

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

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 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. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2024-17 adopted and effective on August 20, 2024, the Burke County Board of Commissioners conferred upon itself all the power, duties and responsibilities of the Board of Health and the Social Services Board. Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Randy Burns
Johnnie W. Carswell
Phil Smith

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman (out of town.)

STAFF: Brian Epley, County Manager
Margaret Pierce, Finance Director/Deputy County Manager
J.R. Simpson, II, County Attorney
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brittain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., then praised the community and first responders for their unity and efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. He also extended condolences to the Schichtel family.

INVOCATION

Pastor Keith Barnett, Bridge Worship Center Ministries International, delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

J.R. Simpson, County Attorney, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended, with the addition of a storm update from County Manager Epley.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024 (regular) meeting as written.

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

PRESENTATIONS

CM - UPDATE ON HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY EFFORTS

County Manager Epley began his report by commending the community for coming together in a time of crisis during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. He provided an overview of the County's response efforts, noting that it has been 18 days since the storm. On September 26, 2024, the Board signed a declaration of emergency, activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The first 72 hours were critical, with staff focusing on storm monitoring and life safety responses. The County anticipated the storm would be a historic event based on water levels and immediately prioritized rescue operations.

Key highlights of the response included:

- **911 Operations:** The 911 system fielded approximately 4,200 calls during the storm before going down due to fiber erosion. Catawba County, assisted by Burke County staff that were dispatched over there, fielded another 300 calls.
- **Rescues:** 75 swift water rescues were conducted in partnership with local and out-of-state teams.
- **Evacuations:** Citizens largely complied with the evacuation orders, enabling efficient response efforts.
- **Road Clearance:** Local fire departments worked to clear roads, ensuring emergency response teams could navigate the county.
- **Infrastructure Restoration:** Efforts quickly pivoted to restoring public infrastructure, such as water and power.
- **Resource Management:** The County coordinated the procurement and distribution of resources for the community, including delivering nine (9) tractor-trailer loads of ice.

Mr. Epley emphasized the long-term nature of recovery and highlighted that approximately 7,000 residents accessed resources at the County's donation distribution center at the Foothills Higher Education Center.

In the aftermath:

- 153 staff members focused solely on the storm response within the first week.
- A debris collection contractor was engaged, with 10 trucks already deployed to clear an estimated 375,000 – 400,000 cubic yards of debris, a process expected to take 120 days.
- The debris collection process is designed to comply with a FEMA reimbursement program and the estimated cost of debris cleanup is \$8 – 10 million.
- A FEMA Disaster Recovery Center will be established to assist citizens with applications and appeals for disaster-related aid.

During his report, Mr. Epley recognized the first responders, Emergency Management, EMS personnel and 911 staff in attendance for their exceptional service. Chairman Brittain concluded this portion of the meeting by extending his gratitude toward first responders and county staff.

P&R - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Treg McGee, Parks and Recreation Director, provided an operational update for recreation. Highlights of his presentation were as follows:

Parks and Recreation

- 475.6 acres of park land, along with 24 miles of hiking and biking trails.
- 7 full-time and 1 part-time position
 - Director
 - Athletic Director
 - Program / Conference center coordinator
 - 4 Maintenance staff
- Annual department budget: \$900,825
- Cost per capita: \$10.12

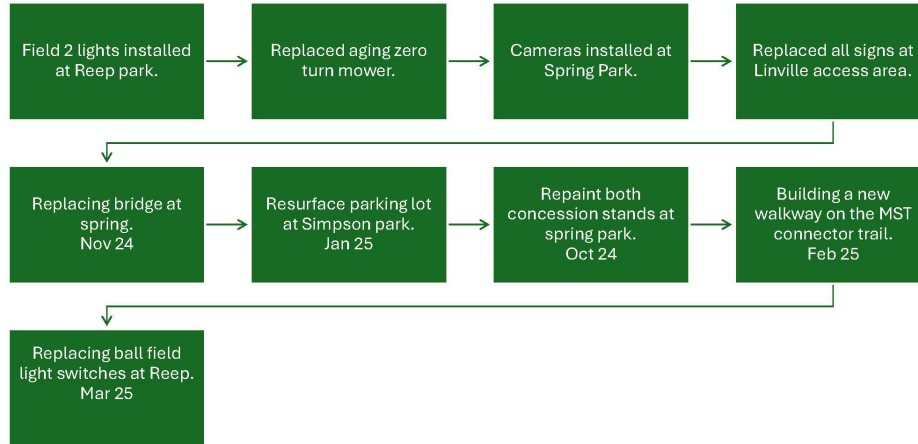


Yearly Athletic Report

Sport	Number of Teams	Number of Games	Players & Coaches
Football	29	130	612
Outdoor Soccer	62	248	744
Indoor Soccer	143	572	1486
Basketball	156	702	1812
Baseball / Softball	48	216	720
Track (1 st year)	N/A	4 track meets	40



Notable completed and in progress projects.



Reep Park Paving Project



Capitol projects in planning stage



LIGHTING FIELD 3 AT REEP. (LAST ONE)



BIKE TRAIL AT REEP.



PAVING PARKING LOT AT REEP.



PLAYGROUND AT FFAST COUNTY PARK.



PARK AND WALKING TRAIL AT KINAS RIDGE.



Conference Center Events

- UNC Health Gala
- BCPS Construction Rodeo
- BCPS Job Fair
- NC One Water (state water school – 2 weeks)
- Carousel Kids Consignment
- Numerous quinceañeras
- Bird shows
- BCPS proms
- BCPS College Fair



Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Mr. McGee received a comment from Commissioner Burns. He then provided a brief update on park openings and closures. There being nothing further, Chairman Brittain 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, Johnnie W. Carswell and Phil Smith

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for informal public comments from citizens.

Loch Hoffmann expressed concerns about the dissemination of information during a storm and criticized the inadequacies of the local public library. He alleged that the library fails to serve serious readers and posited a theory that it is by design to benefit the VanNoppen family financially through their nearby bookstore, Thornwell Books. Mr. Hoffmann raised suspicions about the Burke County Library Foundation, accusing it of lacking transparency and potentially misdirecting taxpayer funds. Hoffmann called for accountability and an investigation into the Foundation's activities.

Carla Kincaid commended the community, FEMA, and other responders for their efforts during the recent storm (Helene) and highlighted ongoing recovery activities, including the presence of FEMA workers and utility crews. She raised concerns about reported threats and interference from militias in nearby areas, which delayed FEMA's arrival, and urged the county to ensure the safety of workers now assessing local damages. Ms. Kincaid also warned about individuals impersonating FEMA officials. Additionally, she expressed community concerns about potential unrest surrounding the upcoming election and questioned whether the county and city are prepared for any issues that might arise. She mentioned a local political controversy about renaming Fort Liberty back to Fort Bragg, which has sparked tension. Ms. Kincaid concluded by expressing gratitude for the recovery efforts and thanking the Board for listening.

