MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 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 purpose of the meeting was to set the agenda for the February regular meeting following the cancellation of the duly scheduled pre-agenda meeting due to hazardous road conditions. Due to those conditions, physical posting of the special meeting notice was not practicable; however, notice was timely distributed electronically to Board members, the Sunshine List, media, and other interested parties in addition to dissemination through the County's official communication channels, including social media. 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
STAFF:	Brian Epley, County Manager Margaret Pierce, Finance Director/Dep. Co. Mgr. Dylan Laws, Wilson, Lackey, Rohr & Hall P.C. Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion: To approve the agenda as amended, including the removal of Consent Item No. 13 and Decision Item No. 2.

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

PRESENTATIONS

WPCOG - INTERBASIN TRANSFER UPDATE (PLACE HOLDER)
Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reported that Anthony Starr, Executive Director of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, will provide an update on Charlotte's interbasin transfer request at the regular meeting.

RESULT:	MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.

BOC - RECOGNITION OF THE EAST BURKE HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TEAM (PLACE HOLDER)
Chairman Brittain announced that the Board would be recognizing Coach Sabrina Baker and the East Burke High School Varsity Coed Cheerleading Team for their North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Medium Varsity Non-Tumbling Division II State Championship.

RESULT:	MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.

VEDIC - VALDESE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT CORP. ANNUAL UPDATE (PLACE HOLDER)
Kerri Poteat, Executive Director, VEDIC, stated that she will provide an update on the organization's activities at the regular meeting.

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

RESULT:	MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - PRESENTATION ON THE SPRING 2026 CITIZENS ACADEMY (PLACE HOLDER)
Brian Epley, County Manager, explained that the inaugural Citizens Academy was a strong success and that the County identified several lessons learned after gathering feedback from participants. He indicated that proposed updates, including extending the program from six (6) to seven (7) weeks and making minor curriculum adjustments based on that feedback, will be presented at the regular meeting. Mr. Epley stated that the Board of Commissioners will be asked to consider opening the application portal, with the goal of beginning the spring session in April.

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

RESULT:	MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMM. DEV. - CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE (2026-01) AMENDING CHAPTER 10, BUILDINGS & BUILDING REGULATIONS OF THE BURKE COUNTY CODE & PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:00 P.M.
Alan Glines, Planning Director, presented an overview of proposed revisions to Chapter 10 of the Burke County Code of Ordinances concerning buildings and building regulations. He explained that the amendment is intended to modernize the County's existing ordinance—much of which dates back to the early 1990s—and aligns it with the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 160D, Article 11.

Mr. Glines noted that the update consolidates and clarifies processes related to the building inspections department, including the duties and qualifications of inspectors, permitting procedures, complaint investigations, and enforcement actions for unsafe or dilapidated structures.

Mr. Glines further outlined that the ordinance establishes formal procedures for addressing abandoned or vacant non-residential structures, unsafe occupied structures, and minimum housing standards for residential dwellings. He explained that, while staff have historically followed similar procedures, adoption of the ordinance would formally codify these practices. The amendment also proposes the creation of a Housing Appeals Board to hear appeals related to minimum housing and occupied dangerous structure cases, with the Board of Commissioners retaining authority to hear appeals for vacant non-residential structures.

He added that the proposed changes are largely organizational and procedural in nature, intended to improve clarity, consistency, and transparency while maintaining compliance with the North Carolina State Building Code. Mr. Glines noted that the County aims to work with property owners to achieve compliance whenever possible, emphasizing that enforcement actions are typically reserved for the most severe cases.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments.

Commissioner Stroud asked about the County's working relationship and reputation with contractors and inspectors. Mr. Glines responded that staff maintain a positive and collaborative relationship with the contractor community and work to be responsive in the field. Steve Holden, Chief Building Inspector, added that inspections are often completed within one day, exceeding the State's 48-hour requirement. Commissioner Stroud expressed appreciation and emphasized the importance of the County taking a leadership role moving forward.

Commissioner Burns asked for clarification on how alignment under N.C.G.S. § 160D would impact the County compared to municipalities. Mr. Glines explained that the County enforces the State minimum building code and does not impose requirements beyond those standards, while still allowing for higher-quality construction if voluntarily implemented. Brian Epley, County Manager, clarified that the proposed updates are primarily intended to ensure the County's ordinances are compliant with the consolidated N.C.G.S. § 160D, which unified prior statutes governing counties and municipalities into a single framework in 2021.

Commissioner Barrier asked if the proposed Housing Appeals Board would be a newly created board. Mr. Glines explained that it would not be a separate board, but rather an additional function of the existing Board of Adjustment. Clerk Draughn noted that additional clarity on structure and documentation would be helpful. Dylan Laws, County Attorney, stated that, based on his initial understanding, the statute likely allows the Board of Adjustment to assume the duties of a Housing Appeals Board without creating a separate body, but he will conduct further review to confirm the appropriate and compliant structure. Mr. Epley added that bylaws and governance details could be formalized as part of the process.

Discussion continued regarding the role of the Housing Appeals Board and whether certain appeals should remain with the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Barrier expressed concern about maintaining Board involvement in significant appeal decisions. Mr. Glines noted that the ordinance could be adjusted prior to the public hearing based on Board direction. Additional clarification was provided that the Housing Appeals Board could hear cases involving both residential and certain occupied non-residential structures, while vacant non-residential appeals would remain with the Board of Commissioners.

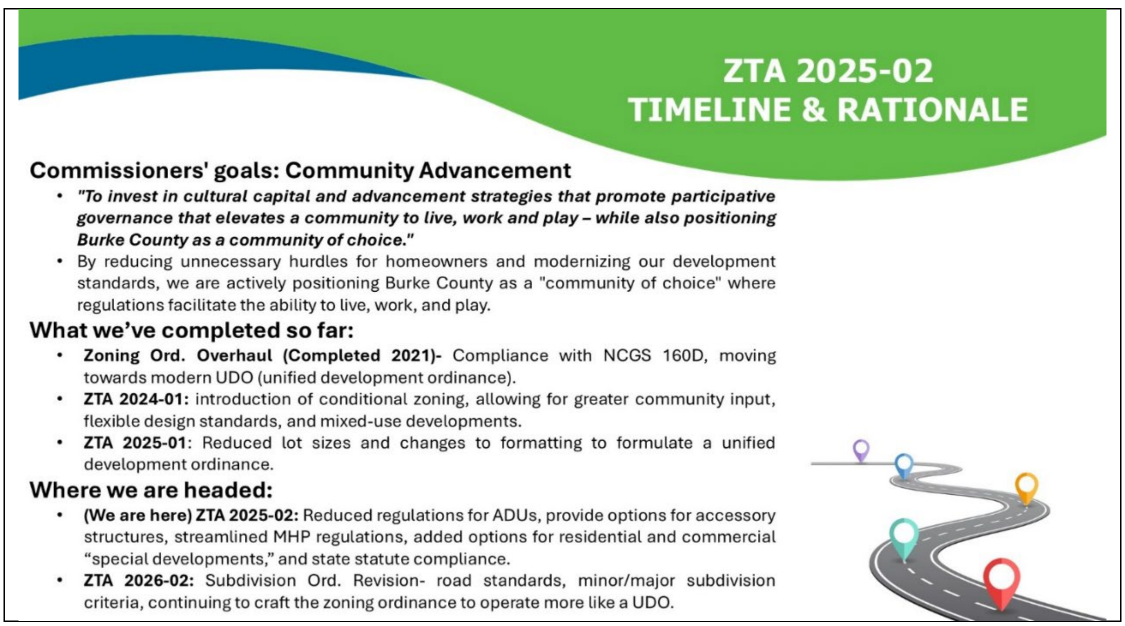
Chairman Brittain and members of the Board discussed the appeal process and the potential benefits of assigning quasi-judicial matters to the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Glines explained that the ordinance provides flexibility in structuring the appeal process and emphasized that staff work to achieve compliance with property owners before escalation to formal hearings. Chairman Brittain also requested additional documentation, such as a side-by-side comparison or redline, to better understand changes between the existing and proposed ordinance.

There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

COMM. DEV. - CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02 (FOR ZTA 2025-02) AMENDING ARTICLES 2, 3, 5, 6, AND 7 OF THE BURKE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE & PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:00 P.M.

Patrick Dickinson, Planner, gave a brief overview of the ordinance amendment as follows:



He then read highlights from the following zoning text amendment:

Zoning Text Amendment 2025-02
Applicant: Burke County Community Development
Request: To amend articles 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 of the Burke County Zoning Ordinance.

Staff initiated this text amendment process as part of our continuous effort to adjust the zoning code to reflect the expressed needs of our community and appointed boards. The primary reason for this update was the regulation of residential accessory structures. Under the current ordinance, strict square footage limitations have become one of the largest burdens on both staff and the Board of Adjustment (BOA). A significant portion of BOA agendas have been dominated by residents applying for special approvals simply to build storage for their personal property.

