



catawba county

FY 2026/27 BUDGET IN BRIEF

County Leadership

Board of Commissioners



C. Randall Isenhower
Board Chair



Austin Allran
Board Vice-Chair



Robert C. Abernethy
Board Member



Barbara G. Beatty
Board Member



Cole Setzer
Board Member

County Management



Mary Furtado
County Manager



Adam Lindsay
Asst County Manager



Paul Murray
Asst County Manager

Strategic Plan

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Collaboratively positioning Catawba County to attract relevant tax base investment, jobs, and higher wages through targeted economic and workforce development.

EDUCATION

Advance the community's talent attraction and retention strategy through targeted alignment of higher education programs and resources to support current and future workforce needs.

Providing quality public school facilities that meet student needs while continuing to foster the County's positive business environment.

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Ensuring a balanced and deliberate approach to future growth stewardship that preserves quality of life while supporting continued economic development.

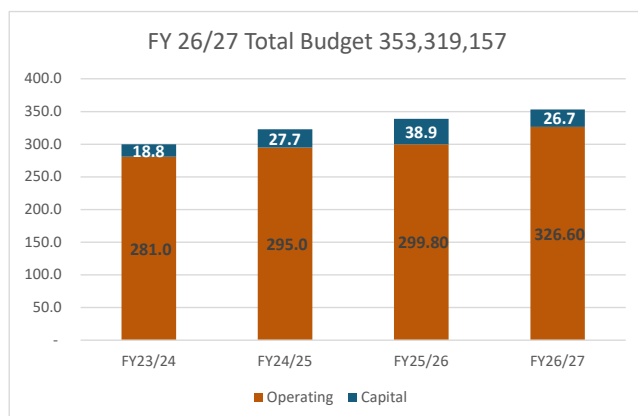
HEALTHY & SAFE COMMUNITY

Refining public safety and emergency response with a dual focus: enhancing service delivery and fostering a community culture of resilience through prevention.

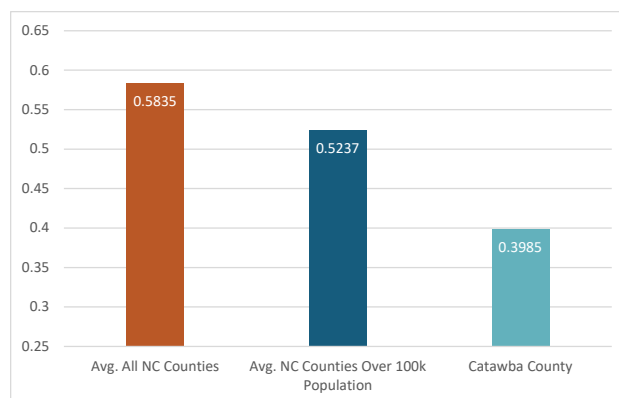
NATURE & CULTURE

Promoting our community's quality of life assets as foundational to economic vitality and workforce attraction.