Ron Michaux, owner of M&R Enterprises, expressed gratitude to Burke County and the City of Morganton for their exceptional response to recent challenges. He praised the community's volunteers, first responders, law enforcement, EMS, and Grace Hospital (UNC Health Blue Ridge) for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Michaux shared his positive experience at the Foothills Higher Education Center, where the donation distribution center is operating, noting its organization and the cooperation of volunteers distributing food and resources. He highlighted Willow Tree Church, which has served as a distribution center receiving supplies from out-of-state, and invited those in need to visit on Saturday. Mr. Michaux emphasized that local residents are prioritized before supplies are sent to the mountains and mentioned another shipment arriving next Tuesday. He concluded by thanking the community for their efforts and wishing blessings upon everyone involved.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

As requested by Chairman Brittain, County Manager Epley reviewed the following six (6) items on the consent agenda which were approved by a single vote.

AS - PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER APPRECIATION WEEK

The following proclamation declares November 3 - 9, 2024, as National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week. Further, the proclamation acknowledges the hard-working people who support the efforts of the shelter, volunteers, and those who compassionately assist in keeping pets healthy and adoptable.

Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2024-14.

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

Proclamation No. 2024-14 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS, the Humane Society of the United States founded National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week in 1996. They created this week to acknowledge and promote the role of animal shelters in communities across the country and to encourage the public to get acquainted with their local animal shelters to learn how they can help save the lives of animals; and

WHEREAS, even though cats and dogs are some of the most beloved pets in the United States, pet homelessness is a huge problem in the country. There are about 70 million stray animals in the United States. Over 6 million of these animals end up in shelters. There are more than 3,500 animal shelters in the country. It's at these animal shelters that pets receive a second chance. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, over 3 million shelter animals are adopted each year; and

WHEREAS, many animal shelters are non-profit, which means they depend on donations and grants to stay open. Other shelters are a function of county government and are supported by taxpayer funds and grants. Regardless of the funding model, the primary function of an animal shelter is to find a home for stray animals. They also help to reunite lost pets with their owners. Other services some animal shelters provide include animal health services, behavioral evaluations, training, pet-sitting, grooming, and humane education; and

WHEREAS, people who work at animal shelters work tirelessly to care for the pets and find them homes. It's not uncommon for them to advocate for animal rights such as safe ways to help control the pet population with education on pet spay or neuter options, making sure pet owners have the appropriate types of identification including microchipping for pets in case they get lost.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Burke County Board of Commissioners hereby declares November 3 - 9, 2024, as National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week and recognizes that the Burke County Animal Services Center provides care that helps bridge the gap to adoption for abandoned and stray animals. This observance also acknowledges the hard-working people, locally and in the United States, who support the efforts of all the shelters, rescues, volunteers, and those who compassionately assist in keeping pets healthy.

Approved this 15th day of October 2024.

/s/ Jeffrey C. Brittain

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

BOC - DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE AT LEGISLATIVE GOALS CONFERENCE

The designation of Commissioner Burns as the Board's voting delegate for the N.C. Association of County Commissioners' Legislative Goals Conference in mid-November was requested.

Motion: To approve the designation of Commissioner Burns as Burke County's voting delegate for the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference in November 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Commissioner

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

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - GREAT TRAILS STATE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

The Great Trails State Program provides funding for new trail development and extension of existing trails anywhere in the State of North Carolina. This includes paved trails or greenways, natural surface trails, biking trails, equestrian trails, and any other type of trail recognized by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. This is a one-time grant cycle distributing the full \$25 million in non-recurring funding.

The Office of Community Development is submitting two (2) applications for up to \$500,000 of grant funding each in the construction category to implement projects currently in the design and engineering phase with the previously awarded Destination by Design contract to develop construction documents.

The first grant includes two (2) sections of the western side of the Lake James focus area where the Overmountain Victory and Fonta Flora state trails are co-located. The funding would cover repairs and extension of the existing 1.75 miles in the 1780 neighborhood section and new construction of approximately two (2) miles in The Enclave neighborhood section. The trail amenities are also included, which accommodate for bridges, road crossings, trailhead parking, signage, and trail improvements.

The second grant includes the new 0.8 miles through Lake James Camping Resort and Marina, a short section through two (2) private parcels where easements have already been acquired, and up to 2.5 miles of new trail with the recently transferred Paddy Creek lands. In addition, the grant application includes multiple formalized road crossings, a large trailhead with

amenities, signage, and bridges.

A resolution of support is needed as part of the grant application process.

Budgetary Effect: The grant requires a \$1 non-state match for every \$2 in state funds. The County will provide the match requirement of up to \$500,000 from capital improvement plan funds.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2024-25 and 2024-26 as presented.

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

Resolutions No. 2024-25 and 2024-26 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

Resolution in Support of Application for the
2024 Great Trails State Program One-Time Grant Cycle

WHEREAS the Great Trails State Program (GTSP) issued a one-time grant cycle allocation call for proposals to eligible entities; and

WHEREAS Burke County proposes to submit a grant application in the construction category for new construction and repairs on the co-located section of Fonta Flora and Overmountain Victory State Trails that are currently in the design and engineering phase under the Destination by Design contract; and

WHEREAS the repairs will be conducted in the 1780 section of the existing 1.75 miles trail, which includes a designated pedestrian crossing leaving Lake James State Park across NC 126; and

WHEREAS the new construction will be used for up to two miles of new trail through the Enclave and a trailhead off South Mountain Institute Road; and

WHEREAS in order to receive funds Burke County is required to provide a 50 percent local non-state dollars cash match, or up to \$250,000 to the requested grant amount of up to \$500,000; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Burke County Board of Commissioners resolves to support the application to the 2024 Great Trails State Program and provide the 50 percent local cash match via monies from the CIP.

Adopted this 15th day of October 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

Burke County

North Carolina

Resolution in Support of Application for the
2024 Great Trails State Program One-Time Grant Cycle

WHEREAS the Great Trails State Program (GTSP) issued a one-time grant cycle allocation call for proposals to eligible entities; and

WHEREAS Burke County proposes to submit a grant application in the construction category for new construction of the co-located sections of Fonta Flora and Overmountain Victory State Trails on the western side of Lake James; and

WHEREAS the new construction funding will be used for 0.8 miles of new trail through Lake James Camping Resort and Marina and will include one pedestrian road crossing that is currently in the design and engineering phase under the Destination by Design Contract; and

WHEREAS the new construction funds will be used for approximately 2.5 miles of new trail through the newly transferred Paddy Creek lands from Duke Energy and a trailhead off Powerhouse Road; and

WHEREAS the new construction funds will be used for 0.5 miles of new trail through private parcels with easements in place including a pedestrian crossing; and

WHEREAS to receive funds Burke County is required to provide a 50 percent local non-state dollars cash match, or up to \$250,000 to the requested grant amount up to \$500,000.