This amendment addresses the issue of increasing allowable accessory structure square footage across all lot sizes—from 1,500 sq ft for smaller parcels up to 4,000 sq ft for lots over three (3) acres. The amendment also introduces a clear tiered setback system and provides a 1,000 square foot exemption for existing structures on parcels greater than half an acre. These changes will reduce the time and cost burden on residents, staff and the Board of Adjustment while maintaining adequate regulation. While addressing the accessory structure issue, staff conducted a broader review of the ordinance to identify other areas of improvement. We identified the following:

Design Standards: Many design-specific regulations were misplaced in Article 5 (Use Standards) rather than Article 6 (Design Standards), causing confusion for developers and staff. The amendment relocates these provisions, such as fence standards and multi-family setback requirements, to their proper location in Article 6, significantly improving continuity and helping us work towards a UDO (unified development ordinance).

Manufactured Home Parks (MHPs): The existing text contained redundant and burdensome technical requirements that discouraged the renovation and creation of manufactured home parks, a key asset to addressing Burke's housing crisis. The amendment streamlines these regulations by removing duplicative requirements for setbacks, parking, and street standards that are already addressed in Article 6.

Addressing Gaps: Emerging trends like Tiny Homes and Utility-Scale Solar required clear, state-compliant definitions to prevent enforcement issues. The amendment adds formal definitions for both uses, coordinated with NC State Building Code and General Statute § 130A-309.240, respectively, and establishes appropriate regulations, including decommissioning standards for solar farms.

Refreshing Special Developments: The current ordinance lacked sufficient incentives for creative, environmentally sensitive design. The amendment revamps the "Cluster Development" options to offer tangible benefits—including 25% height increases, 20% density bonuses, and up to 30% parking reductions—for developers who protect watershed and environmentally sensitive areas. Additionally, a new "Community Master Plan" framework is introduced to encourage coordinated, mixed-use neighborhoods rather than traditional subdivisions, with flexible standards for projects that demonstrate environmental protection and community compatibility.

In addition to these changes, the amendment modernizes development procedures in Article 7, transitioning from paper submissions to digital site plan sets, clarifying review timelines, and specifying which boards review different project types for greater predictability.

Complete details of all proposed text additions, deletions, and modifications are provided in the attached Exhibit A.

<u>ROUNDTABLE FEEDBACK</u>

To ensure these changes were thoroughly vetted, staff formed a community roundtable to review the draft text. This process involved in-person discussions and an online survey. The roundtable was made up of over 30 individuals from a variety of backgrounds and provided valuable feedback to staff. Some of these changes are included below:

Tiny Homes: The roundtable expressed concern that the term "Tiny Home" was confusing and could be interpreted as allowing RVs or campers as permanent dwellings. Staff refined the definition to explicitly coordinate with the NC State Building Code, requiring an approved foundation (prohibiting wheels/chassis) to clearly differentiate a dwelling from a recreational vehicle.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs): Initial drafts considered allowing detached ADUs for duplex properties. The roundtable raised valid concerns regarding density and the potential friction between "duplex neighbors" sharing a backyard with a rental unit. Staff removed the provision allowing ADUs for duplexes.

Accessory Structure "Discount": Staff proposed an exemption where existing structures wouldn't count toward the total cap to help residents. The roundtable worried this would lead to overbuilding on very small lots. Staff added a threshold requiring a lot to be greater than half an acre to utilize this 1,000 sq. ft. exemption, ensuring small lots remain uncluttered.

Manufactured Home Parks: While streamlining the manufactured home parks text, Staff initially removed a section regarding owner responsibility to rely on general code enforcement. The roundtable strongly felt this specific language was necessary for accountability. Staff restored the "Responsibility" section, clarifying that park owners must maintain units in good order, meeting minimum housing standards.

COMMISSIONERS STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT
This amendment serves as a direct action toward the Board of Commissioners' goal of Community Advancement: "To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play – while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice." By reducing unnecessary hurdles for homeowners and modernizing our development standards, we are actively positioning Burke County as a "community of choice" where regulations facilitate the ability to live, work, and play.

STAFF COMMENTS
Staff work to keep our ordinances up to date with the needs and requirements of Burke County. A zoning code is meant to be a living document, adjusted for issues as they are identified by the community and the Board. Besides bringing text amendments to the Planning Board, staff consider these changes for consistency with the goals identified in the Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan, our roundtable, community input, and the Burke Commissioners Strategic Plan. This amendment supports changes to the zoning ordinance to improve efficiency, encourage diverse housing options, and ensure regulations do not unnecessarily hinder reasonable property use.

PLANNING BOARD DECISION
ZTA 2025-02 was presented to the Burke County Planning Board at their December 4, 2025, meeting. The board reviewed the text amendment and heard a presentation from staff detailing

the changes proposed to the Burke County Zoning Ordinance. The board was highly receptive to the amendment as it reduces unnecessary burden on Burke County residents, streamlines the ordinance for better understanding, and provides improved options for special developments to provide the county with tools to improve our housing crisis. The board voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend the amendment to the Burke County Board of Commissioners.

Note: Due to technical issues, the agenda PDF provided to the Board of Commissioners did not include the zoning text amendment. However, the publicly posted agenda packet on the County website did include the amendment. Printed copies were provided to the Board at the meeting for review, and the Board indicated they wished to defer consideration of the agenda item until they had adequate time to review the materials. After a recess later in the meeting to review the zoning text amendment and a discussion, the Board agreed to move this item without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

CONSENT AGENDA

BCPS - PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

Keith Lawson, Finance Director, BCPS, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement approved by the County and the Board of Education, presented the Board of Education's quarterly financial reports for the 2025 - 2026 budget year, showing the application of the County's local funding.

BCPS

Estimated Revenues

2025/2026

	Annual		Dec YTD			% of Budget
	Previous	Current Fcst	Previous	Current	% Change	Received
State	99,867,340	97,770,126	48,320,065	47,471,925	-1.8%	48.6%
Federal	13,959,820	12,101,500	4,950,499	4,564,851	-7.8%	37.7%
Local	19,279,613	19,481,204	9,801,825	9,912,123	1.1%	50.9%
Charter Schools	970,387	1,018,796	323,175	337,877	4.5%	33.2%
Fines & Forfeitures	289,181	260,396	166,860	96,539	-42.1%	37.1%
Receivables	47,416	42,674	47,015	33,424	-28.9%	78.3%
Special Revenues	12,850,279	12,593,273	4,108,557	3,611,137	-12.1%	28.7%
Total	$ 147,264,036	$ 143,267,969	$ 67,717,996	$ 66,027,876	**-2.5%**	**46.1%**

No state budget would normally be same revenue as previous but projected revenue down due to declining enrollment of 93, and the loss of $1.4M in Low Wealth funding

Difficulty in adjusting expenses to a declining enrollment is we are 86% payroll, and student drop is sprinkled through all 26 schools, so it's not a class, it's one at this grade at this school, a couple at that

14 elementary schools lose one 1st grader each, that's $122k lost. Imagine that across the district at all grade levels. How do you adjust to offset?

BCPS

Local Financials by Purpose & Function Level

2025/2026

Expenses	'22/'23	'23/'24	'24/'25	Budget	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Regular Instructional Services	5,521,972	8,342,293	9,064,177	8,435,386	838,874	2,679,282			3,518,156
Instructional Support	10,283,484	10,865,457	11,133,022	11,641,999	3,728,769	2,580,153			6,308,922
Other Governmental Units	692,840	895,393	1,102,573	1,230,028	62,282	360,635			422,917
Revenues Over/(Under)	100,077	176,296	(713,175)	(504,343)	591,747	(461,779)			129,968
Grand Total	$16,598,373	$20,279,439	$20,586,597	$20,803,070	$5,221,672	$5,158,291	$ -	$ -	$10,379,963
% of Annual Budget									**49.9%**
Revenue									
Burke County	15,593,566	19,157,406	19,279,613	19,481,204	5,123,644	4,788,479			9,912,123
Charter Schools	709,442	842,594	970,387	1,018,796	1,356	336,521			337,877
Fines & Forfeitures	241,513	242,444	289,181	260,396	64,436	32,103			96,539
Schools' Receivables	53,852	36,995	47,416	42,674	32,236	1,188			33,424
Grand Total	$16,598,373	$20,279,439	$20,586,597	20,803,070	5,221,672	5,158,291	-	-	10,379,963

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Commissioner Burns asked whether Burke County Schools was required to share special revenue funds with virtual charter schools, including some reportedly managed outside of North Carolina. Mr. Lawson responded that virtual charter schools receive their per-pupil local and state allocations, but do not receive a share of special revenue funds. Mr. Lawson further commented on concerns regarding the effectiveness of virtual learning, noting the significant learning loss experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent use of ESSER funds to address those impacts, while also noting that the funding cap for virtual charter schools had been lifted to allow them to receive the full per-pupil local allotment similar to brick-and-mortar charter schools.

Commissioner Burns also asked about the primary driver behind the reduction in low-wealth funding. Mr. Lawson stated that the funding formula is complex and largely based on county effective tax rates and levies in comparison to other counties across the state. He explained that the formula is unpredictable, resulting in some years where the County qualifies for funding and other years where it does not.

