

**MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PRE-AGENDA MEETING**

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a pre-agenda meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Burke County Services Building, 110 N. Green Street, Entrance E, in Morganton, North Carolina. 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. 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
Phil Smith, Vice Chairman
Brian Barrier
Randy Burns
Mike Stroud (Late – arrived at 3:13 p.m.)

STAFF:

Brian Epley, County Manager
Margaret Pierce, Finance Director/Deputy County Manager
David Lackey, Wilson, Lackey, Rohr & Hall P.C.
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brittain called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, and Randy Burns
ABSENT:	Mike Stroud

PRESENTATIONS**BOC - UPDATE FROM THE FOOTHILLS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

Chairman Brittain relayed that Brent Brinkley, Airport Administrator, would present an update at the regular meeting for Foothills Regional Airport Authority.

Information from the agenda packet:

Airport Administrator, Brent Brinkley, Foothills Regional Airport Authority, will provide an update to the Board of Commissioners on recent activities, ongoing projects, and future plans for the Foothills Regional Airport at the regular meeting. This presentation will highlight key accomplishments, such as infrastructure improvements, grant funding opportunities, economic development initiatives, and efforts to enhance services for airport users. The

update will also include a financial overview and details on partnerships with local governments, businesses, and industries that rely on the airport for transportation and logistics.

The Airport Authority seeks to keep the Board informed about its progress and priorities and to explore opportunities for continued collaboration to support regional growth and development.

The Foothills Regional Airport Authority is comprised of elected officials from the cities of Morganton and Lenoir, as well as the counties of Burke and Caldwell. Each of those governing bodies appoints a non-elected citizen to the board. The cities of Morganton and Lenoir and the counties of Burke and Caldwell help fund the airport. The Authority meets monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at noon at the airport.

This item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - PRESENTATION OF FY 23 - 24 AUDIT (PLACE HOLDER)

Chairman Brittain noted that the full audit was available in the agenda packet and that this item would be presented at the regular meeting. Brian Epley, County Manager, advised that Alan Thompson would be the presenter.

Information from the agenda packet:

The County's independent auditor, Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co., P.A., will present an overview of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Report. This presentation will provide a comprehensive review of Burke County's financial statements, compliance with state and federal regulations, and overall fiscal health. Key findings and recommendations, if any, will be highlighted during the presentation.

As required by North Carolina General Statutes, the audit has been submitted to the Local Government Commission (LGC) for review and approval.

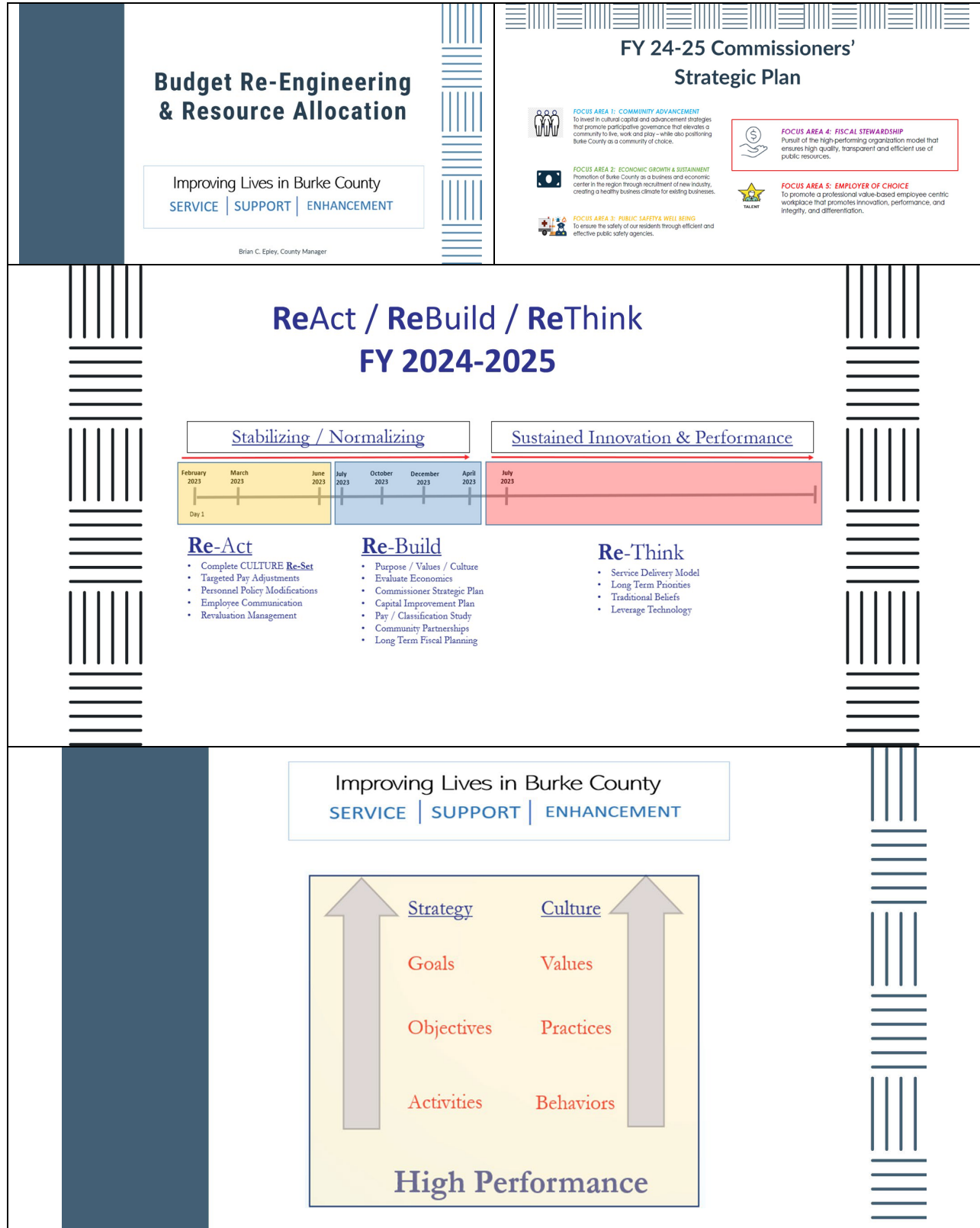
Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE FROM EMS COLLECTIONS

Brian Epley, County Manager, reported that earlier this year, Burke County made the strategic decision to bring EMS billing operations in-house, aiming to streamline processes, improve efficiency, and boost the collection rate for emergency medical services. This initiative was implemented with the goal of enhancing revenue recovery while providing better oversight and accountability. Mr. Epley presented insights into the effectiveness of this approach, including

any improvements in collection rates, operational efficiencies, and the overall financial impact of this transition, the highlights of which were as follows:



Benefits of a Culture that Promotes High Performance

- Increases Production
- More Innovative
- Reduce Turnover
- Promotes Connection and Accountability

WHAT IS HIGH PERFORMANCE.....

Good

Better

Best

← High Performance →

What is Budget Re-engineering?

Re-Engineering – Restructuring of existing resources to connect to highest priorities:

Operational Costs

X

Resource Re-Allocation

=

Budget Outcome Improvement

- Cost Avoidance
- Revenue Maximization
- Efficiency Enhancements / Cost Reductions

Budget Re-Engineering Strategies

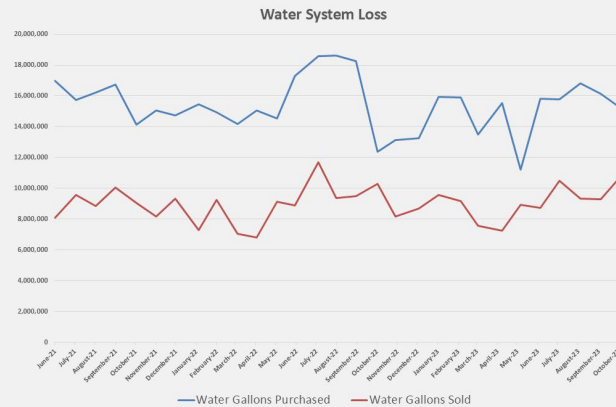
Solid Waste Fund

- Project: MSW Transport**
 - Impact: 66,000 Tons hauled annually
 - Disposal Savings: \$20 per ton, \$1,320,000 annual
 - Year 1 Savings, including startup cost: \$660,000
 - Ongoing Operational Savings: \$1,066,000
- Project: Cardboard Compaction**
 - Impact: in-sourcing and compacting recycled cardboard
 - Savings: \$160,000 contract avoidance
- Project: Operational Overtime Elimination**
 - Savings: \$80,000

Water & Sewer Fund

1. Project: Water Loss Identification

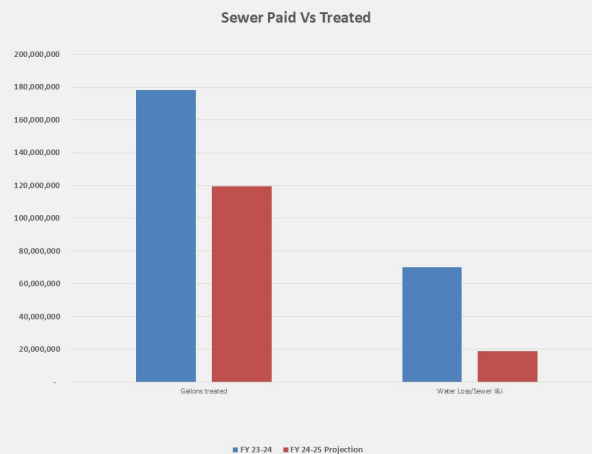
- Annualized lost revenue: \$455,000
- Solution: awarded state grant funding for asset inventory and analysis study



Water & Sewer Fund

1. Project: Project: Excess Sewer Treatment

- *I&I is excess rainwater that infiltrates the sewer system. Burke County pays to treat this as sewer, but Burke County does not receive offsetting revenue.