NOW, therefore, the Burke County Board of Commissioners resolves to support the application to the 2024 Great Trails State Program and provide the 50 percent local cash match via monies from the CIP.

Adopted this 15th day of October 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 – RESOLUTION DIRECTING EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR MULTIPLE USES

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 allocates Opioid Settlement funding to two (2) interventions that fall under Option A of the NC MOA:

1. Collaborative Strategic Planning Systems Coordinator - \$53,057
2. Criminal Justice Diversion Programs - BC Recovery Court- \$109,721

Budgetary Effect: None. Opioid settlement funds will be utilized for Opioid Abatement interventions under Option A of the NC MOA for the Use of Opioid Settlement funding.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2024-22.

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

Resolution No. 2024-22 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF BURKE TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

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"); and the Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds from Additional Settlements of Opioid Litigation ("SAAF");

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.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the NC MOA and SAAF, Burke County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. Strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning: HARBOUR Coordinator
 - 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: \$53,057
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of October 15, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Funding will support the salary and benefits for a Systems Coordinator. The Systems Coordinator will support the implementation and management of justice systems programs and treatment programs by collecting data and coordinating trainings and behavioral health resources to promote system-wide continuity of care for individuals with Opioid Use Disorder.
 - g. Provider: Burke Public Health Department
2. Strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services: Burke County Recovery Court
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 3
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$109,721
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of October 15, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: The Burke County Recovery Court program is supported by funding that covers the Recovery Court Coordinator, Case Manager, evidence-based treatment, supplies, travel, and training to provide comprehensive services to individuals navigating the criminal justice system with opioid and polysubstance use disorders. This program aims to reduce recidivism and promote recovery by offering structured treatment, supervision, and support.
 - g. Provider: Clay Wilson & Associates dba The Cognitive Connection

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$162,778

Adopted this 15th day of October 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

Exhibit A to the NC MOA reads as follows:

EXHIBIT A TO NC MOA:
HIGH-IMPACT OPIOID ABATEMENT STRATEGIES ("OPTION A" List)

In keeping with the National Settlement Agreement, opioid settlement funds may support programs or services listed below that serve persons with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) or any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or mental health condition.

As used in this list, the words "fund" and "support" are used interchangeably and mean to create, expand, or sustain a program, service, or activity.

1. Collaborative strategic planning. Support collaborative strategic planning to address opioid misuse, addiction, overdose, or related issues, including staff support, facilitation services, or any activity or combination of activities listed in Exhibit C to the MOA (collaborative strategic planning).
2. Evidence-based addiction treatment. Support evidence-based addiction treatment consistent with the American Society of Addiction Medicine's national practice guidelines for the treatment of opioid use disorder – including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) with any medication approved for this purpose by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration – through Opioid Treatment Programs, qualified providers of Office-Based Opioid Treatment, Federally Qualified Health Centers, treatment offered in conjunction with justice system programs, or other community-based programs offering evidence-based addiction treatment. This may include capital expenditures for facilities that offer evidence-based treatment for OUD. (If only a portion of a facility offers such treatment, then only that portion qualifies for funding, on a pro rata basis.)
3. Recovery support services. Fund evidence-based recovery support services, including peer support specialists or care navigators based in local health departments, social service offices, detention facilities, community-based organizations, or other settings that support people in treatment or recovery, or people who use drugs, in accessing addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need to improve their health or well-being.
4. Recovery housing support. Fund programs offering recovery housing support to people in treatment or recovery, or people who use drugs, such as assistance with rent, move-in deposits, or utilities; or fund recovery housing programs that provide housing to individuals receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment for opioid use disorder.

5. Employment-related services. Fund programs offering employment support services to people in treatment or recovery, or people who use drugs, such as job training, job skills, job placement, interview coaching, resume review, professional attire, relevant courses at community colleges or vocational schools, transportation services or transportation vouchers to facilitate any of these activities, or similar services or supports.
6. Early intervention. Fund programs, services, or training to encourage early identification and intervention for children or adolescents who may be struggling with problematic use of drugs or mental health conditions, including Youth Mental Health First Aid, peer-based programs, or similar approaches. Training programs may target parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health or human services professionals, or others in contact with children or adolescents.
7. Naloxone distribution. Support programs or organizations that distribute naloxone to persons at risk of overdose or their social networks, such as Syringe Service Programs, post-overdose response teams, programs that provide naloxone to persons upon release from jail or prison, emergency medical service providers or hospital emergency departments that provide naloxone to persons at risk of overdose, or community-based organizations that provide services to people who use drugs. Programs or organizations involved in community distribution of naloxone may, in addition, provide naloxone to first responders.
8. Post-overdose response team. Support post-overdose response teams that connect persons who have experienced non-fatal drug overdoses to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need to improve their health or well-being.
9. Syringe Service Program. Support Syringe Service Programs operated by any governmental or nongovernmental organization authorized by section 90-113.27 of the North Carolina General Statutes that provide syringes, naloxone, or other harm reduction supplies; that dispose of used syringes; that connect clients to prevention, treatment, recovery support, behavioral healthcare, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need; or that provide any of these services or supports.
10. Criminal justice diversion programs. Support pre-arrest or post-arrest diversion programs, or pre-trial service programs, that connect individuals involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, prevention, or other services or supports they need, or that provide any of these services or supports.
11. Addiction treatment for incarcerated persons. Support evidence-based addiction treatment, including Medication-Assisted Treatment with at least one FDA-approved opioid agonist, to persons who are incarcerated in jail or prison.
12. Reentry Programs. Support programs that connect incarcerated persons to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need upon release from jail or prison, or that provide any of these services or supports.

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

The Tax Collection Report for the period between July 1, 2024, and September 30, 2024, reflects the status of collections by the Burke County Tax Collection's Staff. This information is a supplement to the Annual Settlement Report.

Category	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$34,943,273.56	63.77%	\$19,849,905.44
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$1,371,734.70	27.02%	\$3,704,509.30
Current Year Taxes	\$36,315,008.26	60.66%	\$23,554,414.74
Delinquent Taxes	\$240,009.70	34.29%	\$459,990.30
Penalty & Interest	\$95,910.80	29.15%	\$293,089.20

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	\$55,239,179.04	\$34,943,273.56	63.26%	\$2,295,905.48

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

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Commissioner

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

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 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 Net Release is a result of the Report Amount minus the Rebilled Amount.