There being no further discussion. This item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

WPCC - PRESENTATION ON FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DEC. 31, 2025

Sandy Hoilman, Vice President for Administrative Services / Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the College's financial data for the period ending December 31, 2025.

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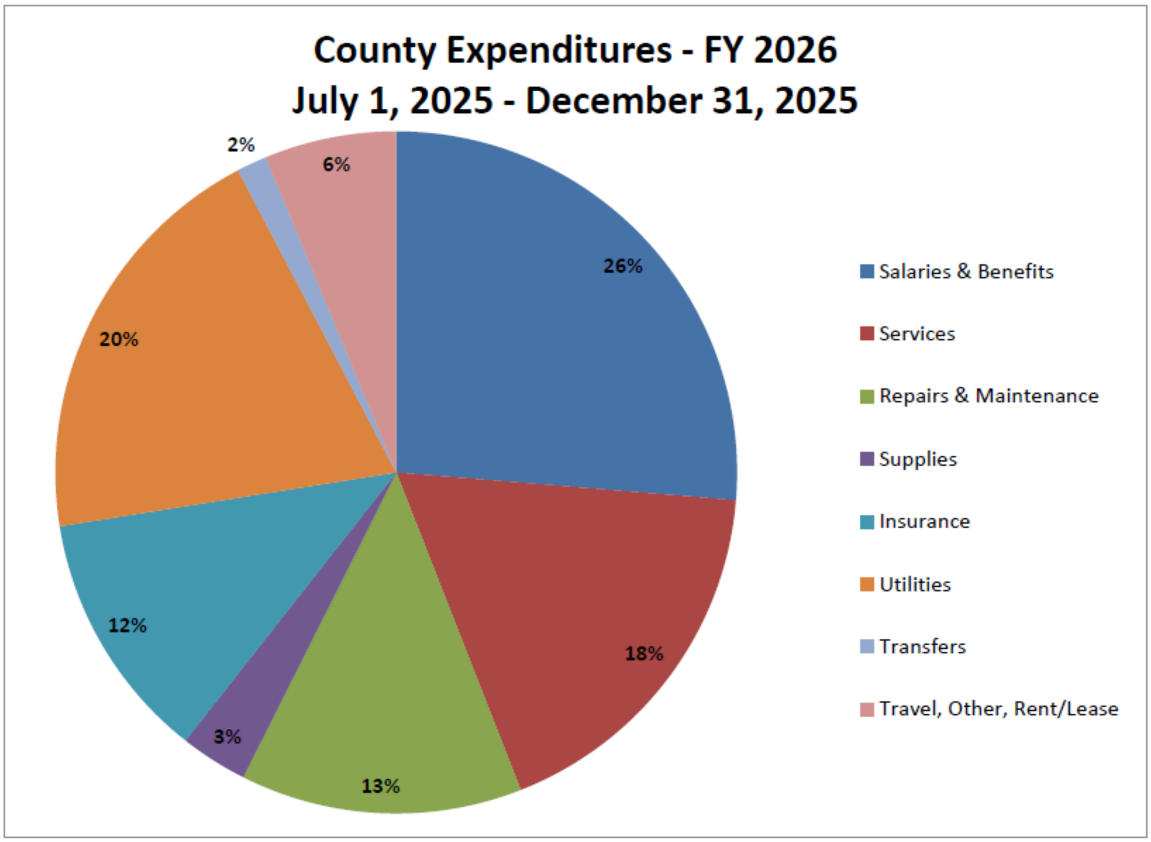
Western Piedmont Community College

County Expenditures by Category

FY 2026 - Actual Expenditures - July 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2025

Salaries & Benefits	435,651	26.3%
Services	294,056	17.8%
Repairs & Maintenance	221,430	13.4%
Supplies	52,948	3.2%
Insurance	196,513	11.9%
Utilities	328,784	19.8%
Transfers	23,683	1.4%
Travel, Other, Rent/Lease	103,535	6.2%
	1,656,600	**100%**



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WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FY 2025-2026 SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

	STATE			COUNTY			INSTITUTIONAL		
Summary of Revenues	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING
State Appropriations	17,506,477	8,728,082							
Add. Allocations (detail below)	382,343								
County Appropriations				3,129,864	1,564,932				
Rent & Interest Income					15,571				
Institutional Funds							10,960,844	4,299,892	
Total Budgeted Revenues	**17,888,820**	**8,728,082**	**9,160,738**	**3,129,864**	**1,580,503**	**1,549,361**	**10,960,844**	**4,299,892**	**6,660,952**
Summary of Expenditures									
Institutional Support	3,675,959	1,728,650	47%	328,234	272,641	83%	44,150	48,779	110%
Curriculum Instruction	7,357,468	3,566,066	48%				800,000	378,864	47%
Non Curriculum Instruction	2,335,148	1,039,431	45%				150,000	59,666	40%
Academic Support	1,439,018	712,055	49%					-	0%
Student Support	1,943,778	972,731	50%				2,000,000	827,042	41%
Plant Operations & Maint.				2,801,630	1,383,959	49%	-	-	0%
Proprietary / Other							1,600,000	636,540	40%
Student Aid							6,366,694	2,221,254	35%
Capital Outlay (excluding Capital Improvements)	1,137,449	210,148	18%				-	-	-
Total Budgeted Expenditures	**17,888,820**	**8,229,081**	**9,659,739**	**3,129,864**	**1,656,600**	**1,473,264**	**10,960,844**	**4,172,145**	**6,788,699**
		46.0%	**54.0%**		**52.9%**	**47.1%**		**38.1%**	**61.9%**

ADDITIONAL FUNDING DESIGNATED FOR APPROVED PROJECTS		
Customized Training Projects	63,873	
ApprenticeshipNC	(34,629)	
Career Coach allocation	149,058	
Safety Regional Trainer	160,922	
Disaster - Hurricane	11,200	
Faculty Retention & Nursing	31,919	
Longevity		
Total Other	**382,343**	

For Year Ending June 30, 2026			
Total College Budget	$	31,979,528	
Total Expenditures	$	14,057,826	**44.0%**

Fund Balance: County Funds	
Fund Balance, Beginning July 1, 2025	688,735
Current Operating Cash	(76,097)
Current Fund Balance	**612,638**
** transferred $59,000 from STIF - 10/28/2025*	
	20%

Additionally, Ms. Hoilman reported that the college's enrollment growth had been funded and highlighted the institution's transition to an eight (8) week semester model alongside traditional 16-week terms. She explained that approximately 70% of courses were moved to the shorter format to improve student success and flexibility. Fall semester full-time enrollment (FTE) increased by 4.9% to 778, while overall headcount slightly decreased. Spring semester FTE enrollment had increased by approximately 9% as of early January, though headcount again declined slightly. Ms. Hoilman noted the college would continue monitoring enrollment trends and the impacts of remote instruction and weather-related disruptions on the new course structure.

Ms. Hoilman also discussed several ongoing and upcoming capital improvement projects, including electrical panel replacements in multiple buildings, reconstruction of the Alpine Tower and Ropes Course damaged by Hurricane Helene, replacement of a chiller unit in Phifer Hall, and renovations at the Foothills Education Center to support a new dental hygiene program. She noted the college had requested the transfer of $650,000 from reserves to support these projects and explained that reimbursement requests to the County would occur after project invoices were paid.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Commissioner Stroud asked whether students in trade and technical programs participated in college construction and capital projects for hands-on learning opportunities. Ms. Hoilman explained that students sometimes participate through internships or work-based learning opportunities, though they typically do not complete projects from start to finish due to permitting, inspection, and timing requirements. She provided examples involving welding students and an intern currently working with a contractor on the emergency services training center project.

Commissioner Randy Burns referenced the Umstead Act, and Ms. Hoilman explained that the Act limits governmental and nonprofit entities from competing with private businesses for profit. She noted that student participation in projects and services must primarily serve instructional purposes rather than generate revenue, citing the cosmetology program as an example.

There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

TDA - FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DEC. 31, 2025

Ed Phillips, CEO, TDA, and Chairman of the America 250 NC Committee, began by updating the Board about an upcoming America 250 initiative of creating a time capsule to be displayed at the Burke County Register of Deeds Office. Then, in accordance with Session Law 2007-265, HB 78, he reported TDA's quarterly receipts and expenditures.

