a victim who is a student, at any time during or after the time the defendant and victim were present together in the same school, but before the victim ceases to be a student, the defendant is guilty of a Class G felony, except when the defendant is lawfully married to the student. The term "same school" means a school at which the student is enrolled and the defendant is employed, assigned, or volunteers.

(b) A defendant who is school personnel, other than a teacher, school administrator, student teacher, school safety officer, or coach, and is less than four years older than the victim and engages in vaginal intercourse or a sexual act with a victim who is a student, is guilty of a Class ~~I~~ G felony.

(c) This section shall apply unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing for greater punishment.

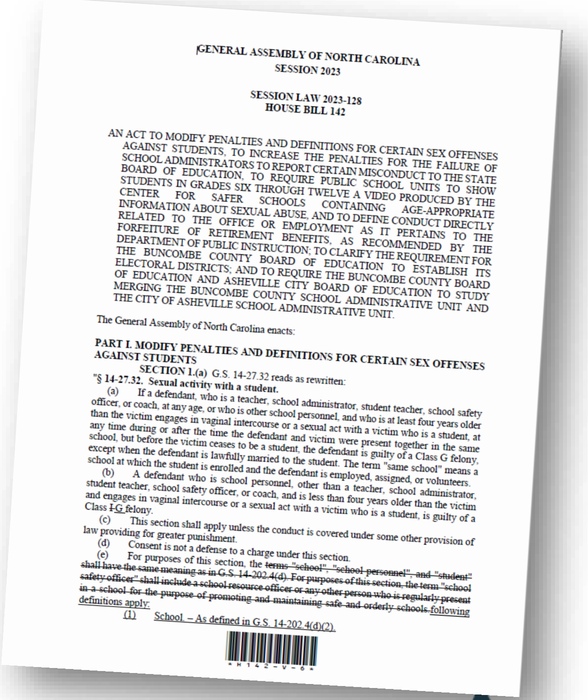
(d) Consent is not a defense to a charge under this section.

(e) For purposes of this section, the ~~terms "school", "school personnel", and "student" shall have the same meaning as in G.S. 14-202.4(d). For purposes of this section, the term "school safety officer" shall include a school resource officer or any other person who is regularly present in a school for the purpose of promoting and maintaining safe and orderly schools.~~ following definitions apply:

(1) School. – As defined in G.S. 14-202.4(d)(2).

Legislative Mandate

"The **Buncombe County Board of Education and the Asheville City Board of Education shall jointly study the feasibility of the merger** of the Buncombe County School Administrative Unit and the City of Asheville School Administrative Unit, including the potential **economic and educational impact** of merging the school units and any **other relevant information**. The Buncombe County Board of Education and the Asheville City Board of Education shall report **findings and recommendations** to the standing committees of the General Assembly hearing elections matters no later than **February 15, 2025**."



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

SESSION LAW 2023-128
HOUSE BILL 142

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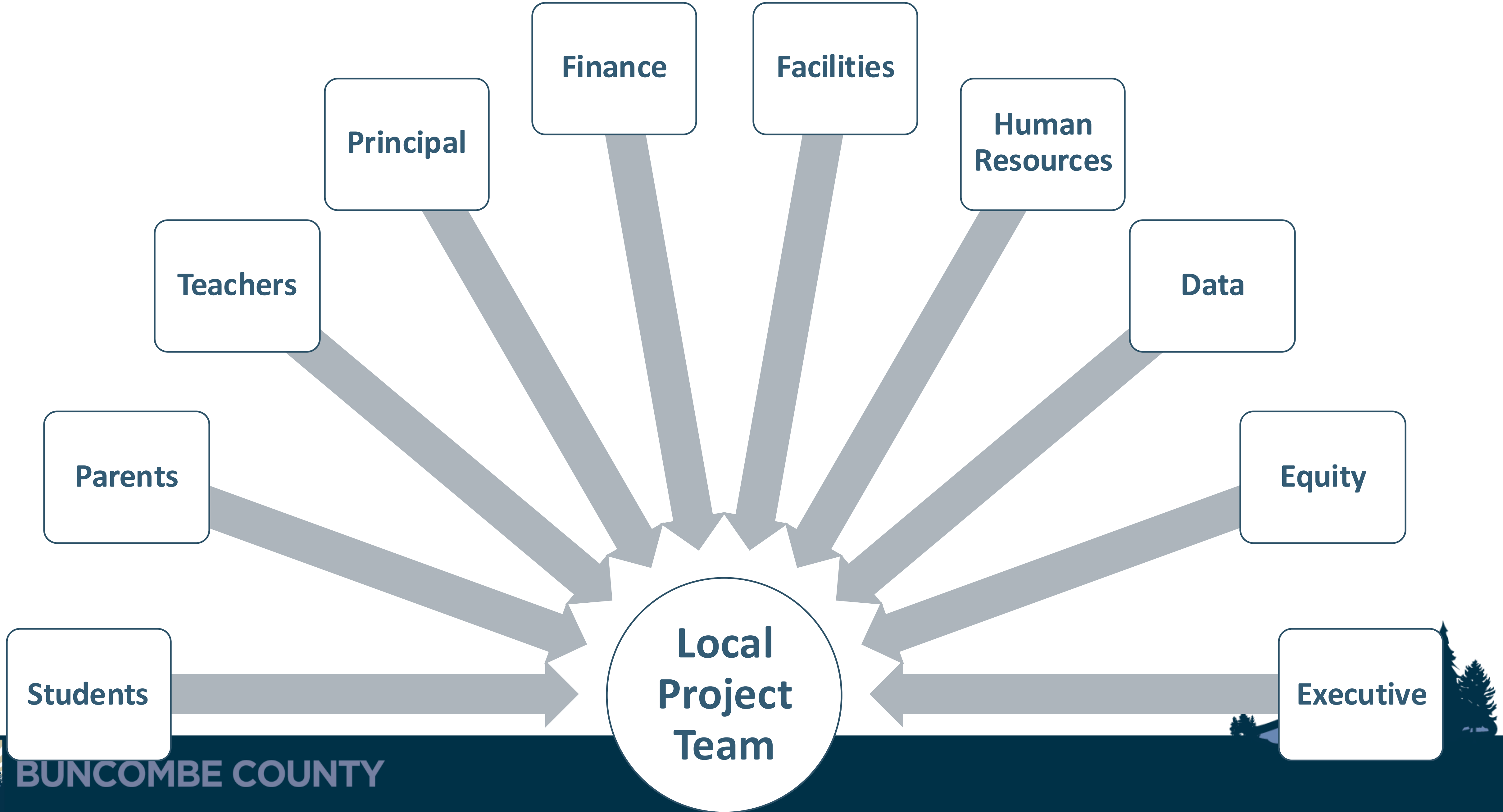
H142-V-6