VTS Refunds Over \$100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$130.33

Payee Name	Address 3	Bill #	Transaction #	Refund Description	Refund Reason	Tax Jurisdiction	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
GREENE, SUSAN SMITH	MORGANTON, NC 28655	0080051198	426422692	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0080051198 2024-2024-0000	Situs error	01	TAX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
						57	TAX	(\$131.35)	\$0.00	(\$131.35)
						57	VEHICLE FEE	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
						30	TAX	\$21.02	\$0.00	\$21.02
									Refund	\$130.33
								Refund Total	\$130.33	

Tax System Refunds and Releases			
Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
\$2,438.20	\$10,708.89	\$2,438.20	\$0.00

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount (\$)	Release Amount (\$)	Bill Amount after Release (\$)
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing							
0000004728-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	MAYFIELD, JOHNNY R	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/18/2024	1,108.98	168.00	940.98
0000004728-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	MAYFIELD, JOHNNY R	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/18/2024	940.98	11.20	929.78
0000085738-2024-2024-0000-01-REG	BULL, ADAM	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/12/2024	102.93	97.33	5.60
0024034143-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	BAILEY, MICHAEL ALAN	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/11/2024	33.60	15.40	18.20
0024034143-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	BAILEY, MICHAEL ALAN	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/11/2024	18.20	18.20	0.00
0024077659-2024-2024-0000-01-REG	LEBLANC, ASHLEY CHRISTOPHER	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/4/2024	216.83	216.83	0.00
0024077667-2024-2024-0000-01-REG	MERCER, JEFFREY BRIAN	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/20/2024	144.45	144.45	0.00
0024080436-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	GIORNO, ALEX ANTHONY	8/19/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/19/2024	90.69	90.69	0.00
0024080446-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	KROPELNICKI, JANNA MARIE	8/19/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/12/2024	112.84	112.84	0.00
0024083041-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	LONG, JERRY LEE	8/28/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/12/2024	151.84	151.84	0.00
Subtotal					2,921.34	1,026.78	1,894.56
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Listed In Error							
0024070149-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION INC	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	9/19/2024	308.00	308.00	0.00
Subtotal					308.00	308.00	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Over Assessment							
0024033253-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	MCI METRO ACCESS TRANS SERV	8/30/2024	JOHN BRIDGERS	9/6/2024	10.51	10.51	0.00
0024051430-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	VÉRTICLE BRIDGE REIT LLC	8/30/2024	JOHN BRIDGERS	9/6/2024	889.99	28.00	861.99
Subtotal					900.50	38.51	861.99
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Process Correction							
0024080968-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	DANIEL, WARREN TODD	8/19/2024	LINDA WILBUR	9/12/2024	13.31	13.31	0.00
Subtotal					13.31	13.31	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Release LFUF							
0000078572-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	SOUTH MOUNTAIN ESTATES, LLC	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	9/25/2024	6,040.92	88.00	5,952.92
0000081705-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	SOUTH MOUNTAIN ESTATES, LLC	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	9/25/2024	1,113.51	88.00	1,025.51
0000081705-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	SOUTH MOUNTAIN ESTATES, LLC	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	9/25/2024	1,025.51	88.00	937.51
Subtotal					8,179.94	264.00	7,915.94
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Situs Correction							
0024057758-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	CULVER, MARY ELIZABETH	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/4/2024	82.18	82.18	0.00
Subtotal					82.18	82.18	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Sold/Traded							
0024052146-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	JORDAN, ZACHARY BENJAMIN	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	9/3/2024	44.78	44.78	0.00
0024052146-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	JORDAN, ZACHARY BENJAMIN	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	9/3/2024	42.55	42.55	0.00
0024052256-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	WELBORN, KENNETH D	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	9/4/2024	66.63	66.63	0.00
0024059617-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	BURROUGHS, DILLON RAY	7/15/2024	LOUISE JOHNSON	9/16/2024	122.57	122.57	0.00
0024071941-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	VIZCARRA, MICHAEL ALAN	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	9/12/2024	6.16	6.16	0.00
Subtotal					282.69	282.69	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Value Change							
0000001383-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	HARBISON, CHARLES L JR	7/15/2024	AMANDA CONLEY	9/5/2024	459.13	422.73	36.40
Subtotal					459.13	422.73	36.40
Total Net Release						2,438.20	

*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 September 2024 as presented.

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

ITEMS FOR DECISION

CM - ANIMAL SHELTER & EMS HEADQUARTERS BID AWARD

Brian Epley, County Manager, presented a capital improvement plan update on the Animal Shelter and EMS Headquarters, highlights of which were as follows:



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Agenda

-  Projects
-  **PROCUREMENT MODEL & PROCESS**
 - ANIMAL SERVICES & EMS BASE #1
-  TIMELINE
-  QUESTIONS



Board of Commissioners' - Projects



Short Term:

- Jonas Ridge Phase I & II
- East Burke Collection Site
- Indian Hills Pump Station
- Courthouse Improvements
- Storage Management Policies

Mid Term:

- Health and Human Services Building
- Animal Services Building
- Emergency Medical Services Base #1
- Fonta Flora Trail Eagles Nest Overlook and pocket park

Long Term:

- Library Expansion
- Solid Waste MSW Development
- Water/Sewer Infrastructure
- EMS Base Additions
- Courthouse Replacement

PROCUREMENT MODEL & PROCESS

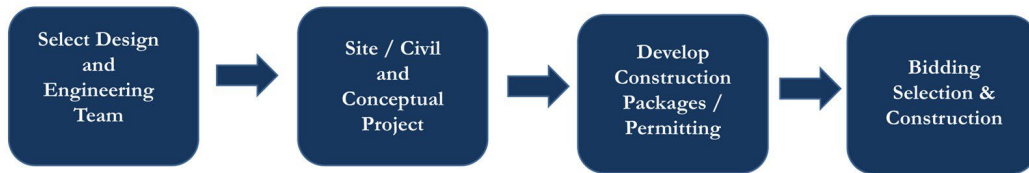
[N.C.G.S. 143-128]

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Procurement Model Process

(a1) Construction methods. - The State, a county, municipality, or other public body shall award contracts to erect, construct, alter, or repair buildings pursuant to any of the following methods:

- (1) Separate-prime bidding.
- (2) Single-prime bidding. —————→ LOW HARD BID MODEL
- (3) Dual bidding pursuant to subsection (d1) of this section.
- (4) Construction management at risk contracts pursuant to G.S. 143-128.1.
- (5) Alternative contracting methods authorized pursuant to G.S. 143-135.26(9).
- (6) Design-build contracts pursuant to G.S. 143-128.1A.
- (7) Design-build bridging contracts pursuant to G.S. 143-128.1B.
- (8) Public-private partnership construction contracts pursuant to G.S. 143-128.1C.