Public Safety Radio Management



Project: Development of a centralized management system for public safety radios

- Impact: Inter-agency bulk purchase agreement to reduce cost by 51%- \$1,266,004
- Negotiated bulk purchase discount of 29%
- Negotiated technology credit of \$500K

Organizational Fleet Management

Project- Develop and implement a systematic fleet replacement program

- Impact: \$90,000 savings year 1



Information Technology

Project- Project: iPad deployment for EMS

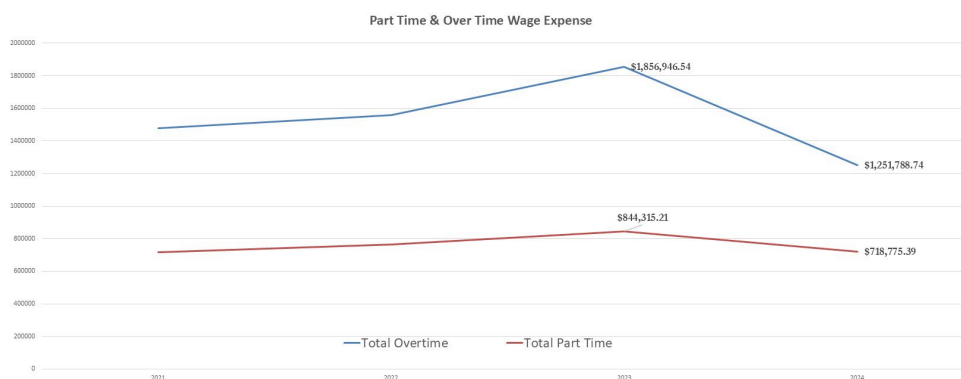
- Challenge: ruggedized computers cost upwards of \$4,000
- Solution: Deploy touch tablets with ruggedized cases, at a cost of \$800
- One-time savings: \$19,200

Project- Migrate to Self-Hosted Server Infrastructure

- Impact- reduce annual operational costs by over \$50,000



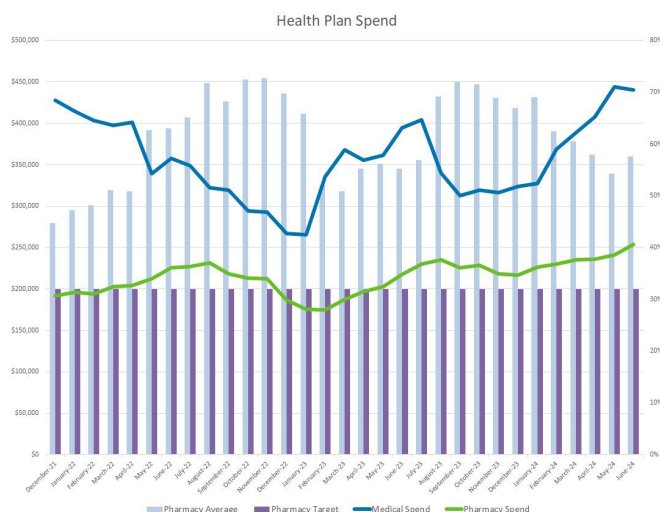
Human Capital Management



Health Management

1. Project: Medical and Pharmacy Management

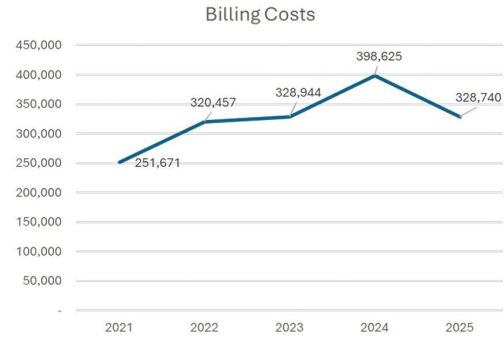
- Challenge: 16% annual health spend increase, 40% Pharmacy Spend
- Impact: \$1M annual savings



EMS BILLING UPDATE

Where have we been?

- Third Party Billing
 - EMSMC Contract
 - Flat Revenues
 - Non-Competitive Collection %
- Contract Cost (FY24)
 - Increasing Contract Costs
- Limited Control
 - Innovation Challenges
- Delays
 - Dependent processing times



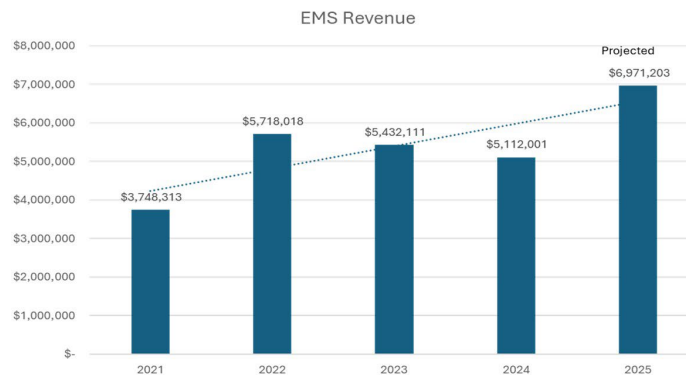
EMS Billing

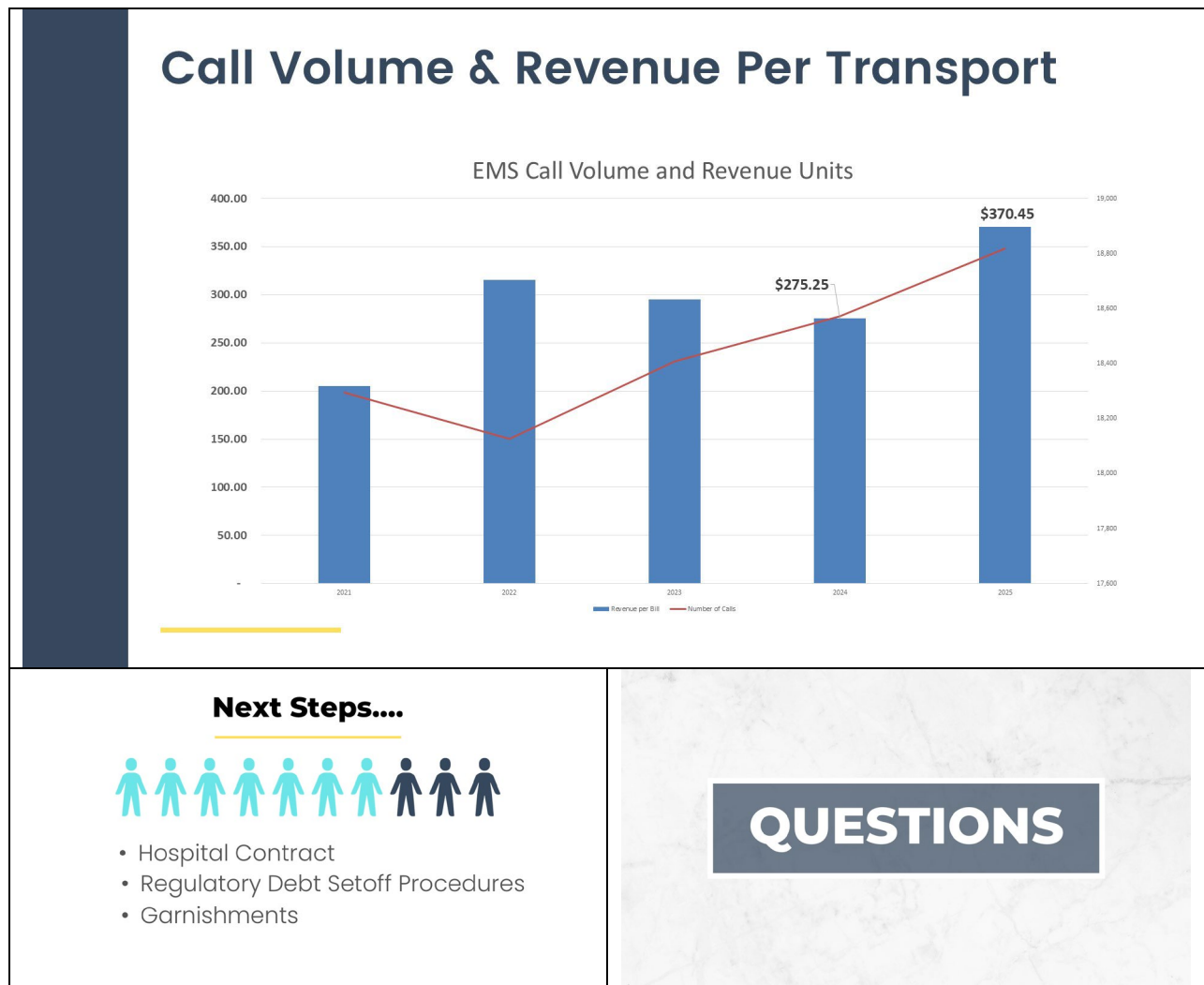
- Project: In-sourcing EMS billing

	In-House			Outsourced			
	Cleveland	Medic	Stanley	Burke	Caldwell	Wilkes	Alexander
Total Transports	25,258	111,245	10,951	18,408	11,453	14,568	6,546
Total Revenue	\$ 8,111,821	\$ 42,636,927	\$ 3,397,043	\$ 5,100,000	\$ 1,485,548	\$ 3,155,012	\$ 1,580,141
Revenue per transport	\$ 321.16	\$ 383.27	\$ 310.20	\$ 277.05	\$ 129.71	\$ 216.57	\$ 241.39