24-member project team, appointed by County Manager & School Superintendents (8 each):



Roles

Local Project Team	• Design solicitation and review criteria • Review submissions, recommend vendor • Provide ongoing guidance & feedback
Buncombe County	• Coordinate project • Issue solicitation & select firm • Identify funding, Issue and oversee contract
School Systems	• Jointly contribute to the study, including data & input to inform the study
Community	• Provide input to inform the study
Contracted vendor	• Conduct the study • Provide a report of findings & recommendations

Vendor Scope of Work

- Utilize a rigorous approach in the completion of the study, including assessment of comprehensive factors - **Student membership, Academic, Student wellbeing, Policy & procedure, Operational, Facilities, Personnel, Governance, Financial, Partnerships, Geographical, Community, Historical & Contextual**
- Incorporate **equity** analysis for all elements within the study
- Center stakeholder and **community engagement**, including opportunities for impacted individuals to contribute to the study/learn about the findings & results
- Include qualitative & quantitative sources of **data** to accurately identify the feasibility of a consolidation
- Identify significant similarities & differences between school systems
- Include short- and long-term impacts as well as projections & scenarios
- Provide a comprehensive report including description of research method, summary of activities, findings, risks/benefits of consolidation, recommendations, and implementation considerations as applicable

Work Conducted So Far

- **87 Days on site**
- **1,143 data request items**, such as:
  - Academics
  - Budget & finance
  - Facilities, maintenance & custodial
  - Food Services
  - Security
  - Special education
  - Technology
  - Transportation
- **55 Focus Group Participants**
- **168 interviews** with personnel such as: teacher; principal; communications; custodial; equity; finance; human resources; nutrition; operations; student services; technology; testing
- **10 Community Forums**
- **7,245 Surveys Completed**
- **35 school observations**
  - Including facilities, school nutrition & transportation

Community Input

- **10 Community Input Forums**
  - 9 in person and 1 virtual
    - Owen Middle School
    - East Asheville Library
    - Cane Creek Middle School
    - Weaverville Community Center
    - Isaac Dickson Elementary
    - Erwin High School
    - Enka Intermediate School
    - Hall Fletcher Elementary
    - Skyland/South Buncombe Library
    - Online
  - 222 persons attended the forums

- **Surveys completed**
  - 308 Community Surveys
  - 2,560 Parent Surveys
  - 1,286 Staff Surveys
  - 3,091 Student Surveys
- **Input Gathered**
  - Deciding factors (e.g. costs, education quality, efficiencies, academic life, student opportunities)
  - Satisfaction with school services (e.g. curriculum, instruction, nutrition, transportation, extracurricular)
  - Priorities & concerns

Project Timeline to Date

Legislative Mandate	September 2023
Project Team Formed	October 2023
Request for Proposals Process	November 2023 – February 2024
Vendor Conducts Study	April 2024 – December 2024

