

**MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, Burke Services Building, 110 N. Green Street in Morganton, N.C. The meeting was streamed live on the County's YouTube channel, BurkeCountyNC, and it was broadcast on the local cable systems. The agenda, in its entirety, was posted to the County's website, www.burkenc.org, several days prior to the meeting as usual. Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS:

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Randy Burns
Phil Smith

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman (Out of town.)
Johnnie W. Carswell, Commissioner (Out of town.)

STAFF:

Brian Epley, County Manager
Matt Johnson, Deputy Finance Director
J.R. Simpson, II, County Attorney
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board (arrived late)
Kat Wright, Deputy Clerk to the Board (left early)

STAFF ABSENT:

Margaret Pierce, Finance Director/Deputy County Manager
(Out of town.)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brittain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

William Williamson, MDiv, Ms, Director of Faith Outreach, Amorem, delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4-H Members delivered the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Then Chairman Brittain encouraged youth or youth groups to sign up to deliver the Pledge of Allegiance at future Board of Commissioners meetings.



Depicted from left to right: Commissioner Smith, Nicki Carpenter, Emily Hall, Commissioner Burns, Madison Pryor, Addy Fulbright, Hailey Woodruff, Mackenzie Pritchard and Chairman Brittain.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA**Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**Motion: To approve the meeting minutes of February 20, 2024 (regular) and March 5, 2024 (pre-agenda) as written.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

PRESENTATIONS**BOC - PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING ROBERT HEWAT ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY**

Chairman Brittain requested approval of the following proclamation commemorating the 100th birthday of Burke County resident Robert "Bob" Hewat on May 23, 2024. He then relayed some highlights of Mr. Hewat's life.



Depicted from left to right John Hewat, Bob Hewat, Commissioner Burns, Commissioner Smith, and Chairman Brittain.

Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2024-07.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Proclamation No. 2024-07 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING BURKE COUNTY RESIDENT
ROBERT HEWAT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, Mr. John Robert (Bob) Hewat, a 61-year resident of Burke County, will celebrate his 100th birthday on May 23, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bob Hewat was born in Ontario, Canada on May 23, 1924, to proud parents, John Andrew and Myrtle Winnifred Massecar Hewat, and is one of five (5) children, he moved to North Carolina before he was 2 years old; and

WHEREAS, in 1961 Mr. Hewat married Mary Elizabeth Walton Hewat (deceased) and they were happily married for 59 years and together they raised two (2) sons; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hewat has six (6) grandchildren and seven (7) great-grandchildren. Mr. Hewat is a humorous father and grandfather, who is loved by his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hewat during his career was a World War II veteran, a Vocational Education teacher for 30 years, active with the Morganton Swim Team and other volunteer endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hewat was an employee for 60 years plus additional years of volunteer work for the US Park Service, and was, therefore, the Nation's longest-serving employee and the oldest Park Ranger of record having a Parkway overlook named after him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hewat traveled to most of the National and State Parks, enjoyed, bottle collecting, collecting golf balls, watching the Detroit Tigers and March Madness, and is a regular coin collector, particularly if found on the sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hewat walked the Greenway for at least 15 years and guided and poked fun at his early morning Greenway walking friends for the past six (6) years or more and was still walking five (5) miles daily at 95 years old; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hewat is a man of faith, attending First Presbyterian Church for 61 years; and

WHEREAS, The Burke County Board of Commissioners hopes Mr. Hewat is blessed with good health and happiness throughout his 100th year and beyond; and, as Mr. Hewat reflects upon a century of memories and accomplishments, we hope he is filled with joy and optimism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Burke County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and congratulate Mr. Hewat upon the celebration of his 100th birthday and extends its best wishes to him, wishing him continued health and happiness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Burke County Board of Commissioners, do hereby deem it an honor and a privilege to declare Thursday, May 23, 2024, as Robert Hewat Day in Burke County in special recognition of his 100th birthday.

Approved this 21st day of May 2024.

/s/ Jeffrey C. Brittain
 Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
 Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

AS - PET OF THE MONTH

Kaitlin Settlemyre, Animal Services Director, presented a dog, Dexter, and a cat, Kathleen, in need of their "forever" home at the regular meeting. She also relayed the success of the Animal Services Foundation's Woof Stock fundraiser, which raised approximately \$13,000.

Highlights of her presentation were as follows:



Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments and issued a friendly reminder to adopt or foster a pet as well as to spay or neuter your pets.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

BCCOC - RECOGNITION OF WINNERS FROM THE CHAMBER'S SPRING LITTER SWEEP

Chamber President Tonia Stephenson presented the results of the Chamber's Spring Litter Sweep event, expressing heartfelt gratitude to Jenna Cole for organizing and running the event. This year's sweep had 274 participants forming 15 teams, jointly collecting 238 bags of trash and 19 bags of recycling. Although Burke River Trails participated, their trash was not officially counted due to the extensive areas they covered.

Significant items collected included:

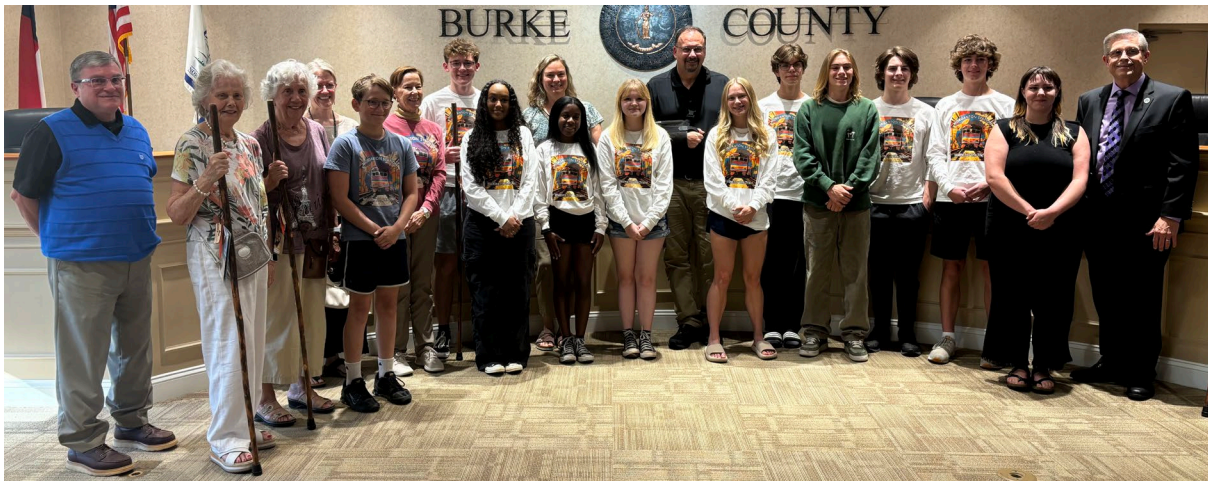
- 11 tires

- One (1) loveseat
- Three (3) sofas
- Two (2) shopping carts
- One (1) recliner
- Several pieces of scrap metal

Ms. Stephenson extended thanks to Republic Services for sponsoring the event, which enabled the collection of recyclables this year. Appreciation was also given to the NC DOT for providing cleanup supplies and a prioritized list of streets needing attention, and to Burke County and convenience site workers for counting the collected bags of trash. Buffalo Wild Wings was acknowledged for providing food at the kickoff and celebration event in addition to Murphy's Farm for hosting the celebration.

The event's top individual and team collectors were recognized:

1. Gary Jennings (1st place, 3rd consecutive year) - Collected 96 bags of trash, six (6) bags of recycling, one (1) loveseat, seven (7) tires, three (3) sofas, and one (1) recliner single-handedly. He donated his prize money to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1116.
2. "For Dad and Douggie" (2nd place) - A family group that collected 16 bags of trash and two (2) bags of recycling.
3. "Waiting for the Train" (3rd place) - A group that collected 14 bags of trash and nine (9) bags of recycling.



Chairman Brittain recognized the winners, presented them with walking sticks, and took a commemorative photo.

Motion: To accept the report as presented

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

BH - BRIGHTER HOUSE - PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Stephen Savarimuthu, Executive Director, Brighter House, on behalf of all mental health organizations, extended gratitude to the Board for their consideration of the following

proclamation, which proclaims May as Mental Health Awareness Month, welcomes the Brighter House as a new service provider in Burke County and encourages all residents to recognize the importance of mental health. It encourages support for those facing challenges and emphasizes the utilization of local resources to cultivate empathy, understanding, and support for mental well-being. This ensures that everyone has the opportunity to thrive and live their best lives. Chairman Brittain invited Sherri and Eddie McGimsey, Co-Founders of Brighter House, to speak if desired. Ms. McGimsey expressed her gratitude to the Board for prioritizing mental health.

Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2024-08.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Proclamation No. 2024-08 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION
PROCLAIMING MAY 2024 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, mental health is an integral part of overall well-being, and acknowledging its importance is essential for fostering a healthy and vibrant community; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions affect individuals of diverse ages, races, genders, and socioeconomic backgrounds, highlighting the critical need to cultivate an environment of understanding, compassion, and support; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and promote access to resources and support for individuals and families affected by mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, our community is blessed with a variety of local resources dedicated to promoting mental health and providing assistance to those in need, including counseling services, support groups, and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, enhancing the resources available in Burke County, Brighter House, a new local non-profit located in Morganton, specializes in Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services using the Clubhouse International, Inc. model and standards to serve adults with severe and persistent mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective responsibility to champion mental health awareness and advocate for policies and initiatives that prioritize mental health care, equity, and accessibility for all members of our community.

THEREFORE, the Burke County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Burke County and warmly welcomes the Brighter House to the list of area service providers.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Board of County Commissioners urges all residents to recognize the importance of mental health, support those who may be struggling, and utilize the local resources available, such as the Brighter House and other agencies, to promote mental wellness and resilience. Let us come together as a community to foster a culture of empathy, understanding, and support for mental health, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive and live their best lives.

Approved this 21st day of May 2024.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

TDA - FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

Ed Phillips, CEO, TDA, reported a significant increase in visitors to the new building, with an 88% rise in foot traffic in Q1 compared to the previous year. April alone saw a staggering increase of 202%. He noted that the county has 198 vacation rentals, which accounts for about 35% of the room occupancy tax revenue. Mr. Phillips then reported TDA's quarterly receipts and expenditures, highlights of which were as follows:

BURKE COUNTY TDA March 31, 2024		
Assets		
1014 First Citizens Bank	\$	359,662.55
1015 NC Capital MGMT Account	\$	403,856.20
Total Checking	\$	763,518.75
Liabilities		
2000 Accounts Payable	\$	16,983.26
2050 City of Morganton - Payable	\$	60,976.35
2075 Town of Valdese - Payable	\$	95,040.02
2100 Payroll Liabilities	\$	3,839.99
Total Liabilities	\$	176,839.62
Equity		
3900 Retained Earnings	\$	731,140.98
Net Income	\$	(144,461.85)
Total Equity	\$	586,679.13
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$	763,518.75

BURKE COUNTY TDA			
BUDGET TO ACTUAL JULY 1, 2023-MARCH 31, 2024			
Income	Budget	Actual	Available Balance
4010 · Burke Co. Govt. - Occup. Tax	\$ 850,000	531,658.22	\$ 318,341.78
4110 · Interest Income	\$ -	4,371.01	\$ (4,371.01)
4120 · Miscellaneous	\$ 69,500	48,398.04	\$ 21,101.96
4000 · Fund Balance	\$ 110,000	-	\$ 110,000.00
5000 · Trolley Revenue	\$ 12,500	20,621.71	\$ (8,121.71)
Total Income	\$ 1,042,000	605,048.98	\$ 436,951.02
Expense			
5010 · Accounting/Audit	\$ 8,500	8,250.00	\$ 250.00
5020 · Marketing/Advertising	\$ 205,950	119,261.49	\$ 86,688.51
5102 · Membership Dues	\$ 2,500	1,788.30	\$ 711.70
5109 · Building Maintenance	\$ 2,500	1,735.00	\$ 765.00
5110 · Building Upfit	\$ 125,000	120,411.11	\$ 4,588.89
5113 · City of Morganton/Tourism	\$ 191,250	119,623.10	\$ 71,626.90
5115 · Town of Valdese/Tourism	\$ 106,250	66,457.28	\$ 39,792.72
5117 · Bank Charges	\$ 300	132.90	\$ 167.10
5140 · Website Upkeep	\$ 4,500	3,985.32	\$ 514.68
5150 · Insurance	\$ 28,000	27,415.52	\$ 584.48
5180 · Office Supplies	\$ 12,000	7,936.20	\$ 4,063.80
5200 · Payroll Expenses	\$ 275,000	212,417.21	\$ 62,582.79
5250 · Postage	\$ 750	508.52	\$ 241.48
5280 · Office Rent	\$ 30,000	24,900.00	\$ 5,100.00
5285 · Utilities	\$ 2,000	1,560.22	\$ 439.78
5290 · Telephone	\$ 6,000	5,635.80	\$ 364.20
5300 · Travel/Training	\$ 20,500	12,096.22	\$ 8,403.78
5301 · Trolley Expenses	\$ 10,500	6,372.37	\$ 4,127.63
5302 · Trolley Tour Meals	\$ 5,000	3,964.31	\$ 1,035.69
5400 · Misc. Expense	\$ 5,500	5,059.96	\$ 440.04
Total Expense	\$ 1,042,000	749,510.83	\$ 292,489.17
Net Income	\$ -	-144,461.85	144,461.85

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he opened the floor for a motion.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT: Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for informal public comments and asked speakers to limit their comments to three (3) minutes.

John Flood of Morganton referenced historical figures who discussed various aspects of liberty and slavery. He pointed out that the label of "inferiority" has been used to dehumanize people, leading to numerous atrocities throughout history. In conclusion, he called for the removal of the Confederate Monument from Courtyard Square.

George Logan, Burke Coalition for Reconciliation (BCR) member, discussed the history of slavery in Burke County at the latest BCR meeting. He also referenced Pastor Robert Morris' sermon on the various "-isms," which he attributed to a lack of understanding. One of the BCR's goals is to promote understanding. Mr. Logan expressed his hope that the Board would engage in an open dialogue about the significance or lack thereof of keeping the Confederate monument in Courtyard Square. He believed that such a discussion would help bring the community closer together.

Carla Kincaid of Oak Hill spoke about spirit and liberty in honor of the upcoming Juneteenth. She highlighted that Juneteenth is like the 4th of July, in which people come together to celebrate the liberation of African Americans. Additionally, she voiced her opposition to the Confederate flags displayed along I-40.

There was no one else to address the Board; therefore, Chairman Brittain closed this portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of the Board, Brian Epley, County Manager, reviewed the following 16 items on the consent agenda, which were approved by a single motion.

BCPS - PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

In accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement approved by the County and the Board of Education, the Board of Education provided the County with quarterly financial reports for the 2023 - 2024 budget year, showing the application of the County's local funding by the end of each fiscal quarter during the pre-agenda meeting.

BCPS						
Estimated Revenues						
2023/2024						
	Annual		March YTD			% of Budget
	Previous	Current Fcst	Previous	Current	% Change	Received
State	92,233,989	93,617,499	67,976,386	72,034,704	6.0%	76.9%
Federal	23,584,588	22,641,204	16,762,870	13,013,450	-22.4%	57.5%
Local	15,593,566	17,695,796	12,053,573	14,714,222	22.1%	83.2%
Charter Schools	709,442	804,204	413,695	567,047	37.1%	70.5%
Fines & Forfeitures	241,513	250,000	314,811	200,662	-36.3%	80.3%
Receivables	53,852	12,500	12,424	36,994	197.8%	296.0%
Special Revenues	6,513,465	6,578,600	3,775,024	5,603,618	48.4%	85.2%
Total	\$ 138,930,415	\$ 141,599,803	\$ 101,308,783	\$ 106,170,697	4.8%	75.0%
Although Federal spending is down, still higher than historical numbers due to ESSER spending						
We rank 3rd out of 115 LEA's in the state in ESSER utilization, \$45.5M spent 99.67%						
This year we are paying 10 charter schools for 608 students, 3 are Virtual, and 37 for Avery County, Jonas Ridge children						
The \$790 per student cap of local funds for Virtual Charters was repealed, they now receive 100% local allotment						

BCPS									
Local Financials by Purpose & Function Level									
2023/2024									
Expenses	'20/'21	'21/'22	'22/'23	Budget	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Regular Instructional Services	4,787,687	5,647,012	5,521,972	6,840,714	509,631	2,607,248	1,447,336		4,564,215
Instructional Support	10,358,944	10,197,710	10,283,484	10,881,123	3,310,775	2,813,968	3,046,494		9,171,237
Other Governmental Units	635,937	759,694	692,840	987,234	49,613	383,434	252,286		685,333
Revenues Over (Under)	509,982	(170,801)	100,077	53,429	831,217	(330,118)	597,041		1,098,140
Grand Total	\$ 16,292,550	\$ 16,433,615	\$ 16,598,373	\$ 18,762,500	\$ 4,701,236	\$ 5,474,532	\$ 5,343,157	\$ -	\$ 15,518,925
% of Annual Budget									82.7%
Revenue									
Burke County	15,495,366	15,435,254	15,593,566	17,695,796	4,529,972	5,184,250	5,000,000		14,714,222
Timber Receipts	58,552	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Charter Schools	495,287	613,951	709,442	804,204	95,028	190,750	281,269		567,047
Fines & Forfeitures	230,225	371,986	241,513	250,000	46,563	98,272	55,827		200,662
Schools' Receivables	13,120	12,424	53,852	12,500	29,673	1,260	6,061		36,994
Grand Total	\$ 16,292,550	\$ 16,433,615	\$ 16,598,373	\$ 18,762,500	\$ 4,701,236	\$ 5,474,532	\$ 5,343,157	\$ -	\$ 15,518,925

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

CLERK - APPOINTMENT TO LEPC - SEAT NO. 16

Seat No. 16 on the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) represents SAFT America and is occupied by Steve Jenkins. He has served on this committee since 2020. Beth Anderson is the Industrial Risk Manager now at SAFT. Her appointment to complete the remainder of a term ending January 31, 2026, was requested.

16	SAFT America	Steve Jenkins	A	1/21/2020
	Seat Added 01/2020		R	1/17/2023
			TE	1/31/2026

Motion: To remove Steve Jenkins' name from the LEPC roster and thank him for his service to the community. To appoint Beth Anderson to the LEPC, Seat No. 16, representing SAFT America, to complete the remainder of a term ending January 31, 2026.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

CLERK - RESIDENCY WAIVER AMERICA 250 NC COMMITTEE

At the April 16, 2024, meeting, the Board passed a resolution to form the America 250 NC Committee in addition to appointing the inaugural committee members. Kevin Hancock is one of the appointees, but he currently lives in Caldwell County, so a waiver of the residency requirement was requested.

Motion: To grant an exception to Section 2-88, membership requirements of the

Burke County Code of Ordinances for Kevin Hancock.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

CLERK - REMOVAL FROM THE PLANNING BOARD

Dorian Palmer occupied Seat No. 5 (at-large) on the Planning Board until his recent resignation. His removal was requested. Applications are being accepted for this position.

Motion: To remove Dorian Palmer's name from the official roster for the Planning Board and thank him for his service to the community.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

CLERK - APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADULT CARE & NURSING HOME COMMITTEE

Per the Regional Ombudsman, Karen Robinson and Diane Patterson have completed their extensive Community Advisory Committee training required by the State of NC and can be appointed to the Adult Care & Nursing Home Committee for their initial 1-year terms ending May 31, 2025, to Seats No. 1 and No. 3 respectively. Further, the reappointment of Ann Holland was requested for another 3-year term.

Motion: To appoint Karen Robinson and Diane Patterson to the Adult Care & Nursing Home Committee, Seats No. 1 and No. 3 respectively, to complete 1-year terms ending May 31, 2025. To reappoint Ann Holland to the Adult Care & Nursing Home CAC for a 3-year term ending May 31, 2027.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

CLERK - BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT REMOVAL

Mr. Charles ("Tony") Yount, occupied Seat No. 4, West, on the Board of Adjustment, until his recent resignation. This seat has an unexpired term ending September 30, 2025. Applications are being solicited to fill the vacancy.

Motion: To remove Tony Yount's name from the official roster for the Burke Co. Board of Adjustment and thank him for his service to the community.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

CM - APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13 - \$302,000 FOR SCIF PROJECTS

Approval of Budget Amendment No. 13, for \$302,000 was requested. It recognizes state

funding received through the State Capital Infrastructure Fund.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13			
REVENUES			
<u>ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>
215-21514-01-433100	SCIF Funding	\$100,000	
210-21004-01-433100	SCIF Funding	\$200,000	
100-43000-01-433493	SCIF Funding	\$2,000	
EXPENSES			
<u>ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>
215-21514-10-575000	Equipment	\$100,000	
210-21004-60-575000	Equipment	\$200,000	
100-43000-05-534010	Technology Services	\$2,000	

Budgetary Effect: \$302,000 of additional unbudgeted revenue will be allocated to the above projects.

Motion: To adopt Budget Amendment No. 13 as presented.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Budget Amendment No. 13 reads as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13			
REVENUES			
<u>ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>
215-21514-01-433100	SCIF Funding	\$100,000	
210-21004-01-433100	SCIF Funding	\$200,000	
100-43000-01-433493	SCIF Funding	\$2,000	
EXPENSES			
<u>ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>
215-21514-10-575000	Equipment	\$100,000	
210-21004-60-575000	Equipment	\$200,000	
100-43000-05-534010	Technology Services	\$2,000	

Purpose: Burke County is set to receive three (3) SCIF allotments from the state, allocated as follows: \$100,000 earmarked for the Sheriff's Office to acquire a body scanner, \$200,000 designated for the Water Sewer department for the procurement and installation of water meters, and \$2,000 designated for record preservation in the Register of Deeds Office.

A copy of these amendments shall be furnished to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer of the County to be kept on file for direction in the disbursement of funds.

Adopted this 21st day of May 2024.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain
 Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
 Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn
 Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
 Clerk to the Board

CM - APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 12 FOR SCALE SERVER UPGRADES - \$360,000

Approval of Budget Amendment No. 12, which recognizes additional revenue from interest earnings to be used for the purpose of purchasing two (2) scale server upgrades, was requested.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 12			
REVENUES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
100-00000-00-436100	Interest Earnings	\$241,000	
152-15200-00-439903	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$119,000	
EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
100-44500-05-575000	Equipment	\$241,000	
152-15200-00-551505	911 - Hardware	\$119,000	

Budgetary Effect: \$360,000 to cover the entire purchase amount. \$119,000 of this amount will be utilized by eligible 911 funds. The remaining allocation will be sourced by additional revenue from interest earnings received during the fiscal year. Annual savings from this migration are projected to be approximately \$70,000 per year.

Motion: To adopt Budget Amendment No. 12 as presented.

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT: Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Budget Amendment No. 12 reads as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 12			
REVENUES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
100-00000-00-436100	Interest Earnings	\$241,000	

152-15200-00-439903	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$119,000	
EXPENSES			
<u>ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>
100-44500-05-575000	EQUIPMENT	\$241,000	
152-15200-00-551505	911 - HARDWARE	\$119,000	
Purpose: Allocate additional funding for early implementation of scale server migration for general IT and 911.			
A copy of these amendments shall be furnished to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer of the County to be kept on file for direction in the disbursement of funds.			