EMS Revenue Projection

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Projected 2025
EMS Revenue	\$ 3,748,313	\$ 5,718,018	\$ 5,432,111	\$ 5,112,001	\$ 6,971,203





Note: Commissioner Stroud arrived during this presentation at approximately 3:13 p.m. and was present for the remainder of the meeting. Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

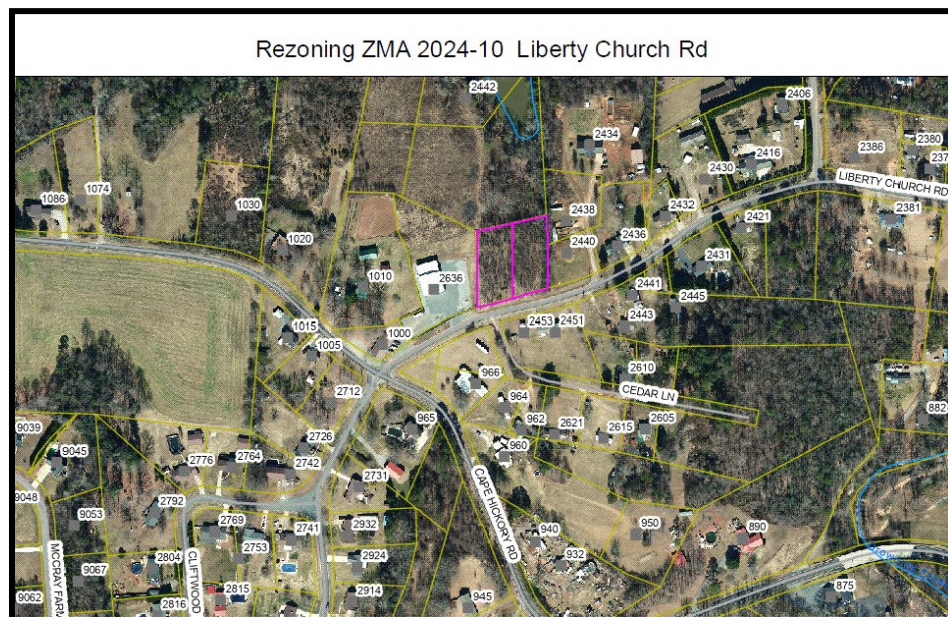
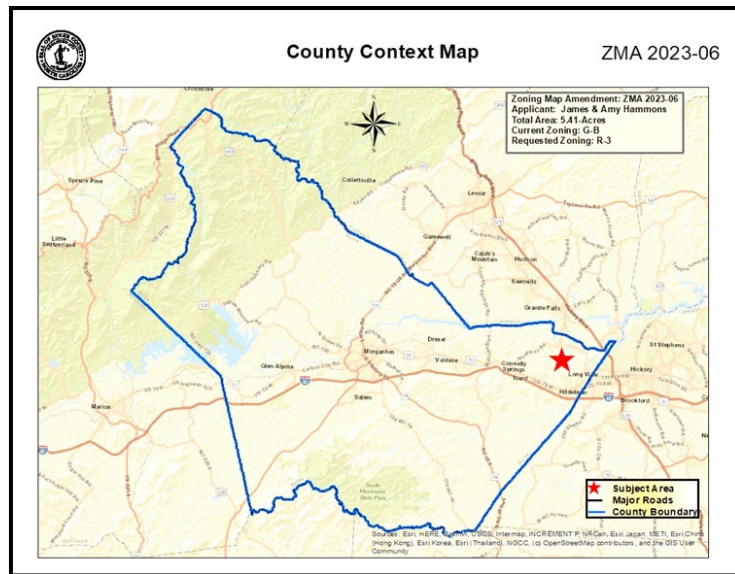
SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMM. DEV. - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT ZMA 2024-10 & PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, presented highlights of the following rezoning request:

APPLICANT: John and Rita Yount
 ADDRESS: 0 Liberty Church Road, Hickory, NC 28601

PINS: 2783261136 & 2783260135
 REQUEST: Rezone two (2) parcels, approximately 1.02 acres from General Business (GB) to Residential-Three (R-3)



BACKGROUND:

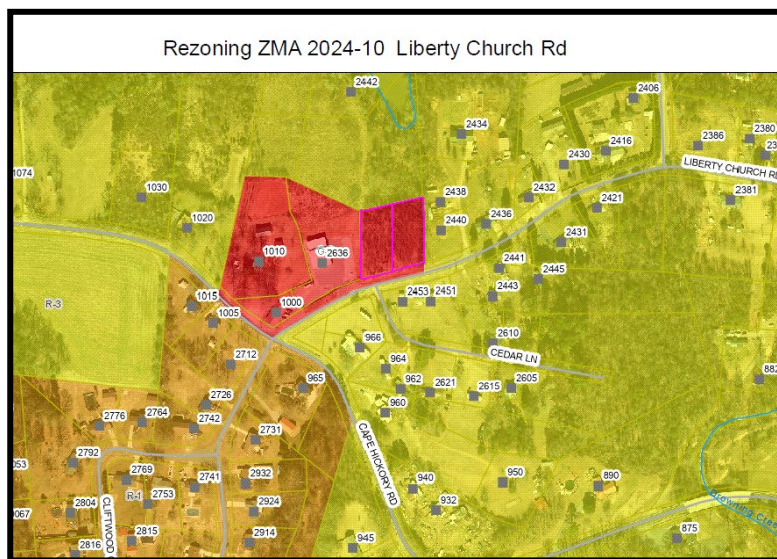
Property owners, John and Rita Yount, wish to rezone two (2) neighboring parcels totaling approximately 1.02-acres of land. The request is to rezone the parcels from General Business (G-B) to the Residential-Three (R-3) district to be able to use the parcels for two (2) new residential units.

SURROUNDING AREA:

The parcels were part of a larger tract of land that operated as the 72 Degrees Heating and Air Company for many years. The business closed and the parcels were sold. The neighboring tract

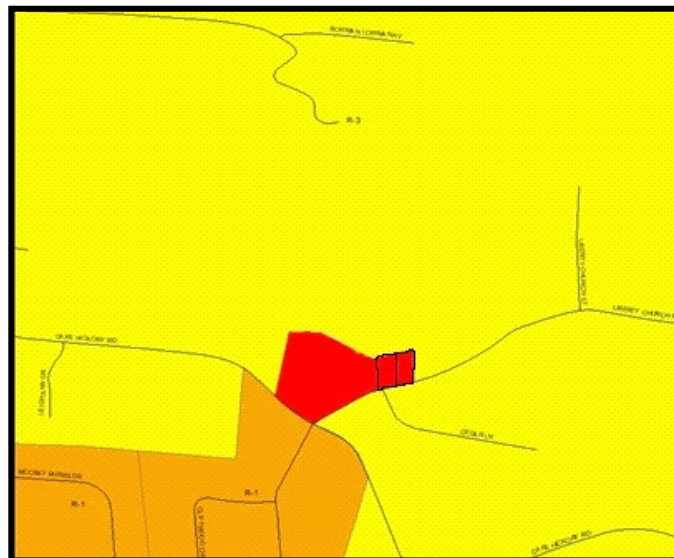
on the north side was the subject of a similar rezoning request, ZMA 2023-06, to rezone an area of GB to R-3. The county zoning in this area is predominately R-3 and the General Business zoning was originally established to support this former business. A neighborhood to the southwest is zoned R-1. The character of the area is rural / residential.

Existing Zoning and Land Uses within the Surrounding Area		
	Current Zoning	Existing Land Uses
North	R-3	Vacant/ new home
South	R-3	Residential uses
East	R-3	Residential uses
West	G-B	Warehouse use



Current Zoning Map

General Business



Future Land Use Map

BLUEPRINT BURKE LAND USE PLAN:

The current land use plan for Burke County is the 2022 - 2030 Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan. The Future Land Use Map places the subject parcel in the *general business* land use category. As in many cases, the future land use map closely resembles the current zoning map. This is the case because these parcels were a part of the business-owned tracts.