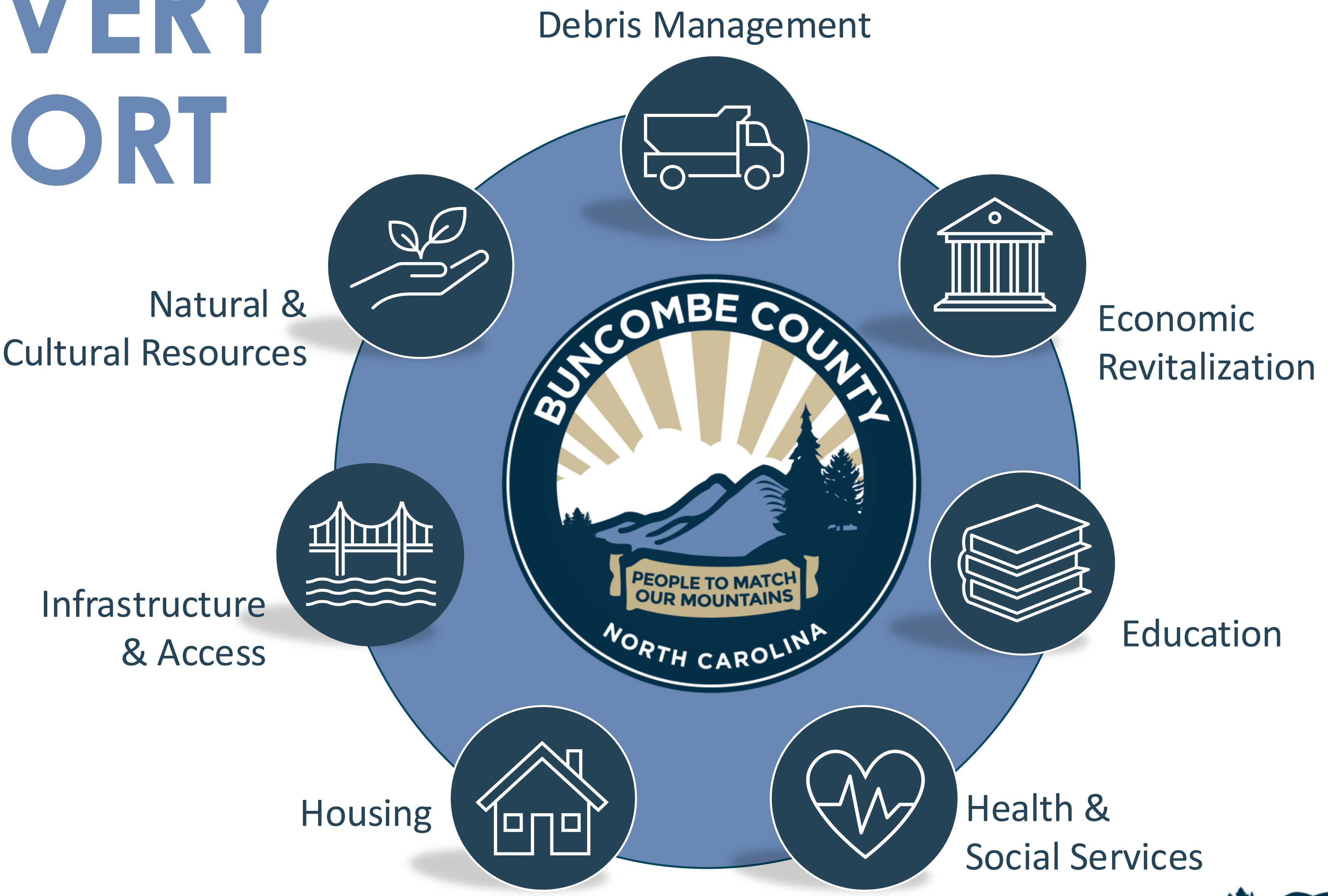
Next Steps

Status Updates to County Commissioners & School Boards (presented by County Staff)	December 2024
Report Received	No later than December 31, 2024
Presentation of Findings & Recommendations to County Commissioners & School Boards (presented by County Staff)	January 16, 2025
Findings & Recommendations due to General Assembly	No later than February 15, 2025
Endorsements of and/or Comments by County Commissioners & School Boards	Not required

HELENE UPDATE

Board of Commissioners| December 17, 2024

RECOVERY SUPPORT

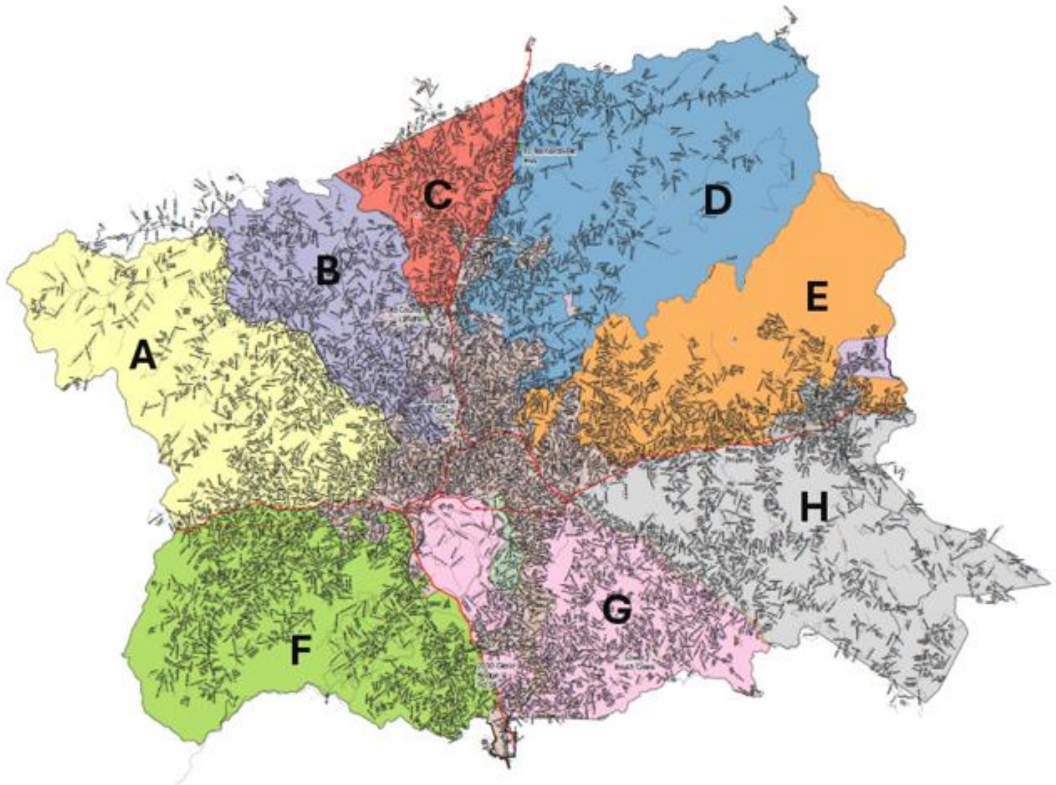


DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

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 COLLECTION

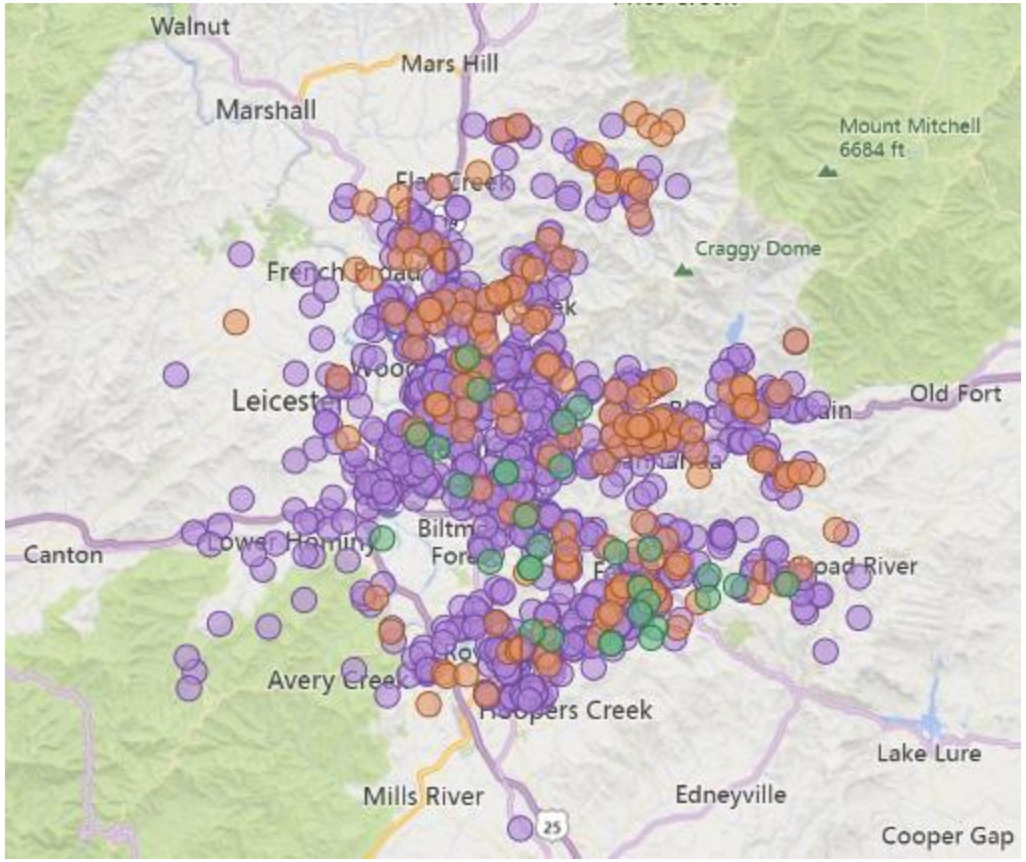
- Types of debris being collected:
  - Vegetative
  - Construction and demolition
  - Mud, silt and soil
  - Titled property: Upcoming – just release Request for Proposals to select contractor
- 521,113 cubic yards of debris and 9,740 tons of mud, silt and soil collected from public right of way



Debris Removal Zones

PRIVATE PROPERTY DEBRIS REMOVAL (PPDR)

- 1,352 PPDR applications received
  - 65% online / 35% in application centers
  - 91% debris only / 8% debris and demolition /1% demolition only
- 165 PPDR inspections scheduled
- 99 PPDR inspections complete



ROE Status ● 01-Application Under Reivew ● 02-Inspection Scheduled ● 03-Inspection Completed

PPDR OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT


Buncombe County debris removal program sees overwhelming response with 1,100 applicants

by Justin Berger | Sun, December 8th 2024 at 8:12 PM

Several weeks into a Buncombe County program to help owners remove Helene storm debris from private property, nearly 1,100 people have applied (Photo: WLOS Staff)

- One Buncombe phone line
- Radio/TV **interviews** on WWNC, WRES, and WLOS ABC 13
- Digital outdoor **billboards** (English and Spanish) in two locations
- **4** in-person application locations
- Call Center averages **60+ debris calls** per day, Spanish available
- Participation in **Stronger Together Resources Fair** and **Mexican Consulate** event

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

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

- Asheville-Buncombe "Rebuilding Together" Business Grant www.mountainbizworks.org/helene/fund/
  - 843 applications received totaling more than $20M
  - Mt. BizWorks is currently reviewing and will make award decisions
- WNC Strong www.wncstrongtogether.org
- Coordination with local business partners:
  - 25 organizations participating in business response planning

HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Open Applications:

- **Helene Recovery Housing Assistance Grant:** Up to three months' support for rent, mortgage, or utility bills. Apply at buncombecounty.org by 12/18 at 5 p.m.

EDUCATION

Focused on successful recovery and increased resiliency for students and educational institutions, including childcare/early childhood education as well as elementary and secondary education in varied educational settings

EDUCATION

- Current priorities:
  - Water safety and supply
  - Enrollment/attendance
  - Student Homelessness (McKinney-Vento)
  - Social-emotional support and trauma resources
- Coordinating with early childhood and K-12 stakeholders, including:
  - United for Youth
  - Public Schools
  - Charter Schools
  - Childcare organizations
  - NC State K-12 Collaborators

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, and environmental health concerns and social service recovery needs

ONGOING COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Four Community Care Station Sites with laundry, showers, bottled water in heavily impacted areas. Open from 7 am – 7 pm daily.

Total number of showers: 37,223

Total loads of laundry: 34,660

1,250 meals per day provided to survivors via Mass Care feeding efforts.

Emergency Shelter Utilization: Maximum: 585 people | Current state: 28 people

Almost 1,000 vaccines provided by the Public Health Mobile Team at the Community Care Stations.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

- Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) 16,950 applications received with a total amount of $10,125,551 in awarded funds.
- Currently, 5,100 applications for individual household assistance through Buncombe County received as of 12/13/24.
- In progress: $440,700 in Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funds have been approved to date, supporting over 1,251 individual households.
- Crisis Intervention Program has approved 1,372 applications for a total of $559,378

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 IMPACT

9,234
residential units suffered damage

609+
Residential units with major damage

331+
Residential units destroyed

8,294+
Residential units with Habitability repairs

Issue
Residential unit damage data still in progress; scale of impact growing

FEMA HOUSING RECOVERY

Short Term (Days to Weeks)	Intermediate (Weeks to Months)	Long, Term (Months, Years)
• Sheltering • Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA)	• Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) • Direct Housing	• Direct Housing

FEMA HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO DATE

FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) Hotels

- 1,403 Buncombe County households currently in TSA in 37 hotels
- Blanket extension of TSA eligibility through January 11, 2025
- Eligibility does not guarantee hotel room availability
- County providing outreach to assist residents in TSA to remain sheltered through new year
- County strategizing more permanent housing solutions in the long-term

FEMA Direct Housing

- 147 Households approved for Direct Housing
- Temporary Housing Units (private sites, commercial site pads, group sites) 16 installed / 37 in progress
- 171 Households approved for Rental Assistance
- Direct Leasing: Expedited contracting approved and executed to include WNC properties and where units are being inspected now and matched to household needs

REGULATION CHANGES

Local: Nov 18 Board of Commissioners approved Emergency Housing text amendments to facilitate temporary housing

- Identified eligible unit types, facilitated reduced setbacks, allowed longer term residence in travel trailers/recreational vehicles (>180 days), etc.

State: Dec 11 Office of the State Fire Marshal announces emergency rule 11 NCAC 08.0211 Temporary Housing Buildings During Hurricane Helene State of Emergency

- Rule exempts temporary housing structures from permit and inspection requirements if **property owner** completes an affidavit that affirming the temporary structure complies with the emergency rule (which prescribes maximum size, placement, fire separation distances, window/door requirements, heating requirements, minimum ceiling heights, etc.). Rule does not apply to FEMA units.

COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS

Tetra Tech Community Navigator Teams:

- Canvassing harder hit areas from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday to direct individuals to local, state, and federal assistance programs that best suit their needs.
- Visiting Community Care Stations, community events, and staff information centers.
- Assisting in efforts to support individuals and households currently in Transitional Sheltering Assistance lodging as they develop recovery plans

COMMUNITY CANVASSING

Key Findings:

- Most tents were either heated or not primary residences
- Heated tents were equipped with approved heating sources, cooking areas, and safety features such as fire and carbon monoxide detectors
- Some individuals were found living in tents or cars before the storm and declined assistance

- Assistance has been provided where necessary, with continued support available for those impacted by Hurricane Helene at **828-250-6100** (provide name & address where help is needed)

Heated Tents: Photo provided by American Red Cross

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

- Key data points:
    - 300+ residential properties potentially dealing with a damaged / destroyed bridge
    - 1,000+ Helene related permit apps filed across 900+ unique locations
    - Inspections conducted at 500+ unique locations
    - 2,400+ commercial and residential structures have been reappraised and assessed values adjusted for damage
    - 1,000+ land slide related locations
    - Floodplain damage assessments – recommendations forthcoming

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

- HMGP is a FEMA-funded program managed by NC Emergency Management designed to reduce or eliminate future damages and loss following a disaster.
- Eligible property owners can apply with the following available options:
  - Buy-out with deed transferred to County (or municipality) with property deed restricted and limited to green space
  - Elevation to reduce risk of future flooding

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

- State handles application intake, eligibility review, buyout management, construction management and all associated costs
- Applications will be open for a year; Next onsite applications will be week of January 6 & week of January 13 at the Asheville Mall Disaster Resource Center
- To date, there are over 200 applications for HMGP in Buncombe County, including 150+ buy-out requests
- Buncombe County has right of refusal on all properties
- First set of applications will be ready for consideration in the new year
- Staff are developing process in alignment with our Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Commissioner vision, and the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

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

Activities and key areas of concern:

- Water quality and stream restoration
- Remediate and recover from silt, mud, hazard containment
- Support outdoor recreation
- Support community facilities, historic places and art community

Impact and progress data:

- 300 sites potentially eligible Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- 7 out of 15 County parks open to public
- 11 out of 13 County libraries open to the public
- 250 creator spaces/artist studios lost in the River Arts District

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION (EWP)

- Buncombe County residents with damage or severe erosion from Helene causing a threat to infrastructure could be eligible for the USDA EWP Program
- EWP Assists with:
  - Debris-clogged waterways
  - Unstable streambanks
  - Severe erosion jeopardizing public infrastructure
  - Wind-borne debris removal
  - Steep slopes that have lost ground cover and are endangered of sliding

FEMA ASSISTANCE

- **FEMA Disaster Assistance**: www.disasterassistance.gov
- **FEMA Fixed Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)**
  - Asheville Mall (Former Gap) – 3 South Tunnel Road
    - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays
- **FEMA Mobile Disaster Recovery Center (MDRC)**
  - Fairview Public Library
    - 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18 to Friday, Dec. 20
  - Weaverville Town Hall
    - 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21
    - 8 a.m. -6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 23
    - 8 a.m. -noon Tuesday, Dec. 24
- **The deadline for households to apply for FEMA assistance is January 7, 2025**

QUESTIONS?

Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

New Business

Department: Strategic Partnerships **Presenter(s):** Tyler Henry

Contact(s): Jamie Brown, Grants Manager
Tyler Henry, Grants Manager

Subject: Request for COVID Recovery Funding Reallocation

Brief Summary:

In 2021, Buncombe County was awarded a total of $50,733,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("COVID Recovery Funding") via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to invest toward recovery from COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts. These funds were awarded on a rolling basis to projects by Commissioners as selected via multiple Request for Proposals (RFP) processes. For details, visit: buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding

Hurricane Helene had a profound impact on Buncombe County, straining resources and requiring significant budgetary adjustments. Emergency response, housing recovery, and infrastructure repair became immediate priorities, redirecting staff time and administrative costs from planned areas of focus. These demands placed pressure on the FY2025 budget, emphasizing disaster recovery and long-term resilience being a continued focus, staff is recommending the following reallocation of funds based on current needs and U.S. Department of Treasury requirements.

Reallocation of COVID Recovery Funds

Project	Increase	Decrease	Rationale
Clean Energy Upgrades for Low-Income Households		$ (17,590.54)	Green Built Alliance has concluded all eligible activities under this contract. Remaining funds are being reallocated in accordance with U.S. Department of Treasury requirements.
Community Paramedics		$ (246,000.00)	Restructuring of the project budget will allow for needed upgrades to the mobile command center to occur and allow project activities to continue with 3 full-time, grant funded positions.
Capital Outlay Equipment		$ (93,203.72)	All needed capital outlay equipment has been purchased. Remaining funds are being reallocated in accordance with U.S. Department of Treasury requirements.
Advancing Community Safety: Violence Prevention and Intervention		$ (300,000.00)	The project end date is being adjusted to align with FY2025. Remaining funds are being reallocated in accordance with U.S. Department of Treasury requirements.
Helene Recovery Personnel	$ 656,794.26		Due to impacts of Hurricane Helene, administration costs such as salaries & benefits have increased pressure on the FY2025 budget. Reallocating funds will assist with alleviating some of that pressure and allow the County to meet the U.S. Department of Treasury's obligation deadline of 12/31/2024.

Recommended Motions & Requested Actions:
Consider approval of changes to COVID Recovery Funding awards as listed:

- Reduce identified ARPA projects by $656,794.26
- Create and allocate $656,794.26 to "Helene Recovery Personnel"

County Manager's comments and Recommendations: recommends as presented.

COVID Recovery Funding

Proposed Project Reallocations

December 19, 2024

COVID Recovery Funding

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Federal aid to state & local governments
- Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF)
  - Direct, flexible funding from U.S. Treasury
  - Funds to invest toward recovery from COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts
- **Buncombe County allocation: $50.7 Million**

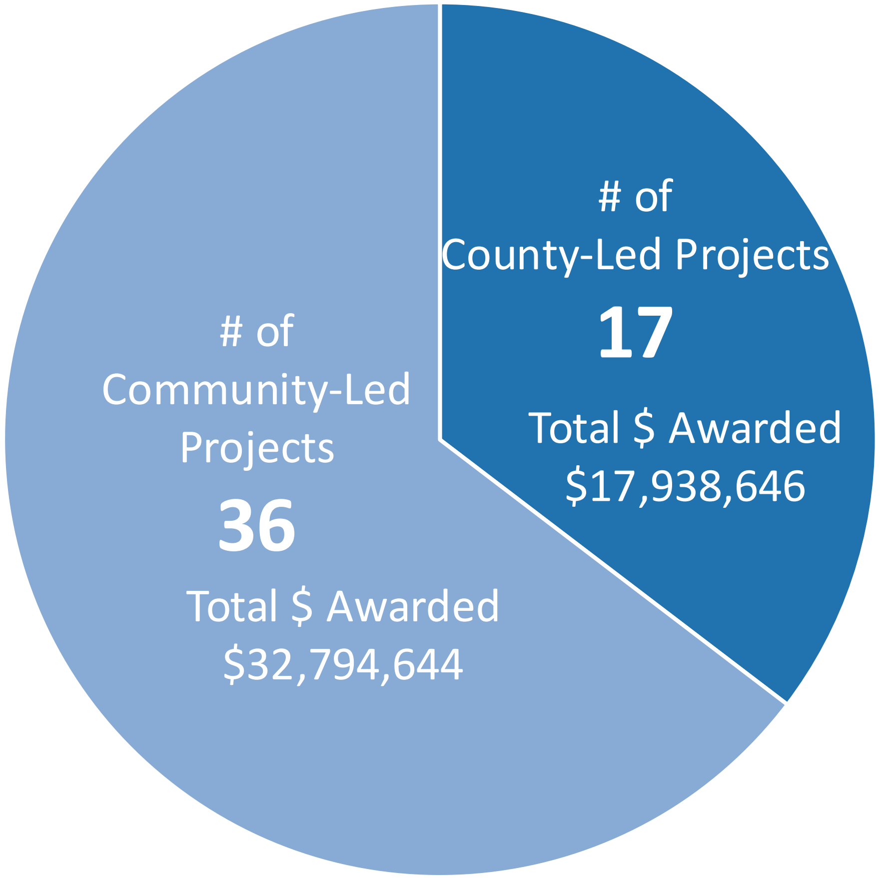
Recovery by the Numbers

Total # of Projects
53

Total $ Awarded
$50.7M

Total $ Spent
$33.5M

Allocation of Funds



% of Funds Awarded
100%

% Awarded to Community-Led Projects
64.6%

% Awarded to County-Led Projects
35.4%

Project Spotlights

- ArtsAVL
- Asheville Housing Authority
- Asheville Museum of Science
- Babies Need Bottoms
- Buncombe County - COVID Vaccination Support
- Buncombe County - Employee Retention Grant
- Buncombe County Emergency Services
- Buncombe County HHS - COVID Vaccine Incentive
- Buncombe County HHS - COVID Vaccine Promotion
- Buncombe County Human Resources
- Center for Agricultural and Food Entrepreneurship
- Eblen Charities
- Homeward Bound of WNC
- Land of Sky Regional Council
- Loving Food Resources
- Meals on Wheels
- Mountain BizWorks
- Verner Center for Early Learning
- YTL Training Program

Click the links to visit the Recovery Funding website for spotlight reports like this for completed projects!