Procurement Model Selection

CONTRACTOR	ANIMAL SHELTER PROJECT	EMS PROJECT	BOTH PROJECTS
A			X
B		X	
C		X	
D	X		
E			X

ANIMAL SERVICES AND EMS BASE #1

SCHEDULE

Milestone Dates



AWARDED DESIGN RFQ	AUGUST 2023
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE	JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS PHASE	AUGUST 2024
BIDDING/ AWARD	SEPTEMBER 2024
COMMISSIONER REVIEW/ APPROVAL	OCTOBER 2024
SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION	Q3 2025

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Name of Firm: _____ Date: _____

Project Name: _____

Provide a score for each item using a range of 0 to 10. Zero (0) being lowest and ten (10) being highest.

Weight	Score	
Firm's understanding of project objectives.	3 x	=
Firm's experience with local government work.	3 x	=
Firm's ability to meet our anticipated budget.	3 x	=
Qualifications of project manager and staff assigned to the project. Super, pm, firm, etc.	3 x	=
Adequacy of firm's staffing level and resources.	2 x	=
Applicability of references.	2 x	=
Schedule/timeline for design development and budget.	2 x	=
Experience with providing these services to local government.	2 x	=
Hourly rates.	1 x	=
Adherence to request for qualification.	1 x	=
Proximity to Burke County.	1 x	=



Architectural Selection & Interview Committee

- Kaitlin Settlemyre.....Animal Services Director
- Alan Glines.....Community Development Director
- Margaret Pierce.....Chief Financial Officer
- Mark Dehant.....General Services Director
- Brian Tart.....Deputy General Services Director
- James Robinson.....EMS Director
- Robbie Milton.....EMS Major
- Kay Draughn.....Clerk to the Board of Commissioners





Combined Bids - Apparent Low Bidder	Base Bid	Alt. 1. (Omit Roller Shades)	Alternate 2. (Emergency Radio Responder)	Alternate 3. (Fire-Lite Fire Alarm)	Alternate 4. (Aluminum Kennels)	Alternate 5. (Stonhard Flooring)	Recommended Contract Amount
Beam Construction	\$13,346,000.00	-\$12,600.00	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	-\$25,000.00	\$28,000.00	\$13,504,000.00

Board Action: Approve/Modify/Deny awarding of base bid and alternate #2, #3, and #5 to BEAM Construction in the amount of \$13,504,000

Information from the agenda packet:

On August 24, 2024, Burke County began soliciting bids for the construction of a new EMS Base and Animal Shelter or for both as a joint project. Sealed bids were due September 24, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, the bids were opened. There were four (4) bids received for the EMS Headquarters, six (6) bids received for the Animal Shelter, and three (3) bids received for them as a joint project.

Awarding the bid(s) and approval of the construction contracts is requested at the pre-agenda meeting in accordance with Rule No. 10 of the Commissioners' Rules of Procedures for items that are time sensitive.

Burke County Projects Bid Evaluations 9-24-24

Bid Evaluation - Option 1 (Separate)

Bid Evaluation - Option 1 (Separate)							
EMS Apparent Low Bidder	Base Bid	Alt. 1. (Omit Roller Shades)	Alternate 2. (Emergency Radio Responder)	Alternate 3. (Fire-Lite Fire Alarm)	Recommended Contract Amount		
Beam Construction	\$6,095,000.00	-\$5,500.00	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,155,000.00		
Animal Services Apparent Low Bidder(s)	Base Bid	Alt. 1. (Omit Roller Shades)	Alternate 2. (Emergency Radio Responder)	Alternate 3. (Fire-Lite Fire Alarm)	Alternate 4. (Aluminum Kennels)	Alternate 5. (Stonhard Flooring)	Recommended Contract Amount
Beam Construction	\$7,313,000.00	-\$7,100.00	\$70,000.00	\$0.00	-\$25,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$7,385,000.00
Neill Grading & Construction	\$7,305,000.00	-\$9,918.00	\$60,000.00	\$31,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,396,000.00
Separate Projects Construction Costs							\$13,540,000.00

Bid Evaluation - Option 2 (Combined)

Combined Bids - Apparent Low Bidder	Base Bid	Alt. 1. (Omit Roller Shades)	Alternate 2. (Emergency Radio Responder)	Alternate 3. (Fire-Lite Fire Alarm)	Alternate 4. (Aluminum Kennels)	Alternate 5. (Stonhard Flooring)	Recommended Contract Amount
Beam Construction	\$13,346,000.00	-\$12,600.00	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	-\$25,000.00	\$28,000.00	\$13,504,000.00
Combined Bid Savings							\$36,000.00

Unit Prices

EMS

Bidder	Unsatisfactory Soil	Trench Rock	Non-rippable Rock	Rippable Rock	Satisfactory Overburden
Beam Construction	\$40.00	\$171.50	\$88.00	\$42.00	\$8.00
Hickory Construction	\$65.00	\$175.00	\$85.00	\$25.00	\$45.00
Liles Construction	\$115.00	\$231.00	\$115.00	\$88.00	\$11.00
Moss-Marlow Building	\$54.00	\$162.00	\$97.00	\$70.00	\$37.00
Average	\$68.50	\$184.88	\$96.25	\$56.25	\$25.25

Unit Prices

Animal Services

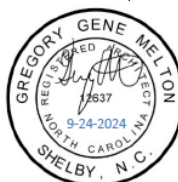
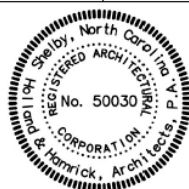
Bidder	Unsatisfactory Soil	Open Rock	Trench Rock
Beam Construction	\$52.00	\$156.00	\$260.00
Brantley Construction	\$48.38	\$64.50	\$107.50
Hickory Construction	\$35.00	\$250.00	\$300.00
Liles Construction	\$25.00	\$225.00	\$280.00
Neill Grading & Construction	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$115.00
Wilkie Construction	\$25.00	\$222.00	\$276.00
Average	\$39.23	\$164.58	\$223.08

Holland & Hamrick Architects, P.A.

EMS HEADQUARTERS & A NEW ANIMAL SHELTER for
BURKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Bid Tabulation – September 24, 2024 @ 3:30 p.m.