BURKE COUNTY TDA
BUDGET TO ACTUAL JULY 1, 2025-DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Budget	Actual	Available Balance
Income			
4010 · Burke Co. Govt. - Occup. Tax	$ 1,200,000	382,161.87	$ 817,838.13
4110 · Interest Income	$ -	13,115.71	$ (13,115.71)
4120 · Miscellenous	$ 25,000	28,882.74	$ (3,882.74)
4530 · America 250 Grant	$ -	-	$ -
5000 · Trolley Revenue	$ 10,000	11,761.07	$ (1,761.07)
Total Income	$ 1,235,000	435,921.39	$ 799,078.61
Expense			
5010 · Accounting/Audit	$ 10,000	-	$ 10,000.00
5020 · Marketing/Advertising	$ 271,000	143,854.45	$ 127,145.55
5023 · America 250	$ -	16,891.98	$ (16,891.98)
5102 · Membership Dues	$ 2,500	2,037.20	$ 462.80
5109 · Building Maintenance	$ 4,800	2,582.72	$ 2,217.28
5113 · City of Morganton/Tourism	$ 270,000	85,986.42	$ 184,013.58
5115 · Town of Valdese/Tourism	$ 150,000	47,770.23	$ 102,229.77
5117 - Bank Charges	$ -	69.84	$ (69.84)
5150 · Insurance	$ 35,000	18,454.33	$ 16,545.67
5180 · Office Supplies	$ 7,000	2,577.48	$ 4,422.52
5200 · Payroll Expenses	$ 411,000	179,132.10	$ 231,867.90
5250 · Postage	$ 1,000	312.05	$ 687.95
5265 - Retail Items	$ -	-	$ -
5280 · Office Rent	$ 30,000	15,000.00	$ 15,000.00
5285 · Utilities	$ 5,200	922.14	$ 4,277.86
5290 · Telephone	$ 7,000	3,585.15	$ 3,414.85
5300 · Travel/Training	$ 20,500	10,067.70	$ 10,432.30
5301 · Trolley Expenses	$ 10,000	3,494.94	$ 6,505.06
5400 · Misc. Expense	$ -	566.22	$ (566.22)
Total Expense	$ 1,235,000	533,304.95	$ 701,695.05
Net Income	**$ -**	**-97,383.56**	**97,383.56**

After providing a financial update, Mr. Phillips highlighted several upcoming America 250 community initiatives, including the previously mentioned time capsule project, the planting of a liberty tree, and a July 4th event.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments and then inquired about the species of the tree. Mr. Phillips stated that a fire maple had been selected. Commissioner Barrier asked about the TDA's largest marketing and advertising expenditures. Mr. Phillips explained that one of the largest investments was participation in the fall mountain issue of a state magazine, which involves approximately $30,000 in combined TDA funding, along with contributions from local partners and municipalities. He further explained that marketing efforts also target regional markets such as Raleigh and Charlotte and often include hosting photographers and journalists to generate positive publicity for Burke County through publications and media coverage. Commissioner Barrier requested additional information regarding the TDA's largest vendors and advertising expenditures, and Mr. Phillips agreed to provide that information.

Commissioner Stroud asked about the County's ability to support conferences and meetings, noting the limited availability of hotels with conference facilities. Mr. Phillips explained that Burke County's current niche market is smaller meetings and conferences generally involving 200 participants or less. Mr. Phillips further explained that Burke County currently lacks the hotel and conference center capacity of larger markets such as Hickory or Asheville and discussed the financial and operational challenges associated with developing and managing larger conference facilities. He added that the Foothills Higher Education Center remains heavily utilized and frequently booked at capacity.

There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

CLERK - APPOINTMENTS TO THE OPIOID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reported that the terms for Seats No. 4 (Educators), No. 7 (Employers), and No. 10 (Stakeholders with Diversity) on the Opioid Advisory Committee end Feb. 14, 2026. Dr. Welch occupies Seat No. 4 but is no longer available to serve on this committee. An application from Rob Angley, a school counselor, is on file. Katie Olsen occupies Seat No. 7, and Hannah Houston occupies Seat No. 10. Both members have reapplied to serve a second term. The terms are for three (3) years ending February 14, 2029.

Additional Applications on File

- Seat No. 4, educators: N.A.
- Seat No. 7, employers: Jessie Stout (2025).
- Seat No. 10, stakeholders with diversity: N.A.

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

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

CLERK - APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE WPRTA

Kay Druaghn, Clerk to the Board, reported that the County appoints a member and an alternate to the Western Piedmont Regional Transportation Authority, aka Greenway Transportation. Alan Glines, Deputy County Manager / Planning Director, is the voting member, and Bradley Kirkley, Assistant Planning Director / Zoning Administrator, occupies the alternate seat. Terms are for three (3) years, and Mr. Glines had an upcoming retirement.

Western Piedmont Regional Transportation Authority				
7-Members				
Burke Co. Appoints 1 Member and 1 Alternate				
3-Year Terms				
General Statute				
Seat No.	**Position**	**Name-Address**	**Term**	
1	Burke Co.	Alan Glines	A-UT	12/21/2021
	(Member)	P.O. Box 219	R	9/20/2022
		Morganton NC 28680	R	
			TE	6/30/2025
2	Burke Co.	Bradley Kirkley	A	2/28/2023
	(Alternate)	P.O. Box 219	TE	6/30/2025
		Morganton NC 28680		

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. There was a brief discussion on Mr. Glines' retirement. There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

CM - BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8 - $20,000

Brian Epley, County Manager, requested approval for the following budget amendment (No. 8), which recognizes an increase in election reimbursement revenues received over the original budgeted appropriation. These funds are primarily from the City of Hickory due to a required primary. The municipalities reimburse the County for any direct costs of their elections held without a county-wide election at the same time.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8			
REVENUES AND EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	**DESCRIPTION**	**INCREASE**	**DECREASE**
REVENUES			
100-41500-04-434101-	Election Fees	$20,000	
EXPENSES			
100-41502-05-510500-	Poll worker expense	$15,715	
100-41502-05-534010-	Technology	$4,273	
100-41500-05-551000-	Advertising	$12	
Purpose: To recognize increased election reimbursement revenues, primarily from the City of Hickory, related to costs incurred for a required municipal primary election. The municipalities			

reimburse the County for any direct costs of their elections held without a county-wide election at the same time.

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

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

CM - BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 9 - $650,000 (NET ZERO)
Brian Epley, County Manager, requested approval of the following budget amendment (No. 9), which recognizes a request from Western Piedmont Community College (WPCC) for reimbursement from the funds set aside for capital projects. These projects include electric panel replacements, chiller replacement, and renovations to classrooms and labs for dental education. These funds were budgeted in the original approved budget as set aside until requested by WPCC. They will be disbursed after invoices are presented by WPCC to reimburse costs related to the projects. Any funds not used by these projects will continue to be set aside for future capital needs of WPCC.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 9			
REVENUES AND EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	**DESCRIPTION**	**INCREASE**	**DECREASE**
EXPENSES			
221-58500-30-599999-	Budget set aside		$650,000
221-58500-30-590050-	Capital Funds	$650,000	
Purpose: To reimburse Western Piedmont Community College for approved capital projects, including electrical panel replacements, chiller replacement, and classroom and lab renovations, using funds previously set aside in the adopted budget. Any funds not used by these projects will continue to be set aside for future capital needs of WPCC.			

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

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

CM - BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 10 - $2,000
Brian Epley, County Manager, requested approval of the following budget amendment (No. 10), which recognizes an increase in donation revenues received over the original budgeted appropriation. These funds are from the Town of Hildebran for a Senior Day Celebration at the East Burke Senior Center.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 10			
REVENUES AND EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	**DESCRIPTION**	**INCREASE**	**DECREASE**
REVENUES			

100-54501-06-436500-	Donation	$2,000	
EXPENSES			
100-54501-20-561500-	Program Supplies	$1,000	
100-54501-20-562600-	Food Expense	$1,000	
Purpose: To recognize funds received from the Town of Hildebran for a Senior Day Celebration.			

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

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 11 - $52,000
Brian Epley, County Manager, requested the approval of the following budget amendment (No. 11), which recognizes an increase in grant revenues. These funds are from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 11			
REVENUES AND EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	**DESCRIPTION**	**INCREASE**	**DECREASE**
REVENUES			
100-46200-06-436500-	Donation	$52,000	
EXPENSES			
100-46200-10-586000-	Grant Expenses	$52,000	
Purpose: To recognize funds received from the ASPCA for spay and neuter services, food for a pet pantry, preventive care, vaccines, and other related supplies.			

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

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 12 - $15,800
Approval is requested for the following budget amendment (No. 12), which recognizes an increase in donation revenues received over the original budgeted appropriation. These funds are from the Gateway Wellness Foundation to address senior food insecurity. Funds will be used for additional shelf-stable meals and home-delivered meals for Burke County seniors.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 12			
REVENUES AND EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	**DESCRIPTION**	**INCREASE**	**DECREASE**
REVENUES			
100-54502-06-436500-	Donation	$15,800	

EXPENSES			
100-54502-20-562600-	Food Expense	$15,800	
Purpose: To recognize a donation received from the Gateway Wellness Foundation to address senior food insecurity in Burke County.			

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Mr. Epley responded to an inquiry from the Chairman regarding the grant. There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13 - $310,130

Brian Epley, County Manager, requested approval of the following budget amendment (No. 13), which recognizes an increase in donation revenues received over the original budgeted appropriation. These funds are from the Overmountain Victory NC Trail Friends ($160,130) and the Friends of the Fonta Flora Trail ($150,000). These funds will be paid to the NCDOT for the creation of a sidewalk on NC 126.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13			
REVENUES AND EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
REVENUES			
215-21505-06-436515-	Donation	$310,130	
EXPENSES			
215-21505-25-586000-	NCDOT Project-Canal Bridge area	$310,130	
Purpose: To recognize funds received from the Overmountain Victory NC Trail Friends ($160,130) and the Friends of the Fonta Flora Trail ($150,000). These funds will be paid to the NCDOT for them to administer for the creation of a sidewalk and related appenditures off the bridge, as well as the high-visibility crosswalk pavement markings. The sidewalk will be on NC 126 from Benfield's Landing Road across Bridge 0368 to Eastside Avenue in Nebo. The total project is anticipated to be $1,550,000, with NCDOT providing $1,240,000, and the NCDOT will manage the entire project. They will also maintain the sidewalk on the bridge with the County responsible for all sidewalk and sidewalk-related appendages off the bridge after creation.			