Adopted this 21st day of May 2024.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain
 Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
 Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn
 Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
 Clerk to the Board

COMM. DEV. - LOCALLY ADMINISTERED PROJECT PROGRAM CANAL BRIDGE SIDEWALK

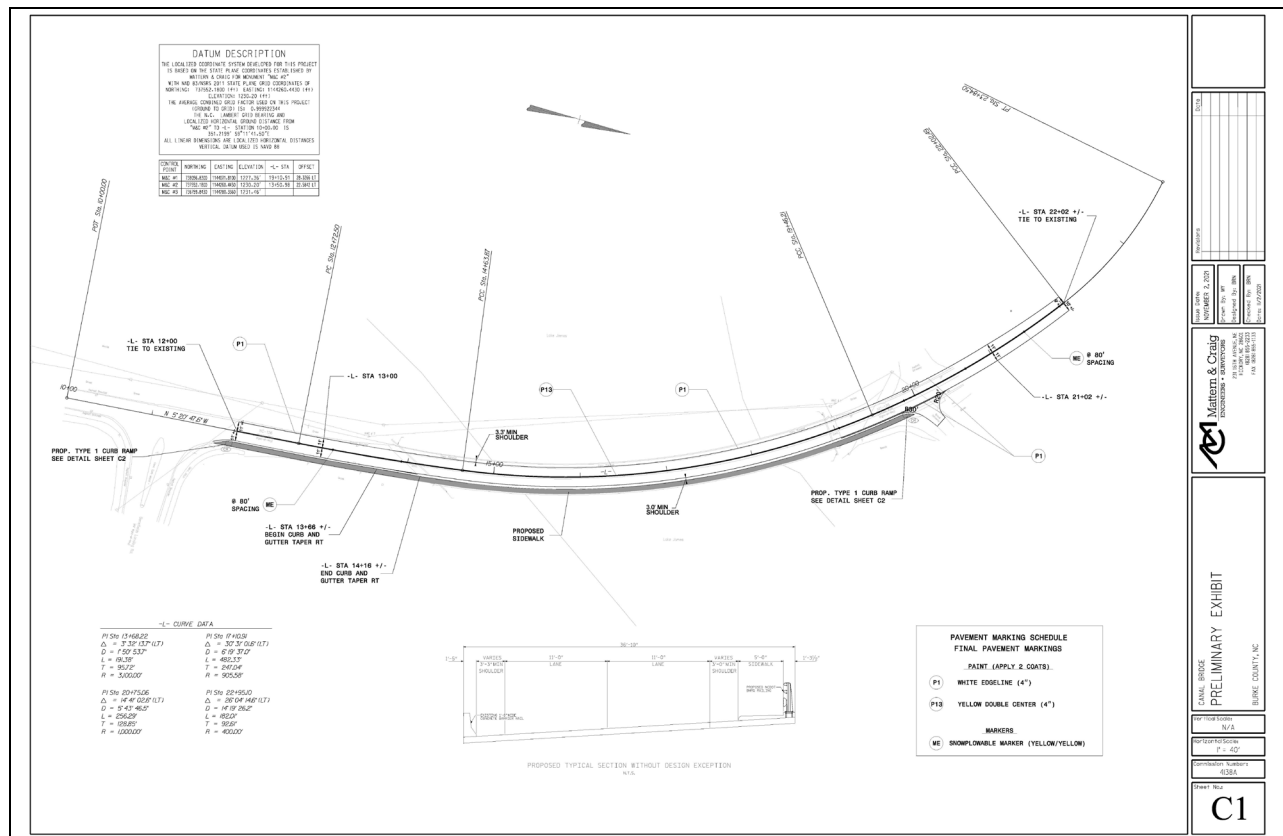
The Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization on behalf of the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has issued a call for projects to agencies in its jurisdiction for Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP) funding. Burke County proposes to submit an application for the cost of construction for the Canal Bridge Sidewalk project. Beginning in March 2021, the County began working with Mattern & Craig Engineering to provide options for a safe pedestrian crossing of Canal Bridge. The 480 linear foot sidewalk is planned on the existing deck of the bridge at five (5) feet in width, which is a crucial link of connectivity between Lake James State Park parcels and the Fonta Flora and Overmountain Victory State Trails. This will also include a crosswalk across 126 connecting to a future trailhead.

In November 2023, NCDOT approved the proposed plan and issued revised feedback to the engineering firm. The total project cost amounts to \$887,500, which encompasses an administrative component designated for NCDOT to oversee project management. A 20% local cash match is mandatory as per the grant conditions. Both the Friends of Fonta Flora State Trail (F3ST) and the Overmountain Victory North Carolina State Trail Friends Group (OVNCST) have pledged to cover the \$177,500 required for the local cash match. Additionally, the County has already covered the expenses associated with the engineering study and construction documents.

The grant application closed on April 30, 2024, and staff submitted an initial application as a placeholder that will be followed up with a formal Board of Commission resolution of support

should this agenda request be approved. Selected shortlisted projects that score well for the grant will be notified in July followed by a public comment period. The project remains on track to have this construction project initiated in Fall 2024.

This LAPP related call for proposals is the first one since the Pandemic due to a prior NCDOT funding crisis. The funding is getting back on track now but the program rollout by the state has been a little challenging to keep in front of, but staff believes they now have the required dates and information.



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Budgetary Effect: There is no effect on the County budget. The grant match will come from F3ST and OVNCST.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2024-10.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Resolution No. 2024-10 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

Resolution in Support for the Canal Bridge Sidewalk as a 2024 Locally Administered Project Program Application

WHEREAS, the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) on behalf of the NC Department of Transportation issued a call for projects to agencies in its jurisdiction for the Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP); and

WHEREAS, Burke County proposes to submit an application for funds for the Fonta Flora and Overmountain Victory State Trails for the construction of 480 linear feet of on-deck sidewalk on Canal Bridge which extends the existing Overmountain Victory trail in Lake James State Park. This will create a valuable link between state park parcels allowing for safe pedestrian crossing; and

WHEREAS, in order to receive funds Burke County is required to provide a 20 percent local cash match, or \$177,500 to the requested grant amount of \$710,000; and

WHEREAS, Burke County will receive letters of support and will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Fonta Flora State Trail and Overmountain Victory North Carolina State Trail Friends Group that commits them to provide \$177,500 for the local cash match.

NOW THEREFORE, the Burke County Board of Commissioners resolves to support the application to the 2024 Locally Administered Project Program Call and provide the 20 percent local cash match via monies provided by the trail partners.

Adopted this 21st day of May 2024.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board

DSS - APPROVAL OF NORTHWOODS CONSULTING PARTNERS, INC. CONTRACT

Northwoods has announced the forthcoming end-of-life for their Compass Software. In its place, they are introducing Traverse, a new and improved product. Traverse is a cloud-based, commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) document management, forms management, and mobility software purpose-built for human services agencies. Given this announcement, the Department of Social Services, which currently utilizes Compass, is now looking to transition to Traverse. The implementation incurs a one-time transitional cost of \$153,125, which has already been allocated in the FY 23 - 24 budget.

Budgetary Effect: None.

Motion: To authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement with Northwoods Consulting Partners, Inc. on behalf of the Board, subject to review and / or revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

FINANCE - USDA LEASE RENEWAL

The United States Department of Agriculture's lease has expired. Staff requested authority to renew the lease as permitted under N.C.G.S. § 160A-274, at a rate of \$14.30 per square foot, for a total annual rent in the amount of \$38,778.10. The term is August 1, 2023, through December 31, 2026.

Budgetary Effect: Negligible.

Motion: To authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute a lease with the USDA.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

JCPC - REMOVAL OF MEMBER FOR SEAT NO. 15

Due to retirement, the removal of Brandi Tolbert, representing the Chief District Court Judge, from Seat No. 15 on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council was requested.

15	Chief Dist. Court Judge	Brandi Tolbert	A	6/21/2022
	or Designee		R	
			TE	6/30/2024

Motion: To remove Brandi Tolbert's name from the official roster for the JCPC and thank her for her service to the community.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

JCPC - APPROVAL OF COUNTY PLAN FOR BURKE COUNTY & FUNDING ALLOCATION

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) plans for the needs of adjudicated and at-risk youth and assesses the need for delinquency treatment and prevention services in Burke County. The funding from the state Department of Public Safety Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for the programs, \$287,074, requires a 30% match which is provided by the programs themselves either by cash or in-kind donations.

The Annual Plan describes and documents each step of the state-mandated process required to make decisions on the allocation of funds provided to Burke County by the Division of Juvenile Justice. The plan also documents the required meetings and attendance as well as adherence to open meeting laws and other state-required processes. Most importantly, it lists the programs chosen for funding and the amounts allocated. This plan must be approved by the Burke County Board of Commissioners prior to acceptance and funding by DJJ.

Budgetary Effect: None.

Motion: To approve the JCPC FY 24 - 25 County Plan for Burke County as presented as well as the annual County Funding Plan. Further, authorize the County Manager and / or the County Finance Director to process revisions to the JCPC FY 24 - 25 Plan administratively and to authorize the Chairman to execute the allocation on behalf of the Board.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

The Funding Plan reads as follows:

Burke County									
NC DPS - Community Programs - County Funding Plan									
Available Funds:		\$	\$287,074	Local Match:		\$	\$85,953	Rate: 30%	
DPS JCPC funds must be committed with a Program Agreement submitted in NC Allies and electronically signed by authorized officials.									
#	Program Provider	DPS-JCPC Funding	LOCAL FUNDING			OTHER	OTHER	Total	% NC/DPS JCPC Program Revenues
			County Cash Match	Local Cash Match	Local In- Kind	State/ Federal	Funds		
1	JCPC Admin	\$13,911						\$13,911	
2	Adolescent Substance Abuse Assessment & Treatment - Burke Council on Alcoholism	\$19,191	\$2,000		\$6,396	\$6,393		\$33,980	44%
3	Burke Restorative Services - Repay	\$66,347			\$19,904			\$86,251	23%
4	Just Girls - Burke - Repay	\$26,798			\$8,093	\$11,816		\$46,707	43%
5	Juvenile Mediation/Conflict Resolution Education Conflict Resolution Center	\$44,934			\$13,791			\$58,725	23%
6	Kids at Work! Burke - Aspire Youth & Family	\$43,632			\$13,986			\$57,618	24%
7	Psychological Services - Burke - Repay	\$21,078			\$6,428	\$2,145		\$29,651	29%
8	SAIS - Burke - Repay	\$51,183			\$15,355	\$12,306		\$78,844	35%
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
TOTALS:		\$287,074	\$2,000		\$83,953	\$32,660		\$405,687	29%

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR APRIL 2024

The Board of Commissioners was presented with the Tax Collection Report for April 30, 2024, at the pre-agenda meeting as follows:

Category	Annual Budget	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$52,699,577.00	\$52,851,327.69	100.29%	(\$151,750.69)
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$6,200,000.00	\$4,566,640.84	73.66%	\$1,633,359.16
Current Year Taxes	\$58,899,577.00	\$57,417,968.53	97.48%	\$1,481,608.47
Delinquent Taxes	\$700,000.00	\$602,723.47	86.10%	\$97,276.53

Penalty & Interest	\$329,000.00	\$390,479.53	118.69%	(\$61,479.63)
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The Tax Levy is the total property tax value not including motor vehicles times the tax rate. This amount changes monthly with the addition of discoveries, other changes, or corrections, and when Public Utility Values are added, typically during September.

Category	Tax Levy	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$52,828,183.32	\$52,851,327.69	98.19%	\$976,855.63

Motion: To accept the Tax Collection Report for April 2024 as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR APRIL 2024

Releases in value and/or refunds of taxes typically occur when:

- ☐ Taxpayers submit information that creates a reduction in value.
- ☐ Situs is corrected between counties and/or municipalities.
- ☐ Valuation appeals reduce the value of real or personal property.
- ☐ The postmark reveals a payment was timely sent.

The Board of Commissioners was presented with the following list of releases and refunds for consideration at the pre-agenda meeting. The Net Release is a result of the Report Amount minus the Rebilled Amount.

Tax System Refunds and Releases			
Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
\$37,036.97	\$15,253.21	\$21,783.76	\$0.00

VTS Refunds Over \$100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$1,563.80

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Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount	Release Amount	Rebilled Amount
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Adjustment							
0000084197-2013-2013-0000-01-REG	CLARKS NURSERY OF JONAS RIDGE	7/1/2013	LINDA WILBUR	4/11/2024	879.77	879.77	0.00
0024009511-2017-2017-0000-02-REG	RIVERBEND MHP LLC	7/1/2017	LINDA WILBUR	4/23/2024	2,637.78	2,637.78	0.00
0024009511-2018-2018-0000-02-REG	RIVERBEND MHP LLC	7/1/2018	LINDA WILBUR	4/23/2024	3,006.24	1,728.00	1,278.24
0024009511-2019-2019-0000-01-REG	RIVERBEND MHP LLC	7/1/2019	LINDA WILBUR	4/23/2024	3,027.21	1,728.00	1,299.21
0024009511-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	RIVERBEND MHP LLC	7/1/2020	LINDA WILBUR	4/23/2024	2,516.60	1,728.00	788.60
0024009511-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	RIVERBEND MHP LLC	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	4/23/2024	2,628.60	1,824.00	804.60
0024009511-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	RIVERBEND MHP LLC	7/1/2022	LINDA WILBUR	4/23/2024	2,796.60	1,968.00	828.60
0024009511-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	RIVERBEND MHP LLC	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	4/23/2024	2,760.11	2,112.00	648.11
Subtotal					20,252.91	14,605.55	5,647.36
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Billing Correction							
0000038478-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	CROSSLINK CHURCH	7/3/2023	AMANDA	4/23/2024	1,591.95	1,591.95	0.00
0000038482-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	CROSSLINK CHURCH	7/3/2023	AMANDA	4/23/2024	1,829.64	1,829.64	0.00
Subtotal					3,421.59	3,421.59	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Not in Burke County							
0024034665-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	PERROU JONATHAN D	7/1/2021	KAYLA	4/15/2024	141.44	141.44	0.00
0024034665-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	PERROU JONATHAN D	7/1/2022	KAYLA	4/15/2024	141.44	141.44	0.00
0024034665-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	PERROU JONATHAN D	7/3/2023	KAYLA	4/15/2024	462.00	462.00	0.00
Subtotal					744.88	744.88	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Process Correction							
0000008666-2024-2023-0000-00-REG	OPEN HEARTS PLACE	4/4/2024	AMANDA	4/4/2024	1,088.31	98.94	989.37
Subtotal					1,088.31	98.94	989.37
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Sold/Traded							
0024010100-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	LARRICK, HELEN	7/1/2022	LINDA WILBUR	4/24/2024	76.76	76.76	0.00
0024010100-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	LARRICK, GARY	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	4/24/2024	55.68	55.68	0.00
Subtotal					132.44	132.44	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Value Change							
0000007991-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	JOURDAN, ROBERT BRYAN	7/3/2023	AMANDA	4/22/2024	1,612.23	1,612.23	0.00
0000050855-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	WILLIAMS, VANESSA K	7/1/2022	AMANDA	4/18/2024	3,039.70	157.49	2,882.21
0000050855-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	WILLIAMS, VANESSA K	7/3/2023	AMANDA	4/18/2024	3,851.59	321.77	3,529.82
0000054899-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	PRITCHARD, JOHN D	7/3/2023	AMANDA	4/3/2024	2,893.32	688.87	2,204.45
Subtotal					11,396.84	2,780.36	8,616.48
Total					37,036.97	21,783.76	15,253.21

Payee Name	Refund Type	Bill #	Transaction #	Refund Description	Refund Reason	Create Date	Tax Jurisd.	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
ALDERSON, RAYMOND DAVID	Proration	0073617442-2023-2023-0000-00	307079652	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0073617442-2023-2023-0000-00	Vehicle Sold	4/18/2024	01	TAX	(\$69.48)	\$0.00	(\$69.48)
							57	TAX	(\$62.04)	\$0.00	(\$62.04)
							57	VEHICLE FEE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
									Refund	\$131.52	
FARRIS, JAMES GARMON	Proration	0077385667-2023-2023-0000-00	307079781	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0077385667-2023-2023-0000-00	Tag Surrender	4/18/2024	01	TAX	(\$67.09)	\$0.00	(\$67.09)
							57	TAX	(\$59.90)	\$0.00	(\$59.90)
							57	VEHICLE FEE	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
									Refund	\$146.99	
HUNSUCKER, PATSY OVERCASH	Proration	0061127576-2022-2022-0000-00	204294942	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0061127576-2022-2022-0000-00	Vehicle Sold	4/10/2024	01	TAX	(\$109.60)	\$0.00	(\$109.60)
							21	TAX	(\$17.34)	\$0.00	(\$17.34)
									Refund	\$126.94	
LINDSAY, THEDA BOLICK	Proration	0063501184-2023-2023-0000-00	205342346	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0063501184-2023-2023-0000-00	Vehicle Totalled	4/29/2024	01	TAX	(\$100.62)	\$0.00	(\$100.62)
							24	TAX	(\$19.77)	\$0.00	(\$19.77)
									Refund	\$120.39	
NICKOLS, MICHAEL JAMES	Proration	0069324127-2023-2023-0000-00	204782558	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0069324127-2023-2023-0000-00	Vehicle Sold	4/19/2024	01	TAX	(\$83.53)	\$0.00	(\$83.53)
							55	TAX	(\$52.21)	\$0.00	(\$52.21)
									Refund	\$135.74	
POTEAT, CODY LANE	Proration	0069927509-2022-2022-0000-00	203885708	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0069927509-2022-2022-0000-00	Vehicle Totalled	4/3/2024	01	TAX	(\$94.29)	\$0.00	(\$94.29)
							26	TAX	(\$16.28)	\$0.00	(\$16.28)
									Refund	\$110.57	
STORY, STONEY DALE	Proration	0069821011-2023-2023-0000-00	410179620	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0069821011-2023-2023-0000-00	Vehicle Totalled	4/25/2024	01	TAX	(\$81.99)	\$0.00	(\$81.99)
							57	TAX	(\$73.20)	\$0.00	(\$73.20)
							57	VEHICLE FEE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							40	TAX	(\$17.57)	\$0.00	(\$17.57)
		Refund	\$172.76								

Payee Name	Refund Type	Bill #	Transaction #	Refund Description	Refund Reason	Create Date	Tax Jurisdiction	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
TALLENT, KAYLA LEIGH ANNE	Proration	0074809151-2023-2023-0000-00	204227352	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0074809151-2023-2023-0000-00	Vehicle Sold	4/9/2024	01	TAX	(\$166.81)	\$0.00	(\$166.81)
							25	TAX	(\$21.33)	\$0.00	(\$21.33)
									Refund	\$188.14	
VUE, TOU	Proration	0068566307-2023-2023-0000-00	307634556	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0068566307-2023-2023-0000-00	Vehicle Totalled	4/25/2024	01	TAX	(\$110.96)	\$0.00	(\$110.96)
							54	TAX	(\$23.77)	\$0.00	(\$23.77)
							28	TAX	(\$20.80)	\$0.00	(\$20.80)
			Refund	\$155.53							
WALKER, DAVID MICHAEL	Proration	0075408115-2023-2023-0000-00	203886110	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill #0075408115-2023-2023-0000-00	Vehicle Totalled	4/4/2024	01	TAX	(\$231.76)	\$0.00	(\$231.76)
							28	TAX	(\$43.46)	\$0.00	(\$43.46)
									Refund	\$275.22	
										Refund Total	\$1563.80

*Note: The net release amount is a result of the reported amount minus the rebilled amount.

Motion: To approve the Tax Releases and Refunds for April 2024 as presented.

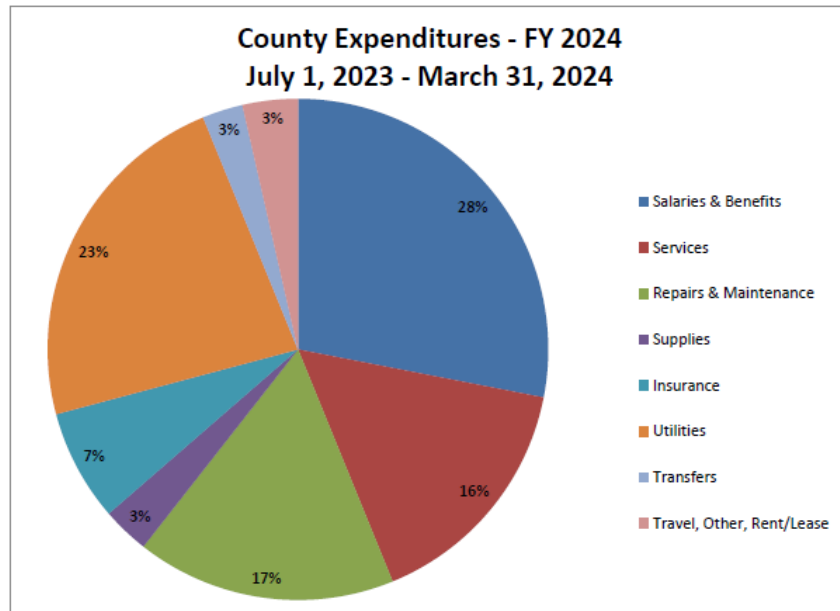
RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT: Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

WPCC – PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

An overview of the College's financial data was presented at the pre-agenda meeting for the period ending March 31, 2024.

WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE FY 2023-2024 SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 31, 2024									
Summary of Revenues	STATE			COUNTY			INSTITUTIONAL		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING	PGLT	ACTUAL	REMAINING	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING
State Appropriations	14,577,231	12,073,823							
Add. Allocations (detail below)	2,090,940								
County Appropriations				2,898,204	2,173,653				
Rent & Interest Income				7,500	20,596				
Institutional Funds							6,145,228	6,067,277	
Total Budgeted Revenues	16,668,171	12,073,823	4,594,348	2,905,704	2,194,249	711,455	6,145,228	6,067,277	77,951
Summary of Expenditures	STATE			COUNTY			INSTITUTIONAL		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING	PGLT	ACTUAL	REMAINING	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING
Institutional Support	3,459,525	2,873,302	83%	266,218	248,785	93%	170,679	46,902	27%
Curriculum Instruction	7,505,241	5,431,880	72%				433,450	554,820	128%
Non Curriculum Instruction	2,188,273	1,308,133	60%				63,000	189,684	301%
Academic Support	1,406,300	1,014,617	72%				500	27	5%
Student Support	1,656,833	1,164,236	70%				1,204,155	466,043	39%
Plant Operations & Maint.				2,639,486	1,846,125	70%			
Proprietary / Other							1,001,820	1,097,150	110%
Student Aid							3,271,624	3,562,728	109%
Capital Outlay (excluding Capital Improvements)	451,999	224,043	50%						
Total Budgeted Expenditures	16,668,171	12,016,211	4,651,960	2,905,704	2,094,910	810,794	6,145,228	5,917,354	227,874
	72.1%	27.9%		72.1%	27.9%		96.3%	3.7%	
ADDITIONAL FUNDING DESIGNATED FOR APPROVED PROJECTS									
Customized Training Projects	98,111	Perkins Carryforward	22,032						
Underserved Outreach/Advising	48,243	Fac Recruit/Retent	221,675						
GEER Scholarships	2,615	Longevity	178,253						
Finish Line Grant (Wrap Around)	53,366	ST Workforce Dev	4,412						
Apprenticeship Expansion	138,905	Nursig Salaries	38,703						
Apprenticeship Building	28,500	SBC reversion	(8,000)						
Budget Stabilization funds	91,862	Enrollment Growth	22,786						
Basic Skills Carryforward	74,841	LPN Program	497,318						
Male Minority Grant - Aviso	38,069								
NCWorks Career Coach	149,058								
Federal Portion - Basic Skills	242,458								
CTP Regional Trainer	147,733								
Total Other	2,090,940								
For Year Ending June 30, 2024									
Total College Budget	\$	25,719,103							
Total Expenditures	\$	20,028,475							77.9%
Fund Balance: County Funds									
Fund Balance, Beginning July 1, 2023									638,482
Current Operating Cash									99,339
Current Fund Balance									737,821
									25%

Western Piedmont Community College		
County Expenditures by Category		
FY 2024 - Actual Expenditures - July 1, 2023 thru March 31, 2024		
Salaries & Benefits	588,134	28.1%
Services	330,049	15.8%
Repairs & Maintenance	351,290	16.8%
Supplies	63,601	3.0%
Insurance	150,924	7.2%
Utilities	481,402	23.0%
Transfers	54,844	2.6%
Travel, Other, Rent/Lease	74,666	3.6%
	<u>2,094,910</u>	<u>100%</u>



Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

ITEMS FOR DECISION

COMM. DEV. - AWARD CONTRACT FOR TRAIL DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

Sarah Chabaane, Trail Specialist, reported that the Community Development Department in partnership with Friends of Fonta Flora State Trail (F3ST) and Overmountain Victory North Carolina State Trail (OVNCST) issued a request for qualifications (RFQ) for Trail Design and Engineering services on January 19, 2024, and extended the bid period to March 29, 2024. A required site visit was hosted on February 6, 2024, where 10 individuals representing eight (8)

firms attended. The review committee was comprised of representatives from F3ST and OVNCST along with five (5) county employees. The committee reviewed the two (2) submissions received from Destination by Design and Alta. Both firms were interviewed on April 11, 2024, and were highly qualified. The committee has recommended Destination by Design for the project based on their vast experience with trail design, regional knowledge, and affiliated engineering firm's success in submitting plans to NCDOT.