Comm. #2496

1.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System
	Beam Construction Company, Inc.	1022	\$13,346,000	-\$12,600	+\$130,000
	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Alt. 4 – Aluminum Kennels	Alt. 5 – Stonetec ERF Flooring	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	No change	-\$25,000	+\$28,000	5% Bond	365
2.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System
	Hickory Construction Company	1145	\$14,575,000	-\$2,500	+\$129,000
	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Alt. 4 – Aluminum Kennels	Alt. 5 – Stonetec ERF Flooring	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	No change	-\$10,000	No change	5% Bond	425
3.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System
	G.W. Liles Construction Co., Inc.	26158	\$14,750,000	-\$12,633	+\$118,211
	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Alt. 4 – Aluminum Kennels	Alt. 5 – Stonetec ERF Flooring	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	No change	N/A	No change	5% Bond	440



Holland & Hamrick Architects, P.A.		EMS HEADQUARTERS for BURKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA Bid Tabulation – September 24, 2024 @ 2:30 p.m.		Comm. #2495
1.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades
	Beam Construction Company, Inc.	1022	\$6,095,000	-\$5,500
	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	+\$60,000	No change	5% Bond	365
2.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades
	Hickory Construction Company	1145	\$6,995,000	-\$1,000
	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	+\$58,000	No change	5% Bond	425
3.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades
	G.W. Liles Construction Co., Inc.	26158	\$7,012,642	-\$5,531
	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	+\$58,000	No change	5% Bond	392
4.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades
	Moss-Marlow Building Co., Inc.	42468	\$6,886,093	-\$9,000
	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	+\$60,000	No change	5% Bond	480




Holland & Hamrick Architects, P.A.

A NEW ANIMAL SHELTER for
BURKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Bid Tabulation – September 24, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.

Comm. #2496

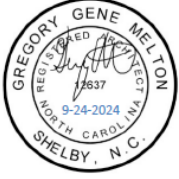
1.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System
	Beam Construction Company, Inc.	1022	\$7,313,000	-\$7,100	+\$70,000
	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Alt. 4 – Aluminum Kennels	Alt. 5 – Stonetec ERF Flooring	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	No change	-\$25,000	+\$2,000	5% Bond	365

2.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System
	Brantley Construction Services, LLC	63208	\$8,278,000	-\$11,000	+\$66,800
	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Alt. 4 – Aluminum Kennels	Alt. 5 – Stonetec ERF Flooring	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	No change	No change	+\$29,800	5% Bond	390

3.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System
	Hickory Construction Company	1145	\$7,800,000	-\$1,500	+\$71,000
	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Alt. 4 – Aluminum Kennels	Alt. 5 – Stonetec ERF Flooring	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	No change	-\$10,000	No change	5% Bond	425

4.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System
	G.W. Liles Construction Co., Inc.	26158	\$7,900,000	-\$7,102	+\$60,211
	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Alt. 4 – Aluminum Kennels	Alt. 5 – Stonetec ERF Flooring	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	No change	N/A	No change	5% Bond	392

Holland & Hamrick Architects, P.A.		A NEW ANIMAL SHELTER for BURKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA Bid Tabulation – September 24, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.			Comm. #2496
5.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System
	Neill Grading & Construction Co., Inc.	7539	\$7,305,000	-\$9,918	+\$60,000
	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Alt. 4 – Aluminum Kennels	Alt. 5 – Stonetec ERF Flooring	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	+\$31,000	N/A	No change	5% Bond	360
6.	Bidder	License Number	Base Bid	Alt. 1 – Omit Roller Shades	Alt. 2 – Emergency Radio Responder System
	Wilkie Construction Company SE, LLC	71862	\$7,691,723	-\$9,900	+\$64,900
	Alt. 3 – Fire-Lite Fire Alarm System	Alt. 4 – Aluminum Kennels	Alt. 5 – Stonetec ERF Flooring	Bid Security	Calendar Days
	No change	-\$60,000	+\$4,100	5% Bond	420

Budgetary Effect: Total appropriation falls within the previous Capital Improvement Plan's (CIP) designated appropriations and does not require additional funding.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Mr. Epley received praise from Commissioner Burns. Responding to Commissioner Smith, Mr. Epley explained that the funding comes from various sources, including federal funding and grants. There being nothing further, Chairman Brittain opened the floor for a motion.

Motion: To award the bid to Beam Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$13,504,000 for the construction of a new EMS Headquarters and a new Animal Shelter including Alternates 2: \$130,000 - Emergency Radio Responder; Alternate 3: \$0.00 - Fire-Lite Fire Alarm; and Alternate 5: \$28,000 - Stonehard Flooring. Further, to approve the related construction contract, subject to review and / or revision by the County Attorney and to authorize the Chairman to execute the contract on behalf of the Board.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Johnnie W. Carswell, Commissioner

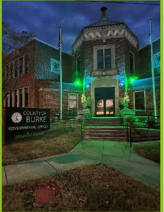
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

ABSENT: Scott Mulwee

VETERANS SERVICES - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

Molly Eller, Veteran Services Officer, presented information on Operation Green Light, highlights of which were as follows:

This space is intentionally left blank.

Burke County Veterans Services Operation <u>Green</u> Light <i>Shining a light in honor of our Veterans</i>	
 Burke County Administrative Offices  Historic Burke County Courthouse	 City of Morganton- Public Safety Center  Morganton Savings Bank
 Burke County Schools  Burke County Schools	 November 4, 2024- November 11, 2024 

Ms. Eller requested that the Board adopt a resolution declaring Burke County's support for Operation Green Light, an initiative between the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) and other counties in North Carolina. Operation Green Light's mission is to show support for veterans of all military conflicts, as well as raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by many veterans (and their families) and the resources that are available at the county, state, and federal level to assist veterans and their families. Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate by changing one light bulb in their house to a green bulb to let our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported.

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

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2024-24.

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

Resolution No. 2024-24 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS the residents of Burke County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS Burke County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS studies indicate that 44 - 72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during the transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS Burke County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Burke County hereby declares from November 4, 2024, through November 11, 2024, a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Burke County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

Adopted this 15th day of October 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

FINANCE - CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR HURRICANE HELENE DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT

Margaret Pierce, Finance Director / Deputy County Manager, relayed that in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene, Burke County is eligible to receive financial assistance through intergovernmental funds. She requested the adoption of the following project ordinance which authorizes the County to receive and allocate \$3,000,000 in intergovernmental revenues from FEMA and the State of North Carolina for these recovery efforts. Ms. Pierce commended the support and help from outside resources by the coastal communities that are familiar with this process and the future assistance expected from out-of-state.

Budgetary Effect: Net zero impact - An increase in intergovernmental revenues (FEMA and the State of North Carolina): \$3,000,000 and an increase in \$3,000,000 of expenses for disaster recovery project(s).

Motion: To adopt Ordinance No. 2024-20.