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

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM- BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 14 - $1,000,000

Brian Epley, County Manager, requested approval of the following budget amendment (No. 14), which recognizes a grant received from the NC Office of State Budget Management (OSBM). These funds are awarded through the Helene Local Government Capital Grants Program. They will be used to make repairs to streambanks near County owned water and sewer lines and manhole covers impacted by Tropical Storm Helene. No County match is required.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 14			
REVENUES AND EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	**DESCRIPTION**	**INCREASE**	**DECREASE**
REVENUES			
210-21006-01-433100-	OSBM Grant	$1,000,000	
EXPENSES			
210-21006-60-586000-	Streambank Restorations	$1,000,000	
Purpose: To recognize grant funding received from the NC Office of State Budget Management (OSBM). These funds are awarded through the Helene Local Government Capital Grants Program. They will be used to make repairs to streambanks near County owned water and sewer lines and manhole covers impacted by Tropical Storm Helene. No County match is required. No funds were awarded through FEMA Public Assistance reimbursements.			

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Mr. Epley responded to a clarifying question from Commissioner Barrier, noting that the original StRAP (Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program) funding had been designated for the Linville River area, while the newly allocated funding would help address erosion issues affecting existing water and sewer lines.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - RESOLUTION DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY MANAGER FOR THE EXECUTION OF SHORT-TERM LEASES

This item was removed during the approval of the agenda.

RESULT: REMOVED DURING THE APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

FINANCE - PROPERTY SURPLUS SALES

Margaret Pierce, Finance Director / Deputy County Manager, reported that bids have been received through GovDeals for the sale of 12 County-owned real properties. Reserve amounts were established to ensure recovery of outstanding taxes and fees. Nine (9) of the 12 properties received high bids that met or exceeded the minimum reserve amounts. The original high bidder for REID No. 23217 was unable to meet his financial commitment, but the second-highest bidder was still above the reserve.

Properties that met the reserve:

REID#	Address	Acres	Reserve	High Bid	Vs. Reserve
23217	9737 Lakeview Drive	0.38 acres	$ 2,100	$ 2,475	*$ 375.00*
16893	1716 Laurel Drive	0.20 acres	$ 1,000	$ 2,525	*$ 1,525.00*
37261	West View Trail	0.45 acres	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	*$ -*
20313	2668 Pine Mountain Drive	0.06 acres	$ 1,000	$ 2,375	*$ 1,375.00*

9797	2664 Pine Mountain Drive	0.06 acres	$ 1,000	$ 2,600	*$ 1,600.00*
29737	Old NC 18	1.32 acres	$ 1,500	$ 1,725	*$ 225.00*
32899	3095 Music Mountain Road	0.63 acres	$ 3,500	$ 3,800	*$ 300.00*
34337	Mallard Road	0.57 acres	$ 3,100	$ 3,800	*$ 700.00*
44993	37TH Street SW	0.14 acres	$ 2,500	$ 2,625	*$ 125.00*

Properties that did not meet reserve:

REID#	Address	Acres	Reserve	High Bid	Vs. Reserve
12638	Rockyford Street	0.92 acres	$ 5,000	$ 3,250	*$ (1,750.00)*
38040	Kirksey Drive	1.01 acres	$ 22,500	$ 15,201	*$ (7,299.00)*
38041	Kirksey Drive	1.47 acres	$ 22,500	$ 17,000	*$ (5,500.00)*

The Board can (1) decline the high bids and repost the properties with the same reserve amounts, (2) decline the high bids and repost with revised reserve amounts, or (3) accept the high bids as received, or (4) or any other lawful direction regarding disposition of the properties. Board direction is requested.

Note: Properties that met the reserve will remain on Items for Consent, and the properties that did not meet the reserve will be moved to Items for Decision for the regular meeting.

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

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

FINANCE - RUTHERFORD COLLEGE TAX COLLECTION AGREEMENT
Margaret Pierce, Finance Director / Deputy County Manager, presented a request for approval of an agreement between the Town of Rutherford College and the County of Burke authorizing the County to collect taxes on behalf of the Town effective July 1, 2026. Ms. Pierce explained that Rutherford College had requested the County assume billing and collection services similar to arrangements already in place with other municipalities. She stated that the County would charge a 2% fee for the service, consistent with other agreements, and noted that Rutherford College's levy was approximately $214,000, generating an estimated $4,200 in annual revenue for the County. Ms. Pierce further explained that implementation would require only minimal administrative effort, as the municipal tax would simply be added as an additional line item to existing tax bills.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. In response to Commissioner Stroud, Ms. Pierce explained that the County collects taxes for Connelly Springs, Drexel, Glen Alpine, Hildebran, Long View, Rhodhiss, and Valdese. She also noted that Rutherford College had approved the agreement at its January 12, 2026, meeting.

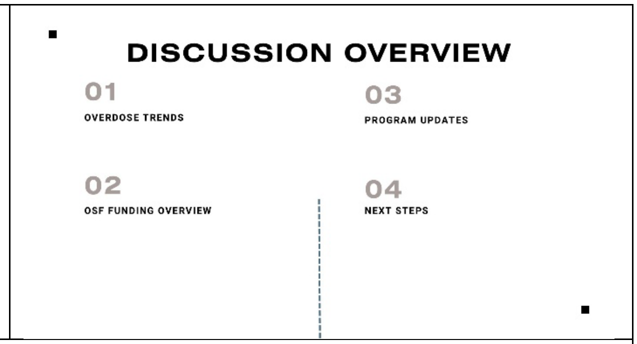
There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

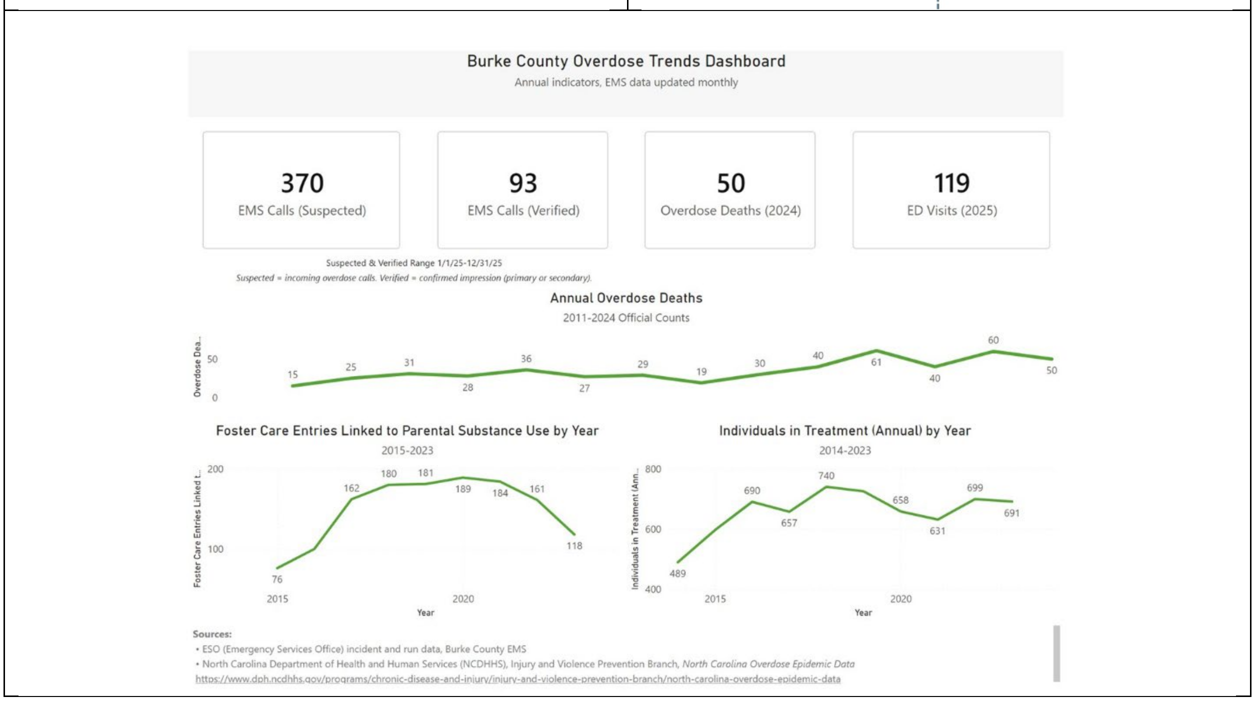
RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

ITEMS FOR DECISION

CM - UPDATE ON THE OPIOID ABATEMENT TEAM

Katie Samuels, Opioid Settlement Coordinator, provided an update on the Opioid Abatement Team and related funded initiatives, including current overdose trends, program operations, staffing, and early outcomes, as follows:





Burke County Opioid Response

FY25-26 Spending Overview

$2.72M	$458.93K	$2.26M	9
FY25-26 Allocated	FY25-26 Spent	FY25-26 Remaining	Active Programs

FY25-26 Unique Resolutions by Year and Month

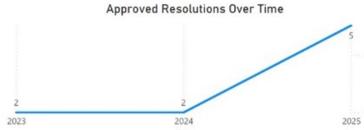
Program	Implementation	Total Allocation	Total Spent	Sum of Remaining Amount	Percent Spent	Percent of Term Elapsed	Pace Status
B.E.A.R	In Progress	$740,885.00	$68,109.37	$672,775.63	9.19%	40%	Behind
Community Navigator	In Progress	$114,219.00	$43,124.27	$71,094.73	37.76%	40%	On track
FCT-R	In Progress	$390,000.00	$31,738.00	$358,262.00	8.14%	40%	Behind
Low-Barrier MAT	In Progress	$267,305.00	$65,384.00	$201,921.00	24.46%	40%	Behind
SACOT/SAIOP	In Progress	$300,000.00	$60,000.00	$240,000.00	20.00%	40%	Behind
Burke County Recovery Court	Fully Operational	$216,000.00	$64,600.65	$151,399.35	29.91%	36%	On track
Naloxone Distribution	Fully Operational	$39,505.00	$9,460.88	$30,044.12	23.95%	40%	Behind
Opioid Response Deputy Director	Fully Operational	$250,000.00	$44,610.81	$205,389.19	17.84%	18%	On track
Opioid Response Director	Fully Operational	$405,000.00	$71,903.97	$333,096.03	17.75%	18%	On track
Total		**$2,722,914.00**	**$458,931.95**	**$2,263,982.05**	**16.85%**	**18%**	**On track**

Burke County Opioid Response

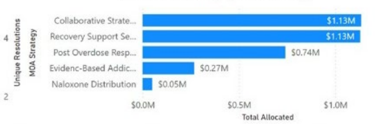
Settlement Overview

$25.24M	$9.53M	$3.32M	$6.20M
Total Disbursements	Total Disbursements Received	Total Allocated	Unallocated Amount

Approved Resolutions Over Time



Allocated Funding by MOA Strategy



Program	Total Allocated	Sum of Total Spent	Percent Spent (DAX)	Sum of Remaining Amount
B.E.A.R	$740,885.00	$68,109.37	9.2%	$672,775.63
Burke County Recovery Court	$325,721.00	$173,968.94	53.4%	$151,752.06
Community Navigator	$114,219.00	$43,124.27	37.8%	$71,094.73
FCT-R	$390,000.00	$31,738.00	8.1%	$358,262.00
Low-Barrier MAT	$267,305.00	$65,384.00	24.5%	$201,921.00
Naloxone Distribution	$49,505.00	$19,460.88	39.3%	$30,044.12
Opioid Response Deputy Director	$303,057.00	$97,667.81	32.2%	$205,389.19
Opioid Response Director	$705,000.00	$285,673.62	40.5%	$419,326.38
Peers Partnering for Excellence	$30,000.00	$5,266.93	17.6%	$24,733.07
SACOT/SAIOP	$300,000.00	$60,000.00	20.0%	$240,000.00
Strategic Planning	$96,500.00	$30,900.00	32.0%	$65,600.00
Total	**$3,322,192.00**	**$881,293.82**	**26.5%**	**$2,440,898.18**

Burke County Opioid Response

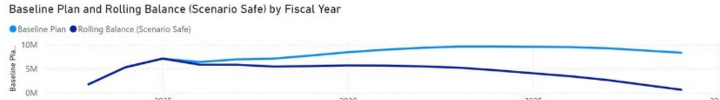
Cash Flow Projections

$1.75M	$612.24K
Lowest Projected...	Lowest Scenario...

Additional Annual Spending (Scenario)

$550,000

Baseline Plan and Rolling Balance (Scenario Safe) by Fiscal Year



Fiscal Year	Deposits (Cash Flow)	Spending (Cash Flow)	Net Change (Cash Flow)	Rolling Balance (Cash Flow)
2023	$1,745,171.09	$0.00	$1,745,171.09	$1,745,171.09
2024	$3,695,197.39	$147,521.34	$3,547,676.05	$5,292,847.14
2025	$2,065,959.01	$274,840.43	$1,791,118.58	$7,083,965.72
2026	$2,019,674.85	$2,722,914.00	($703,239.15)	$6,380,726.57
2027	$1,599,131.21	$1,060,000.00	$539,131.21	$6,919,857.78
2028	$1,223,385.36	$1,060,000.00	$163,385.36	$7,083,243.14
2029	$1,695,244.09	$1,060,000.00	$635,244.09	$7,718,487.23
2030	$1,760,802.61	$1,060,000.00	$700,802.61	$8,419,289.84
2031	$1,570,125.55	$1,060,000.00	$510,125.55	$8,929,415.39
2032	$1,457,008.02	$1,060,000.00	$397,008.02	$9,326,423.41
2033	$1,339,341.01	$1,060,000.00	$279,341.01	$9,605,764.42
2034	$1,060,368.21	$1,060,000.00	$368.21	$9,606,132.63
2035	$995,980.33	$1,060,000.00	($64,019.67)	$9,542,112.96
2036	$995,980.33	$1,060,000.00	($64,019.67)	$9,478,093.29
2037	$823,672.01	$1,060,000.00	($236,327.99)	$9,241,765.30
2038	$595,235.18	$1,060,000.00	($464,764.82)	$8,777,000.48
2039	$595,235.18	$1,060,000.00	($464,764.82)	$8,312,235.66
Total	**$25,237,511.43**	**$16,925,275.77**	**$8,312,235.66**	**$8,312,235.66**

CURRENT STRATEGY UPDATES

- BEAR TEAM & COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR
- BURKE COUNTY RECOVERY COURT
- HIGH COUNTRY COMMUNITY HEALTH
- SPARC
- A CARING ALTERNATIVE

BEAR TEAM & COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Staffing & Operations

- 2 AM teams staffed: 1 Community Paramedic + 1 Peer Support per team
- PM/overnight recruitment in progress
- Referrals accepted via dispatch, EMS, hospitals, and community partners

Call Volume & Impact

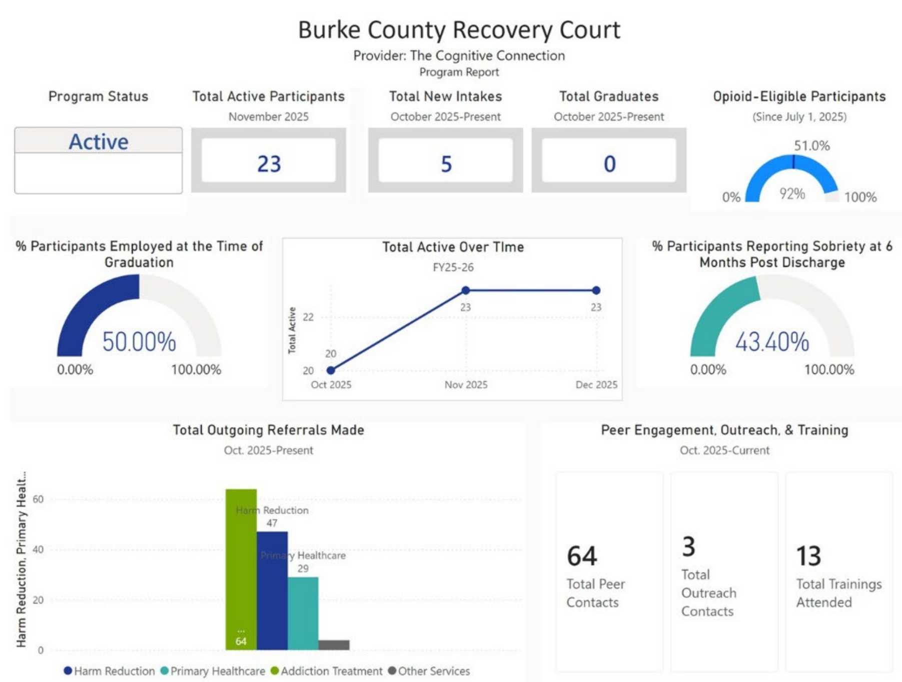
- 64 responses since soft launch
- Response volume tripled post-expansion (from ~4.3 to ~13.8 calls/week)
- 35% of responses involve active or historical substance use, regardless of original call type

System Integration & Coordination

- Regular coordination with EMS, hospitals, treatment providers, and community orgs
- Goldie case management system in progress for centralized tracking and reporting

Early Outcomes

- Improved handoffs between emergency and recovery services
- Reduced repeat calls and delays in care
- Real-time linkage to treatment, transport, and basic needs
- Case vignettes highlight stabilization of high-utilizers and connection to long-term support



High Country Community Health
Low-Barrier MOUD Program Update
Reporting through December 2025