The surrounding area shows *residential infill*, which anticipates allowing a wide variety of residential uses. Burke County is experiencing a shortage of housing. A change to residential infill will be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and the goals of the plan. The plan encourages the development of new housing across Burke County in a variety of formats, including single-family, modular, multifamily, and manufactured housing.

STAFF COMMENTS:

The properties are vacant, and they were part of the properties owned by a nearby business. Staff feel a rezoning change to Residential Three (R-3) provides an opportunity for housing infill for this area. A similar request was made and approved last year for a neighboring tract to the north under rezoning application ZMA 2023-06.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning Board met on December 5, 2024, to hear the rezoning request. Staff presented the report, and John Yount addressed the board. He stated that if approved, he plans to construct homes on the two (2) parcels. No one was present to provide public comment. The Board voted 6/0 to recommend approval of the rezoning request.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Driving directions: from Long View town limits, take Cape Hickory Road north. Liberty Church Road will be on the right about 1.5 miles. The parcels are on the left just past the corner.



Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

COMM. DEV. - TEXT AMENDMENT ZTA 2024-03 TEMPORARY DWELLINGS / RVS AND CAMPERS - PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, reported that since Hurricane Helene made landfall in late September, residents are still trying to recover and repair and, in some cases, replace their homes. As of mid-November, about 160 households in Burke County were receiving some sort of FEMA-provided housing, whether it be a hotel accommodation or other means. Counties in western North Carolina that have been severely impacted by the storm are discussing options to house individuals. After looking at other temporary housing ordinances from coastal counties of North Carolina and discussing this matter with our building inspectors, staff crafted a text amendment / ordinance to offer solutions for temporary dwellings.

A temporary dwelling can take the form of an RV (Recreational Vehicle), a camper, a FEMA-provided unit or similar unit, or a primitive sleeping accommodation (tent, insulated shed, etc., which are not electrified). The temporary dwelling use will be tied to an active building permit for repairing the home or during the process of building a new home or accessory dwelling. The temporary dwelling will be set up on the same parcel as the home. The duration of the permit will generally be for 18 months and terminate when a certificate of occupancy is issued.

Planning Board Review: As is required with all text amendments, the Planning Board reviewed the proposed draft at their meeting on December 5, 2024. The Board discussed the need for this type of temporary housing and how it would be applied. After making several suggestions to clarify the text amendment / ordinance, the Board voted 6/0 to recommend approval. The version currently being reviewed is the final version recommended by the Planning Board.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Mr. Glines addressed several clarifying questions regarding the connection between the proposed text amendment, the Building Inspection Department, and the use of temporary service poles from Commissioner Burns. In response to a question from Commissioner Stroud, Mr. Glines confirmed that this measure serves as a steppingstone toward a permanent solution, allowing temporary shelters only until home repairs are completed.

Chairman Brittain highlighted that the applicability of temporary structures extends beyond natural disasters and could include scenarios such as home renovations. He asked how environmental concerns, such as septic systems, would be addressed. Mr. Glines explained that septic considerations are integral to the construction process. After obtaining a zoning permit, a septic analysis is typically the second step. Chairman Brittain further inquired whether septic systems must be operational before rebuilding or if a self-contained RV could suffice temporarily. Mr. Glines clarified that the requirement would depend on the specific situation; for vacant lots, a self-contained RV would be necessary until the septic system is installed and operational.

Commissioner Barrier suggested adding a provision to address situations where the land is so devastated that a temporary structure cannot be set up until initial work is completed on the site. He proposed allowing a temporary structure to be placed on a neighboring parcel in such cases. Mr. Glines noted the challenge of tying the temporary structure to the original property from a permitting perspective. Commissioner Barrier emphasized the importance of planning for such scenarios in future disaster responses. There being no further discussions, this item was

moved without objection to the following meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

The proposed zoning text amendment reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

An Ordinance Amending the Burke County Zoning Code
ZTA 2024-03
(New Text = Red Font)

Be it ordained that the Burke County Zoning Code is hereby amended as follows:

Add a new section to the Table of Contents and Article III as outlined below:

Section A.

Amend the Table of Contents to add: **Sec. 3.12 Temporary Dwellings / RVs and Campers**

Section B.

Amend Article III by adding a new section: **3.12 Temporary Dwellings / RVs and Campers**

Property owners may temporarily reside in an RV, camper, FEMA or similar-provided structure, or primitive sleeping accommodation (all known as temporary dwelling) located on their lot while their home is being renovated or repaired or during the construction of a new home on the same property subject to the following requirements:

- 1) A zoning permit is required for a temporary dwelling and only a single unit is permitted.
- 2) The issuance of a zoning permit shall be in conjunction with a building permit for the repair or construction of a primary or accessory dwelling unit on the same parcel.
- 3) The timeframe of a zoning permit for a temporary dwelling is only valid in conjunction with an active building permit which time period is not to exceed 18 months but is renewable in six-month increments with approval of the Community Development office by showing good faith progress towards completion such as by scheduling required inspections.
- 4) Applicants must adhere to all applicable local, state and federal laws and permits for the temporary dwelling are required for the connection of power, water and septic systems.
- 5) A Certificate of Occupancy for the primary or accessory dwelling unit will not be issued until the temporary dwelling has been disconnected from water and septic systems. At the discretion of the building inspector, a

30-day extension may be provided to close down the temporary dwelling.

CONSENT AGENDA

BOC - RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CODE OF ETHICS

Chairman Brittain stated that this resolution had been available in the packet and then opened the floor for questions or comments. Commissioner Barrier had a few minor revisions, and Chairman Brittain directed him to send those over to the Clerk. There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

Information from the agenda packet:

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 160A-86, local governing boards are required to adopt a Code of Ethics to guide their actions as public officials. The Burke County Board of Commissioners last adopted a Code of Ethics in 2018. However, with the election of Commissioners Barrier and Stroud, and the re-election of Commissioner Brittain, the composition of the Board has changed.

To ensure compliance with statutory requirements and to reaffirm the Board's commitment to ethical governance, it is appropriate to adopt an updated Code of Ethics that includes the signatures of the current Board members. Other than updating the adoption date and signature block, no additional revisions have been made to the existing Code of Ethics.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

Note: The proposed Code of Ethics as included in the agenda packet, is hereby incorporated into the meeting minutes by reference.

CLERK - APPOINTMENT TO THE ADULT CARE & NURSING HOME CAC

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reported that the Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee was established under the authority of the North Carolina General Statutes (N.C.G.S. § 131D-31) and the NC Administrative Code (10A NCAC 13F and 13G). Its primary purpose is to serve as a liaison between residents of adult care homes and nursing homes, their families, facility administrators, and the broader community. The committee's goal is to ensure the rights, dignity, and quality of care for residents by promoting communication, addressing concerns, and providing oversight.

This advisory board consists of 14 at-large seats with 3-year terms after the initial appointment to a 1-year term and requires at least 40 hours of training before applicants are eligible to be considered for appointment. Six (6) seats on this board are currently vacant despite numerous and continuous recruitment efforts.

Kathleen Andrews has completed her training, and the regional ombudsman requests her appointment to the Adult Care & Nursing Home CAC, Seat No. 6, for an initial 1-year term ending January 15, 2026.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENTS OR APPOINTMENTS TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, stated that in North Carolina, the purpose and duties of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are aligned with federal and state regulations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). LEPCs focus on preparing for and responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials. Their responsibilities include:

- Developing Emergency Plans: LEPCs create and maintain emergency response plans for handling hazardous materials incidents. These plans are shared with local governments, responders, and the public.
- Community Right-to-Know: LEPCs ensure public access to information about hazardous chemicals stored, used, or released in the community, promoting transparency and safety awareness.
- Coordination: LEPCs coordinate with local governments, industry representatives, and emergency services to prepare for potential hazardous material incidents.
- Training and Exercises: LEPCs conduct training and simulations to test their emergency plans and improve response capabilities.
- Incident Reporting: LEPCs are responsible for receiving reports of hazardous materials releases and ensuring an appropriate response.

LEPCs are established in accordance with North Carolina General Statute Chapter 166A, which outlines the broader framework for emergency management, and they work closely with state and local emergency management agencies to fulfill their duties.

This 17-member committee serves 3-year terms that end January 31st. Appointments or reappointments are needed for Seats No.: 4 (Emergency Mgmt.), 7 (Hospital), 10 (Civic / Community Group), 13 (Agriculture), 14 (EMS), and 15 (Facility Emergency Substance) as well as a few removals.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

CLERK - APPOINTMENT TO THE MORGANTON BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - ETJ

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, relayed that Burke County appoints two (2) members to the Morganton Board of Adjustment for the ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction) – a regular appointee and an alternate. The terms are for three (3) years.