BUNCOMBE COUNTY COVID RECOVERY FUNDING

Project Spotlight

In order to promote a strong and equitable recovery from COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts, Buncombe County invested federal funds into projects like this one.

Project	Chosen PODS Summer Camp
Lead Organization	Asheville Housing Authority — asheville housing works. 75 years of service
Award Amount	$50,000
Project Dates	July 2022 – August 2022
Impact Area	Addressing Educational Disparities

How the Funds Were Used

The Housing Authority of the City of Asheville (HACA) addressed educational disparities through aid to high-poverty districts through its Chosen PODS Summer Camp program, utilizing ARPA funds to fund Youth Impact Workers (high school and college students), pay for camper meals, and provide transportation for camper swimming and field trips. HACA engaged with community partners including Western Carolina Rescue Ministries to provide a safe and educational camp experience for youth between the ages of 6-14 living in the Southside, Hillcrest, Pisgah View, and Deaverview housing communities. The camp included math and reading tutoring for campers, in addition to structured recreational activities. The project intended to help break the cycles of poverty and close the achievement gap for over 140 at-risk youth by providing a two-month long summer camp.

Results

- 113 students served
- 26 Youth Impact Workers employed
- 85% attendance rate
- 85% of students self-reported their desire to achieve academic success

"I've never seen a camp where our kids have so much love, learning and resources for the staff and children. The staff and kids know they care."

Ms. Angel
Youth Impact Worker

Community Impact

114,903 individuals, households & small businesses served
-measures reported for grant projects through 10/31/24

- **214 jobs** created
- **746 jobs** retained
- **174 housing units** built
- **76 house repairs** completed
- **614 households** received rent or utility bill assistance
- **42 shelter beds** added in the community
- **444 individuals** received shelter services
- **2,902 individuals** received crisis support
- **10,456 individuals and families** received legal aid and advocacy support

Community Impact

114,903 individuals, households & small businesses served
-measures reported for grant projects through 10/31/24

- **5,050 individuals & families** received mental health & therapy services
- **2,197 individuals** received community health services
- **19,239 youth** received health and advocacy services
- **954 children** enrolled in Pre-K programming
- **106,536 diapers** distributed
- **5,904 individuals & families** received food & nutrition assistance
- **187,841 meals** served
- **808 households** connected to broadband service

Community Impact

Proposed Allocations

- Clean Energy Upgrades for Low-Income Households:
  Reduce by $17,590.54 and close the project
- Community Paramedics:
  Reduce by $246,000
- Capital Outlay Equipment:
  Reduce by $93,203.72
- Advancing Community Safety:
  Reduce by $300,000

Reducing these projects will increase the amount available that can be allocated to new projects to **$656,794.26**

\+ Personnel Costs :
Create and fund by $656,794.26

Proposed allocations to this project totals **$656,794.26** which will fully allocate all available COVID Recovery Funding

Request for Board Action

Consider approval of COVID Recovery Funding project reallocations as listed:

Project	Increase	Decrease
Clean Energy Upgrades for Low-Income Households		$ (17,590.54)
Community Paramedics		$ (246,000.00)
Capital Outlay Equipment		$ (93,203.72)
Advancing Community Safety: Violence Prevention and Intervention		$ (300,000.00)
Personnel Costs	$ 656,794.26	

Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

New Business

Department: Human Resources **Presenter(s):** Karen Marshall

Contact(s): Karen Marshall

Subject: Approval of the new Helene Disaster Leave Policy and Benefits Policy update

Brief Summary:

Per the Board's request, staff is introducing a new policy to provide additional paid leave to support employees who were adversely affected by Hurricane Helene and have depleted their accrued leave balances. Eligible employees may be granted up to forty hours of paid Helene Disaster Leave, which must be used specifically for Hurricane Helene recovery-related needs. Additionally, after exhausting Helene Disaster Leave, employees may use their accrued sick leave for absences for Helene recovery-related needs.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approval of the new Helene Disaster Leave Policy

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: Approve as presented.

Helene Disaster Leave Policy

Contents

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a Helene Disaster Leave Program to support employees who have exhausted their applicable leave balances and need additional leave due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene.

2. Applicability

This policy applies to all Buncombe County departments and employees. Where there is conflict with any department-specific policy, this document will supersede.

3. Policy

3.1. Disaster Leave

3.1.1. Buncombe County Government recognizes that many employees were impacted by Hurricane Helene, and, in some situations, employees who have been adversely affected may require additional leave due to depleting their available leave balances.

3.1.2. Eligible employees may be granted up to forty hours of paid Helene Disaster Leave, which must be used specifically for Hurricane Helene recovery-related needs.

3.1.3. Helene Disaster Leave may be used through June 30, 2025, and can be retroactively used by employees who used leave without pay starting October 21, 2024.

3.1.4. After exhausting Helene Disaster Leave and all other applicable leave, employees may use their accrued sick leave for absences due to Hurricane Helene recovery-related needs. This exception to the Leave Policy will expire on June 30, 2025.

3.1.5. All requests and personal information related to the Helene Disaster Leave Program will be managed by Human Resources and treated as confidential personnel information.

3.1.6. If a recipient separates from employment with the County, any remaining Helene Disaster Leave will be forfeited.

3.1.7. The Helene Disaster Leave program will end on June 30, 2025, unless extended by the Board of Commissioners.

3.2. Eligibility Requirements

3.2.1. Recipients must be employed in a County position that is eligible to accrue Annual Leave, per the County's Leave Policy.

3.2.2. Recipients must be complete a request form and provide documentation to indicate they were adversely affected by Hurricane Helene, such as paperwork from FEMA, property insurance providers, or other appropriate sources indicating damage to their primary residence or other severe hardship caused by Hurricane Helene. Individuals are considered adversely affected if the impacts of Hurricane Helene caused severe hardship to the employee or family member that requires the employee to be absent from work.

3.2.3. Recipients must have exhausted their applicable accrued leave balances at the time of their request, which includes all Annual Leave, PTO, Compensatory Time, Banked Holiday, Healthy Hours Earned, Safety Critical Response Time Off, or other compensable leave.

3.2.4. Recipients must need additional leave specifically due to Hurricane Helene recovery-related needs.

4. **Policy Non-Compliance**
Employees willfully violating the terms and conditions of this policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

5. **Audit**
All policies for Buncombe County may be subject to audit or review as outlined in the Internal Auditor's Statement.

6. **Approval and Revision History**

Policy Origination Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
Requires Board Approval:	☒Yes ☐No
Board Approval Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
Revision History:	Enter Dates and changes

Helene Disaster Leave Policy

Presented by

Karen Marshall, Interim HR Director

Purpose of Helene Disaster Leave Policy

- Many employees were impacted by Hurricane Helene, and, in some situations, employees who have been adversely affected may require additional leave in excess of their available leave balances.
- This policy establishes a Helene Disaster Leave Program to support employees who have exhausted their applicable leave balances and need additional leave due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene.

Key Points of Policy

- Eligible employees may be granted up to 40 hours of paid leave, which must be used for Helene recovery-related purposes

- Leave may be used through June 30, 2025, and can be retroactively used by employees who used leave without pay starting October 21, 2024

- After exhausting Helene Disaster Leave and other applicable leave, employees may use their accrued sick leave for absences due to Hurricane Helene recovery-related needs. This exception to the Leave Policy will expire on June 30, 2025

Key Points of Policy

- All requests and personal information related to the Helene Disaster Leave Program will be managed by Human Resources and treated as confidential personnel information.

- If a recipient separates from employment with the County, any remaining Helene Disaster Leave will be forfeited.

- The Helene Disaster Leave program will end on June 30, 2025, unless extended by BOC.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Recipients must be employed in a position eligible to accrue Annual Leave
- Recipients must have exhausted their applicable accrued leave balances and need additional leave due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene
- Recipients must complete a request form and provide appropriate documentation

Recommendation

- Request the Commission approve the Helene Disaster Leave Policy

Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: December 17, 2024

Consent Agenda

Department:
Health and Human Services

Presenter(s):
John Hudson, Budget Director

Contact(s): David Sweat, HHS Director
Phillip Hardin, Community Resources Division Director

Subject: Disaster Rental Assistance

Brief Summary:
As a result of the NC Disaster Recovery Act, NCDHHS has distributed state funding to provide Rental Assistance to residents of counties qualifying for FEMA Individual and Public Assistance who have suffered hardship due to Hurricane Helene and meet the income eligibility criteria outlined in the emergency rental assistance program. Assistance will be provided in a one-time payment up to the local area Fair Market Rents (FMR) for the state of NC.

This is a separate program from the county ARPA-funded program recently established with different rules and policies and the income limit is 200% of federal poverty level. The county program and this state program will be run concurrently with the same staff.

Of the 25 counties identified in the federal disaster on September 28, 2024, Buncombe County has been allocated $199,296 for Disaster Rental Assistance of which $9,965 of this allocation will be used for the administrative costs of the program.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented

ORDINANCE # 24-12-07

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
General Fund

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 17, 2024

WHEREAS, the Budget Director recommends and the Board now desires to amend the FY2024-2025 General Fund as 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 17th day of December, 2024

Requesting Department: Health and Human Services
Budget Amendment Item: Disaster Rental Assistance

Description: As a result of the NC Disaster Recovery Act, NCDHHS has distributed state funding to provide Rental Assistance to residents of counties qualifying for FEMA Individual and Public Assistance who have suffered hardship due to Hurricane Helene and meet the income eligibility criteria outlined in the emergency rental assistance program. Assistance will be provided in a one-time payment up to the local area Fair Market Rents (FMR) for the state of NC. This is a separate program from the county funded program with different rules and policies. Of the 25 counties identified in the federal disaster on September 28, 2024, Buncombe County has been allocated $199,296 for Disaster Rental Assistance of which $9,965 of this allocation will be used for the administrative costs of the program.

Funding Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Session Law 2024-53 SECTION 4B.7 – RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Exhibit A:	Increase (Decrease)	
Account Description	**Revenues**	**Expenditures**
Revenue	$ 199,296	
Expenditures		$ 199,296
TOTAL	$ 199,296	$ 199,296

ATTEST:

Sarah Grass

Clerk to the Board

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE:

By: Amanda Edwards

Chairman of the Board

Emergency Rental Assistance

HHS Director
David Sweat

Emergency Rental Assistance

Session Law 2024-53, Section 4B.7

- How much from State?
  - $199,296.00
    - $9,965 Administration
    - **$189,331** available for clients

- Eligibility Criteria
  - Buncombe County Resident
  - Housing Crisis Due to Helene
  - At or below 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

    Example income at 200% FPL limit: Family of 4
    $5,200/mo; **$62,400**/yr

- Payment Limitations
  - One-time monthly payment
  - Fair Market Rent
    - HUD 2 Bedroom = $1,680

- Contextual Data
  - Average 2 bedroom rent in Buncombe County = $1,756
  - Estimated # of Households Served - Allotment of $1,680 → 112 Households

Questions