- Status: Actively serving participants (launched Jan. 5, 2026)
- Staffing:
  - Filled: LCSW, MOUD Medical Provider, Medical Assistant
  - In progress: Clinical Pharmacist, PMHNP (positions relisted, interviews underway)
  - 100% of current staff trained in trauma-informed, harm reduction care
- Operational Highlights:
  - EMS handoffs and mobile outreach active
  - Field inductions have begun
- Participant Impact (December):
  - 51 participants served (100% with OUD)
  - 9 MOUD inductions
  - 51 outreach participants linked to treatment
- Early Retention Data:
  - 46 participants retained at 30 days
  - 37 retained at 90 days
  - 58% engaged in MOUD beyond 3 months

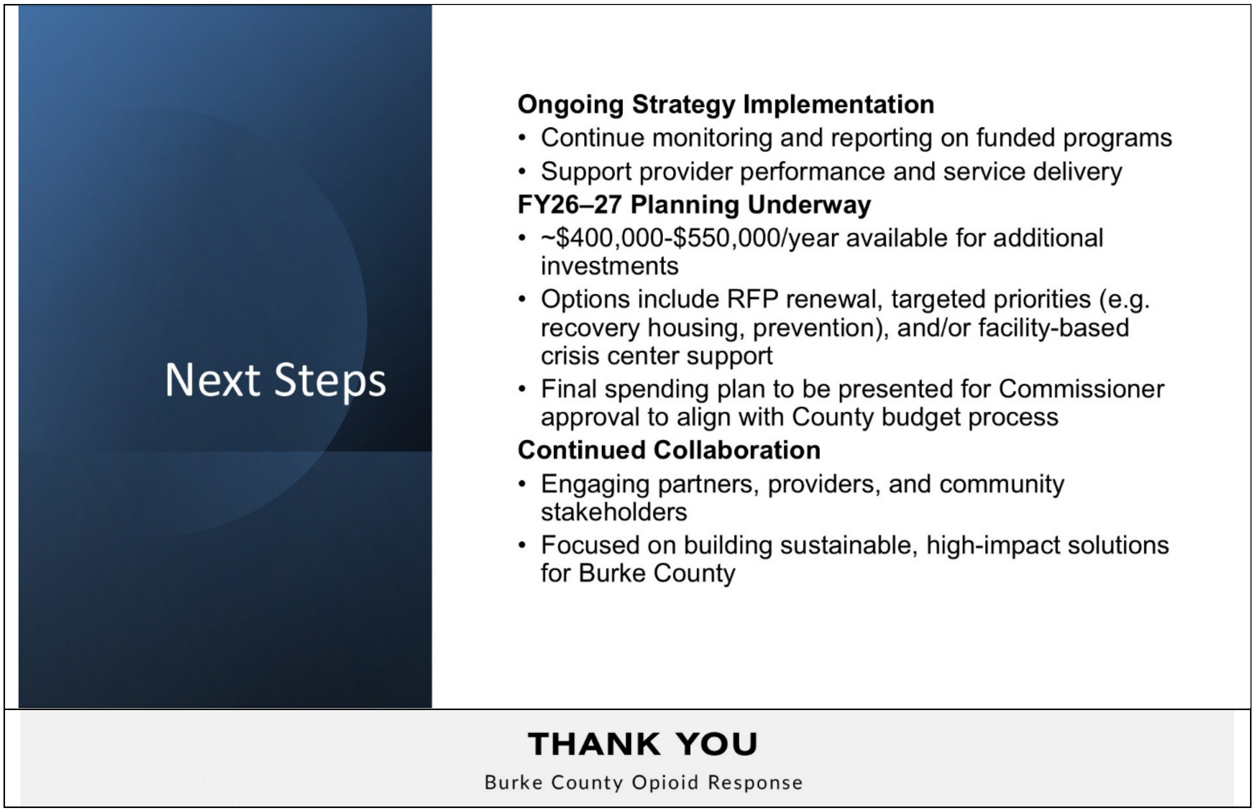
SPARC
FCT-R Program Update
Reporting through January 2026

Actively serving families since October 2025

- Staffing:
  - 5 total staff (including 1 with lived experience)
  - 2 FCT-R Practitioners
  - 1 Certified Peer Support Specialist (PSS) onboarded and fully trained
  - 100% of team trained in trauma-informed care and FCT-R curriculum
  - Field-based FCT-R certification training in progress
- Key Activities & Community Engagement
  - Referrals received from DJJ, DSS, and community partners (6 in October, 7 in November, 3 in December)
  - Regular outreach to DSS and DJJ to strengthen early engagement
  - Presented at BSAN, Burke Rally, and scheduled to present to DSS Jan. 13
  - FCT-R team selected to present at the April 2026 APNC Conference
- Participant Impact (December 2025)
  - 6 active families
  - 80 total participant contacts, including:
    - 32 family therapy sessions
    - 25 peer support sessions
    - 5 random drug screens
- 11 average service hours per family
- 100% engagement within 48 hours of referral
- Early outcomes: Improved substance use patterns and increased trust
- Highlight: Youth participant with initial resistance maintained 14 days of abstinence and proactively disclosed return-to-use to practitioner

A Caring Alternative (ACA)
SACOT/SAIOP Program Update
Reporting through January 2026

- Licensure & Program Status
  - State licensure site visit completed — verbally approved
  - Awaiting formal license (up to 3 weeks)
  - Next steps: MCO credentialing and contracting
- Staffing & Training
  - New CADC hire: Renaye Chapman starting next month
  - Peer Support Specialist offer extended
  - Debbie Punch to begin staff training this month (Matrix Model certified trainer)
  - Team Lead: CJ Lee
- Outreach & Referrals
  - Receiving referrals from BEAR and internal ACA providers
  - Interim services underway:
    - CJ Lee (outpatient therapy)
    - Tim (peer support)
  - Outreach efforts continue with local partners to market the program
- Next Steps
  - Finalize licensure
  - Complete MCO contracting
  - Launch services



Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Dr. Samuels responded to a clarifying question from Commissioner Barrier. There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection.

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

As a matter of clarification, Chairman Brittain stated that the properties under Consent Item No. 14, Finance - Property Surplus Sales, that received qualifying high bids would remain on the consent agenda, while the remaining properties would be removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration under Items for Decision.

CM - PROPERTY PURCHASE APPROVAL - OPIOID (PLACE HOLDER)
This item was removed during the approval of the agenda.

RESULT:	**REMOVED DURING THE APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

TAX - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 31, 2026 (PLACE HOLDER)
Brian Epley, County Manager, stated that the Board of Commissioners will be presented with the Tax Collection Report for the period between July 1, 2025, and January 31, 2026, at their regular meeting.

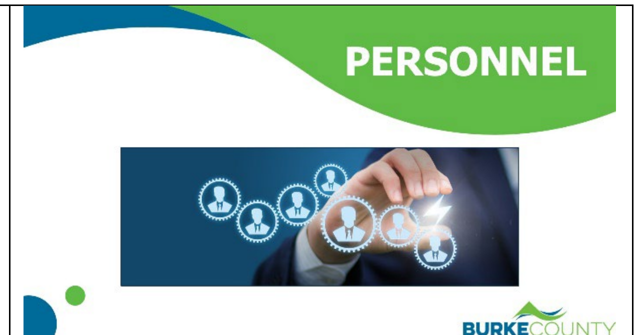
RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING (CONSENT AGENDA) ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

TAX - TAX RELEASE AND REFUND REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 31, 2026 (PLACE HOLDER)
Brian Epley, County Manager, stated that the Board of Commissioners will be presented with the Releases and Refunds Report at their regular meeting.

RESULT:	**MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING (CONSENT AGENDA) ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

ACTION ITEMS

DSS - MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT
Korey Fisher-Wellman, DSS Director, presented the monthly operational report as follows:



OPERATIONS

Economic Services MOU Data

METRICS PER MOU						
	FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES					
		MOU MEASURE	95%	95%		
ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APP TIMELINESS RATE- REGULAR	APP TIMELINESS RATE-EXPEDITE	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE		
10,269	5,389	Achieved	Achieved	Acheived		
WORK FIRST FAMILY ASSISTANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES						
ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	MOU MEASURE	95%	95%		
			APPLICATION TIMELINESS	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE		
77	53		Achieved	Achieved		
MEDICAID		MOU MEASURE	90	90	95	
TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES		REPORT CARD MAD	REPORT CARD OTHER	Straight Through Processing	
28,637	23,324		Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
SPECIAL ASSISTANCE						
	MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE			85%	85%	
SA ACTIVE CASES				SAA TIMELINESS APPLICATIONS	SAD TIMELINESS APPLICATIONS	
253				Achieved	Achieved	
ENERGY PROGRAMS						
	MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE				95%	95%
	CIP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED	LIEAP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED			% PROCESSED TIMELY -NO SOURCE 1 DAY	% PROCESSED TIMELY -WITH SOURCE 2 DAYS
	474	221			Achieved	Achieved
CHILD CARE SUBSIDY						
		PERFORMANCE MEASURE		95%		
	ACTIVE CASES			APPLICATION TIMELINESS		
	406			Achieved		