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

Ord. No. 2024-20 reads as follows:

Grant Project Budget Ordinance

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Burke County, that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1. The project authorized is the disaster recovery from Hurricane Helene, to be financed by intergovernmental revenues from FEMA and the State of North Carolina.

Section 2. The officers of the County are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the budget contained herein.

Section 3. The following revenues are available to complete this project:

Intergovernmental revenues	<u>\$ 3,000,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,000,000</u>

Section 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

Disaster recovery expenses	\$ <u>3,000,000</u>
Total	\$ <u>3,000,000</u>

Section 5. The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the Project fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records as needed.

Section 6. Copies of this grant project budget ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Board, for direction in carrying out this project.

Adopted this 15th day of October 2024.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

Burke County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn

Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC

Clerk to the Board

BOC - REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for reports and comments from Board members and professional staff.

Margaret Pierce, Finance Director / Deputy County Manager, expressed her gratitude for the support that has been received navigating the financial components related to storm response and recovery.

JR Simpson, County Attorney, commended the heroic efforts made by a swift water rescue team in saving his mother. He then expressed his condolences at the passing of former commissioner George Clark. Brian Epley, County Manager, relayed that Captain Hood led the swift water rescue team.

Commissioner Smith expressed gratitude for Molly Eller for all she does for the veterans in the county as well as the first responders for their service during the storm.

Commissioner Burns reflected on the resilience and unity of the community during challenging times, emphasizing the strength, compassion, and determination shown by residents. He expressed admiration for the selflessness of individuals who, despite personal losses, continued to serve others. Commissioner Burns shared his appreciation for the efforts of county employees, including the county manager, who actively assisted in recovery efforts. He encouraged the community to continue supporting one another, fostering a sense of care, value, and inclusion. Commissioner Burns concluded by expressing pride in the accomplishments of the Burke County community and optimism for the future.

Commissioner Carswell highlighted his visit to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) meeting with Commissioner Burns, where state and local efforts were

praised, including the work of County Manager Epley, who was highly regarded for effective disaster planning and leadership. He shared personal experiences of his daughter being impacted by the storm and being trapped at her home, which, thanks to the ingenuity of the fire department, allowed for more access in and out of the home. Commissioner Carswell praised the collaborative efforts of neighbors, emergency responders, and state agencies like NCDOT and FEMA for providing relief, including restoring power and clearing roads.

Chairman Brittain explained that he works in the electric business and described the extensive devastation caused by the storm, which left 90% of Burke County without power. He expressed deep gratitude to local staff and crews from across the Southeast, including Tennessee, Virginia, and South Carolina, who assisted in restoring power. Chairman Brittain commended the community's resilience and teamwork during the recovery efforts. He 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.

DSS - MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

The DSS Director, Korey Fisher-Wellman, presented a monthly operational report for September 2024. Highlights of his presentation were as follows:

OCTOBER 15, 2024

BURKE COUNTY
ALL ABOUT ADVANCING

SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

Presented by Korey Fisher-Wellman



BURKE COUNTY
ALL ABOUT ADVANCING

DISCUSSION TOPICS

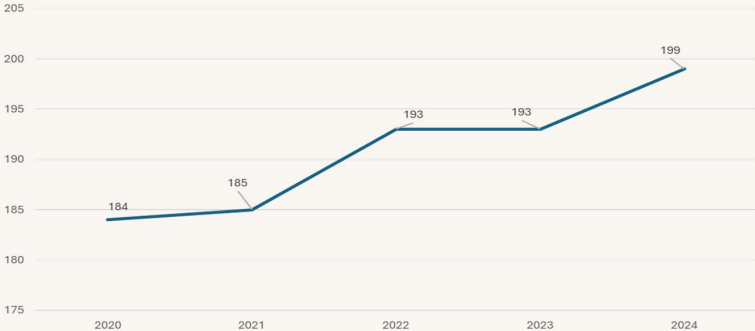


- PERSONNEL
- OPERATIONS
- CAPITAL UPDATE
- EMERGING ISSUES

PERSONNEL

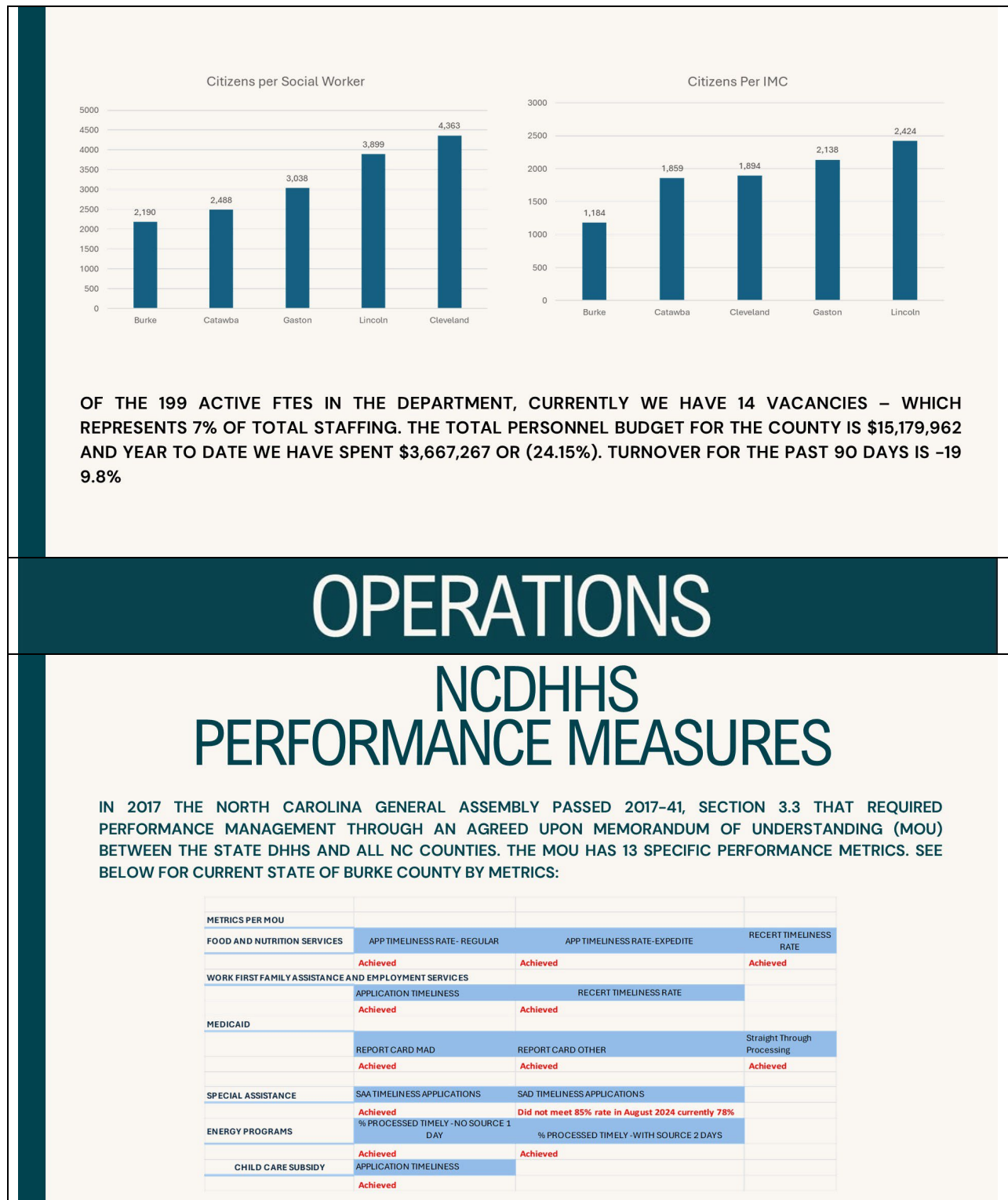


Total FTE's



Year	Total FTE's
2020	184
2021	185
2022	193
2023	193
2024	199

THE BURKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES HAS AN FTE ALLOCATION OF 199 POSITIONS. THIS HAS GROWN SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS – SPECIFICALLY FOLLOWING A STAFFING ANALYSIS IN 2021. WE ADDITIONALLY ADDED SIX (6) FTES IN 2023 FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF MEDICAID EXPANSION IN DECEMBER 2023.



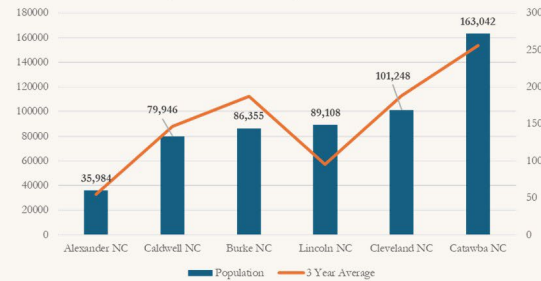
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FOSTER CARE UPDATE

BURKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FOSTER CARE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Total Children in Care	185					
	Number of Children	Average Monthly County Board Payment	Number of Days in Placement	Average Age of Child	% IV-E Eligible	
Therapeutic Foster Home	28	\$ 482.00	1531	9.6	39%	
Unlicensed/Kinship Placement	60	\$ 1,004.00	975	8.06	75%	
Total In Congregate Care	17	\$ 3,223.00	1470	13.18	0%	
Licensed Kinship	63	\$ 240.00	500	6.42	84%	
Total in PRIF	6	-	2356	12.43	17%	
Other displaced	11	\$ 291.00	1728	14.18	9%	

Population Vs Average Foster Clients



- Currently there are 185 children in care

CAPITAL UPDATE

CAPITAL UPDATE

Building Update From Storm Event –

Environmental air quality testing was performed following storm. EMSL performed an assessed allowing staff to return to the location. All staff have reported back in building (10/11/2024). The secondary location at 201 Avery Avenue is back open and functional with normal operations. Staff continues to work alongside with County Managers office on long term building solutions.



LONG TERM BUILDING –

- Evaluation of options is currently underway.
- 3 options have been identified thus far:
 - a. New Construction
 - b. HRC Renovations
 - c. FHEC Adaptive Reuse Project

EMERGING ISSUES

IDENTIFIED MATTERS

01



LIMITED CHILD PLACEMENT OPTIONS

DSS faces a shortage of foster homes and care resources, impacting child welfare. Exploring partnerships and recruitment strategies to address the issue.

02



DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DSNAP)

DSS is preparing to implement DSNAP, providing emergency food assistance to residents affected by disasters. Requires coordination and resource allocation.

CHRISTMAS WISHES FOR
BURKE COUNTY

Approximately 200 children are
experiencing foster care in Burke County
This year's goal is 500 donors to
help fill all the tags!

Return gifts with the original name tag you are given
DO NOT wrap gifts, place in a bag for drop off with tag
New Items ONLY

IF YOU CANNOT FULLY
SPONSOR, BUT STILL WISH TO
HELP WE ALSO NEED THE
FOLLOWING DONATIONS

- unwrapped toys for all ages
- gift cards for teens/ children
entering care after the deadlines
- new clothing of all sizes

**\$30 TO \$50
PER TAG**
TAGS WILL GO TO DONORS THE
WEEK OF OCT. 28

RETURN GIFTS TO BURKE COUNTY DSS BETWEEN NOV. 11 AND NOV. 27
Contact Deputy Director Chazlyn Thomas if you would like to participate and to
drop off donated items
email chazlyn.thomas@burkencorg or phone: 828-764-9625



QUESTIONS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Commissioner Burns inquired about the placement of 185 children in foster care and whether all of them were located in Burke County. Mr. Fisher-Wellman clarified that only 30-40% are placed within the county, with the majority being placed elsewhere, which complicates family reunification due to long

distances. He explained that transportation is provided for court-ordered visitations, with foster care workers frequently traveling across the state to transport children or parents. While the current number of children in care is high, it is lower than the peak of nearly 250 several years ago, reflecting efforts to reduce the numbers, though significant challenges remain. Mr. Fisher-Wellman briefly discussed the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) program in response to a question from Chairman Brittain. Commissioner Smith inquired about the primary reason children are removed from their homes, and Mr. Fisher-Wellman explained that the cause is substance abuse in approximately 90% of the cases. There being nothing further, Chairman Brittain 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, Johnnie W. Carswell and Phil Smith
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLERK - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES VACANCY REPORT

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, announced the following vacancies on county boards and committees:

- Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
- Burke County Public Health Advisory Board
- City of Morganton - Board of Adjustment (ETJ)
- City of Morganton - Planning Board (ETJ)
- Burke County Public Health Advisory Board
- Hickory Regional Planning Commission
- Drexel Planning Board - ETJ Alternate
- Burke County Planning Board
- Partners Health Management's Human Rights Committee

Chairman Brittain encouraged citizens to consider serving on a board or committee.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN.
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CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Brittain announced that a closed session is needed to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential, 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).

Motion: To go into Closed Session as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a) (1), (3), (4), (5) and (6).

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

Motion: To come out of closed session.

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Brittain announced that the following five (5) sets of closed session meeting minutes from 2023 were approved and sealed.

- January 17, 2023
- March 20, 2023
- June 6, 2023
- June 20, 2023
- September 18, 2023

ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

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

Approved this 21st day of January 2025.


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

Attest:


Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board