The request for qualifications is to select a qualified professional firm to provide design services and construction documents for three (3) sections of the co-located Fonta Flora and Overmountain Victory State Trails. The sections plan for the repair of 1.75 miles of trail in the 1780 neighborhood, new construction of 2.2 miles through the Enclave neighborhood, and new construction of 0.8 miles through Lake James Family Camping Resort and Marina. Each of these sections has unique challenges that require creative solutions. Benefits from this RFQ include sets of construction documents that can be utilized to bid out the projects, which will continue the growth of trail systems in Burke County and multiple designated road crossings.

Burke County will be the primary point of contact with Destination by Design through managing the development of construction documents and processing requests for reimbursement from partners.

F3ST and OVNCST will provide feedback and relevant documents to the firm, support the County's efforts in local stakeholder engagement through their existing relationships or developments of new connections, and contribute to the overall contract cost.

BID #: 2024-0306-REBID			
PROJECT: Burke County Trail Design & Engineering RFQ			
Vendor:	Contact:	Phone:	Email:
Alta Planning + Design, Inc	Brittain Storck	470-290-1202	brittstorck@altago.com
Destination by Design	Eric Woolridge	828-386-1866	eric@dbdplanning.com

INTERVIEW/EVALUATION SCORES:		
After reviewing the proposal and speaking with the firms, the Selection Committee recommends the project be awarded to Destination By Design.		
	DbD	Alta
Design development and experience with similar projects, generate construction docs.	213.0	229.0
On time and on budget. Firm's reputation. Geographic familiarity.	151.0	148.0
Team members qualities- dislines, experience, certification, demonstrated abilities.	123.0	124.0
Proven experience permitting including NCDOT and regulatory constraints.	99.0	79.0
Experience with providing services to government entities.	34.0	32.0
TOTAL	620.0	612.0
Average Score	88.6	87.4

Budgetary Effect: The Destination by Design contract cost for Scope of Services is \$200,000 with an allowances budget of \$108,000. The contract total not to be exceeded is \$308,000. Program partners will contribute \$130,000 through an executed MOU. If approved, the County's portion not to exceed \$178,000 will be used from account 215-21505-25-590100 ("Grant Match").

Motion: To award the contract to Destination by Design for trail design and construction document services on the Fonta Flora / Overmountain Victory State Trails sections in the amount of \$308,000. Further, authorize the County Manager to execute the contract and the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Board, subject to review and / or revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

GS - APPROVAL OF LEASE FOR SEMI-TRUCKS, CONTRACT FOR REFUSE TRAILERS & RELATED BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 14

Mark Delehant, General Services Director, relayed that the water / sewer and solid waste enterprise funds have, up until recently, required support from the general fund. Now that the water / sewer fund is solvent, staff is implementing plans to achieve the same for the solid waste fund. As part of this plan, Burke County will begin transporting household waste from the transfer station to the MSW landfill in Caldwell County. This change will transition a service currently provided by a for-profit company to in-house management, leading to an eventual annual savings of over \$1.2 million. To initiate this process, two (2) RFPs were solicited beginning May 3rd, the first for the purchase of four (4) trailers and the second for leasing three (3) trucks, with responses due by May 13th. Twelve (12) responses were received, resulting in a highly competitive bidding process. The lowest bid for the truck lease came from Ryder Trucks, and for the trailers, from Pinnacle Trailer Sales. Approval of the following related budget amendment is required to implement this new cost-saving initiative.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 14			
EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
600-35200-60-544200	Equipment Lease	\$91,000	
600-35200-60-575000	Equipment	\$299,000	
600-35100-60-551505	Transportation Waste		\$241,000
600-35200-60-542102	Waste Disposal		\$34,000
600-35200-60-573000	Other Improvements		\$97,000
600-35200-55-595410	Transfer To Capital Reserve		\$18,000

Budgetary Effect: \$390,000 reallocation of existing funds to purchase and lease equipment for solid waste hauling. Annual net savings are anticipated to be approximately \$800,000.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions of comments. Commissioner Smith thought that this was an excellent idea. Mr. Delehant commended Hugh Sandoe, Budget Strategy and

Performance Analyst, Brian Epley, County Manager, and the Finance Department for assisting with this endeavor. There being nothing further, Chairman Brittain opened the floor for a motion. Commissioner Burns also expressed his gratitude to the county manager and staff for their efforts in thinking outside of the box.

Motion: To award the bid in the amount of \$295,600 to Pinnacle Trailer Sales and authorize the County Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Board, subject to review and / or revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Motion: To award the lease in the amount of \$90,900 to Ryder Truck Rentals for a five (5) year term and authorize the County Manager to execute the lease agreement on behalf of the Board, subject to review and / or revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Motion: To adopt Budget Amendment No. 14 as presented.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith

Budget Amendment No. 14 reads as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 14			
EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
600-35200-60-544200	Equipment Lease	\$91,000	
600-35200-60-575000	Equipment	\$299,000	
600-35100-60-551505	Transportation Waste		\$241,000
600-35200-60-542102	Waste Disposal		\$34,000
600-35200-60-573000	Other Improvements		\$97,000
600-35200-55-595410	Transfer To Capital Reserve		\$18,000
Purpose: Move funds to cover the purchase and lease of equipment including (3) trucks and (4) trailers for solid waste hauling.			
A copy of these amendments shall be furnished to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer of the County to be kept on file for direction in the disbursement of funds.			

Adopted this 21st day of May 2024.

/s/ Jeffrey C. Brittain
 Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
 Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/ Kay Honeycutt Draughn
 Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
 Clerk to the Board

HEALTH / OPIOID - RFQ / VENDOR SELECTION FOR STRATEGIC PLAN

Katie Varnadoe, Human Services Planner, stated that on February 29, 2024, Burke County Public Health initiated a search for qualified consulting firms to provide facilitation and consulting services for the development of Burke County's Strategic Plan for the expenditure of Opioid Settlement funding. This project will involve facilitating the strategic planning working group with the goal of (1) selecting priorities and key indicators, (2) collecting and presenting health data and other indicators to aid in the selection of priorities, (3) developing documents to support the requirements in North Carolina's collaborative strategic planning process as outlined in the NC Memorandum of Agreement between the State and Local Governments, (4) implementation planning for selected interventions, and (5) feasibility studies for selected interventions. The request for qualifications (RFQ) concluded on March 20, 2024, with six (6) submissions received. Following a thorough review and scoring process, in accordance with the Finance Department's requirements, Community Education Group is the recommended vendor for this service.

BID #:

2024-0320

PROJECT:

Consulting Services for the Development of Burke County's Strategic Plan for the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funding

Vendor:	Contact:	Phone:	Email:
OMNI Institute	Katie Gelman	303-839-9422, ext 143	kgelman@omni.org
Community Education Group	Lee Storrow	828-337-6573	lstorrow@communityeducationgroup.org
Initium Health	James Corbett	303-928-8511, ext 702	james@initiumhealth.org
Facente Consulting	Shelley Facente	415-999-1310	shelly@facenteconsulting.com
Evident Analytics	Wesley Rich	910-890-3257	wes@evidentanalytics.com
WestEd	Rajwant Virk	415-615-3136	contracts@wested.org

Scoring & Recommendation:

Proposals were reviewed by a Jessi Stout, Dr. Katie Varnadoe, Dr. Sam Cykert, Payton Williams. After reviewing and scoring the proposals, the recommendation is to award the project to Community Education Group.

Applicant	Experience	Expertise	Team Qualifications	References	Total
Community Education Group	Demonstrated experience in designing and consulting on substance use disorder treatment or similar healthcare projects.	Knowledge of relevant regulations, best practices, and emerging trends in addiction treatment.	Qualifications and experience of key team members who will be involved in the project.	Past client references and project examples that highlight successful completion of similar projects.	44
Evident Analytics	11	12	12	9	44
Facente Consulting	8	9	7	7	31
Initium Health	10	9	10	7	36
OMNI Institute	8	8	11	7	34
WestEd	11	9	9	10	39
	12	10	10	11	43

Budgetary Effect: None. The funds will be allocated from Opioid Settlement funds that were designated for this project under Option A: Collaborative Strategic Planning, not to exceed the approved amount of \$65,000.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none he made a motion.

Motion: To approve the utilization of Community Education Group to complete the

County's strategic plan for the expenditure of opioid settlement funding as presented. To authorize the Local Health Director to negotiate and execute the contract, subject to review and / or revision by the County Attorney. If an agreement cannot be reached with Community Education Group, the Local Health Director in consultation with the County Manager, is authorized to negotiate and contract with the second and third-ranked firms.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

HEALTH - REVISED RESOLUTION DIRECTING EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR MULTIPLE USES

Katie Varnadoe, Human Services Planner, relayed that Burke County, NC will receive funding from national Opioid Settlements for a period of 18 years. Funding may be expended on items listed in Options A or B of the NC Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the use of Opioid Settlement funding. This resolution is an update to the previously approved Resolution No. 2024-02, which allocates Opioid Settlement funding to four (4) interventions that fall under Option A of the NC MOA. These interventions also position the county to further access funds under Option B upon completion of the collaborative strategic planning process. The update is to extend the timeline for Strategies No. 2 and 3 (Collaborative Strategic Planning: Qualitative Data Collection to Include Voices of Individuals with Lived Experience and Collaborative Strategic Planning: Consulting Services) from June 30, 2024, to June 30, 2025, to allow adequate time for project completion.

Budgetary Effect: None. The update is to extend the timeline for two (2) of the interventions to reflect the time needed to complete the projects.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2024-08.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Resolution No. 2024-08 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF BURKE TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS REVISED END DATE FOR STRATEGIES NO. 2 & 3

WHEREAS Burke County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals;

WHEREAS the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA");

WHEREAS Burke County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA;

WHEREAS section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate budget resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and / or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

WHEREAS, in alignment with the NC MOA, the Burke County Board of County Commissioners by Resolution No. 2024-02 adopted on February 20, 2024, authorized the expenditure of \$126,500 in opioid settlement funds and the following four (4) strategies:

1. Strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning: Peers Partnering for Excellence
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and / or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 1
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$30,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of February 20, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Develop a network of Peer Support Specialists in Burke County. The Peer Support mentor network will serve to advocate for best practices in the peer support specialist scope of work, coach and support newly certified peer support specialists, as well as aid in the design and development of peer support services in the community. The allocated amount will be for the purpose of meeting accommodations and supplies, training, and travel for members of the Peer Support professional group.
 - g. Provider: Burke Public Health Department
2. Strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning: Qualitative Data Collection to Include Voices of Individuals with Lived Experience
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and / or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 1
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$30,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of February 20, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2024.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Qualitative information collection project that captures input from individuals with lived experience related to Opioid Use Disorder, which supports the collaborative strategic planning process of integrating the voices of individuals with lived experience. Funding for this strategy will be designated for qualitative data collection and videography services.
 - g. Provider: Procurement Process
3. Strategy authorized
- a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning: Consulting Services
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and / or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 1
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$65,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of February 20, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2024.
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provide assessments and analytics related to strategies under Exhibit B of the NC MOA, including feasibility & sustainability studies and implementation planning.
 - g. Provider: Procurement Process
4. Strategy authorized
- a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning: Overdose Fatality Review / Public Health and Safety Team
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and / or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 1
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$1,500
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of February 20, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Burke County's Overdose Fatality Review / Public Health and Safety Team utilizes the ARC GIS mapping software developed by ESRI. Funding will support annual ARC GIS licenses and credits necessary to track and report key indicators of the Opioid Epidemic.
 - g. Provider: Burke Public Health Department

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$126,500.

WHEREAS, as the Burke County Board of County Commissioners now desire to extend the completion end date for Strategies No. 2 and 3 (Collaborative Strategic Planning: Qualitative Data Collection to Include Voices of Individuals with Lived Experience and Collaborative

Strategic Planning: Consulting Services) from June 30, 2024, to June 30, 2025, to allow adequate time for project completion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the end date for the following strategies is June 30, 2025: Collaborative Strategic Planning: Qualitative Data Collection to Include Voices of Individuals with Lived Experience and Collaborative Strategic Planning: Consulting Services; and, that the balance of Resolution 2024-02, adopted by the Burke County Board of Commissioners on February 20, 2024, remains in full force and effect.

Adopted this 21st day of May 2024.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board

CO. MGR. - PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FY 24-25 AND SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING

Brian Epley, County Manager, presented a thorough overview of the FY 2024 - 2025 recommended budget to the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, with a proposed property tax rate of 56 cents per \$100 of property valuation.

Additional information from the agenda packet:

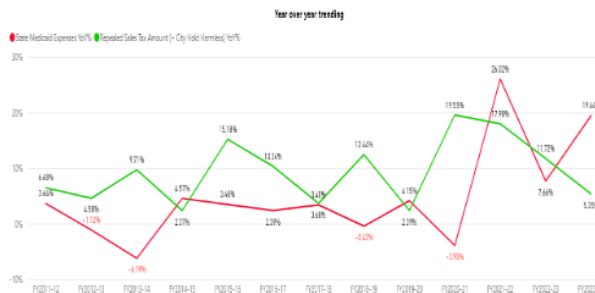
A copy of the recommended budget will be filed in the office of the Clerk to the Board that day and be available for public inspection at the Burke County Governmental Offices during regular business hours. The recommended budget will also be posted on the County's website at: <http://www.burkenc.org/2265/Budget-Documents>.

G.S. § 159-11 (b) - The budget, together with a budget message, shall be submitted to the governing board not later than June 1. The budget and budget message should, but need not, be submitted at a formal meeting of the board. The budget message should contain a concise explanation of the governmental goals fixed by the budget for the budget year, should explain important features of the activities anticipated in the budget, should set forth the reasons for stated changes from the previous year in program goals, programs, and appropriation levels, and should explain any major changes in fiscal policy.

A public hearing on the recommended budget is required and citizens are encouraged to present written or oral comments. Adoption of the recommended budget is anticipated to occur on June 18, 2024.

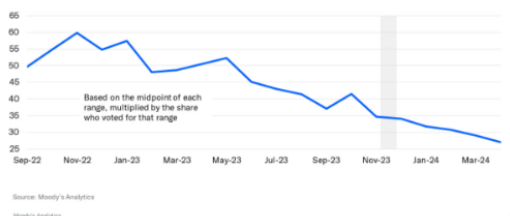
The Budget Message reads as follows:

1.) **Medicaid Hold Harmless Sales Tax** - Pursuant to G.S. 105-523, since around 2008-2009 most counties in North Carolina have received a hold-harmless revenue payment for exchanging a portion of the local Sales & Use Tax for the State's agreement to assume the responsibility for the non-administrative costs of Medicaid. A significant increase in State-paid Medicaid claims has resulted in Burke County losing approximately \$1.6M in revenue compared to the prior year. This represents approximately 1.5 cents on the tax rate.



2.) **Motor Vehicle Tax** - Following a significant uptick on Motor Vehicle values/revenue since COVID-19, the market has now "right sized", and values have decreased – along with declining sales associated with higher consumer borrowing rates. The result of those changes is a substantial revenue loss when compared to prior years. For Burke County, that amount is almost a \$1M loss in revenue for the current year.

Economists continue to debate the likelihood of a recession over the next twelve (12) months. Although the risk has slightly improved, the reality of a volatile economic environment remains. Increased borrowing rates, labor and capital cost escalation, travel costs, increased amount of revolving debt loads, and negative short-term and long-term yield curves present some risk. The 2024-2025 budget is prepared with intentionality to hedge the recession risk by conservatively estimating revenues and limiting any growth (other than people) in recurring spending.



See below for a comparison of recent United States recession history:

[illegible]

This recommended budget fully mitigates those financial disruptions, without shifting additional burden on property taxpayers, by manufacturing or re-engineering budget flexibility. Budget re-engineering is achieved by identifying new, and maximizing existing, revenue streams, operational process re-design, automation, and cost avoidance. Overall, the budget team identified \$2.65M in either efficiency savings, revenue maximization, or cost avoidance.

1. EMS Billing.....	\$ 250,000	increased revenue
2. EMS Billings Contract Cost Avoidance.....	\$ 100,000	decreased cost
3. Pharmacy Formulary.....	\$ 1,000,000	decreased cost
4. Overtime & Part-Time Labor Cost Avoidance.....	\$ <u>300,000</u>	decreased cost
Total Manufactured Budget Flexibility - Govt	\$ 1,650,000	

1. In-Source MSW Transport	\$ 800,000 (net) decreased cost
2. Water/Sewer Municipal Contract.....	\$ 100,000 new revenue
3. Water/Sewer Spoilage Reduction.....	\$ 100,000 new revenue
Total Manufactured Budget Flexibility - Enterprise	\$ 1,000,000

5. EMS Billing: Burke County will now provide in-source EMS billing. The contract for billing with an outside company accounted for approximately six percent (6%) of gross revenues – which annually exceeded \$340,000. In-sourcing is expected to save approximately \$100,000 in total costs as well as improve the collection percentage of billed transactions – resulting in an estimated revenue increase of \$250,000.

6. Pharmacy Formulary: Burke County operates a fully self-funded, self-administered employee health plan – which accounts for \$8M off annual cost and serves almost 800 covered lives. Historically, pharmaceuticals made up 41% of the total plan costs – which is high as we compared to industry averages that range between 28-30%. Formulary tier changes, along with a transition to required generic prescribing ladders, and the elimination of GLP-1 drugs for weight loss, are estimated to reduce costs by \$1,000,000.

7. P/T & O/T Labor Costs: Many county departments have historically relied extensively on over-time and part-time labor to meet operational demand. In 2022-2023, the county incurred \$2.8M in related costs, which was reduced in 2023-2024 to \$1.9M and is expected to be less in 2024-2025. The decrease in supplemental labor costs has been accomplished by reducing organizational turnover from 30% to 10% and by improving efficiency standard operating procedures.

8. In Source MSW Transport: Annually, the Burke County landfill handles more than 65,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW). Through a multi-decade contract with Republic Services, the waste is transferred and disposed of in Caldwell County (or Republic's MSW landfill). Beginning in July 2024, the county will negotiate a contract with Republic. Burke County will begin transporting its own MSW to the Republic landfill in Caldwell County – a contract change that will reduce costs by \$1.5M.

PURSuing HIGH PERFORMANCE

\$1.2M and produce net savings of \$800,000.

5. **Water/Sewer:** The upcoming budget will include updated municipal sewer contracts that reflect sewer transportation rates that have not been adjusted in decades – and at times are less than the County's processing costs. This revenue change is expected to generate an additional \$100,000. Both the Water Fund and Sewer fund operate as purchase systems – and a product loss (spoilage) of up to 25% creates incurred purchase costs, without the corresponding revenue. We expect measurement and newly installed flow data to increase revenue by \$100,000.

We have universally begun to challenge the status quo, strategically listen more than we speak, and process information in a non-debatable chronological order of ODI (Organization, Department, Individual). ODI is a decision-making framework that ensures uniformity in how and why we make decisions in Burke County Government. I believe this level of precision is required to maximize output and serves in identifying efficiency gain improvements, streamlining existing business functions, and accelerating execution. As the cost of doing business increases, labor markets become more competitive, and capital needs grow, it is incumbent upon us to find new ways to leverage our resources to provide the highest level of service delivery possible and drive lower taxation with sustained financial performance.

Our leadership team has also begun to contemplate organizational **purpose, values, and culture**. To achieve our shared goals, we must maintain a level of intentionality in organizational culture that has simply been misplaced in the past – our Culture must emphasize Public **Purpose**, Prioritize Our **People**, and Promote **High Performance**. High Performance is the is a standard that lowers operational costs, improves output productivity, and improves quality assurance.

For the second consecutive year, the FY 2024-2025 budget is a foundationally drafted zero based budget. This type of budget avoids the inefficiencies of budget inertia, which are often a product of incremental budgeting. High performance is about policy research and implementation, process re-design, data driven decision making, measurement and follow up, and lessons learned. **Each of these make us better.**

Long range financial planning in Burke County brings together the major components of the County budget: General Government, Health & Human Services, Solid Waste, Water/Sewer, and the Capital Improvement Plan. It is a critical process for the County's AA+ bond rating and creates our fiscal plan framework. The 2024-2025 budget remains committed to comprehensive financial modeling by funding year two (2) of the formal Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). It is critical in a period of limited resources to balance current year operations without-year known capital and deferred maintenance. Expanding beyond the annual budget to include a multi-year outlook has provided more helpful data for decision making and resource allocation. The CIP plan aims to anticipate future needs, so that funding can be accomplished incrementally over a multi-period and contains both a non-major operational section and a major project section.

This budget fundamentally recognizes our most valued asset - Burke County's human capital. Our Board of Commissioners has prioritized policy support and resources that allow our organization to

PURSuing HIGH PERFORMANCE

pursue competitive wage packages for our employees. All local governments in North Carolina and local governments nationally are seeing a decrease in labor supply – primarily due to current labor market conditions in which public sector employment interest is declining, total labor force participation is down, and minimum qualifications for our jobs are increasing. Ultimately, our ability to recruit and retain is the single most important component to sustain long-term high performance.

In the budget, I am very pleased to include a phased human capital investment:

1. **Phase one:** Implementation of the Comprehensive Pay and Classification Study
2. **Phase two:** Continuation of "pay for performance". The system identifies five (5) material cost saving performance qualifiers that provide significant return to the organization – if achieved, a portion of that return is then returned to the employees. This system would provide for up to a 2.5% one-time bonus for all employees – payable in September & March. This system further promotes our accepted ODI decision making framework.
3. **Phase three:** Mid-Year inflationary adjustment. This COLA would be executed in January 2025 and reflective of the lower CPI or 2%.

Our talent retention metrics are stabilizing (33% for 2022, 10% in 2024) – but our organization has not been constructed to lead in a prospective way. Stabilization has been accomplished by promoting culture and hope, challenging traditional norms, and applying data driven and evidence based best practices; however, our next step will be delivering through automation, technology, and a general adoption of LEAN principally based operations. A pull service delivery model versus push.

ReAct, ReBuild, ReThink.

In my first month on the job, I launched our inaugural "employee meetings" – these listening tours provided firsthand perspective and diagnostics that ultimately led to the drafting of a three (3) phase organizational improvement plan. ReAct – ReBuild – ReThink. This plan is likely the key to the pace, components, and stages of our shared five (5) year administrative vision. See below:

1. **ReAct (stabilize)** – As I joined the team in February 2023, I was greeted with an organization full of optimism. 2023 was set to offer a clean slate of opportunities – in the midst of operational stagnation, lagging communication, a staggering 33% employee turnover, and a siloed organizational culture that left much of the team in a redundant period of operational purgatory.

The **ReAct** phase (**February – June 2023**) of our plan was aimed to simply provide stability in a period of volatility. Articulating the importance of "hearing" instead of listening, moving to action quickly, and building consensus amongst the team.

PURSuing HIGH PERFORMANCE

2. **ReBuild (normalize)** - dominated the first full budget year of our teams efforts (**July – December 2023**); Rebuilding is about re-engagement and pursuit of high performance. Focusing on organizational culture, identifying long term operational, capital, and financial goals through the Commissioners' Strategic Plan, Improving, and Investing into our operational systems, and prioritizing community partnerships.

As we begin our second (2nd) budget process, we will now be positioned to focus more singularly on the Commissioners' strategic plan and operational high performance.

3. **ReThink (innovation and performance)** prioritizes organizational self-reflection. The team's intentionality toward self-reflection included revisiting the Board of Commissioners' Strategic Plan, assessing the hierarchy of organizational priorities, and continuation of our focus on a performance based and purpose led culture. Our corporate values act as our compass that outline the parameters of day-to-day strategies.

This philosophical approach allows for the engineering of increased budget flexibility but will require a more "hands on" approach to organizational management. Ultimately, additional talent in key positions will permit the County to have adequate resources that fully pursue the implementation of the Board of Commissioners' Strategic Plan. Our belief is that doing this will allow for a more intentional and analytical approach to decision making. This entrepreneurial culture will ultimately be a "net neutral" human capital cost investment.

There are three (3) new positions (one (1) environmental health specialist, & two (2) Solid Waste Truck Drivers) in the upcoming recommended budget that represents a total annual funding responsibility of \$211,000.

Also included in the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget is further commitment and funding to public safety operational enhancement. The upcoming fiscal year will experience a net increase of approximately 7% to our public safety functions that will encompass the full transition to centrally administered emergency medical services, and additional investments into law enforcement, emergency management and E-911 communications.

Education is another key advancement in the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. Burke County Public Schools will receive \$20,250,000. This represents a \$250,000 (1.5%) increase in cash flow funding. Western Piedmont Community College will experience an approximate 5% operational funding increase – along with funding year two (2) of the capital reserve of \$450,000 in capital funding.

PURSuing HIGH PERFORMANCE

In closing, the upcoming budget will mitigate intensely rising costs of doing business and unprecedented revenue erosion by Re-Thinking our business envelope. Contrary to popular belief, the County does not have access to unlimited resources that provide a pathway for the accomplishment of all competing priorities, projects, or goals – long-term fiscal discipline that provides a comprehensive strategy is required.

Strategy development will allow our team to consistently develop plans that manage Commissioner priorities to a "yes".

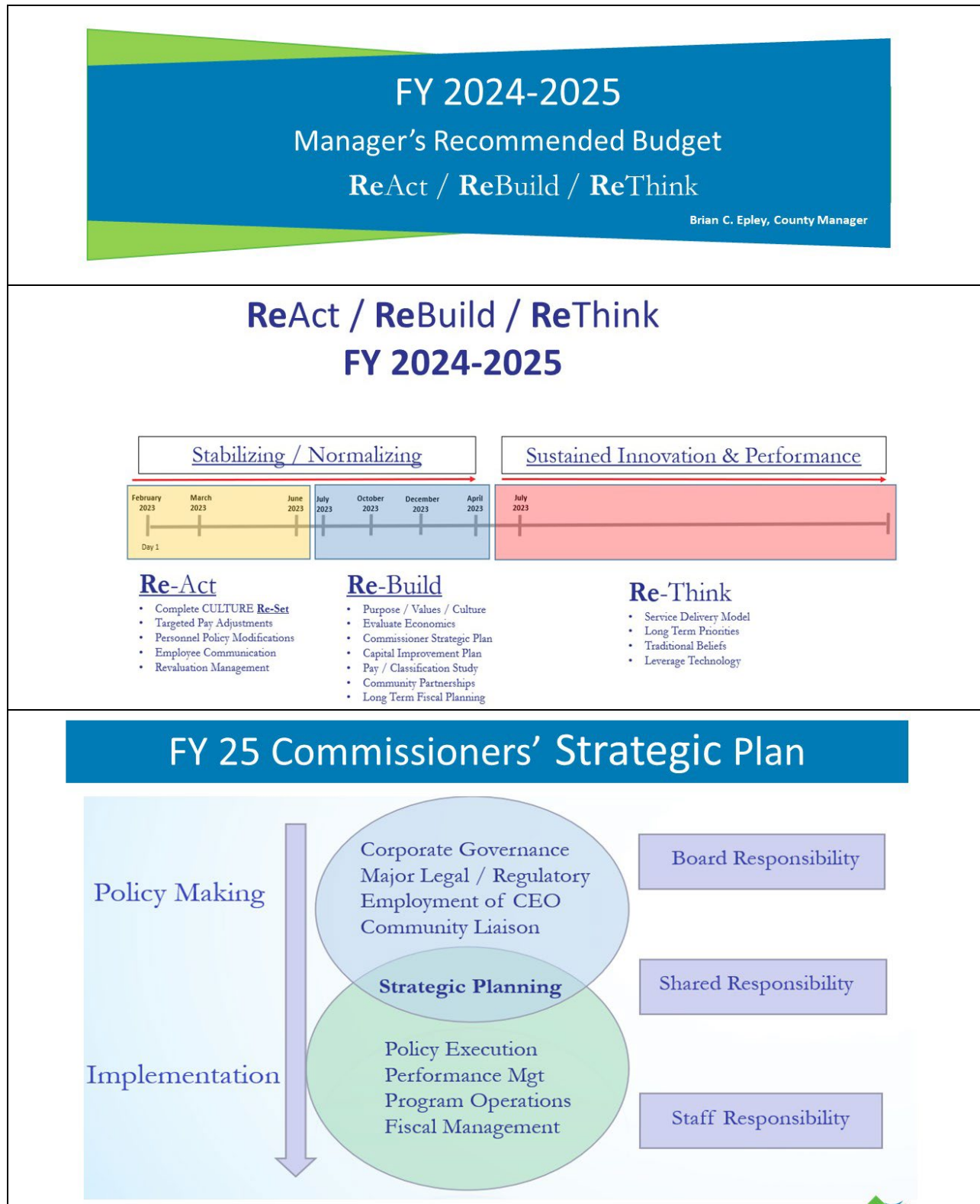
Fiscal discipline is operating within our means. It is actionizing developed strategies with precision. To maximize our available resource impact, the County's financial commitments are typically 3-4 budget cycles out. Often as new priorities and requests emerge, our team must analyze how that may impact our long-term plan – and most often, those priorities (if of a material nature) must await future resource allocation. In practice, no absolute or eternal financial priorities exist; they change as the economic and competitive environments change. A culture of higher performance does not create itself. High performance culture, we believe, is the capacity to influence the beliefs, behaviors, and purposeful actions of others for a common good – it is people-centric.

Our Board of Commissioners' community vision is driving higher performance. Burke County Government is strong and prepared to deliver on the visionary and ambitious policies included in the Commissioners' Strategic Plan. There is collaborative momentum with strategies that are well positioned to adapt over time in an evolving and complex landscape. Because of this, I am convinced that the future of Burke County is bright.



Brian C. Epley
County Manager

Highlights of Mr. Epley's presentation were as follows:



FY 24-25 Commissioners' Strategic Plan



FOCUS AREA 1: COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play – while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.



FOCUS AREA 2: ECONOMIC GROWTH & SUSTAINMENT

Promotion of Burke County as a business and economic center in the region through recruitment of new industry, creating a healthy business climate for existing businesses.



FOCUS AREA 3: PUBLIC SAFETY & WELL BEING

To ensure the safety of our residents through efficient and effective public safety agencies.



FOCUS AREA 4: FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.



FOCUS AREA 5: EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

To promote a professional value-based employee centric workplace that promotes innovation, performance, and integrity, and differentiation.

FY 2024-2025 Commissioners' Top Priorities

Full implementation of the pay and classification study, including job description reviews and getting employees to market-based wages.

Evaluation of efficiency and cost savings of a Burke County Solid Waste System.

Advance the development of a industrial shell building program.

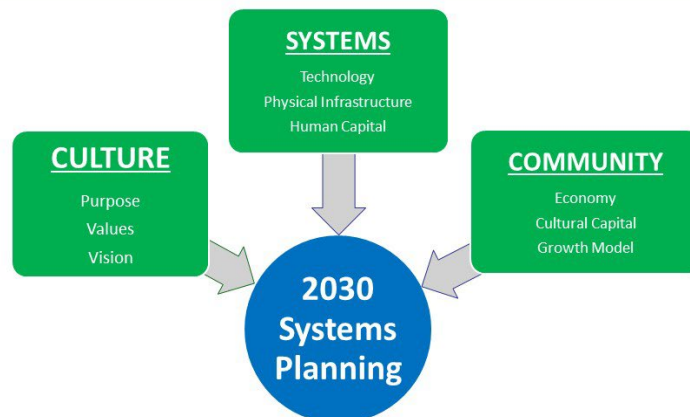
Prioritize a long-term Public Safety Strategic Improvement Plan

Ongoing Implementation of a county-wide Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Facilities Master Plan including funding policies, execution strategies and project timelines

Enhance citizen communication, including consideration for a Public Information Officer.



Long Term Strategy



Discussion Topics

1. Where have we been?
 - Organizational Performance Trends
2. Where are we now?
 - Budget Development Process and Policy Direction
 - Economic Outlook and Revenue Forecast
 - General Fund Tax Rate & Operational Budgets
 - Capital Improvement Plan Funding
 - Education Funding
 - Outside Agency Support
 - Solid Waste & Water Sewer Budget
3. Where are we going?
 - Emerging Issues



WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

- Prior Year Performance and Budget Trends



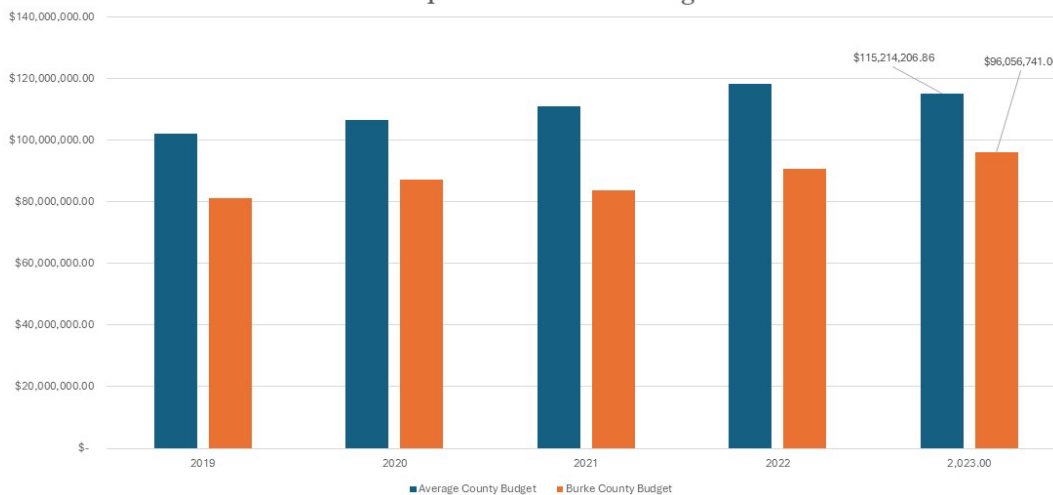
WHAT IS HIGH PERFORMANCE.....



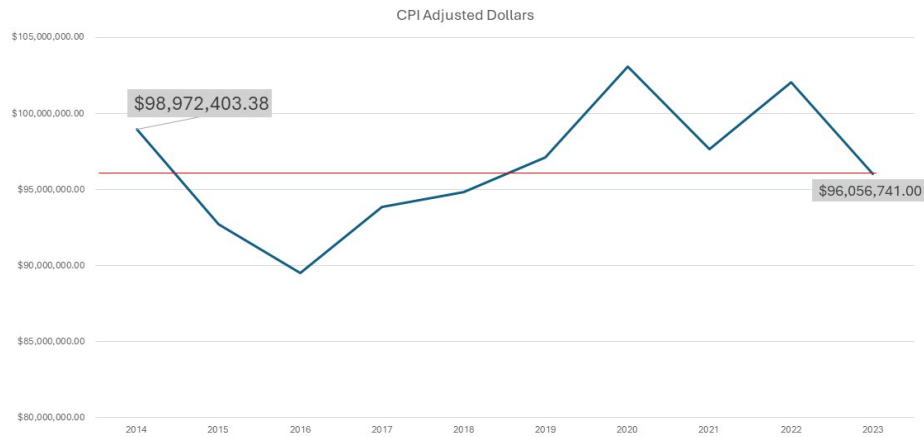
BURKE COUNTY

WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? - COUNTY GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

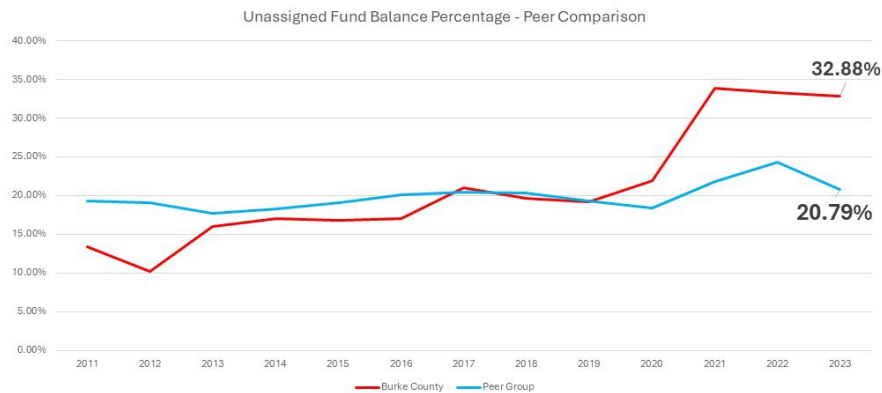
Peer Comparison - Total GF Budget



WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? - COUNTY GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS



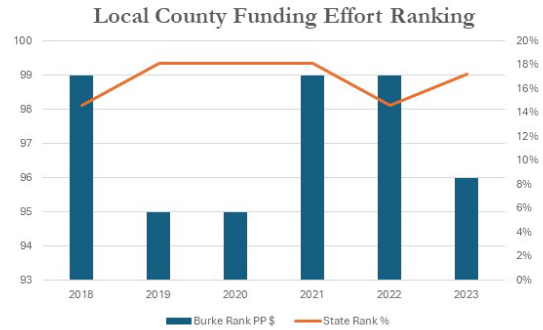
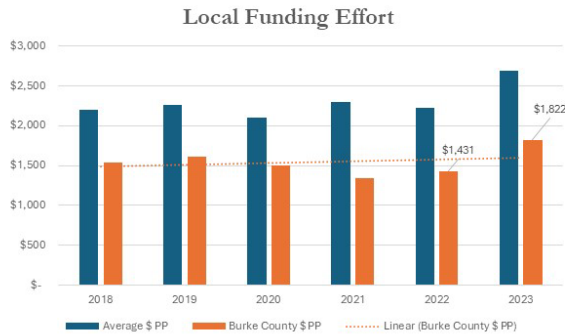
Total General Fund Budget and Fund Balance



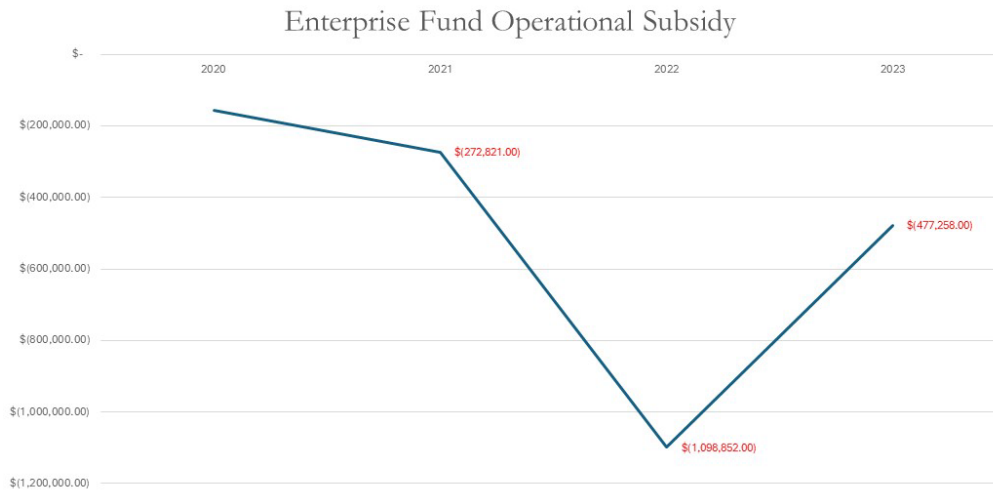
WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? – PUBLIC SAFETY



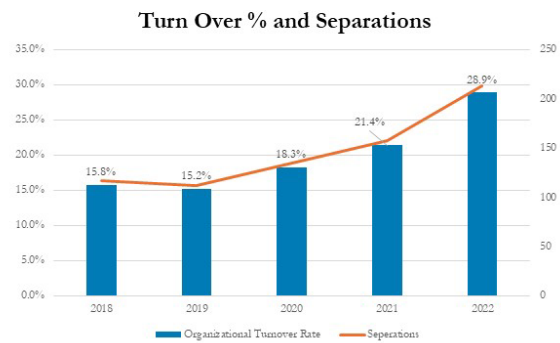
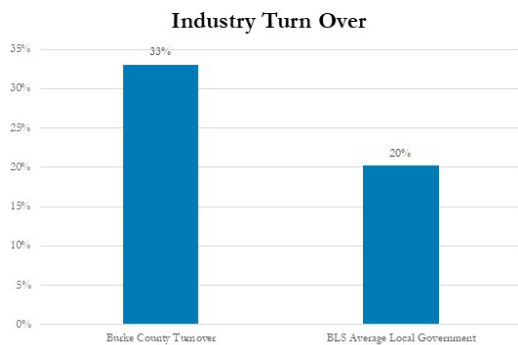
WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? – PUBLIC EDUCATION



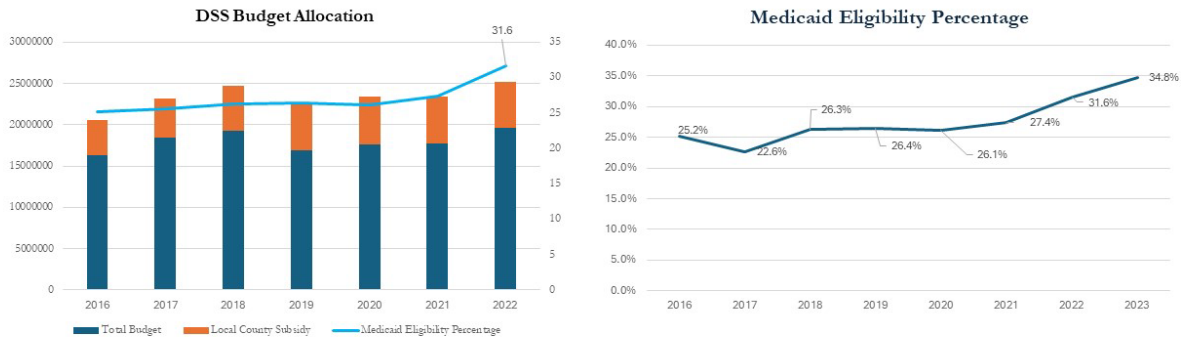
WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? – SOLID WASTE & WATER / SEWER



WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? – HUMAN CAPITAL



WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? – HUMAN SERVICES



Social Services					
	Total Budget	Local County Subsidy	Medicaid Eligibility Percentage	FTE	Subsidy Percentage
PY Averages	18,165,735.00	5,243,492.00	27.19	178.38	29%
Public Health					
	Total Budget	Local County Subsidy	Medicaid Eligibility Percentage	FTE	Subsidy Percentage
PY Averages	3,492,091.50	1,538,182.63	27.19	46.38	44%

WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? - INFRASTRUCTURE

Facilities Evaluated During Space Needs Assessment

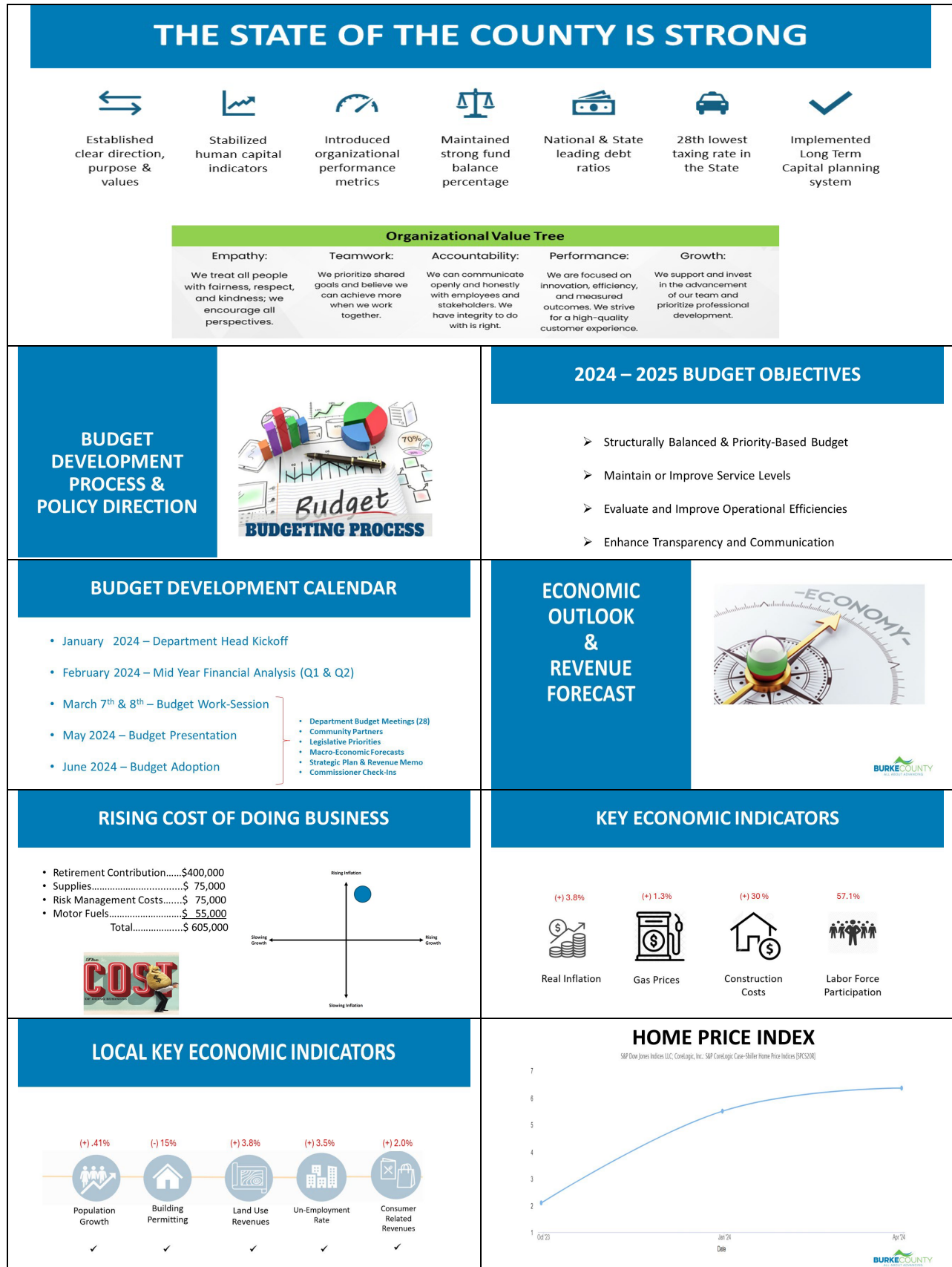
Building	Location	City	Rating	Sq. Ft	Yr. Built
Animal Shelter	425 Kirksey Drive	Morganton	1.00	4,000	1980
EMS Station #1: Hospital	2201 S Sterling Street	Morganton	1.00	5,000	1975
Landfill - Transfer Station	2500 Marsh Trail	Morganton	1.40	12,500	1997
Avery Building	200 Avery Avenue	Morganton	2.13	28,700	1923
Sheriff's Office (Sheriff side only)	150 Government Drive	Morganton	2.14	11,500	1993
Burke-Catawba District Confinement Facility (Old Jail)	148 Government Drive	Morganton	2.14	48,500	1993
Human Resources Center (HRC)	700 East Parker Road	Morganton	2.42	56,500	1979
EMS Station #2: Rutherford College (Hospital Owns Property)	90 Campus Street	Rutherford College	2.50	1,900	1975
Hildebran Building (Water & Sewer Office)	101 Main Ave West	Hildebran	2.58	7,100	1964/2016
Courthouse	201 South Green Street	Morganton	2.60	55,000	1974
EMS Station #4: Hildebran	705 US Highway 70W	Hildebran	2.83	2,200	2002
Landfill - Office/Garage	2500 Marsh Trail	Morganton	3.00	5,000	1988
Morganton Library	204 South King Street	Morganton	3.00	16,800	1995/2004
Morganton Senior Center	501 North Green Street	Morganton	3.00	17,600	1984
Burke Agricultural Building	130 Ammons Drive	Morganton	3.50	14,000	2002
Burke Services Building	110 North Green Street	Morganton	3.83	24,000	1954/2000
Valdese Library (Share Ownership with Valdese)	213 St. Germain Avenue	Valdese	3.83	9,000	1943/2004
Foothills Higher Education	2128 South Sterling Street	Morganton	4.00	130,000	1980/2004

*Building Condition Rating Scale 1 thru 5 where 1 is poor condition and 5 is new or excellent condition

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

• FY 24-25 Budget Development

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Burke County

North Carolina

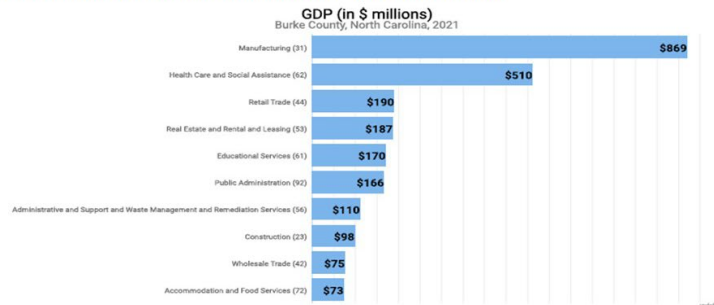
BURKE COUNTY MLS DATA

Key Metrics	March			Year to Date		
	2023	2024	Percent Change	Thru 3-2023	Thru 3-2024	Percent Change
New Listings	97	106	+ 9.3%	229	266	+ 16.2%
Pending Sales	88	88	0.0%	216	217	+ 0.5%
Closed Sales	76	63	- 17.1%	167	160	- 4.2%
Median Sales Price*	\$233,825	\$270,000	+ 15.5%	\$245,000	\$240,000	- 2.0%
Average Sales Price*	\$266,269	\$277,723	+ 4.3%	\$286,222	\$275,528	- 3.7%
Percent of Original List Price Received*	95.4%	95.0%	- 0.4%	95.4%	93.9%	- 1.6%
List to Close	93	79	- 15.1%	88	82	- 6.8%
Days on Market Until Sale	36	38	+ 5.6%	40	41	+ 2.5%
Cumulative Days on Market Until Sale	41	41	0.0%	45	44	- 2.2%
Average List Price	\$326,943	\$403,223	+ 23.3%	\$315,098	\$357,859	+ 13.6%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	107	158	+ 47.7%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	1.6	2.4	+ 50.0%	--	--	--

* Does not account for sale concessions and/or downpayment assistance. | Percent changes are calculated using rounded figures and can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.

BURKE COUNTY GDP BY SECTOR

Of the sectors in Burke County, North Carolina, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2021, \$869,213,000. The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$510,314,000); Retail Trade (\$190,223,000); and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$186,782,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.



UNITED STATES INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX

United States ISM: Purchasing Managers' Index, (Diffusion index, SA)

Institute for Supply Management (ISM)



UNITED STATES MOODY'S ANALYTICS

Chart 5: Rising Interest Rates Hurting Demand for Auto Loans

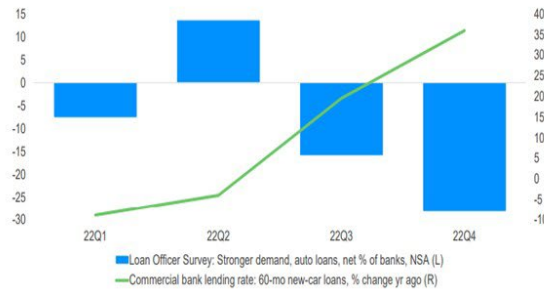
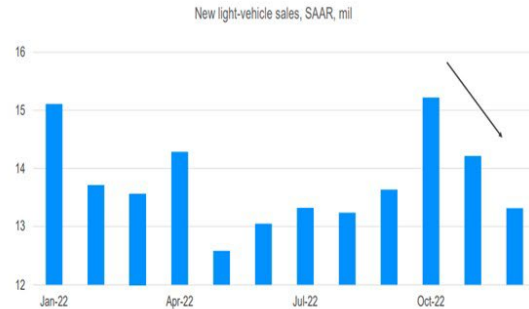


Chart 6: New-Vehicle Sales Going in Wrong Direction



COUNTY BUDGET OUTLOOK

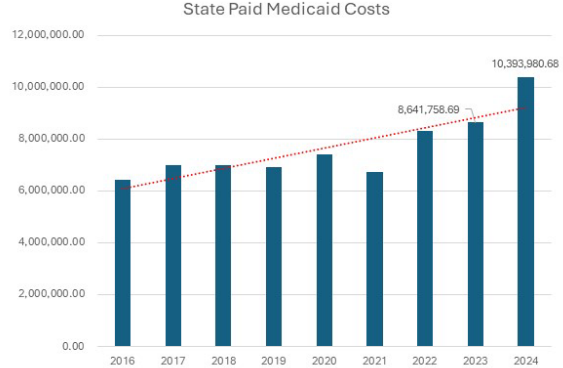
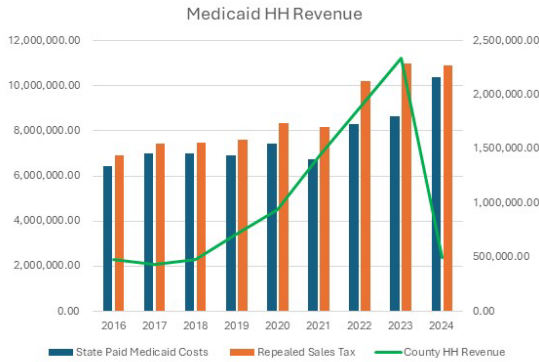


MEDICAID HOLD HARMLESS SALES TAX

	PROJECTED			MARCH	MARCH		County		
	July - June	PROJECTED		PAYMENT	PAYMENT		Amounts		
	Repealed	July - June		FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24		Received:	PROJECTED	
	Sales Tax	State Paid	PROJECTED	90% of the	90% of the		Medicaid	July - June	PROJECTED
	Amount	Medicaid	Total	Projected Total	Projected Total		expenses	Repealed	Net Benefit
	Plus City Hold	Expenses	Hold Harmless	Hold Harmless	Hold Harmless		plus	Sales Tax	to Counties:
	Harmless	[Hold Harmless	Payment	Payment	Payment		Hold	Plus City Hold	Total County
County	Amount	Threshold]	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24		Harmless	Harmless	FY 2023-24
Burke	10,894,335.99	10,393,980.68	500,355.31	2,101,331.09	450,319.78	(1,651,011.31)	10,894,335.99	10,894,335.99	0.00

- Impacts all Counties
- Cumulative revenue loss over **\$110MM**
- No data available for predictable analytic from NCDHHS or NCDOR

MEDICAID HOLD HARMLESS PAYMENTS



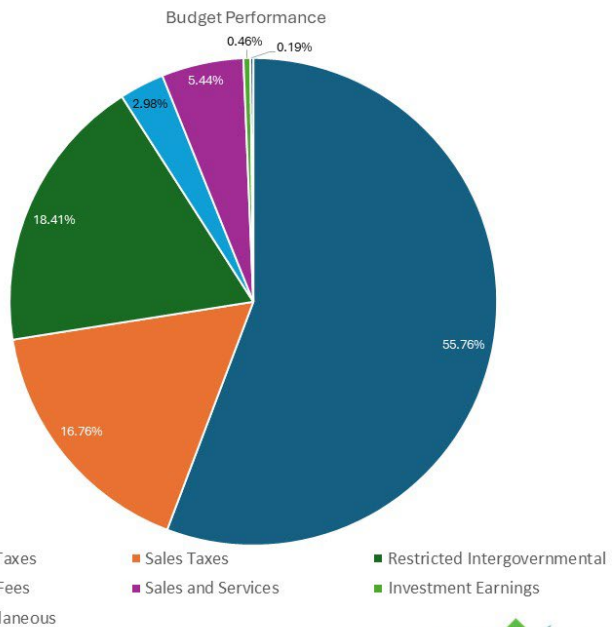
REVENUE FORECASTING PRINCIPLES

Responsible Approach / Recession Ready

Amidst continued uncertainty, we rely on data

Diversification of revenue sources is critical

**Total General Fund
Revenue**
\$108,595,905 (+2.8%)*

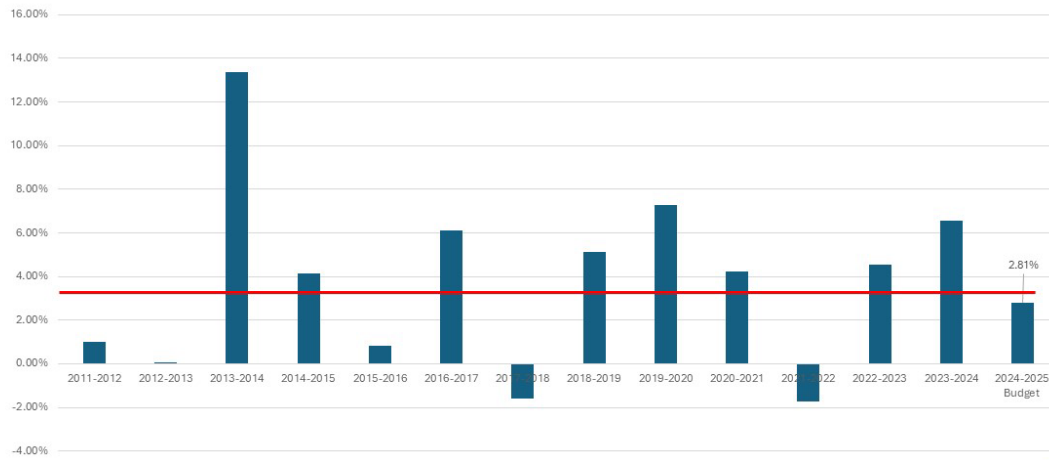


*includes legislative change to account for Article 39 & 40 sales tax in the General Fund

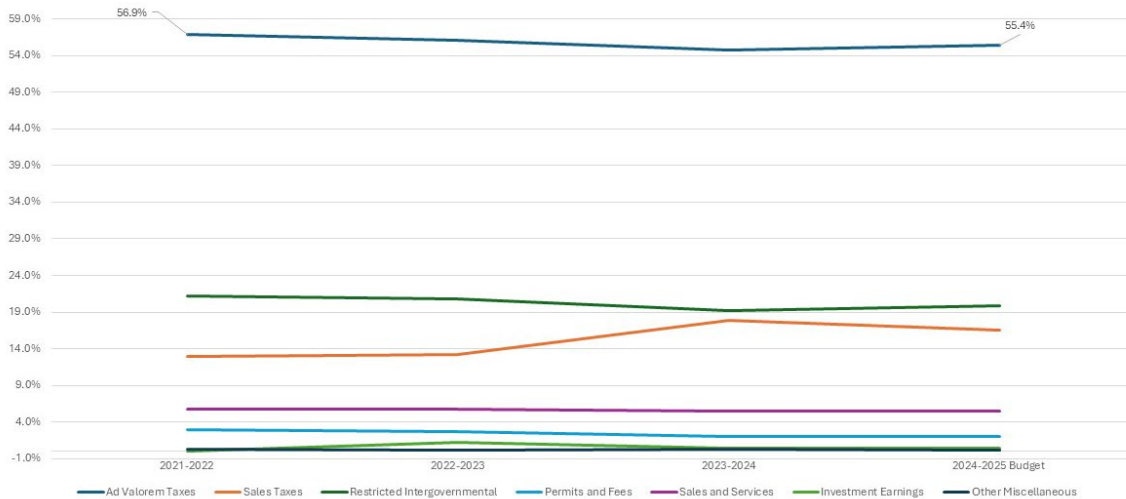


TOTAL BUDGETED REVENUE CHANGE

Percent Change YOY



Revenue Diversification



COUNTY GENERAL CHANGES IN REVENUE

Description	Budget				
	% Allocated	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025 Budget
Ad Valorem Taxes	55.5%	\$ 52,776,043	\$ 54,549,228	\$ 59,573,423	\$ 60,548,423
Sales Taxes	16.2%	15,618,900	16,606,000	16,618,180	18,302,070
Restricted Intergovernmental	18.9%	17,905,830	19,910,995	19,155,382	16,177,014
Permits and Fees	3.2%	3,467,740	2,974,060	3,161,345	6,170,867
Sales and Services	4.8%	4,270,000	4,300,000	5,800,000	5,997,730
Investment Earnings	0.3%	250,000	250,000	500,000	500,000
Other Miscellaneous	1.1%	1,075,850	1,111,945	1,080,148	899,801
		\$ 95,364,363	\$ 99,702,228	\$ 105,888,478	\$ 108,595,905

PROPERTY TAX VALUATION

BURKE COUNTY BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
REVENUE ANALYSIS

	2023-2024 Original Budget	2024-2025 - Proposed Budget @ 56 cents	Additional Revenue from PY Budget
Original Levy Total Tax Valuation			
Real	\$ 8,617,855,095	\$ 8,677,137,398	
Personal & State Board	\$ 1,203,505,744	\$ 1,256,361,326	
Motor Vehicles	\$ 911,069,360	\$ 911,069,360	
	\$ 10,732,430,199	\$ 10,844,568,084	\$ 112,137,885
County Tax Revenue @ .56 & @ 98% Collection Rate	\$ 58,899,577	\$ 59,818,638	919,061
Prior Year Collections	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	-
Penalties interest & advertising	\$ 329,000	\$ 329,000	-
Total	\$ 59,928,577	\$ 60,847,638	\$ 919,061



= \$1.08MM

*Recommended rate of 56 cents

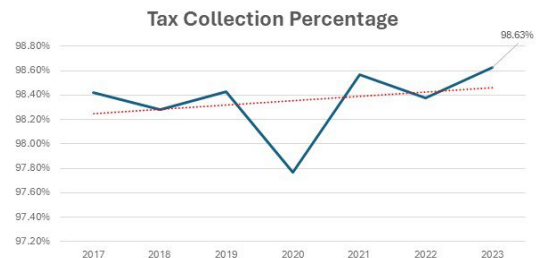
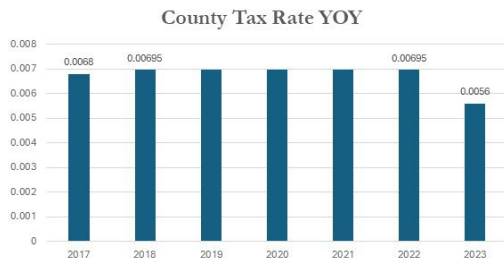


COUNTY BUDGET OUTLOOK



BUDGETED TAX RATE

- Average Statewide Tax Rate.....64.5 cents
- Recommended Tax Rate.....56.0 cents



Tax Rate Analysis..... Variable Outcomes



Assessed Value of Home Owner	Total Tax Levy at 56 Cents	Annual Cost of 1 Penny	Monthly Cost of 1 Penny
\$ 125,000.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 1.04
\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 2.08
\$ 500,000.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 4.17
\$ 750,000.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 6.25
\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 8.33

	County Population	Property Tax Rates	Tax Levy Per Capita
	2023 #	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23
Lincoln	93,144	0.4990	854.0
Henderson	118,043	0.4310	844.3
Rutherford	64,350	0.4540	747.5
Cleveland	102,680	0.6875	737.3
Catawba	163,845	0.3985	716.0
Moore	107,122	0.3300	703.3
Caldwell	81,075	0.6300	662.5
Rowan	150,169	0.5800	648.9
McDowell	44,773	0.5675	646.6
Rockingham	91,991	0.6950	633.7
Alexander	36,560	0.6700	618.7
Nash	95,428	0.6700	603.1
	95,765	0.55	701.33
Burke	87,923	0.56	\$ 622.10
Peer Avg	95,765	0.55	\$ 701.33
Difference		1.6%	-12.7%

FY 2022-23		FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23		FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23		FY 2021-22		
\$	Rank	\$	Rank	\$	Rank	\$	Rank	\$	Rank	\$	Rank	
Alamance	590	89	591	84	Graham	982	19	969	19	Polk	960	22
Alexander	619	84	611	79	Granville	726	65	722	59	Randolph	550	97
Alleghany	1,079	12	1,050	13	Greene	513	99	497	100	Richmond	733	62
Anson	782	51	779	42	Gulford	934	24	743	50	Robeson	524	98
Ashe	823	42	807	37	Halifax	667	72	648	74	Rockingham	634	80
Avery	1,317	4	1,313	4	Harnett	563	95	532	96	Rowan	649	76
Beaufort	886	31	856	31	Haywood	842	39	825	34	Rutherford	747	59
Bertie	730	63	711	62	Henderson	844	38	820	35	Sampson	729	64
Bladen	924	27	861	28	Hertford	759	55	731	53	Scotland	756	56
Brunswick	1,054	15	1,060	12	Hoke	616	86	558	91	Stanly	628	82
Buncombe	882	32	865	27	Hyde	1,895	1	1,621	2	Stokes	708	67
Burke	622	83	599	83	Iredell	788	48	782	41	Surry	562	96
Cabarrus	962	21	954	21	Jackson	1,048	16	969	20	Swain	512	100
Caldwell	663	73	654	72	Johnston	808	44	772	44	Transylvania	1,280	5
Camden	1,001	17	1,000	16	Jones	876	35	771	45	Tyrrell	1,320	3
Carteret	824	41	810	36	Lee	800	45	785	40	Union	910	29
Caswell	580	91	577	87	Lenoir	682	71	656	71	Vance	633	81
Catawba	716	66	691	66	Lincoln	854	37	827	33	Wake	1,055	14
Chatham	1,218	8	1,189	9	Macon	905	30	897	25	Warren	1,178	10
Cherokee	842	40	665	70	Madison	661	75	652	73	Washington	785	50
Chowan	928	25	852	32	Martin	782	52	767	46	Watauga	881	34
Clay	794	47	790	39	McDowell	647	77	616	78	Wayne	595	88
Cleveland	737	61	716	61	Mecklenburg	1,095	11	1,075	11	Wilkes	619	85
Columbus	691	69	686	69	Mitchell	922	28	728	56	Wilson	750	57
Craven	573	93	563	90	Montgomery	882	33	857	30	Yadkin	585	90
Cumberland	577	92	569	88	Moore	703	68	729	55	Yancey	796	46
Currituck	1,251	6	1,260	5	Nash	603	87	582	86			
Dare	1,819	2	1,821	1	New Hanover	952	23	994	17	Statewide	\$854	\$821
Davidson	566	94	554	93	Northampton	1,193	9	1,212	8			
Davie	925	26	901	24	Onslow	638	78	528	97			
Duplin	741	60	710	64	Orange	1,237	7	1,214	7			
Durham	1,070	13	1,036	14	Pamlico	1,000	18	978	18			
Edgecombe	691	70	690	67	Pasquotank	662	74	646	75			
Forsyth	778	53	760	47	Pender	870	36	858	29			
Franklin	768	54	746	49	Perquimans	786	49	727	57			
Gaston	748	58	753	48	Person	964	20	940	22			
Gates	817	43	741	52	Pitt	635	79	618	77			
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners												