Economic Services Update

MEDICAID

	ADULT ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS Does not include MXP or FP cases	ADULT ACTIVE CASES *Does not include MXP or FP cases	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS * includes MXP or FP	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE CASES * includes MXP or FP	TOTAL MEDICAID APPLICATIONS TAKEN	TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS	CAP REFERRALS	LTC REFERRALS	TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS	TOTAL NEMT TRIPS	REPORT CARD MAD	REPORT CARD OTHER	RECERT COMPLETION TIMELINESS RATE	Straight Through Processing	Total
										MOU MEASURE	90	90	95		
JAN	5412	7,612	23126	14,845	565	2090	5	9	28,538	651	96%	96%	[redacted]	100%	96%
FEB	5391	7,608	23436	14,952	352	*	1	7	28,561	683	93%	95%	[redacted]	100%	95%
MAR	5356	7,618	23247	15,012	411	*	11	13	28603	735	100%	95%	[redacted]	100%	95%
APR	5389	7,752	23481	15,037	380	1571	4	12	28,870	683	96%	95%	[redacted]	100%	95%
MAY	5351	7,658	23365	15,147	382	*	3	9	28,716	713	93%	97%	[redacted]	100%	97%
JUN	5338	7,683	23515	15,235	346	1540	0	17	28,851	698	96%	94%	[redacted]	100%	95%
JUL	5327	7,734	23,544	15,333	382	1435	2	18	28,873	731	93%	95%	[redacted]	100%	95%
AUG	5283	7,753	23448	15,418	325	1386	1	12	28,731	823	100%	96%	[redacted]	100%	96%
SEP	5289	7,744	23471	15,459	378	1586	2	16	28,740	756	100%	94%	[redacted]	100%	94%
OCT	5311	7,747	23422	16,290	398	1606	1	16	28,733	638	100%	98%	[redacted]	100%	98%
NOV	5342	7,755	23,381	15,465	472	1825	2	12	28,723	624	100%	96%	[redacted]	100%	97%
DEC	5313	7,761	23,324	15,542	560	1890	3	15	28,637	832	100%	95%	[redacted]	100%	96%

Economic Services Update

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

	ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APPLICATIONS TAKEN	APP TIMELINESS RATE-REGULAR	APP TIMELINESS RATE-EXPEDITE	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE	RECERTS COMPLETED	FNS EBT BENEFITS
			MOU MEASURE	95%	95%	95%		
JAN	12,108	6275	585	100%	99.31%	97.77%	525	1,973,378.00
FEB	11,951	6236	449	97.18%	100%	98.75%	561	1,963,605.00
MAR	11,907	6183	499	97.21%	100%	98.48%	526	1,965,566.00
APR	11,396	5959	591	97.24%	100.00%	97.77%	720	1,871,687.00
MAY	11,002	5732	576	98.11%	99.15%	99.13%	692	1,808,941.00
JUN	10,804	5,597	598	97.69%	92.73%	98.19%	553	1,783,246.00
JUL	10,715	5,556	594	96.83%	96.84%	98.74%	548	1,760,696.00
AUG	10,783	5602	558	99.52%	99.31%	98.86%	528	1,778,789.00
SEP	10,794	5605	580	99.13%	97.98%	99.41%	509	1,752,253.00
OCT	10,695	5568	512	99..07%	99.02%	98.65%	445	1,797,705.00
NOV	10,418	5445	417	99.15%	98.81%	99.70%	336	1,759,731.00
DEC	10,269	5389	479	100.00%	100%	99.36%	336	1,721,688.20

ADULT SERVICES UPDATE

Guardianship
- Total Wards: 71
- Contracted Wards: 16

SAIH (Special Assistance In-Home)
- Active Cases: 54
- State Average Caseload: 25-30

CAP (Community Alternatives Program)
- Current Enrollment: 133
- Capacity: 188+

Dec. APS Data

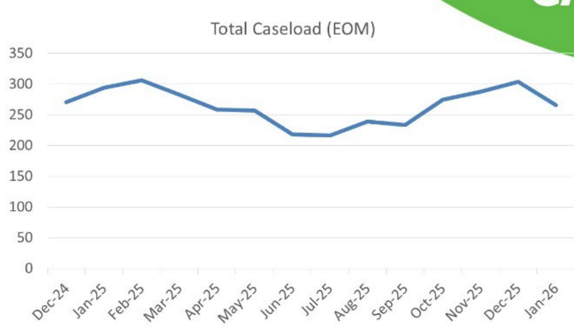
Category	Number	Notes
Total APS Reports Received	24	
APS Reports Screened In	11	Reports meeting criteria for an investigation
Substantiated Cases	4	
Confirmed Cases	5	Includes substantiations and other confirmations
Cases Opened for Services	8	Ongoing support and case management
Outreach Cases Assigned	8	Proactive engagement with at-risk adults
Service Referrals	9	Referrals for supportive community services
Guardianship Referrals	7	Referrals for potential legal guardianship

CPS REPORTS AS OF 1/23

- September 2025 intake peak
- Average Screened-In reports per month since PathNC adoption is 76.5
- As of 1/23, 49 Screen-In's for January

BURKECOUNTY

CPS CASELOADS



- High point was February 2025 with 306 Open cases
- Seasonal reporting has slowed during the winter

BURKECOUNTY

FOSTER CARE UPDATE

Every child deserves a family

Foster Care Snapshot – Burke County

- Total children in foster care: 192
- New entries into care this period: 6
- Exits from care this period: 4

BURKECOUNTY

EMERGING ISSUES

BURKECOUNTY

ONGOING TRANSITION INTO PATH NC

PATHNC

Transition to PATH NC – August 2026

- **Burke DSS will transition to the PATH NC practice model in August for:**
  - CPS In-Home Services
  - Permanency Planning
  - Financials

What This Means

- Alignment with a standardized, statewide child welfare practice model
- Strengthened consistency, accountability, and service delivery
- Enhanced support for staff and improved outcomes for children and families

Implementation Focus

- Staff training and readiness activities underway
- Close coordination with DHHS and PATH NC partners
- Commitment to maintaining service continuity throughout the transition

BURKECOUNTY

CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF HR 1

H.R. 1 Implementation – Food & Nutrition (SNAP)

- Reviewing federal guidance and assessing impacts of expanded work requirements and eligibility changes
- Preparing NC FAST system updates, policy revisions, and client notices
- Evaluating staffing, training, and fiscal impacts tied to increased administrative workload
- Coordinating state and county implementation timelines while guidance continues to evolve

H.R. 1 Implementation – Medicaid

- Planning for new work and community engagement requirements, including verification and reporting processes
- Updating eligibility systems, workflows, and staff training to support increased redeterminations
- Developing communication strategies to minimize coverage disruptions for beneficiaries
- Monitoring ongoing federal guidance and legal developments impacting implementation

BURKECOUNTY

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments, then asked for an explanation of the Community Alternatives Program (CAP). Mr. Fisher-Wellman stated that the program is designed to help individuals with needs remain in their homes and communities rather than requiring placement in a facility by providing assistance with daily living functions. Commissioner Barrier asked whether individuals or family members could self-refer to the CAP program. Mr. Fisher-Wellman explained that self-referrals are permitted; however, all referrals are processed through the State, which assigns referrals among multiple CAP providers. He noted that families are provided freedom of choice in selecting a provider.

Commissioner Barrier asked whether community paramedics, emergency services personnel, or others responding to lift assists and related calls had a formal process for identifying and connecting potential CAP participants with services. Brian Epley, County Manager, stated that no formalized process currently exists, but suggested that additional coordination and education regarding available services and referral procedures could be beneficial. He further noted that referrals often occur naturally through observations by community members, emergency personnel, or law enforcement. Mr. Fisher-Wellman added that Burke County paramedics and law enforcement personnel already play a significant role in connecting individuals and families with available resources and services. He explained that because CAP is a Medicaid-billable service, participants must be informed of all provider options and select their preferred CAP provider.

Commissioner Barrier also referenced examples from other communities where community paramedic programs partnered with hospice or supportive care organizations to help reduce repeated non-emergency 911 calls and suggested that concept for consideration.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Brittain called 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

RECESS OF THE MEETING

Chairman Brittain called for a recess of the meeting at 3:40 p.m. to allow for the Board to review the zoning text amendment 2025-02, and the meeting resumed at 3:49 p.m.

Following the recess, Commissioner Barrier raised concerns regarding proposed language for accessory dwelling units requiring compatibility with the primary structure, questioning the subjectivity and potential enforceability of appearance standards. Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, explained that the language was existing ordinance language originally intended to encourage accessory dwelling units to blend with surrounding properties and neighborhood character. Discussion ensued regarding the complaint-driven nature of zoning enforcement, potential revisions to make the language less mandatory, and balancing neighborhood compatibility with individual property rights. Commissioner Stroud expressed support for retaining some form of compatibility language. Chairman Brittain encouraged Commissioners to continue reviewing the proposed amendment and provide additional feedback to community development staff prior to the regular meeting public hearing. There being no further discussion, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chairman Brittain relayed information on some upcoming meetings and community events.

ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn at 4:58 p.m.

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

Approved this 18th day of May 2026.

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

Attest:

Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners