

BUDGET ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Southeastern Catawba County SECC Water & Sewer District Board:

SECTION I

Budget Adoption, 2025/26

The following budget with anticipated fund revenues of \$0 and expenditures of \$0 is hereby adopted in accordance with Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes by the Southeastern Catawba County (SECC) Water & Sewer District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, and the same is adopted by fund.

The following procedures, controls, and authorities shall apply to transfers and adjustments within the budget.

- A. **Transfers within the District:** The District Director may transfer line item appropriations between and within activities with the approval of the Budget Director or her designee.
- B. **Transfers of Capital Projects Appropriations:** Transfers of appropriations up to \$50,000 between projects within the capital project fund may be approved by the Budget Officer or her designee. All transfers between projects are reported to the District Board by its next regular meeting following the date of the transfer.

SECTION II

Capital Projects and Grants

Project Managers will be designated on a project-by-project basis for all District construction projects and follow the procedures set forth in Chapter 8 of the Catawba County Code of Ordinances shall be used to coordinate the efforts of all parties involved in a project. Any changes in the cost, as a result of bids or otherwise, shall be reported by the Project Managers along with his or her recommendation of approval to the District Board prior to the advertising of bids. When compiled and approved by user agencies, all projects must conform to the Catawba County Design and Construction Specifications.

Appropriations made for the specific projects or grants in the SECC Water & Sewer Capital Fund are hereby appropriated until the project is completed. Balances remaining as of June 30, 2025, in previously appropriated water and sewer capital projects located within the SECC Water and Sewer District Service Area become part of the District Capital Fund with the adoption of the Catawba County and SECC Water & Sewer District Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budgets.

SECTION III

Fiscal Control Act

The Budget and Management Director and the Chief Financial Officer are hereby directed to make any changes in the budget of fiscal practices that are required by the Local Government and Fiscal Control Act. This shall extend to permitted consolidations of funds and "Single Tax Levies" permitted in the Fiscal Control Act.

- A. As provided by G.S. 159-25 (b), the Board has authorized dual signatures for each check or draft that is made on County funds. The signatures of the County Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Deputy County Manager, Assistant County Manager, and Assistant Chief Financial Officer shall be authorized signatures of the County.
- B. Operating funds encumbered on the financial records of the SECC Water & Sewer District as of June 30, 2025, are hereby re-appropriated to this budget.
- C. The Board also authorizes (as is the practice) one principal account as depository for all funds received by the Chief Financial Officer from any source. Current accounting techniques shall be used to assure that all funds will be properly accounted for in the financial records of the County.

SECTION IV

Authorization to Contract

The Budget Officer or her designee are hereby authorized to execute agreements, within funds included in the Budget Ordinance or other actions by the SECC Water & Sewer District Board, for the following purposes: 1) Form grant agreements to public and non-profit organizations; 2) Leases of routine business equipment; 3) Consultant, professional, or maintenance service agreements; 4) Purchase of supplies, materials, or equipment where formal bids are not required by law; 5) Applications for and agreements for acceptance of grant funds from Federal, State, public, and non-profit organization sources, and other funds from other government units, for services to be rendered which have been previously approved by the Board; 6) Construction or repair projects; 7) Liability, health, life, disability, casualty, property, or other insurance or performance bonds; and 8) Other administrative contracts which include agreements adopted in accordance with the directives of the SECC Water & Sewer District Board.

SECTION V

Authorization to Award and Reject Bids

Pursuant to General Statute 143-129, the Budget Officer is hereby authorized to award formal bids received in amounts less than \$250,000 within the following guidelines: 1) bid is awarded to the lowest responsible bidder; 2) sufficient funding is available within the departmental budget; and 3) purchase is consistent with the goals and/or outcomes of the department. The Budget Officer shall further be authorized to reject any and/or all bids received if it is in the best interest of the SECC Water & Sewer District. A report shall be made to the SECC Water & Sewer District Board of all bids awarded or rejected under this section and entered in the minutes of its formal sessions.

SECTION VI

Micro-purchase Threshold

In accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(iv) and the applicable provisions of North Carolina law, the County hereby self-certifies the following micro-purchase thresholds, each of which is a “higher threshold consistent with State law” under 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(iv)(C):

- A. \$30,000, for the purchase of “apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment”; and
- B. \$30,000, for the purchase of “construction or repair work”; and
- C. \$50,000, for the purchase of services not subject to competitive bidding under North Carolina law; and
- D. \$50,000, for the purchase of services subject to the qualifications-based selection process in the Mini-Brooks Act; provided that such threshold shall apply to a contract only if the County has exercised an exemption to the Mini-Brooks Act, in writing, for a particular project pursuant to G.S. 143-64.32. If the exemption is not authorized, the micro-purchase threshold shall be \$0.

The self-certification made herein shall be effective as of the effective date of this ordinance and shall be applicable until June 30, 2026, but shall not be applicable to Federal financial assistance awards issued prior to November 12, 2020, including financial assistance awards issued prior to that date under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Support (CARES) Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116-136).

In the event that the County receives funding from a federal grantor agency that adopts a threshold more restrictive than those contained herein, the County shall comply with the more restrictive threshold when expending such funds.

The County shall maintain documentation to be made available to a Federal awarding agency, any pass-through entity, and auditors in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

The Catawba County Purchasing Manager and Clerk are hereby authorized, individually and collectively, to revise the County’s Purchasing Ordinance and Policy to reflect the increased micro-purchase thresholds specified herein, and to take all such actions, individually and collectively, to carry into effect the purpose and intent of the foregoing resolution.

This ordinance is adopted this 2nd day of June 2025.



C. Randall Isenhower, Chair



Mary S. Furtado, Budget Officer

SECC WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

In 2016, in support of the Board of Commissioners' Strategic Plan, Utilities and Engineering undertook a comprehensive planning process focused on the Southeast Catawba County (SECC) section of Catawba County. Through the planning process, the BOC established three primary policy objectives:

1. Establish a policy framework rooted in fairness and shared risk;
2. Move the Water and Sewer Fund towards financial solvency / self-sufficiency and away from General Fund transfers; and
3. Codify a framework supporting shared participation with developers and citizens alike.

In 2020, the Board accepted the [Southeast Catawba County \(SECC\) Water and Sewer Master Plan](#). One of the financial and governance recommendations from the plan was the creation of a County Water & Sewer District. The Board of Commissioner established the district in 2021.

The SECC Water and Sewer District Fund is an enterprise fund established to account for operating expenses of the district

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

SECC WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Fund 550

	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Current	2025/26 Requested	2025/26 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Sales Tax	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Local	0	0	0	0	0%
Permits & Fees	0	0	0	0	0%
From W&S Oper. Fund (515)	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%

SECC WATER & SEWER DISTRICT CAPITAL FUND

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In 2020, the Board accepted the Southeast Catawba County (SECC) Water and Sewer Master Plan. One of the financial and governance recommendations from the plan was the creation of a County Water & Sewer District. The Board of Commissioner established the district in 2021.

The SECC Water and Sewer District Capital Fund is an enterprise fund established to account for capital project expenses of the district.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

SECC WATER & SEWER DISTRICT CAPITAL FUND

Fund 450

	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Current	2025/26 Requested	2025/26 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Sales Tax	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Transfer from General Fund	0	0	0	0	0%
Transfer from ARP Fund (291)	0	0	0	0	0%
Transfer from Water & Sewer Oper (515)	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Expenses					
Hickory-Catawba WWTP Future Exp.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
S NC 16 Water	0	0	0	0	0%
Village Center PS Upgrade	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%