Budget by Fiscal Year



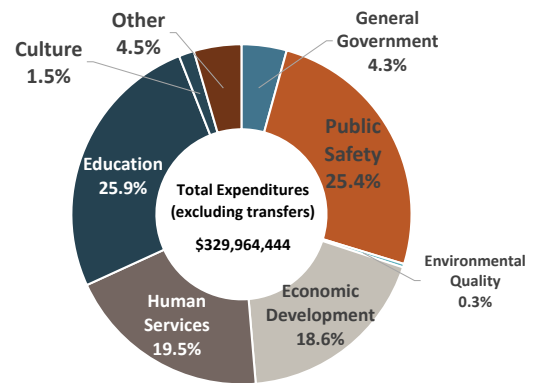
Property Tax Rate



Expenditure Details

By Fund & Function	FY2025/26	FTEs
General Fund		
General Government	\$12,665,009	70.0
Public Safety	64,136,001	464.0
Environmental Quality	1,030,389	4.6
Economic & Physical Development	27,036,940	110.90
Human Services	63,974,710	522.55
Schools Current Expense	54,280,662	-
Libraries & Culture	4,782,275	38.3
Debt Service	23,323,828	-
Transfers to Other Funds	12,905,377	-
Other General Fund Types		
Self Insurance Fund	\$6,960,756	-
Reappraisal Fund	1,237,355	11.0
Register of Deeds Auto. & Preserv.	110,000	-
Special Revenue Fund Types		
Emergency Telephone System Fund	\$594,627	-
Narcotics Seized Fund	0	-
State Unauthorized Substance Fund	0	-
Narcotics Fed Seized Justice Fund	200,000	-
Narcotics Fed Seized Treasury Fund	50,000	-
Hospital Reserve Fund	500,000	-
Rescue Squads Fund	0	-
Library Endowment Fund	3,000	-
Gretchen Peed Scholarship Fund	4,000	-
Parks/Historic Preserv.Trust Fund	0	-
Community Development Fund	0	-
Stream Debris Removal Fund	75,000	-
ARP Act Fund	0	-
Fines & Forfeitures Fund	534,744	-
Opioid Settlement Fund	948,650	-
DSS Representative Payee Fund	400,000	-
Deeds of Trust Fund	150,000	-
Fire Protection Service District Fund	15,450,493	-
Capital Project Funds		
General Capital Projects	\$1,613,000	-
Subdivision Road Improvement	0	-
Schools' Capital Fund	11,058,456	-
Schools' Construction Fund	7,907,566	-
Solid Waste Capital	16,865,000	-
Water & Sewer Capital Fund	4,714,000	-
SECC Water & Sewer District Capital	0	-
Enterprise Funds		
Solid Waste	\$13,009,469	32.10
Water and Sewer	6,797,850	1.0
SECC Water & Sewer District	0	-
TOTAL	\$353,319,157	1,254.45

Expenditure Overview



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Provides administrative support for County government. Includes direct public services such as Board of Elections, Register of Deeds, and Tax as well as County Administration including the Board of Commissioners, County Manager, Human Resources, and Finance.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Work to provide a safe, secure community and provide emergency medical transportation. Includes the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services, E-911 Communications Center, and other Public Safety activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Includes Cooperative Extension Services, Soil and Water Conservation, and Forestry.

ECONOMIC & PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Internal departments and external agencies focused on economic and physical development. Includes Technology, Planning, Parks,

and Development, Utilities and Engineering, and other Economic Development. Total budget includes Solid Waste and Water and Sewer Funds.

HUMAN SERVICES

Includes Social Services, Public Health, Partners Behavioral Health, and the Medical Examiner.

EDUCATION

Includes Catawba County Schools, Hickory Public Schools, and Newton-Conover City Schools and Catawba Valley Community College.

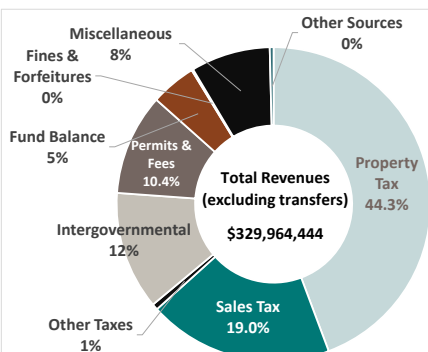
CULTURE

Includes the County Library system and outside organizations such as Catawba County Historical Association, United Arts Council of Catawba County, SALT Block, and the Hickory Public Library.

OTHER

Includes the Self-insurance fund and Catawba Valley Medical Center debt.

Revenue Overview



PROPERTY TAX

Includes revenues from taxes based on the assessed value of real and personal property owned. The General Fund reflects revenue from the county-wide 57.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Fire Service Protection District property taxes are budgeted in Special Revenue Funds.

SALES TAX

Consumers pay a sales tax rate of 2.25%. This revenue is budgeted primarily in the General Fund but also in Schools' Capital based on statutory requirements and Water & Sewer based on designations by the Board of Commissioners for the use of the 1/4 cent sales tax.

OTHER TAXES

Includes privilege licenses, real estate excise tax, tire and white goods disposal taxes, and ABC per bottle taxes.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Includes funds received from the State and Federal governments, generally restricted for specific uses, and heavily concentrated in Human Services.

PERMITS & FEES

Includes building permit and ambulance fees and certified copies in the General

Fund and Landfill user fees in the Solid Waste Management Fund.

MISCELLANEOUS

Includes ABC profits, cable TV franchise fees, interest on investments, and donations.

FUND BALANCE

Reflects the use of County savings.

FINES & FORFEITURES

Fees collected by the Courts and entirely distributed to schools.

OTHER SOURCES

Includes debt proceeds, special contingency, and insurance premiums.