The Board of Adjustment is required by state law and acts in a quasi-judicial role, much like a judge in a court, to evaluate and interpret questions that come about concerning the zoning ordinance. The BOA provides several roles in the overall zoning process including: appeals of any administrative officer; providing decisions concerning the zoning ordinance or map when a disagreement over an interpretation occurs between an administrative officer and a member of the public, granting special use permits; requiring that certain land uses meet conditions beyond general zoning requirements on a given parcel, and granting variances; to grant relief when hardship results from the strict application of the ordinance's terms to a particular piece of property.

An application was received from Johnnie Carswell, a resident of the Morganton ETJ.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

CLERK - RESOLUTION REMOVING A PLAT REVIEW OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF MORGANTON

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reported that Morganton has requested the removal of Logan Hanchett as a Plat Review Officer for the City of Morganton due to an employment change.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

SO - APPROVAL OF JAIL MEDICAL PLAN

Sheriff Hinceman stated that pursuant to NC General Statute §153A-225 and 10A NCAC 14J .1001, a governing body, such as the Board of Commissioners, must adopt the written medical plan for jail health services. This plan must be developed in consultation with the local health director and other appropriate officials, and it includes details about health services, mental health care, handling of chronic and communicable diseases, medication administration, and emergency care.

The local health director is also required to review and approve the plan annually, ensuring it remains up to date. After their review and consultation, the plan is then submitted for final adoption by the Board of Commissioners, as they are responsible for ensuring the health and welfare of inmates under their jurisdiction.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Sheriff Hinceman received a comment from Chairman Brittain. There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2024

John Bridgers, Tax Administrator, presented the following list of releases and refunds for the period ending December 31, 2024, as follows:

Tax System Refunds and Releases			
Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
\$9,229.15	\$4,869.85	\$4,359.30	\$0.00

*Note: The net release amount results from the reported amount minus the rebilled amount.

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: Adjustment							
0000017230-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	HART, ROGER AUSTIN	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/9/2024	1,407.09	1,407.09	0.00
0000017230-2024-2024-0000-01-REG	HART, ROGER AUSTIN	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/9/2024	747.54	747.54	0.00
Subtotal					2,164.63	2,164.63	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Assessed In Error							
0024075067-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	VELOCITY TRUST LTD	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/20/2024	205.56	205.56	0.00
Subtotal					205.56	205.56	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing							
0024076582-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	HIGHLANDS BUTCHERY RESTAURANT	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/19/2024	555.94	555.94	0.00
Subtotal					555.94	555.94	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Not in Burke County							
0024083043-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	CAMPBELL, ELIZABETH	8/28/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/4/2024	91.66	91.66	0.00
Subtotal					91.66	91.66	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Over Assessment							
0024077439-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	DICKENS, HENRY V	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/11/2024	728.00	350.00	378.00
Subtotal					728.00	350.00	378.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Penalty Correction							
0000007088-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	RIDDLE, JOSEPH I JR	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	12/2/2024	3,691.55	3.68	3,687.87
Subtotal					3,691.55	3.68	3,687.87
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Process Correction							
0000073446-2020-2020-0000-01-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	7/1/2020	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	9.17	9.17	0.00
0000073446-2021-2021-0000-01-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	9.17	9.17	0.00
0000073446-2022-2022-0000-01-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	7/1/2022	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	9.17	9.17	0.00
0000073446-2023-2023-0000-01-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	12.32	12.32	0.00
0000073446-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	11/14/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	12.32	12.32	0.00
Subtotal					52.15	52.15	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Situs Correction							
0024050672-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	HIGHLANDS FAMILY FARM, LLC	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/19/2024	533.07	533.07	0.00
Subtotal					533.07	533.07	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Value Change							
0000029592-2024-2020-0000-00-REG	MURPHY, MINNIE W	12/17/2024	AMANDA CONLEY	12/17/2024	1,216.59	412.61	803.98
Subtotal					1,216.59	412.61	803.98
Total					9,229.15	4,359.30	4,869.85

VTS Refunds Over \$100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$244.72

Payee Name	Address 3	Refund Type	Refund Reason	Create Date	Tax Jurisdiction	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
BARBARA PAIGE SEGAL THIRDPARTY SUPPLEMENTALN EEDS TRUST DATED	ASHEVILLE, NC 28805	Adjustment >= \$100	Situs error	12/16/2024	01	TAX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					57	TAX	(\$139.70)	\$0.00	(\$139.70)
					57	VEHICLE FEE	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
					30	TAX	\$22.35	\$0.00	\$22.35
								Refund	\$137.35
BROWNING, JANIE RUTH	MORGANTON, NC 28655	Adjustment >= \$100	Situs error	12/16/2024	01	TAX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					57	TAX	(\$110.60)	\$0.00	(\$110.60)
					57	VEHICLE FEE	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
					22	TAX	\$23.23	\$0.00	\$23.23
								Refund	\$107.37
								Refund	\$244.72
								Total	

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2024

John Bridgers, Tax Administrator, presented the Tax Collection Report for the period ending December 31, 2024, as follows:

Category	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$45,202,848.02	82.50%	\$9,590,330.98
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$2,787,193.37	54.91%	\$2,289,050.63
Current Year Taxes	\$47,990,041.39	80.16%	\$11,879,381.61
Delinquent Taxes	\$371,188.45	53.03%	\$328,811.55
Penalty & Interest	\$161,803.36	49.18%	\$167,196.64

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	\$63,819,143.88	\$45,202.848.02	70.83%	\$18,616,295.86

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

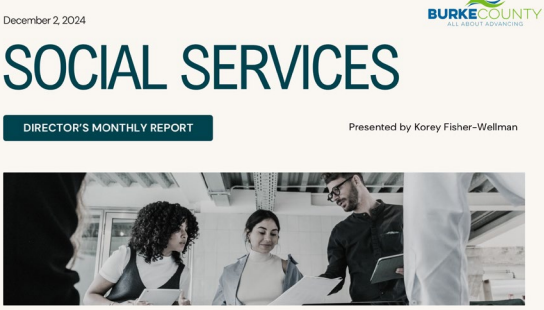
RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

ITEMS FOR DECISION – NONE

REPORTS

DSS - MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2024 & APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8 - \$908,909

Korey Fisher-Wellman, DSS Director, and Amanda Grady, Assistant Social Services Director, presented a monthly operational report. Mr. Fisher-Wellman presented the following:



December 2, 2024

BURKE COUNTY
ALL ABOUT ADVANCING

SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

Presented by Korey Fisher-Wellman

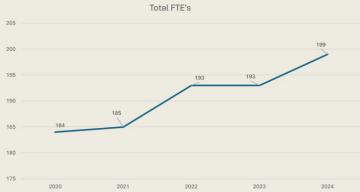




PERSONNEL



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.



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

THE DEPARTMENT HAS FIFTEEN (15) PART TIME STAFF WHICH INCLUDE: ONE (1) INCOME MAINTENANCE CASEWORKER, ONE (1) FOSTER CARE SOCIAL WORKER, ONE (1) CPS SOCIAL WORKER, TWO (2) CPS CLERICAL STAFF, AND TEN (10) AFTER HOURS SUPPORT SPECIALIST.

Current Open Positions:

Position Title	Position #:	Status
Accounting Tech IV	52043	Final Offer
IMC II	51820	Final Offer
IMC II	51369	
IMC III	51815	
IMC I	51358	
IMC II	51365	
IMC II	51785	
IMC II	51653	
IMC III Lead worker	52045	
IMC III	51342	
IMC III Lead worker	51901	
IMC III	51786	
IMC III Lead worker	51394	
IMC II	51898	
IMS II	52046	
SW IA&T	51438	Conditional Offer
SW IA&T	51436	
SW IA&T	51864	
SW IA&T	51866	
SW IA&T	51440	
SW III	51867	Final Offer
SWS III	51788	
SW III	51904	Conditional Offer
SWS III	51426	
SW IA&T	51441	
SW III	51467	
SW III	51461	Final Offer

Hirings and Separations Report November 2024

- Separations:
- Total = 4
- Voluntary Resignation = 4

Number of Hirings:

- Total = 5
- After Hours Support Specialist = 1
- Social Worker IA&T = 1
- Part Time Social Worker IA&T = 1
- Social Work Supervisor III = 2

OPERATIONS

At this point in the presentation, Ms. Grady took over to discuss the economic data as follows:

Economic Services MOU Data

IN 2017 THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED 2017-41, SECTION 3.3 THAT REQUIRED PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT THROUGH AN AGREED UPON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE STATE DHHS AND ALL NC COUNTIES. THE MOU HAS 13 SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE METRICS. SEE BELOW FOR CURRENT STATE OF BURKE COUNTY BY METRICS:

METRICS PER MOU
Under a Disaster waiver

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES		MOU MEASURE			95%	95%	95%
ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APP TIMELINESS RATE- REGULAR	APP TIMELINESS RATE- EXPEDITE	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE			
11,981	6,206	Achieved	Achieved	Waived			
WORK FIRST FAMILY ASSISTANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES		MOU MEASURE			95%	95%	
ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APPLICATION TIMELINESS	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE				
109	67	Achieved	Achieved				
MEDICAID		MOU MEASURE			90	90	95
TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	REPORT CARD MAD	REPORT CARD OTHER	Straight Through Processing			
28062	21,888	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved			
SPECIAL ASSISTANCE		MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE			85%	85%	
SA ACTIVE CASES		SAATIMELINESS APPLICATIONS	SADTIMELINESS APPLICATIONS				
239		Achieved	Waived				
ENERGY PROGRAMS		MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE			95%	95%	
CIP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED	LEAP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED	% PROCESSED TIMELY- NO SOURCE 1 DAY		% PROCESSED TIMELY- WITH SOURCE 2 DAYS			
402	642	Achieved		Achieved			
CHILD CARE SUBSIDY		PERFORMANCE MEASURE			95%		
ACTIVE CASES		APPLICATION TIMELINESS					
448		Achieved					

ECONOMIC SERVICE UPDATE

- AN AUDIT WAS COMPLETED FOR THE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE (SCCA) PROGRAM COMPLETED BY THE DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION (DCDEE) IN SEPTEMBER 2024. FINALIZATION FOR THE 2025-2026 MONITORING CYCLE WAS NOVEMBER 20, 2024.
- THE FINAL COMPLIANCE SCORE FOR BURKE COUNTY'S SCCA PROGRAM MONITORING IS 98.06 PERCENT. TOTAL FINANCIAL CORRECTIONS: \$0

NEW ENERGY PROGRAMS THROUGH ECONOMIC SERVICES

The County has been awarded \$908,909 in State Emergency Assistance Funds. Part of the funds will provide the following starting in January:

Energy Disaster

- Funds are only used for the 25 counties who were affected by Hurricane Helene.
- No maximum benefit per household, and no limit to the number of times a household can apply for assistance as long as funding is available.
- Funds can be used for utility bills/deposits, propane, fuel oil, natural gas, repair or replacement costs of furnaces, space heaters, etc.
- Must apply in the county they reside in but must have resided in one of the 25 counties affected by Hurricane Helene at the time of the disaster.
- Gross Income Limit
- The household must have been impacted and suffered a loss because of Hurricane Helene such as loss of income due to the disaster, etc.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

- Funds are only used for the 25 counties who were affected by Hurricane Helene.
- The household must have a housing crisis due to the disaster such as displacement from their home due to damage or destruction or inability to pay rent or facing eviction as a result of the disaster's impact on their income or housing situation.
- Applicants must reside in one of the 25 counties that were affected by Hurricane Helene at the time of the disaster either temporarily or permanently.
- Income must be at or below 200% FPL
- Maximum benefit level is \$1,014 (one-time payment made directly to their landlord).

ECONOMIC SERVICE UPDATE

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES								
	MOU MEASURE			95%	95%	95%		
	ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APPLICATIONS TAKEN	APP TIMELINESS RATE- REGULAR	APP TIMELINESS RATE- EXPEDITE	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE	RECERTS COMPLETED	FNS EBT BENEFITS
JAN	11,544	5994	771	97%	100%	97%	495	1845044
FEB	11,505	5971	612	95.82%	100%	98.87%	620	1814316
MAR	11,370	5912	538	92.62%	99.01%	98.43%	511	1811615
APR	11,248	5882	603	98.60%	95.00%	98.40%	500	1798182
MAY	11,292	5886	567	98.30%	96.88%	98.47%	523	1802439
JUN	11,216	5,853	573	98.96%	95.00%	98.86%	525	1795500
JUL	11,138	5,799	556	96.38%	93.75%	98.73%	555	1772168
AUG	11,155	5792	579	99.53%	95.20%	99.26%	539	1791212
SEP	11,199	5814	525	99.51%	98.26%	98.28%	406	*
OCT	11,503	5975	731/6302	98.54%	94.23%	72.63%	285	3230130
NOV	11,981	6206	394	100.00%	97.81	67%	739	2962954

ECONOMIC SERVICE UPDATE

MEDICAID															
MOU MEASURE															
909095															
	ADULT ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS	ADULT ACTIVE CASES	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE CASES	TOTAL MEDICAID APPLICATIONS	TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS completed	TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS WITHOUT WAIVERS	CAP REFERRALS	LTC REFERRALS	TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENT TRIPS	REPORT CARD MAD	REPORT CARD OTHER	RECERT COMPLETION RATE	Straight Through Processing	Total
JAN	5544	7,724	21363	13,474	721	572	2900	7	6	26,912	1201	98%	98%	100%	98%
FEB	5553	7,674	21610	13,718	539	560	2745	7	7	27,166	1201	98%	95%	100%	95%
MAR	5534	7,662	21632	13,802	478	585	2601	3	9	27,172	1125	93%	98%	100%	97%
APR	5482	7,638	21645	13,799	504	600	2488	7	11	27,127	1231	95%	96%	100%	96%
MAY	5449	7,539	21624	13,790	502	520	2184	7	6	27,076	1048	97%	95%	100%	96%
JUN	5452	7,483	21723	13,831	404	425	1855	3	9	27,175	816	98%	97%	100%	97%
JUL	5440	7466	21,831	13,849	425	439	1977	3	19	27,271	773	100%	98%	100%	98%
AUG	5403	7505	21885	13,942	415	489	1540	4	11	27,288	773	93%	94%	100%	94%
SEP	5384	7609	21,937	13,958	382	412	1890	3	17	27,323	626	96%	92%	100%	93%
OCT	5387	7563	22,277	14,091	446	90	1128	4	14	27,666	642	96%	92%	100%	93%
NOV	5405	7584	22,655	14,304	688	363	1746	9	10	28,062	573	97%	97%	100%	97%
DEC															

Mr. Fisher-Wellman resumed the presentation at this point, highlighting the following key points:

CHILD WELFARE UPDATE

- Currently there are 182 children experiencing foster care and 287 open CPS Cases
- January 2024 - November 2024 a total of 1,526 CPS reports were received

• November Foster Care Data

- 4 children entered care
- 8 children exited care
 - 5 through adoption
 - 2 through reunification
 - 1 aged out of foster care

• November CPS Screening Data

- 116 Total Reports
 - 17 Screen outs
 - 95 screen ins
 - 4 screened for other counties

ADULT SERVICES UPDATE

- **Guardianship - 56 wards**

Contracted Wards -17

- **SAIH (Special Assistance In-Home) - 48**

State caseload is 25-30, there is only one SAIH SW

- **CAP (Community Alternatives Program)**

145 currently with the ability to hold up to 188 or more. - there are 5 CAP workers currently each carrying about 29 at this time.

EMERGING ISSUES

Essential Services Funds

The NC Division of Social Services is allocating Essential Services Funds to county departments for recovery efforts related to Hurricane Helene. Funds will support vulnerable adults in the adult services system and children/families in the child welfare system. A total of \$4.4 million is being distributed: \$1.4 million for Adult Services and \$3 million for Child Welfare Services. Allocations are based on the severity of impact across 25 counties, with Critical and High-impact counties receiving larger shares. These funds can be used for a wide range of essential services, including medical care, housing assistance, and protection against abuse. Counties must report on fund usage, and any unspent funds may be reallocated. The program also includes a reimbursement process for other counties impacted by the disaster. **Burke's Allocations: CW \$263,323 Adult Services \$131,441**

This space is intentionally left blank.

Rental Assistance Funds

Session Law 2024-53 allocates \$1 million in rental assistance for households in 25 North Carolina counties affected by Hurricane Helene. The assistance is aimed at residents facing housing crises such as displacement or eviction, with eligibility based on income (up to 200% of the federal poverty level). A one-time payment, up to the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom unit, will be provided directly to landlords. The funds are distributed based on a pro-rata formula, with higher amounts allocated to counties with greater need. Counties will track spending using a reporting tool, and unspent funds may be reallocated by March 2025. **Burke's Allocation: \$73,294.00**

Energy Assistance Funds

The North Carolina General Assembly has approved \$9 million in Disaster Energy Assistance for households in 25 counties affected by Hurricane Helene. Households in these counties that suffered losses due to the hurricane can apply for energy assistance starting January 15, 2025. Eligibility is based on income (up to 60% of the State Median Income) and the disaster's impact on the household. There is no maximum benefit, and households can apply multiple times if funding is available. Applications must be processed within 10 days. Unused funds may be reallocated by March 2025, and a caseworker's review is required for large payments (over \$5,000). **Burke's Allocation: \$441,848**

Budget Amendment

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8

REVENUES AND EXPENSES

ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
100-52010-20-554001	WORK FIRST ASSIS-EMERG ASSIST	\$73,294	
100-52000-20-561500	ESSENTIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE - ADULTS	\$131,444	
100-52000-20-561501	ESSENTIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE – CHILDREN	\$262,323	
100-52110-20-554001	ENERGY ASSISTANCE	\$441,848	
100-52000-00-438000-	STATE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS	\$908,909	

To recognize State Emergency Assistance funds being distributed to Counties impacted by Hurricane Helene and allow for the resulting expenditure of those funds.

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.

Next Steps

1. Approve, Modify, or deny budget amendment #8

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. County Manager Epley requested that Budget Amendment No. 8 be added to either the consent agenda or items for decision for consideration at the regular meeting, as the DSS report is not scheduled for that session.