North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

NCACC County Map Book, 2023 | 61

FY 2023-24			FY 2022-23			FY 2023-24			FY 2022-23			FY 2023-24			FY 2022-23		
	¢	Rank		¢	Rank		¢	Rank		¢	Rank		¢	Rank		¢	Rank
Alamance	0.4320	13		0.6500	45	Graham	0.5900	34		0.6500	45	Polk	0.5343	24		0.5143	16
Alexander	0.6700	55		0.7900	79	Granville	0.8400	90		0.8400	88	Randolph	0.5000	21		0.6327	43
Alleghany	0.5970	36		0.5970	28	Greene	0.7860	81		0.7860	78	Richmond	0.8300	87		0.8300	86
Anson	0.7770	78		0.7770	75	Gulford	0.7305	67		0.7305	67	Robeson	0.7700	76		0.7700	73
Ashe	0.4400	14		0.5100	15	Halifax	0.7600	75		0.7600	72	Rockingham	0.6950	62		0.6950	58
Avery	0.4000	9		0.4000	5	Harnett	0.5910	35		0.5910	27	Rowan	0.5800	32		0.6575	48
Beaufort	0.6250	44		0.6250	40	Haywood	0.5500	26		0.5350	17	Rutherford	0.4540	17		0.5970	28
Bertie	0.8650	95		0.8650	93	Henderson	0.4310	12		0.5610	23	Sampson	0.8250	86		0.8250	85
Bladen	0.7850	79		0.7850	76	Hertford	0.8400	90		0.8400	88	Scotland	0.9900	99		0.9900	100
Brunswick	0.3420	5		0.4850	11	Hoke	0.7300	64		0.7300	63	Stanly	0.6100	39		0.6100	32
Buncombe	0.4980	19		0.4880	13	Hyde	1.0450	100		0.8950	96	Stokes	0.6600	52		0.6600	49
Burke	0.5600	28		0.6950	58	Iredell	0.5000	21		0.5375	18	Surry	0.5520	27		0.5520	20
Cabarrus	0.7400	71		0.7400	70	Jackson	0.3800	7		0.3800	4	Swain	0.3600	6		0.3600	3
Caldwell	0.6300	46		0.6300	42	Johnston	0.6900	61		0.7300	63	Transylvania	0.6033	38		0.6033	31
Camden	0.7300	64		0.8700	94	Jones	0.7400	71		0.7200	60	Tyrrell	0.9500	97		0.9500	98
Carteret	0.3400	4		0.3300	2	Lee	0.6500	48		0.7300	63	Union	0.5880	33		0.5880	26
Caswell	0.7350	68		0.7350	68	Lenoir	0.8450	93		0.8450	91	Vance	0.8900	96		0.8900	95
Catawba	0.3985	8		0.5750	24	Lincoln	0.4990	20		0.6190	37	Wake	0.6570	51		0.6195	38
Chatham	0.6850	59		0.6650	52	Macon	0.2700	1		0.4000	5	Warren	0.8100	84		0.8100	82
Cherokee	0.6100	39		0.6100	32	Madison	0.5000	21		0.5000	14	Washington	0.8500	94		0.8500	92
Chowan	0.6650	54		0.6650	52	Martin	0.8100	84		0.8100	82	Watauga	0.3180	2		0.3180	1
Clay	0.4300	11		0.4300	8	McDowell	0.5675	31		0.5775	25	Wayne	0.7425	73		0.7425	71
Cleveland	0.6875	60		0.6875	57	Mecklenburg	0.4731	18		0.6169	36	Wilkes	0.6600	53		0.6600	49
Columbus	0.8050	83		0.8050	81	Mitchell	0.5600	28		0.5600	21	Wilson	0.7300	64		0.7300	63
Craven	0.4448	15		0.5600	21	Montgomery	0.6150	42		0.6150	35	Yadkin	0.6500	48		0.6600	49
Cumberland	0.7990	82		0.7990	80	Moore	0.3300	3		0.4850	11	Yancey	0.6000	37		0.6000	30
Currituck	0.5600	28		0.4600	10	Nash	0.6700	55		0.6700	54						
Dare	0.4005	10		0.4005	7	New Hanover	0.4500	16		0.4550	9	Weighted average FY 2022-23*: 0.6257					
Davidson	0.5400	25		0.5400	19	Northampton	0.8350	88		0.9000	97	* FY 2023-24 weighted average not available.					
Davie	0.7730	77		0.7730	74	Onslow	0.6550	50		0.6550	47						
Duplin	0.7350	68		0.7350	68	Orange	0.8353	89		0.8312	87						
Durham	0.7522	74		0.7222	62	Pamlico	0.6250	44		0.6250	40						
Edgecombe	0.9500	97		0.9500	98	Pasquotank	0.6200	43		0.6200	39						
Forsyth	0.6778	57		0.6778	55	Pender	0.7375	70		0.6450	44						
Franklin	0.7850	79		0.7850	76	Perquimans	0.6400	47		0.6100	32						
Gaston	0.6100	39		0.8100	82	Person	0.7225	63		0.7200	60						
Gates	0.8400	90		0.8400	88	Pitt	0.6841	58		0.6841	56						



North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

NCACC County Map Book, 2023 | 55

Weighted average FY 2022-23*: 0.6257
 * FY 2023-24 weighted average not available.

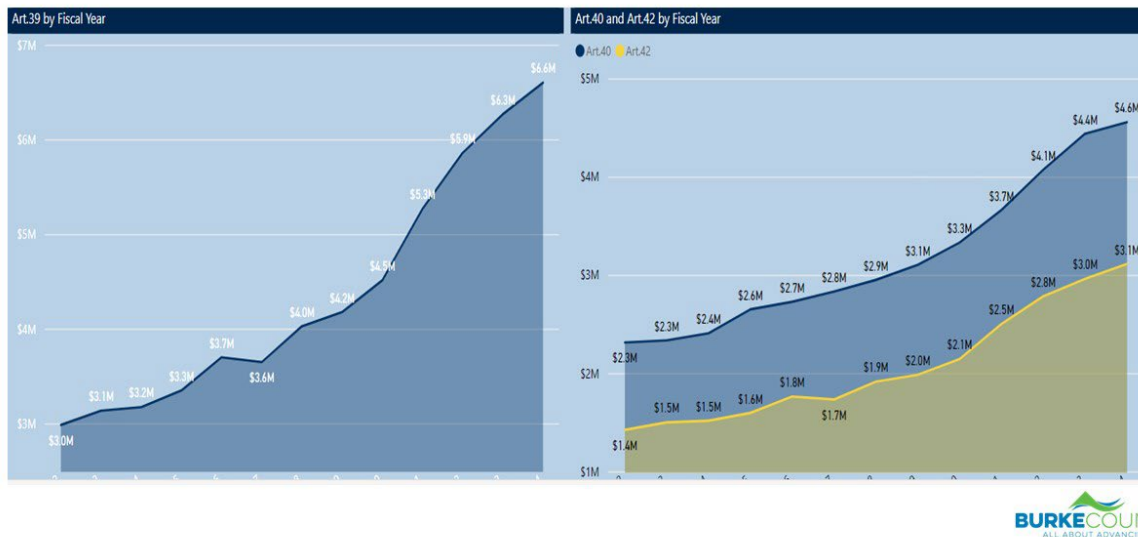


North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

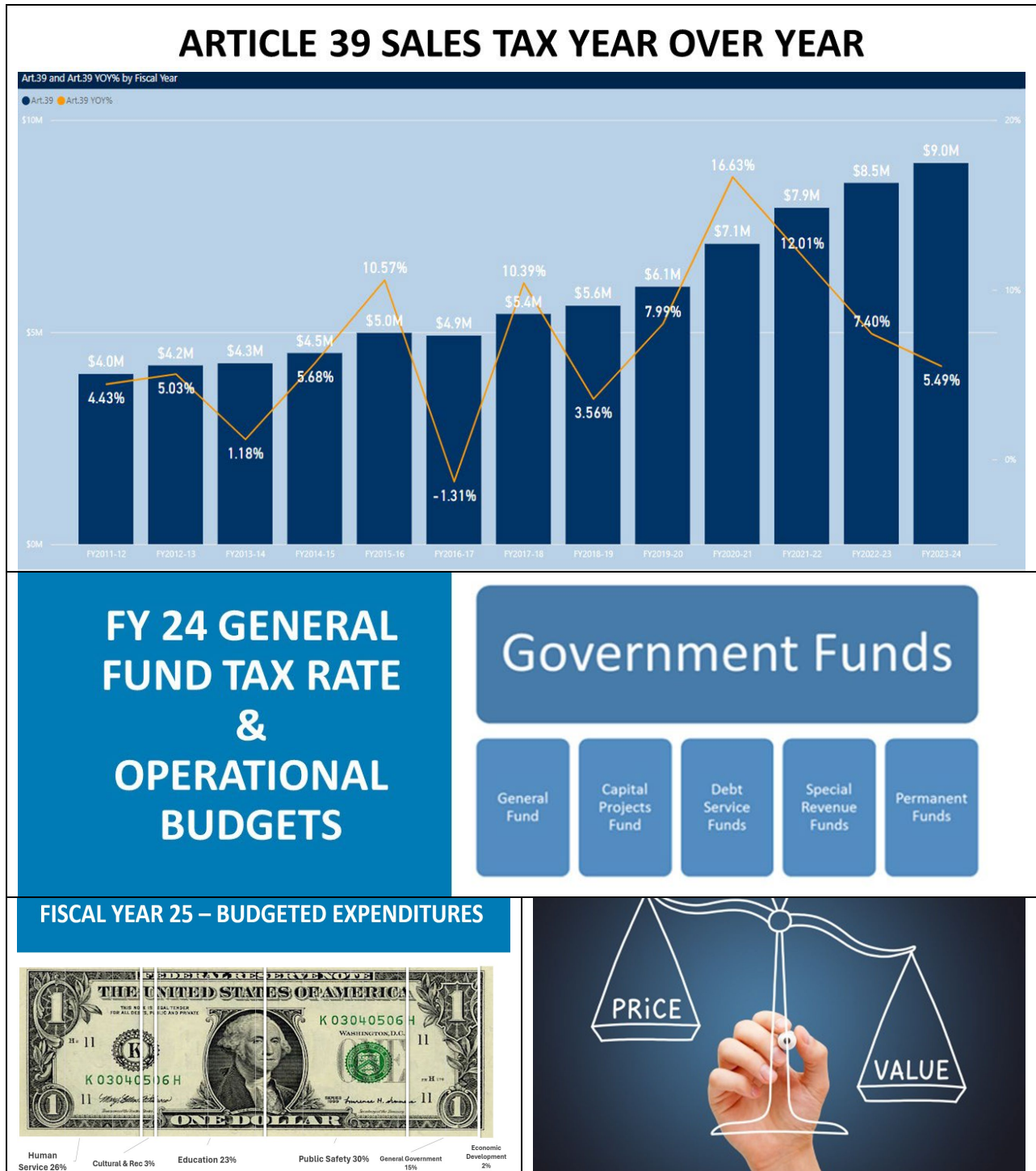
NCACC County Map Book, 2023 | 55

SALES TAX REVENUE

- 2% Increase From PY Budget
- \$18.3MM Total Budget



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Services Burke County Provides - Required by Statute				
Department	Statute	2023 Per Capita Costs		2024 Per Capita Costs
911 Communications	N.C.G.S. 143B-1406(h)	\$	23.00	\$ 26.84
Governing Board	N.C.G.S. 153A-12		2.16	3.98
Board of Elections	N.C.G.S. 163.-37		5.36	5.02
Building Inspections	N.C.G.S. 160D-1102(a)		6.62	5.13
Emergency Management	N.C.G.S. 166A-19.15(a)		4.46	4.51
Emergency Medical Services	N.C.G.S. 143-517		75.60	77.81
Environmental Health	N.C.G.S. 130A-248		2.99	3.25
Medical Examiner	N.C.G.S. 130A-381		1.41	1.43
Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities	N.C.G.S. 122C-115(a)		2.29	2.34
Human Resources	N.C.G.S. 153A-92		6.77	9.86
Public Health	N.C.G.S. 130A-34(b)		34.82	36.23
Public Records	N.C.G.S. 132-1		0.13	0.16
Register of Deeds	N.C.G.S. 161-1		5.23	5.57
Sheriff	NC Constitution Art. VII Section 2		85.97	94.60
Social Services	N.C.G.S. 153A-255		202.45	199.76
Tax Administration and Collection	N.C.G.S. 105-296		16.13	16.30
		\$	475.39	\$ 492.80

Services Burke County Provides - Authorized by Statute				
Department	Statute	2023 Per Capita Costs		2024 Per Capita Costs
Animal Services	N.C.G.S. 153A-442	\$	5.41	\$ 6.83
Community Development	N.C.G.S. 160D-201		6.19	6.77
Cooperative Extension Services	N.C.G.S. 153A-439(a)		4.33	4.62
Detention Center	N.C.G.S. 153A-218		46.48	45.61
Economic Development	N.C.G.S. 158-23		22.12	22.60
Fire Marshal	N.C.G.S. 153A-234		0.76	0.85
Foothills Conference Center	N.C.G.S. 153A-445(7)		1.36	1.69
Library	N.C.G.S. 153A-263		16.99	17.13
Planning	N.C.G.S. 160D-201		6.19	6.85
Recreation	N.C.G.S. 153A-444		6.53	7.78
Senior Services	N.C.G.S. 153A-445(6)		5.29	5.72
Soil and Water Conservation	N.C.G.S. 153A-440		1.48	2.18
Veterans Services	N.C.G.S. 143B-1211		0.48	0.59
		\$	123.61	\$ 129.21
	Total Per Capital Levy	\$	599.00	\$ 622.00

PEER FUNCTIONAL SPENDING – PER CAPITA									
Per Capita Spending	Burke	Cleveland	Lincoln	Gaston	Rutherford	Moore	Nash	Henderson	Group Avg
General Government	\$139.04	\$169.97	\$175.63	\$463.85	\$ 90.79	\$ 149.52	\$119.57	\$ 272.70	\$197.63
Public Safety	\$204	\$419	\$371	\$949	\$207	\$193	\$290	\$398	\$379
Economic Development	\$25	\$50	\$41	\$52	\$63	\$77	\$45	\$24	\$47
Human Services	\$227	\$361	\$199	\$776	\$159	\$173	\$247	\$319	\$308
Cultural & Recreation	\$27	\$13	\$35	\$83	\$7	\$15	\$425	463	\$33
Education	\$200	\$348	\$293	\$592	\$209	\$407	\$261	\$384	\$337

FISCAL YEAR 25 – BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

BURKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

***Excludes debt service, education, transfers to other funds, & risk management.

	Salaries	Operating	Capital	Total
Burke	73%	24%	3%	100%
Gaston	69%	30%	1%	100%
Henderson	64%	34%	3%	100%
Lincoln	65%	29%	6%	100%
Cleveland	66%	31%	3%	100%
Nash	68%	29%	3%	100%
AVERAGE	68%	29%	3%	100%

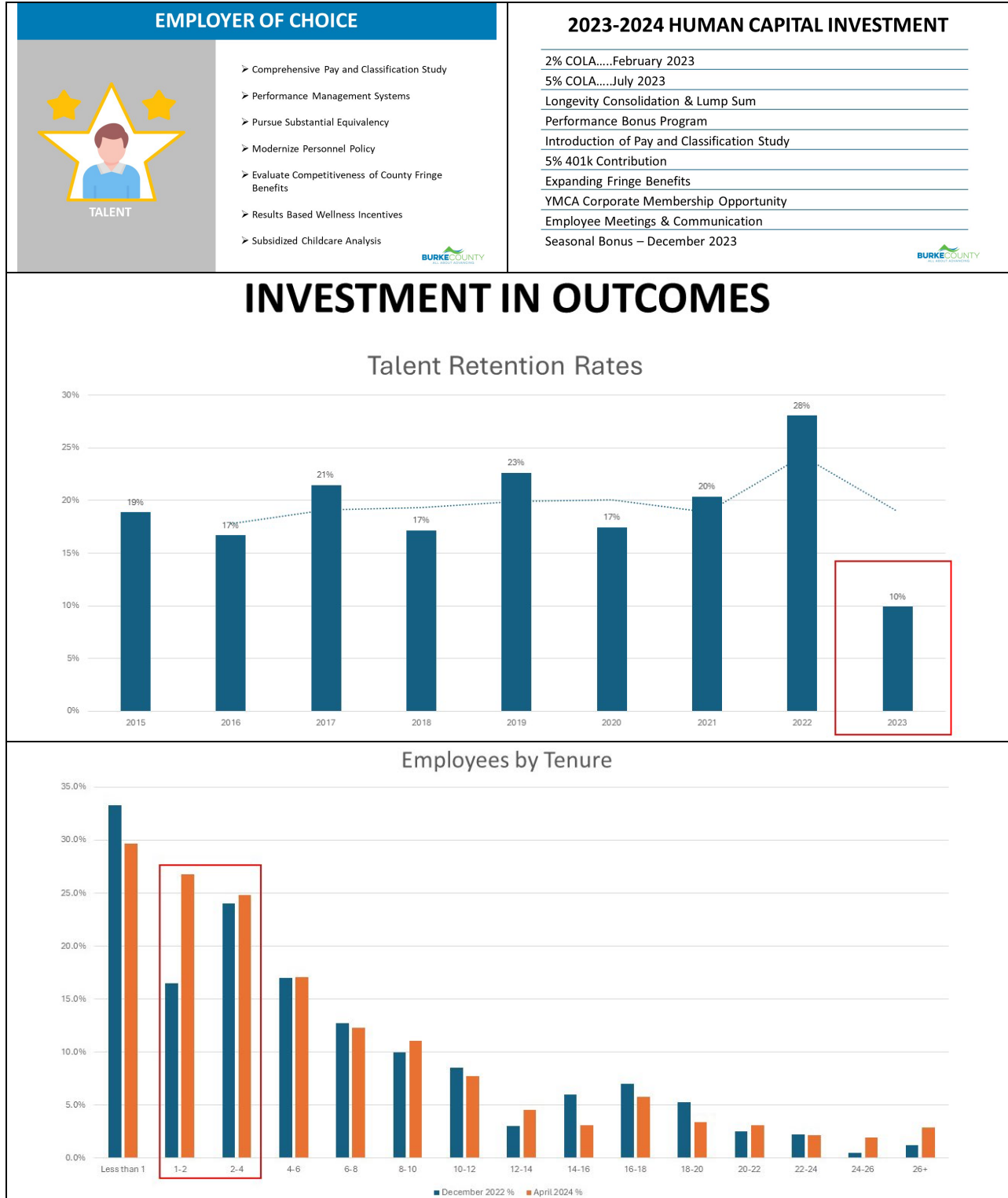
FY 25 GENERAL FUND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Second consecutive year of development from Zero Based
- Cumulative reduction in operating costs of (\$461,964) since FY 22-23.
- Includes funding for year two (2) multi-year dedicated capital reserve fund, risk management fund, and debt service fund
- Phased approach to employee pay : Implement Pay & Classification Study; Performance Pay;
- Maintains employer sponsored 401k contribution to 5%
- Includes addition of one (1) Environmental Health Specialist and Two (2) Truck Driver positions
- Provides reoccurring funding for Roadside Litter Clean Up and Community Education Campaign
- Dedicated funding source for Broadband Expansion – Continuing Access to Broadband (CAB) grant
- Funding includes \$250,000 increase in Public Education funding and increase in Community College funding
- Continued support for outside funding partners
- Maintains all Board of Commissioners fiscal policy goals – (ie. Fund Balance %, Debt Ratios, CIP Ladders, Etc.)

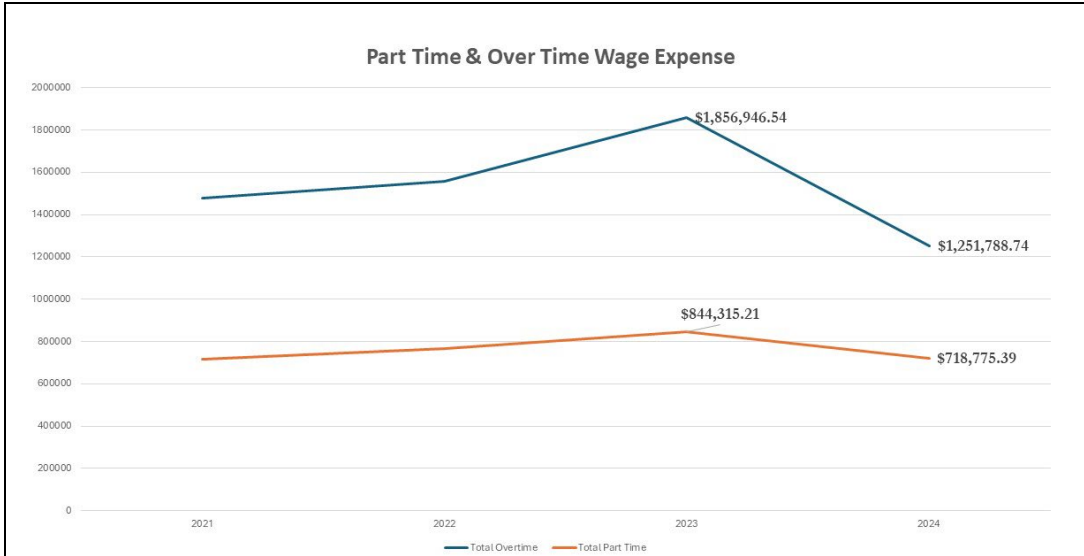


FY 25 Strategic Plan Focus Areas

1. Employer of Choice
2. Public Safety & Well-being
3. Community Advancement
4. Economic Growth & Sustainment
5. Fiscal Stewardship



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ORGANIZATIONAL PEOPLE INVESTMENT



OBJECTIVES OF PAY & CLASSIFICATION STUDY

1. Review and evaluate the County's current classification and compensation program
2. Develop job descriptions to ensure accuracy
3. Determine current relationship relative to the labor market
4. Evaluate the internal ranking of all positions
5. Develop a compensation system
6. Review and develop administrative guidelines for implementation and maintenance

Pay Philosophy



Fair and Market
Driven Wages



Balance Internal
and External
Equity Factors



Maintain competitive
pay structure with
consideration
of County's fiscal
resources



Develop an
understandable
compensation
program

Completed comprehensive pay & classification study

Implemented 3/1/2024 - \$3,000,000

- Step 1 - Full review and analysis of job descriptions, job grades, and pay system overhaul
- Step 2 - Market Analysis for competitive pay ranges – including a compression relief multiplier

FY 24 HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT

3 Phase Approach



FY 24 HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT

1.) Pay & Classification

- Implement Pay & Class 7/1/2024

Total Cost \$3.0M

2.) Performance Pay

- +/- 1.25% 9/15/2024
- +/- 1.25% 3/15/2025

Total Cost \$ -0-

3.) Mid-Year Inflationary Adjustment

- Lower of 2% or CPI

Total Cost \$TBD

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



• Talent Retention.....> 88 %.....	1/4 %
• Customer Service.....> 90%.....	1/4%
• Health Plan Costs.....< 08%.....	1/4%
• Budget Utilization.....< 92%.....	1/4%
• Net Neutral Risk Management Costs.....= 0%.....	1/4%
• TOTAL.....	1.25 %

• Each Accomplished Metric Earns 1/4 %



PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

1.) Wellness Costs
2.) Organizational Turn-Over Percentage
3.) Customer Service Experience
4.) Re-Engineering / Budget Utilization
5.) Net Neutral Risk Management Costs



Departmental Specific Performance Goals



Individual Employee Performance Goals

Organizational 2.5%

Departmental TBD %

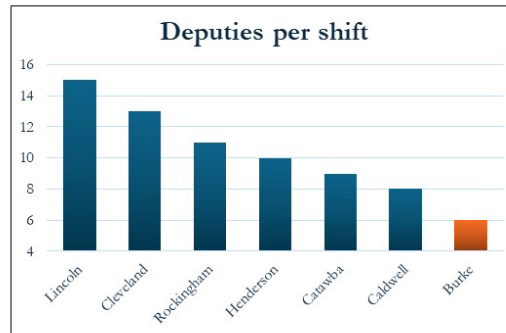
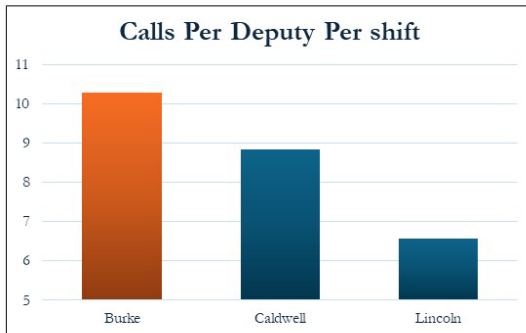
Individual TBD %