Chairman Brittain provided a comment to Mr. Fisher-Wellman regarding a minor revision needed in the DSS report. Mr. Fisher-Wellman then addressed his question about the status of filling vacant positions, explaining that daily interviews are being conducted, and several conditional offers have already been extended.

Commissioner Stroud inquired about the support available for children aging out of the foster care system. Mr. Fisher-Wellman described the voluntary 18 - 21 program, which offers support from an 18 - 21 social worker. He also noted that beyond the program, individuals aging out are treated like any other adult turning 18. He acknowledged that the aging-out process highlights the system failing. Commissioner Barrier asked about efforts to recruit foster parents within the community. Mr. Fisher-Wellman shared that recruitment efforts include setting up tables at community events and engaging with churches, rotary clubs, and similar organizations.

Commissioner Burns inquired about the reasons behind the 12 vacancies. Mr. Fisher-Wellman attributed the vacancies to a combination of factors, including leadership changes, which can contribute to turnover, and a snowball effect. He explained that when a staff member leaves, their caseload is redistributed among remaining social workers, increasing workloads and potentially causing additional departures. He also noted that recent promotions created vacancies in the promoted employees' former roles. Ms. Grady added that many individuals are leaving the field entirely, not just transitioning to similar roles elsewhere. She emphasized the challenging nature of the work and the importance of having a genuine passion for helping people.

After confirming that the Board could take action on Budget Amendment No. 8, Chairman Brittain opened the floor for a motion.

Budgetary Effect: \$908,909 budget increase for State-funded programs. The funding will be as follows:

- \$73,294 will be used as passthrough funding for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program. This funding will be disbursed to eligible applicants who have had a housing crisis as a result of the hurricane.
- \$441,848 will be used as passthrough funding for an Emergency Energy Assistance Program. This funding will be disbursed to eligible applicants who have had damage to heating equipment as a result of the hurricane. Funding can also be used to assist with energy payments, the purchase of propane, and other energy-related uses.

- \$131,444 will be used to meet a variety of needs for adult welfare services clients, including medical, food, clothing, electronics, and other personal items.
- \$262,323 will be used to meet a variety of needs for child welfare services clients, including medical, food, clothing, electronics, and other personal items.

Motion: To adopt Budget Amendment No. 8 for \$908,909 as presented.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

Budget Amendment No. 8 reads as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8
FY 24-25

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
REVENUES			
100-52000-01-433440	State Disaster Assistance Payments	\$908,909	
EXPENSES			
100-52010-20-554001	Work First Assis-Emerg Assist	\$73,294	
100-52050-20-554000	Essential Services Assistance - Adults	\$131,444	
100-52070-20-554000	Essential Services Assistance – Children	\$262,323	
100-52110-20-554002	Energy Assistance	\$441,848	
To recognize State Emergency Assistance funds being distributed to Counties impacted by Hurricane Helene and allow for the resulting expenditure of those funds.			
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 7th day of January 2025.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

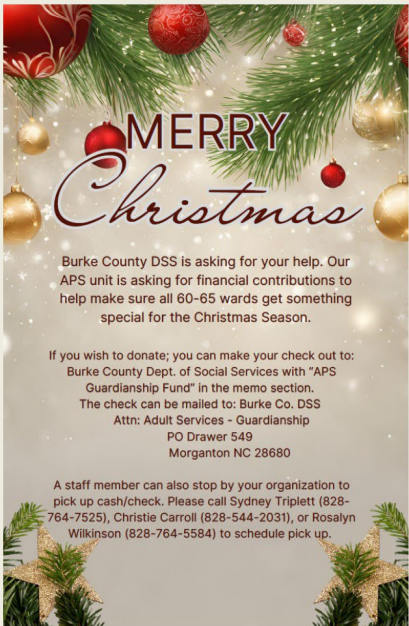
Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn

Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC

Clerk to the Board

Mr. Fisher-Wellman finished his presentation as follows:

QUESTIONS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. In response to a question from Vice Chairman Smith, Mr. Fisher-Wellman explained that the number of children placed out of state is small, although he did not have the exact figure available. He noted that out-of-state placements are primarily due to treatment-based needs. With no further discussion, Chairman Brittain opened the floor for a motion.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Phil Smith, Vice Chairman
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

DSS - APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8 - \$908,909

Note: This item was voted upon earlier, during the DSS monthly operational report.

HD - QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL REPORT FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

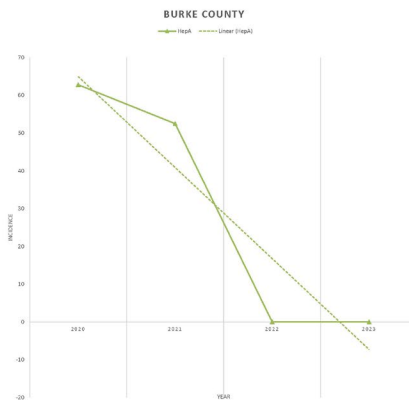
Danny Scalise, Health Director, presented a quarterly operational report as follows:

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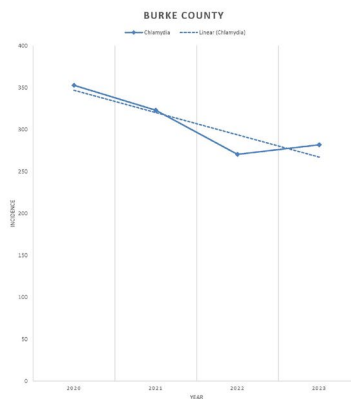
BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

JANUARY 2025

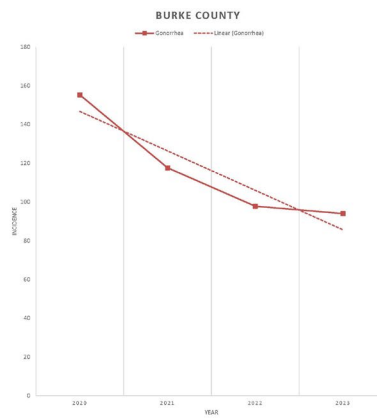
Hepatitis A



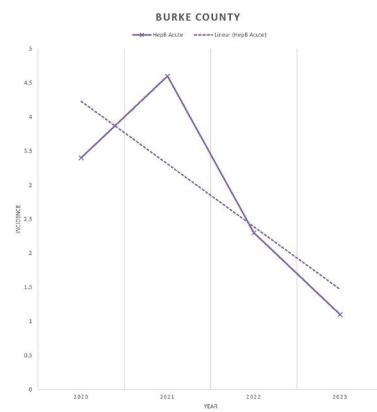
Chlamydia



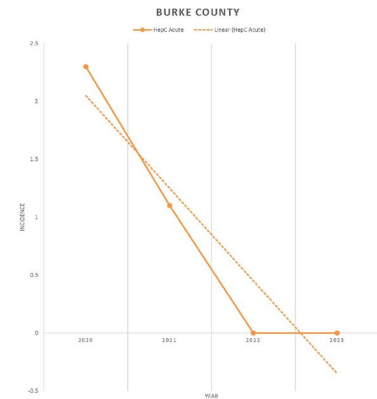
Gonorrhea



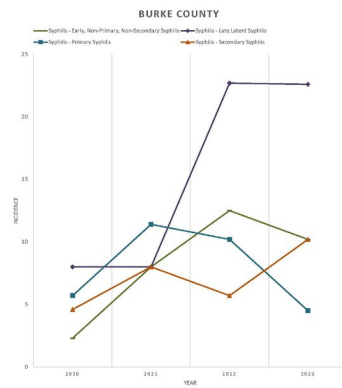
Hepatitis B



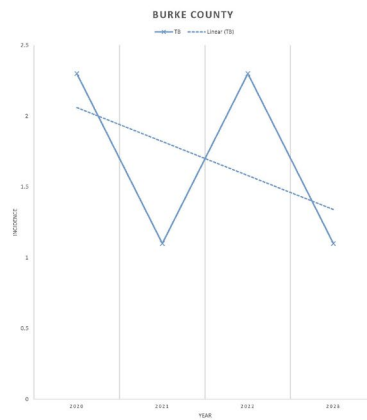
Hepatitis C



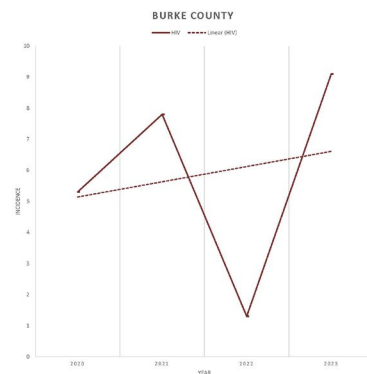
Syphilis



Tuberculosis



HIV

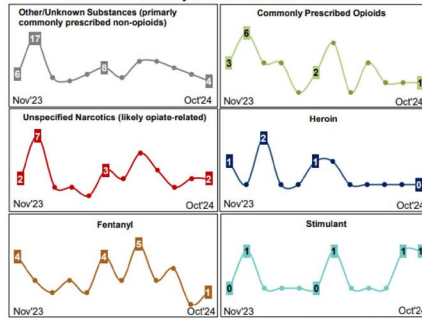


Burke County

2024* YTD

114 ED VISITS FOR OVERDOSE INVOLVING MEDICATIONS OR DRUGS WITH DEPENDENCY POTENTIAL

Overdose ED Visits by Substance in Last 12 Months



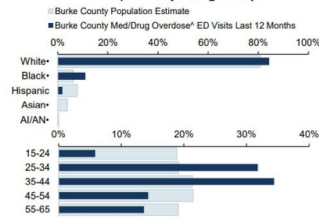
Note: Report is restricted to N.C. residents ages 15 to 65 years. Drug classes shown are not mutually exclusive; a person may have more than one drug overdose diagnosis code, therefore, a person may be represented in multiple lines in the graph above. *Report is based on initial encounter, unintentional and undetermined intent cases only, for ICD10CM overdose codes of drugs and medications with dependency potential within T40, T42, T43, T50.7, and T50.9.

*Data is provisional; YTD (Year to date). NC DETECT is North Carolina's statewide syndromic surveillance system. There may be data quality issues affecting our counts. Population Data-U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>

114 Overdose ED Visits for Med/Drugs[^] with Dependency Potential in Burke County, 2024*YTD

compared to 206 for Jan-Oct 2023*

Data Source: NC DETECT; ED: Syndrome: Overdose: Unintentional/ Undetermined Medication or Drug Overdose (T40-T50) (ICD-9/10-CM)

Med/Drug[^] Overdose ED Visits by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group

*Non-Hispanic, except when ethnicity data are missing or incomplete (less than 85% ethnicity data available); if ethnicity is missing, race categories include both Hispanic and Non-Hispanic.

AI/AN (American Indian/ Alaskan Native)

NORTH CAROLINA INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov

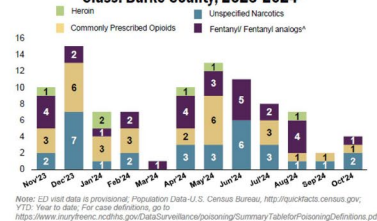
11/22/2024

Burke County

2024*YTD

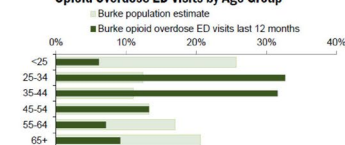
72 OPIOID OVERDOSE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS

Opioid Overdose ED Visits Last 12 Months by Drug Class: Burke County, 2023-2024*



Note: ED visit data is provisional; Population Data-U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>; YTD: Year to date; For case definitions, go to <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/Data/Surveillance/poisoning/SummaryTablePoisoningDefinitions.pdf>

Opioid Overdose ED Visits by Age Group

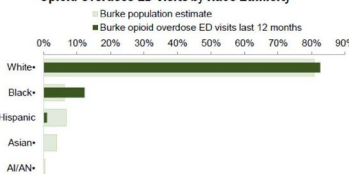


72 Opioid Overdose ED Visits in Burke County for 2024* YTD

compared to 131 in Jan-Oct 2023

Source: NC DETECT; Data Source: ED: Custom Event: Overdose: Opioid Overdose V.2 (ICD-9/10-CM)

Opioid Overdose ED Visits by Race Ethnicity



*Non-Hispanic, except when ethnicity data are missing or incomplete (less than 85% ethnicity data available); if ethnicity is missing, race categories include both Hispanic and Non-Hispanic.

AI/AN (American Indian/ Alaskan Native)

Note: NC DETECT is North Carolina's statewide syndromic surveillance system. There may be data quality issues affecting our counts; counties with <10 cases may not be true lack of opioid overdose cases but data quality issues; additionally, some hospitals use non-specific poisoning codes rather than specific opioid poisoning codes. For questions contact SubstanceUseData@dhhs.nc.gov

NORTH CAROLINA INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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11/13/2024

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WIC

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Breastfeeding Initiation	75.66%	73.77%	72.50%	81.13%
WIC Benefit Redemption at Burke County vendors	\$1,376,584.03	\$1,481,893.92	\$1,732,829.01	\$1,807,409.40

Top 25 Counties by Timeliness

25 Counties in 2024 with Lowest Registration Timeliness

County	Timeliness (Days)	Total Registrations
Dare	4	239
Brunswick	5	1245
Burke	5	978
Cabarrus	5	1734
Caldwell	5	778
Carruth	5	162
Davidson	5	1375
Gaston	5	2138
Moore	5	1429
Onslow	5	944
Polk	5	191
Randolph	5	1122
Rutherford	5	737
Union	5	1230
Yadkin	5	331
Alexander	6	229
Alleghany	6	124
Garret	6	744
Catawba	6	1868
Chatham	6	753
Clay	6	107
Columbus	6	626
Craven	6	1090
Davie	6	291
Forsyth	6	4869
Gates	6	77
Henderson	6	1465
Iredell	6	1463
Lincoln	6	572
Macon	6	366
Madison	6	152
McDowell	6	297

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

JANUARY 2025

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

MISSION

THE BURKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROMOTES THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES BY PREVENTING DISEASE, OFFERING CARE, AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT OF BURKE COUNTY.

VISION

LONG, HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIVES FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK, WORSHIP, AND PLAY IN BURKE COUNTY.

VALUES

INNOVATION, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, COLLABORATION, EQUITY, DIGNITY FOR ALL PEOPLE, KINDNESS, & RESPECT



GOALS 1. ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF DIGNITY, LOVE, AND RESPECT FOR EMPLOYEES, PATIENTS, AND THE COMMUNITY 2. BE AN EMPLOYER OF CHOICE 3. MITIGATE SUBSTANCE USE AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH 4. BE AN ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT 5. BE A HEALTHCARE SERVICE PROVIDER OF CHOICE 6. BE AN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LEADER	Establish a Culture of Dignity, Love, and Respect for Employees, Patients, and the Community • Twice annually (and sometimes more) we gather for training • New QI Plan, beginning with Lean/SixSigma in 2025 • Health Ed Training • Health Fairs • Diverse Board Members – this committee • Healthy People 2030 Champion
Be an Employer of Choice • Began recruiting nationally and not just locally in 2024 • Team building • 2024 Dr. Sarah Taylor Morrow Health Department of the Year • WIC: USDA Gold Award Recipient • Developing Internship/Practicum Program • All employees have input into budget and policy • County salary study • Flexible working environment • Changed logo and image to mirror county marketing	Mitigate Substance Use Disorder and Promote Mental Health • BCOR • OFR/PHAST • Strategic Planning • Naloxone Distribution • Forums
Be an Academic Health Department • Partnerships w/UNC Chapel Hill, CUSOM, App State, WPCC, LR, ECU • Training, Research, and Evaluation • Multiple abstracts accepted at conferences • Multiple papers published by staff • Multiple staff on local, state, and national boards • Multiple staff achieved certifications including CPH, CHES, CMOM, and certified biller/coder • Multiple staff in leadership fellowships • Multiple staff have guest lectured at universities	Be a Healthcare Service Provider of Choice • Changing the way we do billing • Attempting to get paneled on all insurance available • Improving the clinic rooms • New waiting room for primary care • Increased patient satisfaction survey participation by using technology • Further development of the Street Medicine and Harm Reduction Programs
Be an Environmental Health Leader • Publish EH data on social media and the web • Hired multiple new REHS staff • Created Career Ladder for REHS to encourage further authorization to be implemented this month	In progress • CHA/CHIP Process • Facility Updates • Billing Changes • CD Nurse starts training for Enhanced Role RN this month • Project Public Health Ready – intent to apply
 BURKECOUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH	

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Vice Chairman Smith requested an update on environmental health inspections. Mr. Scalise reported that due to staff shortages, food and lodging inspections, as well as on-site services, were behind schedule. He shared that a plan had been developed in conjunction with the county manager to bring in contracted staff to help address the backlog. He also noted that only approximately 1,300 individuals statewide are trained and licensed for this work. However, new staff members are currently in training, and the department is expected to be back on track by the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Burns asked for further clarification regarding the department's goals and the timeline for achieving them. Mr. Scalise reaffirmed that all backlogged work should be completed by the fiscal year's end. A discussion followed regarding the frequency of inspections, during which Mr. Scalise clarified that Burke County and surrounding counties are generally six (6) to eight (8) weeks behind on environmental health inspections.

Commissioner Stroud congratulated the Health Department on all their recent awards. With no further discussion, 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, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chairman Brittain issued reminders for the upcoming BOC meeting, community events, and holiday closures. He also invited youth groups to sign up to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at Commissioners' meetings.

ACTION ITEMS – NONE

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Brittain stated that a closed session is needed.

Motion: To go into closed session to preserve confidential information, 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:	Phil Smith, Vice Chairman
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

Motion: To come out of closed session.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Vice Chairman
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

After returning to open session, Chairman Brittain announced that a proper motion was made to come out of closed session, direction was given to the County Manager and that no action was taken.

ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

Approved this 21st day of April 2025.


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

Attest:


Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMSC
Clerk to the Board