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELL-BEING

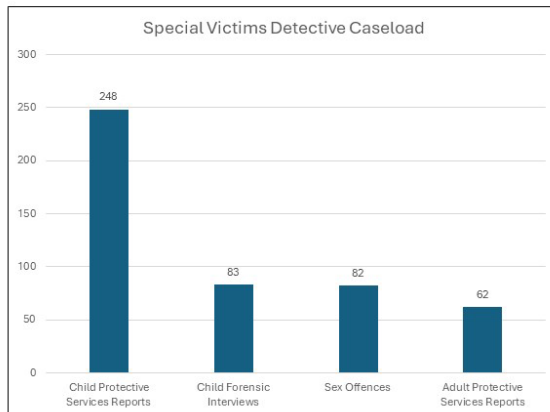
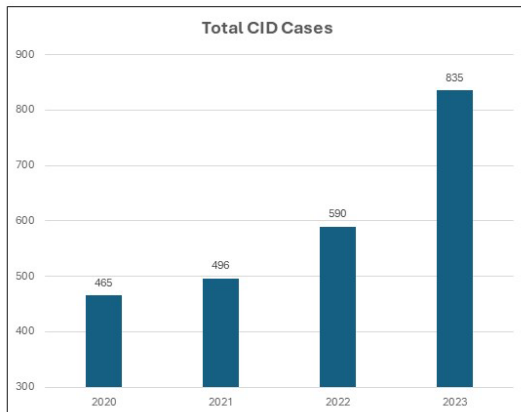


- Central Administered EMS System / Community Paramedicine
- Fleet & Rolling Stock Management Plan (EMS & Sheriff)
- Maintain support for County Volunteer Fire Departments
- Centrally Administer Public Safety Radio Replacement Plan
- Long-Term Public Safety Strategic Plan

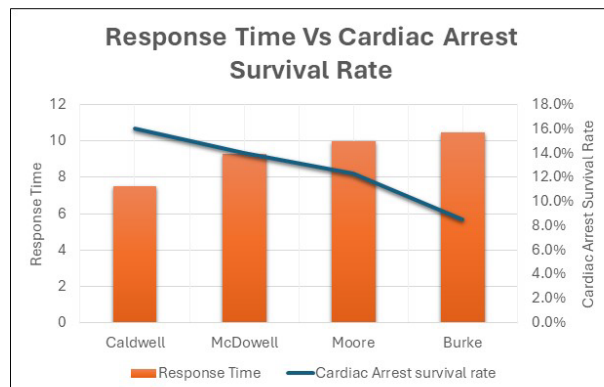
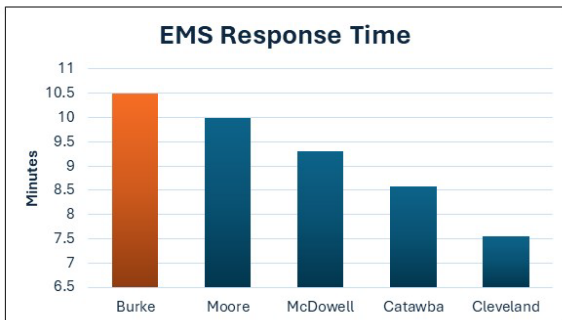
Public Safety Performance Indicators



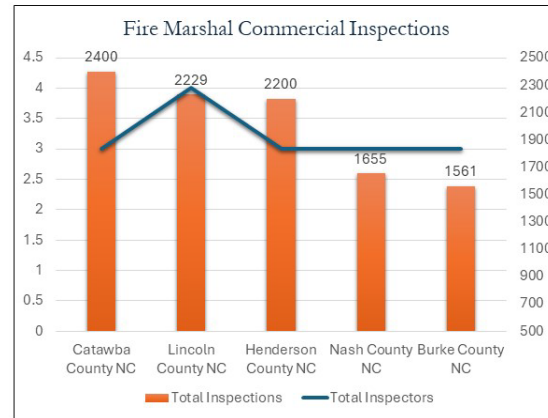
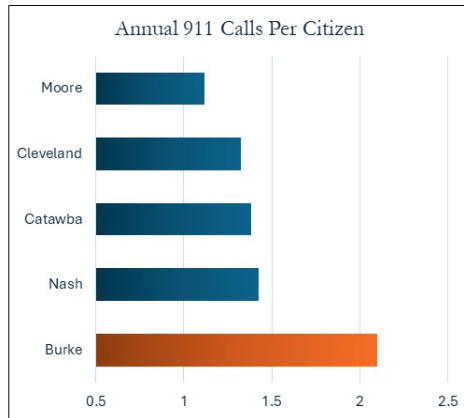
PUBLIC SAFETY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS



PUBLIC SAFETY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



PUBLIC SAFETY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

Department	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	% Change
Detention Center	\$5,749,295	\$6,430,034	\$6,824,177	6%
Sheriff's Department	\$8,334,000	\$9,415,974	\$10,640,279	13%
Emergency Medical Services	\$7,713,065	\$8,639,608	\$8,562,050	-1%
Emergency Management	\$428,075	\$563,759	\$588,664	4%
E-911/Communications	\$2,625,355	\$3,065,732	\$3,477,312	13%
Total Public Safety Budget	\$24,829,790	\$27,999,945	\$30,092,482	7%

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE



VOLUNTEER FIRE FUNDING – RECOMMENDED BUDGET

	Combined 24-25		Tax Rate Per	Budgeted 23-24		Increase/Decrease	
	Total Property Value	Difference	\$100 of Value		PROJECTED REVENUE	in Revenue	% Change
Brendletown	\$430,064,181	\$12,767,882	\$ 0.105	\$ (445,800)	\$ 451,567	\$ 5,767	1.29%
Carbon City	\$17,185,386	\$2,530,762	\$ 0.080	\$ (12,000)	\$ 13,748	\$ 1,748	14.57%
Chesterfield	\$248,240,354	\$12,132,384	\$ 0.130	\$ (312,365)	\$ 322,712	\$ 10,347	3.31%
Drowning Creek	\$95,070,795	\$11,896,388	\$ 0.120	\$ (103,460)	\$ 114,085	\$ 10,625	10.27%
Enola	\$153,885,407	\$7,534,373	\$ 0.105	\$ (156,820)	\$ 161,580	\$ 4,760	3.04%
George Hildebran	\$365,080,307	\$9,414,108	\$ 0.110	\$ (400,585)	\$ 401,588	\$ 1,003	0.25%
Glen Alpine	\$216,694,692	\$10,513,270	\$ 0.100	\$ (210,085)	\$ 216,695	\$ 6,610	3.15%
Icard	\$883,425,379	\$75,591,676	\$ 0.120	\$ (988,560)	\$ 1,060,110	\$ 71,550	7.24%
Jonas Ridge	\$194,277,709	\$2,247,104	\$ 0.135	\$ (262,630)	\$ 262,275	\$ (355)	-0.14%
Lake James	\$427,514,825	\$8,492,177	\$ 0.080	\$ (347,220)	\$ 342,012	\$ (5,208)	-1.50%
Longtown	\$213,411,224	\$5,758,876	\$ 0.120	\$ (250,365)	\$ 256,093	\$ 5,728	2.29%
Lovelady	\$737,341,422	\$41,428,071	\$ 0.105	\$ (742,360)	\$ 774,208	\$ 31,848	4.29%
Oak Hill	\$659,890,897	\$21,270,857	\$ 0.080	\$ (518,205)	\$ 527,913	\$ 9,708	1.87%
Salem	\$702,393,262	\$25,449,314	\$ 0.0716	\$ (495,000)	\$ 502,914	\$ 7,914	1.60%
Smokey Creek	\$38,560,771	\$1,840,573	\$ 0.118	\$ (45,790)	\$ 45,502	\$ (288)	-0.63%
South Mountain	\$105,486,386	\$1,403,083	\$ 0.136	\$ (148,855)	\$ 143,461	\$ (5,394)	-3.62%
Triple Community	\$676,246,660	\$2,252,501	\$ 0.100	\$ (682,045)	\$ 676,247	\$ (5,798)	-0.85%
West End	\$534,766,828	\$18,316,401	\$ 0.095	\$ (499,320)	\$ 508,028	\$ 8,708	1.74%

COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT



- Roadside Litter and Trash Cleanup
- Identify Census Tract Data Specific to County-Wide Broadband Availability and Pursue Coverage for > 90% of Households
- Expansion of Existing Trail Systems & Exploration of New Opportunities
- Development of a Water/Sewer AIA and Asset Management Plan
- Exploration and Recruitment of a County Public Information Officer
- County-Wide Housing Evaluation & Public Policy Innovation Solutions



COMMUNITY PARTNERS FUNDING

Agency	2024 Budget	Requested	2025 Recommended
BURKE RESCUE ALLOCATION	105,000	\$ 581,000	\$ 105,000
BURKE ARTS COUNCIL ALLOCATION	8,000	8,000	8,000
ALCOHOLISM ALLOCATION	30,000	40,000	30,000
FRIENDS OF FFT	30,000	10,000	10,000
FOOTHILLS REGIONAL AIRPORT	57,980	47,137	60,300
REACT ALLOCATION	55,000	75,000	65,000
HICKORY REGIONAL AIRPORT	4,000	54,000	54,000
VEDIC	5,000	25,000	5,000
GOOD SAMARITAN CLINIC ALLOCATI	40,000	40,000	40,000
FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY	10,000	100,000	40,000
ANIMAL SERVICES FOUNDATION	-	25,000	5,000
REASON ALLOCATION	17,951	18,000	18,000
CONFLICT RESOLUTION ALLOCATION	8,620	14,800	10,915
BURKE HISTORY MUSEUM ALLOCATIO	10,000	20,000	20,000
CONTINGENCY	-	-	-
Outside Contributions	\$ 381,551	\$ 1,057,937	\$ 471,215



Housing Gap Estimates (Rental Housing)

Burke County has an Overall Rental Housing Gap of Approximately 1,499 Residential Units at a Variety of Affordability Levels.

Burke County, North Carolina Rental Housing Gap Estimates (2023-2028)				
Percent of Median Income	≤ 50%	51%-80%	81%-120%	121%+
Household Income Range	≤\$35,650	\$35,651-\$57,040	\$57,041-\$85,680	\$85,681+
Monthly Rent Range	≤ \$891	\$892-\$1,426	\$1,427-\$2,142	\$2,143+
Household Growth	-336	62	131	99
Balanced Market	206	0	33	46
Replacement Housing	507	119	31	14
External Market Support	167	158	83	72
Severe Cost Burdened	273	137	46	0
Step-Down Support	95	2	-5	-92
Less Pipeline Units	-78	-151	-120	0
Overall Units Needed	834	327	199	139

The greatest rental housing gap is for units with rents ≤ \$891 for households generally earning <\$35,650 annually.

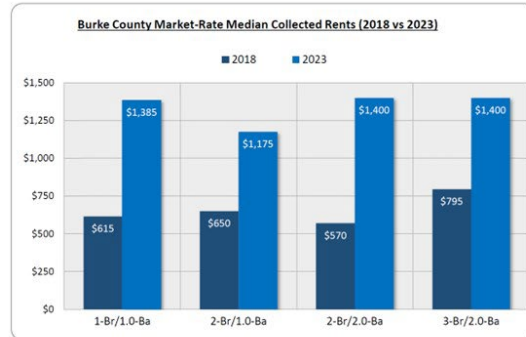
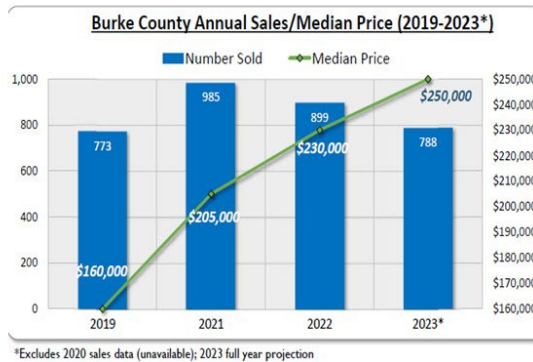
Housing Gap Estimates (For-Sale Housing)

Burke County has an Overall For-Sale Housing Gap of Approximately 3,323 Residential Units at a Variety of Affordability Levels.

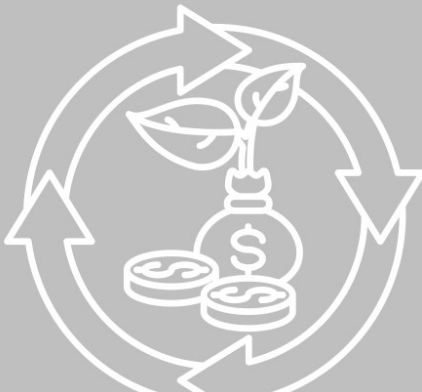
Burke County, North Carolina For-Sale Housing Gap Estimates (2023-2028)				
Percent of Median Income	≤ 50%	51%-80%	81%-120%	121%+
Household Income Range	≤\$35,650	\$35,651-\$57,040	\$57,041-\$85,680	\$85,681+
Price Point	≤ \$118,833	\$118,834-\$190,133	\$190,134-\$285,600	\$285,601+
Household Growth	-871	-607	163	2,139
Balanced Market	182	157	112	244
Replacement Housing	179	78	36	36
External Market Support	374	217	199	400
Severe Cost Burdened	197	98	33	0
Step-Down Support	0	872	988	-1,860
Less Pipeline Units	0	0	-14	-29
Overall Units Needed	61	815	1,517	930

The greatest gap appears to be for housing priced between \$190,134 and \$285,600 (1,517 units) for households generally earning between \$57,041 and \$85,681.

COST OF HOUSING CHANGE



ECONOMIC GROWTH & SUSTAINMENT



- Continued Support for BDI
- Leverage Infrastructure & Product Development funding for Burke Business Park
- Implementation Strategy for Class A Industrial Speculative Building
- Economic Impact Analysis for Hickory Regional and Foothills Regional Airport
- Travel / Tourism Promotion and Strategic Plan Development

COUNTY WIDE ECONOMIC DATA

- Medicaid Population.....31.4%
- Food Insecurity.....15%
- Opportunity Youth.....22.2%
- Children in Poverty.....19.9%

	2023 Households	Median Household Income	Estimated Median Home Value	Average Gross Rent	Share of Cost Burdened Households*		Share of Severe Cost Burdened Households**	
					Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner
Morganton	6,887	\$47,913	\$201,493	\$787	44.2%	13.2%	22.2%	5.5%
Burke County	35,602	\$55,356	\$185,407	\$761	36.8%	13.5%	18.3%	6.0%
North Carolina	4,313,442	\$65,879	\$262,944	\$1,067	43.2%	18.9%	20.7%	7.6%

Source: American Community Survey (2017-2021); ESRI; NCOSBM; Urban Decision Group; Bowen National Research

*Paying more than 30% of income toward housing costs

**Paying more than 50% of income toward housing costs

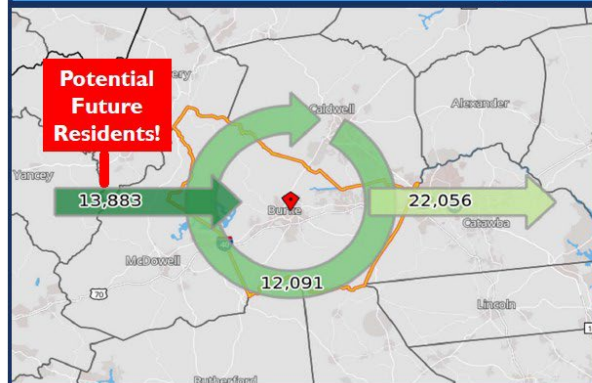
	Burke County	State Average	Difference
Per Capita Income	\$ 44,798.00	\$ 49,789.57	-11.14%
Average Weekly Income	\$ 868.00	\$ 910.76	-4.93%

Nearly 14,000 individuals from surrounding areas commute into Burke County for employment, accounting for 53.4% of the people employed in Burke County.

Commuter Profile:

Over half (51.1%) of in-commuters are between ages 30 & 54, and 36.3% earn over \$40,000 annually.

The large number of people that commute daily into the area for work represent a large base of **potential new residents/ households for Burke County.**



FISCAL STEWARDSHIP



- Capital Plan Execution / Debt Mgt Policies
- Leveraging State & Federal Grant Opportunities
- Fund Balance Growth > 25%
- Personnel FTE Requests
- Re-engineering Cost Savings

BURKE COUNTY

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP METRICS

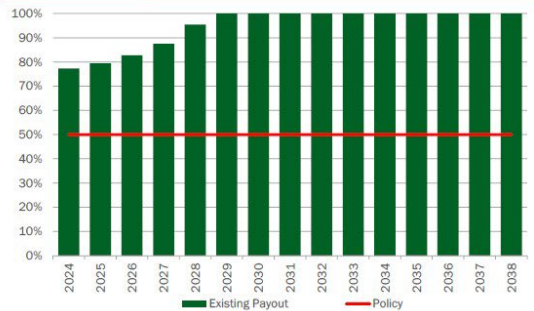
- Fund Balance / Debt Financial Policies
- Personnel Requests
- Grant Management Strategies
- Re-Engineering & Cost Savings Initiatives



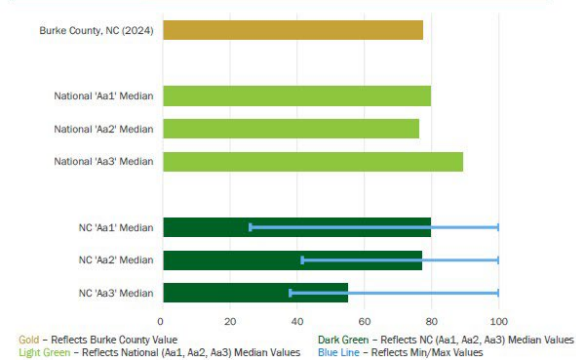
BURKE COUNTY

10-YEAR PAYOUT RATIO'S

10-Year Payout Ratio



10-year Payout Ratio Peer Comparative

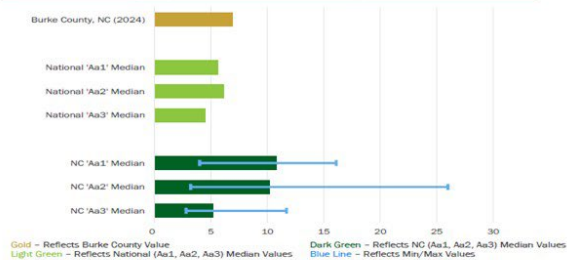


10 Year Payout Percentage – FY 25.....77.8%



FY25 DEBT TO SERVICE & DEBT TO ASSESSED VALUE

Debt Service vs. Expenditures Peer Comparative



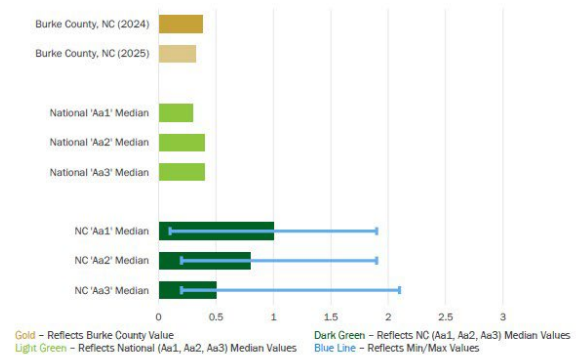
Rating Considerations:

- S&P: The Debt and Contingent Liabilities section defines categories of Net Direct Debt as a % of Total Governmental Funds Expenditures as follows:

Very Strong:	<8%
Strong:	8% to 15%
Adequate:	15% - 25%
Weak:	25% - 35%
Very Weak:	> 35%

Burke County FY 25 -Debt Service Percentage ... 6.9%

Debt to Assessed Value Peer Comparative



Burke County FY 25 -Debt to Assessed Value = .38%



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PERSONNEL REQUESTS

Departmental Request

BURKE COUNTY, North Carolina
GENERAL FUND ORIGINAL BUDGET ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

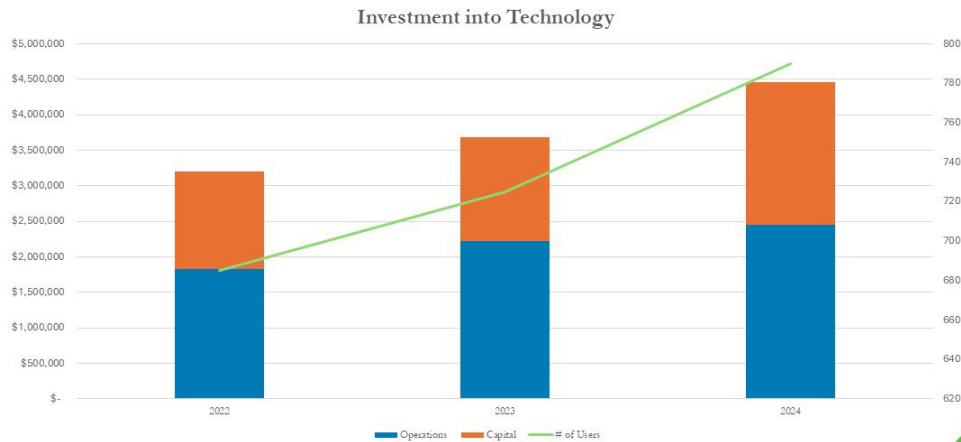
Department	Number of Positions	Budgeted Amount
Animal Services	2.5	\$ 106,789
Building Inspection	1	\$ 50,129
DSS	6	\$ 306,000
EMS	8	\$ 413,702
General Services	2	\$ 86,000
Health	10	\$ 632,500
Library	1	\$ 50,000
Senior Services	1	\$ 40,000
Water & Sewer	2	\$ 86,000
	33.5	\$1,771,120

Departmental Request

- 1 - Environmental Health Specialist....\$65,000 (x1)
2- Solid Waste Truck Driver.....\$51,500 (x2)

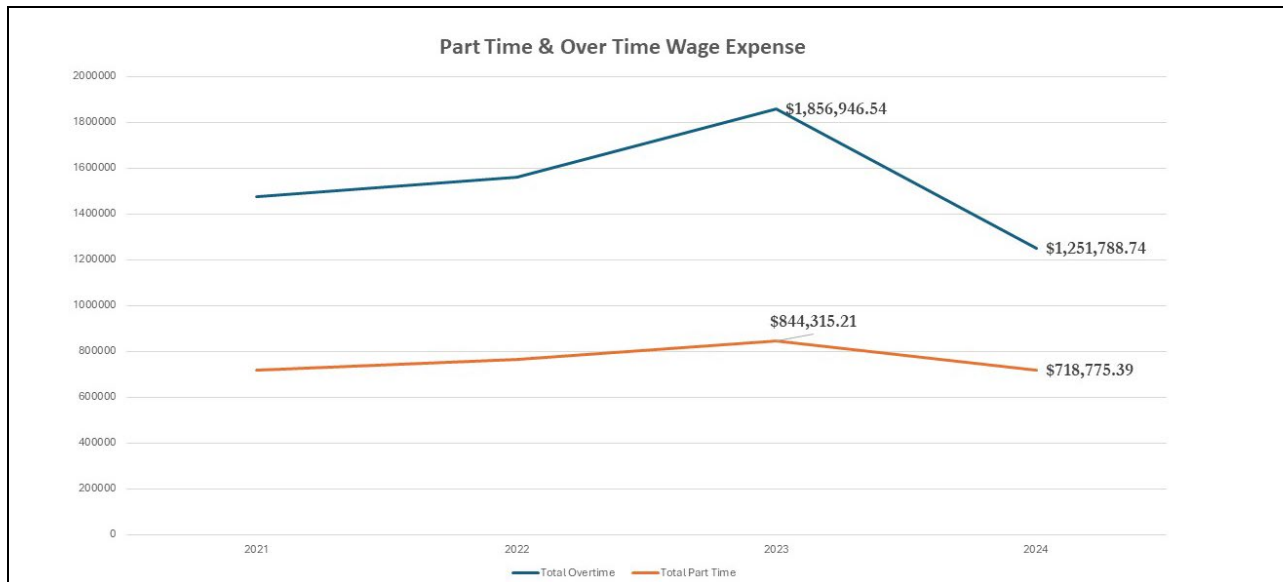
INVESTMENT INTO TECHNOLOGY

Automation, Security, and Citizen Interface

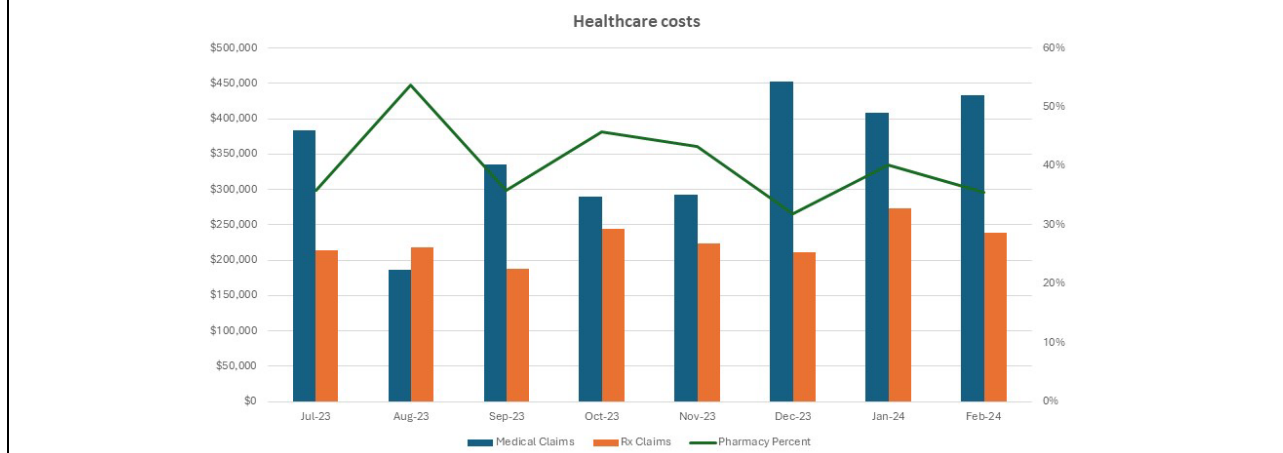


FY 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Re-Engineering

Strategy	Amount & Impact
1. EMS Billing.....	\$ 250,000 increased revenue
2. EMS Billings Contract Cost Avoidance.....	\$ 340,000 decreased cost
3. Pharmacy Formulary.....	\$ 1,000,000 decreased cost
4. Over Time & Part Time Labor Cost Avoidance.....	\$ <u>300,000</u> decreased cost
Total Manufactured Budget Flexibility	\$ 1,890,000



EMPLOYEE WELLNESS & PHARMACY COSTS



**CAPTIAL
IMPROVEMENT
PLAN FUNDING**



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CIP – NON-MAJOR OPERATIONAL OUT YEAR CAPITAL PLANNING

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES OUT-YEAR NON-MAJOR								
Project	Total Project Cost	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	5 YEAR TOTAL
Clerk and Governing Board Facility Projects		-	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	-	75,000
ROD Indexing		-	-	85,000	85,000	-	-	170,000
Migrate Servers from Hyperflex to Scale environment	250,000	125,000	125,000	-	-	-	-	250,000
Jail network and wifi	50,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	5,000	-	-	50,000
Services building network replacement	80,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-	80,000
BCECC network replacement, radio network, wifi	150,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	-	-	150,000
Other operational system upgrades - see detail tab	648,000	-	227,500	302,500	93,000	25,000	-	648,000
FHEC - Roof Replacement	1,200,000	-	225,000	225,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,200,000
New EMS Base - Location TBD	625,000	-	-	125,000	250,000	-	250,000	625,000
Cooperative Extension - General Capital	80,000	-	15,000	50,000	15,000	-	-	80,000
IT Strategic Plan	125,000	62,500	62,500	-	-	-	-	125,000
Organizational Wide Public Safety Mobile Radio Replacement 212	1,025,000	645,000	205,000	205,000	-	-	-	1,055,000
Field 3 lights at Reep park	180,000	90,000	90,000	-	-	-	-	180,000
Paving of parking lots at Reep and Simpson	70,000	25,000	25,000	20,000	-	-	-	70,000
replace two 20 year kabota mowers	55,000	27,500	27,500	-	-	-	-	55,000
	\$ 4,538,000	\$ 1,060,000	\$ 1,087,500	\$ 1,012,500	\$ 633,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 4,488,000

CIP – NON-MAJOR OPERATIONAL OUT YEAR CAPITAL PLANNING

WATER/SEWER ACTIVITIES OUT-YEAR NON-MAJOR								
Project	Total Project Cost	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	5 YEAR TOTAL
Water Meter Mechanics replacement - ALL	485,000	320,000	305,000	-	-	-	-	625,000
Creek Bank Stabilization	120,000	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	120,000
	\$ 605,000	\$ 440,000	\$ 305,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 745,000

SOLID WASTE ACTIVITIES OUT-YEAR NON-MAJOR								
Project	Total Project Cost	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	TOTAL
Roll Off Truck Purchase	\$ 620,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 620,000
New Scale Replacement	200,000	-	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	200,000
New Compactor	925,000	-	-	-	300,000	300,000	325,000	925,000
Cardboard Compactors	250,000	-	125,000	125,000	-	-	-	250,000
Collection Site Offices	240,000	-	80,000	80,000	80,000	-	-	240,000
	\$ 2,235,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 415,000	\$ 405,000	\$ 480,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 425,000	\$ 2,235,000

CIP – MAJOR PROJECTS

BURKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
MAJOR PROJECT ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

		Status	Funded in PY from GF	Amount Funded in Capital Reserve	Grant Funding	Debt Funding	Total Funding
Building - Major Projects							
Animal Services Building	\$ 6,000,000	Active - Design & Development	-	6,000,000	-	-	6,000,000
EMS Base #1 Relocation	\$ 7,000,000	Active - Design & Development	-	7,000,000	-	-	7,000,000
Courthouse Improvements	\$ 2,100,000	Active - Design & Development	-	1,100,000	1,000,000	-	2,100,000
Health / Human Services Building	\$ 30,000,000	Space Planning 90%	-	-	-	30,000,000	30,000,000
Indian Hills Pump Station Replacement	\$ 2,500,000	Analysis part of AIA - On going	-	-	1,118,000	-	1,118,000
Fonta Flora Trail Capital Investment	\$ 2,200,000	TBD	-	2,200,000	-	-	2,200,000
Fonta Flora Trail Capital Investment	\$ 355,918	In Design Phase Bridge Side Walk	-	-	355,918	-	355,918
Over Mountain Victory Trail Investment	\$ 392,258	FERC Grant from Duke	-	-	392,258	-	392,258
Jones Ridge Phase I	\$ 1,500,000	To be completed Q1 2024	1,500,000	450,000	-	-	1,950,000
Jones Ridge Phase II	\$ 800,000	In Design Phase (Q3 2024) - Equinox	-	800,000	-	-	800,000
East Burke Collection Site	\$ 1,500,000	To be completed Q1 2024	1,500,000	-	-	-	1,500,000
EMS Station - New Construction	\$ 1,000,000	Not Funded - TBD	-	-	-	-	-
EMS Station - New Construction	\$ 1,000,000	Not Funded - TBD	-	-	-	-	-
Library Expansion	\$ 12,000,000	Not Funded - TBD	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 17,550,000	\$ 2,866,176	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 53,416,176

PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING FY 25





Burke County Schools

• Commissioner Goals:

1. Competitive Operational Funding
2. Additional Dedicated Funding For Teacher Supplements
3. Improve Teacher-to-Student Ratios

Burke County Public Schools FY 24

01	02	03
Total County Funding \$20,000,000	Cash Flow Increase of approximately \$3.7MM	Per Pupil Allocation Increase of 25%

Burke County Public Schools Budget Allocation Analysis For the Year Ended June 30, 2024	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ Allocation
Nurse Salaries	1,076,045
Bookkeeper Salaries	1,299,607
Teacher Salaries	423,361
Maintenance Salaries	2,989,167
Certified Supplements	3,584,939
Non-Certified Supplements	842,262
Total Salaries & Benefits	10,215,381
Operations	
Utilities	3,383,520
Contract Services	862,270
Custodial Supplies	441,230
School Allotments	1,016,162
Contract Services	758,277
Legal Fees	103,689
Insurance	961,226
Charter Schools	850,883
Total Operations	8,377,257
Capital	
Facilities	923,804
Extracurricular	152,519
Miscellaneous	331,039
Total Capital	1,407,362
Grand Total	<u>\$20,000,000</u>



Burke County Public Schools

Igniting Learning for a Brighter Future

Total County Funding \$20,000,000

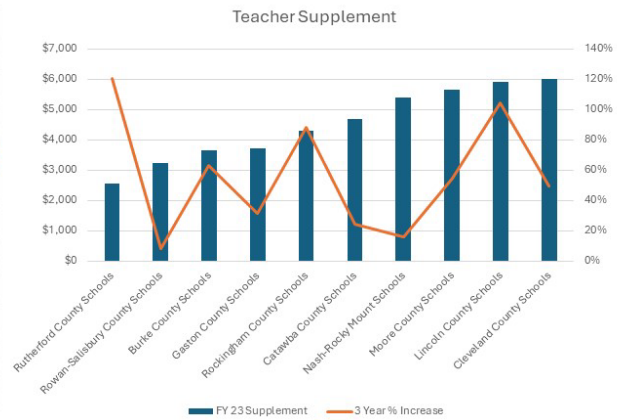


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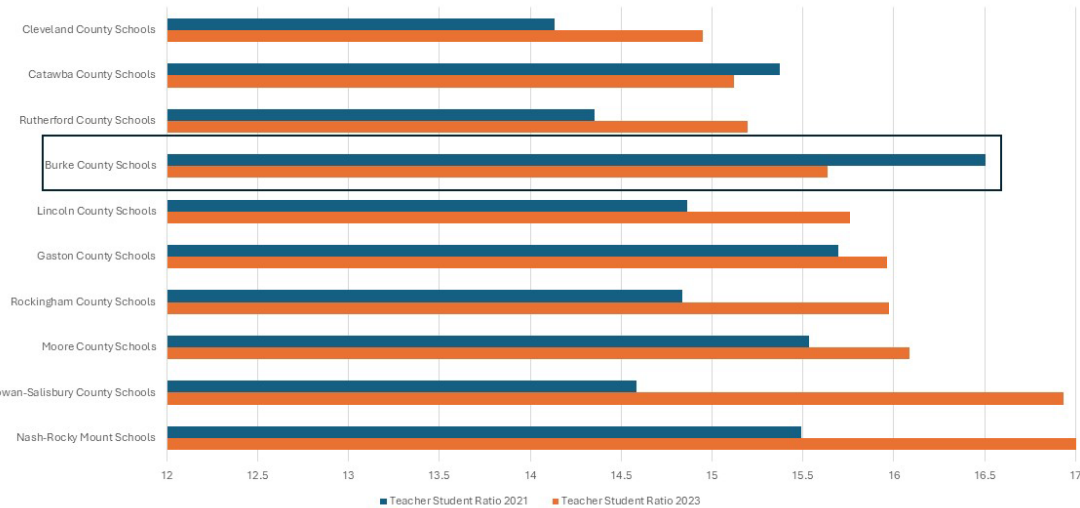
Page 64

TEACHER SUPPLEMENTS

Schools	Local supplement FY 21	FY 23 Supplement	% Change
Rutherford County Schools	\$ 1,157.00	\$ 2,552.00	121%
Lincoln County Schools	\$ 2,894.00	\$ 5,909.00	104%
Rockingham County Schools	\$ 2,279.00	\$ 4,292.00	88%
Burke County Schools	\$ 2,229.00	\$ 3,636.00	63%
Moore County Schools	\$ 3,647.00	\$ 5,643.00	55%
Cleveland County Schools	\$ 4,030.00	\$ 6,017.00	49%
Average	\$ 2,706.00	\$ 4,504.20	66%
Gaston County Schools	\$ 2,826.00	\$ 3,720.00	32%
Catawba County Schools	\$ 3,755.00	\$ 4,668.00	24%
Nash-Rocky Mount Schools	\$ 4,657.00	\$ 5,389.00	16%
Rowan-Salisbury County Schools	\$ 2,972.00	\$ 3,216.00	8%



Student Teacher Ratio



**Burke County
Public Schools
FY 25**

01

**Total County
Funding
\$20,250,000**

02

**Cash Flow
Increase of
approximately
\$250,000**

03

**Estimated Per
Pupil Allocation
LEA Rank
94th (\$1,840)**

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Western Piedmont Community College Funding FY 24

58 Community Colleges in North Carolina

Description	State Average	WPCC	% Difference
FTE	3,800	1,872	50.7%
County Operational FTE Funding	\$1,343	\$1,440	.07%
State & Federal FTE Funding	\$7,421	\$7,487	.08%

(5) "Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Student" – An amount of instruction that equates to 512 student hours in membership as defined in 1G SBCCC 200.93 and 1G SBCCC 200.94.



WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

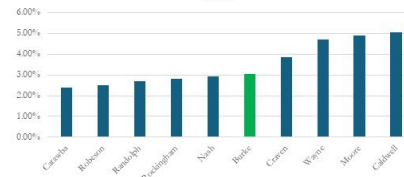
Peer Counties

Caldwell
Catawba
Cleveland
Craven
Moore
Nash
Robeson
Rockingham
Randolph
Wayne

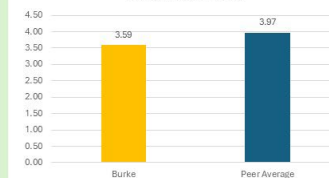
Per FTE Funding



Community College Funding as a % of total General Fund



Fund Cents of Rate

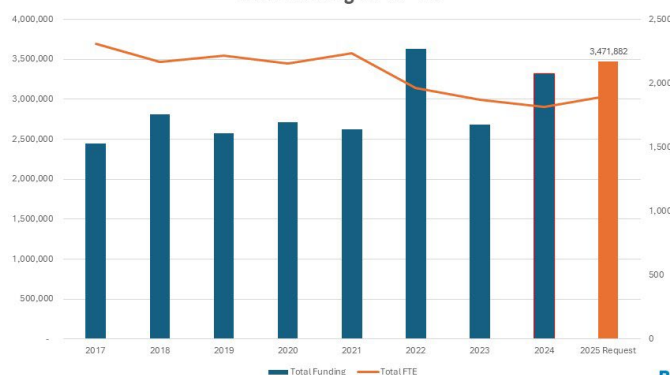


WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Peer Counties

Caldwell
Catawba
Cleveland
Craven
Moore
Nash
Robeson
Rockingham
Randolph
Wayne

Total Funding FY 17 - 25

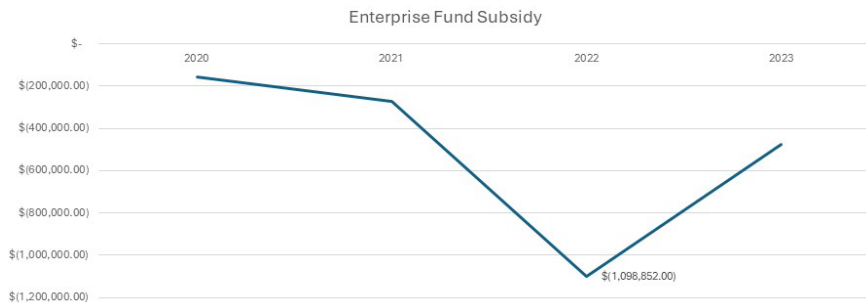


SOLID WASTE & WATER / SEWER DEPARTMENT FY25



ENTERPRISE FUND BUSINESS ENVELOPE – CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

	2020	2021	2022	2023		
Solid Waste	\$ 78,947.00	\$ 180,800.00	\$ 821,830.00	\$ 406,560.00		
Water / Sewer	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 68,675.00		
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Enterprise Fund Subsidy	\$ (155,967.00)	\$ (272,821.00)	\$ (1,098,852.00)	\$ (477,258.00)	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000.00



SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

Municipal C&D Household Fee (if you receive curbside C&D) - \$5

Total Revenues.....\$6,618,675

Total Expenditures.....\$5,666,388

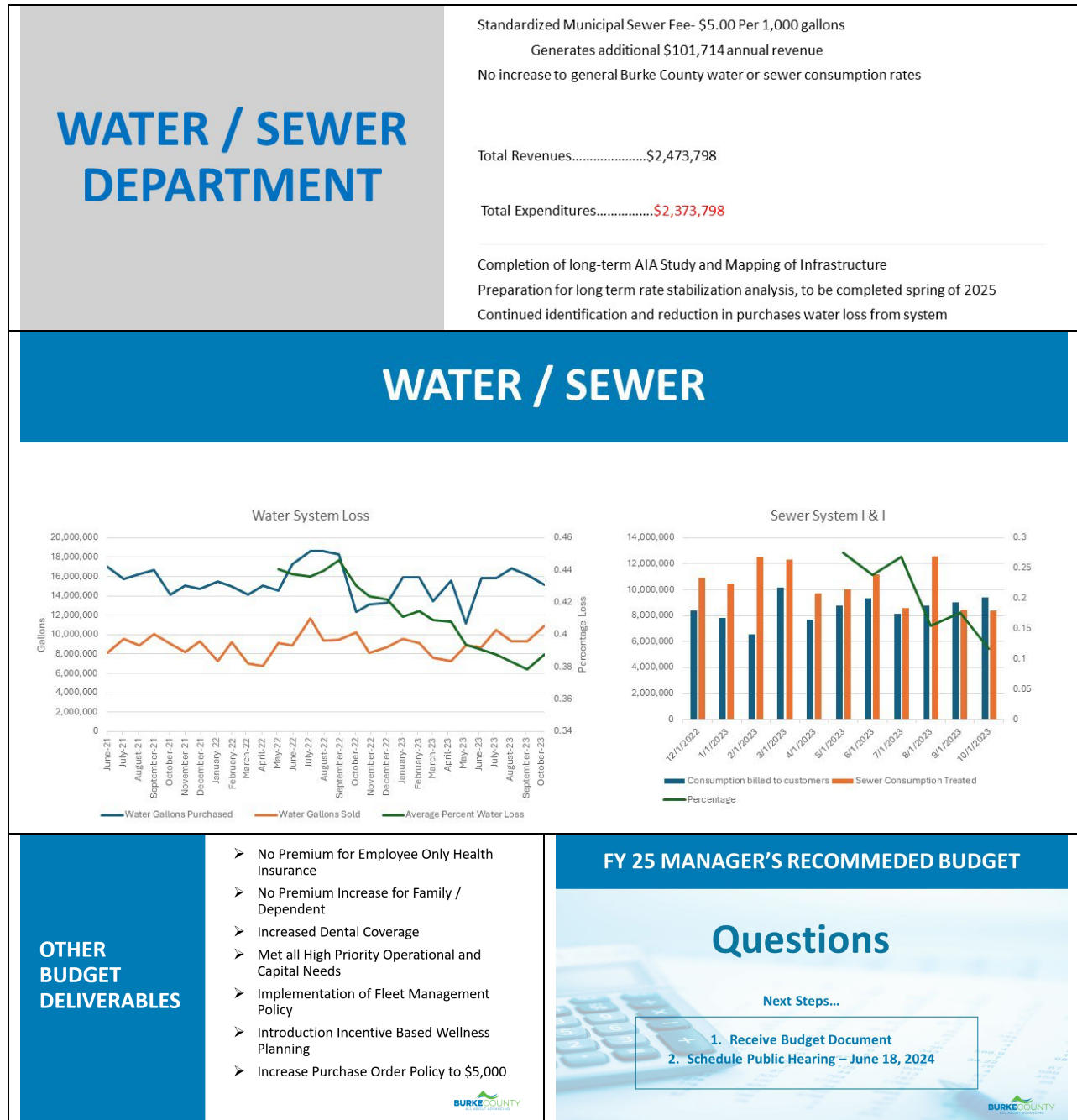
Continuation of long-term rate stabilization study

Amended Municipal Solid Waste Handling Contract w/ Republic

- In-Sourced Hauling / Transport.....\$ 1.2M Cost Reduction
- In-Sourced Cardboard Handling and Recycling.....\$160,000 Cost Reduction
- Simplified and Streamlined Material Rates & Fees
- Removed over time from standard operating shifts

Roadside Litter Prevention Campaign & Garbage Clean Up

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Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he opened the floor for a motion.

Motion: To acknowledge receipt of the County Manager's recommended budget for FY 24 - 25.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Motion: To schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as persons may be heard.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for reports and comments from Board members and professional staff. Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, thanked them for allowing her to attend the NC Governor's Volunteer Service Award Ceremony and noted that these volunteers will be recognized at the June Board of Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Burns thanked the county manager and staff for their hard work on the budget. He appreciated the efforts that went into reengineering rather than raising the tax rates as a solution to overcoming budget hurdles. Chairman Brittain shared information on upcoming holiday closures, meetings, and community events, in addition to inviting youth groups to sign up to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at Commissioners' meetings. He also encouraged citizens to spay or neuter pets and to adopt or foster a pet from Animal Services. He then issued friendly reminders to not litter, to pick up trash, and to cover your loads when transporting trash to the landfill or a convenience site.

Clerk Draughn noted an error in the motion on the public hearing date and after conferring with JR Simpson, County Attorney, Chairman Brittain opened the floor for an amended motion with the correct date.

Motion: To amend the previous motion as follows: to schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as persons may be heard.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLERK - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES VACANCY REPORT

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, announced the following vacancies on county boards or committees as follows:

- Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
- City of Morganton - Board of Adjustment (ETJ)
- City of Morganton - Planning Board (ETJ)
- Burke County Board of Health
- Hickory Regional Planning Commission
- Drexel Planning Board - ETJ Alternate
- Burke County Board of Adjustment
- Burke County Planning Board

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments and then encouraged citizens to

participate and get involved.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session is needed to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential, if needed, to discuss threatened or pending litigation, to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to discuss economic development matters, to discuss contractual matters (land acquisition) and to discuss personnel matters as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a) (1), (3), (4), (5) and (6).

Motion: To go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential, and if needed, discuss threatened or pending litigation, to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to discuss economic development matters, to discuss contractual matters (land acquisition) and to discuss personnel matters as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a) (1), (3), (4), (5) and (6).

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Burns announced that the following closed session meeting minutes were approved and sealed until they no longer frustrate the purpose pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.10(e).

2019	2020
January 15, 2019	February 18, 2020
May 21, 2019	March 17, 2020
June 18, 2019	November 3, 2020
September 17, 2019	December 7, 2020
November 19, 2019	
December 17, 2019	

ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

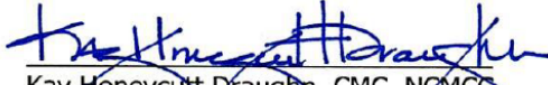
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, and Phil Smith

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell

Approved this 17th day of September 2024.


 Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
 Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board