



catawba county
north carolina

ADOPTED OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET

FISCAL YEAR 2026/27



• **MAKING.**



LIVING.



BETTER.



About the Cover - Catawba County's New Brand Platform: *Making. Living. Better.*

In early 2018, Catawba County began rolling out a new community brand platform: *Making. Living. Better.* Prior to then, Catawba County government had not focused on community branding or marketing as part of its communications efforts – so why branding, and why now?

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners designated branding and marketing as one of eight critical action areas in its strategic plan, which is aimed at increasing population and economic growth throughout the county.

The County recognized that significant efforts to promote our community have been in motion for many years – from the Hickory Metro Convention Center & Visitors Bureau's longtime destination marketing strategies to the City of Hickory's successful *Life. Well Crafted.* campaign. However, in order to be a good partner in these efforts, the County needed to play a more active role.

To get started, the County worked with a national community branding firm to develop the County's first brand platform. The process involved several months of research that included County tours, interviews, focus groups, surveys of Catawba County, Charlotte and Asheville residents, and discussions with statewide influencers in the areas of economic development, tourism, and education.

The goal of the research was to identify the assets that make Catawba County both appealing and unique. Some of the assets identified through the research include the County's convenient and accessible geographic location, high quality of life, respected manufacturing legacy, beautiful outdoors, kind and welcoming people, reputation as makers and doers, and collaborative spirit.

The research served as the foundation for a creative process that culminated in the development of a tagline and logo to help define the County's identity and story: *Making. Living. Better.*

- *Making* refers to the community's legacy as makers and doers: we make things happen.
- *Living* refers to quality of life: we enjoy our location, our amenities, and our people.
- *Better* refers to the community's "can do" spirit: we work together to make a difference.

That story is enhanced by a graphic logo that visually represents many of these same themes:

- The *outer circle* resembles a gear, which symbolizes Catawba County's legacy as makers and doers.
- The *inner circle* resembles a second gear, because two gears working together drive things forward. This represents Catawba County's collaborative spirit.
- The *nature scene*, with the foothills and the river, creates a sense of place for the County and symbolizes its good quality of life.
- The *foothill* is an outline of Bakers Mountain, the highest and most visible peak in the County, and the *water* represents the Catawba River – two natural assets that speak to the County's remarkable outdoors.

Instructions for Navigating FY 2026/27 Budget PDF

Bookmarks for major sections are provided in the navigation pane. Click on the bookmark to jump directly to that section. If a "+" or ">" sign precedes the bookmark, click on it to bring up additional subheadings.

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CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

FISCAL YEAR 2026/27

ADOPTED OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET



Board of Commissioners

C. Randall Isenhower, Board Chair

Austin Allran, Board Vice-Chair

Barbara G. Beatty, Board Member

Robert C. Abernethy Jr., Board Member

Cole Setzer, Board Member

County Manager

Mary Furtado

Assistant County Manager

Paul Murray

Assistant County Manager

Adam Lindsay

Prepared by:

Budget & Management Director:

Laura McBryde

Budget & Management Analyst:

Ian Bumgarner

Board of Commissioners



C. Randall Isenhower
Board Chair



Austin Allran
Board Vice-Chair



Barbara G. Beatty
Board Member



Robert C. Abernethy Jr.
Board Member



Cole Setzer
Board Member

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

County Manager's Office

Mary Furtado
County Manager

Paul Murray
Assistant County Manager

Adam Lindsay
Assistant County Manager

Executive Leadership

Jodi Stewart
County Attorney

Brook Redding
Emergency Services Director

Don Brown
Sheriff

Pete Shonka
Utilities & Engineering Director

Amanda Duncan
Elections Director

Cynthia Eades
Human Resources Director

Chris Timberlake
Planning & Development Director

Brian Myers
Tax Administrator

Karen Harrington
Social Services Director

Laura McBryde
Budget & Management Director

Dale Stiles
County Clerk

Rick Pilato
Chief Information Officer

Donna Mull
Cooperative Extension Director

Angela Henson
Register of Deeds

Jennifer McCracken
Public Health Director

Siobhan Loendorf
Library Director

Mary Morrison
Chief Financial Officer

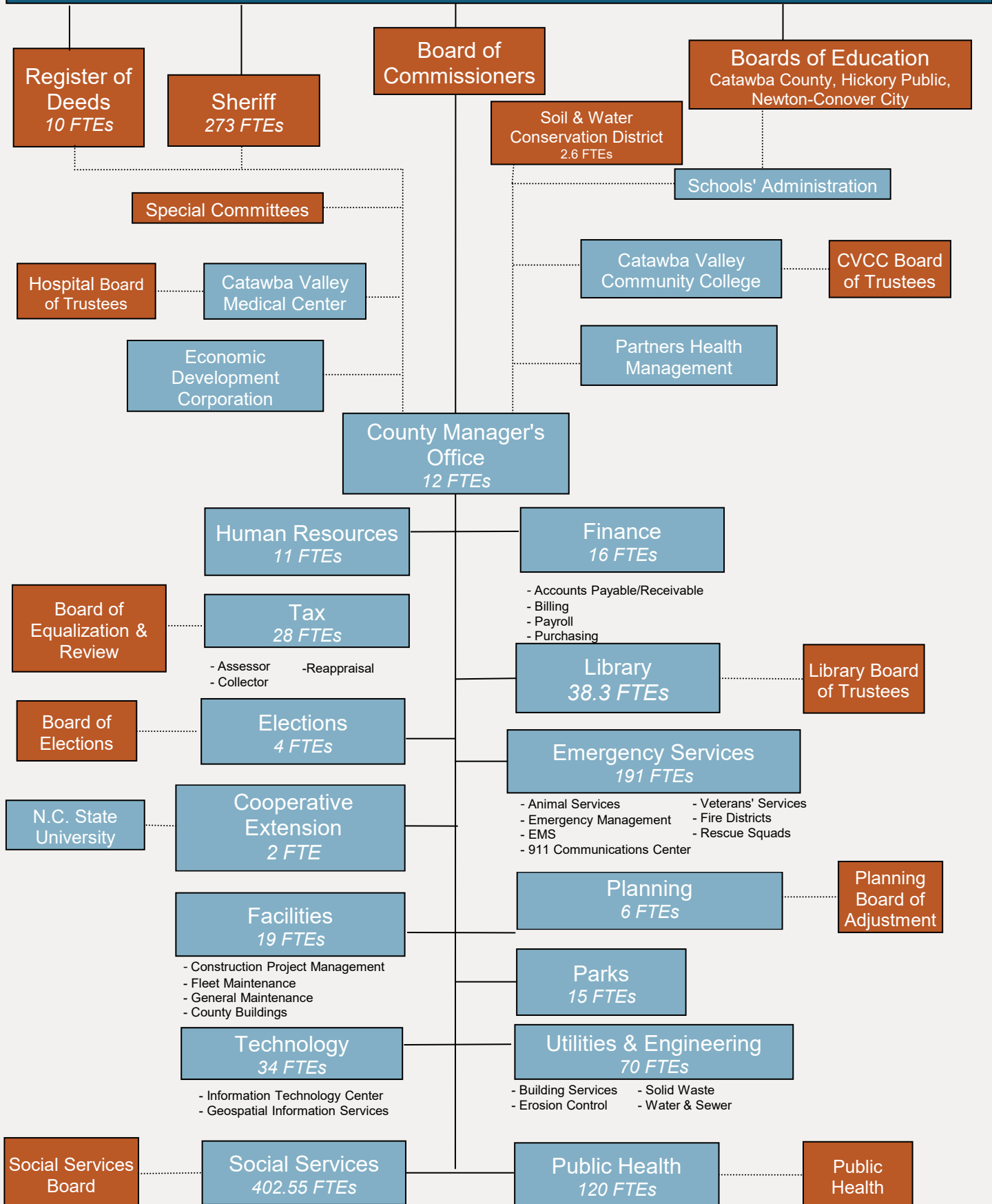
John Cameron
Facilities Services Director

Randy Willis
Soil & Water Administrator

David Wagg
Parks Director

Catawba County Organizational Structure

Citizens of Catawba County





GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Catawba County
North Carolina**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 01, 2025

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director

2025/26 ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Catawba County has consistently delivered quality services across a wide-range of functions, supported by one of the lowest tax rates, strong program performance, and fiscal stewardship. The quality of these services has earned Catawba County a reputation for innovation and creativity both state-wide and nationally. Examples of the quality and value of County services include:

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION MISSION: LIFELINE EMS GOLD PLUS AWARD

- Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Plus Award, 7th Consecutive Year (Emergency Services)

GLAXO SMITHKLINE CHILD HEALTH AWARD

- Public Health's Community Health Workers were honored with this prestigious statewide award for their work to walk alongside families and help them improve social factors that affect the health of families and children.

GOVERNMENTAL FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

- Recognized the Finance Office for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2024. Catawba County has now won the award for 44 consecutive years (Finance)
- Recognized the Budget and Management Office, for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. Budget & Management received the award for the County's Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget, the award recognizes government entities for producing a budget document which is easy to read and understand.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- Catawba County Library earned awards for the following programs:
 - Pre-K STEAM – Play-based early learning experiences for children ages 0–5 and their caregivers, building school readiness and curiosity through hands-on exploration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.
 - Fueling Classroom Success: How the Public Library Supports Dual Immersion Language Programs – provides curated Spanish-language books to support bilingual literacy in elementary immersion classrooms.
 - Master Chef Junior – helps kids build cooking skills, creativity, and confidence through hands-on culinary challenges.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

- Jennifer McCracken was named the state Health Director of the Year. This elite honor recognizes her approach to leadership: staff-centered workforce support that prioritizes professional development and recognition, transparency that promotes trust, accountability and shared ownership of outcomes, and leadership centered on purpose, integrity and innovation.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SAFETY AWARDS

- NC Department of Labor (DOL) recognizes departments for their commitment to workplace safety, as reflected in their strong DART rate (Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred). This metric measures instances where employees had to miss work, work with restrictions, or transfer to different duties due to job-related injuries or illnesses. Silver awards measure days away from work only, so it is less restrictive, while gold measures the full DART rate (days away from work, days with restricted activity, and whether a job transfer was needed). The following departments earned awards in 2025:
- Gold: Board of Elections (22nd Year); County Manager’s Office (15th Year); Social Services (6th Year); Facilities (1st Year); Finance (8th Year); Human Resources (3rd Year); Planning (1st Year); Public Health (6th Year); Register of Deeds (8th Year); Soil & Water (15th Year); Tax (11th Year)
- Silver: Emergency Services (1st Year); Library (1st Year); Parks (1st Year); Utilities & Engineering (1st Year)

NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS’ ASSOCIATION LARGE PROGRAMMING OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Catawba County Library Pre-K STEAM –play-based early learning experiences for children ages 0–5 and their caregivers, building school readiness and curiosity through hands-on exploration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

BUDGET ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Catawba County:

SECTION I

Budget Adoption, 2026/27

The following budget with anticipated fund revenues of \$353,319,157 and departmental expenditures of \$353,319,157 is hereby adopted in accordance with Chapter 159 of the North Carolina General Statutes by the County of Catawba for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, and the same is adopted by fund and function as follows:

GENERAL FUND & GENERAL FUND LIKE FUNDS				
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	General	Self-Insurance	Reappraisal	ROD Auto. & Preserv.
Property Tax	\$131,001,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sales Tax	50,947,261	0	0	0
Other Taxes	1,581,500	0	0	0
Federal	17,334,633	0	0	0
State	8,208,468	0	0	0
Federal & State	6,348,451	0	0	0
Local	6,019,019	420,250	0	0
Permits & Fees	18,913,175	18,000	0	0
Miscellaneous	4,646,957	0	0	90,000
Fund Balance	8,819,705	124,050	0	20,000
Transfers from Other Funds	1,248,650	3,250,456	1,237,355	0
Other Sources	9,065,872	3,148,000	0	0
Total Revenues	\$264,135,191	\$6,960,756	\$1,237,355	\$110,000
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	General	Self-Insurance	Reappraisal	ROD Auto. & Preserv.
General Government	\$12,665,009	\$6,960,756	\$1,237,355	\$110,000
Public Safety	64,136,001	0	0	0
Environmental Quality	1,030,389	0	0	0
Economic & Physical Development	27,036,940	0	0	0
Human Services	63,974,710	0	0	0
Education	55,380,662	0	0	0
Libraries & Culture	4,782,275	0	0	0
Debt Service	29,731,394	0	0	0
Transfers to Other Funds	5,397,811	0	0	0
Total Expenses	\$264,135,191	\$6,960,756	\$1,237,355	\$110,000
GENERAL FUND & GENERAL FUND LIKE FUNDS				

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	Emergency Telephone	Federally Seized Treasury	Federally Seized Justice	Opioid Settlement
State	\$483,028	\$0	\$0	\$948,650
Fund Balance	111,599	50,000	200,000	0
Total Revenues	\$594,627	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$948,650
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	Emergency Telephone	Federally Seized Treasury	Federally Seized Justice	Opioid Settlement
Public Safety	\$594,627	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$948,650
Total Expenses	\$594,627	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$948,650
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	Hospital Reserve Fund	Library Endowment	Gretchen Peed Scholarship	Stream Rehab
Local	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	50,000	0	4,000	0
Transfers from Other Funds	0	0	0	75,000
Fund Balance	450,000	0	0	
Total Revenues	\$500,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$75,000
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	Hospital Reserve Fund	Library Endowment	Gretchen Peed Scholarship	Stream Rehab
Human Services	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0
Libraries & Culture	0	3,000	0	0
Environmental Quality	0	0	0	75,000
Transfers to Other Funds	500,000	0	0	0
Total Expenses	\$500,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$75,000
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	DSS Repr. Payee	Register of Deeds Fund	Fines & Forfeitures	
Federal & State	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	
Permits & Fees	0	150,000	0	
Other Sources	0	0	534,744	
Total Revenues	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$534,744	
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	DSS Repr. Payee	Register of Deeds Fund	Fines & Forfeitures	
General Government	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	
Human Services	400,000	\$0	\$0	
Education	0	0	534,744	
Total Expenses	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$534,744	
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - FIRE SERVICE PROTECTION DISTRICTS				
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	Bandys	Catawba	Claremont	Conover
Property Tax - Fire Tax	\$1,435,956	\$430,049	\$718,917	\$187,968
Fund Balance	0	0	0	0
Total Revenues	\$1,435,956	\$430,049	\$718,917	\$187,968
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	Bandys	Catawba	Claremont	Conover
Public Safety	\$1,435,956	\$430,049	\$718,917	\$187,968
Total Expenses	\$1,435,956	\$430,049	\$718,917	\$187,968
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	Cooksville	Hickory	Longview	Maiden
Property Tax - Fire Tax	\$232,127	\$883,877	\$68,927	\$607,532
Fund Balance	0	38,785	0	0
Total Revenues	\$232,127	\$922,662	\$68,927	\$607,532
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	Cooksville	Hickory	Longview	Maiden
Public Safety	\$232,127	\$922,662	\$68,927	\$607,532
Total Expenses	\$232,127	\$922,662	\$68,927	\$607,532
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	Mt. View	Newton	Oxford	Propst
Property Tax - Fire Tax	\$1,124,229	\$1,179,011	\$535,858	\$484,018
Fund Balance	13,589	0	64,696	0
Total Revenues	\$1,137,818	\$1,179,011	\$600,554	\$484,018
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	Mt. View	Newton	Oxford	Propst
Public Safety	\$1,137,818	\$1,179,011	\$600,554	\$484,018
Total Expenses	\$1,137,818	\$1,179,011	\$600,554	\$484,018
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	Sherrills Ford	St. Stephens		
Property Tax - Fire Tax	\$5,253,125	\$2,002,257		
Fund Balance	125,000	64,572		
Total Revenues	\$5,378,125	\$2,066,829		
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	Sherrills Ford	St. Stephens		
Public Safety	\$5,378,125	\$2,066,829		
Total Expenses	\$5,378,125	\$2,066,829		
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - FIRE SERVICE PROTECTION DISTRICTS				

CAPITAL FUNDS				
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	General Capital	Road Improvement	Schools' Capital	Schools' Construction
Sales Tax	\$628,000	\$0	\$9,747,000	\$0
State	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local	0	0	0	0
Permits & Fees	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0
Fund Balance	150,000	0	211,456	1,500,000
Transfers Between Funds	835,000	0	1,100,000	6,407,566
Other Sources	0	0	0	0
Total Revenues	\$1,613,000	\$0	\$11,058,456	\$7,907,566
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	General Capital	Road Improvement	Schools' Capital	Schools' Construction
General Government	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Economic & Physical Development	\$703,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Human Services	\$660,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education	\$0	\$0	\$11,058,456	\$7,907,566
Libraries & Culture	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenses	\$1,613,000	\$0	\$11,058,456	\$7,907,566
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	SECC Capital	Water & Sewer Capital	Solid Waste Capital	
Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$1,251,314	
Transfers Between Funds	\$0	\$4,714,000	\$4,486,686	
Other Sources	\$0	\$0	\$11,127,000	
Total Revenues	\$0	\$4,714,000	\$16,865,000	
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	SECC Capital	Water & Sewer Capital	Solid Waste Capital	
Economic & Physical Development	\$0	\$4,714,000	\$16,865,000	
Total Expenses	\$0	\$4,714,000	\$16,865,000	
CAPITAL FUNDS				
ENTERPRISE FUNDS				
REVENUES BY TYPE				
Revenue Type	SECC Operating	Water & Sewer Operating	Solid Waste Management	
Sales Tax	\$0	\$1,517,000	\$0	
Other Taxes	0	0	465,000	
State	0	0	44,800	
Permits & Fees	0	4,396,600	10,955,430	
Miscellaneous	0	0	152,831	
Fund Balance	0	884,250	1,391,408	
Total Revenues	\$0	\$6,797,850	\$13,009,469	
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION				
Function	SECC Operating	Water & Sewer Operating	Solid Waste Management	
Economic & Physical Development	\$0	\$6,797,850	\$13,009,469	
Total Expenses	\$0	\$6,797,850	\$13,009,469	
ENTERPRISE FUNDS				

Appropriations within each fund and function are under the purview of specific departments or the County Manager. The following procedures, controls, and authorities shall apply to transfers and adjustments within the budget except for the budgets of the Reinventing Departments as shown in Section II.

- A. **Transfers Between Departments and Funds:** Transfers of appropriations between departments in a fund, between funds, and from contingency shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners or may be approved by the County Manager in conformance with all of the following guidelines:
 - 1. The County Manager finds they are consistent with operational needs and any Board-approved goals.
 - 2. Transfers between departments and funds do not exceed \$50,000 each.
 - 3. Transfers from Contingency appropriations do not exceed \$50,000 each unless the County Manager finds an emergency exists.
 - 4. All transfers between departments in a fund, between funds, and from contingency are reported to the Board of Commissioners by its next regular meeting following the date of the transfer (with the exception of performance awards and reclassification/pay inequity funds, which the County Manager has the authority to transfer).
- B. **Transfers within Departments and Activities:** Department Heads may transfer line item appropriations between and within activities within the departments under their jurisdiction with the approval of the Budget and Management Director.
- C. **Transfers of Appropriations from Contingency or Departments for Real Estate Transactions:** Transfers of appropriations from Contingency or departments may be made by the County Manager in order to secure options, pay deposits, or pay other necessary expenses related to real estate transactions approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- D. **Transfers of Capital Projects Appropriations:** Transfers of appropriations up to \$50,000 between projects within a capital project fund may be approved by the County Manager. All transfers between projects are reported to the Board of Commissioners by its next regular meeting following the date of the transfer.
- E. **Transfers of Appropriations from Special Departmental Expense and Revenue Contingencies:** Transfers of appropriations may be made by the Budget and Management Director from special departmental expense and revenue contingency accounts that have been set aside to accommodate mid-year adjustments for allocations from outside agencies. The budget for such special departmental contingency expenditures will not be used until revenues are received and the related funds are transferred out of the contingency accounts to an appropriate line item.

SECTION II

Amendment to Procedures, Controls, and Authorities for Reinventing Departments

The following procedures, controls, and authorities shall apply to transfers, personnel, and adjustments within the budget for the Reinventing Departments, as determined by the County Manager:

- A. The Board of Commissioners will appropriate funds for the Reinventing Departments based on approved outcomes to be achieved during the fiscal year.
- B. Department Heads are hereby authorized to transfer appropriations between activities or from special department contingencies under their jurisdiction with the approval of the Budget and Management Director. Requests for transfers from the General Fund contingency must be approved by the County Manager. The budget for such special departmental contingency expenditures will not be used until revenues are received and the related funds are transferred out of the contingency accounts to an appropriate line item. Department Heads within the Reinventing Departments are hereby authorized to reallocate existing positions between activities under their jurisdiction.
- C. Departments will be allowed to retain all unexpended allocations and/or revenues as defined by the County Manager.
- D. Reinventing Departments may create or abolish positions which impact the outcomes approved by the Board of Commissioners. Changes will be reported at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting following approval of the change by the County Manager and will be attached as part of the minutes.

SECTION III

Tax Levy Rate

A tax rate of \$0.3985 per \$100 of assessed valuation is hereby levied for Fiscal Year 2026/27, all of which is levied in the General Fund. No discounts will be allowed for early payment of taxes.

The following rates are levied for fire protection service districts:

Fire Protection Service District	<u>Levied Tax Rate Per \$100 Valuation</u>
Bandys Fire	\$0.1050
Catawba Rural Fire	\$0.1170
Claremont Rural Fire	\$0.1300
Conover Rural Fire	\$0.1000
Cooksville Fire	\$0.0785
Hickory Rural Fire	\$0.1250
Longview Rural Fire	\$0.1000
Maiden Rural Fire	\$0.0983
Mt. View Fire	\$0.0855
Newton Rural Fire	\$0.1210
Oxford Fire	\$0.0610
Propst Fire	\$0.0720
Sherrills Ford Fire	\$0.0990
St. Stephens Fire	\$0.1240

SECTION IV

Hospital Fund

The Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees is hereby required to submit a monthly copy of its financial statements to the County Chief Financial Officer that will include a budget to actual comparison of all expenses and revenues. The Hospital maintains a balance with the County, in the Hospital Reserve Fund. This Fund is intended to be used to finance and construct major Hospital capital projects, if needed, and the school nurse program at Public Health. Catawba Valley Medical Center is a public non-profit hospital and an entity or component unit of Catawba County Government. The County owns the assets but the Hospital is not a line department of the County and therefore is not included in the County budget. The Hospital is authorized to operate as an enterprise fund.

SECTION V

Schools' Current Expense

The allocation of general revenues for the schools' current expense per school system is \$2,189 per pupil based on the average daily membership of K-12, \$67 per pupil of which is budgeted in support of schools cooperating on the following inter-school system programs--Catawba County Bus Garage, HCAM Core Academy, Conover School for Exceptional Children, therapeutic day treatment, and Community Schools.

In accordance with the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act, each Board of Education is required to submit to the Board of Commissioners, as soon as adopted, a copy of the School Board's budget resolution. The school finance officer will submit a quarterly statement of the financial condition of the Administrative unit to the Board of Commissioners.

SECTION VI

Southeastern Catawba County (SECC) Water and Sewer District

The SECC Water and Sewer District was established by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes effective May 9, 2021. The district is a separate legal entity that operates as an enterprise fund, with a separate governing body comprised of the Board of Commissioners. As such, the district is accounted for as a blended component of the County with district revenue and expenditures reflected in the County budget.

SECTION VII

Capital Projects, Grants, and Economic Development Incentive Contracts

Project Managers will be designated on a project-by-project basis for all County construction projects and 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 estimate, as a result of bids or otherwise, shall be reported by the Project Manager, along with

his or her recommendation of approval to the Board of Commissioners. When compiled and approved by user agencies, all projects must conform to the Catawba County Design and Construction Specifications.

In accordance with the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act each school system will submit to the County Budget and Management Director detailed project sheets for each capital project included in this budget.

The General Capital Projects Fund, the Hospital Construction Fund, the Water and Sewer Fund, SECC Water and Sewer District Fund, the School Capital Outlay Fund, the School Bond Capital Projects Fund, the Schools' Construction Fund, the Fire Districts Funds, and the Community Development Fund are hereby authorized. Appropriations made for the specific projects or grants in these funds are hereby appropriated until the project is completed. Balances remaining as of June 30, 2026, in previously appropriated water and sewer capital projects located within the SECC Water and Sewer District Service Area are hereby authorized to be transferred to the district fund.

Any grant, capital project budget, or economic development incentive contract previously appropriated in any fund, the balance of any anticipated, but not received, revenues and any unexpended appropriations remaining on June 30, 2026, shall be reauthorized in the Fiscal Year 2026/27 budget unless a specific new budget has been prepared.

SECTION VIII

Emergency Approvals, Schools

Emergency transfers to and from the School Capital Outlay Fund shall be in accordance with the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

SECTION IX

Annual Financial Reports

All agencies receiving County funding are required to submit an audit report by December 31, 2026. Approved payments may be delayed pending receipt of this financial information.

SECTION X

Fees and Licenses

Charges for fees and licenses by Catawba County Departments or Agencies shall be in accordance with the fee policy. Fee changes to be adopted by the Board of Commissioners are set forth in the Fee Updates section of the Executive Summary and the entire fee schedule is included in the Appendix.

SECTION XI

Per Diem Pay

The Board of Commissioners and members of County boards are authorized to receive per diem pay as reflected in the table below. Annually, the Board of Commissioners' per diem pay rate will increase at a level consistent with changes in the Consumer Price Index, provided the budget includes a performance pay increase for employees meeting performance expectations as determined by annual evaluations.

Per Diem Pay	
Board	Pay
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board	Chair, \$75 per meeting; Members, \$50 per meeting
Board of Adjustment	Chair, \$50 per meeting; Members, \$35 per meeting
Board of Commissioners	Chair, \$1,615 per month; Members, \$1,355 per month; In-County Travel Allowance, \$350 per month
Board of Elections	Chair, \$75 per meeting; Members, \$50 per meeting; \$100 for Election Day
Equalization & Review Board	Chair, \$50 per meeting; Members, \$35 per meeting
Jury Commission	Chair, \$50 per meeting; Members, \$35 per meeting
Library Board	Chair, \$50 per meeting; Members, \$35 per meeting
Planning Board	Chair, \$50 per meeting; Members, \$35 per meeting
Public Health Board	Chair, \$50 per meeting; Members, \$35 per meeting
Social Services Board	Chair, \$50 per meeting; Members, \$35 per meeting
Subdivision Review Board	Chair, \$50 per meeting; Members, \$35 per meeting

SECTION XII

Personnel

- A. Salaries – Salaries for Fiscal Year 2026/27 are based on the Fiscal Year 2026/27 pay plan for Catawba County that is adopted as a part of this budget and is effective July 1, 2026. The budget includes a 3 percent pay plan adjustment for all employees and additional adjustments for targeted positions based on market. Funds are included for a 2 percent performance pay increase for employees who satisfy performance expectations as reflected in employees' annual performance evaluations.
- B. Performance Awards – Funds are allocated in the budget to provide one-time lump sum performance awards to recognize exceptional performance at the discretion of the County Manager.
- C. Reclassifications/Pay Inequities – Funds are allocated in the budget to maintain equity between similar positions within the organization and to ensure market competitiveness within the County's recruiting area.
- D. Travel Allowance – The travel allowance rate will be according to the IRS reimbursement rate.
- E. Special Payment – Positions that require specialized skills may be compensated by a special payment. This payment will only occur while the employee is serving in that capacity. This special payment is not considered a part of the annual base pay for

classification. The amount of special payment is to be approved by the County Manager upon a recommendation by the Human Resources Director.

SECTION XIII

Budget Policy for State and Federal Fund Decreases

It will be the policy of this Board that it will not absorb any reduction in State and Federal funds; that any decrease shall be absorbed in the budget of the agency by reducing personnel or department expenditures to stay within the County appropriation as authorized.

This policy is extended to any agency that is funded by the County and receives State or Federal money. This shall remain in effect until otherwise changed or amended by the Board of Commissioners. The County Manager is hereby directed to indicate this to each of the agencies that may be involved.

SECTION XIV

Reappraisal Fund

In accordance with the provisions of G.S. 153A-150, an appropriation of \$1,237,355 will be made from the General Fund to the Reappraisal Fund for the purpose of providing funds for the next reappraisal.

SECTION XV

Fiscal Control Act

The Budget and Management Director and the Chief Financial Officer are hereby directed to make any changes in the budget or 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, 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 County as of June 30, 2026, are hereby re-appropriated to this budget.
- C. The Board authorizes the appropriation of all Fund Balances earned by the Reinventing Departments as determined by the County Manager and as a result of the County's annual audit of June 30, 2026.
- D. The Board authorizes the appropriation of all remaining balances of approved economic development incentive contracts as determined by the County Manager and as a result of the County's annual audit of June 30, 2026.
- E. 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 XVI

Authorization to Contract

The County Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to execute agreements, within funds included in the Budget Ordinance or other actions by the Board of Commissioners, 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 other than similar items required by the Sheriff or Register of Deeds; and 8) Other administrative contracts which include agreements adopted in accordance with the directives of the Board of Commissioners.

SECTION XVII

Authorization to Award and Reject Bids

Pursuant to General Statute 143-129, the County Manager 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 County Manager shall further be authorized to reject any and/or all bids received if it is in the best interest of Catawba County.

SECTION XVIII

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, 2027, 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 15th day of June 2026.



C. Randall Isenhower, Chair



Mary S. Furtado, County Manager

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



FY2026-27 Budget Adoption

June 15, 2026

To the Catawba County Board of Commissioners and Citizens:

I am pleased to present to you a balanced Catawba County Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget. On May 11, 2026, I presented my recommended budget, which supported significant investments to sustain core services and economic vitality within the existing property tax rate. It also included a proposed 2.5-cent increase dedicated to school construction. The Board heard budget presentations from departments, schools, and outside agencies on May 22, 2026, and held a Public Hearing and additional Board discussions on May 26, 2026.

During deliberations, the Board directed me to prepare a budget without a property tax increase that still accomplishes the objective of funding the top priority in critical school construction. This directive resulted in the following changes to my recommended budget:

- *Maintain current \$0.3985 property tax rate* – Decrease recommended property tax rate by 2.5 cents, which reduces total budget by \$16.2 million and General Fund budget by \$8.1 million;
- *Social Services Senior Nutrition* – Reduce General Fund support allocated to Senior Nutrition Meals on Wheels program, replacing funds with local donation revenue to maintain current service levels; and
- *Employee compensation* – Eliminate proposed top performer pay of \$500, which reduces total budget by \$367,169 and General Fund budget by \$300,000.

These adjustments position Catawba County to support \$120 million in middle school expansion needs within the existing tax rate. This is a responsible first step towards addressing school facility priorities. While the current rate supports the middle school project, future project capacity will be severely limited without some combination of tax rate increase, expense reduction, and project refinement.

Other budget adjustments from my recommended budget included the following:

- *Arts Culture Catawba* – decrease recommended per capita funding allocation from \$1.05 per capita to \$1 per capita, as directed by the Board;
- *Social Services special contingency* – reduced budgeted revenue and expense by \$700,000, based on historic utilization; and
- *911 Consoles* – reduce restricted 911 Fund revenue and expenditures by \$415,000 due to a shift in project timing.

With these changes, the final General Fund budget is \$264,135,191, and the total budget is \$353,319,157.

Sincerely,



Mary Furtado
County Manager



Message from the County Manager

May 11, 2026

To the Catawba County Board of Commissioners and Citizens:

I am pleased to present to you the recommended Catawba County budget for Fiscal Year 2026/27 in the amount of \$369,702,666. The budget proposes a property tax rate of \$0.4235 per \$100 of valuation, an increase of 2.5 cents from the current rate, reflecting a 9.2 percent increase overall.

This recommendation positions Catawba County to drive school facility construction forward purposefully, as the increased tax rate – recommended to be formally dedicated to schools - is projected to generate \$8.1 million in revenue this fiscal year, enough to support \$264 million in critical school construction projects county-wide. In addition to this investment in education (funded through a tax increase), within the existing tax rate the recommended budget sustains core services in the face of increasing service demands, and focuses on economic vitality.

The General Fund budget totals \$272,648,179, a 6.4 percent increase over the current year, reflecting heavy investment in public safety, addressing inflationary pressures, and planning for future infrastructure.

- EMS crew addition at Hickory base to maintain response times as call volumes rise;
- Addition of 12 detention officer positions (partial year) to address a growing inmate population;
- New Building Services Official and Tax Property Appraiser staff to support continued economic growth;
- Targeted investments in Social Services and Public Health to sustain service levels in response to growing community needs; and
- Continued education investment beyond school construction, including a 2 percent increase in per pupil operational funding and ongoing support for capital and technology needs.

The budget is balanced and prepared in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and is aligned with the priorities of and direction given by the Board of Commissioners.

In addition to this budget message, the Budget Presentation and Budget Highlights sections provide a more detailed executive summary of the coming year's financial plan. Details on each department's budget, school capital and current expense funding, long-term capital improvement plans and other future-looking data and analysis are also included.

Sincerely,



Mary Furtado
County Manager





catawba county

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FY2026-27 Recommended Budget

County Manager Mary Furtado

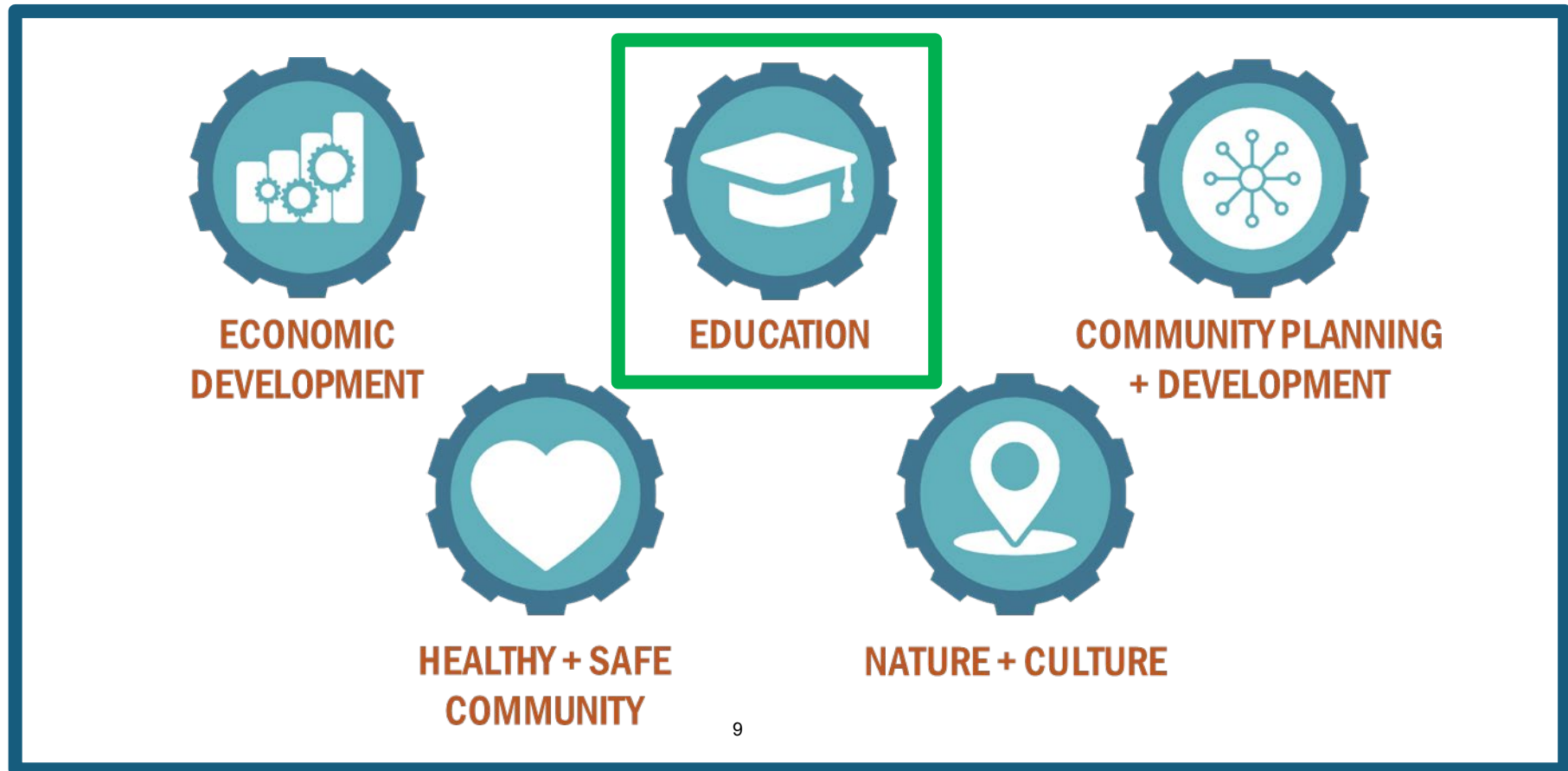
May 11, 2026

FY2027 Guiding Principles: Setting the Target

- Strategic Plan Investments: sustain services to support quality of life
- Address existing commitments while planning for the future – *don't kick the can*
- Anticipate needs on the horizon; build plans for adaptability and agility
- Take care of our people – *retention is the new recruitment*



Catawba County Strategic Plan



FY 2027 Recommended Budget: Where We're Landing



- Property tax rate: 42.35 cents per \$100 valuation (+2.5 cents)
- Total Budget: \$369,702,666 (+9.2%)
- Total General Fund Budget: \$272,648,179 (+6.4%)
- Staff 1,254.45 full-time equivalents (+23 positions, or 1.9%)



FY2027: Strategic Approach to Community Priorities

Tax Increase: Schools Construction

- EMS Crew Expansion (6): Hickory
- Sheriff Detention Officers (12*)
- U&E: Building Services Official
- Public Health: Community Health Worker
- Tax Real Property Appraiser
- Social Svcs: Social Worker III (2)

- Dedicated revenue for school construction – expansion beyond current commitment
- Increase generates \$8.1M in FY27
- Over time, annual revenue stream sufficient to support \$264M in debt-funded projects

** beginning 4/1/27*



Recommended Tax Increase Committed to Education

- FY26 adopted tax rate: \$.3985
 - 4.33 cents dedicated to schools construction
- FY27 recommended tax rate: \$.4235; yields \$264M in project capacity
- County-wide school facility pressures (\$600M+) far exceed existing tax rate capacity

Catawba County Schools: Middle Schools	\$	120,000,000
Catawba County Schools: Additional Portfolio	\$	365,000,000
Hickory City Schools: Hickory High School*	\$	129,000,000
	\$	614,000,000
* excluding \$26M in existing appropriations		



Recommended Tax Increase Establishes Pathway Forward

- Planned \$136M debt issuance for schools’ construction (mid-2027)
 - N-C High School Phase II: \$16M (funded in current tax rate)
 - CCS Middle School expansion: \$120M (funded by proposed tax increase)
- Creates funding stream certainty to support scenario-based planning in face of shifting schools’ operating dynamics; gives BOC options for a minimum of \$144M in future projects

Schools Project Capacity - 2.5 cents	\$	264,000,000
Catawba County Schools: Middle Schools	\$	120,000,000
<i>remaining project capacity - priority tbd</i>	\$	144,000,000



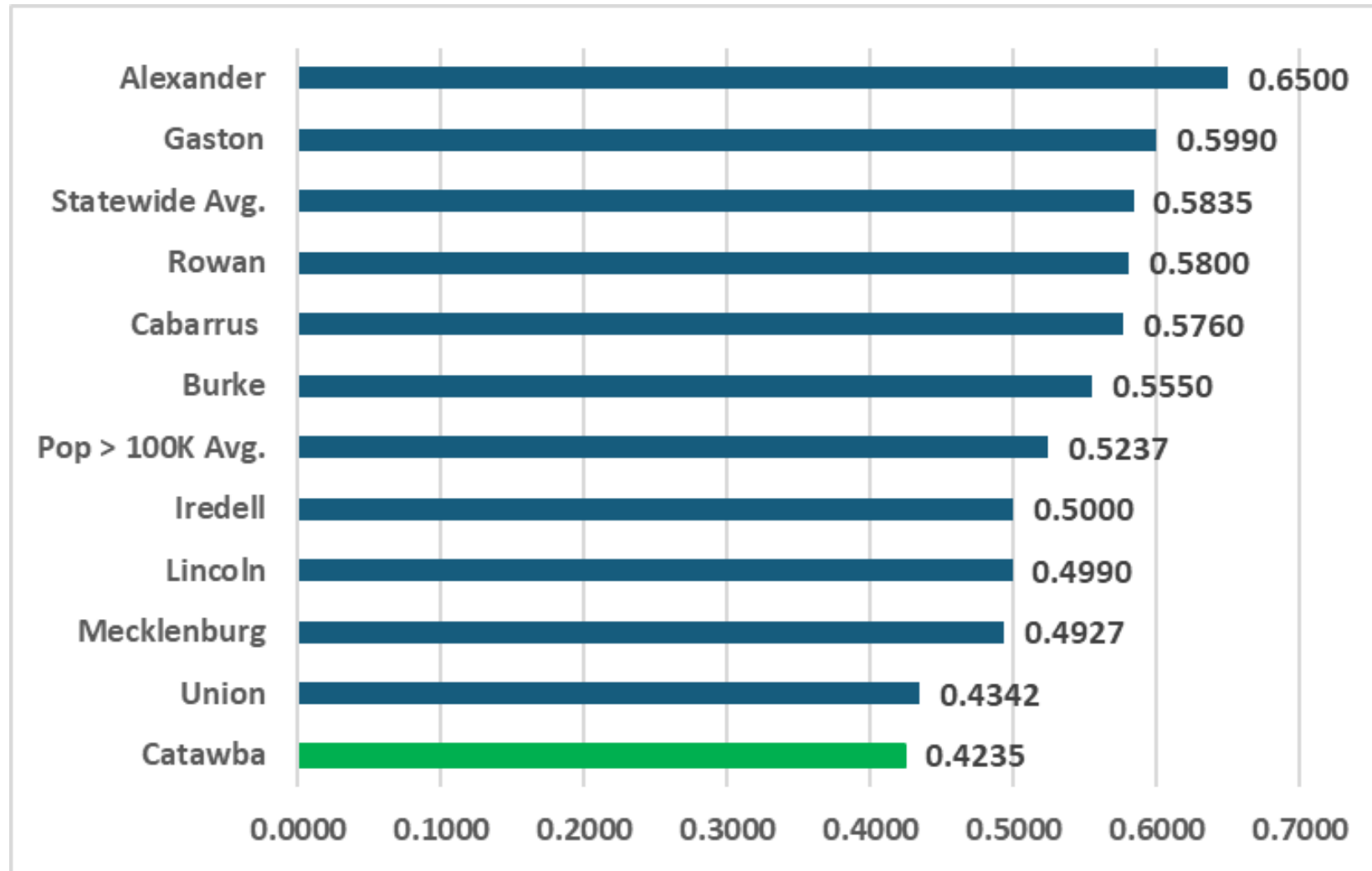
How Would This Impact the Average Tax Bill?

2027 Single-Family Home (average value) = \$327,300

FY27 Tax Bill (.4235 rate)	\$	1,386.12
FY26 Tax Bill (.3985 rate)	\$	1,304.29
annual impact	\$	81.82
monthly impact	\$	6.82



Catawba County's Tax Rate Would Still Be Lowest in Region



FY2027 Major Revenue Summary

Area	FY2026 Adopted	FY2027 Requested	FY2027 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Property Tax	\$126,384,000	\$131,001,500	\$139,104,500	\$12,720,500	10.1%
Fire Prot. Service District	\$14,390,673	\$15,757,473	\$15,143,851	\$753,178	5.2%
Sales Tax	\$57,600,000	\$62,440,000	\$62,847,673	\$5,247,673	9.1%
Other Taxes	\$3,057,500	\$2,046,500	\$2,046,500	-\$1,011,000	-33.1%
Federal	\$18,844,688	\$17,334,633	\$17,334,633	-\$1,510,055	-8.0%
State	\$10,140,401	\$9,668,413	\$9,686,522	-\$453,879	-4.5%
Federal & State	\$6,694,128	\$6,748,451	\$6,748,451	\$54,323	0.8%
Local	\$6,113,997	\$6,435,353	\$6,442,269	\$328,272	5.4%
Permits & Fees	\$32,133,439	\$33,641,743	\$34,433,205	\$2,299,766	7.2%
Miscellaneous	\$4,373,122	\$4,378,788	\$4,618,788	\$245,666	5.6%
Transfers	\$19,070,959	\$26,040,949	\$30,796,058	\$11,725,099	61.5%
Fines & Forfeitures	\$534,744	\$534,744	\$534,744	\$0	0.0%
Other Sources	\$26,458,397	\$24,065,872	\$24,065,872	-\$2,392,525	-9.0%
Fund Balance	\$12,909,888	\$49,022,799	\$15,899,600	\$2,989,712	23.2%
TOTAL	\$338,705,936	\$389,117,218	\$369,702,666	\$30,996,730	9.2%



FY2027 General Fund Revenue Summary

Area	FY2026 Adopted	FY2027 Requested	FY2027 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Property Tax	\$126,384,000	\$131,001,500	\$139,104,500	\$12,720,500	10.1%
Sales Tax	\$46,356,000	\$50,548,000	\$50,955,673	\$4,623,660	10.0%
Other Taxes	\$2,582,500	\$1,581,500	\$1,581,500	-\$1,001,000	-38.8%
Federal	\$18,844,688	\$17,334,633	\$17,334,633	-\$1,510,055	-8.0%
State	\$8,371,538	\$8,208,468	\$8,208,468	-\$163,070	-1.9%
Federal & State	\$6,294,128	\$6,348,451	\$6,348,451	\$54,323	0.9%
Local	\$5,697,997	\$6,012,103	\$6,019,019	\$314,106	5.5%
Permits & Fees	\$17,179,777	\$18,121,713	\$18,913,175	\$1,733,398	10.1%
Miscellaneous	\$4,049,337	\$4,106,957	\$4,346,957	\$290,052	7.2%
Transfers	\$1,097,980	\$1,232,117	\$1,250,226	\$152,246	13.9%
Other Sources	\$11,355,397	\$9,765,872	\$9,765,872	-\$1,589,525	-14.0%
Fund Balance	\$7,977,361	\$24,838,304	\$8,819,705	\$842,344	10.6%
TOTAL	\$256,190,703	\$279,099,618	\$272,648,179	\$16,457,476	6.4%



FY2027 Total Expenses:

Taking Care of Existing Commitments

Area	FY2026 Adopted	FY2027 Requested	FY2027 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Education	\$94,094,382	\$106,049,500	\$92,746,862	-\$1,347,520	-1.4%
Public Safety	\$75,135,312	\$87,509,682	\$81,166,010	\$6,030,698	8.0%
Economic Development	\$51,983,509	\$69,121,748	\$68,475,742	\$16,492,233	31.7%
Human Services	\$62,863,516	\$65,588,817	\$65,247,105	\$2,383,589	3.8%
Transfers	\$11,364,959	\$16,840,263	\$21,595,372	\$10,230,413	90.0%
General Government	\$20,290,417	\$21,552,303	\$21,148,270	\$857,853	4.2%
Debt Service	\$13,515,643	\$11,794,225	\$11,794,225	-\$1,721,418	-12.7%
Culture	\$4,654,514	\$4,832,156	\$4,808,906	\$154,392	3.3%
General Govt CIP	\$3,660,000	\$4,715,000	\$1,613,000	-\$2,047,000	-55.9%
Environmental Quality	\$1,143,684	\$1,113,524	\$1,107,174	-\$36,510	-3.2%
TOTAL	\$338,705,936	\$389,117,218	\$369,702,666	\$30,996,730	9.2%



FY2027 General Fund Expenses:

Taking Care of Existing Commitments

Area	FY2026 Adopted	FY2027 Requested	FY2027 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Education	\$66,574,409	\$69,961,303	\$65,810,265	-\$764,144	-1.1%
Human Services	\$62,460,516	\$65,185,817	\$64,844,105	\$2,383,589	3.8%
Public Safety	\$59,197,142	\$69,985,940	\$64,255,890	\$5,058,748	8.5%
Economic Development	\$26,306,811	\$27,721,253	\$27,075,247	\$768,436	2.9%
Transfers	\$10,266,979	\$15,608,146	\$20,345,146	\$10,078,167	98.2%
General Government	\$12,230,005	\$12,976,254	\$12,686,221	\$456,216	3.7%
Debt Service	\$13,515,643	\$11,794,225	\$11,794,225	-\$1,721,418	-12.7%
Culture	\$4,650,514	\$4,828,156	\$4,804,906	\$154,392	3.3%
Environmental Quality	\$988,684	\$1,038,524	\$1,032,174	\$43,490	4.4%
TOTAL	\$256,190,703	\$279,099,618	\$272,648,179	\$16,457,476	6.4%



K-12 Education: County-Wide Enrollment Basically Flat



Avg Daily Memberhsip	Catawba	Hickory	Newton	Total
FY2027 (NC DPI)	16,055	3,633	2,590	22,278
FY2026 (Adopted)	16,027	3,644	2,610	22,281
Change	28	-11	-20	-3
% Change	0.2%	-0.3%	-0.8%	0.0%

* Average Daily Membership = (Best 1 of 2) + Charter School Students – Out of County Students



K-12 Education: Current Expense Investments

Per Pupil Funding	Catawba	Hickory	Newton
FY2027	\$2,189	\$2,189	\$2,189
FY2026	\$2,146	\$2,146	\$2,146
Change	+ \$43	+ \$43	+ 43

- When converted to total funding, each system fares differently based on enrollment

Total Local Budget	Catawba	Hickory	Newton	Total
FY2027	\$35,144,395	\$7,952,637	\$5,669,510	\$48,766,542
FY2026	\$34,393,942	\$7,820,024	\$5,601,060	\$47,815,026
Change	+\$750,453	+\$132,613	+\$68,450	+\$951,516
	+ 2.18%	+ 1.70%	+1.22%	+ 2.00%



Investing in Education: CVCC Operational Support

- Enrollment increased by 12% in FY25; up 5% in Fall '25
- Regional Workforce Innovation Center now operational
- Planning work underway for SECC campus footprint
- 2% operating increase (\$108K) = \$5,514,120



Investing in Education: Schools Capital and 1-to-1 Technology



- 5-Year Chromebook Replacement Plan: 3,660 devices / year - \$1.4M
 - Maintain 1-to-1 technology for students in grades 3 through 12
 - Catawba County Schools: \$1M
 - Hickory City Schools: \$231K
 - Newton-Conover City Schools: \$169K
- \$11M dedicated to schools' capital needs
 - Catawba County Schools: \$6.6M
 - Hickory City Schools: \$1.6M
 - Newton-Conover City Schools: \$635K
 - CVCC: \$1.05M



Healthy, Safe Community: Emergency Services

- Hickory EMS Crew Expansion: 6 Paramedics / EMTs \$569K (on-going)
- EMS Retention Incentive: \$258,000
- REACH Post-Overdose Response Team: Quick Response Vehicle: \$57,000 (Opioid Settlement Funds)
- Body Armor Replacement: \$20K
- Ambulance Replacement / Remount (planned): \$2M for 3 remounts, 2 replacements



Healthy, Safe Community: Sheriff

- 12 Detention Officers: \$211K (on-going; ¼ of year); beginning April 1st.
- Motorola N70 Radios: \$265K to establish regular 5-year replacement cycle
- Evidence Storage System: \$78K
- Inmate Management System Upgrade: \$39K
- Patrol vehicle replacement (15): \$1.1M total



Healthy, Safe Community: Human Services

- Public Health: Community Health Worker \$61K (federal CSBG Funds)
- Social Services: 2 Social Worker IIs to address high caseloads in Adult Svcs (\$172K)
- Social Services facility improvements (HVAC / Chiller): \$660K



Economic Development: Infrastructure and Site Development



- Future Economic Development Projects set-aside: \$628,000
- Water & Sewer investments:
 - New Wastewater Conveyance Design: \$2M
 - Hickory-Catawba WWTP Future Expansion: \$2M
 - Water Treatment Capacity Purchase: \$464K
 - Anderson Mtn. Water Storage Tank: \$250K



Community Planning & Development

- Utilities & Engineering – Building Services Officer: 1 FTE \$85K (on-going) and \$50K (one-time), supported by permit fee revenue
- Tax Real Estate Appraiser – Real Property: 1 FTE \$74K (on-going) and \$43K (one-time)



Investing in Quality of Life: Outside Agency Support

- Historical Assn: \$125K
- Hickory Public Libraries: \$277K
- Salt Block Fdn: \$110K
- United Arts Council: \$177K
- Chamber of Commerce: \$20K
- Convention & Visitors Bureau: \$20K
- Forestry: \$94K
- NC Wildlife Commission: \$6K
- WPCOG: \$167K + \$40K for MPO
- EDC: \$444.1K
- Court Svcs. Repay: \$201K
- Lake Norman Marine Commission: \$37K
- Catawba Wateree \$24K
- Conflict Resolution Ctr.: \$12K



Solid Waste Enterprise Fund

- \$11.1M planned debt (Spring / Summer 2027)
- \$5M cash (fund balance, fee revenue)



Competitive Pay, Positive Culture: Investing in our People

- Pay Plan Market-Based Adjustment: 3%
- Competitive Performance Pay
 - Meets expectations: 2% on anniversary
 - Exceeds expectations: 2% + \$500 on anniversary
- Health and Dental: 7% County Premium Increase
- Maintain 401k: 2% + 1% match



New Position Summary: Sustaining Services



Position	Department	Total FTEs	Funding Source
Paramedic / EMT	Emergency Services	6.00	Fees
Detention Officers* (* <i>partial year</i>)	Sheriff's Office	12.00	Local
Building Services Official (BSO)	Utilities & Engineering	1.00	Fees
Real Property Appraiser	Tax - Reappraisal	1.00	Local
Community Health Worker	Public Health	1.00	Federal
Social Worker III - Adult Services	Social Services	2.00	Local
Total FY2026/27 Recommended FTE Changes		23.00	



FY27 Proposed Fee Changes

Department / Fee Description	Change	Proposed Fee
U&E - Building Svcs: minor Electrical, Plumbing, U&E - Mechanical Fees added to Schedules C, D, and E	Added	\$60.00 Residential & Commercial
Landfill: Municipal Solid Waste Tipping Fees	2% or \$0.81 per ton	\$41.09 per ton
Emergency Services: EMS Fees	Increase from 135% of Medicaid allowable rate	165% of Medicaid allowable rate
Emergency Services: EMS Treatment / No Transport	\$75 increase	\$225.00
Emergency Services: Animal Shelter - fees for new programs, owner surrenders	Added	Various
Planning: Board of Adjustment fees	Increased by \$75 and added	\$500
Public Health: Clinical Services fees	Added; shifted to cost basis	Medicaid Reimbursement / Cost + 25%
Public Health: Environmental Health – Well Repair, Well Variance Evaluation, Variance Well Repair	Added	Various



Fire Protection Service Districts: Current State



FY27 Recommended Fire District Tax Rates



	FY2026 Adopted	FY2027 Requested	FY2027 Recommended	Change
Bandys	0.1000	0.1150	0.1050	0.0050
Catawba	0.1170	0.1230	0.1170	0.0000
Claremont	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300	0.0000
Conover	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.0000
Cooksville	0.0710	0.0785	0.0785	0.0075
Hickory	0.1250	0.1500	0.1250	0.0000
Long View	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.0000
Maiden	0.0883	0.0983	0.0983	0.0100
Mt. View	0.0855	0.0994	0.0855	0.0000
Newton	0.1110	0.1310	0.1210	0.0100
Oxford	0.0610	0.0610	0.0610	0.0000
Propst	0.0620	0.0720	0.0720	0.0100
Sherrills Ford	0.0990	0.0990	0.0990	0.0000
St. Stephens	0.1240	0.1240	0.1240	0.0000



Fire District: Bandys

Bandys		
	Rate	Revenue
FY26 Adopted	0.1000	\$ 1,346,473
FY27 Requested	0.1150	\$ 1,572,190
\$ Change - Requested	0.0150	\$ 225,717
% Change - Requested	-	16.76%
FY27 Recommended	0.1050	\$ 1,421,712
% Change - Recommended		5.59%
Rationale	Increased staffing (3 FTEs) to facilitate full station coverage	
Impact on Median Residential Property	\$11.24 / year \$0.94 / month	
Tax Rate History	FY24: Revenue Neutral; FY25: 2.15-cent increase	



Fire District: Catawba

Catawba		
	Rate	Revenue
FY26 Adopted	0.1170	\$ 417,575
FY27 Requested	0.1230	\$ 451,994
\$ Change	0.0060	\$ 34,419
% Change	-	8.24%
FY27 Recommended	0.1170	\$ 430,049
% Change - Recommended		2.99%
Rationale	Replace part-time hourly wage supplement; add part-time hours	
Impact on Median Residential Property	n/a	
Tax Rate History	FY24: Above revenue neutral; FY26: 1-cent increase	



Fire District: Cooksville

Cooksville		
	Rate	Revenue
FY26 Adopted	0.0710	\$ 208,814
FY27 Requested	0.0785	\$ 232,127
\$ Change	0.0075	\$ 23,313
% Change	-	11.16%
FY27 Recommended	0.0785	\$ 232,127
% Change - Recommended		11.16%
Rationale	Fuel, supplies, station debt service	
Impact on Median Residential Property	\$14.87 / year \$1.24 / month	
Tax Rate History	FY24: Revenue neutral; FY25: 1.7-cent increase	



Fire District: Hickory

Hickory		
	Rate	Revenue
FY26 Adopted	0.1250	\$ 877,619
FY27 Requested	0.1500	\$ 1,062,012
\$ Change	0.0250	\$ 184,393
% Change	-	21.01%
FY27 Recommended	0.1250	\$ 883,877
% Change - Recommended		0.71%
Rationale	Purchase 2 Tankers	
Impact on Median Residential Property	n/a	
Tax Rate History	FY24: Above revenue neutral; static since then	



Fire District: Maiden

Maiden		
	Rate	Revenue
FY26 Adopted	0.0883	\$ 558,940
FY27 Requested	0.0983	\$ 607,532
\$ Change	0.0100	\$ 48,592
% Change	-	8.69%
FY27 Recommended	0.0983	\$ 607,532
% Change - Recommended		8.69%
Rationale	Leadership Succession: Deputy Chief	
Impact on Median Residential Property	\$21.33 / year \$1.78 / month	
Tax Rate History	FY24: Revenue neutral; FY25: 1.63-cent increase	



Fire District: Mountain View

Mountain View		
	Rate	Revenue
FY26 Adopted	0.0855	\$ 1,108,290
FY27 Requested	0.0994	\$ 1,306,396
\$ Change	0.0139	\$ 198,106
% Change	-	17.87%
FY27 Recommended	0.0855	\$ 11,242
% Change - Recommended		1.01%
Rationale	Continuation of MFR beyond initial County funding	
Impact on Median Residential Property	n/a	
Tax Rate History	FY24: Above revenue neutral; FY25: 1.25-cent increase	



Fire District: Newton

Newton		
	Rate	Revenue
FY26 Adopted	0.1110	\$ 1,056,051
FY27 Requested	0.1310	\$ 1,276,152
\$ Change	0.0200	\$ 220,101
% Change	-	20.84%
FY27 Recommended	0.1210	\$ 1,166,102
% Change - Recommended		10.42%
Rationale	Startown Station Debt Service	
Impact on Median Residential Property	22.14 / year \$1.85 / month	
Tax Rate History	FY24: Revenue neutral; FY26: 1-cent increase	



Fire District: Propst

Propst		
	Rate	Revenue
FY26 Adopted	0.0620	\$ 405,057
FY27 Requested	0.0720	\$ 484,018
\$ Change	0.0100	\$ 78,961
% Change	-	19.49%
FY27 Recommended	0.0720	\$ 484,018
% Change - Recommended		19.49%
Rationale	Part-time pay, future building	
Impact on Median Residential Property	\$21.33 / year \$1.78 / month	
Tax Rate History	FY24: Revenue neutral; FY26: 0.3-cent increase	



Next Steps



- May 22 – 8:00 am to 5:00 pm: BOC Hearings w/Depts., Schools, & Outside Agencies
- May 26 – 6:50 pm: Public Hearing and Wrap-Up (SECC Budget, Countywide Budget)
- June 1 – 6:50 pm: FY2027 SECC Budget Adoption / FY2027 Budget Adoption





MAKING

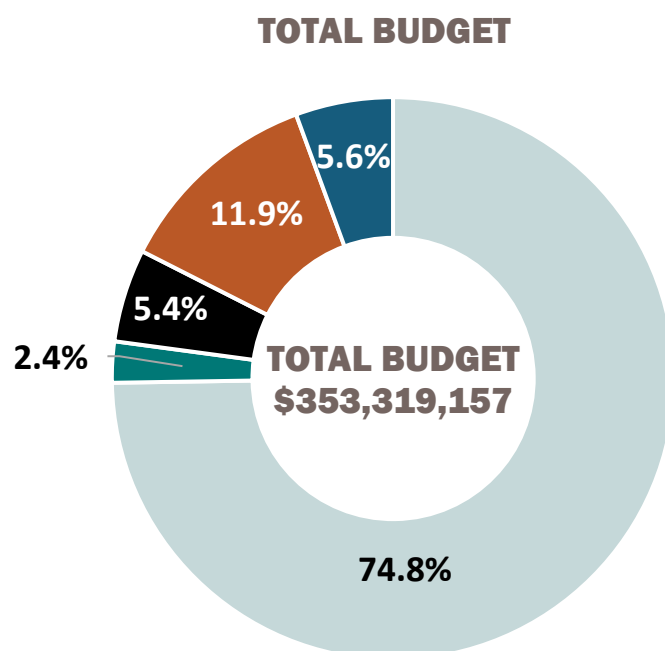
LIVING

BETTER



FISCAL YEAR 2026/27 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The County's total Fiscal Year 2026/27 Recommended Budget is \$353,319,157. The County manages these dollars using accounts—called funds—to track expenditures and revenue sources. Expenditures are calculated based on existing financial obligations, the expansion of services, and identified increased costs of providing existing services. Revenues are projected based on current collection trends, economic indicators, information provided to the County from external funders, and historic information. The easiest way for most people to think about funds is to compare them to bank accounts. Money comes into a fund from a variety of sources and is then used to provide services to the public. The budget appropriates funding in 40 funds, with the largest being the General Fund. The General Fund is the primary operating fund composing \$264,135,191 or 74.8% of the budget. These funds are summarized in the budget into the following fund types:



GENERAL FUND

Includes most County departments and services. It is often referred to as the operating Fund.

OTHER GENERAL FUND-LIKE FUNDS

Includes Self-Insurance, Reappraisal and Register of Deeds Automation Funds. These funds are largely funded by and/or tied to General Fund activities.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Includes funds that restricted for specific uses and have dedicated revenue sources including: E-911, Sheriff's Narcotics, Fire Protection Service Districts, Rescue Squads, Library Endowment, Parks/Historic Preservation Trust, Community Development, and Hospital Reserve Funds.

Includes General Capital, Schools' Capital, Schools' Construction, County Water & Sewer, SECC Water & Sewer District, and Solid Waste Capital Funds. Expenses in these funds are budgeted in projects, which—unlike other expenses that lapse at the end of each fiscal year—remain authorized until the projects are completed or the projects are closed.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Includes Solid Waste, County Water & Sewer, and SECC Water & Sewer District Operating Funds.

REVENUES

Catawba County has multiple revenue sources that are summarized in the following categories in the budget:

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 42.35 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Fire Service Protection District property taxes are budgeted in Special Revenue Funds.

SALES TAX

Consumers pay a local 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 use of the ¼ 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.

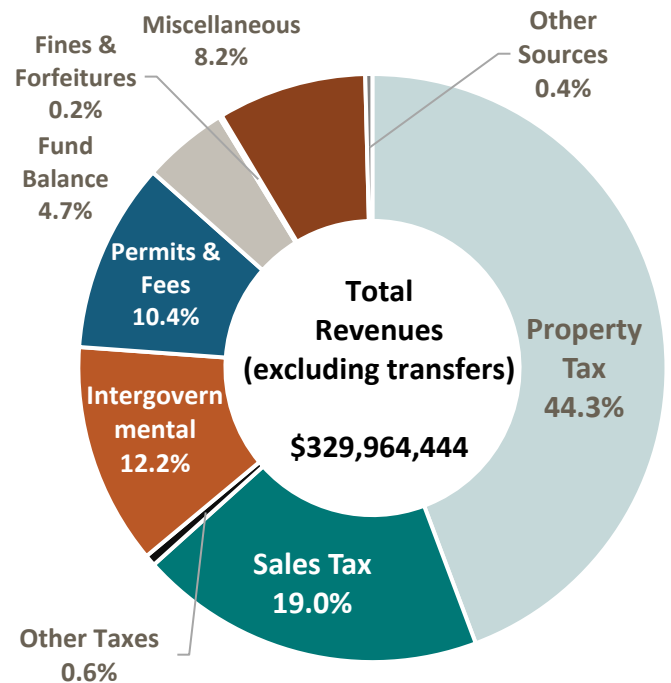
FINES & FORFEITURES

Fees collected by the Courts and entirely distributed to schools.

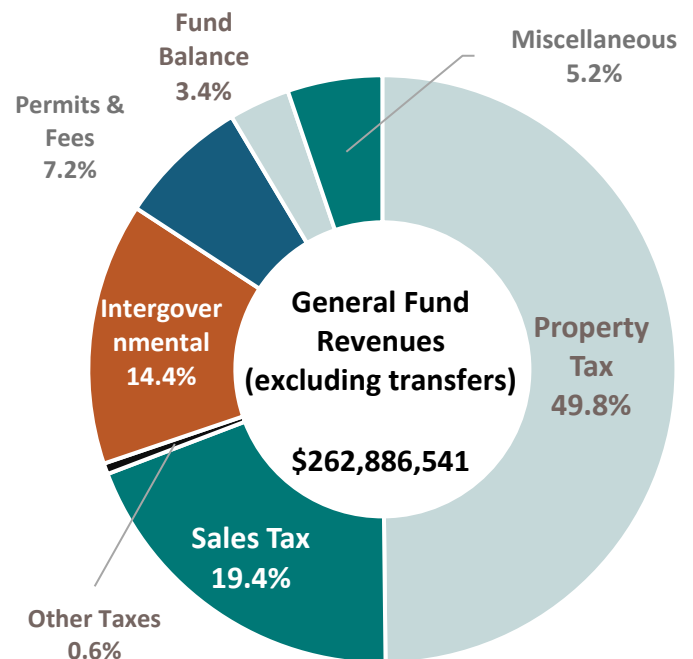
OTHER SOURCES

Includes debt proceeds, special contingency, and insurance premiums.

TOTAL REVENUES



GENERAL FUND REVENUES



REVENUE SUMMARY

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Adopted	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Recommended	Percent Change
GENERAL FUND					
Property Tax	\$125,788,666	\$126,384,000	\$131,001,500	\$131,001,500	3.7%
Sales Tax	47,196,804	46,356,000	50,548,000	50,947,261	9.9%
Other Taxes	4,438,229	2,582,500	1,581,500	1,581,500	-38.8%
Federal	18,599,353	18,844,688	17,334,633	17,334,633	-8.0%
State	7,856,116	8,371,538	8,208,468	8,208,468	-1.9%
Federal & State	6,632,248	6,294,128	6,348,451	6,348,451	0.9%
Local	6,473,862	5,697,997	6,012,103	6,019,019	5.6%
Permits & Fees	18,560,784	17,179,777	18,121,713	18,913,175	10.1%
Miscellaneous	8,807,329	4,049,337	4,106,957	4,646,957	14.8%
Fund Balance	0	7,977,361	24,838,304	8,819,705	10.6%
Transfers Between Funds	1,985,931	1,097,980	1,232,117	1,248,650	13.7%
Other Sources	251,237	11,355,397	9,765,872	9,065,872	-20.2%
	\$246,590,559	\$256,190,703	\$279,099,618	\$264,135,191	3.1%
OTHER GENERAL FUND TYPES					
Local	\$397,000	\$410,000	\$420,250	\$420,250	2.5%
Permits & Fees	18,121	15,000	18,000	18,000	20.0%
Miscellaneous	\$514,783	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	742,050	144,050	144,050	-80.6%
Transfers Between Funds	3,254,193	3,550,362	4,605,749	4,487,811	26.4%
Other Sources	2,999,264	3,103,000	3,148,000	3,148,000	1.5%
	\$7,183,361	\$7,910,412	\$8,426,049	\$8,308,111	5.0%
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS					
Fire Protection Service District	13,685,951	14,390,673	15,757,473	15,143,851	5.2%
Federal	5,598,070				0%
State	2,429,180	1,152,025	1,415,145	1,431,678	24.3%
Federal & State	269,790	400,000	400,000	400,000	0.0%
Local	543,784	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
Permits & Fees	118,866	150,000	150,000	150,000	0.0%
Miscellaneous	1,199,813	24,000	54,000	54,000	125.0%
Fund Balance	0	1,553,452	1,533,241	1,118,241	-28.0%
Transfers Between Funds	89,135	75,000	75,000	75,000	0.0%
Other Sources	296,458	534,744	534,744	534,744	0.0%
	\$24,231,047	\$18,282,894	\$19,922,603	\$18,910,514	3.4%
CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS					
Sales Tax	\$10,790,466	\$9,855,000	\$10,375,000	\$10,375,000	5.3%
State	20,017,179	581,138	0	0	0.0%
Local	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Permits & Fees	309,259	384,347	0	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	4,915,338	73,674	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	1,627,338	20,217,370	3,112,770	91.3%
Transfers Between Funds	24,523,034	14,347,617	20,128,083	17,543,252	22.3%
Other Sources	0	12,000,000	11,127,000	11,127,000	-7.3%
	\$60,555,276	\$38,869,114	\$61,847,453	\$42,158,022	8.5%
ENTERPRISE FUNDS					
Sales Tax	\$1,443,383	\$1,389,000	\$1,517,000	\$1,517,000	9.2%
Other Taxes	485,157	475,000	465,000	465,000	-2.1%
State	54,246	35,700	44,800	44,800	25.5%
Local	0	3,000		0	0%
Permits & Fees	14,760,836	14,404,315	15,352,030	15,352,030	6.6%
Miscellaneous	2,051,559	136,111	127,831	127,831	-6.1%
Fund Balance	0	1,009,687	2,289,834	2,275,658	125.4%
Other Sources	109,000		25,000	25,000	0%
	\$18,904,181	\$17,452,813	\$19,821,495	\$19,807,319	13.5%
TOTAL	\$357,464,424	\$338,705,936	\$389,117,218	\$353,319,157	4.3%

EXPENDITURES

The budget uses Functions to break down expenditures. Functions are categories within funds that are descriptive of the departments and services budgeted within them. The charts reflect the amount of the total budget and General Fund budget dedicated to each function.

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, County Water and Sewer, and SECC Water and Sewer District Funds.

HUMAN SERVICES

The Human Services' budget 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.

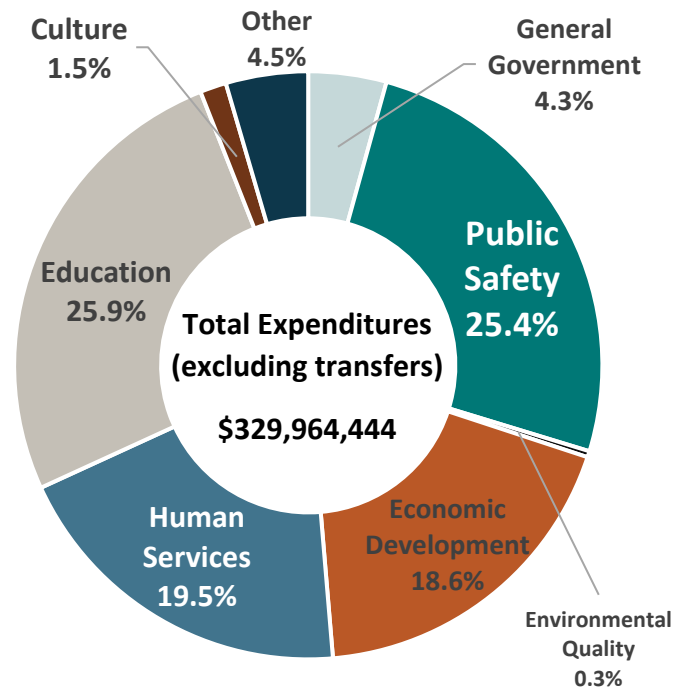
CULTURE

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

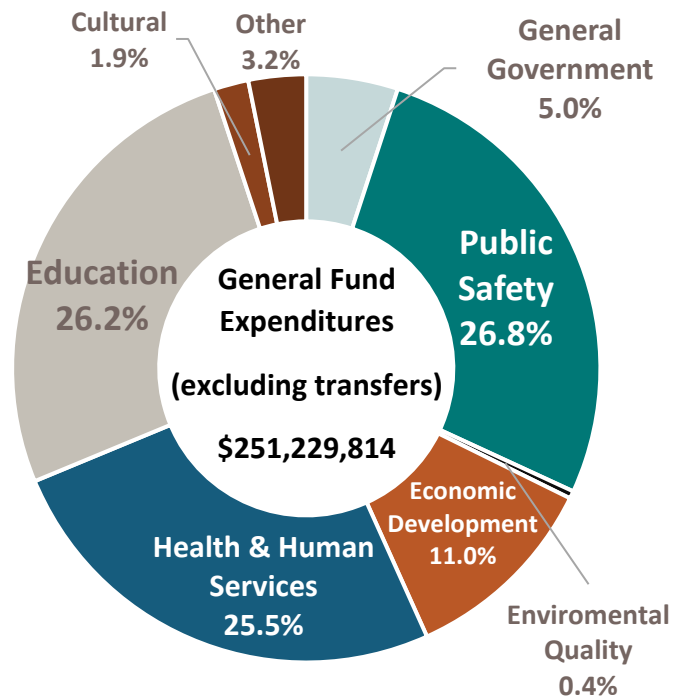
OTHER

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

TOTAL EXPENDITURES



GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
General Fund					
General Government	\$10,492,001	\$12,230,005	\$12,976,254	\$12,665,009	3.6%
Public Safety	58,272,496	59,197,142	70,339,213	64,136,001	8.3%
Environmental Quality	821,462	988,684	1,038,524	1,030,389	4.2%
Economic & Physical Development	24,254,066	26,306,811	27,721,253	27,036,940	2.8%
Human Services	54,046,027	62,460,516	65,185,817	63,974,710	2.4%
Schools Current Expense	53,232,866	53,321,026	59,531,700	54,280,662	1.8%
Libraries & Culture	4,426,377	4,650,514	4,828,156	4,782,275	2.8%
Debt Service	19,897,259	30,575,643	29,064,225	29,731,394	-2.8%
Transfers to Other Funds	10,897,210	6,460,362	8,767,749	6,497,811	0.6%
	\$236,339,764	\$256,190,703	\$279,452,891	\$264,135,191	3.1%
Other General Fund Types					
Self Insurance Fund	\$6,159,964	\$6,756,350	\$6,960,756	\$6,960,756	3.0%
Reappraisal Fund	890,535	1,064,062	1,355,293	1,237,355	16.3%
Register of Deeds Auto. & Preserv.	169,358	90,000	110,000	110,000	22.2%
	\$7,219,857	\$7,910,412	\$8,426,049	\$8,308,111	5.0%
Special Revenue Fund Types					
Emergency Telephone System Fund	\$574,278	\$441,406	\$1,009,627	\$594,627	34.7%
State Unauthorized Substance Fund	6,692	15,000	0	0	0.0%
Narcotics Fed Seized Justice Fund	181,737	200,000	200,000	200,000	0.0%
Narcotics Fed Seized Treasury Fund	60,239		50,000	50,000	0.0%
Hospital Reserve Fund	360,009	500,000	500,000	500,000	0.0%
Rescue Squads Fund	235,097	0	0	0	0.0%
Library Endowment Fund	5,885	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
Gretchen Peed Scholarship Fund	0	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%
Parks/Historic Preserv.Trust Fund	124,792	0	0	0	0.0%
Community Development Fund	163,947	0	0	0	0.0%
Stream Rehab Fund	58,245	155,000	75,000	75,000	-51.6%
OSBM Direct Grants	89,161	0	0	0	0.0%
ARP Act Fund	5,542,518	0	0	0	0.0%
Fines & Forfeitures Fund	296,182	534,744	534,744	534,744	0.0%
Opioid Settlement	347,678	777,980	932,117	948,650	21.9%
DSS Representative Payee Fund	272,953	400,000	400,000	400,000	0.0%
ROD State Fees Trust Fund	115,866	150,000	150,000	150,000	0.0%
Fire Protection Service District Funds	13,336,485	15,101,764	16,064,115	15,450,493	2.3%
	\$21,771,764	\$18,282,894	\$19,922,603	\$18,910,514	3.4%
Capital Project Funds					
General Capital Projects	\$13,885,773	\$3,660,000	\$4,715,000	\$1,613,000	-55.9%
Subdivision Road Improvement	\$660,448	\$517,885	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Schools' Capital Fund	10,436,986	11,178,612	28,313,056	11,058,456	-1.1%
Schools' Construction Fund	29,408,381	15,806,617	7,240,397	7,907,566	-50.0%
Solid Waste Capital	3,355,088	2,742,000	16,865,000	16,865,000	515.1%
Water & Sewer Capital Fund	\$4,323,650	\$4,964,000	\$4,714,000	\$4,714,000	-5.0%
	\$62,070,326	\$38,869,114	\$61,847,453	\$42,158,022	8.5%
Enterprise Funds					
Solid Waste	\$8,487,782	\$10,680,949	\$13,023,015	\$13,009,469	21.8%
Water and Sewer	\$4,029,672	\$6,771,864	\$6,798,480	\$6,797,850	0.4%
	\$12,517,454	\$17,452,813	\$19,821,495	\$19,807,319	13.5%
TOTAL	\$339,919,165	\$338,705,936	\$389,470,491	\$353,319,157	4.3%

MAJOR CHANGES IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2026/27 BUDGET

REVENUE

Property Tax

Due to tax base growth and increases to fire protection district tax rates, property tax revenue increased \$5.4 million budget to budget (\$4.6 million countywide property tax, \$753K fire protection service districts' property tax).

Sales Tax

Sales tax revenues increased \$5.3 million budget to budget due to overall anticipated growth of 9.9%.

Other Taxes

Other tax revenues (Medicaid Hold Harmless payments, Excise Taxes, and ABC Bottle Tax) decreased \$1,000,000 budget to budget. Medicaid Hold Harmless revenue, which was eliminated in FY2027 due to lack of collection in FY2026, comprised the entirety of this reduction. Collection for this revenue in FY2026 is projected to be \$36K at year end.

Federal Revenue

\$1M reduction in federal revenue due to reduction in federal bed rental revenue; this adjustment is based on information from the Sheriff's Office regarding a policy of decreasing federal inmates accepted to accommodate more local population. Demands from local populations are expected to increase with recent legislation, including Iryna's Law. Additional reductions to federal revenue are expected in Social Services, primarily due to changes to food stamps based on recent State-level policy adjustments, and in Public Health, due to the sunseting of the CDC Public Health grant in FY2026.

State Revenue

State revenue decreased by \$453,879, primarily due to reductions in Social Services and Public Health funding, as well as grants which are ending in FY2026.

Permits & Fees

Permits and fees increased by \$2.3 million driven by ambulance fees based on call volume, building permits based on continued strong building activity, water and sewer development fees based on building activity, landfill user fees based on increased tonnages and rates, and subdivision road improvement revenue.

Fund Balance

Overall General Fund fund balance appropriated increased \$842,344, which includes \$760,000 in capital expenses funded by Social Services and Library dedicated fund balance. Total fund balance spending in all funds increased by \$6.4 million driven by higher Solid Waste and Water & Sewer investments in Fiscal Year 2026/27.

EXPENSE

Public Safety

Sheriff

The Sheriff's Office budget increase is primarily driven by increases for twelve (12) new detention officers funded for ¼ of a year along with their operating costs. The budget also includes funding for an evidence storage system, inmate management software, new handheld radio replacements, and an increase for costs of replacement vehicles.

Emergency Services

The Emergency Services budget includes funding for six (6) new FTEs to help with Unit Hour Utilization (UHU). Four new staff will be added to the Hickory EMS base, and two new staff are to build capacity for existing staff and help lower response times. The budget also includes a retention and recruitment strategy as a means to help hire and retain the paramedic workforce. Other items funded in the budget are scheduled vehicle replacements, increased expenses for medical supplies, and various operating increases driven by inflation. Positions and expenses for the PORT (Post Opioid Response Team) are also added to the budget, supported by non-local opioid settlement dollars.

911 Communications Center

The budget includes funding to cover planned compensation and static overtime increases.

Other Public Safety

Other Public Safety includes funding for outside agencies including Court Services, Conflict Resolution Center, Lake Norman Marine Commission, Civil Air Patrol, and Rescue Squads.

Environmental Quality

Forestry

Contractually, Catawba County funds 40 percent of the total budget for Forestry, with the State of North Carolina funding the remaining 60 percent.

Cooperative Extension

The budget includes planned salary and benefit changes.

Soil & Water Conservation

The budget increases the funding for the Soil & Water Conservation department, which includes planned compensation changes as well as increases for training and education for employees.

Economic & Physical Development

Technology

The budget increase is driven by increases in maintenance agreements, professional services agreements, and planned salary and benefit changes.

Parks

The budget increase is for planned salary and benefit changes. Operating expenses increased due to necessary ongoing costs for safety at parks and maintaining buildings and grounds.

Planning

The budget reduces operating expenses due to a right-sizing expenses to the current department needs.

Utilities & Engineering

The budget includes funding to replace two vehicles, a new Building Services Official, inflationary increases, and compensation changes.

Facilities

The budget includes increases related to planned compensation changes, utilities, and maintenance / repair costs. There is an increase in County Buildings due to the new ARC/CREC facility coming online in August 2026. The Recommended Budget for Construction Project Management shows an increase due to the addition of a Construction Project Manager added during FY25/26.

Other Economic

Other Economic includes funding for economic development activities performed by outside agencies and incentive contracts negotiated to encourage business investment to grow the tax base, create new jobs, and result in net revenue above the cost of the incentives that helps support County services.

Human Services

Social Services

The Social Services budget focuses on providing mandated services (such as child / adult protective services, foster care, and public assistance eligibility) while maximizing non-local dollars. The budget increase is driven by planned compensation changes and increases in programs primarily supported by federal and state funds. The budget includes two (2) Social Worker III positions which are funded entirely through department funds and do not impact General Fund dollars.

Public Health

The budget includes an increase for contractual increases to janitorial services and for general renovations to Public Health facilities, as well as reductions in revenues and expenses related to grants which are scheduled to sunset at the end of FY2026 or mid-year of FY2027.

Partners Health Management

The County continues to work with Partners HM and other community partners to assess local physical and behavioral health needs and explore improvements. This funding includes \$180,000 in ABC funds, consistent with the NC GS 18B-804 requirement that bottle taxes and a portion of ABC gross receipts be spent for the treatment of alcoholism or substance abuse, or for research or education on alcohol or substance abuse. The increase in Fiscal Year 2027 recommended funding reflects the spending down of Catawba County fund balance being held by Partners HM in the current year.

Education

Current Expense

The budget includes a 3.9% increase in total current expense funding to increase public schools' per pupil funding by 2%, fund overall student growth, and to fund a current expense increase for Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC).

Culture

Library

The budget increase is driven by increases in operational costs, including increases to cover the purchase of physical books, leased books, and digital books. The budget is also impacted by a decrease as the Digital Champions Grant will come to an end in December 2026.

Other Cultural

The budget maintains current year funding levels for the SALT Block Foundation, United Arts Council, and Historical Association. Funding for the Hickory Public Libraries is increased based on the number of county residents using the system.

General Government

County Manager

The budget includes planned salary and benefit changes.

Tax

The budget includes planned salary and benefit changes.

Elections

The budget includes cyclical changes related to the municipal elections, and decreased funding for part-time/temp staff due to the election cycle.

Human Resources

The budget increase is based on planned compensation changes due to staffing and responsibility changes, as well as increased costs for pre-employment screenings.

Register of Deeds

The budget includes planned salary and benefit changes.

Finance

The budget increase is due to planned compensation changes and anticipated financial services costs.

Other Government

Other Government includes for outside agencies such as pass-through funds for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council projects and some general Countywide expenses not attributable to a specific department, such as the annual pay and classification study.

Contingency

The budget maintains funding at \$250,000 for contingency and \$100,000 for special contingency.

Debt Service

Debt Service decreased by \$844K due to rolloff of existing debt.

Other

Self-Insurance Fund

The County is self-insured. This fund is used to track the County's cost for wellness, property and general liability insurance, workers' compensation, and the employee/retiree share of health and dental costs.

Reappraisal Fund

The budget increase is due to increases in ongoing postage expenses in anticipation of the upcoming revaluation as well as the addition of one (1) Real Estate Appraiser position.

Emergency Telephone System Fund

This fund is used to account for funds received from the State 911 Board as the County's portion of the 911 Monthly Service Charge. The budget increase is due to fluctuations in planned capital expenditures, with new 911 AXS Radio Consoles updated to being purchased this year.

Fire Service Protection Districts

The budget maintains the current tax rate for nine districts and recommends increases in the tax rate for five districts. Five districts will apply fund balance towards capital purchases.

Rescue Squads

The FY24/25 Budget shifted the funds allocated to support rescue squad operations from a special revenue fund to the General Fund. Funds are budgeted to support the County's rescue squads in the Other Public Safety cost center.

Stream Rehab Fund

The budget continues to include \$75,000 in local funds to support additional StRAP projects.

Opioid Settlement Fund

The budget continues funding for an Opioid Coordinator position, Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the jail, and the Post Opioid Response Team.

General Capital Projects

Funds are included toward economic development, various technology updates, public safety needs, Newton Library branch, general renovations, and facility/campus improvements.

Schools Capital

The budget includes \$11.1 million to address annual capital needs of the three public school systems and CVCC.

Schools Construction

The budget also includes \$7.9 million in school construction funding. \$1.5M is related to an arbitrage payment which is expected in FY2027.

Solid Waste Capital

The budget includes \$16,865,000 for solid waste capital projects including continued cell construction, additional funding for the treatment and grinding processing area, improvements to Landfill Gas Collection systems, and additional funding for a new operator's building.

Water & Sewer Capital

The budget funds \$4,714,000 in locally funded water and sewer projects.

SECC Water & Sewer District Capital

The fund is maintained with \$0 budget.

Water & Sewer Administration

The budget increase is driven by an increase in the County's portion of the debt service paid to Hickory for the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility.

SECC Water & Sewer District

The fund is maintained with \$0 budget.

Solid Waste Management

The total Solid Waste Management budget increased \$2.3M due to a \$1.7M increase in the transfer to Solid Waste Capital, capital equipment purchases and salary and benefits changes across all orgs in the department.

Fines & Forfeitures, ROD State Fees, DSS Representative Payee

Consistent with the Governmental Accounting and Standards Board (GASB) standards, these funds are budgeted in special revenue funds.

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Board of Commissioners began a strategic planning process in July 2016 aimed at enhancing and promoting the County's quality of life in order to attract working-age families and to grow the economy. Since then, strategies designed to deepen tax base investment, create jobs, attract workforce and enhance the county's quality of life have yielded significant progress, including \$4.3 billion in corporate investment, the creation of more than 4,000 jobs, and 4 percent population growth.

Recognizing that the best strategic plans are living, breathing documents, the Commissioners have begun a renewed planning process referred to as Strategic Plan 2.0. This next phase builds on the Commissioners' initial successes by placing continued importance on economic development, workforce growth, and quality of life, key factors in assuring a thriving future for residents and businesses alike.

Strategic Plan 2.0 focuses on elevating and refining the Commissioners' strategies in five areas of impact: economic development, education, community planning and development, healthy and safe community, and nature and culture. Strategy development is still in progress; the Commissioners, the Manager's Office, and the Department Head team are working to establish a path forward in each area.

The Fiscal Year 2026/27 budget invests in services and infrastructure related to many of the five major focus areas of the updated strategic plan as well as general service needs. Highlights of investment include:

Economic Development:

- The budget continues to dedicate a portion of the ¼ cent sales tax towards future economic development needs and funds economic incentive agreements as previously approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Education:

- *Current Expense:* The budget increases current expense funding for the county's three public school systems by \$43 per pupil, resulting in 2.0% total increase to fund operating pressures, overall student growth, and a 2% increase in current expense funding to CVCC. The county's commitment to technology integration in schools continues with \$1.1 million dedicated to future Chromebook replacements.
- *Construction, Capital, and Debt:* The budget commits \$6.4 million for future school construction needs. Additionally, the budget funds \$11.1 million in schools' annual capital needs.

Community Planning & Development

- *Water & Sewer Infrastructure:* The budget includes \$4.7 million related to wastewater treatment plant expansion, water treatment capacity, and a water storage tank on Anderson Mountain.

- *Solid Waste*: The budget continues the multi-year plan that began in Fiscal Year 2018/19 with annual tipping fee increases to set aside funding for closure/post closure costs of the existing cell and future cell needs. MSW tipping fees will increase by 2 percent in Fiscal Year 2026/27.

Healthy & Safe Community:

- The budget invests in increased salaries, benefits, and extra duty pay in Public Safety to improve retention and ensure market competitiveness.
- Twelve (12) new Detention Officers are funded for ¼ of a year to help with the staffing of the Jail, as well as six (6) additional EMT/paramedic positions to assist with the Emergency Medical Services Unit Hour Utilization (UHU).
- Opioid Settlement Funds are invested in the following strategies to combat the opioid crisis:
 - An Opioid Coordinator to plan, coordinate, and oversee implementation of the County's response to the opioid crisis funded by opioid settlement funds.
 - Opioid settlement funds are also budgeted for Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the jail.
 - A Post Opioid Response Team (PORT) program, also known as REACH (Resource for Addiction and Community Health). This program aims to follow up with individuals who have recently overdosed to provide support, education, and connections to resources. The program is a Community Paramedic program, implemented in collaboration with Catawba County EMS funded by opioid settlement funds.
- Additionally, the budget includes increased funding towards operating expenses and equipment replacement for Rescue Squads and recommends tax rate increases for five fire service protection districts to enhance staffing and address facility and equipment needs.

Nature & Culture

- *Parks*: The budget invested \$51,000 to improve safety and enjoyment at parks.
- *Libraries & Culture*: The budget continues to reserve funds for the Newton Library Branch from Library Reinventing Surplus, consistent with the recently adopted Library strategic plan.

Addressing County Government Needs

- The 4-year General Capital Improvement Plan includes investments in technology, economic development, public safety, and facilities including:
 - \$5.0 million in technology infrastructure improvements and server and desktop applications
 - Plans for replacement of the county's Enterprise Resource Planning system by 2030 used for Human Resources, Finance, Purchasing, and Budget since 1999; anticipated to cost \$5 to \$6 million.
 - Reserves \$2.6 million towards economic development investments
 - \$1.1 million to demolish the old Agricultural Resources Center (ARC) once the programs are relocated to the former CVCC East Campus Building.
 - Plans for \$1 million in Parks and Library improvements.
 - \$1.3 million in public safety building and equipment needs

- \$1.6 million in improvements to county buildings and campuses.

The County is able to make these investments while setting a property tax rate of \$0.3985 for every \$100 of valuation, thanks to growth in the tax base, a strong tradition of fiscal stewardship, and conservative budgeting. Comprehensive long-range plans have been developed for critical service areas such as school construction, water and sewer infrastructure, parks, libraries, and solid waste.

The following pages provide 4-year revenue and expenditure projections that reflect the County's long-range plans.

4-YEAR REVENUE SUMMARY PROJECTION

	2026/27 Recommended	2027/28 Projected	2028/29 Projected	2029/30 Projected
GENERAL FUND				
Property Tax	\$131,001,500	\$136,600,000	\$141,800,000	\$147,000,000
Sales Tax	50,947,261	52,740,000	54,590,000	56,510,000
Other Taxes	1,581,500	1,650,000	1,710,000	1,770,000
Federal	17,334,633	17,690,000	18,050,000	18,420,000
State	8,208,468	8,380,000	8,550,000	8,730,000
Federal & State	6,348,451	6,480,000	6,610,000	6,750,000
Local	6,019,019	6,150,000	6,280,000	6,410,000
Permits & Fees	18,913,175	19,300,000	19,690,000	20,090,000
Miscellaneous	4,646,957	4,750,000	4,850,000	4,950,000
Fund Balance	8,819,705	9,577,000	8,810,000	8,442,000
Transfers Between Funds	1,248,650	500,000	500,000	2,902,000
Other Sources	9,065,872	7,201,000	6,524,000	6,334,000
	\$264,135,191	\$271,018,000	\$277,964,000	\$288,308,000
OTHER GENERAL FUND TYPES				
Local	\$420,250	\$428,000	\$437,000	\$446,000
Permits & Fees	18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Miscellaneous	90,000	\$92,000	\$94,000	\$96,000
Fund Balance	144,050	\$1,072,000	\$1,075,000	\$1,076,000
Transfers Between Funds	4,487,811	\$3,331,000	\$3,431,000	\$3,534,000
Other Sources	3,148,000	\$3,274,000	\$3,405,000	\$3,541,000
	\$8,308,111	\$8,215,000	\$8,460,000	\$8,711,000
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Fire Protection Service District	\$15,143,851	\$15,750,000	\$16,380,000	\$17,035,000
State	1,431,678	1,475,000	1,519,000	1,565,000
Federal & State	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Local	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Permits & Fees	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Miscellaneous	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000
Fund Balance	1,118,241	746,000	999,000	1,201,500
Transfers Between Funds	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Other Sources	534,744	540,000	545,000	550,000
	\$18,910,514	\$19,193,000	\$20,125,000	\$21,033,500
CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS				
Sales Tax	\$10,375,000	10,750,000	11,180,000	11,580,000
State	0	500,000	500,000	500,000
Local	0	16,400	16,400	0
Permits & Fees	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund Balance	3,112,770	615,000	2,200,600	8,474,000
Transfers Between Funds	17,543,252	21,912,300	6,464,000	6,689,000
Other Sources	11,127,000	18,000,000	0	25,000,000
	\$42,158,022	\$51,793,700	\$20,361,000	\$52,243,000
ENTERPRISE FUNDS				
Sales Tax	\$1,517,000	\$1,417,000	\$1,445,000	\$1,474,000
Other Taxes	\$465,000	480,000	485,000	490,000
State	\$44,800	36,000	36,500	37,000
Local	\$0	3,000	3,000	3,000
Permits & Fees	\$15,352,030	15,031,000	15,486,000	15,958,000
Miscellaneous	\$127,831	136,000	136,500	137,000
Fund Balance	\$2,275,658	14,678,421	(2,253,371)	(11,771,139)
Other Sources	\$25,000	0	0	0
	\$19,807,319	\$31,781,421	\$15,338,629	\$6,327,861
TOTAL	\$353,319,157	\$382,001,121	\$342,248,629	\$376,623,361

4-YEAR EXPENSE SUMMARY PROJECTION

	2026/27 Adopted	2026/27 Projected	2027/28 Projected	2028/29 Projected
GENERAL FUND				
General Government	\$12,665,009	\$13,045,000	\$13,436,000	\$13,839,000
Public Safety	64,413,103	66,345,000	68,335,000	70,385,000
Environmental Quality	1,032,739	1,064,000	1,096,000	1,129,000
Economic & Physical Development	25,475,778	26,240,000	27,027,000	27,838,000
Human Services	65,418,750	67,382,000	69,403,000	71,485,000
Schools Current Expense	54,280,662	55,909,000	57,586,000	59,314,000
Libraries & Culture	4,619,945	4,759,000	4,902,000	5,049,000
Debt Service	29,731,394	22,756,000	27,883,000	29,902,000
Transfers to Other Funds	6,497,811	12,670,000	7,576,000	8,656,000
	\$264,135,191	\$270,170,000	\$277,244,000	\$287,597,000
OTHER GENERAL FUND TYPES				
Self Insurance Fund	\$6,960,756	\$7,170,000	\$7,385,000	\$7,607,000
Reappraisal Fund	1,237,355	1,274,000	1,312,000	1,351,000
Register of Deeds Auto. & Preserv.	110,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
	\$8,308,111	\$8,544,000	\$8,797,000	\$9,058,000
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Emergency Telephone System Fund	\$594,627	\$595,000	\$595,000	\$595,000
State Unauthorized Substance Fund	0	0	0	0
Narcotics Fed Seized Justice Fund	200,000	15,000	165,000	290,000
Narcotics Fed Seized Treasury Fund	50,000	15,000	115,000	190,000
Hospital Reserve	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Library Endowment Fund	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Gretchen Peed Scholarship Fund	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Stream Debris Removal Fund	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Fines & Forfeitures Fund	534,744	551,000	568,000	585,000
Opioid Settlement Fund	948,650	963,000	992,000	1,021,800
DSS Representative Payee Fund	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
ROD State Fees Trust Fund	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Fire Protection Service District Funds	15,450,493	16,068,000	16,711,000	17,379,000
	\$18,910,514	\$19,339,000	\$20,278,000	\$21,192,800
CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS				
General Capital Projects	\$1,613,000	\$555,700	\$4,669,000	\$6,586,000
Subdivision Road Improvement	0	0	0	0
Schools' Capital Fund	0	(33,000)	(67,000)	(102,000)
Schools' Construction Fund	11,058,456	18,000,000	0	0
Water & Sewer Capital Fund	7,907,566	5,014,000	3,414,000	32,964,000
Solid Waste Capital	16,865,000	16,277,000	0	0
	\$42,158,022	\$39,813,700	\$8,016,000	\$39,448,000
ENTERPRISE FUND				
Water & Sewer	\$6,797,850	\$10,292,636	\$6,908,589	\$5,326,861
Solid Waste	13,009,469	21,488,785	8,430,040	1,001,000
	\$19,807,319	\$31,781,421	\$15,338,629	\$6,327,861
TOTAL	\$353,319,157	\$369,648,121	\$329,673,629	\$363,623,661

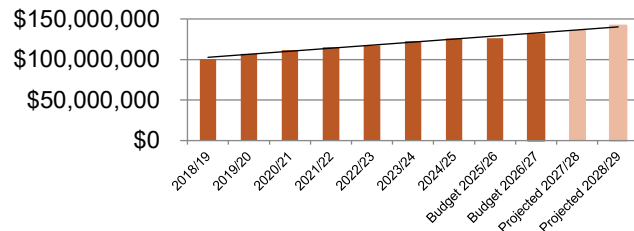
REVENUE TRENDS

MAJOR REVENUE SOURCES (ACTUALS & TRENDS)

Property Tax

A tax levied by the Board of Commissioners applicable to real and personal property. The budget maintains the County tax rate to \$0.3985 per \$100 of valuation. Fiscal Year 2026/27 budgeted property tax is \$131,001,500.

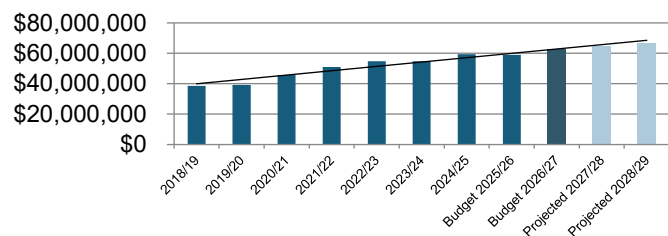
Property Tax Revenue
Actuals, Budgeted, Projected with Trend Line



Sales Tax

Sales tax is levied by the County, collected by the State, and then returned to the County. Sales Tax revenue is directly related to an economy's growth or decline.

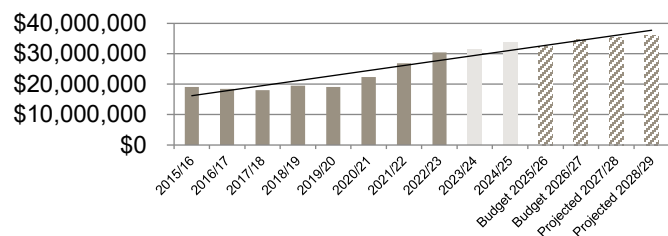
Sales Tax Revenue
Actuals, Budgeted, Projected with Trend Line



Permits & Fees

Revenue from permits and fees includes funds received from Medicaid reimbursement, user fees, and assessments to municipalities for items such as elections or animal shelter services. The largest revenues in this category include Landfill User Fees (\$10,354,680), Ambulance Charges (\$9,448,152), and Building Permits (\$4,042,051).

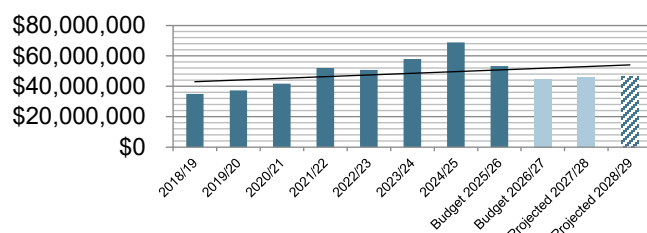
Permits & Fees Revenue
Actuals, Budgeted, Projected with Trend Line



Intergovernmental

Revenues received from the State and Federal government. Most of these revenues are tied to programs that a State or Federal Agency has ordered the County to implement, such as human service programs. Some of the largest revenues in this category include Medicaid Administration (\$5,301,146) and Work First Block Grant funds (\$2,065,320).

Intergovernmental Revenue
Actuals, Budgeted, Projected with Trend Line



FUND BALANCE

The County uses four basic fund types: General, Special Revenue, Capital, and Enterprise. Each of these fund types has its own specific legal and accounting requirements. Appropriations lapse at year end in the General, Special Revenue, and Enterprise Funds, for which annual budgets have been legally adopted. The Capital Projects Funds budgets are adopted on a project ordinance basis, spanning more than one year. Appropriations are carried over in these funds until the project is completed. Each fund also has its own fund balance. Fund balance represents monies that remain unspent after all budgeted expenditures have been made. These unspent monies serve as a working capital reserve to pay expenditures in the early part of the fiscal year before taxes are collected. The fund balances are also available for appropriation or may be saved for major capital expenditures. The Chief Financial Officer and the Budget and Management Director estimate fund balances for the current year and upcoming fiscal year based on expected revenue and expenditure occurrences throughout the year.

Fund balance is typically referred to in two ways: available fund balance and unassigned fund balance. The County's available fund balance refers to its total cash and investments minus liabilities, encumbrances, and deferred revenues at the end of each fiscal year. Unassigned fund balance is more conservative, referring to the amount of fund balance with no restrictions or designations that is freely available to be appropriated and spent at any time. It is calculated starting with the available fund balance and reducing it by things such as fund balance appropriated for subsequent year's expenses and Board of Commissioners' designations such as Reinventing Surplus (which may or may not be spent), and other reserves. The tables below reflect unassigned fund balance.

General Fund

The General Fund is the principal fund used to account for the provision of governmental services. This fund summarizes the financial transactions of functional services, based on departmental operations, except for those transactions that must be accounted for separately in other funds. The County had available fund balance of \$158.8 million at the end of Fiscal Year 2024/25. This is well above the LGC's 8 percent minimum requirement and the Board of Commissioners' goal of 16 percent.

General Fund (and like Funds) Unassigned Fund Balance at the end of Fiscal Year 2024/25 was \$75.9 million. The Fiscal Year 2026/27 budget appropriates \$8.8 million in General Fund fund balance to help finance County operations and capital projects. Additionally, \$144,050 in fund balance is appropriated in the General Fund-Like Funds.

General Fund (and like Funds) Available	Act. 6/30/2025	Est. 06/30/26	Appropriated FY	
			2026/27	Est. 06/30/26
General Fund (110)	74,135,975	74,200,000	\$8,819,705	73,700,000
Self Insurance Fund (115)	1,715,641	1,800,000	124,050	2,000,000
Register of Deeds Autom. & Preserv (160)	91,835	100,000	20,000	80,000
Total	75,943,451	76,100,000	8,963,755	75,780,000

Special Revenue Funds

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than special assessments, expendable trust, or major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for special purposes.

Special Revenue Fund Types Available	Act. 6/30/2025	Est. 06/30/26	Appropriated FY	
			2026/27	Est. 06/30/26
Emergency Telephone (202)	1,779,062	1,800,000	111,599	1,690,000
Narcotics Seized (205, 207, 208)	523,125	530,000	250,000	406,000
State Substance Abuse (206)	74,706	75,000	0	85,000
Library Endowment (250)	219,108	220,000	0	220,000
Gretchen Peed Scholarship (260)	60,006	70,000	0	72,000
Parks Preservation (270)	0	0	0	15,000
Stream Debris Removal (285)	252,558	250,000	0	250,000
Opioid Settlement Fund (293)	7,571,204	7,571,000	0	10,571,000
Fire Districts (352-369)	1,747,463	1,800,000	306,642	1,500,000
Total	12,227,232	12,316,000	668,241	14,809,000

Capital Projects Funds

The Capital Projects Funds are used to account for financial resources supporting acquisition or construction of major capital facilities. The County maintains a separate Schools' Capital Projects Fund, General Capital Projects Fund, Hospital Construction and Operations Fund, Water and Sewer Construction Fund, and Capital Projects Reserve Fund for accounting and budgeting purposes.

Capital Projects Fund Types Available	Act. 6/30/2025	Est. 06/30/26	Appropriated FY	
			2026/27	Est. 06/30/26
General Capital Projects (410)	2,885,414	2,890,000	150,000	2,740,000
Subdivision Improvement Fund (413)	472,646	480,000	0	480,000
Schools' Capital Projects (420)	6,438,431	6,500,000	800,556	5,700,000
Schools' Construction (423)	10,738,747	10,739,000	1,500,000	9,239,000
Hospital Construction & Reserve (235)	1,567,164	1,320,000	450,000	905,000
Total	22,102,402	21,929,000	2,900,556	19,064,000

Enterprise Funds

Enterprise Funds are used to account for services that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprise where the intent of the governing body is that the costs of providing service to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The County has two enterprise funds, the Solid Waste Management Fund and the Water and Sewer Fund.

Enterprise Fund Types Available	Act. 6/30/2025	Est. 06/30/26	Appropriated FY	
			2026/27	Est. 06/30/26
Water & Sewer (515 & 475)	13,732,958	13,733,000	884,250	12,849,000
Solid Waste (525 & 485)	11,644,883	17,000,000	2,642,722	14,400,000
Total	25,377,841	30,733,000	3,526,972	27,249,000

FEES UPDATES

Below are the fee changes/clarifications that are included as part of this budget. All fees are effective July 1, 2026, unless otherwise noted. The entire fee schedule is included in the appendix.

Utilities & Engineering: Building Services	Change	Proposed Fee
Electrical (Schedule C) - Temporary Electrical (by agreement per building)	Added Commercial Fee for Temporary Electrical (by agreement per building)	\$200.00
Plumbing (Schedule D) – Water Connection	Added	\$60.00 Residential & Commercial \$60.00
Plumbing (Schedule D) – Sewer Connection	Added	\$60.00 Residential & Commercial \$60.00
Mechanical (Schedule E) – Ductwork Only	Added	\$60.00 Residential & Commercial \$60.00
Mechanical (Schedule E) – Temporary Gas (by agreement per building)	Added	Commercial \$200.00
Miscellaneous (Schedule F) – Generator	Added	\$60.00 Residential
Utilities & Engineering: MSW Landfill	Change	Proposed Fee
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Tipping Fees	2% or \$0.81 per ton increase	\$41.09 per ton for most (\$20.55 minimum)
Other Waste	Increase from \$120.84 to \$123.26 per ton	\$123.26 per ton
Friable Asbestos	Increase from \$129.71 to \$132.30 per ton	\$132.30 per ton
Dead Animals	Increased animals over 280 lbs. by 2%.	\$41.09 per ton.
Loose Grass	Added	Commercial \$20.00 per load
Ground Brush, Limbs, Trees, etc. (no minimum)	Change from \$20.00 per ton to \$23.00 per ton	\$23.00 per ton
Emergency Services: EMS Fees	Change	Proposed Fee
Advanced Life Support (Non-Emergency)	Increased from 135% to 165% of the Medicare allowable rate	165% of Medicare allowable rate
Advanced Life Support (Emergency)	Increased from 135% to 165% of the Medicare allowable rate	165% of Medicare allowable rate
Advanced Life Support – ALS2	Increased from 135% to 165% of the Medicare allowable rate	165% of Medicare allowable rate
Basic Life Support (Non-Emergency)	Increased from 135% to 165% of the Medicare allowable rate	165% of Medicare allowable rate
Basic Life Support (Emergency)	Increased from 135% to 165% of the Medicare allowable rate	165% of Medicare allowable rate
Mileage	Increased from 135% to 165% of the Medicare allowable rate	165% of Medicare allowable rate

Specialty Care Transport	Increased from 135% to 165% of the Medicare allowable rate	165% of Medicare allowable rate
Treatment / No Transport	Increased from \$150.00 to \$225.00	\$225.00
Public Assist Fee (billed for the 5th and all subsequent "assist" calls in a rolling calendar year)	Added	\$50.00 per occurrence
EMS Standys	Change	Proposed Fee
Dedicated EMS Specialty Vehicle (1-EMS provider and an EMS UTV or QRV)	Adjusted	\$100.00 per event, per day
Dedicated ALS Ambulance (1-ALS ambulance and 2-personnel)	Adjusted	\$150.00 per hour, per ambulance (Min. fee of \$450.00)
Emergency Services: Animal Services	Change	Proposed Fee
Animal Adoption: Cat/Kitten/Dog/Puppy	Combined	\$5.00
New Lease on Life	Added	\$65.00
Owner Surrender Fee	Added	\$35.00
Barn Cat Program Pull Fee	Reduced from County Cost to Free	Free
Planning	Change	Proposed Fee
Appeal	Added	\$500.00
Cottage Business	Increased from \$425.00 to \$500.00	\$500.00
Extension/Change of Non-Conforming Use	Increased from \$425.00 to \$500.00	\$500.00
Non-Conforming Use	Increased from \$425.00 to \$500.00	\$500.00
Special Exception Permit	Remove	N/A
Special Use Permit	Increased from \$425.00 to \$500.00	\$500.00
Variance	Increased from \$425.00 to \$500.00	\$500.00
Special Districts and Conditional Zoning	Added	\$1,000.00
Minor/Family Subdivision Review	Increased from \$65.00 to \$100.00	\$100.00
Performance Guarantee Inspection	Increased from \$30.00 to \$50.00	\$50.00
Text Amendment (Applicant Initiated)	Increased from \$720.00 to \$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Sign Permit	Removed	N/A
Design Manul (Print)	Removed	N/A
Highway 321 Corridor Plan (Print)	Removed	N/A
UDO Procedure Manual (Print0	Removed	N/A
Library	Change	Proposed Fee
Large Format Printing	Remove. Coated/glossy paper \$2.50/linear foot	N/A

Large Format Printing	Increase Plain Paper from \$2.00 to \$3.00/linear foot	\$3.00/linear foot
Large Format Printing	Increase Photo Paper from \$3.00 to \$4.00/linear foot	\$4.00/linear foot
Special Resources, Technology, Equipment: Extended Use Fee	Remove	N/A
Special Resources, Technology, Equipment: Improper return to of technology book drop	Remove	N/A
Cooperative Extension	Change	Proposed Fee
4-H Camps, Conferences, and Retreats (for youth)	\$50-550 to \$50-555 varies depending on camp	\$50-555 varies depending on camp
4-H Project Guidebooks	Removed	N/A
Master Gardener Course Fee	Increasing from \$100 to \$150	\$150
Public Health	Change	Proposed Fee
Measles IgM Antibody (serum)	Adding test	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Measles PCR NAAT (urine)	Adding test	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)	Change cost from \$30.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
QuantiFERON TB Gold Plus (IGRA)	Change cost from \$69.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Rabies Titer Test	Change cost from \$30.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Measles IMIg	Adding Vaccine	Cost of vaccine + \$27.00
17 OHP	Added Fee	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Cortisol	Added Fee	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
DHEA-S	Added Fee	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Estradiol	Added Fee	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Free Testosterone	Added Fee	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
FSH	Change fee from \$20.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
HCG	Added Fee	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%

Hemoglobin A1c	Change fee from \$15.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Herpes Simplex Virus II IgG	Removed Fee	N/A
Herpes Simplex Virus I & II	Change fee from \$28.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Human Papillomavirus Screening	Change fee from \$32.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
IGF-1	Added Fee	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
LH	Change fee from \$11.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Prolactin	Change fee from \$25.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Total Testosterone	Added Fee	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
TSH	Change fee from \$11.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Urine Dipstick	Change fee from \$7.00	\$5.00
Urine Pregnancy Test	Change fee from \$10.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Vaccine Admin – 1 Injection	Change fee from \$22.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Vaccine Admin – each additional injection	Change fee from \$22.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Oral Administration	Change fee from \$17.00	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Depression Screening	Change fee from \$6.40	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Public Health: Environmental Health Division	Change	Proposed Fee
Well Construction and Inspection Permit (New, Replacement, and Repair)	Change fee from \$300.00	\$485.00
Well Repair Permit	Added Fee	\$150.00
Well Variance Evaluation	Added Fee	\$75.00
Variance Well Repair	Added Fee	\$350.00
Bacteriological	Change fee from \$58.00	\$100.00
Fluoride, Lead, Nitrite/Nitrate, Pesticide, Petroleum	Change fee from \$99.00 each	\$150.00 each
Administrative Fee	Added Fee	\$30.00

Archive Research (per project)	Added Fee	\$30.00
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PERSONNEL SUMMARY

The Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget includes a total of 1,254.45 authorized full-time equivalents (FTEs) in all funds. An FTE simply converts the hours worked by a position into a percentage of a full year's number of hours (2,080/year). Some FTEs may be filled with more than one person (multiple positions), and the work that is accomplished may equal more than 2,080 hours.

SUMMARY OF PERSONNEL CHANGES

The Fiscal Year 2026/27 budget includes a total of 24.50 additional FTEs than the adopted Fiscal Year 2025/26 budget, including 1.50 FTEs added during Fiscal Year 2025/26. The number of FTEs recommended to be added in the FY2026/27 budget are 23.00 FTEs.

New and increased FTEs included with the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget are as follows:

Position	Department	Total FTEs	Funding Source
Paramedic/EMT	Emergency Services	6.00	Fees
Real Property Appraiser	Tax - Reappraisal	1.00	Local
Detention Officers	Sheriff's Office	12.00	Local
Building Services Official (BSO)	Utilities & Engineering	1.00	Fees
Community Health Worker	Public Health	1.00	CSBG Funds
Social Worker III - Adult Services	Social Services	2.00	Local
Total FY2026/27 Recommended FTE Changes		23.00	

FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS BY DEPARTMENT

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Adopted	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Recommended
General Government				
County Manager				
Permanent	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Human Resources				
Permanent	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00
Tax Department				
Permanent	17.00	17.00	20.00	17.00
Board of Elections				
Permanent	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Register of Deeds				
Permanent	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Finance				
Permanent	17.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
Total General Government				
Permanent	71.00	70.00	73.00	70.00
Public Safety				
Sheriff's Office				
Permanent	261.00	261.00	281.00	273.00
Emergency Services				
Permanent	148.00	152.00	158.00	158.00
Communications Center				
Permanent	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00
Total Public Safety				
Permanent	442.00	446.00	472.00	464.00
	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Adopted	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Recommended
Environmental Quality				
Cooperative Extension				
Permanent	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Soil & Water Conservation				
Permanent	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60
Total Environmental Quality				
Permanent	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60





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STRATEGIC PLAN



COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN

Success for Catawba County means driving economic and population growth through creating jobs and strengthening quality of life.

CATAWBA COUNTY: STRATEGIC PLAN 2.0

In 2016, in response to projections indicating a declining workforce in Catawba County, the Board of Commissioners began implementing a Strategic Plan aimed at strengthening our economy and growing our working-age population. Since then, strategies designed to deepen tax base investment, create jobs, attract workforce and enhance the county's quality of life have yielded significant progress, including \$4.3 billion in corporate investment, the creation of more than 4,000 jobs, and 4% population growth.

Recognizing that the best strategic plans are living, breathing documents, the Commissioners have begun a renewed planning process referred to as Strategic Plan 2.0. This next phase builds on the Commissioners' initial successes by placing continued importance on economic development, workforce growth, and quality of life, key factors in assuring a thriving future for residents and businesses alike.

Strategic Plan 2.0 focuses on elevating and refining the Commissioners' strategies in five areas of impact: economic development, education, community planning and development, healthy and safe community, and nature and culture. Strategy development is still in progress; the Commissioners, the Manager's Office, and the Department Head team are working to establish a path forward in each area.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

What It Is: The strategic recruitment of major corporate investment and jobs to Catawba County. Due to their scale and impact, economic development initiatives are a collaborative effort among the County, local municipalities, the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation, the State of North Carolina and the private sector.

Why It Matters: Economic development strengthens our local economy by expanding the corporate tax base and creating jobs. New jobs provide economic opportunity for residents and help attract new residents to the community, further enhancing economic stability. A large and growing corporate tax base also helps support a low tax rate for all residents and our positive business climate.

Where We're Headed: Positioning the county to attract relevant and diversified tax base investment, jobs, and higher wages through targeted economic and workforce development efforts.

Current Focus: Industry Growth Analysis

Ensuring a diversified and sustainable mix of industries has long been an economic goal for Catawba County. Catawba County is partnering with the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation to identify growing industries with desirable wages that align with the County's current and future workforce assets. The goal of the analysis is to inform strategies for industry recruitment and workforce development to ensure our continued competitiveness in attracting industries that maximize the county's potential.

EDUCATION

What It Is: Increasing educational attainment and ensuring our residents have relevant job skills to engage productively in the economy. While Catawba County is not directly responsible for educational programming, the County collaborates with local education and business partners to offer pertinent, accessible education and workforce development programs.

Why It Matters: Education plays an important role in a person's ability to find a good job and factors significantly into quality of life. For a community to thrive, education and certification programs need to support the creation of a skilled workforce capable of filling local jobs and driving economic growth. The quality of our local education system is also a significant contributor to the County's desirability as a place to live and raise a family.

Where We're Headed: Targeted alignment of higher education programs and resources to support current and future workforce needs.

Current Focus: Higher Education Listening Sessions

Thanks to the presence of Catawba Valley Community College, Lenoir-Rhyne University and App State Hickory, higher education has never looked better in Catawba County. Recognizing the regional nature of the County's workforce, Catawba County Commissioner and Board Chair Randy Isenhower, County Manager Mary Furtado, and Catawba County Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar have held listening sessions with leadership from local and regional colleges and universities. As a first step toward identifying collaborative strategies for driving workforce alignment, the sessions focused on mutual priorities and shared future goals related to educational attainment and workforce development.

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

What It Is: The process of establishing a land use vision for the community's future. Through land use policies affecting the built environment, the Board works to balance property rights with community needs and expectations. This focus area includes planning for sufficient future infrastructure and public services. Part of the strategy involves strong partnerships between the County and our municipalities that enable us to guide future commercial and residential growth through targeted water and sewer investments.

Why It Matters: A community that is not growing is dying. As market-driven growth occurs in Catawba County, deliberate, focused planning helps guide development in line with community-informed plans and needs.

Where We're Headed: Ensuring a balanced and deliberate approach to future growth stewardship that preserves quality of life while supporting continued economic development.

Current Focus: Catawba County Comprehensive Plan

Catawba County has updated its Comprehensive Plan, a document used to help guide future land use decisions. Built around community input, the plan establishes an approach to future development in unincorporated Catawba County that preserves those aspects of life which make it a desirable place to live while supporting quality, focused development in appropriate areas.

HEALTHY & SAFE COMMUNITY

What It Is: Assuring residents receive the right care in the right place at the right time. Catawba County makes this happen through 911 communications, emergency medical response, law enforcement, adult and child protective services, healthcare, collaborative partnerships, and more. Assuring a healthy and safe community also requires balancing these continual service demands with appropriate community-based prevention strategies.

Why It Matters: The health and safety of a community are foundational to community and individual well-being. Safe communities that support individual and community health are places where people want to live.

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

Current Focus: EMS System Response

Catawba County Emergency Services is exploring the addition of a collaborative community paramedicine team to the County's EMS portfolio. A paramedicine team connects residents with services that go beyond emergency medical care, such as preventive healthcare or mental health resources, that may be identified as needs in an emergency medical response.

Current Focus: Opioid Strategy Development

Catawba County is set to receive just over \$25M in national opioid settlement funds over the next 18 years to implement transformational strategies to address the opioid crisis. With leadership from Catawba County Public Health and supported by Social Services, Emergency Services, and a broad range of community partners, the

County is evaluating the best ways to put those funds to use through evidence-based strategies aimed at prevention and resilience.

NATURE & CULTURE

What It Is: Enhancing quality of life through access to the outdoors, arts and culture. Catawba County does this through services and partnerships touching on parks and recreation, agriculture, historical preservation, and the arts, ensuring our residents and visitors have access to a diverse range of recreational and cultural amenities.

Why It Matters: Sustained, locally driven investment in community assets, such as parks and arts and culture, drives high-quality jobs, greater tax base investments, increased property values, population growth, and community prosperity. No one aspires to be a bedroom community.

Where We’re Headed: Promoting our community’s quality of life assets as foundational to economic vitality and workforce attraction.

Current Focus: Identifying Synergies

The Board is exploring a variety of opportunities for synergies and potential collaboration in both the outdoors and the arts. This includes updating the Catawba County Parks Master Plan, a long-term vision for Catawba County Parks co-created with citizen input, in FY2024-2025. The anticipated release of the United Arts Council of Catawba County’s community-wide cultural plan in late 2024 is expected to help further inform potential strategies in this focus area.



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INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNTY





NESTLED IN THE FOOTHILLS of the Appalachian Mountains and bordered by the Catawba River, Catawba County offers the hospitality of a mid-size community with reach that extends across a highly populated and fast-growing region. Situated between Charlotte and Asheville at the juncture of Interstates 77 and 40, we are an easy drive to major cities, the mountains, and the coast. Thanks to this ideal location, we provide a unique opportunity to live and work in a connected, inclusive and knowable community with convenient access to diverse amenities and the amazing wonder of our region's natural spaces

#MyCatawbaCounty

For a community of our size, Catawba County offers an exceptional amount of arts, culture, recreation and entertainment experiences. This includes a thriving local culinary scene, two community theaters, indoor and outdoor live music venues, an acclaimed art museum and local folk art festival, a symphony, multiple farmers markets and farm tours, breweries and distilleries, a renowned science center, hiking and biking trails, family-friendly activities, historical attractions, an annual visiting writers series, a semi-professional soccer team and the championship-winning Hickory Crawdads minor league baseball team. There's no shortage of things to see and do right here at home.

Catawba County is ideal for those who have a sense of adventure and a heart for hard work: for people with a passion for making something of themselves, their community, and the future. Our residents are actively crafting a living and a life rich in both tradition and promise.

Our work ethic is the essence of our community: if it can be made, we'll make it. If it can be improved, we'll improve it. And if we can do it together, it'll be the best it can possibly be. We appreciate where we've been and look forward to where we're headed, and we approach life with warm hospitality, humility, strong loyalty to family and community, and a fierce commitment to making a difference for the people who live and work here.

Our character is also reflected in the strategic vision of local leadership to build a strong, collaborative foundation for economic and population growth in the areas of education, housing, infrastructure, arts and culture, health and safety, and economic development. Municipal and community partners from across the county are committed to taking the action needed to achieve shared, long-term prosperity for our community.

All told, Catawba County has a long tradition transforming possibility into prosperity. Our creative, industrious spirit reflects a legacy driven by invention – and reinvention – to make life better. Today, this looks like revitalized Mill Districts that have renovated abandoned mills into thriving corporate and retail spaces; the initiation of several major, long-term community and downtown development projects designed to enhance walkability, livability, connectivity and aesthetic appeal; a diversified workforce that has transformed local industry; and the expansion of access to our incredible natural recreation spaces through the addition of hundreds of acres to our local park systems.

#MakingLivingBetter

ABOUT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Catawba County provides a full range of governmental services including administration, human services, parks and recreation, education, community development, public works, and public safety.

The County adopted the Board-Manager form of government and organization in 1937. Under this form of government, the County is governed by a popularly elected five-member Board of Commissioners who serve staggered four-year terms in even-year elections.

THE COUNTY MANAGER is responsible for implementing policies set by the Board of Commissioners and for directing, coordinating, and supervising the daily activities of County government. The County's Values Statement reflects the County's public service priorities.

DOING WHAT'S RIGHT

Integrity, respect, transparency, professionalism

DOING WHAT MATTERS MOST

Service to others, initiative, empowerment, prioritization, authenticity

DOING IT TOGETHER

Teamwork, inclusion, stewardship, empathy, patience

DOING IT WELL

Innovation, accountability, operational excellence, continuous improvement

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



C. Randall Isenhower
Board Chair



Austin Allran
Board Vice-Chair



Robert C. Abernethy, Jr.
Board Member



Barbara G. Beatty
Board Member



Cole Setzer
Board Member

THE BOARD has many duties and authorities, including the following:

- Determining the County's strategic vision
- Adopting a balanced County budget by June 30 annually
- Establishing the County's tax rate
- Setting County policy by adopting resolutions and local ordinances*
- Appointing the County Manager as chief administrator
- Appointing the County Clerk, County Attorney, and Tax Administrator
- Appointing individuals to serve on various advisory boards and commissions
- Providing funding for the construction and maintenance of public school facilities and Community College
- Determining the level of local current expense funding for public schools and Community College annually
- Providing for the safety and well-being of all residents
- Determining land use and zoning outside municipal boundaries
- Conducting long-range planning for County needs (Capital Improvement Plan, or CIP)
- Calling for bond referenda
- Entering into contracts on behalf of the County
- Serving as liaisons to local, state, and federal boards and commissions

**Because the Sheriff and Register of Deeds are also elected officials, they have independent authority to adopt policies for their departments*



LAND AREA

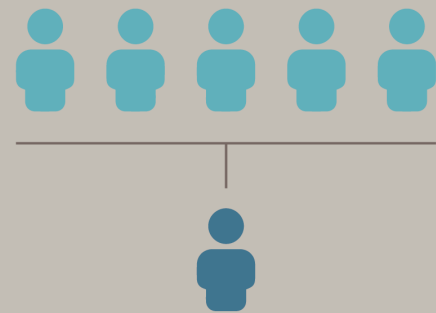
401
SQUARE MILES

SIZE RANK

#61

BOARD-MANAGER

County Board of Commissioners consists of five elected members who choose a Board Chair and Vice Chair. The Board adopts and amends County laws, approves the County's budget, establishes policy, and appoints citizens to boards and commissions. The County's day to day operations are administered by the County Manager, who is appointed by the Board.



COMMUNITY COMPARISONS

Catawba County is part of the greater Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which consists of four counties in the Catawba Valley region of western North Carolina: Catawba, Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell Counties. The following section provides a perspective on the relative populations of the other counties in the MSA and surrounding region as well as key comparative cost of service data.

POPULATION	
NC OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET	
Mecklenburg	1,206,285
Union	263,386
Cabarrus	244,925
Gaston	242,010
Iredell	206,361
Catawba	167,054
Rowan	153,384
Lincoln	97,611
Burke	88,545
Caldwell	80,739
Alexander	36,693

PROPERTY TAX RATE [FY 2025/26]	
PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE	
Alexander	\$0.6500
Gaston	\$0.5990
Rowan	\$0.5800
Cabarrus	\$0.5760
Burke	\$0.5550
Iredell	\$0.5000
Lincoln	\$0.4990
Caldwell	\$0.4975
Mecklenburg	\$0.4927
Union	\$0.4342
Catawba	\$0.3985

GENERAL FUND BUDGET [FY 2025/26]	
\$ MILLIONS	
Mecklenburg	1,752.5
Union	444.1
Cabarrus	399.5
Gaston	340.4
Iredell	343.9
Catawba	256.2
Rowan	215.4
Lincoln	163.1
Burke	116.3
Caldwell	105.2
Alexander	60.6

LAND AREA	
SQUARE MILES	
Union	632.74
Iredell	574.41
Mecklenburg	523.60
Rowan	511.61
Burke	506.24
Caldwell	471.89
Catawba	401.37
Cabarrus	361.23
Gaston	355.75
Lincoln	295.85
Alexander	259.99

PROPERTY TAX



total number of
HOUSING UNITS

69,195

SALES TAX

Catawba County receives
**2.25 cents of the total
sales tax rate of 7 cents.**

It shares proceeds from the first
2 cents with municipalities on
a per capita basis.

The remaining **.25 cent**,
approved by County voters in
2007, is primarily dedicated to
supporting the Justice/Public
Safety Center expansion,
public school operations,
economic development, and
water & sewer infrastructure.



- State
- All Counties
- .25¢ Local Option

total tax rate
per \$100 assessed value

2025
\$0.3985



avg. assessed value
of county single-family home

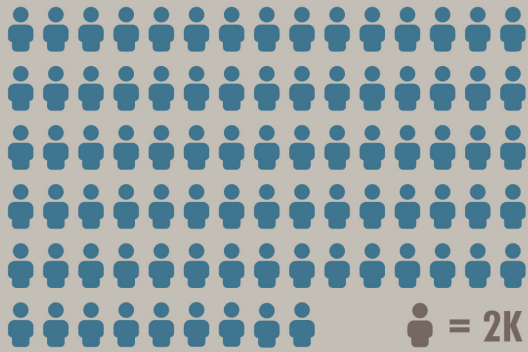
2026 | **2027**
\$304,805 | **\$327,300**

SALES TAX BY SECTOR



POPULATION 168,248

NC Office of Management & Budget



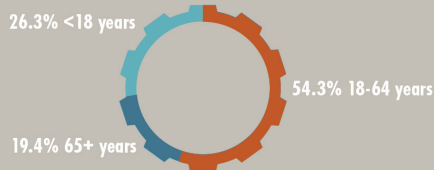
POPULATION DIVERSITY

US Census 2025 Estimate

- White [72.8%]
- Hispanic or Latino [11.7%]
- Black or African American [9.0%]
- Asian [5.0%]
- Two or More Races [2.3%]
- American Indian [0.6%]
- Other Race [0.2%]

POPULATION AGE

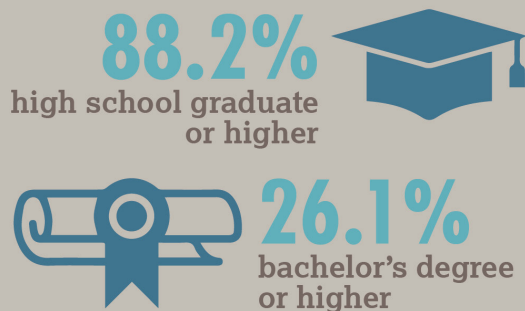
US Census 2025 Estimate



*Percentages add to over 100% because Hispanic individuals may identify in different races and then reported in multiple categories where applicable.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

US Census 2025 Estimate



POPULATION

With a median age of 42.1 years, the County is facing the challenges that arise from an aging population in conjunction with little population growth over the previous decade. The County's median household income was \$67,864 in 2024, which was \$4,524 and \$12,870 less than the respective state and national medians. Approximately 13 percent of the County's population is at or below the poverty line. Approximately 25.2 percent of the community identifies themselves as an ethnicity other than White (Non-Hispanic).

EDUCATION

Catawba County has 44 public schools across three school systems with approximately 22,281 combined students. The largest system, Catawba County Schools, is also the County's largest employer. Enrollment for FY2026/27 is anticipated to stay level as a whole losing three students county-wide. Student population has decreased from 22,311 in FY25 to 22,281 anticipated in FY27. For 2025, the average 4-year graduation rate for the three systems combined was 91.4 percent, above the statewide rate of 87.8 percent. Individually, Newton-Conover City Schools had the highest graduation rate at 93.8 percent, Catawba County Schools' rate was 90.9 percent, and Hickory City Schools' was 89.6 percent.

Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) offers more than 50 programs of study with one- and two-year degree programs, a two-year college transfer program, and continuing education classes.

While funding public schools is primarily a State responsibility, approximately 41 cents of every local property and sales tax dollar is dedicated to current expense (operating), capital and debt service needs of the three public school systems and CVCC.



HIGHER EDUCATION

The County is home to Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU), a liberal arts institution founded in 1891 offering students more than 50 undergraduate majors and more than 20 graduate programs in five schools of study: Arts and Sciences, Health Sciences, Education and Human Services, Professional and Mathematical Studies, and Theology.

For the past several years, LRU has offered a scholarship program called the Lenoir Rhyne Promise. The program is available to any North Carolina resident who is a first-year undergraduate student with a 3.5 or higher high school GPA or to a transfer undergraduate student with more than 30 earned credit hours from an accredited North Carolina community college and a 3.5 GPA. Students who apply to LRU and meet the qualifications will automatically be enrolled in the program.

App State Hickory, announced in late 2021 by Appalachian State University, opened its Catawba County campus in the fall of 2023. The new 15.7-acre campus is a strong public university presence in Catawba County and the surrounding MSA, which had previously been the State's largest metro area without one. The Hickory campus offers more than 100 undergraduate majors along with a host of on-site student services, including a library, success coaching, career development, and access to student clubs and organizations.

With the official opening of Fall 2023 enrollment, App State Hickory offered a \$2,000 Hickory First scholarship to the first 500 students enrolled. To help ensure App State Hickory's degree programs align with the MSA's higher education and future workforce needs, Catawba County is among 39 public and private sector leaders collaborating with the university through the App State Hickory Campus Advisory Council. App State is currently developing collaborative plans for a Hickory Connect Innovation District in conjunction with the growth of the Hickory campus. The plan is rooted in blending the campus into a connected network of streets and paths that link it to the larger Hickory Innovation District and set the framework for future campus expansion.

PARTNERING TO SUPPORT EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Building upon the core strengths of the local economy, Catawba County has made significant strides in preparing its workforce with the skills to meet current and future labor needs of local employers. As employment opportunities continue to grow and long-tenured skilled workers approach retirement, cross-sector partnerships among local governments, the business community, education systems, and industry-specific resources have institutionalized a full-spectrum approach to connecting local talent with available jobs.

Several key initiatives that have emerged from these partnerships are highlighted here.

The Workforce Solutions Complex at CVCC, which opened in early 2019, is a concrete example of how Catawba County is transforming to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow. The 80,400-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility brings together advanced equipment and instruction for hands-on training in a variety of industries, including Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Computer Integrated Machining,

Electronics Engineering Technology, Automotive Systems Technology, Welding, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Mechatronics and Robotics, and Heating/Ventilation and Air Conditioning. The \$25.1M facility was funded by the County.

The ACT Career Readiness Certificate allows job seekers to show prospective employers that they possess basic skills required for today's workplace. This certification is recognized by more than 100 employers in the MSA, and the number is growing. Every public high school within Catawba County offers the certification. The Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board has worked to certify Catawba County as a Work Ready Community, which positions the County to quantify the skill levels of its workforce, identify gaps and develop plans to address those gaps. Based on this information, educators, local businesses, and governments build career pathways aligned to the needs of business and industry. The County has achieved 100 percent of ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate goals.



Catawba Valley Community College's Academy programs, including the **Catawba Valley Furniture Academy**, the **Catawba Valley Manufacturing Academy** and the **Construction Careers Academy**, are private-sector-driven training programs that prepare students for high-demand, skilled positions in targeted local industries. Designed in partnership with local businesses, the academy provides industry-specific training and leads directly to employment opportunities with participating companies.

Catawba Apprenticeship Network is a training pipeline for enrolled high school juniors and seniors in Catawba and Alexander counties. Based on the German apprenticeship model and accredited by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, this highly competitive 4-year program ensures students are career-ready at graduation by providing 8,000 hours of paid on-the-job training that counts toward an Associate Degree in Mechatronics Engineering Technology or Computer Integrated Machining Technology from CVCC. These degrees often serve as the foundation for future four-year degrees in fields such as mechanical engineering. Additionally, students earn Journeyman Certificates upon graduation, qualifying them for immediate work in skilled trades such as Mechanical Maintenance Technician, Electrical Maintenance Technician,

Mechatronics Technician, Tool & Die Maker, and Computer Numerically Controlled Machinist, among others. Not only do these high-performing students leave the program with degrees, but they do so without incurring any college debt and are employed full-time by the sponsoring company, earning at least \$34,000 per year and gaining pathways to jobs with earning potential of \$65,000 to \$86,000. Students are selected to participate annually from the County's three public school systems through a competitive process. The program is supported by several advanced manufacturing companies in the area.

The Manufacturing Solutions Center (MSC) I and II, a branch of CVCC, helps entrepreneurs and works with companies in all 50 states and over 150 countries to conduct product testing or prototyping, or to find domestically-made production inputs. MSC has worked with such nationally known companies as Keen, Merrell, 3M, Nike, Hanes Brand, LL Bean, Lands' End, Target, Polartec, Boeing, and Ralph Lauren.

MSC focuses on helping companies and entrepreneurs bring a product to market, improve product quality and production, increase sales, and create and retain jobs. MSC has also established itself as a regional expert in prototype development using 3D printing. To improve product quality, the MSC has an accredited ISO/IEC 17025 testing laboratory at its 10,000 square foot manufacturing incubator, where microbiological, thermal, and mechanical testing for textiles is performed. To help increase sales, MSC develops marketing materials and works to identify new or expanded export and marketing opportunities.



The Center aids entrepreneurs in transforming concepts into finished marketable products by bringing together all of the resources needed to successfully launch a product. MSC has facilitated development of such innovative products as wearable technology that regulates blood circulation, delivers active ingredients to the skin through the fabric, and integrates QR codes into the material so it can be scanned and tracked throughout the production process.

In 2021, the City of Conover received a \$9 million appropriation from the State to construct MSC II through

a public-private partnership with the MSC and a private investment firm. This second facility is located on the same campus as the original MSC (MSC I) and was completed in early 2023. The new facility houses new lab and testing facilities that expand on the resources provided by MSC I, as well as several independent companies that formed from the MSC I business incubator program.

At America's Competitiveness Forum in 2014, the MSC was recognized by the US Department of Commerce as one of the top economic job creation programs.



LOCAL ECONOMY

Catawba County is part of the Hickory Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba counties.

The retail and employment hub of the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area, Catawba County has successfully diversified and balanced its traditional manufacturing base of furniture, textiles, and telecommunications through comprehensive economic development efforts to recruit new non-manufacturing sectors. Its prime location at the junctures of I-77 and I-40 with less than an hour's drive to Charlotte Douglas International Airport adds to Catawba County's desirability as a business hub.

The County has made strides to diversify the tax base, with Apple, Inc., Microsoft, Target, and Cataler serving as a few examples of newer employers helping to enhance the County's data center, distribution and automotive manufacturing sectors. The County's primary employers also reflect this changing economic environment, with the County's three school systems and two medical centers showcasing the strength of the local educational and health services sectors.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE LOWEST IN NORTH CAROLINA

Employment figures in the MSA reflect a stagnant job market, showing that the region has not gained or lost any jobs Year over Year since March of 2024 according to the NC Department of Labor Market Overview.

The County's unemployment rate peaked at 18.9% in April 2020 due to the pandemic but has decreased to 3.3% in December 2025 per the US Bureau of Labor and

Statistics. This unemployment rate is lower than State's December 2025 rate of 3.9% and lower than the national rate of 4.4%.

STRONG RETAIL SALES & TOURISM PERFORMANCE INDICATE SUSTAINED RECOVERY

Catawba County remains a retail magnet for the region, capturing 59% of the \$6.3 billion in retail sales from the four-county MSA, while accounting for only 44% of the population. Taxable sales were 5.2% higher in Fiscal Year 2024/25 than FY 2023/24, and this was the 16th year in a row that revenues increased.

Statewide, the County ranks 18th in population but 14th highest in taxable sales. These figures cement Catawba County's position as a regional retail destination highlighted by furniture and automotive corridors, shopping options ranging from local boutiques to popular box stores, and a vibrant restaurant scene. The strength of the County's retail hub draws visitors from surrounding communities and generates significant taxable sales within the County. The State's recent extension of sales tax to certain services, including tickets for entertainment events, has positively impacted the County's taxable sales activity.

This economic sector is buttressed by the presence of a wide range of cultural amenities that appeal to all audiences, including the following examples:

- Catawba Science Center
- Green Room Community Theatre
- Hickory Choral Society
- Hickory Community Theatre
- Hickory Crawdads Baseball Team
- Hickory Football Club
- Hickory Metro Convention Center
- Hickory Motor Speedway
- Hickory Museum of Art
- Newton-Conover Auditorium
- Newton Foothills Folk Art Festival
- Oktoberfest in Downtown Hickory
- Western Piedmont Symphony

Recent and continuing downtown redevelopment efforts, including those in the cities of Hickory, Conover, and Newton, have resulted in the improvement of outdoor walkability and gathering spaces and the installation of outdoor amphitheaters that host frequent concerts, festivals, and events annually.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Catawba County has taken a proactive, aggressive approach in charting its economic future through targeted expansion. In the past few years, job gains have been made as a result of significant expansion projects – funded both privately and in partnership with the public sector - occurring in a wide range of industries from traditional manufacturing to high-tech. This mix of public-private partnership and private investment underscores the County's balanced economic health and resiliency.

To further bolster these efforts, the County continues to actively recruit and attract targeted national and international companies with a focus on higher-wage industries like information and advanced manufacturing, the latter of which leverages the County's skilled workforce.

Thanks to the efforts of the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation, \$4.37 billion in investment and 4,625 jobs have been announced since 2016. 275 jobs and \$209 million in investment were announced in 2025.

PARTNERING TO STIMULATE GROWTH

Catawba County is committed to supporting new and existing business and industry through the delivery of high-quality government services supported by a low and stable property tax rate. The County actively collaborates with the private sector, municipalities, and the EDC to attract new businesses, development, and jobs. Recognizing the need to take action in order to stimulate economic growth, Catawba County invests in the following partnerships and strategies.

Trivium Corporate Center is a 281-acre Class A Business Park developed jointly by Catawba County and the City of Hickory. The park is being developed incrementally over time in an effort to create job opportunities in advanced light manufacturing facilities, technical operations, and corporate headquarters. The vision for the park is to have amenities such as community walking/cycling trails, community gardens, and open green space to accentuate the site's character, and to appeal to business prospects in a corporate, upscale environment where light manufacturing, engineering, and innovation co-exist and augment the greater community. The County's share of the total commitment is \$10.9 million. In August 2018, Corning became the first tenant in the park, announcing plans to build a cable manufacturing facility for its Optical Communications business segment, committing to create approximately 110 jobs and invest \$60 million in this location. Since then, three more Trivium tenants have committed to fill 7 of Trivium's 9 available sites. Cataler North America Corporation, a Toyota Motor Corporation affiliate, announced plans to construct a manufacturing facility for the production of automotive catalysts for some of the world's largest producers of automobiles, committing to create 151 jobs and invest a minimum of \$42 million. American Fuji Seal, a Japanese owned company manufacturing shrink wrap packaging, announced plans to establish a facility in 2020, committing to invest \$52 million and create 101 jobs. This was followed by an announcement from Gusmer Enterprises, a manufacturer of liquid filtration media and devices, to construct a facility with commitments to invest \$38.2 million and create 73 jobs. In September 2021, Corning purchased a \$10 million, 192,000 s.f. spec building in the park, resulting in a commitment to invest \$150 million and create 200 jobs. Based on the success of Trivium Corporate Center, in June 2021, Catawba County and the City of Hickory acquired 108 acres directly across the road from Trivium

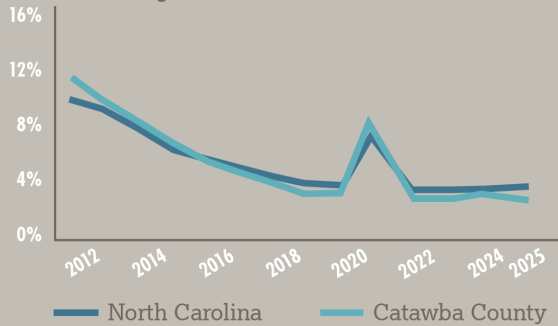
UNEMPLOYMENT

NC Department of Commerce
December 2025

3.3%



Unemployment rate in Catawba County continues to decrease



TOP 10 EMPLOYERS

NC Department of Commerce



Catawba Valley Medical Center



Corning Optical Communications LLC



Catawba County School System



Catawba County Government



Target Stores Div.



Wal-Mart Associates Inc.



Duke LifePoint/Frye Reg. Med. Ctr.



CommScope



Advancepierre Foods



Century Furniture

American Fuji Seal purchased one of three remaining lots announcing an additional \$10 million and 20 jobs. The County's investment in Trivium Corporate Center has generated \$532.2 million in investment and 787 jobs to date, and only 2 of the original 9 lots remain available.

The NC Data Center Corridor builds on Catawba County's existing asset base related to fiber optic cable production and emerging technology. The County – in partnership with local governments and the Economic Development Corporation – has had success in attracting data centers to the community. This strategy leverages the presence of other major data centers in surrounding communities, as both Facebook and Google have data centers in the Piedmont region.

In 2009, the County enticed Apple, Inc. to construct a data center facility on a 183-acre site within the County. This site, located in the town of Maiden, is Apple's only east coast operations facility and serves as its data center headquarters housing its iCloud suite of services (storage, word processing, presentation software, Find My iPhone, etc.). With an initial investment of \$1 billion, 150 new jobs and 250 additional contract workers to operate the facility, this was the largest economic development project in the history of the County and the State. In April 2022, Apple committed to invest another \$448 million in Maiden facility expansion. The County's largest taxpayer, Apple, Inc. has also expanded into the solar industry with a 170-acre site adjacent to the data center, a 200-acre site nearby in Conover, and a 105-acre site in Claremont. Solar energy from the first site is used to power the data center, making it the largest end-user solar farm in the country.



RETAIL SALES

NC Department of Revenue 2025-26

\$6.3
BILLION

VISITOR SALES

NC Department of Revenue 2024

visitors spent
\$351
MILLION

22nd
in the State

Corporate Center to develop Trivium Corporate Center East. The new site's conceptual plan has allotted six more lots for manufacturing or flex building development. In 2025, Corning purchased a third site with plans to invest \$170 million and create 132 new jobs. Most recently,

In 2012, Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc. built a \$36.8 million data center in the County, located in a 48,000-square-foot facility in Claremont Industrial Park.

In late 2022, Microsoft joined the County’s data corridor with a commitment to invest \$1 billion in building four data center sites in Hickory, Conover and Maiden. The sites are anticipated to create a minimum of 50 initial jobs. Construction of all four sites is now underway. As part of its community investment model, Microsoft has begun identifying activities in Catawba County that will benefit from its sponsorship and unique resources with a focus on STEM education, food insecurity, and the environments. Microsoft has already invested directly in the Catawba County community through outreach, volunteerism, and grants to local organizations including the County’s three K-12 school systems, Carolina Land & Lakes, Catawba Lands Conservancy, Catawba Science Center, and the county’s largest food assistance pantry. Microsoft is also collaborating with Catawba Valley Community College to create a Datacenter Academy in the college’s Workforce Solutions Complex in an effort to develop a future workforce trained in datacenter operations and management.

YEAR	BUSINESS INVESTMENT	JOBS
2025	\$209,450,000	275
2024	\$28,100,000	78
2023	\$161,150,000	335
2022	\$1,070,000,000	157
2021	\$856,477,427	1,199
2020	\$153,402,855	776
2019	\$110,233,000	423
2018	\$129,706,086	531
2017	\$1,448,570,000	361
2016	\$199,575,188	490
2015	\$488,755,982	420
Total	\$4,855,420,538	5,045

OTHER SUPPORT

Catawba County contributes funding to programs offered by The Chamber of Catawba County that help fill jobs and support the growth of local businesses. “The Catalyst: Entrepreneurs Supporting Entrepreneurs” is a collaborative of local founders, mentors and entrepreneurial support representatives (Chamber, SBTDC, the CVCC Small Business Center, SCORE, LRU Center for Social & Commercial Entrepreneurship). The collaborative’s aim is to optimize positive economic impact and grow Catawba County’s start-up community by providing support to high-growth ventures and lifestyle businesses through mentors and unique programming.



INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Millwork & Panel LLC - Millwork & Panel, a residential siding manufacturer and indirect subsidiary of CertainTeed Holding Corporation, announced in December 2023 a significant expansion at its Catawba County site. The company is set to invest at least \$27.8 million over the next five years, and will create a minimum of 48 new positions, underscoring the company’s commitment to innovation, growth, and its employees in the region.

Steel Warehouse - Steel Warehouse, a leading steel service center with distribution, shipping, and processing capabilities, announced in March 2024 that it will open a state-of-the-art facility in Hickory, North Carolina. The ambitious initiative is set to create 58 jobs and involve an investment of \$27 million over the next four years, significantly enhancing the company’s presence and operational capabilities in the Southeastern United States.

Pleneri - In June 2024, Pleneri, a leading innovator in the apparel manufacturing industry, announced the opening of its Innovation Center at the Manufacturing Solutions Center (MSC) in Conover, North Carolina. The company’s new facilities at MSC will enable enhanced research and development capabilities, fostering the creation of innovative manufacturing solutions. Pleneri’s focus on sustainability is reflected in its manufacturing processes, which aim to reduce environmental impact and promote eco-friendly practices.

Corning Optical Communications - In October 2025, Corning Optical Communications agreed to acquire Lot 11 in Trivium Corporate Center to expand its manufacturing operations, hire and maintain a minimum of 132 jobs at an average salary to exceed \$65,000/year, and invest between \$170,000,000 and \$267,900,000. This investment and job creation is part of a larger expansion tied to Corning’s deal with Meta to supply its latest optical fiber, cable and connectivity products to support Meta’s data center growth. Once complete, this expansion is expected to make the Hickory facility the largest optical cable manufacturing plant in the world.

American Fuji Seal - American Fuji Seal announced plans to create at least 20 jobs, make investments in their existing facility in Trivium Corporate Center and create a new facility on Lot 7 with a minimum investment of \$10 million and potential investments of up to \$30 million or more over the next three years. The company produces shrink sleeve labels for the food, beverage, home, personal care, and pharmaceutical industries.

County funding is also used to support HKY4Vets, a program dedicated to connecting veterans and their families with in-demand career opportunities in Catawba County as they transition back to civilian life. The program is a partnership between The Chamber and the Economic Development Corporation.

Catawba County helps support The Chamber's "Leadership Catawba" program, which brings together upcoming local leaders from a variety of organizations for a 6-month leadership development and community building experience. With the goal of community leadership succession, the experience provides participants with information about the social, economic, and political dynamics of the community and encourages them to get involved.

Catawba County continues to support the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and The Chamber's Visitor Information Center. Both organizations bring attention and money to the local economy through the promotion of conventions, conferences, local heritage events, and tourism.

MEDICAL ASSETS

With two regional medical centers and an extensive system of physicians, specialists and healthcare resources, Catawba County is well positioned to meet the current and future medical needs of the community. This ranges from accessible family practices and urgent cares to leading-edge diagnostic and treatment services in a variety of medical fields.

Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC) is the largest not-for-profit community hospital in the region and the County's second largest employer. While technically owned by Catawba County, CVMC is completely self-supporting. In 2017, the hospital combined its Catawba Valley Medical Group and Catawba Medical Foundation to form Catawba Valley Health System (CVHS), which is comprised of not only the medical center, but also a large medical group with primary and specialty care providers, an acute care facility, urgent care facilities, and a foundation. Based on the quality of medical care provided by CVHS, the system's most recent awards include the following:

- First and only hospital in the State to receive five Magnet designations from American Nurses Credentialing Center (2001, 2005, 2010, 2014, and 2019)
- Women's Choice Awards: Outpatient Experience (2020-2023), America's Best 100 Hospitals for Patient Experience (2012-2017; 2020-2023), America's Best Stroke Centers (2019-2023), Best Hospital for Patient Experience in Obstetrics (2013-2023), America's Best Hospitals for Patient Experience in Bariatrics (2016-2023), America's Best Breast Centers (2018-2023)
- Joint Commission Advanced Primary Stroke Center
- Premier HIIIN Award for Excellence in Patient Safety (2019)

Frye Regional Medical Center (FRMC), the County's 8th largest employer, has served the health and medical needs of residents of the Catawba Valley region since 1911. Acquired by Duke LifePoint in 2015, FRMC operates a 355-bed acute care hospital, a behavioral health hospital, urgent care facilities, and a network of primary and specialty care providers. Recent awards recognizing the quality of FRMC's services include the following:

- The Joint Commission Advanced Heart Failure Certification (2023)
- U.S. News and World Report High Performing Hospital for Heart Attack, Heart Failure and COPD (2023)
- Leapfrog Safety Grade A (Spring 2022)
- American College of Cardiology Excellence in Cardiac Catheterization (2022)
- Accredited Comprehensive Center for Bariatric Surgery (2022)
- ACC HeartCARE Center of Excellence (2021)
- CMS Three Star Rating (2021)
- CHAMPION STAR Partner Status with NC Department of Public Health Stewardship of Antimicrobial Resources (STAR)



QUALITY OF LIFE ASSETS

Catawba County's Strategic Plan places emphasis on enhancing the county's good quality of life to help drive economic and population growth. Two of the more visible ways Catawba County does this are through the County's libraries and parks.

The Catawba County Library System aims to empower lives and build community by bringing people, information, and ideas together. The system is comprised of seven brick-and-mortar locations – the Main Library in Newton and branches in Claremont, Conover, Maiden, Sherrills Ford-Terrell, Southwest Hickory, and St. Stephens – and the award-winning Library to Go, a "library on wheels" that brings information and technology resources to community centers, schools, senior centers, daycares and local events in underserved parts of the county.

In addition to Library to Go, the Library System has implemented several recent initiatives aimed at increasing access to information and cultural resources.

The Library Pick Up Locker at CleanWave Laundry provides convenient, free access to books through an innovative self-service locker system. The locker is located

in a laundromat in the Town of Long View, which is not served by a library branch. The project was supported with grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Wi-Fi for All is a two-pronged effort to decrease the gap in the digital divide by partnering with community organizations to establish spaces with free public access wireless Internet and to provide Internet enabled devices for individuals to borrow from the library. It expands free access to broadband Internet on simple devices and at locations convenient to community members who cannot afford their own device or to have the Internet at home. As a result, more people in underserved neighborhoods have critical access to the information highway, empowering them to make more informed decisions about their own situations and improve their opportunity to succeed in society.



Through Hmong Keeb Kwm: The Hmong Heritage Project, the Library System worked with the local Hmong community, the Historical Association and DigitalHeritage NC to collect, curate, and preserve a digital collection of the twentieth-century history of Hmong migration and community building within the region. The project not only helped the Library System strengthen and build community through collaborations with citizens and partners, but also increase the authentic representation of a previously underrepresented segment of the population.

The Catawba County Park System, which was formed in 1999 with the opening of Riverbend Park, has provided opportunities for County residents and visitors to experience and enjoy the County's abundant natural heritage through a variety of passive recreational amenities, including extensive trail systems and waterways. The system is now comprised of four parks encompassing nearly 1,500 total acres: Riverbend Park in Conover (est. 1999), Bakers Mountain Park in Hickory (est. 2002), St. Stephens Park in Hickory (est. 2008), and Mountain Creek Park in Sherrills Ford (est. 2022).

Because of its role as a significant asset to the county's quality of life, the Catawba County Park System was deemed a key factor in the Catawba County Board of Commissioners' Strategic Plan for the county. To date, this has resulted in three major park system enhancements, including the expansion of the county's existing Riverbend Park from 481 to 690 acres in 2019 and development of the new 606-acre Mountain Creek Park, which opened in 2022. Taken together, these two projects more than doubled the size of the entire park system.



The third enhancement, initiated in April 2021, involved several operational changes: increasing access to the park system from 6 to 7 days a week (for a total of 362 operating days per year), opening all parks one hour earlier year-round, and increasing staff. These changes were in response to rising park visitation numbers, which had been nearing 200,000 annually and are now more than double that number thanks to the opening of Mountain Creek Park. Due to the increasing demands on the park system and its importance to local quality of life, a standalone Parks Department was established with a full-time Parks Director in 2024.

A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The County has a long history of environmental stewardship, demonstrated most notably by its robust recycling and waste reduction program. Catawba County earned top rankings for both our common household recycling rate and overall recycling rate statewide by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service based on per capita recycling rates for Fiscal Year 2023/24. The recycling rate for common household materials compares the effectiveness of programs recovering cans, bottles, paper, and cardboard. The overall recycling rate includes additional materials such as concrete, shingles and wood wastes, as well as special and hazardous wastes like televisions, used motor oil and used cooking oil. Catawba County recycled the second highest number of pounds per person for common household recyclables at 175.4 pounds per person while coming in as the 6th highest rate for overall recycling at 244 pounds per person. Since 2000, the County has ranked among the top ten counties in the state in both categories.

In 2019, Catawba County was recognized as one of the Top 5 Counties for Clean Energy Investment by the NC Sustainable Energy Association. The Catawba County EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility, winner of the 2015 Harvard Ash Center Bright Ideas in Government Award and a 2013 Energy Leadership Award from the Charlotte Business Journal, is designed to protect the County's environment and promote economic development by attracting jobs in the green energy, agricultural and environmental sectors. In 2014, the County leased the biodiesel facility to Blue Ridge Biofuels in a move that generated consistent revenue for the County while increasing the company's biodiesel production capacity from 500,000 gallons a year to 3 million gallons a year starting in 2017.

Another component of the EcoComplex is the landfill gas-to-energy project established in 1999. The project involved the use of generators fueled by raw landfill gas and the sale of the excess electricity the produced to Duke Energy. In 2022, the County entered into an agreement with MAS Energy to convert the County's existing landfill gas-to-energy project into a renewable natural gas project, with 8% of gross revenue provided to county from the sale of renewable natural gas.

LONG-TERM VISION

Driven by a long-term vision that combines fiscal responsibility with strategic growth, Catawba County is committed to fostering a positive business climate and enhancing quality of life. From education and economic development to cost of living and cultural amenities, local government leaders and community stakeholders are working to create opportunities that will enable Catawba County's citizens and communities to thrive well into the future.



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MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.





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BUDGET OVERVIEW & STRUCTURE



READER'S GUIDE

Local government, like most industries, has a vocabulary all its own. The Reader's Guide is designed to help the average reader use this document by explaining how the document is organized and by defining some of the common terms used in local government finance.

PURPOSE OF BUDGETING

The primary purpose of budgeting is to formally convert Catawba County's plans and policies into current year services and programs. The budget provides detailed financial information on the costs of services and the expected revenues for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget process also provides a forum for reviewing progress made in the current year and the levels of service provided by local government and for setting priorities for services in the upcoming years to meet the needs and requirements of citizens.

ACCOUNTING STRUCTURES & SYSTEMS

As a means of tracking and accounting for money, the operations of the County are divided into Funds. Within funds are smaller designations including functions, departments, organizations, line items, and project numbers depending on the fund.

FUNDS & FUND STRUCTURE

The County uses four basic fund types: General, Special Revenue, Capital, and Enterprise. Each of these fund types has its own specific legal and accounting requirements. The easiest way for most people to think about funds is to compare them to bank accounts. Money comes into a fund from a variety of sources and is then used to provide services to the public. As with a personal bank account, funds have to take in at least as much money as they spend, and by law, budgets for funds must be balanced. What this means is a governmental unit cannot plan to spend more than it will take in.

The budget appropriates funding in 40 total funds with the largest being the General Fund. There are 3 major funds marked by an * while the remaining funds are non-major funds. From a budget perspective, the General Fund Like funds are separate funds but are accounted for in the financial statements as part of the General Fund, so all are marked as major funds below.

GENERAL FUND & GENERAL FUND-LIKE FUNDS

General Fund*

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the County. It is used to account for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The primary revenue sources are ad valorem taxes, sales taxes, Federal and State grants, and other various taxes and licenses. Within the General Fund are seven Functions: General Government, Public Safety, Environmental Quality, Economic & Physical Development, Human Services, Education, and Culture. A function is a group of departments and/or organizations that accomplish a similar general purpose. For example, the Sheriff's Department and the Emergency Services Department are part of the Public Safety Function. Divisions within departments are divided into Organizations. For instance, Narcotics and Jail are examples of Organizations

budgeted in the Sheriff's Department. Each of these accounting units facilitates the tracking of costs and effectiveness of services provided to the public.

Self-Insurance Fund*

The County is self-insured. This fund is used to track the County's cost for wellness, employee health and dental insurance, property and general liability insurance, and workers' compensation.

Reappraisal Fund*

The County maintains this fund as required by North Carolina General Statutes for financing the cost of the next reappraisal.

Register of Deeds Automation and Preservation Fund*

In 2002 new legislation created an Automation Enhancement and Preservation Fund and expanded the uniform fees for services charged by Register of Deeds. This increase in fees is to be used to enhance the standards for instruments to be registered in the Office of the Register of Deeds. Revenues in this Fund are to be spent on computer and imaging technology enhancements in the Register of Deeds Office. Revenues are based on 10% of the total for Marriage Licenses, Recording of Legal Instruments, UCC Filing Fees, and Miscellaneous Revenues. The remaining 90 percent of these revenues are recorded in the Register of Deeds cost center in the General Fund.

General Capital Reserve Fund*

To account for funds set aside for future capital and/or debt service.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Emergency Telephone System Fund

Established in accordance with North Carolina law to account for the revenues received from the 911 charges and the expenditure of those funds for the emergency telephone systems.

Federally Seized Properties and Monies Fund

To account for the revenues received by the Sheriff's Department for drug reimbursements and the expenditure of those funds to further narcotics enforcement efforts.

State Unauthorized Substance Abuse Fund

To account for the revenues received by the Sheriff's Department for controlled substance tax and the expenditure of those funds to support the Sheriff's efforts to deter and investigate drug crimes.

Hospital Reserve Fund

To account for funds held in reserve for Catawba Valley Medical Center to finance and construct major Hospital capital projects, if needed, and the school nurse program at Public Health.

Rescue Squads Fund

To account for the accumulation of funds for the financing of future capital needs of the four rescue squads within the County.

Library Endowment Fund

To account for donations stipulated for the purchase of Library books.

Gretchen Peed Scholarship Fund

To account for donations stipulated for scholarships.

Parks/Historic Preservation Trust Fund

To account for donations and other funds stipulated for park expenditures.

Community Development Fund

To account for the accumulation of funds for the financing of critical housing needs for low-income families within the County.

American Rescue Plan ARP Fund

To account for revenues received under the American Rescue Plan Act and expenses related to COVID-19 response.

Opioid Settlement Fund*

To account for revenues received from the NC Opioid Settlement to support treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and other life-saving programs and services in the county.

Fines and Forfeitures Fund

To account for fines and forfeitures due to local school systems in a method consistent with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements 84 and 97.

DSS Representative Payee Fund

To account for funds received and distributed on behalf of child and adult Social Services clients in a method consistent with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements 84 and 97.

Deeds of Trust Fund

To account for the state portion of revenue from the filing of deeds of trusts and mortgages in a method consistent with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements 84 and 97.

Fire Protection Service Districts Funds

The County maintains fourteen separate fire protection service district funds under its budgetary control to account for tax receipts and disbursements to the fire districts.

CAPITAL PROJECTS**General Capital Projects Fund***

To account for the financing and construction of all major general government capital projects.

Schools' Capital Projects Fund

To account for the financing and construction of annual capital projects for the three school systems and community college in the County.

Schools' Construction Fund*

To account for the financing and construction of major capital projects for the three school systems and community college in the County.

SECC Water & Sewer District Capital Fund

To account for the financing and construction of all major water and sewer capital projects in the SECC Water & Sewer District established under G.S. Chapter 162A effective May 9, 2021.

Water & Sewer Capital Projects Fund

To account for the financing and construction of all major water and sewer capital projects in the unincorporated sections of the County.

Solid Waste Capital Fund

To account for the financing and construction of all major solid waste capital projects.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS**Water and Sewer Administration Fund**

This fund accounts for the operations of the County's water and sewer activities.

Solid Waste Management Fund

This fund accounts for the operations of the County's solid waste activities.

SECC Water & Sewer District Fund

This fund accounts for the operations of the SECC Water & Sewer district established under G.S. Chapter 162A effective May 9, 2021.

Department - Fund Relationship Matrix	General Funds				Special Revenue Funds			
	General	Self Insurance	Reappraisal	ROD Automation & Preservation	Emergency Telephone System	Federally Seized Properties & Monies	State Unauthorized Substance Abuse	Hospital Reserve
Board of Commissioners	X							
County Manager	X							
Elections	X							
Finance	X							
Tax	X		X					
Register of Deeds (ROD)	X			X				
Human Resources	X	X						
Other Government	X							
Government Agencies - Justice Center	X							
Debt	X							
Communications Center	X				X			
Emergency Services	X							
Sheriff & Jail	X					X	X	
Other Public Safety	X							
Cooperative Extension	X							
Soil & Water Conservation	X							
Forestry	X							
Economic Development	X							
Facilities	X							
Planning	X							
Parks	X							
Technology	X							
Utilities & Engineering	X							
Social Services	X							
Public Health	X							X
Partners Health Management	X							
Other Human Services	X							
Education	X							
County Library	X							
Other Cultural	X							

Department - Fund Relationship Matrix	Special Revenue Funds						
	Rescue Squads	Library Endowment	Gretchen Peed Scholarship	Parks / Historic Preservation	Community Development	Fines and Forfeitures	DSS Represent. Payee
Board of Commissioners							
County Manager							
Elections							
Finance							
Tax							
Register of Deeds (ROD)							
Human Resources							
Other Government							
Government Agencies - Justice Center							
Debt							
Communications Center							
Emergency Services	X						
Sheriff & Jail							
Other Public Safety							
Cooperative Extension							
Soil & Water Conservation							
Forestry							
Economic Development							
Facilities							
Planning					X		
Parks				X			
Technology							
Utilities & Engineering							
Social Services			X				X
Public Health							
Partners Health Management							
Other Human Services							
Education						X	
County Library		X					
Other Cultural							

Department - Fund Relationship Matrix	Special Revenue Funds						Capital Project Funds		
	ROD Fund	Stream Rehab Fund	OSBM Direct Grants	ARPA	Opioid Settlement	Fire Protection Service Districts	General Capital	Schools' Capital	Schools' Construction
Board of Commissioners									
County Manager									
Elections									
Finance				X					
Tax									
Register of Deeds (ROD)	X								
Human Resources									
Other Government			X						
Government Agencies - Justice Center									
Debt									
Communications Center									
Emergency Services				X		X			
Sheriff & Jail			X	X	X		X		
Other Public Safety							X		
Cooperative Extension			X						
Soil & Water Conservation		X							
Forestry									
Economic Development							X		
Facilities							X		
Planning							X		
Parks									
Technology							X		
Utilities & Engineering				X					
Social Services									
Public Health					X				
Partners Health Management									
Other Human Services									
Education			X					X	X
County Library							X		
Other Cultural			X						

Department - Fund Relationship Matrix	Capital Project Funds					Enterprise Funds		
	Subdivision Road Improv.	NC Railroads Projects	Solid Waste Capital	Water & Sewer Capital	SECC Water & Sewer District	Solid Waste Management	Water & Sewer Admin.	SECC Water & Sewer District
Board of Commissioners								
County Manager								
Elections								
Finance								
Tax								
Register of Deeds (ROD)								
Human Resources								
Other Government								
Government Agencies - Justice Center								
Debt								
Communications Center								
Emergency Services								
Sheriff & Jail								
Other Public Safety								
Cooperative Extension								
Soil & Water Conservation								
Forestry								
Economic Development		X						
Facilities								
Planning								
Parks								
Technology								
Utilities & Engineering	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Social Services								
Public Health								
Partners Health Management								
Other Human Services								
Education								
County Library								
Other Cultural								

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This budget document summarizes all service functions provided by Catawba County government and represents the annual plan for the allocation of resources. The budget presented covers the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027 (“Fiscal Year 2026/27”).

The budget document is divided into functions (each function has a divider page). The functions of the General Fund make up the first seven sections of this document, and all remaining funds are in the section titled Other Funds. Each department has a summary sheet that shows the total funding for that department and how the dollars will be spent. The organizations within each department have pages listing the objectives/outcomes to be achieved and major categories of funding sources and expenses. Within Organizations are accounts or line items. These are the basic units of measure in the budget and make it possible to determine, for example, how much money is spent on books in the Main Branch of the Library.

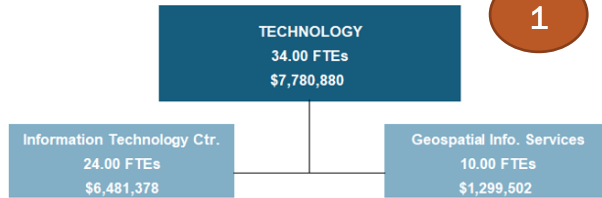
This document does not show every line item, but groups the line items in easier-to-read, general categories. For example, all money received from the State is shown in that major category, despite the fact that there may be several different line items or types of State revenue. Expense categories shown in the budget are: Personal Services, Supplies and Operations, and Capital Outlay. Personal Services include salaries, benefits, and part-time or temporary wages. Supplies and Operations include office supplies, books, travel, utilities, and other similar costs. Capital Outlay accounts for the purchase of equipment that costs more than \$5,000.

For each County Function, a summary report is provided at the beginning of each section providing information on the departments, services, and expenditures captured by that function. Subsequent departmental pages provide organizational, performance, and financial information from Fiscal Year 2024/25 (Actual), Fiscal Year 2025/26 (Current), and Fiscal Year 2026/27 (Requested and Recommended). See Guide to Departmental Sections for detailed information on navigating department and division information.

GUIDE TO DEPARTMENTAL SECTIONS

TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER (ITC)

To provide reliable, responsive, value-added technology solutions while ensuring system availability, integrity, and security through exceptional customer service, partnerships, and leveraging resources to transform services and promote business process improvement.

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SERVICES (GIS)

To provide reliable geographic and land record data and tools to citizens and stakeholders to facilitate commerce and promote efficiencies.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	Target	EOY FY25	Mid-year FY26
ITC	% phishing rate	5%	4%	2%
ITC	% network availability	99.9%	100.0%	98.0%
Comments: Unplanned network outage				
ITC	% customer service satisfaction	94.0%	95.0%	N/A
Comments: Completed at EOY				
ITC	% of service requests, excluding special projects, completed within 2 business days	85%	86%	80%
Comments: Unplanned network outage affected ticket completion times				
ITC	% of projects complete on schedule	80%	100%	100%
GIS	% of addressing requests completed within 2 business days	97%	100%	100%
GIS	% of mapping requests complete within 1 business day	97%	100%	100%
GIS	% of deed transfers processed within 10 business days of receipt from the Register of Deeds	90%	94%	91%
Comments: New tax system implemented and changes to the County line				

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

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TECHNOLOGY

Organizations: 410200 - 410250

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
State	\$17,705	\$19,475	\$0	\$0	0%
Local	\$300,604	\$297,019	304,715	304,715	2.6%
Charges & Fees	47,423	39,030	38,236	38,236	-2.0%
Indirect Cost	932,791	985,871	1,058,651	1,058,651	7.4%
SBITA	465,830	0	0	0	0%
General Fund	5,416,125	5,961,321	6,590,364	6,379,278	7.0%
Total	\$7,180,478	\$7,302,716	\$7,991,966	\$7,780,880	6.5%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$3,709,947	\$4,042,632	\$4,483,696	\$4,341,038	7.4%
Supplies & Operations	2,441,535	2,667,730	2,825,210	2,756,782	3.3%
SBITA	563,166	592,354	683,060	683,060	15.3%
Capital	465,830	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$7,180,478	\$7,302,716	\$7,991,966	\$7,780,880	6.5%
Expenses by Division					
Information Technology Center (ITC)	\$6,130,371	\$6,074,240	\$6,690,049	\$6,481,378	6.7%
Geospatial Information Services (GIS)	1,050,107	1,228,476	1,301,917	1,299,502	5.8%
Total	\$7,180,478	\$7,302,716	\$7,991,966	\$7,780,880	6.5%
Employees					
Permanent	34.00	34.00	35.00	34.00	0.0%
Total	34.00	34.00	35.00	34.00	0.0%

The budget increase is driven by increases in repair and maintenance of the County's IT infrastructure for increased security systems, including the County's firewall, archiver, and security camera maintenance at County facilities. Other increases include increases in maintenance agreements, professional services agreements, and planned salary and benefit changes.

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SERVICES (GIS)

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To support and enhance business operations and economic development, the geospatial information residing on the GIS Web sites will be available to stakeholders at least 99 percent of the time.	Achieved 99.91%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%
2. To support countywide decision making for economic development, public safety, and other initiatives, staff will complete at least 97 percent of map and data requests from all sources within 24 hours of target deadline.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 97%	Achieved 99%
3. To provide the most current ownership information of real property to citizens, Land Records Mappers will process 85 percent of deed transfers within 15 business days of receipt from the Register of Deeds.	Achieved 98.53%	Not on Target Due to staffing and continued increases in the volume of work, 30% of deed transfers were completed within 15 business days of receipt from the Register of Deeds.	Not Achieved Due to staffing and continued increases in the volume of work, 6% of deed transfers were processed within 15 business days of receipt from the Register of Deeds.

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- Each departmental section of the operating budget begins with an organizational chart that reflects the way in which the department's budget is organized and tells the reader which division pages will follow.
- The Departmental Services section describes the department's divisions and core functions.
- The financial table displays revenue, expenditures, and budgeted personnel for the entire department for the prior fiscal year (2024/25 Actual), the current fiscal year (2025/26 Current), and budgeted fiscal year (2026/27 Requested and Adopted).
- After the financial table this section presents an overview of the changes to the department's budget and may include specific information on approved requests.

- 5) This section is the updated FY2025/26 performance measure section for each department. The County is working on updating each department's performance measure and is still in an ongoing process of updating and finalizing the new and improved measures
- 6) This section shows the budget outcomes of departmental year-end outcomes for FY2023/24 and historical actuals for FY2022/23 and FY2021/22.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

The budget is the financial plan for County operations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. The budget shows the source of revenue and how these sources will be spent. It also contains outcomes, goals, and objectives the County departments have set for the year. The budget and the audit are the key financial documents that the County uses to illustrate its financial plans and status. The budget looks ahead to the coming year and shows how funds plan to be spent, while the audit shows the County's year-end financial condition. The audit document is produced annually a few months after the end of each fiscal year (October or November) while the budget is produced annually at the beginning of each fiscal year (final copies are usually made available to the public in mid-July).

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Basis of Accounting refers to when revenues, expenditures, and the related assets and liabilities are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

All funds of the County are budgeted for and accounted for during the year on the modified accrual basis of accounting in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 159-26(c). Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they become measurable and available to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the costs for goods or services are incurred (except for un-matured principal and interest on general long-term debt, which are recognized when due). On a budget basis, the Solid Waste Management Fund is accounted for using modified accrual. As an enterprise fund, at the end of the year, transactions are reported in the basic financial statements using full accrual.

The level of control, or level at which expenditures may not legally exceed the budget, is the department level for the General Fund and the fund level for all other funds. Any change in appropriation level of the fund must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The County Manager or the Budget & Management Director may approve any changes within a fund that do not require an alteration of the appropriation level. Appropriations lapse at year-end, except appropriations for the Capital Improvement Plan Fund, which are carried forward until such time as the project is completed.

COMPENSATED ABSENCES

It is the policy of the County to permit employees to accumulate up to 30 days earned but unused vacation leave, with such leave being fully vested when earned. For the County, the current portion of the accumulated vacation pay and salary-related payments is not considered to be material; therefore, no expenditure or liability is reported in the County's governmental funds. The

County's liability for accumulated earned vacation and the salary related payments as of the end of the year is recorded in the government-wide financial statements. For the County's proprietary fund, an expense and a liability for compensated absences and the salary related payments are recorded within those funds as the leave is earned, if the amount is considered to be material. The sick leave policy of the County provides for an unlimited accumulation of earned but unused sick leave. Sick leave does not vest, but any unused sick leave accumulated at the time of retirement may be used in the determination of length of service for retirement benefit purposes. Since neither entity has any obligation for accumulated sick leave until it is actually taken, no accrual for sick leave is made by the County.

ENCUMBRANCES

Encumbrances are financial commitments for services, contracts, or goods that have not as yet been delivered or performed. Purchase orders that remain unperformed at year-end are carried forward to the new fiscal year. A portion of fund balance is reserved to pay for any commitments related to purchase order and contracts that are unperformed at year-end.

Summary of Legal Requirements

North Carolina counties budget and spend money under the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (LGBFCA), as adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly. The major effects of the LGBFCA on the budgetary process are as follows:

BUDGET FORMS & PROCEDURES

The budget officer must prescribe the forms and procedures for the departments to use in preparing requests. In the words of G.S. 159-10, requests shall be made in such form and detail, with such supporting information and justifications, as the budget officer may prescribe. G.S. 159-10 also requires that a budget request show actual expenditures for the prior year, estimated ones in the current year, and requested ones for the coming budget year.

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

G.S. 159-10 requires that the budget request for a department include revenues or fees that it will collect in the budget year.

BUDGET PREPARATION CALENDAR

The LGBFCA establishes the dates by which each stage in the annual budget process is to be completed (G.S. 159-10 through 13). These dates are as follows:

- Departmental requests, other than the public schools, must be submitted to the budget officer before April 30th.
- School administrative units and community colleges must submit proposed budgets and requests for County appropriations and supplemental tax levies no later than May 15th.
- The recommended budget must be given to the Board of Commissioners no later than June 1st.
- The Commission must enact the budget ordinance by July 1st, when the budget year begins.

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

G.S. 159-11 requires that the budget officer's recommended budget be balanced unless the Board of Commissioners insists that an unbalanced budget be submitted. It is also required that the budget be submitted to the Commissioners with a budget message. G.S. 159-11(b) states that the message should include:

- A concise explanation of the governmental goals fixed by the budget for the budget year.
- Important features of the activities anticipated in the budget.
- The reasons for stated changes from the previous year in program goals, programs, and appropriation levels.
- Any major changes in fiscal policy.

BOARD REVIEW

Once the budget is before the Board of Commissioners, several general legal provisions apply to Board review and adoption of the budget ordinance.

- At least ten days must pass between submission of the budget and adoption of the budget ordinance.
- On the same day the budget is submitted to the Board of Commissioners, the budget officer must file a copy of it in the office of the Clerk to the Board where it is available to the public and press.
- The Clerk to the Board must publish a notice that the budget has been delivered to the Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection. This advertisement must also note the time and place of the required public hearing.
- During the interval between submission and adoption, the Board may conduct its review at both regular and special meetings. At least one of these dates must be a public hearing at which any person who wishes to comment may.
- The Open Meeting Law (G.S. 143-318.9 through 318.18) applies to the budget preparation and adoption process.

ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET ORDINANCE

The budget ordinance must contain the appropriations, the estimated revenues, and the property tax levy as well as rate.

Budget Process

As required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (G.S. 159, Article 3), the governing board must adopt by July 1st an annual balanced budget ordinance for all funds except for those funds that operate under project ordinances.

Budgetary control is exercised in all funds except the agency funds. Appropriations are made at the departmental (function) level and amended as necessary. The current budget amounts represent the budget as of December 31st of the current budget year. The budget was prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting as required by North Carolina General Statute 159-26(c). Appropriations lapse at year-end in the General and Special Revenue Funds for which annual budgets have been legally adopted, with the exception of those departments participating in the reinventing program. The Capital Projects Funds' budgets are adopted on a project basis,

spanning more than one year. Appropriations are carried over in these funds until the project is completed. The County follows these procedures in establishing a budget:

1. The Budget Officer is the County Manager and as such, the Budget and Management Office is part of the County Manager's Office. The Budget and Management Office consists of a Budget and Management Director and one Budget and Management Analyst and is supervised by an Assistant County Manager.
2. In November or December, the County Board of Commissioners holds a retreat to discuss issues, priorities and countywide goals for the upcoming fiscal year. These goals become the driving force behind initiatives to be considered and included during the budget cycle.
3. Each fall, the Budget and Management Office works with departments and management to update the County's long-range financial plans including Four Year Capital Improvement and Operating Plans.
4. During the months of October and November the Budget and Management Office prepares Revenue and Expense projections for the upcoming fiscal year. Revenues are projected for the County's main funding sources, based on trends, economic forecasts for the area, and adjusted for one-time or time-limited sources.
5. The Budget and Management Office establishes a beginning base for each department that includes the allowable increases for salaries, benefits and operating budgets. In developing budget requests, staff is instructed that any funding requests for program or service expansions or equipment beyond the base amount is to be thoroughly justified and will be weighed against other competing needs and available funding. The role of budget staff is to analyze the requests and justifications and make sound funding recommendations to the County Manager.
6. In December, departments are given pertinent budget information, funding parameters, and the goals established by the Board of Commissioners.
7. In late January or early February, the reinventing departments submit requested outcomes, and departments not in the reinventing program as well as outside agencies submit budget requests to the Budget and Management Office.
8. Between February and May, the Budget and Management Office analyzes requests for the non-reinventing departments and outside agencies, negotiates outcomes with departments, and works with the County Manager to prepare a recommended budget for the Board of Commissioners. The budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
9. Between February and May, the County Manager and Budget and Management staff hold a series of workshops with the Board of Commissioners to provide the Board with information on anticipated budget recommendations to assist staff in preparing the recommended budget.
10. The Board of Commissioners conducts budget hearings with the department managers and agency directors in May or June.
11. A Public Hearing is conducted to obtain citizen comments.
12. Prior to June 30th, the budget is legally enacted through passage of an ordinance.

13. Budgets for General, Special Revenue, and Capital Projects Funds are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Board of Commissioners annually adopts a budget by ordinance appropriating funds, and may during the year authorize supplemental appropriations. Supplemental appropriations are reviewed by the Director of Finance and the Budget and Management Office, submitted to the Finance and Personnel Subcommittee, and then transmitted to the Board of Commissioners for review and approval. If approved, they are implemented by budget revision.

REINVENTING DEPARTMENTS

Modeled after the book *Reinventing Government*, Catawba County uses two budget processes: Reinventing, a more flexible, department regulated form of budgeting, and Non-reinventing, a traditional, line item analysis form of budgeting. Four of the County's 15 departments are reinventing departments and include County Manager, Human Resources, Library, and Social Services. Outcomes for using the reinventing budget process are to:

- Become a more active organization by defining mission and achieving goals that support the mission.
- Place greater focus on the customer – what's the impact of services?
- Achieve and sustain higher service levels within limited resources.

In order to meet these outcomes, basic changes were made in the budget process to shift the focus from inputs to outcomes, to increase authority and flexibility for reinventing departments, encourage better use of resources, and simplify and streamline the budget process. Flexibility and changing the focus to outcomes is achieved by allotting these departments a lump sum increase each year without any analysis or controls at the detail budget level. The only financial control is the inability to spend more than the Department's total allotment. Budget analysis and negotiation has shifted to discussions on outcomes, or what the departments hope to accomplish in the upcoming fiscal year, and improvements to service levels. To encourage better use of resources and ownership in decision making, departments can retain all unexpended funds at the end of the fiscal year as long as they can demonstrate achievement of at least 90 percent of adopted outcomes. Updates on the progress and achievement of outcomes are reported on a semi-annual and annual basis. The Budget Highlights for the Reinventing Department sections of the budget document focuses on outcome achievement and changes to outcomes rather than monetary changes in the budget for this reason.

ANNUAL BUDGET CALENDAR

October

Budget & Management staff meet with all departments to identify pressures for the upcoming budget and any special projects that need to take place to set the stage for budget

Initial capital, facilities, technology, service expansion, and fee change discussions with departments by October 31st

November – January

Budget staff work with departments to analyze and better develop capital, facilities, service expansion, and fee change requests

Revenue & Expense Forecast development, presented late November

- Revenue projections
- Base budget and continuation of existing commitments
- High level operating and capital pressures discussion
- Fee change discussion (if needed)
- Salary/Benefit calculator and placeholder based on current year
- Schools Current Expense calculator and placeholder based at minimum on statutory formula
- Debt/Cash Flow updated as needed

Budget discussion/directions at December Department Head Meeting

Budget Kickoff – Instructions provided to departments and budget system opened for entry mid-December

January

Mid-year outcome report due from all departments – early January

Meetings between Budget staff and County Manager on specific pressures/requests being developed with departments to develop understanding and help departments develop requests that address needed information for decision-making

Budget staff follow-up with departments as needed on request development

February

Budget requests due from all departments and outside agencies – first week of February

Series of meetings mid-February:

- Revisit revenue assumptions and base budget continuation costs
- Summary of major expansion requests submitted
- Summary of major capital requests submitted
- Salary/Benefits projections and discussions
- Prep for Board of Commissioners touchpoint

Schools budget requests due – mid-February

Requested budget balanced – end of February

End of February – March

- Phased department and outside agency meetings by budget function with the County Manager to present/discuss requests.

- Board of Commissioners Touchpoint – 1st subcommittee in March

April

- Follow-up information, meetings between County Management and Budget staff – early April
- Follow-up meetings with departments, schools, and outside agencies as needed late April
- Board of Commissioners Touchpoints as needed

May 11th, 7:00 p.m., Government Center 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Government Center
County Manager's budget presentation at Board of Commissioners' Meeting

May 22nd, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, Justice Center
Board of Commissioners' hearings/work sessions with departments & outside agencies

May 26th, 7:00 p.m., Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, Justice Center
Public Hearing and Wrap-up

June 15th, 7:00 p.m., Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, Justice Center
Budget Adoption at the Board of Commissioners' Meeting

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Financial Policies are used to guide the County in the financial management of all funds. The North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act regulates North Carolina governmental units in financial matters. These policies are used by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners to allow the County to function as a fiscally sound governmental unit.

Revenue Policy

The property tax rate shall be set each year based on the cost of providing general government services.

The fee structure established for the Solid Waste Management Fund will be sufficient to finance needed operating, capital, and debt costs of providing solid waste services.

Revenue projections will be made in a conservative manner.

Any County service that benefits specific recipients shall be supported either fully or in part by user fees, based on cost recovery percentages established by the Board of Commissioners.

Fund Balance Appropriated shall not exceed an amount that management can reasonably expect to save during the year or that is not sustainable while remaining above the Board of Commissioners 16 percent fund balance goal.

Operating Budget Policy

The County will continue to develop benchmarks and monitor performance measurements to assist in the evaluation of expenditures.

Operating budget projections will include annual costs plus allowances for operating costs associated with new capital.

Capital Improvement Policy (See CIP section for 4-year plan)

The County will review and adopt annually 4-Year Capital Improvement Plan detailing each capital project, the estimated cost, and description. This plan will be used as a guide in the development of the annual budget.

Accounting Policy

Annually, a firm of licensed, certified public accountants will issue an official opinion on the County's annual financial statements to the Board of Commissioners.

Financial systems will be maintained to monitor revenues and expenditures on a monthly basis.

Staff will give a Financial Report to the Board of Commissioners covering revenues and expenditures on a periodic basis.

Debt Policy (See Appendices for full policy)

The County will manage its debt obligations to meet demands for capital facilities while striving to maintain or to improve the County's Aa1/AA+ bond rating.

Debt should not exceed 1.5 percent of the countywide assessed value (legal limit is 8 percent).

The County's annual debt service payment should not exceed 20 percent of the operational budget.

Reserve Policy

The County has a goal of maintaining General Fund fund balance of 16 percent, the equivalent of two months of operating expenses. These funds will be used to avoid cash flow interruptions, generate investment income, eliminate the need for short-term borrowing, and for use in the case of unanticipated emergencies.

The County will maintain a Contingency Reserve to provide for unanticipated expenditures of a non-recurring nature to meet unexpected increases in the operating budget.

The Water and Sewer Fund shall maintain a minimum fund balance of \$5,000,000.

Catawba Valley Medical Center is public non-profit hospital and an entity or component unit of Catawba County Government. The County owns the assets but the Hospital is not included in the County budget, although the Hospital is required to submit its annual budget to the County for review. The Hospital is authorized to operate as an enterprise fund. The Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees is required to submit a monthly copy of its financial statements to the County Chief Financial Officer that include a budget to actual comparison of all expenses and revenues. The Hospital maintains a balance with the County, in the Hospital Reserve Fund. This Fund is intended to be used to finance and construct major Hospital capital projects, if needed, and the school nurse program at Public Health.

Investment Policy (See Appendices for full policy)

The County's investments will be undertaken in a manner that (1) seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio (safety), (2) provides for sufficient liquidity to meet the cash needs of the County's various operations (liquidity), and (3) attains a fair market rate of return (yield) its debt obligations to meet demands for capital facilities while striving to maintain or to improve the County's Aa1/AA+ bond rating.

Balanced Budget Policy

The County will annually develop and adopt a balanced budget in which the sum of estimated net revenues and appropriated fund balances is equal to appropriations, pursuant to the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.





catawba county
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DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

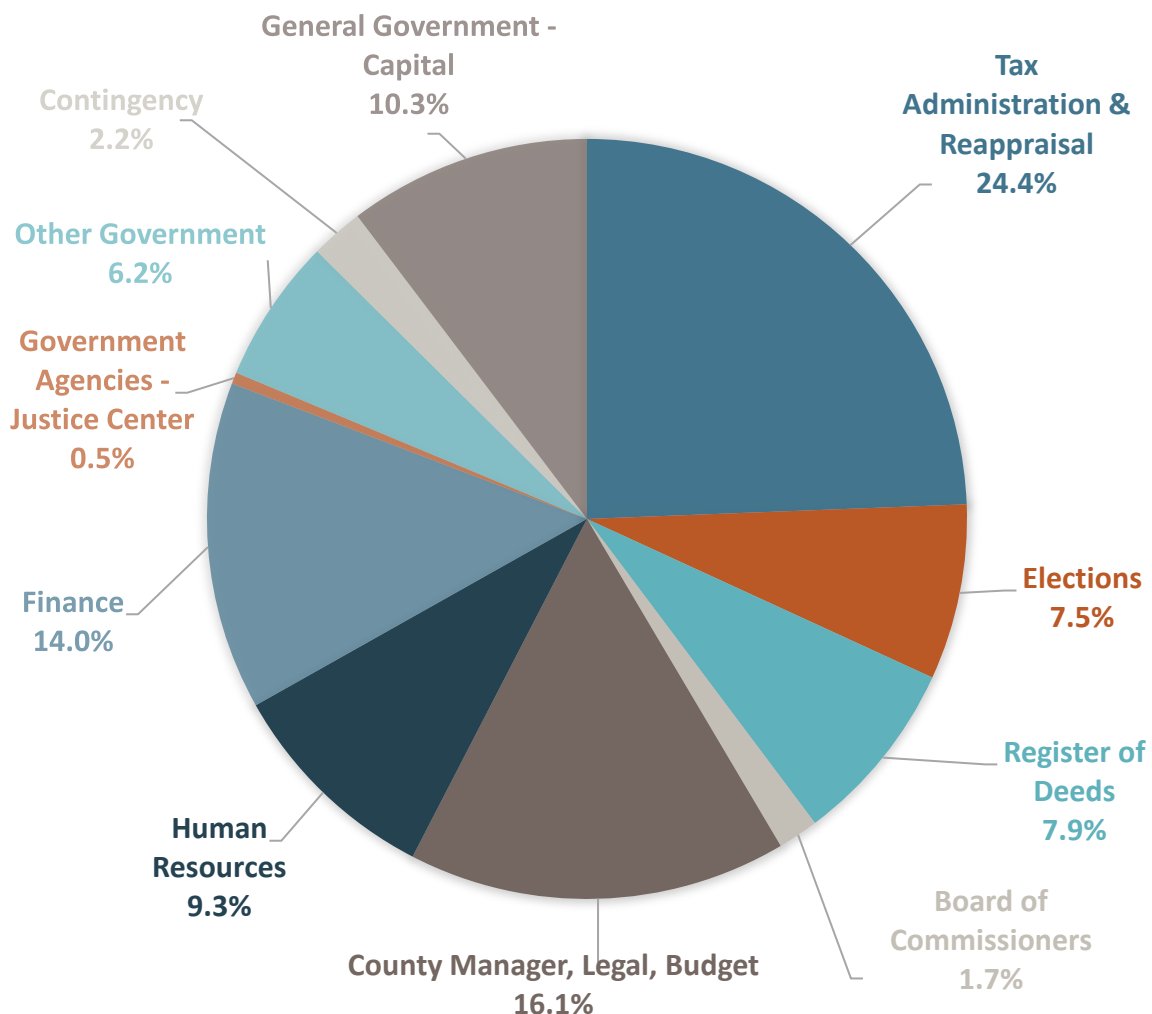


GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The General Government function provides administrative support for County government. It is \$15,625,364 or 4.4% of total expenditures for the fiscal year, including Reappraisal and Register of Deeds Automation budgeted in Other Funds. The General Fund portion of General Government is \$12,665,009 or 81.1%. General Government includes direct public services such as the Board of Elections, Register of Deeds, and Tax (\$6,212,912 or 1.8% of the total budget) as well as County Administration including the Board of Commissioners, County Manager, Human Resources, and Finance (\$6,412,922 or 1.8% of the total budget), and other government expenses not related to a specific department (\$2,999,530 or 0.8% of the total budget).

This function ensures smooth administration of all areas of County service by maintaining compliance with accepted accounting principles and personnel statutes, by registering voters, by issuing marriage licenses, and recording property transactions.

The County bills and collects taxes for eight municipalities within the County as a means of providing this general government service at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer. The service has worked well and has produced savings to other local government units in Catawba County.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Board of Commissioners is the governing body of Catawba County. The 5-member board is elected at large for 4-year staggered terms and may serve unlimited terms. Their duties include establishing the array of services provided to citizens and a funding plan to pay for the services; appointing the County Manager and County Attorney; designating the County Clerk; adopting the annual budget; setting the property tax rate; establishing service levels for solid waste, emergency services, public safety, library, public health, mental health, and social services; adopting zoning and subdivision regulations; approving new positions, and appointing over 300 people to 50 citizen boards.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS					Organization: 110050
	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
General Fund	\$209,141	\$262,954	\$228,620	\$269,477	2.5%
Total	\$209,141	\$262,954	\$228,620	\$269,477	2.5%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$136,591	\$139,754	\$105,420	\$146,277	4.7%
Supplies & Operations	72,550	\$123,200	123,200	123,200	0.0%
Total	\$209,141	\$262,954	\$228,620	\$269,477	2.5%

STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Positioning the county to attract relevant and diversified tax base investment, jobs, and higher wages through targeted economic and workforce development efforts.

EDUCATION - Targeted alignment of higher education programs and resources to support current and future workforce needs.

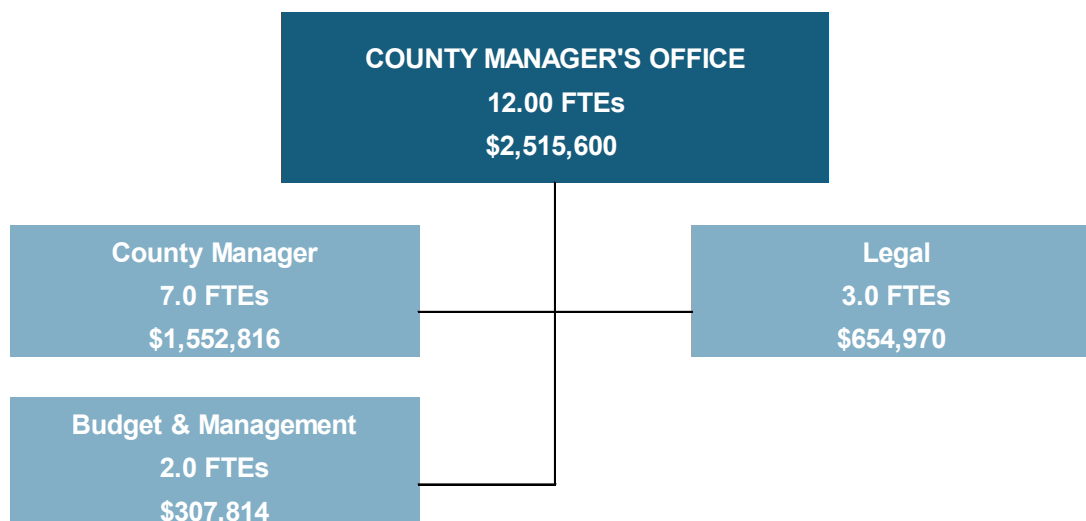
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT - Ensuring a balanced and deliberate approach to future growth stewardship that preserves quality of life while supporting continued economic development.

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.

COUNTY MANAGER

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



COUNTY MANAGER

Catawba County operates under a County Manager form of government adopted by the Board of Commissioners on March 1, 1937. The County Manager is charged with the responsibility for translating policies and programs of the Board of Commissioners into action. The Manager is also responsible for coordinating, supervising, and recommending alternative solutions to problems and issues. As Chief Administrator of County government, the manager is responsible to the Board of Commissioners for administering all departments of County government under the Board's general control and for serving as liaison officer to the public and groups within the County and between the County, State, and Federal agencies.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Provides quality legal counseling and representation to the Board of Commissioners, managers and employees of Catawba County on all issues related to county government. Having an in-house legal team provides county departments with quick access to legal services at a lower cost for taxpayers. The legal team is committed to excellence, ethics, professionalism, and fairness in all matters.

BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Plans, prepares, and monitors the County's annual operating and capital budget and conducts special research and management analysis for the County Manager and County departments.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTY MANAGER

Reinventing Department

Organizations: 120050 - 120150

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Cable TV Reimbursement	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000	0.0%
Indirect Cost	214,357	228,257	244,665	244,665	7.2%
Other Sources	57,024	0	0	0	0%
General Fund	1,915,398	2,184,548	2,240,952	2,242,935	2.7%
Total	\$2,214,779	\$2,440,805	\$2,513,617	\$2,515,600	3.1%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$2,085,411	\$2,262,797	\$2,334,019	\$2,330,502	3.0%
Supplies & Operations	127,837	178,008	179,598	185,098	4.0%
SBITA	1,531	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$2,214,779	\$2,440,805	\$2,513,617	\$2,515,600	3.1%
Expenses by Division					
County Manager	\$1,364,949	\$1,485,775	\$1,555,074	\$1,552,816	4.5%
Legal	539,090	614,327	649,995	654,970	6.6%
Budget & Management	310,740	340,703	308,548	307,814	-9.7%
Total	\$2,214,779	\$2,440,805	\$2,513,617	\$2,515,600	3.1%
Employees					
Permanent	11.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.0%
Total	11.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.0%

Year	Outcomes	Achieved	Not Achieved	Rate
2024/25	5	5	0	100%
2023/24	9	9	0	100%
2022/23	9	9	0	100%
2021/22	9	9	0	100%

The budget includes planned salary and benefit changes, as well as minor increases to contractual services.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
County Manager	Present the Manager's Recommended Budget to the Board of Commissioners no later than the second regularly scheduled Board meeting in May.	5/11/2026	Year End Only	5/9/2025
County Manager	Demonstrate measurable progress in each strategic plan area, as documented in an annual results summary.	6/30/2026	Year End Only	6/30/2025
County Manager - Legal	% contracts reviewed within 5 working days.	90%	99%	99%
County Manager - Legal	% approval rating on client survey.	90%	Year End Only	100%
County Manager - Budget	Receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from GFOA.	1	Year End Only	1

COUNTY MANAGER

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Drive implementation of the Board of Commissioners' strategic plan by developing and executing a comprehensive approach to achieving its goals and objectives, incorporating a multi-year project and funding plan.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved Initiated work on Strat Plan 2.0 with BOC
2. Prepare a balanced budget for the coming fiscal year and administer a balanced budget during the fiscal year.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Implement a multi-year brand activation plan for making.living.better that aligns with the Board's strategic plan.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

LEGAL

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Provide needed legal services to all county departments as issues arise in a timely, professional and ethical manner by:	Achieved a. 98 percent contract reviewed 5 days	Achieved b. 99.5 percent contract reviewed 5 days	Achieved c. 99.4 percent contract reviewed 5 days

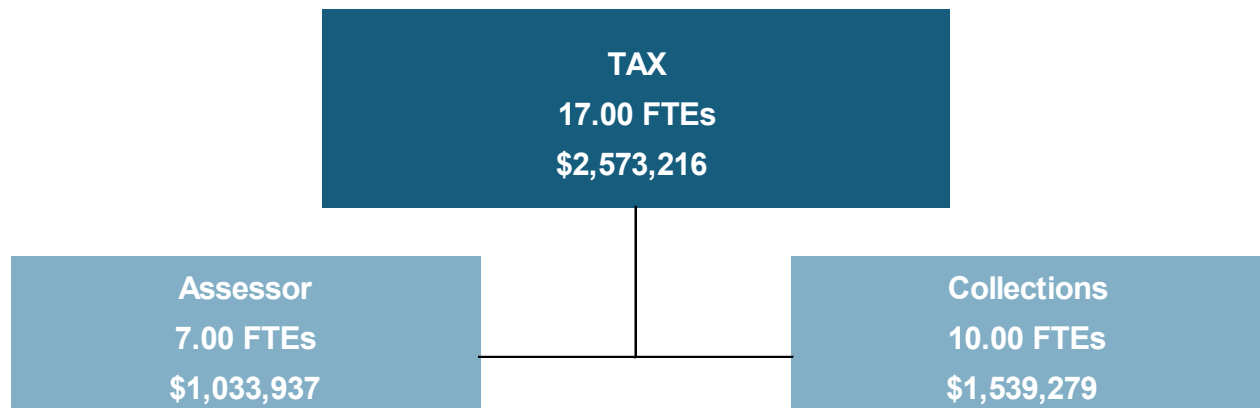
a. Completing preparation or review of contracts within 5 working days of receipt at least 95 percent of the time. b. Achieving an approval rating of 95 percent on an annual client satisfaction survey.	b. 95 percent satisfaction rating	b. 97 percent satisfaction rating	a. 100 percent satisfaction rating
2. Proactively improve county staff's ability to handle situations that could potentially have a legal impact on the county by: a. Providing in-service training to any department. b. Providing employees with 24 hours per day, 7 days per week telephone access to an attorney.	Achieved a. multiple in-service trainings were held, including: purchasing, animal services, EMS, legislative updates, and first amendment audit. b. achieved	Achieved a. Training has taken place for First Amendment Auditors, EMS/ES, Finance, Purchasing, Board of Health Legislative Update, Sheriff's Office and Respectful Workplace Training. b. Attorneys continue to provide 24/7 telephone access to employees.	Achieved a. Training for EMS, Finance, Libraries, Purchasing, Board of Health, Legislative Updates, and Mini-Course. Attorneys continue to provide 24/7 telephone access to employees.
3. Ensure the Board of Commissioners, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, and Subdivision Review Board are able to address any legal issue whether arising during a meeting or anticipated in advance by assigning an attorney to both work with each respective board and be in attendance at each board meeting.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved Attorneys attended every BOC, Planning Board, Subdivision Review Board and Dangerous Dog Appellate Board meeting, additionally attorneys attended Social Services and Board of Health meetings as requested.

BUDGET & MANAGEMENT

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Prepare a balanced budget for adoption by June 30 annually, which communicates County policies, provides a financial and operating plan, and is an effective communication device to our citizens, as demonstrated by receiving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Prepare a Revenue, Expense, and Fund Balance Forecast annually based on the current fiscal year budget, which gives the County Manager, Board of Commissioners, and department heads the financial information they need to set priorities and goals in planning for the future needs of the County.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Monitor the budget on an ongoing basis to ensure the budget remains balanced, and recommend appropriate action be taken quickly if revenue erosion occurs.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

TAX DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



ASSESSOR

Ensure all real and personal property is listed annually to the owner of record as of January 1st of each year as mandated by the General Statutes of North Carolina.

COLLECTOR

To collect and account for all current and delinquent County and City Ad Valorem taxes charged to the Tax Collector, all County beer/wine retail licenses, issue all mobile home moving permits, collect all fire protection service district revenue, and collect all fees related to garnishment, attachment, levy, judgement, and returned checks as provided by North Carolina law.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

TAX

Organizations: 130050 - 130100

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Property Tax	\$125,788,666	126,384,000	131,001,500	\$131,001,500	3.7%
Contribution to General Fund	(125,788,666)	(126,384,000)	(131,001,500)	(131,001,500)	3.7%
Privilege License Tax	6,580	7,500	6,500	6,500	-13.3%
Charges & Fees	403,321	444,990	450,350	450,350	1.2%
Miscellaneous	40	1,500	500	500	-66.7%
General Fund	1,768,214	2,046,696	2,409,393	2,115,866	3.4%
Total	\$2,178,155	\$2,500,686	\$2,866,743	\$2,573,216	2.9%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$1,397,689	\$1,549,061	\$1,912,388	\$1,647,361	6.3%
Supplies & Operations	772,389	941,625	944,355	915,855	-2.7%
Capital	0	0	0	0	0%
Tax Refunds	8,077	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Total	\$2,178,155	\$2,500,686	\$2,866,743	\$2,573,216	2.9%
Expenses by Division					
Assessor	\$881,842	\$985,511	\$1,248,714	\$1,033,937	4.9%
Collections	1,296,313	1,515,175	1,618,029	1,539,279	1.6%
Total	\$2,178,155	\$2,500,686	\$2,866,743	\$2,573,216	2.9%
Employees					
Permanent	19.00	17.00	20.00	17.00	0.0%
Total	19.00	17.00	20.00	17.00	0.0%

The budget increase is driven by planned compensation changes.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Tax Assessor	% of exempt and excluded properties audited	25%	Year-End Only	100%
Tax Assessor	% correctly addressed tax mailings	95%	93%	99%
Tax Assessor	% compliance of audited exclusions	95%	Year-End Only	64%
Tax Assessor	% of new construction keyed by January 31st	100%	99%	100%
Tax Assessor	% of unreturned listings completed	100%	Year-End Only	2%
Tax Collector	% annual collection rate	99%	79%	98%
Tax Collector	% review of delinquent accounts	100%	95%	100%
Tax Collector	% of delinquent taxes for prior years collected using statutory remedies	3%	16%	9%
Reappraisal	% of exempt and excluded properties audited	25%	13%	4%
Reappraisal	% of new construction keyed by January 31st	100%	99%	100%

ASSESSOR

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Ensure all new construction is listed prior to billing by: a. Listing and measuring all new construction within the County b. Keying all required data to the CAMA system for valuation c. Checking valuation changes associated with the new construction d. Reviewing and entering all new construction prior to March 1.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Ensure a 95% accuracy rate in annual tax mailings by implementing the following quality control measures prior to mailing: a. Utilizing information technology to evaluate potential issues critical to successful mailings b. Compiling lists of current and previous anomalies that impact these mailings c. Reviewing proof items provided by the print vendor to alleviate incorrect correspondence.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Increase citizens' online access to applications and forms in collaboration with IT to enhance website with the taxpayer in mind by:	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

a. Reconfiguring portions of the website to allow for ease of use b. Displaying necessary FAQ's etc. for new property tax processes c. Generating a more interactive taxpayer experience through online offerings d. Ensuring all forms are correct and up-to-date on the website.			
4. Ensure exemptions are properly granted or denied on applicable parcels by: a. Performing an audit of existing Elderly and Disabled Exclusion participants b. Streamlining processes with Information Technology c. Documenting processes and creating training manuals for staff d. Running exclusion audit reports periodically and confirming an 85% level of compliance e. Auditing 1/8th of exempt and excluded properties as required under NCGS 105-296 (l).	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
5. Ensuring all staff stays certified in their respective positions by: a. Receiving staff input on needed course work b. Working with the SOG and IAAO to seek out course offerings c. Establishing periodic trainings through HR, as well as outside agencies.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

TAX COLLECTOR

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Attain a collection rate of 98.75% over a 3-year period by: a. Using all lawful measures to collect delinquent taxes, including attachments, garnishments, payment arrangements, debt setoff, etc. b. Preparing weekly and monthly status reports to track collections as compared to prior years. c. Pursuing collection of current fiscal year delinquent accounts by arranging them into three tiers based on amount due and having staff focus collection efforts.	Not Achieved Attained a collection rate of 98.73% (if you include motor vehicles 98.82%)	Achieved Attained a collection rate of 98.85%	Achieved Attained a collection rate of 98.95%.
2. Track the percent increase of collections for each of the prior 10 years' tax levies to	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

show continued efforts of collection on prior years. Statutorily, the County may only pursue enforced collection measures for accounts that are 10 years old or less delinquent, so it is important to continue all lawful measures to collect these accounts before that time expires.			
3. Maintain foreclosure process and cost benefit analysis of foreclosure program. a. Prepare weekly and monthly status reports to track foreclosure process b. Work with ZLS on continuing collection efforts.	Achieved	Achieved 3,127,555 in net revenue	Achieved \$4,163,713 in revenue to date with \$108,376 in out-of-pocket expenses.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

4.00 FTEs

\$1,166,443

ADMINISTRATION

The goal of the Board of Elections office is to organize, conduct, and provide well-planned and managed elections with immediately available results. Board of Elections will ensure the citizens of Catawba County the right to vote in fair, honest, and impartial elections in accordance with State and Federal Elections law and County regulations, and provide easy access for all registered voters

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD OF ELECTIONS					Organization: 140050
	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Charges & Fees	5	131,693	\$45	\$45	-100.0%
General Fund	1,037,052	1,129,490	1,203,658	1,166,398	3.3%
Total	\$1,037,057	\$1,261,183	\$1,203,703	\$1,166,443	-7.5%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$678,295	\$813,245	\$801,963	\$800,703	-1.5%
Supplies & Operations	358,590	447,938	401,740	365,740	-18.4%
SBITA	172	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$1,037,057	\$1,261,183	\$1,203,703	\$1,166,443	-7.5%
Employees					
Permanent	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.0%
Total	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.0%

The budget includes cyclical changes related to the municipal elections, funded by municipalities, including reductions in expenses and revenues.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

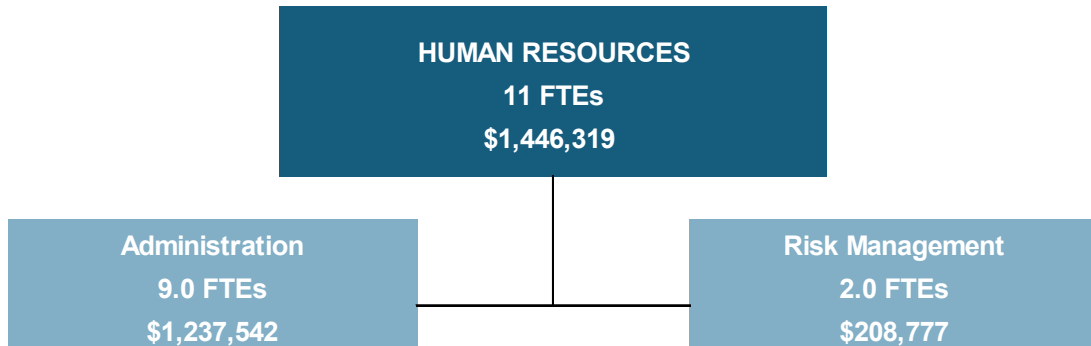
Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Elections	# of workshops and events that teach voting laws and encourage voting	10	13	13
Elections	# of poll workers hired to run the 2024 November election	300	Not used for FY2026	305

ELECTIONS

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Establish initiatives that seek better ways to provide services to encourage all eligible residents to exercise their right to vote.	Achieved Presented at the Citizen Academy, Benefits Fair, most of the Assisted Living and Retirement Communities, and the 2024 Mini Course.	Achieved Office used social media, in person events, radio, and newspaper ads to encourage citizens to vote.	Achieved Had a presentation on WHKY Radio about the 2022 Elections. Also, posted on all Catawba County's social media websites.
2. Develop outreach strategies to attract a diverse pool of poll workers who reflect the community's composition.	Achieved The Catawba County Benefits fair turnout was a huge success with getting at least 20 poll workers.	Achieved The office outreach strategies for the 2022 Election season was a success.	Achieved Reached a diverse pool of poll workers through different organizations, colleges, and student assistance.

HUMAN RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



ADMINISTRATION

Provides assistance to employees and applicants; reviews programs and benefits and makes recommendations in order to have the best workplace possible. Is responsible for personnel records, benefits, employee relations, some payroll and training programs, compliance with federal and state personnel/employment regulations, and compensation. Recruit and retain a qualified and diverse workforce by implementing strategies that promote Catawba County as a progressive and competitive employer.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Promote safety, health, and security of County employees through education, training, and prevention of injuries and accidents.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

HUMAN RESOURCES

Reinventing Department

Organizations: 150050 - 150200

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Local	\$5,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Indirect Cost	202,736	216,248	232,267	232,267	7.4%
General Fund	1,028,615	1,135,905	1,217,678	1,214,052	6.9%
Total	\$1,236,601	\$1,352,153	\$1,449,945	\$1,446,319	7.0%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$1,170,675	\$1,283,829	\$1,369,621	\$1,365,995	6.4%
Supplies & Operations	63,183	68,324	80,324	80,324	17.6%
SBITA	1,834	0	0	0	0%
Capital	909	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$1,236,601	\$1,352,153	\$1,449,945	\$1,446,319	7.0%
Expenses by Division					
Administration	\$1,051,268	\$1,162,700	\$1,240,800	\$1,237,542	6.4%
Risk Management	185,333	189,453	209,145	208,777	10.2%
Total	\$1,236,601	\$1,352,153	\$1,449,945	\$1,446,319	7.0%
Employees					
Permanent	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	0.0%
Total	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	0.0%

Outcome Achievements				
Fiscal Year	Total Outcomes	Achieved	Not Achieved	Success Rate
2024/25	12	11	1	92%
2023/24	13	13	0	100%
2022/23	13	13	0	100%
2021/22	13	13	0	100%

The budget increase is based on planned compensation changes due to staffing and responsibility changes, as well as increased costs for pre-employment screenings.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
HR - Recruitment & Retention	% satisfaction rate	90%	100%	96%
HR - Recruitment & Retention	# of career events participated in	3	4	8
HR - Recruitment & Retention	# of actions HR developed and implemented to address department / division workplace climate hot spot areas	3	1	1
HR - Talent Development	% of participants who agree supervisory education has enhanced their knowledge, skills and abilities to lead	90%	Year-End Only	100%
HR - Talent Development	# of internship opportunities for high school or college students	2	Year-End Only	5
HR - Talent Development	% of employees who successfully complete general skills development training will agree they have enhanced their knowledge, skills, and abilities	90%	Year-End Only	100%
HR - Benefits & Wellbeing	% satisfaction rating of the new employee orientation program	90%	100%	100%
HR - Benefits & Wellbeing	# of educational programs provided on county benefits	4	2	4
HR - Benefits & Wellbeing	% of County unduplicated County employees who have engaged in a wellbeing program during the year	15%	41%	42%
HR - Workplace Safety	% of OSHA recordable injuries	5%	2%	4%
HR - Workplace Safety	% of issues identified during annual safety audits addressed within 60 days	95%	13%	100%

HR - Workplace Safety	% of assigned safety trainings successfully completed by employees	90%	100%	100%
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BENEFITS

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Educate 100% of new benefited employees on available County benefits and how to use the benefits, while providing a forum to discuss employee expectations by conducting orientations at least once a month to ensure employees are quickly brought onboard with County's work culture. Success will be measured by achieving a score of 4.5 or higher for the content/quality of the program on evaluations given after each orientation session.	Achieved 4.7 average rating from 105 employees attending 21 orientation sessions.	Achieved 4.7 average rating from 190 employees attending 22 orientation sessions.	Achieved 4.7 out of 5 average rating from 246 employees, attending 28 group orientation sessions.
2. To provide employees nearing the end of their service with the County continued strong customer service, Human Resources will educate employees about their retirement benefits through individual educational consultations and/or access to a Retirement Educational Program. The consultations/program will include information on the NC Retirement System, Catawba County retiree health insurance options, and the use of supplemental retirement programs to enhance retirement. Success of the program will be measured by at least 92% of participants indicating they "strongly agree" or "agree" they have an increased knowledge of retirement benefits and options.	Achieved Completed 59 individual retirement consultations/applications. Offered two in person retirement sessions with 51 people attending. 100% of survey respondents indicated they "strongly agree" they have an increased knowledge of the retirement benefits, options and application process.	Achieved Completed 68 individual retirement consultations/applications. Offered two in person retirement sessions with 32 people attending. 100% indicated they "strongly agree" they have an increased knowledge of the retirement benefits, options and application process.	Achieved 38 employees attended "Benefits as a County Retiree" with 100% of survey respondents, stating they "Strongly Agree" they gained knowledge of retirement benefits and options. 28 retirement consultations were held, with 100% of 15 survey respondents "strongly agreeing" or "agreeing" they have increased knowledge of retirement benefits / options / application / process.

3. To maintain the County's position as an employer of choice, Human Resources will ensure the benefits package is competitive and meets the needs of employees by surveying competitors' benefit plans and recommending a competitive benefit package to the County Manager's Office by the end of February of each year.	Achieved A benefit survey of organizations similar in size or geographic location, as well as with other NCHIP members, was conducted and FY 2024-25 benefit and salary recommendations were presented to the Manager's Office at the end of February 2024.	Achieved To ensure the County's competitiveness, no premium increases were recommended for health, dental and vision plans. Additionally, enhancements were made to the health plan, including increased seed funding, change in mail order prescription program to provide more flexibility for employees, additional mental health supports through myStrength	Achieved A benefit survey of competitors as well as NCHIP members was conducted and benefit guidance for the new fiscal year was presented to the Manager's Office.
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ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
4. To enhance the County's operational efficiency and foster career adaptability, Human Resources will offer at least one skills development program for enrollment by County employees aimed at enhancing a work-related skill set. Success will be measured by at least 80% of participants indicating they "strongly agree" or "agree" that they have expanded their work-related knowledge, skills, and abilities.	Achieved 'Working with Challenging Customers' was offered in April 2024. Forty employees attended one of two sessions and 96% agreed they expanded their work-related job knowledge, skills and abilities as a result of this training.	Achieved 25 employees participated in the 4.5 hour training and 100% indicated they had expanded their work-related knowledge, skills and abilities.	Achieved "Finding Balance in a Multi-Tasking World: Managing Time, Managing You" two-part workshop was offered with 16 employees successfully completing both workshops. 100% of survey participants agreed they expanded their work-related knowledge, skills and abilities
5. To support the County's core values and encourage a culture of	Achieved	Achieved	Partially Achieved

respect, Human Resources will offer at least two cultural values training sessions for general enrollment to County employees. Success will be measured by achieving a cumulative total of 80% of participants indicating they “strongly agree” or “agree” that they have an expanded knowledge or awareness in the subject area.	A total of 17 Respectful Workplace trainings were provided to non-supervisors, with 684 employees attending and 98% of those employees agreeing that they had enhanced their job knowledge and skills as a supervisor by participating in this training.	A “Respectful Workplace Training” was provided for supervisors. Six sessions were offered with 120 supervisors attending this training and 98% of participants rated the program as excellent or good in expanding their awareness of the subject matter.	One workshop with two sessions titled “Intentional Inclusion and Belonging Starts with Me” was conducted in June via Zoom with 26 participants. 97% agreed or strongly agreed that they had expanded their knowledge / awareness of intentional inclusion.
6. To develop high performing adaptable team leaders, current supervisors, and employees seeking opportunities for upward mobility, Human Resources will coordinate and implement a front-line leadership program. Success will be measured by at least 80% of participants indicating they “strongly agree” or “agree” that they have increased their overall knowledge of leadership principles.	Achieved A Fall session of Learning to Lead was completed in November, with 19 participants successfully graduating, representing 9 County departments. Over 90% of participants indicated they increased their overall knowledge of leadership principles.	Achieved L2L 2022-23 was completed in October 2022 with 14 participants, from 7 departments, successfully graduating. L2L Spring 2023 had 20 participants from 6 departments. 100% of participants indicated they “strongly agreed” or “agreed” they will be able to apply the learning in the workplace.	Achieved Learning to Lead started on March 10th with 20 participants representing six departments. To-date, 10 classes were held during the fiscal year with graduation planned for October 2022.

RECRUITMENT, PAY, AND CLASSIFICATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
7. To support the County’s K-64 Education initiative by promoting public service and county government careers to high school and college students as well as strengthen the talent pipeline, Human Resources will support	Achieved One paid intern from an underrepresented group interned with Social Services from May-July, 2024.	Achieved One paid intern from an underrepresented group interned with Technology from Jan-May 2023. Job interviewing tips presentation provided	Achieved An Information Technology student began an internship with IT in June 2022.

departments by funding and assisting with recruiting of one paid college intern, specifically from an underrepresented group, and assisting with implementing at least one career preparatory opportunity for high school students.	Job interviewing tips presentation provided to high school students in the Emergency Services Academy in June 2024. A one-week general Catawba County internship/academy was coordinated with 6 local high school students in June 2024.	to high school students in the Emergency Services Academy in Jun 2023. A 2-week general Catawba County internship/academy coordinated with 5 local high school students in July 2023 to highlight local government career with 16 County departments participating.	3 high school students from Catawba County Schools began a 60-hour general County overview internship in June 2022.
8. To maintain the County's position as an employer of choice and to ensure recruitment and retention of qualified employees, Human Resources will maintain a competitive pay plan by conducting an annual pay and classification study of the County's positions. Success will be determined by ensuring positions are classified correctly and pay ranges are approximately 100% of the County's competitive market.	Achieved A pay and classification study was completed and approved by the Board of Commissioners in the budget.	Achieved A benchmark pay study of 40 plus positions and a classification study of 12 individual classifications/positions was completed across all departments and approved by the Board of Commissioners in the budget.	Achieved A benchmark classification and pay study was completed across all departments and approved by the Board of Commissioners in the budget.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
9. To ensure citizens' and employees' safety, Human Resources will ensure operational excellence of County drivers by limiting the number of preventable automotive accidents involving County vehicles. Risk Management will identify all preventable accidents and make the following recommendations to Department Heads: a. After the first preventable accident, require employee to repeat the County Defensive Driving class or have the Supervisor or Training Officer	Achieved As of June 30, 2024, the County experienced 59 auto accidents, with 33 determined to be preventable. This is a decrease of preventable accidents by 17% from FY 22/23.	Achieved As of June 30, 2023, the County experienced 86 auto accidents, with 40 determined to be preventable. This is an increase of preventable accidents by 33% from FY 21/22.	Achieved As of June 30, 2022, the County experienced 53 auto accidents, with 30 determined to be preventable. Drivers involved in preventable accidents are required to repeat the County's Defensive Driving Course

ride along with the employee to observe employee's driving skills. b. After a second preventable accident by the same employee, a Corrective Action Plan or disciplinary action will be recommended for employee. c. Analysis of all accidents will be conducted annually and recommendations will be shared with County management and department heads, focused on concerns, further actions, and options for improvement.			or participate in departmental exercises with an approved instructor, or complete an Auto Risk Driver Training module through Core360.
10. To ensure the County's worksites are safe and free from avoidable accidents that could negatively impact the delivery of services, Human Resources will limit OSHA recordable injuries to 5 per 100 FTEs, the North Carolina Department of Labor public sector industry standard. This will be accomplished by: a. Concentrating on evaluating the types of accidents in the high-risk departments to determine ways to improve work procedures. b. Providing at least four training programs to address safety, health, and security awareness of the County. Success will be measured by achieving a cumulative total of 80% of participants indicating they "strongly agree" or "agree" that they have an increased knowledge of the specific topic. c. Providing an annual report to the Human Resources Director and Department Heads on the number and types of injuries occurring during the year and recommendations on how to improve safety and/or security.	Achieved a. 5.0 recordable injuries per 100 FTEs b. More than 80% of safety training participants ("strongly agree or agree") they increased knowledge. c. The annual report on accidents and worker's compensation injuries was shared with the Manager's Office and departments in August 2023.	Achieved a. 3.32 recordable injuries per 100 FTEs b. More than 80% of safety training participants ("strongly agree or agree") they increased knowledge. c. Annual report of accidents and worker's compensation injuries was shared with the Manager's Office and departments Fall 2023 respectively.	Achieved a. 2.73 recordable injuries per 100 FTEs b. More than 80% of safety training participants ("strongly agree or agree") they increased knowledge. c. Annual report of accidents and worker's compensation injuries was shared with the Manager's Office and departments in November / December 2021 respectively.

WELLBEING

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
11. To improve the overall wellbeing of employees, Human Resources, in conjunction with the Wellness Coordinator, will offer at least four programs targeted to encourage improved wellbeing and healthy lifestyles. Success of these programs will be measured by having at least 80% of the program participants reporting that the program helped them implement healthier lifestyle behaviors or improve overall wellbeing.	Achieved 91% have either made physical improvements in their health or have reported the program they participated in has helped them implement healthier lifestyle behaviors or improve overall wellbeing.	Achieved 94% have either made physical improvements in their health or have reported the program they participated in has helped them implement healthier lifestyle behaviors or improve overall wellbeing.	Achieved 98.7% reported the program they participated in helped them implement healthier lifestyle behaviors or improve overall wellbeing.
12. To ensure high quality customer service is being provided through the Employee Health Connection (EHC), Human Resources will evaluate the monthly customer service surveys. Success will be measured by having at least 85% of respondents reporting an overall satisfaction rating of satisfied for very satisfied.	Achieved 100% of respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their EHC visit.	Achieved 99% of respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their EHC visit.	Achieved 99% of survey respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their EHC visit
13. To provide a cost effective and convenient healthcare option for employees, the cost to operate the Employee Health Clinic (employee and County) will be at least 10% less than savings generated by the services in the following areas: a. Number of employee sick leave hours saved and an average associated cost. b. Savings from conducting in-house Workers Compensation evaluations. c. Savings from performing all recruitment and retention related medical testing through the Clinic. d. Savings generated from employee usage of the Employee Health Clinic as opposed to their Primary Care Physician.	Achieved The approximate costs to fund employee sick leave and the same services through CVMC occupational Health or a Primary Care Provider if the EHC did not exist would be \$422,103. The cost to operate our clinic is about 18% less than what it would have been if services were completed at Occupational Health or a Primary Care Provider.	Achieved The approximate costs to fund employee sick leave and the same services through CVMC occupational Health or a Primary Care Provider if the EHC did not exist would be \$386,413. The cost to operate our clinic is about 18% less than what it would have been if services were completed at Occupational Health or a Primary Care Provider.	Achieved The cost to operate Employee Health Clinic was \$319,466 versus an approximate cost of \$381,649 to fund employee sick leave and the same services through CVMC Occupational Health or a Primary Care Provider if the EHC did not exist

REGISTER OF DEEDS

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

REGISTER OF DEEDS

10.00 FTEs

\$1,125,898

ADMINISTRATION

The Catawba County Register of Deeds serves as custodian of all records of real estate, vital records, military discharges, and the certification of notary publics. It is essential in preserving Catawba County's history.

The Register of Deeds is a customer-driven recording agency that provides numerous functions to the legal community and the general public, such as supplying accurate and expedient documentation as needed. The Register of Deeds is an elected official of four-year terms legally charged with recording and maintaining the integrity, completeness, accuracy and safekeeping of Catawba County's public records.

The department's highest priority is to provide six services required by North Carolina General Statutes. The six required services are recording legal documents, issuing marriage licenses/certificates, recording/issuing birth and death certificates, issuing notary public oaths/authentications, imaging recorded documents and maps, along with indexing all the above recorded documents and maps.

The Office is bound by North Carolina General Statutes to make recorded documents available via a temporary or permanent index within 24 hours; documents must be fully indexed on the permanent index within 30 days of the initial recording. At the same time, the indexing unit strives for a margin of error of less than one percent. This is to ensure that each staff member, constituent or citizen will be able to retrieve such public records when needed.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Organization: 160050

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Real Estate Excise	\$1,943,689	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	0.0%
State	2,714	0	0	0	0%
Charges & Fees	943,247	900,800	905,500	905,500	0.5%
Miscellaneous	(60,180)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	0.0%
General Fund	(1,754,236)	(1,301,366)	(1,204,711)	(1,219,602)	-6.3%
Total	\$1,075,234	\$1,039,434	\$1,140,789	\$1,125,898	8.3%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$819,515	\$847,459	\$911,839	\$909,948	7.4%
Supplies & Operations	246,618	178,975	215,950	215,950	20.7%
SBITA	2,696	0	0	0	0%
Capital & Debt	6,405	13,000	13,000	0	0.0%
Total	\$1,075,234	\$1,039,434	\$1,140,789	\$1,125,898	8.3%
Employees					
Permanent	10.00	10.00	11.00	10.00	0.0%
Total	10.00	10.00	11.00	10.00	0.0%

The budget includes planned compensation changes.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid- year FY26	EOY FY25
Register Of Deeds	% of documents indexed without error	99%	100%	100%
Register Of Deeds	% of real estate documents returned within 14 days of being accurately indexed	100%	100%	100%
Register Of Deeds	% of real estate documents verified within ten business days of receipt of all required documents.	95%	100%	N/A
Register Of Deeds	% of death notifications updated within 6 months of receipt of NCDAVE Report.	95%	100%	N/A

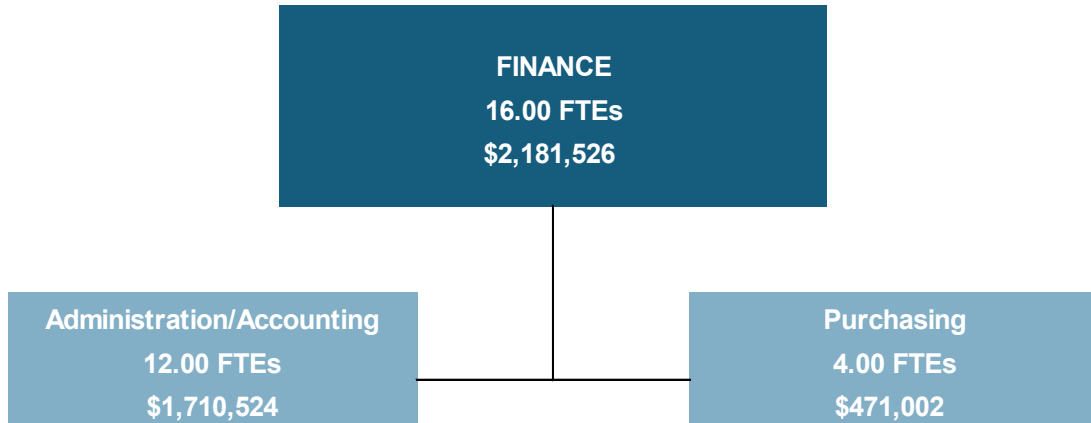
REGISTER OF DEEDS

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
2. To provide timely, courteous, and accurate services to the public, the Register of Deeds will: a. Return 100 percent of real estate documents within 14 days after indexing is complete. b. Educate 100 percent of couples on North Carolina's marriage license requirements. c. Ensure an indexing error rate of less than one percent for all recorded documents.	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved	Not Achieved a. Not achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved
3. Increase convenience to customers by creating electronic records through scanning and indexing, in turn reducing the in-office research time needed to obtain copies of records: a. Provide access to re-indexing of real estate records from 1989 to 1992 to be computer assessable. b. Review received scanned images and data from Logan on Birth, Death, Marriage and Military records.	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved
4. Minimize loss and maximize the ability to retrieve all records in the Register of Deeds' Office in the event of a disaster by ensuring a Disaster Recovery Plan is intact and operational using the following methods: a. Back up 100 percent of digitalized real estate records, vital records, military discharges, and notary public certifications either through the Catawba County Information Technology Department, Archives in Raleigh, or Logan Systems. b. Have quarterly drills for the staff to ensure awareness of the Disaster Recovery Plan and how to address any alterations needed to the plan.	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved

c. Include the public in at least two of the four drills held throughout the year.			
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FINANCE

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



ADMINISTRATION/ACCOUNTING

The Finance Department is responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of Catawba County. Finance is accountable to the citizens to ensure that the County maximizes its resources and handles funds in accordance with all applicable local, State, and Federal regulations.

PURCHASING/SERVICE CENTER

To ensure the timely procurement of quality goods and services as economically as possible within the guidelines of General Statutes and County Code. To provide timely, accurate and courteous mail and courier service to county departments.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCE

Organizations: 170050 - 170101

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Investment Earnings	5,563,372	1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,740,000	16.0%
Personnel Indirect Cost	49,025	56,062	60,054	60,054	7.1%
Miscellaneous	13,747	20,000	20,000	20,000	0.0%
Charges & Fees	525	200	200	200	0.0%
Transfer from ARP	90,000	0	0	0	0%
General Fund	(3,880,060)	479,183	606,053	361,272	-24.6%
Total	\$1,836,609	\$2,055,445	\$2,186,307	\$2,181,526	6.1%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$1,537,478	\$1,704,545	\$1,828,157	\$1,823,376	7.0%
Supplies & Operations	293,665	350,900	358,150	358,150	2.1%
SBITA	5,466	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$1,836,609	\$2,055,445	\$2,186,307	\$2,181,526	6.1%
Expenses by Division					
Admin./Accounting	\$1,442,641	\$1,625,000	\$1,714,150	\$1,710,524	5.3%
Purchasing	393,968	430,445	472,157	471,002	9.4%
Total	\$1,836,609	\$2,055,445	\$2,186,307	\$2,181,526	6.1%
Employees					
Permanent	17.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	0.0%
Total	17.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	0.0%

The budget increase is due to planned compensation changes and anticipated financial services costs.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Finance Department	% of outstanding debt eligible for refinancing reviewed to determine if refinancing is warranted	100%	Year-End Only	100%
Finance Department	Present an annual review of investments to the County Manager's Office outlining timing of maturities, average yield, and allocation of investments among type of securities.	6/30/2026	Year-End Only	April 2025
Finance Department	# of finance, purchasing, grant, and/or contract management training offered to County employees	2	Year-End Only	4
Finance Department	Achieve the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Award given by the Government Finance Officers Association	6/30/2026	Year-End Only	May 2025
Finance Department	% payroll accuracy	95%	100%	100%
Finance Department	% accuracy of vendor payments	95%	100%	100%

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. The County follows the requirements of the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The Finance Department ensures transactions comply with these requirements by: a. Monitoring all financial transactions in accordance with the annually adopted Budget Ordinance. b. Accurately recording all amendments to the County's Budget Ordinance within 5 working days of receipt.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. The Finance Department assists with the development of the budget by providing the Budget & Management Office upon request with information on a timely basis that includes the following: a. Preliminary estimates of the County's level of fund balances	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

and recommendations on the amount of fund balances available for appropriation. b. Debt service requirements.			
3. The Finance Department provides financial information in an accurate, efficient, and timely manner by reviewing internal controls and testing of transactions for selected departments by June 30th, preparing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) by December 1st, submitting the ACFR to the Government Finance Officers Association for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by December 31st.	Achieved	Achieved	Partially Achieved Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) submitted by December 1 st , but submitted after December 31 st to Government Finance Officers Association for Certificate of Achievement.
4. The County is responsible for financing major capital projects including those for the local public schools and community college. The department will plan, execute, and oversee all underwriting and debt issuance of Catawba County including any approved new debt financing issues needed for public schools, community college, or renovations/additions to County facilities or equipment. These efforts will maximize cash on hand and borrow money as inexpensively as possible, saving taxpayer dollars through interest avoidance.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

ACCOUNTING

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. The Finance Department is responsible for accurately processing financial transactions in a timely manner. a. Make accurate and timely payments (an average of 600+ checks and Electronic Funds Transfer payments) to all vendors on a weekly basis	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

b. Process and distribute 100 percent of required Form 1099s by January 31 for vendor tax records. c. Deposit daily all revenue received 100 percent of the time, as evidenced by deposit ticket dates. d. Make accurate and timely payment of wages to 1,200+ full-time and hourly employees on a bi-weekly basis. e. Process and distribute 100 percent of required Form W-2s by January 31 for employees' tax records. f. Process the reporting and payment of Federal and State payroll taxes and employee benefits by due date 100 percent of the time, as evidenced by date of payment. g. Process a monthly billing cycle by mailing bills within 5 working days of the cutoff. h. Post all accounts receivable payments within 5 working days after receipt			
2. The Finance Department will maintain an accurate and thorough inventory of all County fixed assets (items costing \$5,000 or more with a useful life of 2 years or more) by ensuring documentation for the annual audit, all additions, deletions, and transfers are processed by August 31.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. The Finance Department is responsible for the stewardship of County cash assets. a. The department will reconcile bank accounts within 30 days of receipt of bank statements. b. Excess cash will be invested at the highest possible yield while following NC General Statutes to maintain safety and liquidity of those investments.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. In an effort to promote business process efficiencies, the Finance Department will realize a 10 percent	Achieved Staff have realized a 27	Achieved Have leveraged software that	New Outcome for FY23

savings in staff time or financial savings through process improvement efforts.	percent savings in staff time in the preparation of the cost allocation plan.	has resulted in an estimated 50% time savings.	
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PURCHASING AND SERVICE CENTER

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Strive to improve procurement systems, practices and procedures within the County to maximize productivity and cost-efficiency.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Work to assure departments are knowledgeable and trained on correct procurement policies and procedures to assure compliance.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. The Finance Department is responsible for fiscal compliance and monitoring for multiple grants. a. The department will ensure accurate, timely reporting of all grants monitored by the department by ensuring reporting is completed within sponsoring agency deadlines.	Achieved	New Outcome for FY24	

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES – JUSTICE CENTER

Revenue received from court and facility fees is budgeted in this cost center to help support Justice Center operations. The budget for FY2026/2027 includes an increase for the refurbishment of office space in the Clerk of Court's office.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES - JUSTICE CENTER

Organization: 180050

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
State	\$229,724	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	0%
General Fund	(229,724)	(209,500)	(149,500)	(149,500)	-29%
Total	\$0	\$15,500	\$75,500	\$75,500	387%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$0	\$15,500	\$75,500	\$75,500	387%
Total	\$0	\$15,500	\$75,500	\$75,500	387%

CONTINGENCY

Annually the budget includes contingency funds for which the County Manager has transfer authority granted by the Board of Commissioners of up to \$50,000 per transfer. Additionally, special contingency revenue and expense is included to provide the County flexibility in recognizing small revenues such as donations and grants that are hard to predict throughout the year. These transfers are reported to the Board of Commissioners on a regular basis.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINGENCY

Organization: 190100

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Special Contingency	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	0.0%
General Fund	536,355	250,000	250,000	250,000	0.0%
	\$536,355	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	0.0%
Expenses					
Contingency	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	0.0%
Special Contingency	0	100,000	100,000	100,000	0.0%
Transfer to Gen. Capital Proj Fund	536,355	0	0	0	0%
	\$536,355	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	0.0%

OTHER GOVERNMENT COSTS

This includes funding for outside agencies such as pass-through funds for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) projects and some general Countywide expenses not attributable to a specific department, such as employee recognition.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OTHER GOVERNMENT COSTS

Organization: 190050

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Local Sales Tax	\$33,861,380	\$32,171,256	\$36,059,506	\$36,458,767	13.3%
Medicaid Hold Harmless	\$2,412,927	\$1,000,000	0	0	0%
Beer & Wine Tax	\$349,231	\$400,000	350,000	350,000	-12.5%
Cable TV Reimbursements	376,029	415,000	400,000	400,000	-3.6%
JCPC Planning	12,638	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
JCPC Projects	423,038	429,225	429,225	429,225	0.0%
Indirect Cost	98,859	74,671	20,695	27,611	-63.0%
ABC Profits	1,235,970	1,360,000	1,360,000	1,360,000	0.0%
Miscellaneous	94,553	0	0	0	0%
Fund Balance	0	7,977,361	24,698,919	8,740,820	9.6%
Sale of Properties	813,193	60,000	0	0	0%
From ARP	536,544	0	0	0	0.0%
Lease Liabilities	27,501	0	0	0	0.0%
DHR County Share	(22,655,334)	(26,726,385)	(29,467,061)	(28,716,769)	7.4%
General Fund	(14,338,904)	(16,800,878)	(32,892,254)	(18,090,624)	7.7%
	\$3,247,625	\$362,250	\$961,030	\$961,030	165.3%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$155,560	\$440,000	\$440,000	\$440,000	0.0%
Other					
Employee Recognition	31,906	31,000	32,000	32,000	3.2%
Employee Committee	645	850	850	850	0.0%
Fire Association - Museum Maint.	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	0.0%
Other Prof. Services	36,531	0	0	0	0%
Rent of Building	0	7,284	7,284	7,284	0.0%
Joint JCPC Planning	12,637	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
JCPC Projects	418,587	429,225	429,225	429,225	0.0%
JCPC - Refund	1,147	0	0	0	0%
Hickory Airport Tower	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%
Capital Lease - Probation	40,612	34,636	42,871	42,871	23.8%
	\$704,425	\$951,795	\$961,030	\$961,030	1.0%

TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND

Certain revenues, such as property tax, must initially be budgeted in the General Fund but need to be spent in other funds. These dollars are in effect accounted for twice, inflating the total budget by the transfer amounts, as they are reflected both in the fund transferred from and the receiving fund.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

TRANSFERS FROM GENERAL FUND

Organization: 190900

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
From Self-Insurance Fund	150,400	0	0	0	0%
General Fund	10,210,455	6,460,362	8,767,749	5,397,811	-16.4%
Total	\$10,210,455	\$6,460,362	\$8,767,749	\$5,397,811	-16.4%
Expenses					
Self Insurance Fund	\$2,335,050	\$2,541,300	\$3,250,456	\$3,250,456	27.9%
Reappraisal Fund	919,143	1,009,062	1,355,293	1,237,355	22.6%
Stream Debris Removal Fund	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	0.0%
General Capital Projects	5,102,527	2,835,000	4,087,000	835,000	-70.5%
Schools Capital	1,915,000	0	0	0	0%
Emergency Telephone System	14,135	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$10,360,855	\$6,460,362	\$8,767,749	\$5,397,811	-16.4%

DEBT SERVICE

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

DEBT SERVICE

Organization: 910050 - 930680

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Adopted	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Economic & Physical Development Debt					
General Fund	\$593,094	\$575,056	\$557,041	\$557,041	-3.1%
Education					
1st 1/2% Sales Tax	0	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	0.0%
General Fund (retiring debt balance)	6,900,000	6,900,000	6,900,000	6,900,000	0.0%
General Fund - 2.1 cents	4,239,816	6,510,000	6,720,000	6,720,000	3.2%
Lottery Proceeds	1,578,345	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	0.0%
Public Safety					
1/4 Cent Sales Tax - Justice Center	1,675,633	1,520,744	1,461,494	1,461,494	-3.9%
General Fund - Jail Debt	2,450,707	1,566,204	1,517,097	1,517,097	-3.1%
General Fund - Animal Shelter	303,253	298,242	292,721	292,721	-1.9%
Other					
Interest on Investments	2,559	0	0		0%
Installment Purchase - Proceeds (CVMC)	0	9,555,397	7,965,872	7,965,872	-16.6%
Total	\$17,743,407	\$30,575,643	\$29,064,225	\$29,064,225	-4.9%
Expenses					
Economic & Physical Development Debt					
Mountain Creek Park	\$593,094	\$575,056	\$557,041	\$557,041	-3%
Education Debt					
Installment Purchase - Schools	10,844,282	10,416,930	10,017,974	10,017,974	-3.8%
School Construction Bonds	63,328	1,187,446	0	0	0%
Installment Purchase - CVCC	1,802,373	1,649,007	1,511,629	1,511,629	-8.3%
Future Debt	106,376	3,806,617	5,740,397	6,407,566	68.3%
Public Safety Debt					
Installment Purchase - Animal Shelter	303,253	298,242	292,721	292,721	-1.9%
Jail	2,450,707	1,566,204	1,517,097	1,517,097	-3.1%
Limited Obligation Bonds - Justice Center	1,579,994	1,520,744	1,461,494	1,461,494	-3.9%
Other Debt					
Installment Purchase - CVMC	0	9,555,397	7,965,872	7,965,872	-16.6%
Total	\$17,743,407	\$30,575,643	\$29,064,225	\$29,731,394	-2.8%

The budget includes debt service for Mountain Creek Park. The County issued \$8 million in debt in Fiscal Year 2017/18 to develop this new park in the Sherrills Ford – Terrell community.

Education related debt service totaling \$17.9 million is included for the three public school systems and Catawba Valley Community College.

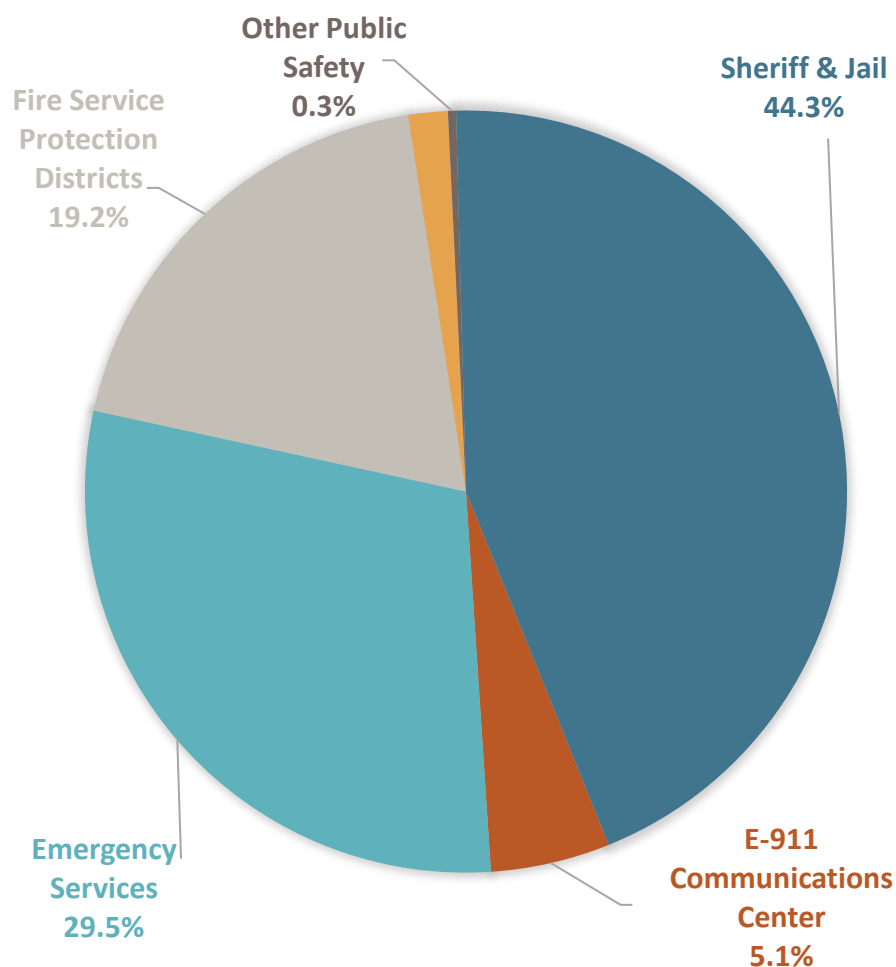
Funding for Public Safety-related debt makes up \$3.3 million, dedicated to the Justice Public Safety Center, Animal Shelter, and both 2007 and 2020 Jail expansions.

Debt service payments for Catawba Valley Medical Center are continued. Since the County owns the hospital, any debt issued is reflected in the County budget but is completely funded by the hospital and does not require any County funds.

PUBLIC SAFETY

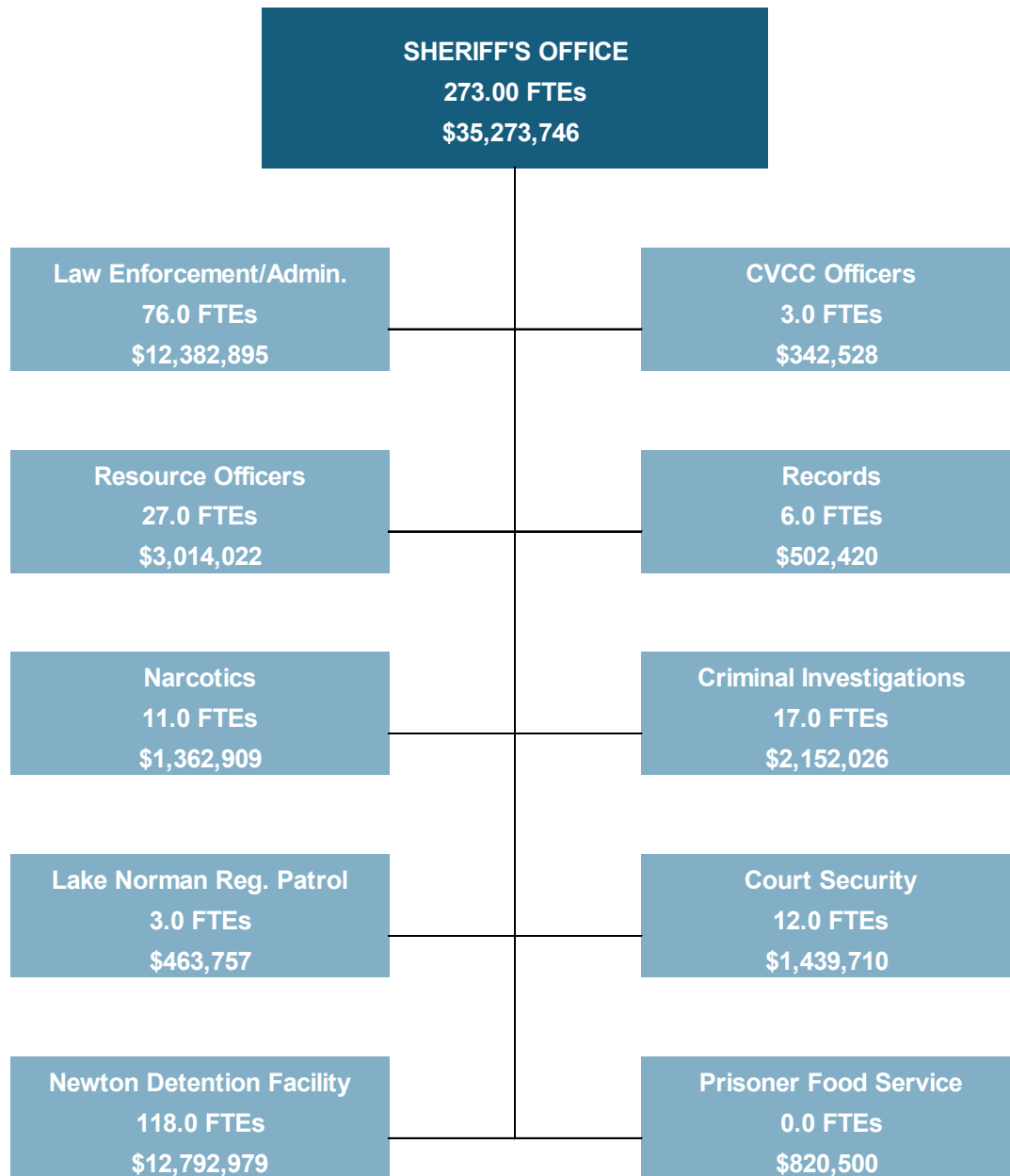
The Public Safety function is composed of the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services, E-911 Communications Center, and Other Public Safety activities (Lake Norman Marine Commission, Catawba Wateree Water Management Group, Court Services, and Conflict Resolution Center). The Sheriff's Office includes the following activities: Law Enforcement & Administration, CVCC Officers, School Resource Officers, Records, Narcotics, Criminal Investigations, Lake Norman Area Patrol, Court Security, Newton Detention Facility, and Prisoner Food Service. Emergency Services consists of Emergency Services Administration, Veterans' Services, Emergency Medical Services, Fire/Rescue Division, Fire Fighting Alarms, Animal Control, and the Animal Shelter. The Emergency Services division is also responsible for Rescue Squads, Fire Service Protection Districts, and the E-911 Communications Center. The E-911 Communications Center provides emergency and administrative communications for the citizens of Catawba County by placing them in touch with public safety and related government services agencies.

The County has budgeted \$81,207,479 representing 23.0% of all expenditures for the fiscal year for Public Safety, including capital expenses and special revenue restricted for specific purposes such as the Emergency Telephone Surcharge and Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds. Total General Fund departmental expenses are \$64,136,001 or 79.0% of which is budgeted in the General Fund. The departments work to provide a safe, secure community and to provide emergency medical transportation to medical care facilities. The services provided are both salary and equipment intensive and increased costs generally reflect equipment replacements.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



LAW ENFORCEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

The Sheriff's Office is charged with protecting the public, investigating crimes, operating the Jail, providing court security, and serving civil process. Law Enforcement and Administration consists of Road Patrol, Civil, Warrant, and overall Administration for the Sheriff's Office. Patrol Officers provide protection and service to the County 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by responding to calls for service, enforcing laws, investigating crimes, and deterring crime by their presence. They also patrol problem areas in an attempt to curtail aggressive driving behaviors that contribute to accidents or prevent crimes in areas of statistically proven trouble. Civil and Warrant Officers serve civil and criminal legal processes issued by the court.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SROs)

School Resource Officers (SROs) work in Catawba County School System schools as Law Enforcement Officers to maintain order by enforcing the laws and local ordinances. They also respond to law enforcement calls involving drugs, weapons or immediate threats at the Catawba County elementary schools within their school district during working hours. They investigate all criminal activity committed on all Catawba County Schools properties or involving students from the school to which the officer is assigned during working hours. They assist school officials with enforcement of applicable board of education policies and administrative regulations. They are a resource for teachers and parents in the areas of law enforcement. They act as counselors in some instances when listening to and assisting students, faculty and parents with various problems and concerns in the law enforcement field. They are aware of available resources in the County for referral to collaborating agencies.

RECORDS

The Records Division manages case reports for Road Patrol, Investigations, and the Newton Detention Facility. Additional responsibilities include central warrant repository, orders for arrest, juvenile summons, alcohol and drug abuse, private attorney criminal history checks, officer criminal history checks for court, public fingerprints, County employment backgrounds, concealed carry permits, precious metal permits, domestic violence orders, and Division of Criminal Information (DCI) entry/monitoring.

NARCOTICS / SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT GROUP

The Narcotics Unit is a select group of investigators tasked to investigate major drug trafficking organizations residing in or acting as sources of supply to Catawba County. This unit conducts complex drug investigations and strategic undercover purchases at both the state and federal levels of prosecution. This unit also acts as a cooperator and force multiplier with Local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies.

The Special Enforcement Group is a select group of investigators/deputies tasked to conduct specific quick action/reaction enforcement activities and investigations in a myriad of law enforcement situations to include criminal surveillance, street level undercover purchases, highway interdiction, parcel interdiction and focused enforcement activities in support of the Narcotics, Patrol and Criminal Investigation Divisions.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (CID)

CID is responsible for investigating and following up on serious misdemeanor and felony crimes. Some of these crimes include homicides, robberies, felony assaults, and major fraud including identity theft and embezzlement, and sex offenses.

LAKE NORMAN REGIONAL PATROL

The Lake Norman Regional Patrol serves the citizens of southeastern Catawba County by providing community policing, patrol of both land and water to protect lives and property by enforcing State and local ordinances, and promotion of boater safety.

COURT SECURITY

The Court Security Unit is responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of court officials, employees, visitors, inmates, and the general public in the Catawba County Justice Center. Court Security also ensures the smooth and safe movement of inmates between the Newton Detention Center and courtrooms.

NEWTON DETENTION FACILITY

The purpose of the Newton Detention Facility is to provide for the safety and security of inmates by fairly and humanely ensuring their physical, mental, and medical welfare is provided for as required by State and Federal law.

PRISONER FOOD SERVICE

Jail food service will provide inmates in Catawba County custody well-balanced meals as required by the State of North Carolina Department of Human Resources.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Organizations: 210050 - 220250

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Federal	\$1,421,717	\$1,657,000	\$642,000	\$642,000	-61.3%
State	133,700	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Federal & State	243,854	95,000	95,000	95,000	0.0%
Local	1,322,479	1,344,354	1,361,336	1,361,336	1.3%
Charges & Fees	540,994	485,080	484,080	484,080	-0.2%
Miscellaneous	333,996	258,100	258,100	258,100	0.0%
Transfer In	175,000	0	0	0	0%
General Fund	26,987,489	28,594,588	35,496,608	32,423,230	13.4%
Total	\$31,159,229	\$32,444,122	\$38,347,124	\$35,273,746	8.7%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$22,484,746	\$24,765,454	\$28,367,370	\$26,937,644	8.8%
Supplies & Operations	7,145,948	6,644,769	7,605,554	6,972,676	4.9%
SBITA	13,071	0	0	0	0%
Capital	1,515,464	1,033,899	2,374,200	1,363,426	31.9%
Total	\$31,159,229	\$32,444,122	\$38,347,124	\$35,273,746	8.7%
Expenses by Division					
Law Enforcement & Admin	\$10,852,435	\$11,206,804	\$14,159,684	\$12,382,895	10.5%
CVCC Officers	285,051	318,141	343,882	342,528	7.7%
Resource Officers	2,747,481	2,823,320	3,073,616	3,014,022	6.8%
Records	434,324	475,931	504,257	502,420	5.6%
Narcotics	1,183,993	1,265,935	1,379,105	1,362,909	7.7%
Criminal Investigations	1,846,520	1,946,014	2,159,287	2,152,026	10.6%
Lake Norman Reg. Partol	370,973	448,499	965,530	463,757	3.4%
Court Security	1,271,382	1,352,487	1,444,041	1,439,710	6.4%
Newton Detention Facility	11,271,541	11,786,491	13,497,222	12,792,979	8.5%
Prisoner Food Service	895,529	820,500	820,500	820,500	0.0%
Total	\$31,159,229	\$32,444,122	\$38,347,124	\$35,273,746	8.7%
Employees					
Permanent	256.00	261.00	281.00	273.00	4.6%
Total	256.00	261.00	281.00	273.00	4.6%

The Sheriff's Office budget increase is primarily driven by twelve detention officers and associated operating and personnel expenses, funded beginning in April 2027, as well as planned salary and benefits changes; this accounts for \$2.3M of the \$2.9M increase. Of that \$2.3M, \$211K is allocated for the twelve new positions. In capital costs, \$265K has been added for replacement of handheld radios. In operational costs, \$78K has been added for software which will improve evidence tracking. Federal bed revenue has also been reduced due to expectation of fewer federal inmates being housed at County facilities.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid- year FY26	EOY FY25
Sheriff's Office - Admin	% of civil summons served within three business days	70%	84%	83%
Sheriff's Office - Admin	Maintain an index crime rate (offenses per 100,000 population) that is below the statewide rate	2526	06%	59%
Sheriff's Office - Admin	% conviction rate for sex offenders out of compliance with the stipulations of their sentence	95%	6%	New Measure
Sheriff's Office - CID	% conviction rate for violent crimes	75%	00%	60%
Sheriff's Office - Court Security	# of incidents of contraband found beyond security check point	5	Year-End Only	2
Sheriff's Office - Detectives	% of cases closed	75%	83%	38%
Sheriff's Office - Denton Center	% of non-emergency medical incidents addressed in-house rather than transferred to outside providers	80%	Year-End Only	92%
Sheriff's Office - Detectives	% of internet crimes against children tips received investigated	100%	100%	100%
Sheriff's Office - Lake Norman Patrol	# of boater safety checks	500	240	502
Sheriff's Office - Narcotics	% of investigations will produce successful prosecutions	80%	67%	New Measure
Sheriff's Office - Records	% of requests from Human Resources (HR) for pre-employment background checks completed within one business day	90%	100%	75%
Sheriff's Office - SROs	% of school emergency action plans reviewed	100%	100%	100%
Sheriff's Office - SROs	# of active shooter trainings within the school system	10	13	13

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Continue customer service emphasis in all departments. Focus on communications efforts with citizens so citizens know what Catawba County Sheriff's Office does for them and what they can do to be part of a safer community.	Achieved	Achieved Outreach efforts include scam alerts, Citizen's Academy, Cadet Program, and Pill Stoppers.	Achieved Outreach efforts include scam alerts, Citizen's Academy, Cadet Program, and Pill Stoppers.
2. Maintain an index crime rate that is below the statewide rate (2021 – 2,586.4 per 100,000 population).	Achieved 2,297 per 100,000	Not Achieved 2,802.5 per 100,000	Not Achieved 2,802.5 per 100,000
3. To maintain the professionalism of the department, enhance officer knowledge and skills, and meet NC Sheriff's Training Standards mandates, the Sheriff's Office will provide at least 4,000 hours of in-service training for sworn and detention officers.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. To enhance the existing relationship between the criminal justice system and the community, the Catawba County Sheriff's Office will: a. Provide 100 educational programs to social, civic, school, business, and religious organizations including tours of the department on a request basis. All officers that patrol the area where the program is presented will be introduced as well. b. Participate in the Criminal Justice Careers Summer Internship Program in conjunction with Catawba County Public Schools to provide those juniors and seniors selected for the internship with firsthand experience and knowledge of criminal justice careers.	Achieved a. participated in 136 events. b. Provided firsthand experience to 5 high school and 3 college interns this fiscal year with a total of 1,222 hours worked by the interns.	Achieved a. Participated in 125 events b. Provided firsthand experience to 10 high school and college interns with a total of 1876 hours.	Achieved a. Participated in 102 events b. Provided firsthand experience to 7 high school interns and 7 college interns this fiscal year with a total of 1,867 hours worked by the interns.
5. Enhance the personal safety of senior citizens in Catawba County by: a. Continuing to educate seniors by providing at least 20 Safe Senior presentations in areas of	Achieved a. conducted 27 presentations, and 49 residents entered in Project Lifesaver Program.	Achieved a. conducted 28 presentations with approximately 24 citizens in the Adopt-A-Senior	Achieved a. 27 presentations with approximately 24 citizens in the Adopt-A-Senior

importance such as telemarketing fraud, flimflam schemes, and the Sheriff's Office Adopt-A-Senior Program. This program has several benefits for seniors with no family in the County, including assigning a patrol deputy to call or visit participating seniors each week, collecting personal information that may be needed by Emergency Responders, and providing seniors with an emergency beacon light in the event of distress in the residence. b. Sending an officer to check on 100 percent of participants in the R U OK program if they need assistance or cannot be contacted. This automated program calls seniors or individuals with disabilities at their requested time to ensure they are okay.	b. 45 seniors in RUOK program, 19,107 calls with 519 alerts.	Program. Also 28 residents entered in Project Lifesaver Program. b. 39 seniors in RUOK program, 17,311 calls with 843 alerts.	Program. Also have 36 residents entered in Project Lifesaver Program. b. 53 seniors in RUOK program, 19,450 calls with 943 being alerts
6. To provide citizens with timely notification of all civil matters, the Catawba County Sheriff's Office will serve at least 60 percent of all civil process within three business days of receipt.	Achieved 73% of the issued civil papers were served within 3 business days.	Achieved 75.3% served within 3 days	Achieved 73% served within 3 days
7. To protect the community, the Sheriff's Office will maintain at least a 95 percent conviction rate for sex offenders found to be out of compliance with the stipulations of their sentence.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
8. To remain trained and ready to handle high-risk call-outs, hostage rescue, and other tactical situations, each member of the Catawba County Special Tactics and Response (STAR) Team will receive at least 144 hours of additional specialized training each year. This multi-agency unit responds to events that may result in catastrophic effects on life and property.	Achieved 172 hours of training received	Achieved 192 hours of training received	Achieved 175 hours of training

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SROs)

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Reduce victimization and improve students' perception of personal safety by providing at least 100 educational presentations to middle and high school students in the areas of safety, drug and alcohol abuse, and North Carolina Law.	Achieved 336 classes presented to students and 1,315 students counseled on law enforcement topics or situations.	Achieved 440 classes presented to students and 1,157 students counseled on law enforcement topics or situations.	Achieved 429 classes presented to students and 1,306 students counseled on law enforcement topics or situations
2. Improve safety in the school environment by: a. Providing at least 40 educational presentations in the areas of child safety and drug prevention to the faculty and parents in area middle and high schools. b. Assisting the School Safety Committee and other committees in safety procedures for the school. c. Assisting school administration with updates to the schools' crisis plan and attending training at least once a year for school crisis situations. d. Promoting a safe and responsible prom night by providing at least one program for each high school to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.	Achieved a. 99 presentations and counseled 429 and 505 staff members on law enforcement topics or situations. b. Assisted 31 times with School Safety Committee or BLT team. c. updated 23 crisis plan, participated in multiple active shooter/lockdown training procedures and scenario situations. Have assisted with 107 home visits and participated in over 743 events/classes.	Achieved a. 85 presentations and counseled 366 and 516 staff members on law enforcement topics or situations. b. Assisted 32 times with School Safety Committee or BLT team. c. updated 22 crisis plan, participated in multiple active shooter/lockdown training procedures and scenario situations. Have assisted with 129 home visits and participated in over 1,528 events/classes.	Achieved a. SROs made 63 presentations and counseled 244 parents and 287 staff members on law enforcement issues. b. SROs assisted School Safety Committees 23 times. c. SROs updated crisis plans 18 times, participated in multiple active shooter/lockdown training procedures and scenario situations, worked with staff and administration on 16 school active shooter/lockdown drills, assisted school social workers on 94 home visits and participated in over 1,358 misc. events and / or classes.
3. Decrease fights, weapons, and illegal substances by: a. Using the department's K-9 Unit to conduct random searches of the campuses, as well as at the request of the	Achived a. 39 K-9 searches conducted with 8 drug incidents reported.	Achieved a. 132 K-9 searches conducted with 33 drug incidents reported.	Achieved a. 96 K-9 searches conducted, 17 drug incidents reported.

school when feasible. These searches help identify and eliminate the possession and use of illegal weapons and drugs. b. Working with all students who have been identified for bullying and behavior problems by the school's Guidance Office. c. Taking reports on all crimes committed at the schools and counseling the person committing the crime, if possible, at the time of the incident.	b. 24 incidents of bullying reported. c. 175 reports for simple assault, larceny, disorderly conduct, weapon on campus and a variety of other incidents.	b. 86 incidents of bullying reported. c. 531 reports for simple assault, larceny, disorderly conduct, weapon on campus and a variety of other incidents.	b. SROs reported 61 incidents of bullying c. SROs took 373 reports for simple assault, larceny, disorderly conduct, weapon on campus and a variety of other incidents
4. To ensure a safe learning environment for students and faculty, SROs will conduct monthly inspections of their school, and make suggestions to the school safety committee and/or the principal on any issues they may find.	Achieved Conducted 235 Fire Drills, 23 Tornado Drills and 24 Earthquake Drills	Achieved Conducted 327 Fire Drills, 32 Tornado Drills and 24 Earthquake Drills	Achieved Conducted monthly inspections and participated in 237 Fire Drills, 13 Earthquake Drills and 17 Tornado Drills

RECORDS

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To provide consistent and reliable access to records, statistical information, and reports, the Catawba County Sheriff's Office Records Management System will maintain at least a 99 percent uptime.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To ensure quality customer service to citizens who apply for a firearm concealed carry permit, the Sheriff's Office will maintain a substantiated complaint rate of less than 1 complaint per 500 permits issued.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. To allow the County to maintain a timely and thorough hiring process, the Sheriff's Office will complete 90 percent of requests from Human Resources (HR) for pre-employment background checks within one business day, with all requests completed within two business days.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

4. To ensure public transparency and access to information, Records will maintain incident reports daily and have the reports available within two business days of the incident.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
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NARCOTICS/VICE DIVISION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Partner with the Criminal Investigations Division to prosecute controlled substance dealers that provided drugs to overdose victims.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Decrease drug trafficking by working to dismantle historic drug trafficking organizations in Catawba County..	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Develop investigations that produce successful prosecutions.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (CID)

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. The Criminal Investigations Division will maintain a clearance rate resulting in cases closed by designation of: Arrest, Leads Exhausted, Unfounded equaling 75% or greater of the total number of all cases assigned.	Achieved Clearance rate of 75%.	Achieved Clearance rate of 75%.	Achieved Clearance rate of 75%.
2. To provide the best treatment and care to victims while gathering sufficient evidence to prosecute offenders, the Sheriff's Office will continue to work jointly with Social Services to investigate all claims of child sexual assault and physical abuse.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

LAKE NORMAN REGIONAL PATROL

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Increase the public's awareness of State and local laws pertaining to the waters of Catawba County and safe boating practices by hosting at least 10 boater safety classes sponsored by the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission.	Achieved Lake patrol has hosted 10 boater safety courses.	Achieved Lake patrol has hosted 10 boater safety courses.	Achieved Lake patrol has hosted 10 boater safety courses

COURT SECURITY

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To ensure the safety of the court system and its participants, Court Security will ensure that all prohibited materials are either surrendered or seized prior to entering the Catawba County Justice Center through the use of metal detectors at the main entrance. Examples of prohibited materials include handguns, rifles, stun guns, knives, leaded canes, scissors, metallic knuckles, razor blades, or any sharp object that may be used as a weapon.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

NEWTON DETENTION FACILITY

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To ensure all Detention Center employees are appropriately trained, the Catawba County Sheriff's Office will meet or exceed all North Carolina Sheriff's Training Standards. This includes 224 hours of field training for new employees, as well as 22 hours per year of in-service training for sworn deputies and 16 hours for non-sworn detention officers.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To follow jail best practices and control the cost of inmate medical care, Newton Detention Facility staff will receive the Jail physician's	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

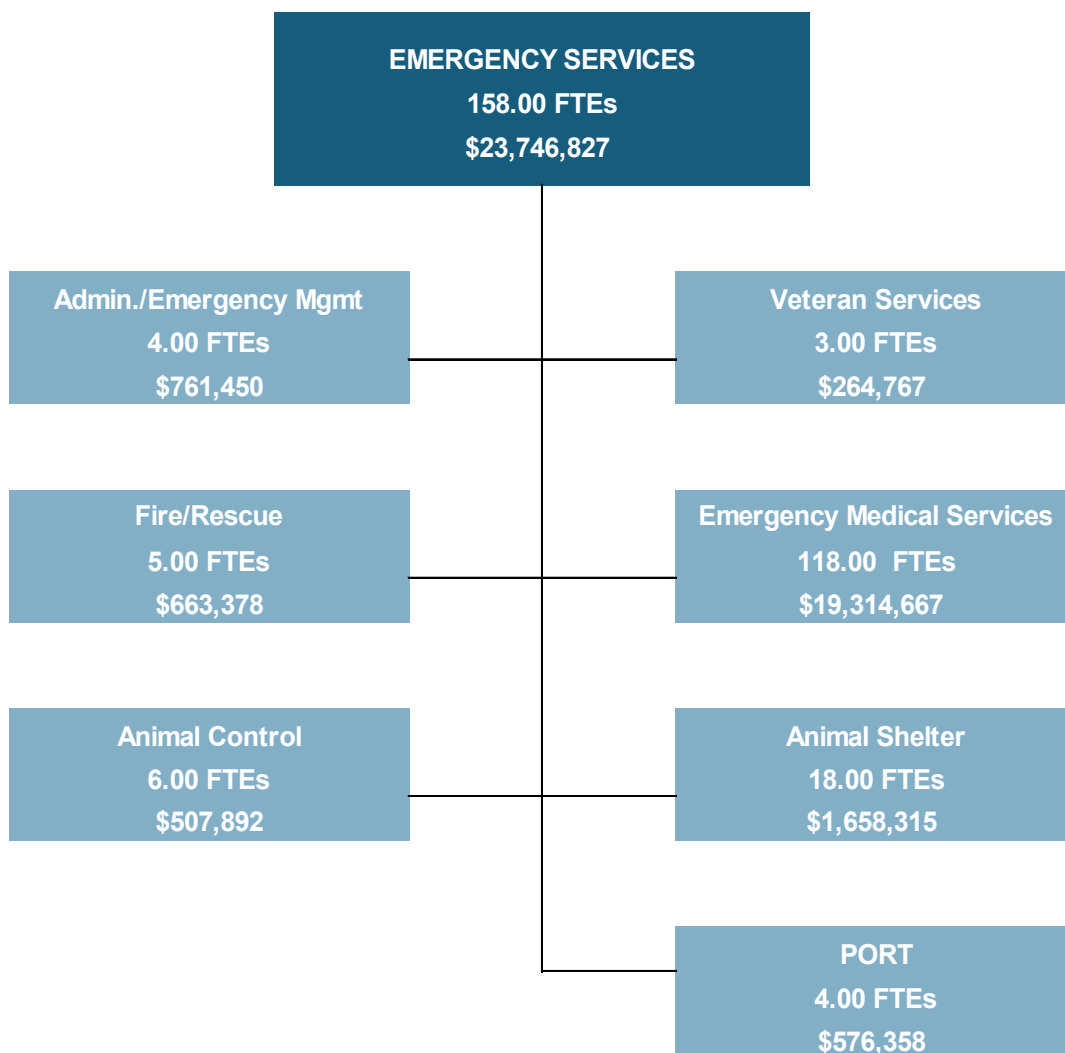
approval prior to all non-emergency inmate visits to outside physicians.			
3. To increase officer safety, improve facility security, and reduce the staff-time necessary to manage jail visitation, Catawba County Sheriff's Office staff will continue to promote the County's video visitation system to inmates and visitors. This system, which was implemented at no cost to the County, uses webcams to provide for virtual visitation rather than traditional in-person visitation. Success in this area will be measured by at least 90 percent of all visitors utilizing the system from outside the jail rather than visiting in-person.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

PRISONER FOOD SERVICE

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Ensure inmates are receiving well-balanced meals at the least possible cost to the County. Monitor the progress of the food service contract vendor to ensure that the quality and quantity of meals served to our inmates meet State standards.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

EMERGENCY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



ADMINISTRATION/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management is responsible for protecting the community by coordinating the activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters. The division serves as a resource for private business, industry, schools, other local government and volunteer agencies in the development and implementation of their emergency plans. The Emergency Management Office provides public education in family and community preparedness and severe weather awareness, and ensures the public receives accurate emergency information and instructions during incidents.

VETERAN SERVICES

Assist Veterans and their dependents in accessing compensation, pension, and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as answer questions and refer them as needed to other local, State, and Federal agencies. Educate Veterans, dependents, and local agencies on available benefits and serve as a Veterans advocate for Catawba County.

FIRE/RESCUE

Fire/Rescue helps coordinate fire department and rescue squad functions, as well as performs fire inspections in rural Catawba County and municipalities that contract for service. Fire/Rescue also works with law enforcement agencies (both State and local) to combat arson and unlawful burning. A constant goal is to make every citizen aware of the dangers of fire and to continue a viable fire safety program in the school systems. Additionally, Fire/Rescue coordinates response and training activities for the County Hazardous Materials Response Team and the County Urban Search and Rescue Team.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

It is the mission of Catawba County Emergency Medical Services to assure that each customer receives prompt emergency response and the highest quality of pre-hospital care available.

ANIMAL SERVICES

Catawba County Animal Services will provide excellent customer service by ensuring animals adopted are healthy and citizens are educated in the proper care of these animals. Furthermore, Animal Control conducts rabies canvasses of the county, responds to and investigates animal bites, dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs, allegations of animal cruelty, as well as complaints of abandoned, stray, and lost animals.

POST-OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAM (PORT)

Catawba County has a Post-Overdose Response Team (PORT) program, also known as REACH (Resource for Addiction and Community Health). This program aims to follow up with individuals who have recently overdosed to provide support, education, and connections to resources. The program is a Community Paramedic program, implemented in collaboration with Catawba County EMS funded by opioid settlement funds.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Organizations: 260050 - 260900

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Federal	35,000	38,500	38,500	38,500	0.0%
State	82,273	44,500	44,500	44,500	0.0%
Federal & State	719,789	250,000	350,000	350,000	40.0%
Local	637,811	238,082	258,082	258,082	8.4%
Charges & Fees	10,186,194	8,927,698	9,955,611	10,603,763	18.8%
Miscellaneous	111,942	61,950	104,130	104,130	68.1%
Other Sources	(111,592)	0	0	0	0.0%
Transfer from ARPA	210,000	0	0	0	0.0%
Transfer from Opioid Fund	139,122	434,044	559,510	576,358	32.8%
General Fund	9,472,019	11,768,380	13,156,614	11,771,494	0.0%
Total	\$21,482,558	\$21,763,154	\$24,466,947	\$23,746,827	9.1%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$14,324,052	\$16,482,234	\$18,021,471	\$18,073,351	9.7%
Supplies & Operations	2,913,543	3,177,340	3,608,776	3,576,776	12.6%
Leases	97,932	93,000	93,000	93,000	0.0%
Capital	4,147,031	2,010,580	2,743,700	2,003,700	-0.3%
Total	\$21,482,558	\$21,763,154	\$24,466,947	\$23,746,827	9.1%
Expenses by Division					
Administration/Emergency Mgmt	\$746,502	\$773,878	\$762,918	\$761,450	-1.6%
Veteran Services	212,830	231,639	266,025	264,767	14.3%
Fire/Rescue	798,071	607,744	754,323	663,378	9.2%
Emergency Medical Services	17,872,014	17,732,868	19,281,309	19,314,667	8.9%
Animal Control	414,020	453,238	635,146	507,892	12.1%
Animal Shelter	1,299,999	1,529,743	2,189,607	1,658,315	8.4%
PORT	139,122	434,044	577,619	576,358	32.8%
	\$21,482,558	\$21,763,154	\$24,466,947	\$23,746,827	9.1%
Employees					
Permanent	148.00	152.00	158.00	158.00	3.9%
Total	148.00	152.00	158.00	158.00	3.9%

The Emergency Services budget includes a recommended six (6) new positions. Four positions are related to the Hickory EMS base and help to maintain response times and sustain service levels. Two positions are to build capacity and help reduce response times. The budget also includes funding for scheduled vehicle replacements, increased expenses for medical supplies, and various operating increases driven by inflation. Expenses for the PORT (Post Overdose Response Team) were increased based on salary and benefits and include the purchase of a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV), funded by Opioid dollars.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Emergency Management	# of all-hazards exercises, deployments, or significant emergency responses to test multi-agency guidelines and standard operating procedures	3	6	7
Emergency Management	% of Emergency Management calls in the County responded to in 45 minutes or less	95%	100%	99%
Emergency Management	# of severe weather awareness programs offered to the public	8	6	7
Veterans Services	% of Veterans scheduled for initial service within 3 days of original contact date	95%	100%	100%
Veterans Services	# of seminars discussing VA benefits	15	9	15
Veterans Services	% of veterans seen for initial services within 15 business days (or their preferred date)	75%	100%	100%
Fire Marshal	% of fire scenes responded to for fire investigation(s) within 45 minutes of notification	95%	100%	100%
Fire Marshal	# of citizens who were educated through the County's prevention educational programs	500	664	2277
EMS	% of emergency calls answered in 12:30 or less	90%	85%	89%
EMS	% protocol compliance for drug assisted intubation procedures	95%	100%	100%
EMS	% protocol compliance for assisted ventilation or invasive airway procedures	95%	100%	100%
EMS	% protocol compliance for ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) procedures	95%	100%	98%
EMS	# of citizens who received CPR education	500	457	710
Animal Services	# of rabies canvases	200	209	346
Animal Services	% of adoptable animals adopted or sent to rescue groups	95%	84%	95%
Comments: Due to the population in the shelter changing hour by hour the department can only capture that % based on a moment in time. When subtracting the current population from the adoptable intakes the actual % of animals sent to Rescue and adopted would be 99%.				

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Plan for and participate in a minimum of three all-hazards exercises to test multi-agency response guidelines and standard operating procedures, as well as provide opportunities for first responders and partner agencies to practice their skills and identify gaps in capacity. a. Exercises will include partner agencies or multiple emergency services divisions or combination of state and local agencies. b. Exercises will be table-top, functional or full scale.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

c. Exercise will include activation and testing of the Incident Command System.			
2. To provide prompt and effective service during an emergency, Emergency Management will maintain less than a 45-minute average response from the time the On-Call Manager is notified of an Emergency Management call in the County.	Achieved 11.59-minute average response time	Achieved 16.75-minute average response time	Achieved 22.9-minute average response time
3. Promote citizen understanding of severe weather and equip them to make informed decisions regarding personal and family safety by offering at least two severe weather awareness programs to the public.	Achieved	Achieved Presented at 6 events	Achieved
4. To ensure the County is prepared to address prolonged and/or complex incidents, ES staff will receive training on the use of WebEOC resource management, planning and reporting software and conduct an exercise or participate in an actual deployment which involves the use of WebEOC including development of an IAP and Situation Reports.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

VETERANS SERVICES

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Veterans Services will continue to strive to provide quality and timely service by maintaining an average of less than a three-day wait time for Veterans to be seen for service. This wait time is from the original call for an appointment to the first available time slot to be seen.	Not Achieved Current wait time is 13 business days. Due to backlog built up during staffing shortage.	Not Achieved Current wait time is 7 weeks. Due to being short staffed and additional new programs.	Not Achieved Due to staff turnover and employee training
2. To increase awareness of Veterans Affairs' Special Assistance Program (Aid and Attendance) and the Improved Pension Program, which helps offset the high cost of long term care among Catawba County's growing population who are home bound or in long term care facilities, the Veteran's Office will conduct a minimum of 15 seminars discussing VA benefits to local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and	Achieved	Achieved	Not Achieved Due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions and staffing issues, only 11 seminars / presentations were delivered.

Veterans Service Organizations to include the Marine Corp League, American Legion, DAV and VFW.			
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FIRE/RESCUE

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To provide timely service and assist in maintaining fire department availability, Fire Investigators will maintain an average fire investigation response time of 45 minutes from the time of the request to arrival on scene.	Achieved Average response time 12:07 minutes	Achieved Average response time 14.33 minutes	Achieved Average response time 33.39 minutes
2. To increase awareness of the dangers of fire and maintain a viable fire safety program in the school systems, Fire/Rescue will provide educational programs on topics such as not playing with matches, stop, drop, and roll, and home evacuation to at least 1,000 school children. This service is provided to all school systems that request it, and is targeted at elementary school children to develop an awareness of and respect for the dangers.	Achieved 3,000 school age children received fire related educational program.	Achieved 2,395 school age children received fire related educational program.	Achieved 1,316 school age children received fire related educational programs.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 22/23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To ensure citizens receive prompt emergency medical care, EMS ambulances will respond to emergency calls in 12:30 or less 90 percent of the time. (12:59 or less 90 percent of the time is the CAAS national benchmarking reporting standard.)	Achieved 12:15	Achieved 12:27	Not Achieved 12:37
2. Ensure customers receive the highest quality pre-hospital care available by using a comprehensive Quality Management Program. EMS will perform protocol compliance evaluations on 100 percent of incidents and achieve a 95 percent compliance rate in which the following high risk patients are encountered or high risk procedures are used:	Achieved a. 100% b. 100% c. 100%	Achieved a. 100% b. 100% c. 100%	Achieved a. 100% b. 100% c. 100%

a. Drug Assisted Intubation b. Assisted Ventilation or Invasive Airway Use c. ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI)			
3. Catawba County EMS, in partnership with other healthcare providers, will increase survivability (defined as being discharged from the hospital) of cardiac arrest patients by taking the following steps: a. Provide continued Team Focused CPR training for EMS employees including appropriate patients to attempt resuscitation through discontinuation of care and care for families. b. Provide hands-only CPR education for at least 250 citizens. c. Discuss the potential for law enforcement dispatch on initial dispatch with every law enforcement agency in the County.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

ANIMAL SERVICES

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To increase awareness of the dangers of the rabies virus and to assist in reducing the number of domestic animals potentially exposed to the rabies virus, Animal Control Officers will conduct at least 200 rabies canvasses throughout the year.	Achieved 245 canvasses	Achieved 445 canvasses	Achieved Through first six months 474 canvasses
2. To promote responsible and safe pet ownership, 100 percent of eligible animals will be spayed/neutered (or will have the procedure scheduled), micro-chipped, and up-to-date on their rabies shots prior to adoption.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. To provide proper customer service to Catawba County citizens, 100 percent of Catawba County citizens meeting relinquishment requirements will be able to relinquish animals to the shelter.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

4. Animal Services will strive to ensure at least 95 percent of all adoptable animals entering the Catawba County Animal Shelter will be adopted or sent to rescue groups (the standard for adoptable animals is based on medical and temperament evaluations).	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
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911 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

911 Communications
33.00 FTEs
\$3,491,847

ADMINISTRATION

The Catawba County E-911 Communications Center provides emergency and administrative communications for the citizens of Catawba County by placing them in touch with public safety and related government service agencies. The Center is prepared for daily communications traffic and emergencies by maintaining adequate numbers of highly trained personnel. The ability to save lives and property is greatly increased by having advanced computerization along with radio and telephone technology.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

911 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Organization: 280100

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenue					
State	\$74,978	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Miscellaneous	32,131	31,317	32,257	32,257	3.0%
General Fund	2,912,734	3,357,388	4,481,351	3,459,590	3.0%
Total	\$3,019,843	\$3,388,705	\$4,513,608	\$3,491,847	3.0%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$2,689,700	\$3,131,135	\$3,242,361	\$3,230,452	3.2%
Supplies & Operations	250,103	257,570	261,395	261,395	1.5%
SBITA	1,484	0	0	0	0%
Capital	78,556	0	1,009,852	0	0%
Total	\$3,019,843	\$3,388,705	\$4,513,608	\$3,491,847	3.0%
Employees					
Permanent	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	0.0%
Total	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	0.0%

The budget includes funding to cover planned compensation and static overtime increases. The recommended reduction in capital expenditures is associated with radio console replacements and channel bank replacement purchased this fiscal year, with available revenues.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Comms Center	% of emergency calls answered in 10 seconds	93%	97%	97%
Comms Center	Average dispatch time of emergency calls (in seconds)	65	51	54

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To ensure citizens receive prompt emergency and public safety assistance, the Communications Center will answer at least 90 percent of all emergency calls within 10 seconds.	Achieved 97.24 percent	Achieved 97.33 percent	Achieved 95.19 percent
2. Maintain a 65 second or less average dispatch time on all emergency calls throughout the County. The National Emergency Number Association recommends a 90 second dispatch time, and the national average is 75 to 110 seconds, depending on the areas' protocol and procedures.	Achieved 48.95 seconds	Achieved 51.06 seconds	Achieved 52.47 seconds

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES

This includes funding for outside agencies related to public safety. The County contracts with Repay, Inc. to provide Court Services aimed at expediting movement of inmates through the criminal justice system and diverting them from the County jail. The Conflict Resolution Center (CRC) was established in 1997 as a non-profit organization aimed at promoting peaceful settlement of disputes and preventing escalation of conflict through mediation, diverting these issues from district court. Lake Norman Marine Commission (LNMC) is funded equally by the four counties bordering Lake Norman (Catawba, Lincoln, Iredell, and Mecklenburg). LNMC was established by the General Assembly to make regulations applicable to Lake Norman and its shoreline area for all matters relating to public recreation and water safety.

Rescue Squads provide Medical First Response, which is classified as a Basic Life Support service, while the County's EMS provides Advanced Life Support services. Together, these organizations collaborate to keep citizens safe. Rescue Squads are contracted to provide an average emergency response time to medical calls of 6 minutes or less.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY

Orgs: 270050-270250

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Federal	\$980,756	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
State	125,000	0	0	0	0%
Local	170,667	0	0	0	0%
Miscellaneous	3,000	0	0	0	0%
From Rescue Squad Fund	71,508	0	0	0	0%
Contra Accounts	(103,000)	0	0	0	0%
General Fund	1,362,935	1,601,161	2,658,261	1,623,581	1.4%
Total	\$2,610,866	\$1,601,161	\$2,658,261	\$1,623,581	1.4%
Expenses					
BJA Subaward Grants	\$696,182	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Cooksville Fire Dept. Loan	1,000,000	0	0	0	0%
Civil Air Patrol	405	405	405	405	0.0%
Conflict Resolution Center	12,188	12,069	12,188	12,188	1.0%
OJJDP	284,574	0	0	0	0%
Court Services - Repay	189,505	195,670	201,064	201,064	2.8%
Catawba Wateree WMG	24,137	24,137	24,137	24,137	0.0%
Lake Norman Marine Commission	37,000	37,000	37,000	37,000	0.0%
NCACC Directed VTC Grant	9,400	0	0	0	0%
Rescue Squads					
Property & General Liability	111,052	\$119,000	119,000	119,000	1600.0%
Accounting Services	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	-97.4%
Catawba Operating	259,292	270,798	292,462	281,304	0%
Catawba Capital	65,000	0	522,234	10,000	-96.4%
Claremont Operating	264,692	276,468	356,468	287,257	0%
Claremont Capital	0	0	240,000	70,000	-69.9%
Maiden Operating	223,140	232,838	251,465	241,446	503.6%
Maiden Capital	125,000	40,000	250,000	10,000	-96.7%
Maiden West - Operating	287,842	300,776	324,838	312,780	268.0%
Maiden West - Capital	14,457	85,000	20,000	10,000	0%
Note Receivable Contra	(1,000,000)	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$2,610,866	\$1,601,161	\$2,658,261	\$1,623,581	1.4%

Court Services – Repay (\$6,226 decrease): The budget includes decreased funding based on staffing turnover.

Lake Norman Marine Commission: The LNMC was reconstituted during FY26. The budget maintains funding at the current level to ensure lake safety continues to be a priority.

Catawba Wateree Water Management Group: The budget funds year 3 of a 4-year plan to treat lyngbya on Lake Norman.

Conflict Resolution Center – (\$119 increase): The budget includes increased funding based on the cost of services versus mediation revenue.

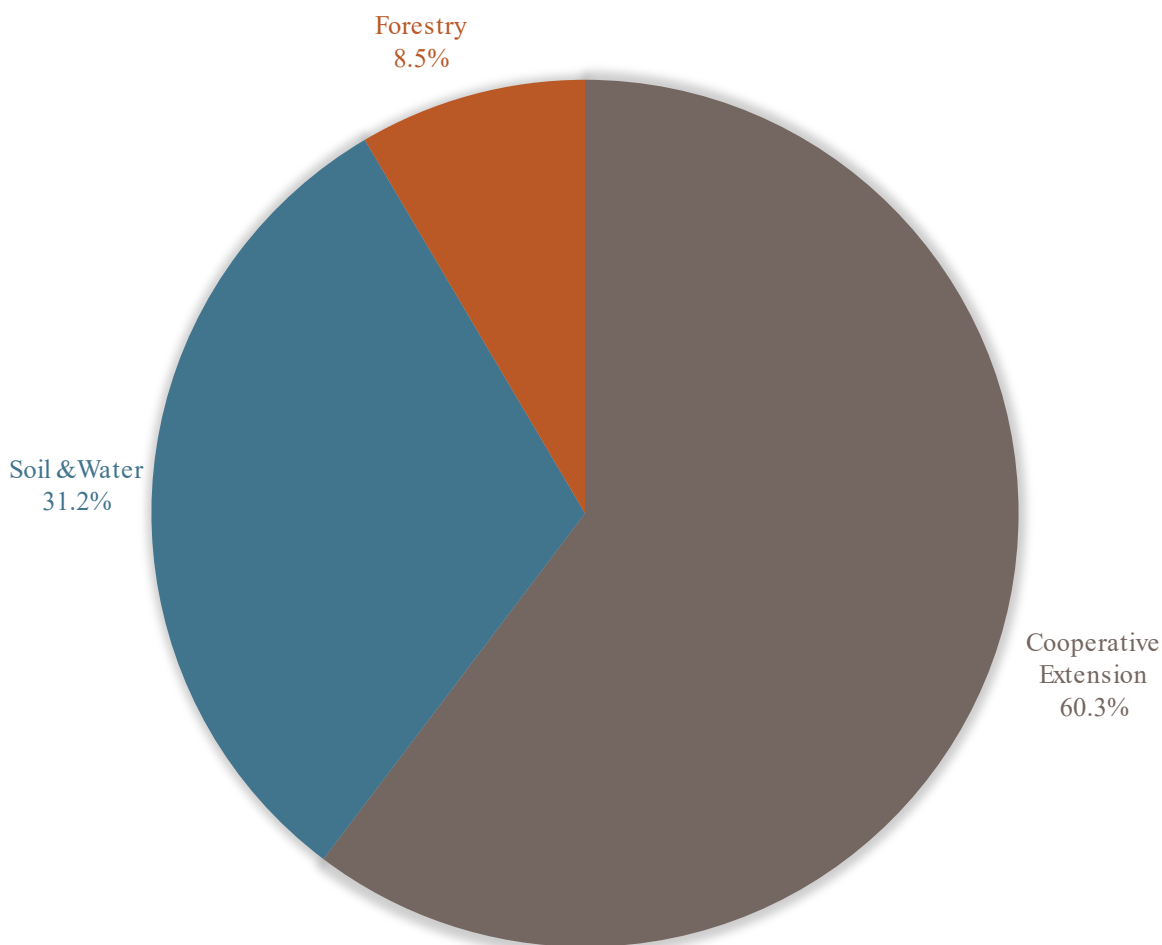
Civil Air Patrol (maintained): The budget continues annual funding of \$405 for the Civil Air Patrol.

Funds are used to pay monthly telephone expenses.

Rescue Squads – A 4% overall operating increase is recommended for each Rescue Squad, based on establishing a baseline funding level for each squad that supports the equivalent of four full-time staff at the County's salary rate for EMT Basic and operational expenses due to inflation.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The Environmental Quality function consists of Cooperative Extension Services, Soil and Water Conservation, and Forestry. This function's budget is \$1,105,389 or 0.3% of the total expenditures for the fiscal year, \$1,030,389 or 93.2% of which is budgeted in the General Fund. This function is funded by the County, as well as State and Federal governments, and provides technical and advisory services to the agricultural community.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

2.00 FTEs

\$666,632

ADMINISTRATION

The Catawba County Cooperative Extension Service is an educational agency sponsored jointly by the United States Department of Agriculture, North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, and Catawba County. It provides Catawba County citizens with scientifically based information and informal educational opportunities focused on local needs and issues. The Catawba County Extension Service is committed to executing actions and achieving goals in the areas of Agriculture, 4-H and Youth, and Local Food System Development.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Organization: 310050

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Local	\$0	\$11,615	\$11,615	\$11,615	0.0%
Miscellaneous	48,387	45,000	45,000	45,000	0.0%
General Fund	536,439	570,202	641,885	610,017	7.0%
Total	\$584,826	\$626,817	\$698,500	\$666,632	6.4%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$133,640	\$178,768	\$179,101	\$178,260	-0.3%
Supplies & Operations	367,246	468,198	494,722	488,372	4.3%
SBITA	1,645	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$502,531	\$646,966	\$673,823	\$666,632	3.0%
Employees					
Permanent	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.0%
Total	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.0%

The budget includes planned salary and benefit changes. While Cooperative Extension has two positions supported entirely by local funds, there are other NCSU employees supported by Catawba County dollars.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Coop Extension	# of volunteer hours on behalf of Extensions and client contacts	2,000	1,282	N/A
Coop Extension	# of students participating in healthy lifestyle, leadership, and/or STEM	1,000	595	2,464
Coop Extension	% of students participating in Juntos who are on track to graduate	95%	97%	100%
Coop Extension	# of youth 5-18 participating in long term 4H	400	533	487
Coop Extension	# of pesticide recertification credits achieved by applicators	200	24	139
Comments: Additional pesticide trainings are scheduled for 2026 Spring.				
Coop Extension	# of program attendees improving knowledge of Horticulture and related fields	200	275	319
Coop Extension	# of client horticulture assistance/problem solving requests fulfilled	300	179	315
Coop Extension	% of students passing Serve Safe certification in our program	95%	100%	100%
Coop Extension	% of home food preservation students that report increased ability to store produce for home consumption.	95%	100%	100%
Coop Extension	% of participants reporting increased interest/knowledge of preparing low cost, nutritious meals at home.	95%	39%	92%
Coop Extension	# of people receiving animal production education	500	451	1,527
Coop Extension	# of people receiving Extension education in Small Farms/Plant Production Systems	1,000	771	1,507
Coop Extension	# of people attending local food events/programming and/or receiving information about local foods	60,000	65,770	83,943

AGRICULTURE

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Increase awareness of the Volunteer Agricultural District program, increasing participation, and public knowledge of its significance. The Volunteer Agricultural District name will be incorporated into programs for producers, with educational offerings being provided under that “brand”. Public education relating to farmland preservation and farm appreciation will	Achieved	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	

also use that “brand” in order to make use of the signs placed around the county as reminders of our farming community, and what the public will have learned about it.			
2. To educate Catawba County livestock farmers about nutritional requirements needed for cattle in different stages of growth or pregnancy, NC Cooperative Extension will host two meetings. Farmers will learn to take representative hay/feed samples and send them to the lab. They will learn to read the reports and apply them to their rations to meet the needs of their animals. Eighty percent of farmers will increase their knowledge which will be measured by surveys. Data will be collected by a four to six-month follow up call or a farm visit to measure changes made on farms due to information received at these events.	Achieved	Not Achieved Due to staff turnover.	Achieved
3. One Livestock meeting will be hosted to focus on a practical way to use an alternative feed to cut cost or save money by feeding it. What otherwise would be hauled to the landfill, can be fed to ruminants. By listening to a fellow producer tell how they used a by-product to feed cattle, producers develop ideas to feed by-products on their own farm. Eighty percent of farmers will increase their knowledge which will be measured by surveys. Data will be collected by a 4 to 6-month follow-up call or a farm visit to measure changes made on the farms due to the information received at this events. Additionally, to educate Catawba County livestock farmers about the vaccines which are necessary to maintain good growth in calves and health for the whole cow herd, one meeting will be hosted by NC Cooperative Extension. A review of vaccines and what they protect the cattle from and a discussion on any new vaccines, their value and cost effectiveness for the cattle producer. Eighty percent of farmers will increase their knowledge which will be measured	Achieved	Not Achieved Due to staff turnover.	Achieved

by surveys. Data will be collected through a 4 to 6-month follow-up call or a farm visit to measure changes made on the farms due to the information received at this events.			
4. To help small farmers reduce input costs and increase productivity, market readiness and profits, a small farmers group will meet four times during the year. These meetings will provide a place for farmers to discuss problems, explore opportunities for collaboration, receive disease and pest updates, and obtain programming specific to their needs. From these meetings I will be able to determine what programming and workshops farmers would be most interested in. We hope to offer at least three programs. Presentation surveys will show 80% of farmers increased their knowledge. A post year survey will find that this program improved productivity and /or increased profits for at least half of the participants.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
5. In support of local foods development and support of the county visioning strategy, Cooperative Extension will further work to increase awareness of Catawba County local foods. We will focus on increasing the purchase of local foods through a Local Foods Cooking Class series which will source from farmers and provide people with a \$10 bag of produce. This program will result in an estimated \$15,000 increase in local food consumption. We will also continue to offer the Catawba County Local Food Guide in both print and online. We will also continue to offer the Eat, Drink and Be Local Festival in June which will feature 2 farm tours, 1-2 workshops, 3-4 cooking demonstrations and a Local Farm Feast.	Achieved distributed over 1,000 copies of the Local Food Guide	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	
6. Providing educational credits for local green industry professionals to help increase knowledge on equipment and technology and pesticide science through facilitation of training sessions in Catawba County. At least 2-4 pesticide and/or landscape contractor continuing education credits will be	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

available through training sessions for participants.			
7. A pesticide education program will be organized and provided for county farmers, landscapers, and others. Some programs will serve specific certification categories, while others will serve all categories together. The goal will be to provide all that is needed in pesticide education within the county, so that our agricultural professionals will not need to go outside the county to receive what is needed.	Achieved	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	
8. Catawba County specific educational content will be created for our immersive educational flight simulator trailer with a Voluntary Agricultural District theme, or something similar. This will be used at a minimum of 3 public events within the year, with the hope of additional incidences as possible. (Tom Dyson)	Not Achieved Funding has been obtained, and the script is written. Filming will take place in the Spring or early Summer.	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	
9. An effort to combat fire ant issues in Catawba County will include fire ant presentations to the public in the libraries, to agricultural professionals in recertification classes, and to civic organizations. Fire ant control articles will also be provided to local news outlets, and on our webpage.	Achieved	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	
10. A series of educational videos will be produced and placed on-line involving education and promotion in the various subject matter areas of the Catawba County Cooperative Extension.	Achieved	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	

LOCAL FOOD AND HEALTHY EATING

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
11. To educate groups in safe food-handling practices, the Family and Consumer Science Agent will offer 5 Safe Plates Food Protection Manager Certification classes, telephone assistance, and home food safety classes upon request. Pre/post-tests or end-of-session retrospective evaluations will be used to assess increases in knowledge. Hands-on activities will be	Not Achieved Due to a vacancy in the Family and Consumer Science position in Feb. 2024.	Achieved	Achieved

evaluated by observation. For Safe Plates participants, achieving a passing score on the certification exam will serve as the evaluation. At least 125 individuals will increase knowledge of safe food handling practices and it is expected that 60 percent of individuals participating in Safe Plates certification training will achieve a passing score on the exam. Collaborators include Catawba County Environmental Health and community organizations.			
12. To promote consumption of local foods and safe home food preservation practices, the Family and Consumer Sciences agent will collaborate with farmers' market managers and local groups to offer 10 community events that will include food demonstration-tasting activities, two pressure canner lid clinics, two home food preservation classes and additional presentations for consumers and other groups upon request. Telephone assistance will be provided to home food preservers. Participants will receive instruction, recipes and other helpful information to help them access and use local foods. Evaluation will be accomplished using a variation of the Rapid Market Assessment where participants provide feedback on recipes they taste, observation during hands-on activities and pre/posttests. At least 50% of participants in home preservation will report an increased ability to store more produce for home consumption.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

YOUTH AND 4-H

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
13. 200 youth ages 5-18 will improve their life and leadership skills and gain new subject matter knowledge as a result of participating in long-term 4-H units and programs and skill-building competitive programs. 25 adult and teen volunteers will provide leadership, mentorship, and educational programs for youth involved in these clubs. 50% of participating youth will show skill and	Achieved 507 youth have been involved in long-term 4-H groups.	Achieved	Achieved

knowledge gains based on evaluations and participation in skill building activities and competitive programs.			
14. 500 students will participate in programs focused on healthy lifestyles, leadership, and/or STEM education, which are key program areas identified for programming through National 4-H Council. Programs offered through school classrooms will enhance and reinforce and grade level objectives. Youth participating in the healthy living program will increase their knowledge about and adopt positive healthy living behaviors related to healthy eating, avoiding substance use, and social and emotional development. Youth participating in STEM programs will increase their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math; show an increased interest in STEM, and improve their understanding of how STEM is used in everyday life. 75% percent of the participating students will show improvement in their knowledge based on evaluations completed by youth or adults working with youth. Changes in knowledge and interest will be measured with written evaluations and evidence of application.	Achieved 735 youth have participated in programs focused on healthy living, STEM and leadership with programming in these areas continuing.	Achieved	Achieved
15. 60 middle and high school students and their families will gain knowledge, skills and resources to ensure high school graduation and increase their access to college as a result of participation in Juntos. Program impact will be measured by school and Juntos attendance, student and parental engagement in school, high school graduation, and college enrollment. In collaboration with the Juntos Partnership Committee, opportunities will be explored for program expansion and new community partnerships.	Achieved 121 middle and high school students have enrolled in the Catawba County Juntos program as of December 2023. This includes 15 seniors, all of whom graduate in the Spring of 2024. Approximately 75% of the seniors have indicated that they intend to continue on to post-secondary education	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
2.60 FTEs
\$270,022

ADMINISTRATION

To ensure a quality urban and rural environment with clean water, protected soil resources, properly managed forest and wildlife, and an environmentally, economically and culturally viable agricultural community.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Organization: 320050

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
State	\$26,919	\$26,919	\$26,919	\$26,919	0.0%
General Fund	207,769	225,345	244,047	243,103	7.9%
Total	\$234,688	\$252,264	\$270,966	\$270,022	7.0%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$224,179	\$240,959	\$258,551	\$257,607	6.9%
Supplies & Operations	9,707	11,305	12,415	12,415	9.8%
SBITA	802	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$234,688	\$252,264	\$270,966	\$270,022	7.0%
Employees					
Permanent	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	0.0%
Total	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	0.0%

The budget increases the funding for the Soil & Water Conservation department, which includes planned compensation changes as well as increases for training and education for employees.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Soil & Water	% of initial site visits within 10 business days of request	95%	100%	100%
Soil & Water	# of education/outreach presentations	12	13	15
Soil & Water	% of BMP funds spent/committed	95%	14%	99%

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To provide timely customer service to Catawba County residents and landowners by providing them with technical assistance concerning the conservation of natural resources, 95 percent of initial site visits will occur within ten business days of request.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
2. To increase environmental literacy of soil and water conservation in Catawba County by 45% through various educational initiatives, including, but not limited to educational contests, presentations, professional development, community events and civic involvement. This increase will be measured based on evaluations submitted by participants.	Achieved 80%	Achieved 76% increase in environmental literacy.	Achieved Environmental literacy of natural resources conservation was increased by approximately 72%

FORESTRY

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources' mandate is to protect, manage, and sustain North Carolina Forest Resources. The Forest Service's primary purpose is to ensure adequate and quality forest resources for the County to meet present and future needs.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FORESTRY

Organization: 330050

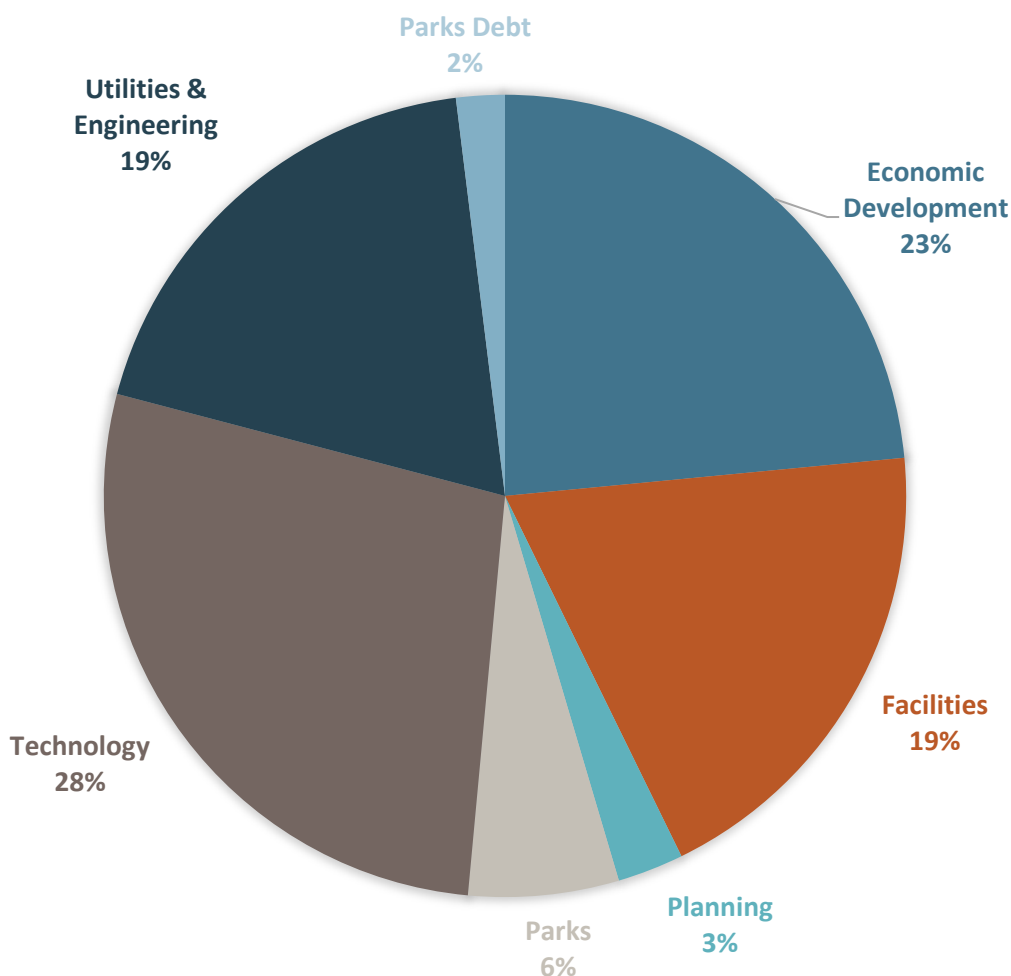
	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Miscellaneous	\$5,700	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$5,400	0.0%
General Fund	78,543	84,054	88,335	88,335	5.1%
Total	\$84,243	\$89,454	\$93,735	\$93,735	4.8%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$84,243	\$89,454	\$93,735	\$93,735	4.8%
Total	\$84,243	\$89,454	\$93,735	\$93,735	4.8%

Contractually, Catawba County funds 40 percent of the total budget for Forestry, with the State of North Carolina funding the remaining 60 percent.



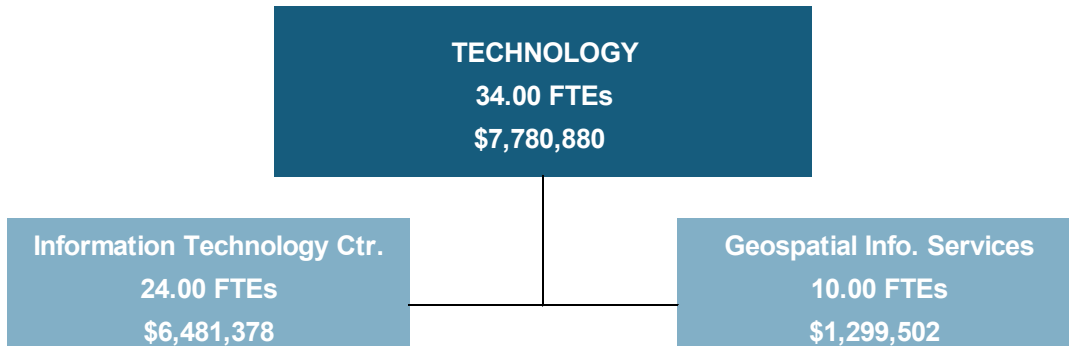
ECONOMIC & PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Economic & Physical Development function includes the Technology Department, Planning, Parks, Utilities and Engineering, Other Economic Development (Chamber of Commerce, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Economic Development Commission), and Facilities. Technology consists of the Information Technology Services and Computerized Mapping. Utilities and Engineering includes Administration, Building Services, Permit Center, Plan Review, and Local Code Compliance. This function's General Fund budget is \$27,593,981 or 10.4% of the total expenditures. This function's budget including capital projects is \$27,818,981.



TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER (ITC)

To provide reliable, responsive, value-added technology solutions while ensuring system availability, integrity, and security through exceptional customer service, partnerships, and leveraging resources to transform services and promote business process improvement.

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SERVICES (GIS)

To provide reliable geographic and land record data and tools to citizens and stakeholders to facilitate commerce and promote efficiencies.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

TECHNOLOGY

Organizations: 410200 - 410250

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
State	\$17,705	\$19,475	\$0	\$0	0%
Local	\$300,604	\$297,019	304,715	304,715	2.6%
Charges & Fees	47,423	39,030	38,236	38,236	-2.0%
Indirect Cost	932,791	985,871	1,058,651	1,058,651	7.4%
SBITA	465,830	0	0	0	0%
General Fund	5,416,125	5,961,321	6,590,364	6,379,278	7.0%
Total	\$7,180,478	\$7,302,716	\$7,991,966	\$7,780,880	6.5%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$3,709,947	\$4,042,632	\$4,483,696	\$4,341,038	7.4%
Supplies & Operations	2,441,535	2,667,730	2,825,210	2,756,782	3.3%
SBITA	563,166	592,354	683,060	683,060	15.3%
Capital	465,830	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$7,180,478	\$7,302,716	\$7,991,966	\$7,780,880	6.5%
Expenses by Division					
Information Technology Center (ITC)	\$6,130,371	\$6,074,240	\$6,690,049	\$6,481,378	6.7%
Geospatial Information Services (GIS)	1,050,107	1,228,476	1,301,917	1,299,502	5.8%
Total	\$7,180,478	\$7,302,716	\$7,991,966	\$7,780,880	6.5%
Employees					
Permanent	34.00	34.00	35.00	34.00	0.0%
Total	34.00	34.00	35.00	34.00	0.0%

The budget increase is driven by increases in repair and maintenance of the County's IT infrastructure for increased security systems, including the County's firewall, archiver, and security camera maintenance at County facilities. Other increases include increases in maintenance agreements, professional services agreements, and planned salary and benefit changes.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
ITC	% phishing rate	5%	2%	4%
ITC	% network availability	99.9%	98.0%	100.0%
Comments: Unplanned network outage				
ITC	% customer service satisfaction	94.0%	N/A	95.0%
Comments: Completed at EOY				
ITC	% of service requests, excluding special projects, completed within 2 business days	85%	80%	86%
Comments: Unplanned network outage affected ticket completion times				
ITC	% of projects complete on schedule	80%	100%	100%
GIS	% of addressing requests completed within 2 business days	97%	100%	100%
GIS	% of mapping requests complete within 1 business day	97%	100%	100%
GIS	% of deed transfers processed within 10 business days of receipt from the Register of Deeds	90%	91%	94%
Comments: New tax system implemented and changes to the County line.				

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER (ITC)

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To ensure the County's network remains secure and reliable, Technology will mitigate network security risks through establishing formal cyber security training for employees as well as constant monitoring with timely response and remediation within 24 hours upon notification of potential threats to the network.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To enhance productivity, ensure citizen access, and promote community engagement, Technology will provide a minimum of 99 percent network availability as measured by performance monitoring tools.	Achieved 99.38%	Achieved 99.19%	Achieved 99%
3. To ensure customers are treated professionally and courteously, ITC will realize an average rating of no less than 94 percent satisfaction, as measured by random customer satisfaction surveys.	Achieved 99%	Achieved 94%	Achieved 95%

4. To help ensure maximum staff efficiency, 85 percent of service requests, excluding special projects, will be completed within two business days.	Not Achieved 84.3% Due to staff turnover and 7% increase in tickets.	Achieved 88%	Achieved 86%
5. To optimize resources and promote process improvement efforts, 90 percent of projects assigned to the project management team will be completed within the agreed upon timeframes outlined in the project plan agreement.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
6. To enhance business operations, promote efficiencies, and maximize county investment in application development and software, Technology will assist departments in realizing a 15 percent savings in staff time or financial savings, or combination of both, in at least three major software applications.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SERVICES (GIS)

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To support and enhance business operations and economic development, the geospatial information residing on the GIS Web sites will be available to stakeholders at least 99 percent of the time.	Achieved 99.91%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%
2. To support countywide decision making for economic development, public safety, and other initiatives, staff will complete at least 97 percent of map and data requests from all sources within 24 hours of target deadline.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 97%	Achieved 99%
3. To provide the most current ownership information of real property to citizens, Land Records Mappers will process 85 percent of deed transfers within 15 business days of receipt from the Register of Deeds.	Achieved 98.53%	Not on Target Due to staffing and continued increases in the volume of work, 30% of deed transfers were completed within 15 business days of receipt from the Register of Deeds.	Not Achieved Due to staffing and continued increases in the volume of work, 6% of deed transfers were processed within 15 business days of receipt from the Register of Deeds.

PLANNING

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

PLANNING
6.00 FTEs
\$758,829

PLANNING

Conduct a comprehensive planning program, including the administration of the Unified Development Ordinance and the development and implementation of long-range planning studies. The planning program is designed to promote and maintain the orderly physical growth and development of Catawba County which serves to improve the quality of life for its citizens and provide economic development opportunities within the County.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

PLANNING

Organizations: 420030

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Permits & Fees	\$72,530	\$78,965	\$75,500	\$75,500	-4.4%
General Fund	636,999	679,038	705,069	683,329	0.6%
Total	\$709,529	\$758,003	\$780,569	\$758,829	0.1%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$608,635	\$654,233	\$691,966	\$670,226	2.4%
Supplies & Operations	98,615	103,770	88,603	88,603	-14.6%
SBITA	2,279	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$709,529	\$758,003	\$780,569	\$758,829	0.1%
Employees					
Permanent	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.0%
Total	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.0%

There are no significant changes to this budget based on planned adjustments to salary and benefits being offset by operational reductions.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	'27 Targ	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Planning	% of rezoning requests processed and prepared for submittal to the Planning Board no later than 7 days before their scheduled public hearing.	98%	100%	100%
Planning	% of complete non-residential site plans reviewed within 10 working days	90%	85%	90%
Comments: Lower percentage in metric due to staffing levels in first and second quarter.				
Planning	% of complete applications for residential zoning permits reviewed within 3 working days	90%	76%	74%
Comments: Lower percentage in metric due to staffing levels in first and second quarter.				
Planning	% of special use, variance, and nonconforming complete applications reviewed and submitted to the Board of Adjustment within 45 days	95%	100%	100%
Planning	% of preliminary subdivision complete submittals reviewed and submitted to the Subdivision Review Board within 45 days	95%	100%	100%
Planning	% of final major subdivision plats reviewed and checked for improvements as specified in the UDO within 15 working days from the application date	90%	67%	14%
Comments: Laurelbrook and Shannon Woods required extended review.				
Planning	% of minor and family subdivision plans reviewed for UDO compliance within 10 working days	90%	86%	77%
Comments: staff levels decreased during first and second quarter.				

PLANNING

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To increase the housing inventory of moderately priced (\$120,000-\$225,000) new or renovated residential housing stock in desired locations throughout the County, Planning will: a. Participate in WPCOG's Vacant and Substandard Housing Taskforce. b. Engage cities and WPCOG in local programs discussions to explore possibility of aligning housing policies, joint venture program investments, and market facilitation to facilitate public investments in neighborhood or infill revitalization initiatives, as appropriate. c. Continue to watch the market and propose text amendments to facilitate ease of development as needed. d. Participate in on-going housing and economic development educational workshops hosted by the Chamber's LUDB.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

PARKS

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

PARKS
15.00
\$1,723,293

PARKS

Provide recreational opportunities for the citizens of Catawba County through the operation and development of parks and the preservation of open space. Environmental education and the preservation of the County's unique natural heritage are Catawba County Parks' primary goals. These goals will be accomplished through the execution of the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan. Implementation steps will incorporate projects, programs, goals, objectives, strategies, and opportunities as called for in the Plan.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

PARKS

Organizations: 450040

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Permits & Fees	\$22,580	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	0.0%
Miscellaneous	265	100	100	100	0.0%
From Parks Pres. Fund	124,792	0	0	0	0%
General Fund	1,249,013	1,566,769	1,937,129	1,705,193	8.8%
Total	\$1,396,650	\$1,584,869	\$1,955,229	\$1,723,293	8.7%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$1,187,481	\$1,336,654	\$1,518,914	\$1,420,978	6.3%
Supplies & Operations	209,169	248,215	400,315	302,315	21.8%
Capital	0	0	36,000	0	0%
Total	\$1,396,650	\$1,584,869	\$1,955,229	\$1,723,293	8.7%
Employees					
Permanent	14.00	15.00	16.00	15.00	0.0%
Total	14.00	15.00	16.00	15.00	0.0%

The budget increase is for planned salary and benefit changes. Operating expenses increased due to necessary ongoing costs for safety at parks and maintaining buildings and grounds.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

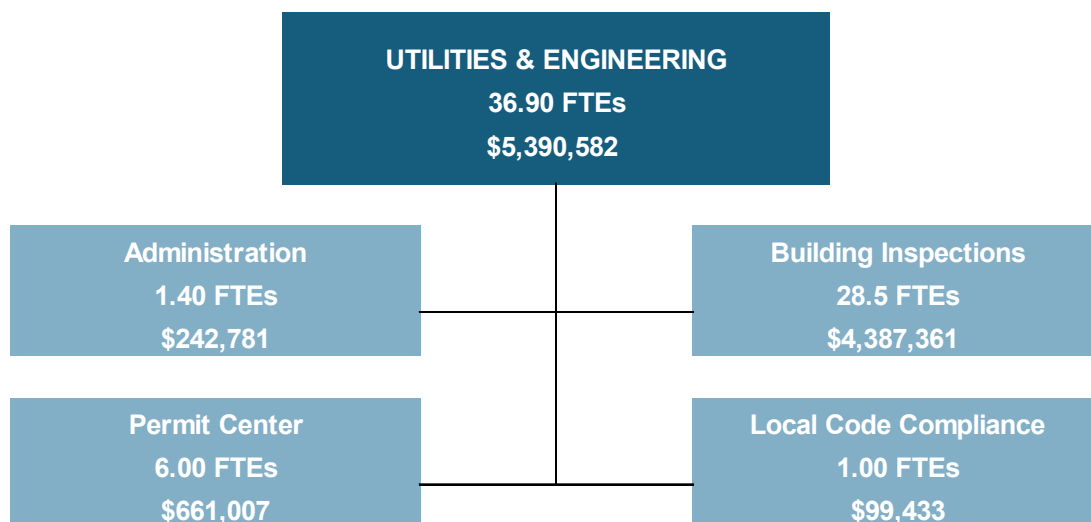
Dept./Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-Year FY26	EOY FY25
Parks	% of Parks programs with a minimum of 10 participants	95%	100%	88%
Parks	% of trails inspected weekly by park staff	75%	86%	96%

PARKS

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To increase the physical and mental health of County citizens: a. Explore potential funding strategies to support renovation and expansion of the County parks system, incorporating consideration of private sector involvement through public-private partnership models. b. Implement the phased plan for parks improvements and new parks development, as resources allow. c. Research local government policies defining parameters for entertaining potential sponsorship or naming opportunities for BOC consideration. d. In concert with countywide branding efforts, develop and implement strategic marketing plan for parks that seamlessly incorporates all recreation assets regardless of ownership (County, municipalities, community non-profits, etc.) e. Design/Build the 600-acre Mountain Creek Park.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

UTILITIES & ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



BUILDING SERVICES

The mission of Building Services is to provide consistent, timely, and courteous advice and service to customers, contractors, businesses, homeowners, and the public through the application of the State Building Code, and the local soil sedimentation and erosion control program, both through inspections and plan review services. The focus of the service is to protect public safety by ensuring all buildings are built to code specifications while promoting economic development through a partnership with the building industry. The operations of Building Services have, as its foundation, four guiding principles: protecting the public, providing the best possible customer service, promoting economic development, and ensuring consistency in the application of codes and treatment of customers. The County provides these services to the eight municipalities in the county.

PERMIT CENTER

Provide permitting information and service to the customers of Catawba County, including municipalities. The Permit Center operates out of the Catawba County Government Center in Newton serving as the central location for the public to acquire permits and information for Building Services, Planning, and Environmental Health.

LOCAL CODE COMPLIANCE

Protect the regional water quality and health, safety, and general welfare of Catawba County citizens through implementation of the local code compliance program.

EROSION CONTROL

Protect the regional water quality and health, safety, and general welfare of Catawba County citizens through implementation of the local soil sedimentation and erosion control program. Promote Catawba County's economic development through timely permitting service to local contractors and developers. The County provides the local soil sedimentation and erosion control program to the eight municipalities in the county.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

UTILITIES & ENGINEERING

Organizations: 430050 - 430300

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Charges & Fees	\$4,614,052	\$4,220,171	\$4,253,541	\$4,396,851	4.2%
General Fund	(97,152)	978,292	1,150,537	993,731	1.6%
Total	\$4,516,900	\$5,198,463	\$5,404,078	\$5,390,582	3.7%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$3,771,476	\$4,259,606	\$4,492,387	\$4,478,891	5.1%
Supplies & Operations	641,434	821,772	809,691	809,691	-1.5%
SBITA	4,274	0	0	0	0%
Capital	99,716	117,085	102,000	102,000	-12.9%
Total	\$4,516,900	\$5,198,463	\$5,404,078	\$5,390,582	3.7%
Expenses by Division					
Administration	\$215,237	\$234,885	\$244,146	\$242,781	3.4%
Building Inspections	3,624,136	4,219,871	4,396,551	4,387,361	4.0%
Permit Center	587,975	641,389	663,790	661,007	3.1%
Local Code Compliance	89,552	102,318	99,591	99,433	-2.8%
Total	\$4,516,900	\$5,198,463	\$5,404,078	\$5,390,582	3.7%
Employees					
Permanent	35.15	35.90	36.90	36.90	2.8%
Total	35.15	35.90	36.90	36.90	2.8%

The budget includes funding for the planned replacement of two vehicles. An additional Building Services Official is recommended to maintain appropriate service levels and is supported by increased permit fee revenue. Other increases to the budget are due to inflationary increases, and compensation changes.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Utilities & Engineering	% of building inspections will be scheduled within 2 business days or on the contractors requested date	99%	100%	100%
Utilities & Engineering	% of inspections customer service complaints responded to within 2 business days	98%	N/A	100%
Utilities & Engineering	% (Valid) Customer Complaint Rate (inspections)	2%	0%	0%
Utilities & Engineering	% of plan review customer services complaints responded to within 2 business days	96%	N/A	N/A
Utilities & Engineering	% of commercial building plans reviewed within 10 working days	97%	N/A	94%
Comments: Currently unable to provide data				
Utilities & Engineering	% of complaints requested by owner/tenants regarding a safety inspection responded to within 2 business days	98%	99%	99%
Utilities & Engineering	% of complaints regarding unsafe or otherwise hazardous unlawful conditions responded to within 24 hours	99%	100%	100%
Utilities & Engineering	% of sediment and erosion control plans reviewed within 10 working days	98%	N/A	95%
Comments: Currently unable to provide data				
Utilities & Engineering	% (Valid) Customer Complaint Rate (Erosion Control)	2%	N/A	0%
Comments: Currently unable to provide data				
Utilities & Engineering	% of stormwater control plans reviewed within 10 working days	98%	N/A	N/A
Utilities & Engineering	% of code compliance cases that were closed due to voluntary compliance or within 2 site visits	95%	72%	77%
Utilities & Engineering	% (Valid) Customer Complaint Rate (Permit Center)	1%	0%	0%
Utilities & Engineering	% of complaints responded to within 2 business days (Permit Center)	98%	100%	N/A

BUILDING SERVICES

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Ensure customers receive quality customer service from Building Services Officials by: a. Performing requested inspections, not to exceed two-business day scheduling per North Carolina General Statute, or on the contractor's requested inspection date. b. Maintaining a substantiated complaint rate of less than 1 per 3,000 inspections performed. c. Responding to 98 percent of all customer service complaints within 24 hours.	Partially Achieved a. Due to workload, the two-day requirement was exceeded for inspections frequently. b. Achieved c. Achieved.	Partially Achieved a. 108 days with requested inspections in excess of 2 days b. Achieved c. Achieved	Partially Achieved a. 46 days with requested inspections in excess of 2 days b. Achieved c. Achieved
2. Provide timely plan review services by reviewing 97 percent of all commercial blueprints submitted for code compliance and contacting the applicant with the results within 10 working days. This will allow construction to begin quickly, thus, promoting Catawba County's economic development.	No Data Migration to the new permitting software, and still in the process of rebuilding reports. No data at this time.	Achieved Avg. 7.28 days	Achieved Avg. 6.55 days
3. Ensure customers receive quality customer service from Plan Review officials by: a. Maintaining a substantiated complaint rate of less than 1 per 500 plans reviewed. b. Responding to 98 percent of all customer service complaints within 24 hours.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. To provide quality service to property owners and/or tenants who request a safety inspection, Plan Review will review 100 percent of complete requests and contact the owner/tenant within two business days. These safety inspections are required by the State for businesses to receive certain licenses (i.e. day care, alcohol law enforcement) as	No Data Migration to the new permitting software, and still in the process of rebuilding reports. No data at this time.	Achieved 100%	Not Achieved 99.43%

well as for changes of use to an existing building or space.			
5. To control the cost of training and education, Building Services will provide at least 60 percent of all required Building Inspector training and certification locally. Surrounding jurisdictions will be invited to participate in these locally held trainings as well, serving to further drive down the cost to the County.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
6. To protect the public welfare, Building Services will respond to 100 percent of all complaints received concerning unsafe, unsanitary or otherwise hazardous and unlawful conditions in buildings or structures within 24 hours. This outcome will be measured by the number of complaints received and response time.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

PERMIT CENTER

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Ensure customers receive quality customer service from the Permit Center by maintaining a substantiated complaint rate of less than 1 per 1,000 permits issued.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Maintain quality customer service by responding to 98 percent of all customer service complaints within 24 hours.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

EROSION CONTROL

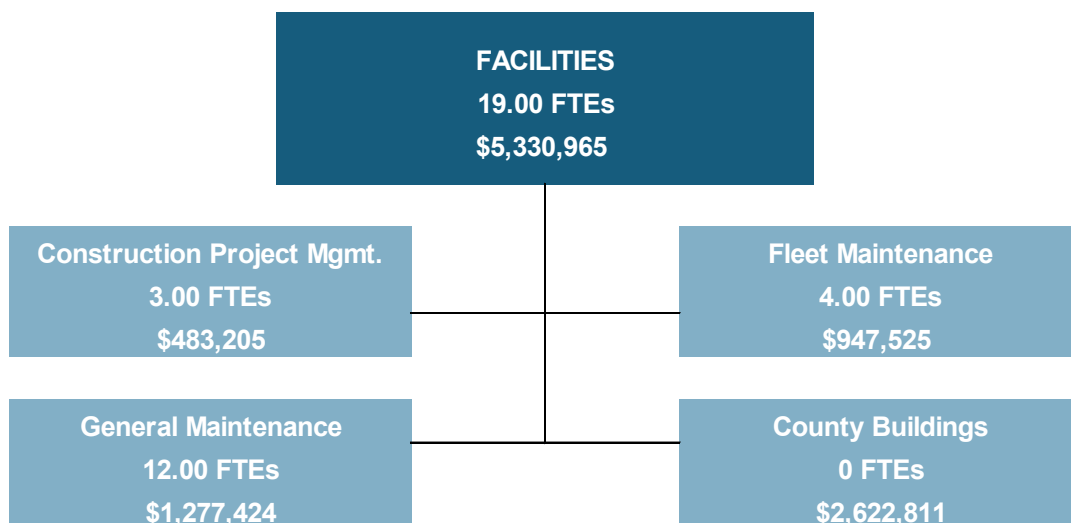
Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Provide timely plan review services by reviewing 100 percent of all complete sedimentation and erosion control plans within 10 working days. Meeting this outcome will expedite the plan review and permitting process, thereby promoting Catawba County's economic development.	No Data Migration to the new permitting software, and still in the process of rebuilding reports. No data at this time.	Not Achieved Due to 16 plans in May covering 644 acres. 12 of these plans were not reviewed within the 10 day tie frame.	Achieved Average review period of 5.23 days

2. Ensure citizens receive quality customer service from Erosion Control staff by: a. Maintaining a substantiated complaint rate of less than 1 per 50 erosion control plans reviewed. b. Responding to 98 percent of all customer service complaints within 24 hours.	Achieved	Achieved 0 substantiated complaints received	Achieved 0 substantiated complaints received
3. In accordance with the Watershed Protection District Section 44-434 of the Unified Development Ordinance; the engineered stormwater controls (Best Management Practices) are required where built-upon area exceeds high density development limits. The Water Resources Engineer will perform plan review and issue approval notifications where applicable within the County. Provide timely plan review services by reviewing 100 percent of all stormwater controls within 10 working days, thereby promoting Catawba County's economic development.	Achieved 1 stormwater plan has been reviewed within 10 days.	Achieved 2 stormwater plan has been reviewed with an average of 5.5 days	Achieved 3 stormwater plans have been reviewed with an average review time of 5.24 days.

LOCAL CODE COMPLIANCE

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Ensure citizens receive quality customer service from Local Code Compliance staff by responding to 98 percent of all customer complaints within 24 hours.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Code Compliance will open a minimum of 325 new cases for investigation.	Achieved 370 cases	Achieved 338 new cases for investigation	Achieved 446 new cases for investigation

FACILITIES



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

FLEET MAINTENANCE

Maintain all Catawba County owned/contracted vehicles to the highest quality, efficiency, and cost effectiveness to maximize their useful life.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

To maintain all of Catawba County facilities and grounds in an efficient and prompt manner in order to maximize their useful life and to provide a productive environment for employees and the public.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Oversees the planning, design, and construction of a project, from its beginning to its end. The main purpose is to control a project's time, cost and quality.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FACILITIES

Organizations: 440010 - 440160

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Local	\$73,886	\$76,551	73,419	73,419	-4.1%
Charges & Fees	8,797	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Miscellaneous	5,481	50,000	50,000	50,000	0.0%
General Fund	4,675,740	4,770,871	5,133,085	5,202,546	9.0%
Total	\$4,763,904	\$4,902,422	\$5,261,504	\$5,330,965	8.7%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$1,726,707	\$1,817,857	\$1,955,132	\$2,079,593	14.4%
Supplies & Operations	2,880,311	3,029,565	3,251,372	3,251,372	7.3%
SBITA	1,660	0	0	0	0%
Capital	155,226	55,000	55,000	0	0%
Total	\$4,763,904	\$4,902,422	\$5,261,504	\$5,330,965	8.7%
Expenses by Division					
Construction Project Management	\$315,934	\$332,549	\$353,019	\$483,205	45.3%
Fleet Maintenance	945,067	923,233	949,100	947,525	2.6%
General Maintenance	1,172,486	1,244,887	1,336,574	1,277,424	2.6%
County Buildings	2,330,417	2,401,753	2,622,811	2,622,811	9.2%
Total	\$4,763,904	\$4,902,422	\$5,261,504	\$5,330,965	8.7%
Employees					
Permanent	18.00	18.00	18.00	19.00	5.6%
Total	18.00	18.00	18.00	19.00	5.6%

The budget includes increases related to planned compensation changes, utilities, and maintenance / repair costs. There is \$198,000 increase in County Buildings due to the new ARC/CREC facility coming online in August 2026. The recommended budget for Construction Project Management shows an increase of \$131K due to the additional of a Construction Project Manager added during FY25/26 to assist in managing public school facility projects.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Garage	% of preventive maintenance services for County owned buildings, life safety systems, emergency power, and HVACs performed on time	80%	100%	64%
Garage	% of preventive maintenance services performed within two working days of the scheduled service	80%	54%	N/A
Gen. Maintenance	% of County vehicles repaired within three working days	95%	80%	95%
Gen. Maintenance	# of hours per employee of productive "wrench time"	1,225	609	1,387

FLEET MAINTENANCE

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Provide the proper care and maintenance of vehicles by: a. Scheduling and completing 98 percent of all preventive maintenance services within two working days of the scheduled service, as evidenced by work orders. b. Scheduling, diagnosing, and affecting repairs on 97 percent of all County vehicles within three working days, as evidenced by work orders.	Achieved a. 98% b. 98%	Achieved a. 98% b. 98%	Achieved
2. Provide roadside emergency service to County owned vehicles during normal working hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday), by: a. Responding to and repairing or recovering 99 percent of in-County roadside emergencies within two hours of notification, if parts are available and contracted towing service is responsive, as evidenced by work orders. b. Responding to and repairing or recovering 99 percent of out-of-County roadside emergencies within 12 hours of notification, if parts are available and contracted towing service is responsive, as evidenced by work orders.	Achieved a. 100% b. 100%	Achieved a. 100% b. 100%	Achieved a. 100% b. 100%
3. Provide 24 hours, 365 days a year, on call roadside emergency service to County-owned vehicles after normal working hours, by: a. Responding to and repairing or recovering 98 percent of in-County roadside emergencies within two hours of notification, as evidenced by work orders. b. Responding to and repairing or recovering 98 percent of out-of-County roadside emergencies within 12 hours of notification, as evidenced by work orders	Achieved a. 100% b. 100%	Achieved a. 100% b. 100%	Achieved a. 100% b. 100%
4. Provide adequate tire, parts, and fuel inventories by: a. Maintaining and monitoring, 99	Achieved a. 100% b. 100%	Achieved a. 99% b. 99%	Achieved a. 99% b. 99%

percent of the time, tire inventory to provide tires for the repair or replacement as needed within two hours of the scheduled service, by spot checking inventory monthly. b. Maintaining and monitoring, 100 percent of the time, fuel inventory to assure fuel is available for all County owned/contracted vehicles, seven days a week, 365 days a year, as evidenced by departmental surveys. c. Maintaining and monitoring, 98 percent of the time, parts inventory to assure that necessary parts are available for the repair and maintenance of County owned/contracted vehicles, by spot checking inventory monthly.	c. 100%	c. 99%	c. 99%
5. Advise and assist, when requested, with vehicle replacement schedules and specification documentation for new vehicle procurement by responding to 100 percent of all departments requests and completing written specifications of new vehicles within 10 working days, as evidenced by departmental surveys.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
6. Assist all departments with vehicle and driver management by advising, 100 percent of the time, each department of vehicle neglect or abuse.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
7. Meet baseline expectation of 1,225 hours per employee for productive "wrench time".	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22	Actual FY 20/21
1. 97 percent of emergency situations will be responded to within one hour after notification, as evidenced by work orders, emergency work orders, emergency HVAC requests, emergency electrical problems, and emergency plumbing problems.	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%
2. 95 percent of all telephone, electrical, and plumbing problems	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%

will be repaired within three working days of notification, as evidenced by work orders.			
3. 98 percent of all routine maintenance and repairs will be completed within five working days, as evidenced by completed work orders.	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 98.9%
4. Within 12 working days of notification, 98 percent of all road sign damage will be repaired and new road signs will be installed.	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%

OTHER ECONOMIC & PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

This organization includes funding for outside agencies tied to economic development efforts, incentive payments to companies with economic development agreements and some general County expenses that are not attributable to a specific department.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OTHER ECONOMIC & PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Organization: 480050

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
General Fund	5,686,605	6,560,338	6,327,907	6,052,391	-7.7%
Total	\$5,686,605	\$6,560,338	\$6,327,907	\$6,052,391	-7.7%
Expenses					
Carolina Land & Lakes	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	0%
Chamber - Entrepreneur Support	15,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	0%
Chamber - Tourism Development	11,000	5,500	6,500	6,500	18%
Chamber - HKY4Vets	12,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	0%
Convention & Visitors Bureau	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	0%
Economic Development Commission	411,624	422,475	444,147	444,147	5%
EDC - Apple	4,221,060	4,296,537	4,436,686	4,436,686	3%
EDC - Corning	469,718	819,375	830,843	830,843	1%
EDC - Popplemann Plastics	0	74,161	0	0	0%
EDC- CommScope	0	232,875	0	0	0%
EDC- Euromarket Designs Inc	108,872	110,688	0	0	0%
EDC- M & P (Certainteed)	0	27,497	37,459	37,459	36%
EDC- Pasta Piccinini	0	0	66,886	0	0%
EDC- WestRock Converting LLC	109,174	135,161	0	0	0%
EDC-Cataler	0	166,750	166,750	0	0%
EDC-Design Foundry	9,007	0	0	0	0%
EDC-Pregis Polymask	32,262	32,262	32,262	32,262	0%
EDC-Steel Warehouse of NC LLC	0	50,111	57,085	57,085	14%
EDC-Technibilt, Ltd.	0	22,914	31,880	0	0%
Hickory - Trivium	90,498	0	0	0	0%
NC Wildlife Commission	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	0%
Sister Cities	500	500	500	500	0%
WPCOG - Dues	85,177	85,904	86,899	86,899	1%
WPCOG- Admin Services	59,982	23,384	65,666	65,666	181%
WPCOG-Water Resources Committee	14,731	14,744	14,844	14,844	1%
Total	\$5,686,605	\$6,560,338	\$6,327,907	\$6,052,391	-8%

Incentive contracts negotiated to encourage business investment to grow the tax base, create new jobs, and result in net revenue above the cost of the incentives that helps support County services are budgeted in this cost center.

Catawba County continues to provide the EDC with 51.5 percent of its overall funding, with the remaining 48.5 percent coming from municipalities. Funding by cities is based on population, total tax valuation, and business personal property valuation.

Funding for Carolina Land & Lakes was requested this year at \$10,000 and was not recommended for funding.

The County's partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in funding the Visitor Information Center and providing Leadership Catawba Sponsorship funding is maintained for entrepreneur support and the HKY for Vets program through the Chamber of Commerce.

Funding for the Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is maintained. County funds are used to assist with advertising, marketing, and staffing the sales department of the Hickory Metro Convention Center as well as to operate the Regional Visitors Center.

Funding for the Beaver Management program is maintained. The program helps landowners in dealing with beavers, which can be very destructive. Services are available to DOT in all 100 counties and are available to landowners, local governments, soil and water conservation districts, and others in the 42 counties that pay at least the base level participation fee of \$6,000.

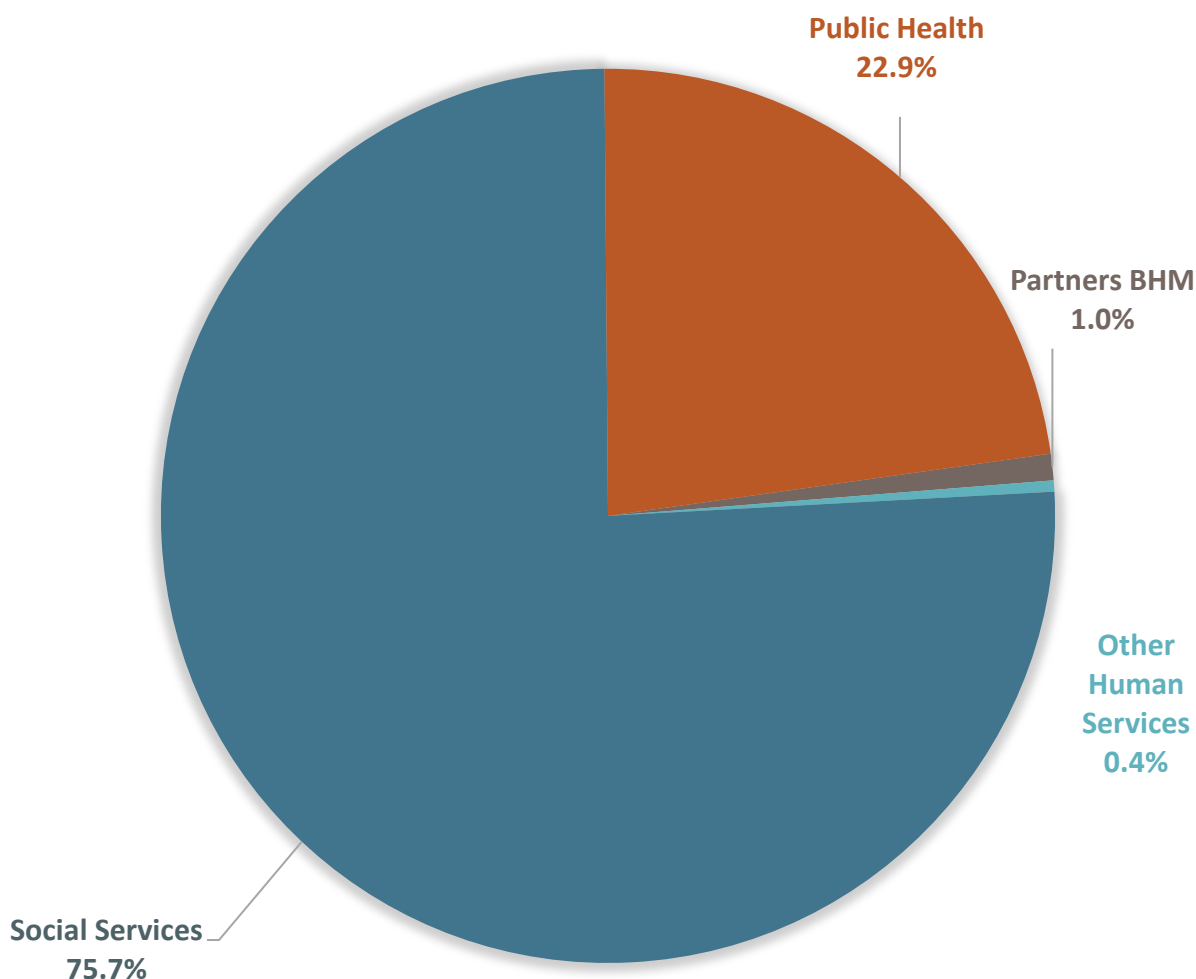
Funding for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments increased, driven by the WPCOG spearheading the regional coalition opposing the Charlotte Interbasin Transfer request.



HUMAN SERVICES

The Human Services' budget of \$63,974,710 is 18.1% of total expenditures for this fiscal year. A significant portion of the Human Services' budget is funded by State and Federal sources. Social Services' expenditures of \$48,354,489 support human needs, and Public Health is projected to expend \$14,745,221 for delivery and assurance of public health services. Other Human Resources include the Medical Examiner and is funded at \$250,000 this fiscal year. \$615,000 is for Partners Health Management contracted services and pass-through funding.

The dependence of these services on Federal and State grants makes the budget process very difficult. Therefore, the County has a conservative approach to anticipated revenues and a realistic approach to service levels which cushion the impact of Federal and State reductions in funding and service levels.



PARTNERS HEALTH MANAGEMENT

As a result of State mandated Mental Health Reform, mental health ceased being a County-provided service in Fiscal Year 2008/09. The responsibility for managing and ensuring the delivery of needed services was shifted to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) statewide. Catawba County is part of a 15-county MCO that includes Catawba, Burke, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Rutherford, Stanly, Surry, Union, and Yadkin Counties called Partners Health Management (Partners HM). Counties continue to be responsible for providing funds towards critical community mental health services not supported by State or Federal funds.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

PARTNERS HEALTH MANAGEMENT

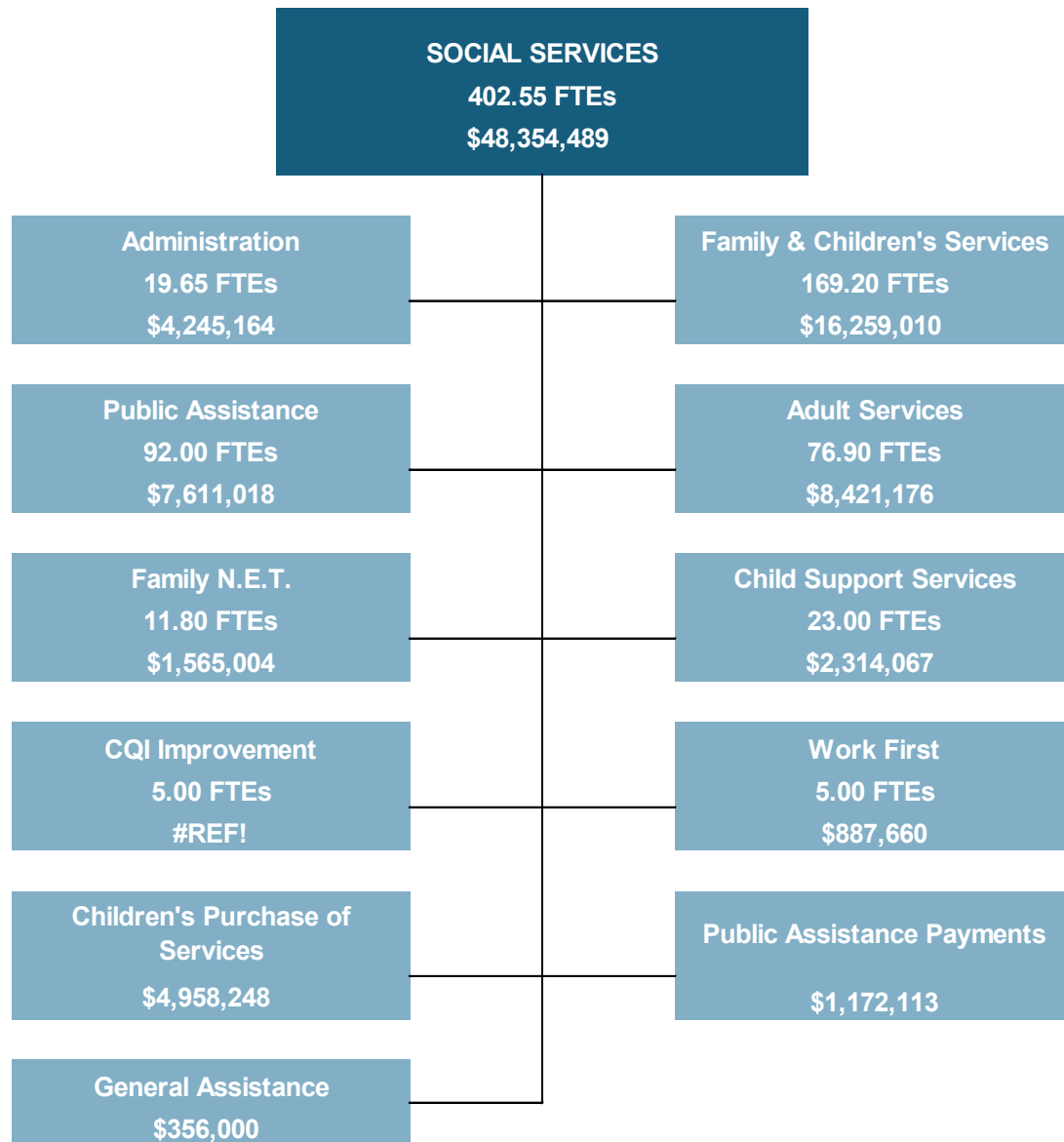
Organization: 530900

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
ABC 5 Cents Per Bottle	\$75,033	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	0.0%
ABC Profits	93,030	105,000	105,000	105,000	0.0%
General Fund	155,000	333,000	435,000	435,000	30.6%
Total	\$323,063	\$513,000	\$615,000	\$615,000	19.9%
Expenses					
Mental Health Services	\$155,000	\$333,000	\$435,000	\$435,000	30.6%
Mental Health ABC Board Contract	168,063	180,000	180,000	180,000	0.0%
Total	\$323,063	\$513,000	\$615,000	\$615,000	19.9%

The County continues to work with Partners HM and other community partners to assess local physical and behavioral health needs and explore improvements. This funding includes \$180,000 in ABC funds, consistent with the NC GS 18B-804 requirement that bottle taxes and a portion of ABC gross receipts be spent for the treatment of alcoholism or substance abuse, or for research or education on alcohol or substance abuse. The increase in Fiscal Year 2027 recommended funding reflects the spending down of Catawba County fund balance being held by Partners HM in previous years.

SOCIAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



ADMINISTRATION

Enhance services provided by the Agency through a commitment of effective and efficient business practices that supports the best possible experience for the customer.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Child Protective Services

To ensure that vulnerable children in Catawba County experience safe, permanent, and nurturing families

Prevention

To promote self-sufficiency and enhance family relationships through education, advocacy, and support.

Permanency Planning

Ensure that vulnerable children in Catawba County experience safe, permanent, and nurturing families.

Child Wellbeing/Post Care

Ensure that vulnerable children in Catawba County experience safe, permanent, and nurturing families.

Family Builders

To ensure safe and nurturing families for children where their well-being needs are met and permanency is achieved.

WORK FIRST

To enable Work First customers to become and remain self-sufficient by linking them with resources and skills, and to allow them to take responsibility for themselves and their families.

ADULT SERVICES

Adult Protective Services

Empower vulnerable and disabled adults to live independently and free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Long Term Care

To assist senior and disabled citizens in living in their own homes as long as possible and/or with admission and adjustment to a nursing or assisted living facility providing the appropriate level and quality of services.

Senior Nutrition/In Home Services

Improve the quality of life for seniors by providing them the choice to remain at home through the provision of nutritious meals, education, socialization, wellness activities, and community volunteer support.

Adult Medicaid

To assist aged, disabled, and blind individuals with access to and cost of medical care by timely and accurately determining Medicaid/Special Assistance eligibility.

Medicaid Transportation

Prevent transportation from being a barrier for Medicaid eligible Catawba County citizens accessing medical services.

FAMILY SUPPORT**Child Support**

To ensure that non-custodial parents acknowledge and provide support for their children.

Food Assistance

To efficiently provide food assistance to eligible families and connect them to other available resources.

Day Care

Support the independence and basic needs of Catawba County families by ensuring access to safe, quality, affordable childcare, allowing responsible adults to secure and maintain employment.

FAMILY N.E.T (NURTURING, EDUCATION, & TREATMENT)

To provide a comprehensive network of nurturing, educational and treatment services to enhance the emotional, behavioral and interpersonal functioning of children, youth and their families in Catawba County.

Administrative Office Support

To provide medical and clinical oversight of the services provided by Family NET and ensure the highest quality of care as well as conformance to all applicable standards.

Outpatient Services

Children and families in Catawba County will achieve emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal well-being.

Early Childhood Support Team

Provides support services to children ages birth to five, their families, and childcare providers so that children can be ready to enter kindergarten.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

SOCIAL SERVICES

Reinventing Department

Organizations: 560100 - 561000

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Federal	\$15,807,691	\$16,748,547	\$16,405,648	\$16,405,648	-2.0%
State	2,765,454	3,596,536	3,641,754	3,641,754	1.3%
Federal & State	3,950,713	4,436,420	4,428,711	4,428,711	-0.2%
Local	1,582,019	1,282,284	1,495,419	1,495,419	16.6%
Charges & Fees	43,889	61,100	58,100	58,100	-4.9%
Miscellaneous	374,728	594,200	663,700	963,700	62.2%
Special Contingency	0	1,200,000	1,200,000	500,000	-58.3%
SBITA	0	0	0	0	0%
General Fund	17,006,968	19,572,011	21,557,679	20,861,157	6.6%
Total	\$41,531,462	\$47,491,098	\$49,451,011	\$48,354,489	1.8%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$32,967,978	\$34,898,038	\$36,879,065	\$36,542,975	4.7%
Supplies & Operations	8,340,960	11,251,560	11,313,946	11,253,514	0.0%
Capital	134,588	58,000	58,000	58,000	0.0%
SBITA	87,936	83,500	0	0	0%
Special Contingency	0	1,200,000	1,200,000	500,000	-58.3%
Total	\$41,531,462	\$47,491,098	\$49,451,011	\$48,354,489	1.8%
Expenses by Division					
Administration	\$3,495,121	\$4,776,542	\$4,913,220	\$4,245,164	-11.1%
CQI Improvement	514,835	554,115	567,183	565,029	2.0%
Family & Childrens Services	15,263,505	15,622,747	16,615,871	16,259,010	4.1%
Family Net	1,455,597	1,652,521	1,569,338	1,565,004	-5.3%
Work First	600,763	1,133,023	889,077	887,660	-21.7%
Adult Services	7,121,223	8,014,789	8,448,867	8,421,176	5.1%
Public Assistance	6,538,644	7,088,753	7,638,996	7,611,018	7.4%
Child Support	1,993,717	2,212,247	2,322,098	2,314,067	4.6%
General Assistance	180,921	356,000	356,000	356,000	0.0%
Public Assistance Payments	1,031,853	1,121,568	1,172,113	1,172,113	4.5%
Children's Purchase of Service	3,335,282	4,958,793	4,958,248	4,958,248	0.0%
Total	\$41,531,461	\$47,491,098	\$49,451,011	\$48,354,489	1.8%
Employees					
Permanent	398.50	400.05	406.75	402.55	0.6%
Total	398.50	400.05	406.75	402.55	0.6%

The Social Services budget focuses on providing mandated services (such as child / adult protective services, foster care, public assistance eligibility) while maximizing non-local dollars. The budget increase is driven by planned compensation changes and increases in programs primarily supported by federal and state funds; federal funds are reduced significantly for FY2027

based on recent federal legislation. The budget includes two (2) Social Worker III positions which are funded entirely through department funds and do not impact General Fund dollars.

Outcome Achievements				
Fiscal Year	Total Outcomes	Achieved	Not Achieved	Success Rate
204/25	42	40	2	95%
2023/24	52	51	1	98%
2022/23	52	51	1	98%
2021/22	53	48	5	91%

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
DSS - Administrative Support - Legal	% of children for whom an abuse, neglect or dependency petition is filed, that both parents are made aware of the process (served) within 6 months of filing the petition.	87%	93%	95%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Intake/ On-Call	% of all Child Protective Services history requests received from other states/counties that are fully completed within 5 business days of the request.	94%	100%	100%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Investigations/Assessments	% of screened-in reports initiated by the county within the required timeframe	84%	87%	86%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Family In-Home	% of children who were victims of maltreatment during a 12-month period, who did not receive a subsequent finding of maltreatment	87%	95%	94%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Prevention Post-Care	% of families served through Post Permanency Services who report an increase in knowledge of the implication of childhood trauma.	90%	90%	100%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Prevention Teen-Up	% of program participants who complete Teen Up programming who report an increase in protective factors.	85%	Year-End Only	100%

DSS - Family and Children Services - Permanency Planning (Foster Care and Family Builders)	% of all foster youth who received face to- face visits by the social worker each month. (MOU)	95%	97%	99%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Permanency Planning (Foster Care and Family Builders)	% children entering foster care for whom Initial Child Education Status forms (DSS-5245) are completed within 7 calendar days of a child entering care.	75%	Removed for FY2026	90%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Permanency Planning (Foster Care and Family Builders)	% of children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months and who are placed with Catawba County approved and supported resource families who experience 2 or fewer placements.	90%	94%	99%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Permanency Planning (Foster Care and Family Builders)	% of children adopted from foster care in Catawba County who have a finalized adoption decree within 120 days of the adoptive family's attorney filing the adoption petition.	90%	100%	97%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Permanency Planning (Foster Care and Family Builders)	% of children who enter foster care in a 12-month period who are discharged within 12 months to reunification, kinship care, or guardianship that do not re-enter foster care within 12 months of discharge.	91.7%	100%	100%
DSS - Family and Children Services - Permanency Planning (Foster Care and Family Builders)	# of new foster families licensed	6	9	13
DSS - FAMILY NET - Outpatient Services	% of foster care children intakes ages 3-17 with treatment needs who are engaged in treatment within 45 days	85%	100%	97%
DSS - FAMILY NET - Early Childhood Support Team	% of children ages 2-5 years who complete services with clinical specialists that experience a decrease in their difficulties score.	93%	100%	96%

DSS - FAMILY NET - Early Childhood Support Team	% of child care teachers who actively participate with education specialists that provide a “Safe Place” (physically within the setting) for children.	88%	100%	100%
DSS - Adult Services - Adult Social Work-APS Guardianship	% of APS evaluations involving allegations of abuse or neglect completed within 30 days of the report.	95%	99%	99%
DSS - Adult Services - Adult Social Work-APS Guardianship	% of APS evaluations involving allegations of exploitations completed within 45 days of the report.	85%	98%	98%
DSS - Adult Services - Adult Social Work-Senior Nutrition	# of nutritious meals served by the Senior Nutrition Program	112,000	61,412	115,170
DSS - Adult Services - Adult Social Work-Long Term Care	% of adults with a disability and served by the Special Assistance In-Home and Community Alternatives Programs for Disabled Adults that are able to remain in their homes.	96%	98%	98%
DSS - Child Support	% of current child support paid	60%	69%	70%
DSS - Child Support	% of child support cases that are under an order	86%	93%	95%
DSS - Child Support	% of paternities established for children born out of wedlock	94%	96%	97%
DSS - Child Support	% of Child Support cases that received a payment towards arrears	60%	59%	70%
DSS - Child Support	% of annual goal of total child support collections.	90%	48%	101%
DSS - Family Support - Work First	% of Work First applications processed within 45 days of receipt	95%	100%	100%
DSS - Family Support - Work First	% of Work First recertifications processed no later than the last day of the current recertification period	95%	100%	97%
DSS - Family Support - FNS	% of regular FNS applications processed within 25 days from the date of the application	95%	99%	99%
DSS - Family Support - FNS	% of expedited FNS applications processed timely (within 4 calendar days)	95%	98%	99%
DSS - Family Support - FNS	% of FNS recertifications processed on timely	95%	99%	100%

DSS - Family Support - FNS	% of approved applications processed within 8 work days or less (as compared to the State/Federal goal of 25 days).	100%	100%	100%
DSS - Family Support - Program Integrity/Q&T	% of Program Integrity claims established within 180 days of the date of discovery	90%	100%	100%
DSS - Family Support - Program Integrity/Q&T	Total funds collected as a result of program integrity investigations of known and suspected overpayment situations, causing referral for prosecution and/or collections of state, county and federal funds	\$200,000	\$ 142,489	New in FY2026
DSS - Family Support - Family Medicaid	Average # of days to process Family Medicaid applications (State requirement to process within 45 days)	30	24.6	21
DSS - Family Support - Family Medicaid	% of all Family Medicaid applications processed timely (within 45 days) compared to the state's requirement to process 90% of all applications timely	95%	92%	96%
DSS - Family Support - Adult Medicaid	% of cases reviewed by internal quality control review that assure that families are receiving the correct benefits	93%	92%	99%
DSS - Family Support - Adult Medicaid	% of Special Assistance for the Aged (SAA) applications processed within 45 calendar days of the application date	85%	80%	94%
DSS - Family Support - Adult Medicaid	% of Special Assistance for the Disabled (SAD) applications processed within 60 calendar days of the application date	85%	90%	98%
DSS - Family Support - Medicaid	# Medicaid cases reviewed to ensure the accuracy of benefits provided to citizens of Catawba County	1200	910	New in FY2026
DSS - Family Support - Daycare	% of Child Care Subsidy applications processed within 30 calendar days of the application date	95%	99%	100%
DSS - Family Support - Energy Programs	% of Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications processed within one (1) business day for applicants with no heat or cooling source	95%	100%	100%

DSS - Family Support - Energy Programs	% of all Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications processed within two (2) business days of the application date for applicants who have a heat or cooling source	95%	100%	100%
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ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. \$100,000 or more in financial or time saving will be identified through the utilization of technology advancements, improved work procedures and cost saving initiatives. (Business Office)	Achieved \$144,715 of financial or time savings.	Achieved \$113,489 of financial or time savings.	Achieved \$103,769 of financial or time savings.
2. 93% (27 of 30) of all quarterly clinical accreditation self-audits will pass all required program components.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
3. 50% (200/400) of Social Services staff will participate in a Diversity Awareness event.	Achieved 69%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 67%
4. 87% of children for whom an abuse, neglect or dependency petition is filed, both parents will be made aware of the process (served) within six months of filing the petition. (Legal)	Achieved 92.5%	Achieved 95.7%	Achieved 100%

CQI QUALITY TEAM

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Quality and Training staff will complete a minimum of 250 second party reviews per quarter on all Economic Services case actions to include, applications, recertifications, changes, terminations, denials, and targeted reviews.	Achieved 1,583 completed	Achieved 1,544 completed	Achieved 1,076 second part reviews
2. The County will ensure that 90% of Program Integrity claims are established within 180 days of the date of discovery.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS)

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. 94% of all Child Protective Services history requests received from other states/counties will be fully completed within five business days of the request.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 99%
2. The County will initiate 84% of all screened in reports within required timeframes. (MOU)	Achieved 85%	Achieved 86%	Achieved 88%
3. 90% of all cases open to In-home services that have any type of restriction in place on a parent and/or caretaker will be staffed using the case restriction template within 60 days of the Investigation/Assessment case closure date	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	New Outcome in FY 2022-23
4. For all children who were victims of maltreatment during a 12-month period, no more than 13% received a subsequent finding of maltreatment. (MOU)	Achieved 12%	Achieved 13%	Not Achieved 13.2%

CHILDREN'S DAY CARE

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. The County will process 95% of Child Care Subsidy applications within 30 calendar days of the application date.	Achieved 99%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 99.7%

PREVENTION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Mid-Year FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. 95% (180 of 200) of students seen by ACE school social workers for specific needs will have needs satisfactorily met within 10 school days of referral date, as determined by referral date and progress note. (ACE)	Achieved 100%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 100%

FC TEAMS/FAMILY PRESERVATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. 93% (37 of 40) of youth ages 16-18 will participate in developing and completing their transitional living plans toward independence. (Foster Care)	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
2. The County will ensure that 95% (3,900 of 4,200 visits) of all foster youth have face-to-face visits by the social worker each month. (MOU)	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%
3. When a child enters foster care 75% of the Initial Child Education Status forms (DSS-5245) will be completed within 7 calendar days of a child entering care. (Foster Care)	Achieved 86%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 100%
4. Visitation Team members will average 30 hours of court-ordered visitation each per week and other work that reduces the 13.5 average weekly hours spent per Foster Care Social Worker.	Achieved 36.66 hours	Achieved 35.78 hours	Achieved 31.68 hours
5. 90% (50 of 55) of children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months and who are placed with Catawba County Approved and Supported Resource Families will experience two or fewer placements. (Family Builders)	Achieved 98%	Achieved 98%	Achieved 98%
6. 90% (53 of 59) of children adopted from foster care in Catawba County will have a finalized adoption decree within 120 days of the adoptive family's attorney filing the adoption petition, which is 60 days fewer than the State allows. (Family Builders)	Achieved 98%	Achieved 92%	Achieved 92%
7. The County will ensure that of children who enter foster care in a 12-month period who are discharged within 12 months to reunification, kinship care, or guardianship, no more than 8.3% re-enter foster care within 12 months of discharge. (MOU)	Achieved 0%	Achieved 0%	Achieved 0%
8. Increase the number of children exiting foster care for reunification from 20% to 25% by the end of the Fiscal Year.	Achieved 30%	Not Achieved 24%	Achieved 25%
9. License 4 new kinship families during the Fiscal Year.	Achieved 9 new families	Achieved 6 new families	Achieved 13 new families
10. License 6 new foster (non-kinship, non-adoptive) families during the Fiscal Year.	Achieved 7 new families	Achieved 10 new families	Achieved 11 newly licensed Foster Families

TEEN UP/HEART

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. 85% (90 of 112) of program participants who complete Teen Up programming will report an increase in protective factors based on pre and post survey. (Prevention-TEEN UP)	Achieved 100%.	Achieved 100%.	Achieved 94%.

POST ADOPTION STATE REGIONAL G

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. 90% (18 of 20) of families served through Post Adoption Services will report an increase in knowledge of the implication of childhood trauma as measured by self-report retrospective scaling questionnaire. (Post Care)	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 96%

FAMILYNET ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. 85% (40 of 50) of children ages 3-17 who enter foster care will engage in treatment within 45 days of entering care through a comprehensive clinical assessment to provide needed interventions to address identified needs. (Clinical Services/Outpatient)	Achieved 96%	Achieved 86%	Achieved 87%
2. 93 % of children ages 2-5 years who complete services with the Clinical Specialists will demonstrate increased control of emotions, improved compliance with rules and expectations of others, increased attention and on-task behavior, and more positive peer relations upon completion of treatment as evidenced by a decrease in difficulties score as measured by the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). (Early Childhood Support Team)	Achieved 100%	Achieved 96%	Achieved 100%
3. 88% (15 of 18) child care teachers who actively participate with the Education Specialists through virtual and/or onsite consultations, trainings and resources during the year will provide a "Safe Place" (physically within the setting) for children	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%

in their classroom to explore the relationship between emotional and physical safety and attain knowledge about practices that support emotional safety.			
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WORK FIRST

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. 98% (196 of 200) of all caretakers receiving Work First will participate in ensuring all educational and health needs of the child(ren) are being met.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
2. 97% (147 of 152) of audited cases will have service collaboration efforts with other components of service in the agency when a case is known to be shared.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
3. The County will process 95% of Work First applications within 45 days of receipt. (MOU)	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
4. The County will process 95% of Work First recertifications no later than the last day of the current recertification period. (MOU)	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 99%

ADULT SERVICES

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. 96% (247 of 257) of adults with a disability and served by the Special Assistance In-Home and Community Alternatives Programs for Disabled Adults are able to remain in their homes. (Long Term Care)	Achieved 98%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 97%
2. 94% (15 of 16) of all concerns identified by the Adult Home Specialist do not escalate to noncompliance due to technical assistance and training. (Long Term Care)	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
3. The County will complete 95% of APS evaluations involving allegations of abuse or neglect within 30 days of the report. (MOU)	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%
4. The County will complete 85% of APS evaluations involving allegations of exploitations within 45 days of the report. (MOU)	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%

5. 112,000 nutritious meals will be served by the Senior Nutrition Program to eligible Catawba County citizens age 60 years or older. (Senior Nutrition/In-Home)	Achieved 128,956	Achieved 133,364	Achieved 114,759
6. The County will achieve 67% of current child support paid. (MOU)	Achieved 69.65%	Achieved 69.66%	Achieved 69%
7. The County will achieve 86% of child support cases that are under an order. (MOU)	Achieved 95.59%	Achieved 93.55%	Achieved 92%
8. The County will achieve 94% of paternities established for children born out of wedlock. (MOU)	Achieved 100%	Achieved 101.52%	Achieved 101%
9. The County will achieve 60% of cases that received a payment towards arrears. (MOU)	Achieved 68.93%	Achieved 70.80%	Achieved 72%
10. The County will meet 94% of its annual goal of total child support collections.	Achieved 99.71%	Achieved 96.50%	Achieved 96%

MEDICAID ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Family Medicaid applications will be processed in an average of -22 days compared to the state's requirement to process within 45 days.	Achieved 21 days	Achieved 22 days	Not Achieved 22 days
2. 95% (4,932 of 5,192) of all Family Medicaid applications will be processed timely (within 45 days) compared to the state's requirement to process 90% of all applications timely.	Achieved 95%	Achieved 96%	Achieved 98%
3. 97% (557 of 575) of cases reviewed by internal quality control review will assure that families are receiving the correct benefits.	Not on Target 96%	Achieved 98%	Achieved 98%
4. The County will process 85% of Special Assistance for the Aged (SAA) applications within 45 calendar days of the application date. (MOU)	Achieved 89%	Achieved 86%	Achieved 90%
5. The County will process 85% of Special Assistance for the Disabled (SAD) applications within 60 calendar days of the application date. (MOU)	Achieved 92%	Achieved 92%	Achieved 98%

NUTRITION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. The County will process 95% of regular FNS applications within 25 days from the date of the application. (MOU)	Achieved 98.97%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%
2. The County will process 95% of expedited FNS applications timely (within 4 calendar days). (MOU)	Achieved 98.06%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%
3. The County will ensure that 95% of FNS recertifications are processed on time, each month. (MOU)	Achieved 99.51%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%
4. The County will process approved applications within 8 workdays or less (as compared to the State/Federal goal of 25 days).	Achieved 4.45 workday average	Achieved 4.99 workday average	Achieved 4 workday average

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. The County will process 95% of Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications within one (1) business day for applicants with no heat or cooling source. (MOU)	Achieved 98%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 99%
2. The County will process 95% of all Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications within two (2) business days of the application date for applicants who have a heat or cooling source. (MOU)	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%	Achieved 99%

PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

PUBLIC HEALTH 120.00 FTEs \$14,745,221	
Administration 9.00 FTEs \$1,914,067	Clinical Services 24.20 FTEs \$2,964,257
Women, Infants, & Children 15.00 FTEs \$1,339,478	School Nurses 30.00 FTEs \$3,302,274
Child Health 6.40 FTEs \$289,475	Environmental Health 20.00 FTEs \$2,503,751
Maternal Health 0.00 FTEs \$190,612	Laboratory 1.25 FTEs \$178,488
Health Promotion & Strategy 4.00 FTEs \$499,618	Bioterrorism/Preparedness 0.75 FTEs \$116,440
Dental Health 0.00 FTEs \$12,150	CDC PH Infrastructure Grant 3.00 FTEs \$217,297
Pregnancy Care Management 4.40 FTEs \$467,313	OBCM Grant 1.00 FTEs \$111,992
Opioid Settlement 1.00 FTEs \$172,292	

ADMINISTRATION

To manage and administer quality, cost effective, and customer-driven public health programs and services to Catawba County residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

To assure a safe and healthy environment for the citizens of Catawba County with respect to permitted establishments, subsurface waste disposal, private well construction and protection, and North Carolina smoke-free laws.

MATERNAL HEALTH

Catawba County Public Health (CCPH) aspires to ensure the highest quality and most efficient prenatal services to pregnant women by assuring early access to prenatal and postpartum medical care and support services through the program that aims to maximize healthy birth outcomes. CCPH, in partnership with Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC), assures comprehensive prenatal care is available to all pregnant women in Catawba County.

CHILD HEALTH

Catawba County Public Health (CCPH) seeks to ensure that children ages 0-18 have access to preventive and acute health care. Routine health care promotes physical, social, and emotional growth of children through the early detection, treatment and referral of health problems, illness prevention, and anticipatory guidance.

Care Management for At-Risk Children (CMARC)

Catawba County Public Health seeks to ensure care management services are provided for all Medicaid-eligible children aged birth to five years of age determined to be high-risk and qualify for services. The program, in partnership with Community Care Networks, implements community-based interventions for children to maximize health outcomes. Priority risk factors include children with special health care needs, having or at increased risk for chronic physical, behavioral or emotional conditions, exposed to toxic stress in early childhood including extreme poverty in conjunction with continuous family chaos, recurrent physical or emotional abuse, chronic neglect, severe enduring maternal depression, persistent parental substance abuse, repeated exposure to violence within the community or family, those in the foster care system, or those who are high cost/frequent users of services.

Early Childhood Support Team

The Early Childhood Support Team (ECST) nurse provides health promotion/health prevention to identified ECST Child Care Centers, the children enrolled, and their families as a member of a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team, including health education for children, center staff and families, health consultation and staff development, assistance to families in locating and obtaining health resources, and identification and development of emergency action plans for children with chronic illnesses.

School Health

The School Health Program provides school site, direct health services, health education, consultation for faculty and staff, and health promotion/prevention for staff and students to promote maximum physical, social, emotional, and educational growth of children.

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Ensure Catawba County Public Health is prepared to prevent, mitigate, and/or respond to disease outbreaks and biological threats to our community.

COMMUNITY & ADULT HEALTH

Catawba County Public Health Adult Health Programs provide patients with screening exams for early detection of breast, cervical, and communicable diseases, provide methods and strategies for the prevention of unplanned pregnancy and diseases, and focus on the promotion of health and wellness through education on healthier lifestyle choices.

WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a supplemental healthy food program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for infants and children up to age five, and pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC HEALTH

Organizations: 580050 - 580900

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Federal	\$354,189	\$400,641	\$248,485	\$248,485	-38.0%
State	1,290,512	1,315,574	1,251,022	1,251,022	-4.9%
Federal & State	1,717,892	1,512,708	1,474,740	1,474,740	-2.5%
Local	807,456	806,065	806,065	806,065	0.0%
Charges & Fees	1,644,698	1,837,400	1,842,400	1,842,400	0.3%
Miscellaneous	10,753	15,720	15,720	15,720	0.0%
From Hospital Reserve	360,009	500,000	500,000	500,000	0.0%
From Opioid Settlement Fund	128,556	163,936	172,607	172,292	5.1%
Special Contingency	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	0	139,385	78,885	0%
County Share	5,648,365	7,154,374	7,909,382	7,855,612	9.8%
Total	\$11,962,430	\$14,206,418	\$14,859,806	\$14,745,221	3.8%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$10,342,148	\$11,914,044	\$12,552,070	\$12,517,165	5.1%
Supplies & Operations	1,496,541	1,792,374	1,807,736	1,728,056	-3.6%
SBITA	15,485	0	0	0	0.0%
Capital	108,347	0	0	0	0.0%
Special Contingency	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	0.0%
Total	\$11,962,521	\$14,206,418	\$14,859,806	\$14,745,221	3.8%
Expenses by Division					
Administration	\$1,244,838	\$1,767,573	\$1,977,892	\$1,914,067	8.3%
Environmental Health	2,064,317	2,340,266	2,509,365	2,503,751	7.0%
Maternal Health	139,078	144,612	190,612	190,612	31.8%
Pregnancy Care Management	374,637	525,703	468,782	467,313	-11.1%
Laboratory	144,619	170,268	179,118	178,488	4.8%
Child Health	251,879	272,397	289,948	289,475	6.3%
Care Coordination for Children	389,485	377,148	467,346	465,717	23.5%
School Nurses	2,806,446	3,114,053	3,310,552	3,302,274	6.0%
Dental Health	7,256	12,150	12,150	12,150	0.0%
Bioterrorism/Preparedness	99,458	109,191	116,703	116,440	6.6%
OBCM Grant	97,398	106,206	112,516	111,992	5.4%
Healthy People/Carolinas	0	0	0	0	0%
CDC PH Infrastructure Grant	18,557	363,708	218,083	217,297	-40.3%
Health Promotion & Strategy	552,555	549,216	500,669	499,618	-9.0%
Clinical Services	2,401,467	2,886,097	2,971,238	2,964,257	2.7%
WIC	1,241,976	1,303,894	1,362,225	1,339,478	2.7%
Opioid Coordinator	128,555	163,936	172,607	172,292	5.1%
Total	\$11,962,521	\$14,206,418	\$14,859,806	\$14,745,221	3.8%
Employees					
Permanent	119.50	119.00	120.00	120.00	0.8%
Total	119.50	119.00	120.00	120.00	0.8%

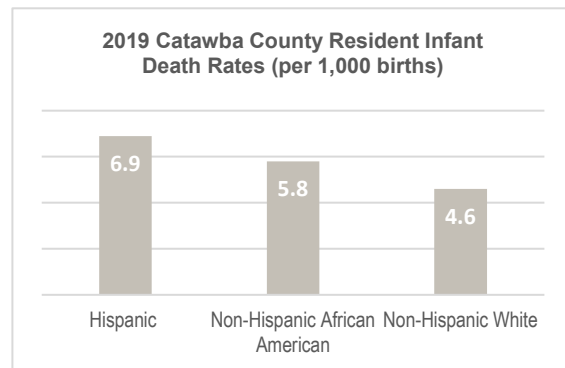
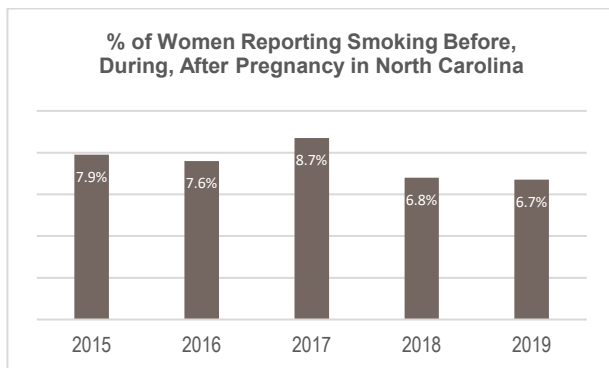
The budget includes an increase for contractual increases to janitorial services and for general renovations to Public Health facilities, as well as reductions in revenues and expenses related to

grants which are scheduled to sunset at the end of FY2026 or mid-year of FY2027. One Community Health Worker position is added and is supported with grant funding.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid- year FY26	EOY FY25
Public Health - School Health	% of school nurse visits among students in school resulting in students being able to return to class	80%	93%	93%
Public Health - Environmental Health	% of reviewed onsite well and septic permits that require no revisions due to staff error	85%	87%	89%
Public Health - Environmental Health	% of Food, Lodging, and Institutions (FLI) field assessments and file reviews of routine inspections that meet the state standard of "acceptable".	75%	100%	100%
Public Health - Care Management for at Risk Children - CMARC	% of members referred for care management with completed encounters within 7 business days or 3 or more attempted encounters within 7 business days	85%	Year- End Only	91%
Care Management for High Risk Pregnancies - CMHRP	% of members engaged in care management will have a signed care plan within 15 days	85%	Year- End Only	99%
Breast Feeding Peer Counseling - BFPC	% of postpartum women signed up for WIC breastfeeding peer counseling program contacted by a peer counselor within 24 hours of signing their Letter of Agreement (LOA).	85%	100%	98%
Women Infants and Children - WIC	% of pregnant women enrolled in WIC receiving services in the first trimester	40%	39%	38%
Immunizations	% of 2-year old children served by Public Health receiving age-appropriate immunizations	90%	Year- End Only	91%
Tuberculosis Control - TB	% of patients referred to the tuberculosis control program receiving appropriate follow-up care	100%	100%	97%
Communicable Disease - STD	% of Adult Preventive Health Clinic patients diagnosed with gonorrhea or chlamydia receiving treatment within 2 weeks of diagnosis	85%	96%	96%
Family Planning - FP	% of Family Planning patients without a primary care provider receiving a primary care referral	85%	100%	100%
Health Promotion & Strategy, Communicable Disease - STD, Breast & Cervical Cancer Control , Family Planning, Women Infants and Children	% of patients and participants screened for health-related social needs	75%	99%	98%
Community Health Workers - CHWs	% of Community Health Worker referrals resulting in the individual's needs being met	70%	86%	80%
CCPH Laboratory	# of new safety projects implemented to maintain Star Certification status	2	2	2

GOAL 1 – IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF WOMEN, INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES



<https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/prams/survey.html>

<https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/vital/ims/2019/2019rpt.html>

The health and wellbeing of women, infants, and families is a cornerstone to community health. Creating healthy beginnings through promoting positive pregnancies, births, and early childhood experiences provides a strong foundation for young children to grow into healthy adults.

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. 80% of clients served through CMHRP and CMARC not already enrolled in WIC will be contacted for WIC services.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
2. 90% of latent or active TB patients, and Family Planning patients that are identified as current tobacco users will be referred to the NC Quitline.	Achieved 94%	Achieved 97%	Achieved 99%
3. 100% of identified violations related to the childcare center's safe sleep policy will receive appropriate technical assistance by the ECST nurse.	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Not Achieved No visitations due to COVID-19
4. 90% of two-year-old children served by Public Health will have received age-appropriate immunizations based on the NC Immunization Branch's assessment	Achieved 90%	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	
5. 40% of pregnant women enrolled in WIC will begin receiving services in the first trimester of their pregnancy	Not Achieved 37%	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	

GOAL 2 – STRENGTHEN CORE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS TO PROTECT HEALTH AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY

A strong infrastructure is made up of people, programs, and policies that have the capacity to prevent public health emergencies; as well as mitigate and control the impact that communicable disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and other threats can have on the wellbeing of the community. With partners, Public Health works to ensure that staff are receiving training and diligently engaging in prevention-oriented work related to vaccinations, emergency preparedness, and responding to community needs related to communicable disease.

Social vulnerability refers to the resilience of communities when confronted by natural disasters or disease outbreaks. This index scores on a scale from 0 (lowest vulnerability) to 1 (highest vulnerability) using fifteen different Census-related indicators. As of 2018, Catawba County's current social vulnerability index score is 0.6885, indicating a moderate to high level of vulnerability (<https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html>).

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
6. 85% of reviewed onsite well and septic permits will require no revisions.	Achieved 88%	Achieved 87%	Achieved 87%
7. 85% of eligible seventh-grade students will receive a Tdap booster and Meningococcal vaccine by the first day of school.	Achieved 88%	Achieved 88%	Achieved 85%
8. 75% of FLI field assessments and file reviews of routine inspections will meet the state standard of "acceptable"(>85%).	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%
9. 85% of patients who begin treatment for latent TB will complete treatment within the recommended time frame.	Achieved 90%	Achieved 90%	Achieved 100%
10. 75% of patients and participants will be screened for health-related social needs	Achieved 99%	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	
11. 85% of Adult Preventive Health Clinic patients diagnosed with gonorrhea or chlamydia will receive treatment within two weeks of diagnosis	Achieved 97%	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	
12. 85% of Family Planning patients without a primary care provider will receive a primary care referral	Achieved 100%	New Outcome Fiscal Year 2023/24	

OTHER HUMAN SERVICES

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Expenses associated with the Medical Examiner are housed in this section of the budget. Counties are required by statute to pay for Medical Examiner services and autopsy reports for County residents who die inside the County if the medical examiner, county’s district attorney, or any superior court judge request it. Deaths requiring an autopsy that occur outside a person’s county of residence are the funding responsibility of the State.

Per North Carolina General Statutes, fees for the Medical Examiner and autopsies are currently as follows:

- 130A-387 - For each investigation and prompt filing of the required report, the medical examiner shall receive a fee paid by the State. However, if the deceased is a resident of the county in which the death or fatal injury occurred, that county shall pay the fee. The fee shall be \$200.
- 130A-389 - A fee for the autopsy or other study shall be paid by the State. However, if the deceased is a resident of the county in which the death or fatal injury occurred, that county shall pay the fee. The fee shall be \$3,625.

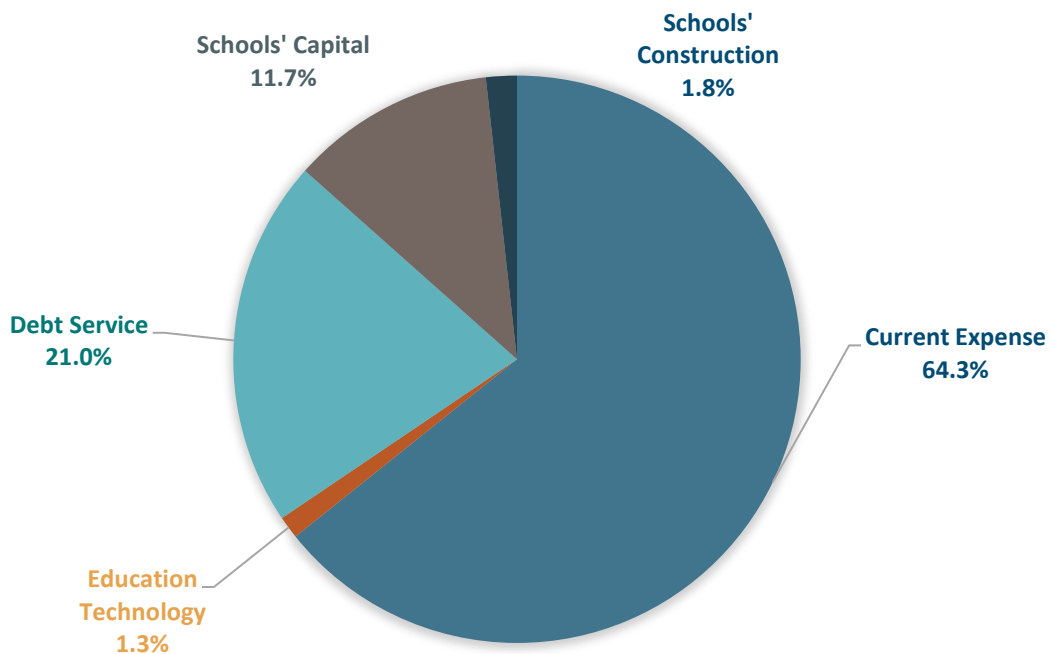
BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OTHER HUMAN SERVICES					Organization: 510050
	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
General Fund	\$228,975	\$250,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	4.0%
Total	\$228,975	\$250,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	4.0%
Expenses					
Medical Examiner	\$228,975	\$250,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	4.0%
Total	\$228,975	\$250,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	4.0%



EDUCATION

Public education is a major responsibility of County government. The County has budgeted \$84,776,287 or 24.0% of the total budget for education expense. This includes \$54,280,662 for current expenses for the three school districts and Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) and capital expenses totaling \$11,058,456, including \$1,100,000 for the Chromebook replacement. The Debt Service amount for education is \$17,937,169. Additionally, the budget includes \$534,744 in fines and forfeitures. In recent years, Catawba County has undertaken major initiatives to both support effective education and to secure accountability for the use of educational funding.



EDUCATION

Operational funding for public schools is the responsibility of the State, while funding for school construction, equipment, and debt are County responsibilities. Historically, State funding has not been sufficient to meet all needs so counties provide current expense funding to schools as well. Catawba County's current expense funding assists the County's three public school systems with operating needs, including both instructional programs and support services. The School Budget and Fiscal Control Act requires the County to fund each school system the same amount per pupil based on average daily membership figures certified by the State and based on the highest attendance figures of the first two out of three months of the school year. North Carolina General Statutes allow the Board of Commissioners to allocate current expense funding in a variety of ways. Catawba County has always provided a lump sum amount per pupil and left the decision of how to spend the funding with the school boards.

Like public schools, the State is responsible for funding community college operations, while counties are responsible for maintenance, capital, and general facility operations.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHT

CURRENT EXPENSE

Organization:

710050

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Adopted	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
1st 1/2% Sales Tax	\$7,285,033	\$8,230,000	\$8,410,000	\$8,410,000	2.2%
1st 1/2% Sales Tax - Food	1,462,536	1,490,000	1,600,000	\$1,600,000	7.4%
2nd 1/2% Sales Tax - Food	90,000	150,000	158,000	\$158,000	5.3%
1/4 Cent Sales Tax	722,222	694,000	759,000	\$759,000	9.4%
General Fund	43,673,075	42,757,026	48,504,700	44,453,662	4.0%
Total	\$53,232,866	\$53,321,026	\$59,431,700	\$55,380,662	3.9%
Expenses					
Current Expense					
Catawba County Schools	\$33,425,082	\$34,393,942	\$38,357,716	\$35,144,395	2.2%
Hickory City Schools	7,791,615	7,820,024	8,248,500	\$7,952,637	1.7%
Newton-Conover City Schools	5,516,169	5,601,060	5,835,270	\$5,669,510	1.2%
Catawba Valley Community College	5,300,000	5,406,000	5,890,214	\$5,514,120	2.0%
Subtotal	\$52,032,866	\$53,221,026	\$58,331,700	\$54,280,662	2.0%
K-64 Funding					
CVCC Scholarship Program	100,000	100,000	0	0	0%
Transfer to School Capital	1,100,000	0	1,100,000	1,100,000	0%
Subtotal	\$1,200,000	\$100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	1000.0%
Grand Total	\$53,232,866	\$53,321,026	\$59,431,700	\$55,380,662	3.9%

Pupil Allocation

	Catawba	Hickory	Newton-Conover	Total
Per Pupil				
Average Daily Membership (ADM)	16,055	3,633	2,590	22,278
ADM Change from Prior Fiscal Year	28	(11)	(20)	(3)
Per Pupil Funding Increase	\$43	\$43	\$43	\$43
Funding Change	968,860	28,409	84,891	\$1,082,160
<i>% Change</i>	2.9%	0.4%	1.5%	2.3%
County Base	\$1,875	\$1,875	\$1,875	\$1,875
Teacher Supplement	152	152	152	152
Technology	95	95	95	95
Available for Joint School Programs	67	67	67	67
County Per Pupil Total	\$2,189	\$2,189	\$2,189	\$2,189
Fines & Forfeitures (Fund 292)	24	24	24	24
Total Per Pupil	\$2,213	\$2,213	\$2,213	\$2,213
Total				
County Base	\$30,103,125	\$6,811,875	\$4,856,250	\$41,771,250
Teacher Supplement	2,440,360	552,216	393,680	3,386,256
Technology	1,525,225	345,135	246,050	2,116,410
Available for Joint School Programs	1,075,685	243,411	173,530	1,492,626
County Total	\$35,144,395	\$7,952,637	\$5,669,510	\$48,766,542
Fines & Forfeitures (Fund 292)	384,648	87,456	62,640	534,744
Total	\$35,529,043	\$8,040,093	\$5,732,150	\$49,301,286

The budget includes increased operating funding for public schools and CVCC of \$959,636 or 1.8%.

A \$43 per pupil increase (2.0%) is included for public schools in current expense funding to address operating pressures, resulting in a per-pupil rate of \$2,189 and a total funding increase of \$951,516.

A \$108,120 or 2.0 percent operating increase is included for CVCC current expense.

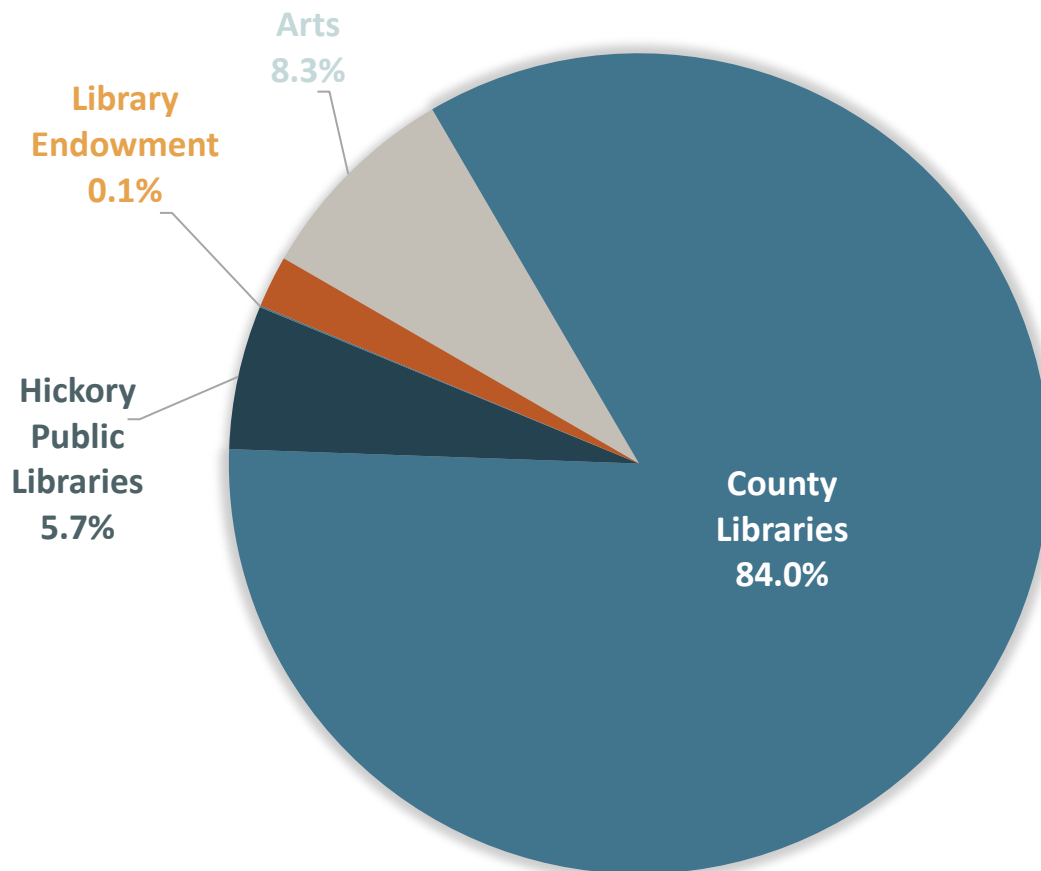
The budget discontinues \$100,000 in matching funds for the CVCC Scholars Program, as planned. The budget continues to fund \$1.1M toward future Chromebook replacements to maintain 1-to-1 technology for grades 3-12 in Catawba County.

Consistent with Government Accounting Standards Boards (GASB) requirements, fines and forfeitures distributed to public schools are budgeted in a special revenue fund.



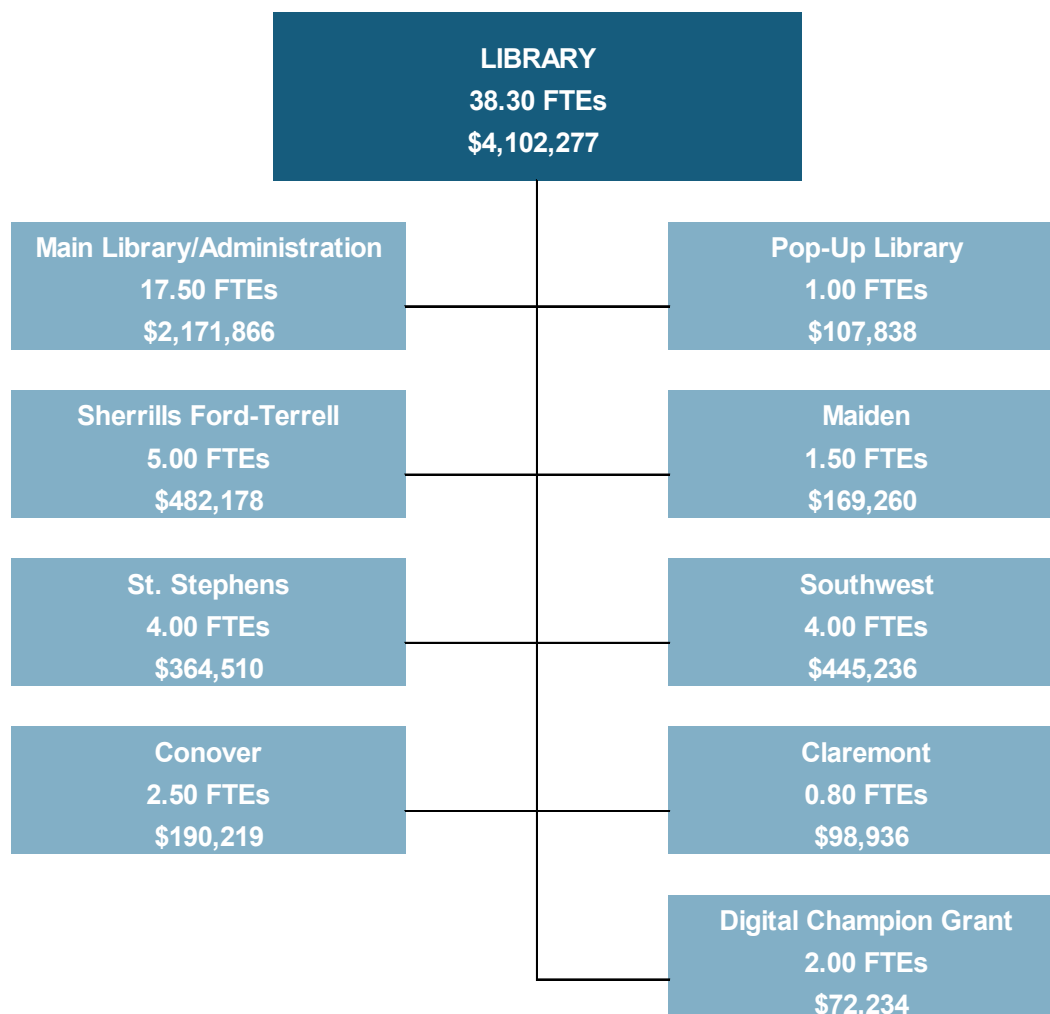
CULTURE

This function is composed of the County Library system, the Catawba County Historical Association, Catawba County Council for the Arts, Salt Block, and Hickory Public Libraries. The Main Library is located in Newton with branch facilities in the Maiden, Sherrills Ford, St. Stephens, Mountain View, Conover, and Claremont areas, as well as a mobile library that operates Countywide. This function's budget is \$4,882,275 or 1.4% of the total expenditures, including a continued set-aside for a new library branch and the Library Endowment Fund. The General Fund portion of the budget is \$4,782,275.



LIBRARY

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



As the community's place to connect, explore, and grow, Catawba County Library empowers lives and builds our community by bringing people, information, and ideas together. The Library works to inspire the joy of reading, life-long learning, cultural appreciation, creative thinking, and promote economic development and individual growth through comprehensive resources, a knowledgeable and responsive staff, innovative technologies, and welcoming facilities.

As a public gathering place organized around public service and the transfer of information and ideas, the library is a unique, neutral community space for social interaction and engagement, easily accessible, with distinct resources, and rich in content and experience. As such, it contributes to a healthy community where people come together in ways that level social inequities and promote community engagement and social connection.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

LIBRARY

Reinventing Department

Organizations: 810050 - 810290

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
State	\$339,856	\$309,309	\$250,048	\$250,048	-19.16%
Local	75,832	80,918	85,120	85,120	5.19%
Charges & Fees	32,489	29,650	35,150	35,150	18.55%
Miscellaneous	38,819	1,050	7,050	7,050	571.43%
General Fund	3,312,739	3,596,391	3,739,128	3,724,909	3.57%
Total	\$3,799,735	\$4,017,318	\$4,116,496	\$4,102,277	2.11%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$2,953,718	\$3,287,842	\$3,355,686	\$3,341,467	1.63%
Supplies & Operations	772,518	729,476	760,810	760,810	4.30%
Capital & Debt	73,499	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$3,799,735	\$4,017,318	\$4,116,496	\$4,102,277	2.11%
Expenses by Division					
Main Library/Admin.	\$2,043,665	\$2,080,812	\$2,177,877	\$2,171,866	4.38%
Digital Champion Grant	\$99,049	\$141,786	73,021	72,234	-49.05%
Pop-Up Library	91,971	101,916	108,468	107,838	5.81%
Sherrills Ford - Terrell	454,046	456,734	484,252	482,178	5.57%
Maiden	151,639	163,491	169,812	169,260	3.53%
St. Stephens	312,030	348,486	366,347	364,510	4.60%
Southwest	378,356	422,855	446,731	445,236	5.29%
Conover	188,474	209,068	190,926	190,219	-9.02%
Claremont	80,505	92,170	99,062	98,936	7.34%
	\$3,799,735	\$4,017,318	\$4,116,496	\$4,102,277	2.11%
Employees					
Permanent	36.30	38.30	38.30	38.30	0.00%
Total	36.30	38.30	38.30	38.30	0.00%

Outcome Achievements				
Fiscal Year	Total Outcomes	Achieved	Not Achieved	Success Rate
2024/25	23	21	2	91%
2023/24	16	16	0	100%
2022/23	16	16	0	100%
2021/22	16	16	0	100%

The budget increase is driven by increases in operational costs, including increases to cover the purchase of physical books, leased books, and digital books. The budget is also impacted by a decrease as the Digital Champions Grant will come to an end in December 2026.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Library - Early Literacy	% of surveyed caregivers reporting that they have learned something new to share with their child, feel more confident to help their child learn, and will spend more time interacting with their child	85%	100%	97%
Library - Early Literacy	# of early literacy programs during the fiscal year	514	324	582
Library - Early Literacy	# of children registered into the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program	230	221	404
Library - Early Literacy	# of books circulated to local childcare centers and schools	6200	3410	6190
Library - Summer Learning	% of participants reporting they maintained or increased their reading skills or learned something new	85%	88%	93%
Library - Summer Learning	# of registered children in the annual Summer Learning program	950	1567	1162
Library - Summer Learning	# of registered teens for the annual Summer Learning program	300	416	416
Library - Summer Learning	# of registered adults in the annual Summer Learning program	250	260	468
Library - Summer Learning	# of Summer Learning programs between June 1 and August 30	49	151	119
Summer - Support Educational Excellence	% of participants reporting that the collaborative work enhances learning opportunities for students	85%	100%	100%
Summer - Support Educational Excellence	# of programs or services that support student learning	13	16	21
Summer - Support Educational Excellence	# of engaging hands on STEAM programs for children, teens, or adults with at least half of the program offered to elementary age students	46	62	117
Library - Bridging the Digital Divide	# of technology workshops either in a library location or at a remote site	30	85	57
Library - Bridging the Digital Divide	% of survey respondents that agree access to technology resources improved their ability to find, evaluate, and communicate information	85%	97%	99%
Library - Bridging the Digital Divide	Average number of people waiting for WiFi hotspots to check out	<15	5.6	5.6

Library - Workforce Development	% of participants reporting that they feel more knowledgeable or confident about job/ business skills and resources	85%	100%	100%
Library - Workforce Development	# of job and career, resources, or workshops during the fiscal year	30	20	42
Library - Lifelong Learning	# of lifelong learning programs geared toward adults	95	136	255
Library - Lifelong Learning	# of culturally and intellectually diverse displays highlighting library resources	84	147	218
Library - Lifelong Learning	% of survey respondents rating library customer service as “excellent” or “good”	95%	Year-End Only	97%
Library - Community Center of Excellence	% of survey respondents indicating the library adds value to their lives	85%	Year-End Only	98%
Library - Community Center of Excellence	% of holds fulfilled in 20 days or less	80%	Removed FY2026	74%
Library - Community Center of Excellence	# of outreach activities conducted	140	118	193

EARLY LITERACY - Most of a child’s brain development occurs in the first 2000 days of life. As a leader in early literacy efforts to ensure children start school ready to learn and positioned to excel, the library provides parents and caregivers resources, services, and programs to enhance early learning from day one.

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To ensure children start school ready to learn and positioned to excel and to promote caregiver engagement in early literacy learning, the library will provide access to highly interactive Every Child Ready to Read story programs and caregiver workshops; with 85% of surveyed caregivers reporting that they have learned something new to share with their child, feel more confident to help their child learn, and will spend more time interacting with their child.	Achieved • 569 early learning programs virtual / in-person. • 100% of parents and caregivers reported they learned something they can share with their children • 97% feel more confident helping their children learn	Achieved • 536 early learning programs virtual / in-person. • 95% of parents and caregivers reported they learned something they can share with their children • 93% feel more confident helping their children learn • 96% intend to spend more time interacting with their children • 92% are more aware of resources and	Achieved • 208 early learning programs virtual / in-person. • 93% of parents and caregivers reported they learned something they can share with their children • 75% feel more confident helping their children learn • 93% intend to spend more time interacting with their children • 96% are more aware of resources and

		services provided by the library.	services provided by the library.
2. To ensure that children in childcare settings have access to literature that enhances their early learning and reading; the library will provide quality reading materials to childcare centers through the Bookbagger program; with 85% of participating childcare teachers reporting that having library materials in the classroom improves their children's early learning experiences and increases the amount and quality of time spent reading books.	Achieved 15,780 early reading and learning materials. With 100% of participants agreed that having and using library materials in the classroom improves students' early learning and reading experiences and 100% of participants felt that having library materials available in their classroom increased the amount and quality of time spent reading books.	Achieved 17,600 early reading and learning materials. With 90% of participants agreed that having and using library materials in the classroom improves students' early learning and reading experiences and 100% of participants felt that having library materials available in their classroom increased the amount and quality of time spent reading books.	Achieved 16,720 early reading and learning materials to children in area childcare centers through the book bagger program, with 100% of participants agreeing that having library materials available in their classroom improves student's early learning experience.
3. To expose children to a greater variety of reading material and establish reading together as an important practice in the home, the library will facilitate an ongoing a countywide early literacy initiative, "1000 Books Before Kindergarten"; with 85 percent of surveyed participants reporting that they have a better understanding of the value of reading with their child(ren) or regularly engage in reading activities.	Achieved 237 pre-school children for the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, with 95% reported having a better understanding of the value of reading with their child(ren) or regularly engaging in reading activities and 100% having a better understanding of the value of reading with their child(ren).	Achieved 343 pre-school children for the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, with 100% reported having a better understanding of the value of reading with their child(ren) or regularly engaging in reading activities and 100% having a better understanding of the value of reading with their child(ren).	Achieved 189 pre-school children registered, with 100% of surveyed parents and caregivers reporting they spend more time engaging with their children in early literacy activities including reading and 100% having a better understanding of the value of reading with their child(ren).

SUMMER LEARNING - High-quality summer learning programs have been shown to improve reading and math skills, school attachment, motivation, and relationships with adults and peers. The library plays a critical role in keeping kids of all ages safe and productively engaged during the summer months, providing equitable access to resources, programming, and learning opportunities that support excellence in education.

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
4. To expand citizens' access to information and ideas and promote continued engagement with reading and learning throughout the summer, the library will provide an incentive-based interactive summer reading program for Catawba County children, teens, and adults; with 85% of participants reporting they maintained or increased their reading skills or learned something.	Achieved - Registered 1,123 children, 324 teens and 529 adults for the Summer Learning Program 71 summer learning programs for youth, 17 for teens and 37 programs for adults. 93% reported that they learned something new 92% reported that they maintained or increased their reading skills	Achieved - Registered 1,038 children, 292 teens and 391 adults for the Summer Learning Program 85 summer learning programs for youth, 14 for teens and 27 programs for adults. 90% reported that they learned something new 83% reported that they read more 86% reported that their child is a more confident reader 96 percent reported that their child maintained or increased their reading skills.	Achieved - Registered 785 children, 196 teens and 239 adults for the 2021 Summer Learning Program 19 summer learning programs for youth, 2 for teens and 4 programs for adults. 91% reported that they learned something new 82% reported that they read more 86% reported that their child is a more confident reader 92 percent reported that their child maintained or increased their reading skills.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AND CAREER READINESS - The library plays a key role in fostering a world class education system by collaborating in the community and providing robust learning opportunities and resources that support educational attainment and contribute to the production of highly competent and well prepared students for the local and global economy.

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
5. To support Catawba County educational initiatives, including K64, the library will maintain responsive partnerships with Catawba County's three school systems and higher education institutions to support student learning through collaborative	Achieved 100%	Achieved 100%	Achieved

services and programming that provide robust learning opportunities as well as opportunities for children and young adults to explore and discover career paths; with 85% of participants reporting that the collaborative work enhances learning opportunities for students.			
6. To enhance Catawba County citizens' interest and knowledge in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) concepts, and contribute to the creation of a 21st century workforce of inquisitive problem solvers, learning and pushing innovation to the next level, the library will provide engaging hands-on STEAM learning opportunities; with 85 percent of participants reporting that they increased their knowledge or interest in STEAM topics.	Achieved • 93 STEAM programs. • 99% indicated that they increased their knowledge or interest in STEAM topics.	Achieved • 66 STEAM programs. • 97% indicated that they increased their knowledge or interest in STEAM topics.	Achieved • 64 STEAM programs. • 98% indicated that they increased their knowledge or interest in STEAM topics.
7. To increase teen engagement and support personal growth, the library will host highly interactive learning programs and provide robust resources for learning and entertainment; with 85% of teens attending programs reporting that they learned something new or helpful.	Achieved • 64 learning programs and empowering resources for teens • 98% learned something that was helpful	Achieved • 99 learning programs and empowering resources for teens • 99% learned something that was helpful	Achieved • 64 learning programs and empowering resources for teens • 100% learned something that was helpful

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE - Digital literacy is a critical factor in supporting the overall growth of an economy and development of society. To become effective digital citizens, community members must have technology skills and equitable access to digital resources and broadband internet services.

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
8. To ensure technology access across the community and bridge the digital divide, and to support personal growth for citizens, the library will provide access to robust technology resources, workshops, and one-on-one technology assistance; with 85 percent of participants reporting that they feel more knowledgeable or confident about using digital resources.	Achieved • 13,812 technology related questions answered • 40 digital literacy workshops conducted • 8,532 in-depth one-on-one assistance sessions provided • 97% more knowledgeable/confident	Achieved • 10,078 technology related questions answered • 37 digital literacy workshops conducted • 6,329 in-depth one-on-one assistance sessions provided • 94% more knowledgeable/confident	Achieved • 8,258 technology related questions answered • 33 digital literacy workshops conducted • 5,461 in-depth one-on-one assistance sessions provided • 87% more knowledgeable/confident

9. To enhance broadband access across the community, bridge the digital divide, support K64 educational initiatives, and enhance quality of life; the library will provide individuals, students, and families with critical internet access through lending technology devices including Wi-Fi Hotspots, tablets, and laptop computers; with 85 percent of borrowers indicating that access to digital resources has improved their ability to find, evaluate and communicate information.	Achieved • 68 tablets circulated • 1,049 hotspots circulated • 34 laptops circulated • 98% having maintained or increased confidence in their digital literacy skills	Achieved • 95 tablets circulated • 1,000 hotspots circulated • 326 laptops circulated • 98% having maintained or increased confidence in their digital literacy skills	Achieved • 1,055 tablets circulated • 888 hotspots circulated • 352 laptops circulated • 98% having maintained or increased confidence in their digital literacy skills
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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - The library enhances local workforce development efforts by providing access to needed resources and services to cultivate work ready skills and enhance career pathways in a setting that offers support to all members of the community.

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
10. To support personal growth, enhance job skills, and further career readiness for citizens, the library will provide access to robust job and career resources, workshops, job skills training and one-on-one career assistance; with 85 percent of participants reporting that they feel more knowledgeable or confident about the job skills or the job search process.	Achieved • 47 career and job readiness training sessions provided • 332 empowering one-on-one assistance sessions • 417 job and career related questions answered • 100% of patrons felt more knowledgeable or confident about their job skills or search process..	Achieved • 67 career and job readiness training sessions provided • 226 empowering one-on-one assistance sessions • 408 job and career related questions answered • 85% more knowledgeable/ confident • 91% agree that Catawba County libraries are a valuable resource for job and career development in our community.	Achieved • 31 career and job readiness training sessions provided • 143 empowering one-on-one assistance sessions • 312 job and career related questions answered • 100% more knowledgeable/ confident • 88%. agree that Catawba County libraries are a valuable resource for job and career development in our community.
11. To foster local efforts to revitalize Catawba County, further career readiness, and support entrepreneurial, small business, and non-profit organizations; the library will collaborate with the CVCC Small Business Center, other entrepreneurial and community non-profit agencies to host seminars that support entrepreneurial business ideas, and funding sources; with 85	Achieved • Conducted 2 workshops CVCC Small Business Center • 89 % of participants reported that they have maintained or increased their knowledge or	Achieved • Conducted 3 workshops CVCC Small Business Center • 92% learned new business start-up or operational skills, developed an interest in entrepreneurial	Achieved • Partnered with CVCC Small Business Center to conduct 2 workshops to support the entrepreneurial and small business community

percent of participants reporting that they have maintained or increased their knowledge or confidence in their business skills, or discovered library resources that support their business information needs.	confidence in their business skills or discovered library resources that support their business information needs.	activities or discovered library resources that support their information needs.	• 90% learned new business start-up or operational skills, developed an interest in entrepreneurial activities or discovered library resources that support their information needs.
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LIFELONG LEARNING - The library is a source for high-quality free lifelong learning programs that support personal growth for diverse community populations.

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
12. To support personal growth and enhance learning, cultural understanding, adult literacy, life skills language skills, and to enhance quality of life for Catawba County citizens, the library will provide access to free culturally and intellectually diverse life-long learning opportunities; with 85 percent of adults who participate in library programs or check out materials reporting they learned something that is new or helpful or feel more confident in what they have learned,	Achieved • 251 adult lifelong learning programs provided • 10,212 empowering one-on-one assistance sessions with individuals • 2,986 reference questions, and offered 225 exhibits to highlight diverse and interesting materials • 100% learned something helpful • 97% feel more confident	Achieved • 229 adult lifelong learning programs provided • 7,637 empowering one-on-one assistance sessions with individuals • 24,150 reference questions, and offered 198 exhibits to highlight diverse and interesting materials • 97% learned something helpful • 99% feel more confident • 94% intend to apply what they've learned • 99% more aware of resources/services	Achieved • 176 adult lifelong learning programs provided • 3,897 empowering one-on-one assistance sessions with individuals • 16,498 reference questions, and offered 22 exhibits to highlight diverse and interesting materials • 100% learned something helpful • 100% feel more confident • 100% intend to apply what they've learned • 100% more aware of resources/services
13. To contribute to sustainably improving Catawba County's health priorities for a healthier community and enhanced quality of life, the library will partner in the community to provide programs to help address health related topics including chronic disease, behavioral health, and healthy foods/healthy weight; with 85 percent of program participants reporting they intend to adopt	Achieved • 209 programs • 98% intend to apply what they learned to adopt or maintain a healthier lifestyle • 90% feel more confident	Achieved • 187 programs • 97% feel more knowledgeable • 95% intend to apply what they learned to adopt or maintain a healthier lifestyle • 97% feel more confident • 97% more aware of resources	Achieved • 116 programs • 100% feel more knowledgeable • 100% intend to apply what they learned to adopt or maintain a healthier lifestyle • 100% feel more confident • 100% more aware of resources

or maintain a healthier lifestyle or feel confident about taking care of their health or their family's health.			
14. To support personal growth and to contribute to building a healthy community, the library will provide opportunities for community members to learn about local foods and gardening and to produce healthy foods that are shared with local people in need of nutritious meals; with 85 percent of participants reporting they have learned something that is helpful, feel more confident, intend to apply what they learned, or are more aware of resources and services provided by the library.	Achieved • 50 pounds of produce produced, harvested, and donated to local food banks to share with community members in need of meals by Library Community Garden program and volunteer efforts • 90% agreed that they have learned something that is helpful, feel more confident, intend to apply what they learned, or are more aware of resources and services provided by the library.	Achieved • 382 pounds of produce produced, harvested, and donated to local food banks to share with community members in need of meals by Library Community Garden program and volunteer efforts • 97% agreed that they have learned something that is helpful, feel more confident, intend to apply what they learned, or are more aware of resources and services provided by the library.	Achieved • 1,637 pounds of produce produced, harvested, and donated to local food banks to share with community members in need of meals by Library Community Garden program and volunteer efforts • 100% agreed that they maintained or increased their physical activity.

COMMUNITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE: ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY - As a community center of excellence, and as Catawba County's place to connect, explore and grow; the library empowers lives and builds community by bringing people, information and ideas together. The library fuels citizens' passion for reading, personal growth, and building community by facilitating relevant and inspiring collections, services, and connections that meet the community's evolving needs and expectations, ensuring equal access to underserved populations.

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
15. To build community presence and raise awareness of the library's essential role in early literacy, lifelong learning, and economic revitalization, the library will engage the community, highlighting resources and programs through consistently focused efforts including monthly newsletters, regular newspaper and other media coverage, web site promotion, social networking, targeted email, and community outreach; with 90 percent of annual survey respondents designating the library as an important cultural and educational resource contributing to quality of life in Catawba County,	On Target • 218 outreach presentations to community groups, events, and forums • library submitted 74 press releases to newspapers, 1,321 social media posts, 41 mass marketing emails and 79 blog posts • 97% agree that the library is a valuable educational	Achieved • 197 outreach presentations to community groups, events, and forums • library submitted 40 press releases to newspapers, 1,713 social media posts, 52 mass marketing emails and 92 blog posts • 97% agree that the library is a valuable educational	Achieved • 119 outreach presentations to community groups, events, and forums • library submitted 26 press releases to newspapers, 1,757 social media posts, 42 mass marketing emails and 129 blog posts • 96% agree that the library is a valuable educational

and as an ideal place to live and raise a family.	resource for our community • 98 % agree that the library is a valuable resource for job and career development. • 91% of respondents agree that the library is a valuable resource for job and career development.	resource for our community • 98 % agree that the library is a valuable resource for job and career development. • 91% of respondents agree that the library is a valuable resource for job and career development.	resource for our community • 88 % agree that the library is a valuable resource for job and career development. • 97% of respondents would recommend the Catawba County Library system to their friends and family.
16. To actively participate in addressing the critical challenges facing our community and to align library services in support of community goals that enhance citizens' quality of life, the library will actively seek to collaborate to share information, resources, and programming opportunities with community stakeholders; with 85% of surveyed participants and partners reporting an increased community connection and capacity to achieve their goals.	Achieved 100% agreed that working with the Catawba County Library has enhanced their organization's capacity to achieve their community goals.	Achieved 100% agreed that working with the Catawba County Library has enhanced their organization's capacity to achieve their community goals.	Achieved 96% of surveyed participants and partners reporting an increased community connection and capacity to achieve their goals.

OTHER CULTURAL

Funding for community arts and cultural agencies is included in this organization.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OTHER CULTURE

Organizations: 820050 - 820100

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
General Fund	626,642	633,196	711,660	679,998	7.4%
Total	\$626,642	\$633,196	\$711,660	\$679,998	7.4%
Expenses					
Historical Association	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$135,000	\$125,000	0.0%
Hickory Public Libraries	237,000	242,000	290,000	276,750	14.4%
Salt Block Foundation	100,000	100,000	110,000	110,000	10.0%
United Arts Council	164,642	166,196	176,660	168,248	1.2%
Total	\$626,642	\$633,196	\$711,660	\$679,998	7.4%

The budget maintains current year funding levels for the Historical Association. The budget for the United Arts Council has been increased to \$1.05 per capita, accounting as well for an increased county population. Funding for the Hickory Public Libraries is increased based on the number of county residents using the system at \$75 per person and the SALT Block Foundation budget is recommended to increase by \$10,000.





catawba county
MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

OTHER FUNDS INFORMATION



SELF-INSURANCE FUND

The budget increase is primarily due to increased employee and retiree health claims, retiree health premiums, and property and general liability claims.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

SELF-INSURANCE FUND

Fund 115

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Charges & Fees	\$18,121	\$15,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	20.0%
Interest on Investments	200,343	0	0	0	0%
Insurance Settlements	189,781	0	0	0	0%
Employee Dental Contribution	330,899	300,000	330,000	330,000	10.0%
Emp/Retiree Health Contribution	2,584,582	2,578,000	2,593,000	2,593,000	0.6%
S/T Disability Premiums	83,783	75,000	75,000	75,000	0.0%
Indirect Cost	397,000	410,000	420,250	420,250	2.5%
Special Contingency	0	150,000	150,000	150,000	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	687,050	124,050	124,050	-81.9%
General Fund Transfer	2,335,050	2,541,300	3,250,456	3,250,456	27.9%
Total	\$6,139,559	\$6,756,350	\$6,960,756	\$6,960,756	3.0%
Expenses					
Contractual Services	\$391,120	\$417,000	\$427,250	\$427,250	2.5%
Professional Services	30,804	33,500	36,900	36,900	10.1%
County EAP	30,500	32,000	32,000	32,000	0.0%
Employee Dental Claims	303,736	300,000	330,000	330,000	10.0%
Employee/Retiree Health Claims	2,811,821	2,600,000	2,615,000	2,615,000	0.6%
Property & General Liability Claims	228,829	175,000	175,000	175,000	0.0%
Property & General Liability Premiums	1,119,374	1,400,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	7.1%
Retiree Group Health	512,712	586,000	586,000	586,000	0.0%
Self Ins. Collision & Comprehensive	2,571	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Special Contingency	0	150,000	150,000	150,000	0.0%
Transfer to Gen. Fund	150,400	0	0	0	0%
S/T Disability Payments	33,096	65,000	65,000	65,000	0.0%
Taxes & Fees	5,100	6,300	6,300	6,300	0.0%
Supplies & Operations	48,502	107,550	133,306	133,306	23.9%
Unemployment Insurance	36,004	100,000	100,000	100,000	0.0%
Wellness Incentives/Programs	70,054	84,000	84,000	84,000	0.0%
Workers' Compensation Claims	203,198	500,000	500,000	500,000	0.0%
Workers' Compensation Premiums	182,143	190,000	210,000	210,000	10.5%
Total	\$6,159,964	\$6,756,350	\$6,960,756	\$6,960,756	3.0%
Expenses by Division					
Wellness	\$496,044	\$552,050	\$562,300	\$562,300	1.9%
Employee Insurance	3,727,769	3,622,800	3,671,200	3,671,200	1.3%
Liability	1,550,810	1,891,500	2,017,256	2,017,256	6.6%
Workers' Compensation	385,341	690,000	710,000	710,000	2.9%
Total	\$6,159,964	\$6,756,350	\$6,960,756	\$6,960,756	3.0%

The County is self-insured. This fund is used to track the County's cost for wellness, property and general liability insurance, workers' compensation, and the employee/retiree share of health and dental costs.

REAPPRAISAL FUND

As required by North Carolina General Statute 105-286, Catawba County must conduct a reappraisal of all real property in accordance with the provisions of General Statutes 105-283 and 105-317. This must be completed by January 1st of the prescribed year and at least every eighth year thereafter. Catawba County is on a four-year revaluation cycle, with the most recent revaluation having been completed in Fiscal Year 2023/24. The next revaluation is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2027/28.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

REAPPRAISAL FUND

Fund 140

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Investment Earnings	\$24,901	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Fund Balance	0	55,000	0	0	-100.00%
Transfers In	919,143	1,009,062	1,355,293	1,237,355	22.62%
Other Sources	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$944,044	\$1,064,062	\$1,355,293	\$1,237,355	16.29%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$799,887	\$871,592	\$1,017,938	\$1,014,000	16.34%
Supplies & Operations	55,965	192,470	223,355	223,355	16.05%
SBITA	34,683	0	0	0	0%
Capital	0	0	114,000	0	0%
Total	\$890,535	\$1,064,062	\$1,355,293	\$1,237,355	16.29%
Employees					
Permanent	10.00	10.00	11.00	11.00	10.00%
Total	7.00	10.00	11.00	11.00	10.00%

The budget increase is due to increases in ongoing postage expenses in anticipation of the upcoming revaluation as well as the addition of one (1) Real Estate Appraiser position.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept/ Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Reappraisal	% of exempt and excluded properties audited	25%	13%	4%
Reappraisal	% of new construction keyed by January 31st	100%	99%	100%

REAPPRAISAL FUND

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
Complete activities associated with the 2023 Reappraisal a. Continue review of parcels in preparation of 2023 reappraisal b. Complete revision for the 2023 Schedule of Values c. Initial reappraisal values 75% complete by end of fiscal year	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved	Partially Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Not Achieved
2. Increase Public Awareness a. Issue press releases b. Advertise Board of Equalization and Review dates c. Work with municipalities and speak as needed d. Present information at Board of Commissioners meetings	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved d. Achieved	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved d. Achieved	Achieved a. Achieved b. Achieved c. Achieved d. Achieved

REGISTER OF DEEDS AUTOMATION & PRESERVATION FUND

In 2002, legislation created an Automation Enhancement and Preservation Fund and expanded the uniform fees for services charged by the Register of Deeds. This increase in fees is to be used to enhance the standards for instruments to be registered in the Office of the Register of Deeds. Revenues in this fund are to be spent on computer and imaging technology enhancements in the Register of Deeds Office. Revenues are based on 10 percent of the total for Marriage Licenses, Recording of Legal Instruments, UCC Filing Fees, and Miscellaneous Revenues. The remaining 90 percent of these revenues is recorded in the Register of Deeds cost center in the General Fund.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

REGISTER OF DEEDS AUTOMATION & PRESERVATION FUND

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27	Fund 160
	Actual	Current	Requested	Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Miscellaneous	\$96,028	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	0.0%
Interest on Investments	3,730	0	0	0	0%
Fund Balance Applied	0	0	20,000	20,000	0%
Total	\$99,758	\$90,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	22.2%
Expenses					
Contractual Services	\$169,358	\$90,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	22.2%
Total	\$169,358	\$90,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	22.2%

ROD STATE FEES TRUST FUND

This fund exists to account for the \$6.20 of each fee collected by the Register of Deeds under G.S. 161-10(a)(1) and (a)(1a) that must be remitted to the State Treasurer on a monthly basis.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

ROD STATE FEES TRUST FUND

Fund 296

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Permits & Fees	\$115,866	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	0.0%
Total	\$115,866	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	0.0%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$115,866	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	0.0%
Total	\$115,866	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	0.0%

FEDERALLY SEIZED FUNDS

Expenditures in this fund are funded by revenues received through the Federal Asset Sharing and Forfeiture Program as a result of Federal level narcotics investigations. Use of the funds is restricted to law enforcement purposes to enhance the investigation and prevention of drug related crime.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FEDERALLY SEIZED JUSTICE FUNDS FUND

Fund 207

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
From Fed Seized Funds (205)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Asset Forfeitures	157,640	0	0	0	0%
Interest on Investments	20,506	0	0	0	0%
Fund Balance	0	200,000	200,000	200,000	0%
Total	\$178,146	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	0.0%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$93,576	\$76,469	\$135,850	\$135,850	78%
Capital	88,161	123,531	64,150	64,150	-48%
Total	\$181,737	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	0.0%

FEDERALLY SEIZED TREASURY FUNDS FUND

Fund 208

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Miscellaneous	\$3,111	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
From Fed Seized Funds (205)	0	0	0	0	0%
Fund Balance	0	0	50,000	50,000	0%
Total	\$3,111	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	0%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$16,158	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	0%
Capital	44,081	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$60,239	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	0%

Any revenue received is restricted and reserved by fund based on the federal agency with which officers cooperated to conduct the investigation and budgeted to support narcotics investigations. A portion of the funds will be used to purchase 2 replacement vehicles for the Sheriff's Office in the coming year.

STATE UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTANCE ABUSE FUND

Per Department of State Treasurer's guidance, funds collected from the controlled substance tax should be treated in a manner similar to the Federal Asset Forfeiture funds (restricted and used exclusively to enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to deter and investigate crimes, especially drug offenses). These funds are budgeted in a State Unauthorized Substance Abuse Fund (USUB) designated as restricted revenue for Sheriff's Office use only.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

STATE UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTANCE ABUSE FUND					Fund 206
	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Drug Reimbursement	\$15,795	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Interest	3,312	0	0	0	0%
Fund Balance Appropriated	0	15,000	0	0	0%
Total	\$19,107	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0%
Expenses					
Operating	\$6,692	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0%
Capital	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$6,692	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	0%

Restricted revenue received is reserved in the fund and budgeted to support narcotics investigations.

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICTS

BANDYS FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 358

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.1000	0.1000	0.1150	0.1050	5.0%
Property Tax	\$1,332,663	\$1,346,473	\$1,572,190	\$1,435,956	6.6%
Interest on Investments	14,404	0	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	110,000	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$1,347,067	\$1,456,473	\$1,572,190	\$1,435,956	-1.4%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	1,406,891	1,456,473	\$1,572,190	\$1,435,956	-1.4%
Total	\$1,406,891	\$1,456,473	\$1,572,190	\$1,435,956	-1.4%

CATAWBA FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 361

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.1070	0.1170	0.1230	0.1170	0.0%
Property Tax	\$378,117	\$417,575	\$451,994	\$430,049	3.0%
Interest on Investments	5,872	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$383,989	\$417,575	\$451,994	\$430,049	3.0%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$369,738	\$417,575	\$451,994	\$430,049	3.0%
Total	\$369,738	\$417,575	\$451,994	\$430,049	3.0%

CLAREMONT FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 360

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.1122	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300	0.0%
Property Tax	\$612,310	\$705,058	\$718,917	\$718,917	2.0%
Interest on Investments	8,548	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$620,858	\$705,058	\$718,917	\$718,917	2.0%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$599,086	\$705,058	\$718,917	\$718,917	2.0%
Total	\$599,086	\$705,058	\$718,917	\$718,917	2.0%

CONOVER RURAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT**Fund 355**

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.0800	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.0%
Property Tax	\$149,210	\$183,518	\$187,968	\$187,968	2.4%
Interest on Investments	15,940	0	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	194,041	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$165,150	\$377,559	\$187,968	\$187,968	-50.2%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$0	\$377,559	\$187,968	\$187,968	-50.2%
Total	\$0	\$377,559	\$187,968	\$187,968	-50.2%

COOKSVILLE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT**Fund 365**

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.0710	0.0710	0.0785	0.0785	10.6%
Property Tax	\$206,318	\$208,814	\$232,127	\$232,127	11.2%
Interest on Investments	5,916	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$212,234	\$208,814	\$232,127	\$232,127	11.2%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$202,247	\$208,814	\$232,127	\$232,127	11.2%
Total	\$202,247	\$208,814	\$232,127	\$232,127	11.2%

HICKORY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT**Fund 369**

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.1250	0.1250	0.1500	0.1250	0.0%
Property Tax	\$883,019	\$877,619	\$1,060,012	\$883,877	0.7%
Interest on Investments	4,657	0	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	43,043	38,785	38,785	-9.9%
Total	\$887,676	\$920,662	\$1,098,797	\$922,662	0.2%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$848,028	\$920,662	\$1,098,797	\$922,662	0.2%
Total	\$848,028	\$920,662	\$1,098,797	\$922,662	0.2%

LONG VIEW FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT**Fund 362**

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.0755	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.0%
Property Tax	\$52,868	\$68,230	\$68,927	\$68,927	1.0%
Interest on Investments	1,639	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$54,507	\$68,230	\$68,927	\$68,927	1.0%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$51,188	\$68,230	\$68,927	\$68,927	1.0%
Total	\$51,188	\$68,230	\$68,927	\$68,927	1.0%

MAIDEN FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 359

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.0883	0.0883	0.0983	0.0983	11.3%
Property Tax	\$552,368	\$558,940	\$607,532	\$607,532	8.7%
Interest on Investments	6,995	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$559,363	\$558,940	\$607,532	\$607,532	8.7%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$567,058	\$558,940	\$607,532	\$607,532	8.7%
Total	\$567,058	\$558,940	\$607,532	\$607,532	8.7%

MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 352

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.0855	0.0855	0.0994	0.0855	0.0%
Property Tax	\$1,109,029	\$1,108,290	\$1,306,396	\$1,124,229	1.4%
Interest on Investments	4,152	0	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	31,957	13,589	13,589	-57.5%
Total	\$1,113,181	\$1,140,247	\$1,319,985	\$1,137,818	-0.2%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$1,113,425	\$1,140,247	\$1,319,985	\$1,137,818	-0.2%
Total	\$1,113,425	\$1,140,247	\$1,319,985	\$1,137,818	-0.2%

NEWTON FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 363

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.1010	0.1110	0.1310	0.1210	9.0%
Property Tax	\$967,254	\$1,056,051	\$1,276,152	\$1,179,011	11.6%
Interest on Investments	6,410	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$973,664	\$1,056,051	\$1,276,152	\$1,179,011	11.6%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$943,195	\$1,056,051	\$1,276,152	\$1,179,011	11.6%
Total	\$943,195	\$1,056,051	\$1,276,152	\$1,179,011	11.6%

OXFORD FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 356

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.0610	0.0610	0.0610	0.0610	0.0%
Property Tax	\$530,045	\$528,003	\$535,858	\$535,858	1.5%
Interest on Investments	4,140	0	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	0	64,696	64,696	0.0%
Total	\$534,185	\$528,003	\$600,554	\$600,554	13.7%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$519,655	\$528,003	\$600,554	\$600,554	13.7%
Total	\$519,655	\$528,003	\$600,554	\$600,554	13.7%

PROPST FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 353

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.0590	0.0620	0.0720	0.0720	16.1%
Property Tax	\$383,556	\$405,057	\$484,018	\$484,018	19.5%
Interest on Investments	5,907	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$389,463	\$405,057	\$484,018	\$484,018	19.5%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$368,210	\$405,057	\$484,018	\$484,018	19.5%
Total	\$368,210	\$405,057	\$484,018	\$484,018	19.5%

SHERRILLS FORD FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 357

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.0940	0.0990	0.0990	0.0990	0.0%
Property Tax	\$4,558,256	\$4,966,632	\$5,253,125	\$5,253,125	5.8%
Interest on Investments	28,956	0	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	191,600	125,000	125,000	-34.8%
Total	\$4,587,212	\$5,158,232	\$5,378,125	\$5,378,125	4.3%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$4,385,460	\$5,158,232	\$5,378,125	\$5,378,125	4.3%
Total	\$4,385,460	\$5,158,232	\$5,378,125	\$5,378,125	4.3%

ST. STEPHENS FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT

Fund 354

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Tax Rate	0.1240	0.1240	0.1240	0.1240	0.0%
Property Tax	\$1,970,938	\$1,960,413	\$2,002,257	\$2,002,257	2.1%
Interest on Investments	12,086	0	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	140,450	64,572	64,572	-54.0%
Total	\$1,983,024	\$2,100,863	\$2,066,829	\$2,066,829	-1.6%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$1,962,304	\$2,100,863	\$2,066,829	\$2,066,829	-1.6%
Total	\$1,962,304	\$2,100,863	\$2,066,829	\$2,066,829	-1.6%

ALL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICTS

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Average Tax Rate	0.0917	0.0981	0.1058	0.1012	3.1%
Property Tax	\$13,685,951	\$14,390,673	\$15,757,473	\$15,143,851	5.2%
Interest on Investments	125,622	0	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	711,091	306,642	306,642	-56.9%
Total	\$13,811,573	\$15,101,764	\$16,064,115	\$15,450,493	2.3%
Expenses					
Fire Protection	\$13,336,485	\$15,101,764	\$16,064,115	\$15,450,493	2.3%
Total	\$13,336,485	\$15,101,764	\$16,064,115	\$15,450,493	2.3%

The recommended budget maintains the current tax rate for nine districts and recommends increasing the tax rate for five districts. Five districts will apply fund balance towards capital purchases.

RESCUE SQUADS FUND

Rescue Squads provide Medical First Response, which is classified as a Basic Life Support service, while the County's EMS provides Advanced Life Support services. Together, these organizations collaborate to keep citizens safe. Rescue Squads are contracted to provide an average emergency response time to medical calls of 6 minutes or less. Catawba County contracts with Rescue Squads and some volunteer fire districts within the County to provide Medical First Response and Rescue Services to its citizens and visitors.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

RESCUE SQUADS FUND

Fund 240

	2024/25 Actual	025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Interest on Investments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Prior Year Ad Valorem	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Expenses					
Transfer to Gen. Fund	\$71,508	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Transfer to Gen. Capital Projects Fund	163,589	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$235,097	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%

The FY24/25 Budget shifted the funds allocated to support rescue squad operations from a special revenue fund to the General Fund. While the table above shows no recommended appropriation, funds are budgeted to support the County's rescue squads in the Other Public Safety cost center.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM FUND

A portion of the funding for the E-911 Communications Center comes from a statewide E-911 60-cent surcharge placed on all landlines and wireless phones. The Emergency Telephone Fund is used to account for the 911 revenue distributed to the County annually by the NC 911 Board. These funds can only be used for specific 911-related purposes.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM FUND

Fund 202

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenue					
911 Reimbursement	\$0	\$321,589	\$373,271	\$373,271	16.1%
Interest	88,910	0	0	0	0.0%
From General Fund	14,135	0	0	0	0.0%
Secondary PSAP 911-Hickory	35,122	43,239	90,813	90,813	110.0%
Secondary PSAP 911-Newton	4,011	9,217	18,944	18,944	105.5%
Fund Balance Appropriated	0	67,361	526,599	111,599	65.7%
Total	\$142,178	\$441,406	\$1,009,627	\$594,627	34.7%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$437,940	\$421,406	\$477,082	\$477,082	13.2%
Capital	136,338	0	512,545	97,545	0.0%
Reserves/Future Expenditures	0	20,000	20,000	20,000	0.0%
Total	\$574,278	\$441,406	\$1,009,627	\$594,627	34.7%

This fund is used to account for funds received from the State 911 Board as the County's portion of the 911 Monthly Service Charge. The budget increase is due to fluctuations in planned capital expenditures, with new 911 AXS Radio Consoles being purchased this year.

GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND			Fund 410
	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues			
Sales Tax	\$628,000	\$628,000	0.0%
From General Fund	4,240,000	835,000	-80.3%
Fund Balance Appropriated	0	150,000	0%
Total	\$4,868,000	\$1,613,000	-66.9%
Expenses			
Ongoing/Periodic Projects			
Economic Development Reserve	628,000	628,000	0.0%
Facilities - General Renovations	150,000	150,000	0.0%
General Gov't - Gov't Center Improvements	280,000	0	0%
Human Services - Social Services Buildings Impr/Maint.	705,000	660,000	-6.4%
Libraries - Future Library	100,000	100,000	0.0%
Government Center - HVAC controls upgrade	50,000	0	0%
Government Center - Roof	130,000	0	0%
Government Center - New generator	150,000	0	0%
Public Safety - Justice Center - AV Refresh	750,000	0	0%
Technology - ERP System Upgrade/Replacement	750,000	0	0.0%
Technology - Public Safety Software System	75,000	0	
Technology - Infrastructure Upgrades	825,000	75,000	0.0%
Technology - Server & Desktop Applications	275,000	0	0.0%
Total	\$4,868,000	\$1,613,000	0.0%

FY2026 Funding

- Multiple projects, including the Government Center repairs and upgrades and multiple Technology projects, were addressed with revenue overcollection in FY2026. Those requests were therefore not added to the FY2027 budget.

ONGOING/PERIODIC PROJECTS

- Economic Development Reserve (\$628,000)*: The budget dedicates a portion of ¼ cent sales tax toward future economic development needs.
- Facilities – General Renovations (\$150,000)*: The budget continues annual funding for general renovations to address needs of aging facilities.

- *Human Services – Social Services Building Improvements (\$660,000)*: The budget includes \$500,000 to replace chillers at the Social Services building and \$160,000 to replace the HVAC at the Life Skills building.
- *Libraries – Future Branch Library (\$100,000)*: Consistent with the recently updated Library Strategic Plan, the budget continues setting aside funds from Library Reinventing Surplus towards a future main library.
- *Technology – Infrastructure Upgrades (\$75,000)*: Annually, the County sets aside funds for ongoing infrastructure upgrades, based on a comprehensive multi-year hardware and software replacement schedule for elements of the core network.

PARKS/HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

The Parks/Historic Preservation Trust Fund is used to account for donations and other funds stipulated for park expenditures. There is currently \$1,791 remaining in this fund.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

PARKS/HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

Fund 270

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Miscellaneous	\$185	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Charges & Fees	3,000	0	0	0	0%
Fund Balance	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$3,185	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Expenses					
Transfer to Gen. Fund	\$124,792	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Total	\$124,792	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Community Development Fund is used to account for funds for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urgent Repair and Scattered Site programs that are awarded during the fiscal year. Upon award, they are taken to the Board of Commissioners for approval and a revision to the budget.

The CDBG program is administered on behalf of Catawba County in agreement with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments. Qualifying households are provided assistance through grant funding for energy efficiency improvements, minor structural repairs, and rehabilitation.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Fund 280

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Federal	\$74,218	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
State	172,447	0	0	0	0%
Miscellaneous	1,613	0	0	0	0%
Fund Balance	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$248,278	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$163,947	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Total	\$163,947	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%

WATER & SEWER ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

WATER AND SEWER ADMINISTRATION
1 FTEs
\$6,797,850

ADMINISTRATION

Provide a source of clean drinking water and environmentally responsible sewage disposal in the unincorporated areas of the County.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

WATER & SEWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Fund 515

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Sales Tax	\$1,443,383	\$1,389,000	\$1,517,000	\$1,517,000	9.2%
Local	0	0	0	0	0%
Permits & Fees	3,805,645	4,500,000	4,396,600	4,396,600	-2.3%
Interest on Investments	406,966	0	0	0	0%
Fund Balance	0	882,864	884,880	884,250	0.2%
Total	\$5,655,994	\$6,771,864	\$6,798,480	\$6,797,850	0.4%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$212,632	\$225,256	\$211,831	\$211,201	-6.2%
Supplies & Operations	895,658	1,326,883	1,622,653	1,622,653	22.3%
Debt Service	261,246	255,725	249,996	249,996	-2.2%
Transfer to W&S Capital	4,714,000	4,964,000	4,714,000	4,714,000	-5.0%
Enterprise Contra Accounts	(2,053,864)	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$4,029,672	\$6,771,864	\$6,798,480	\$6,797,850	0.4%
Employees					
Permanent	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.0%
Total	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.0%

The budget increase is driven by an increase in the County's portion of the planned debt service for the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Water & Sewer	Implement the Board of Commissioners' approved County Strategic Plan as it pertains to Water and Sewer Infrastructure.	1	1	1

WATER & SEWER ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. Implement the Board of Commissioner approved County Strategic Plan as it pertains to Water and Sewer Infrastructure.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Meet with the Utility Investment Advisory Committee (UIAC) biannually to promote municipal partnerships in developing infrastructure and support the County's economic development.	Not Achieved No meetings to be held this year, per County Manager's Office	Achieved	Achieved

WATER & SEWER CAPITAL PROJECTS

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

WATER & SEWER CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Fund 475

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Interest on Investments	\$867,950	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Golden Leaf Grant	98,259	0	0	0	0%
Transfer from ARPA Fund	4,046,785	0	0	0	0%
Transfer from W&S Fund	4,714,000	4,964,000	4,714,000	4,714,000	-5.0%
Total	\$9,726,994	\$4,964,000	\$4,714,000	\$4,714,000	-5.0%
Expenses					
Anderson Mt Water Storage Tank	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	0.0%
Buffalo Shoals Road Water	151,450	0	0	0	0%
Brown Chapel Rd. & Mollys Backbone Rd	166,286	0	0	0	0%
Claremont to Hickory WWTP	626,625	0	0	0	0%
Maiden Loop Water	1,025,463	0	0	0	0%
East Maiden Road	891	0	0	0	0%
Hickory/Catawba Co. WW Treatment Plant	106,900	250,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	700%
Highway 16 Water	2,179,235	0	0	0	0%
Water Treatment Capacity Purchase	0	464,000	464,000	464,000	0.0%
Village Center PS Upgrade	66,800	0	0	0	0%
Hickory-Catawba WWTP Headworks Expar	0	4,000,000	0	0	0%
New Wastewater Conveyance	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	0%
Total	\$4,323,650	\$4,964,000	\$4,714,000	\$4,714,000	-5.0%

The budget funds water and sewer projects as follows:

- **\$2,000,000 - Hickory-Catawba WWTP Future Expansion Project #475-21028:** Annual set aside funds for future upgrades/expansion to the WWTP. Need anticipated in FY29. There is currently \$2.6M available in this project.
- **\$2,000,000 New Wastewater Conveyance** - Current estimations are that the existing conveyance system to the Hickory-Catawba WWTP will be at 70%-80% capacity in 2031 and that new/additional conveyance capacity will need to be developed. Design and permitting work will begin in FY27 for this new/additional conveyance paralleling the existing one from Sherrills Ford Elementary Lift Station to the Catawba WWTP, adding a 1.25 MG of carrying capacity.
- **\$464,000 Water Treatment Capacity Purchase Project #475-28005:** Annual set aside funds for a planned purchase of up to 5 Million Gallons/Day (MGD) of water treatment plant capacity. Current purchased capacity is 1.7 MGD. Remaining 3.3 MGD must be

purchased in one lump. This project builds funds for the future purchase of remaining 3.3 MGD. There is currently \$3.0M available in this project.

- **\$250,000 Additional 1.0 MG Water Storage Tank Terrell or Anderson Mtn Project #475-28009:** Additional 0.5 MG Water Storage Tank Anderson Mtn. Based on findings from 2024 modeling, there will be a need to design and construct a new 0.5 MG storage tank (GST) on Anderson Mtn. There is currently \$500K available in this project.

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. 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.

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.

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

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 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

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. 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.

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.

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

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

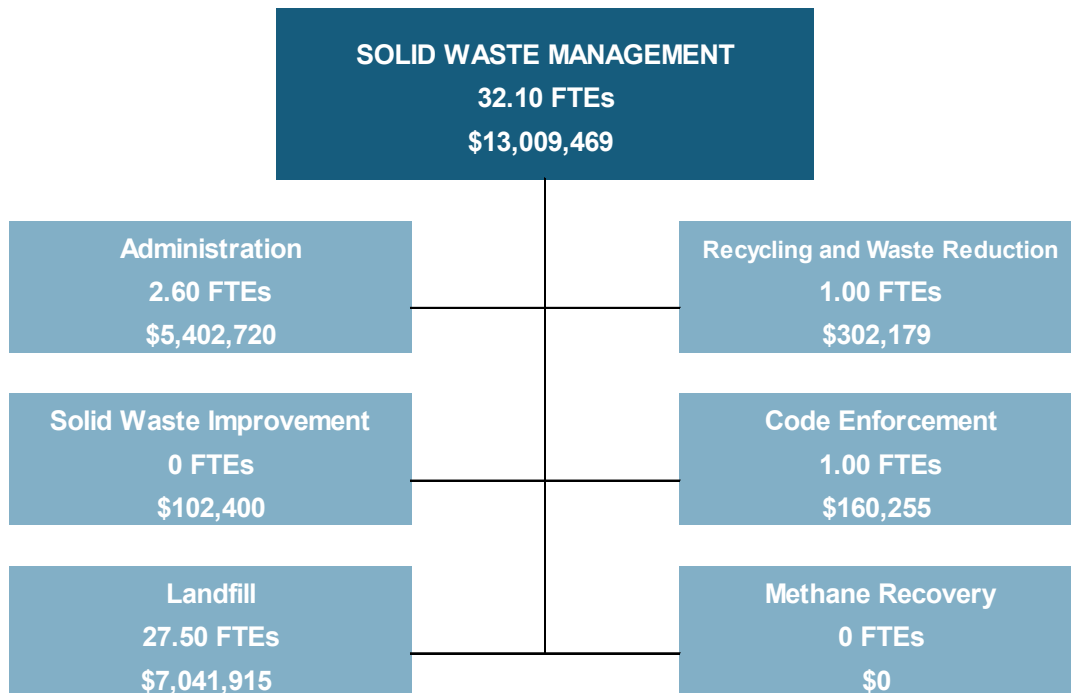
SECC WATER & SEWER DISTRICT CAPITAL FUND

Fund 450

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 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%

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION



ADMINISTRATION

The Solid Waste Management program will provide solid waste collection, disposal and processing, recycling and waste reduction services, secure long-range Landfill capacity, ensure environmentally friendly waste disposal solutions, and maintain the financial integrity of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Fund 525

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Taxes	\$485,157	\$475,000	\$465,000	\$465,000	-2.1%
State	54,246	35,700	44,800	44,800	25.5%
Local	0	3,000	0	0	0%
Charges & Fees	10,955,191	9,904,315	10,955,430	10,955,430	10.6%
Miscellaneous	1,644,599	136,111	127,831	127,831	-6.1%
Sale of Equipment	109,000	0	25,000	25,000	0%
Fund Balance	0	126,823	1,404,954	1,391,408	997.1%
Total	\$13,248,193	\$10,680,949	\$13,023,015	\$13,009,469	21.8%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$2,549,935	\$2,758,494	\$2,937,476	\$2,923,930	6.0%
Supplies & Operations	6,193,951	4,730,455	4,788,853	4,788,853	1.2%
Capital	1,837,636	375,000	735,000	735,000	96.0%
SBITA	5	0	0	0	0%
Landfill Closure	100,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	0.0%
Enterprise Contra Accounts	(5,521,364)	0	0	0	0%
To Solid Waste Capital Fund	3,327,619	2,742,000	4,486,686	4,486,686	63.6%
Total	\$8,487,782	\$10,680,949	\$13,023,015	\$13,009,469	21.8%
Expenses by Division					
Administration	\$4,124,823	\$3,640,134	\$5,404,717	\$5,402,720	48.4%
Recycling and Waste Reduction	211,720	299,487	302,441	302,179	0.9%
Solid Waste Improvement	623,079	102,400	102,400	102,400	0.0%
Code Enforcement	88,076	125,740	160,413	160,255	27.4%
Landfill	6,743,152	6,513,188	7,053,044	7,041,915	8.1%
Convenience Centers	3,214	0	0	0	0%
Methane Recovery	451	0	0	0	0%
Solid Waste Capital	(132,010)	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$11,662,505	\$10,680,949	\$13,023,015	\$13,009,469	21.8%
Employees					
Permanent	28.85	32.10	32.10	32.10	0.0%
Total	28.85	32.10	32.10	32.10	0.0%

The total Solid Waste Management budget increased \$2.3M due to a \$1.7M increase in the transfer to Solid Waste Capital, capital equipment purchases and salary and benefits changes across all orgs in the department. The transfer to Solid Waste Capital is related to a \$16.1M project for landfill cell construction; further information on this project is available in the Solid Waste Capital Fund section of this document. Revenue is also increasing by \$1.1M based on recommended increases to tipping fees.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Dept./Division	Performance Measure	FY27 Target	Mid-year FY26	EOY FY25
Utilities & Engineering	Solid Waste will prepare an annual report on disposal tonnages and airspace in order to plan for future cell construction	Year-end	N/A	7/30/2025
Comments: Report should be finalized by June 30, 2026.				

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes	Year-End FY 23/24	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 21/22
1. To provide a safe, environmentally friendly means of disposing hazardous waste, Solid Waste will promote and offer Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events in Hickory and in Newton, as well as electronics and paint recycling year-round at the Eco-Complex and Resource Recovery Facility. Success will be measured by diverting at least 200,000 pounds of electronics and household hazardous waste from the Landfill.	Achieved 227,615 lbs. diverted	Achieved 238,587 lbs. diverted	Achieved 262,494 lbs. diverted
2. Promote a beautiful and litter-free environment and community, by fostering the County's affiliation to Keep America Beautiful through Keep Catawba County Beautiful (KCCB).	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. To continue the solvency of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, develop alternative use for landfill gas and shut down electrical generators at their end of life.	Achieved Construction on RNG pipeline is expected to begin July/August 2024.	Achieved	Achieved The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund is healthy and should continue to improve when the 20-year operational management plan is completed.

SOLID WASTE CAPITAL FUND

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

SOLID WASTE CAPITAL

Fund 485

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Interest on Investments	\$340,601	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Fund Balance Appropriated	0	0	1,251,314	1,251,314	0%
Proceeds - Installment Purchase	0	0	11,127,000	11,127,000	0%
From Solid Waste Management Fund	3,327,619	2,742,000	4,486,686	4,486,686	63.6%
Total	\$3,668,220	\$2,742,000	\$16,865,000	\$16,865,000	515.1%
Expenses					
Subtitle D Cell Construction	\$3,151,204	\$1,000,000	\$16,127,000	\$16,127,000	1512.7%
Treatment & Grinding Processing Area	86,134	1,162,000	338,000	338,000	-70.9%
Sherrills Ford Convenience Center Improv.	117,750	180,000	0	0	0%
LFG Collection Improvements	0	0	150,000	150,000	0%
Operator's Building	0	400,000	250,000	250,000	-37.5%
Total	\$3,472,838	\$2,922,000	\$16,865,000	\$16,865,000	477.2%

The budget includes:

- **\$16,127,000 Subtitle D Cell Construction** - This project funds the continuum of the Subtitle D Cell Construction. \$11.1M of this project will be financed at the time of project start, which is anticipated to be early spring 2027. \$3.7M of this project is funded through a transfer from the Solid Waste Management Fund, which is primarily fee-funded, and \$1.3M of this project is funded through fund balance.
- **\$338,000 Treatment & Grinding Processing Area** - This project consists of relocating the treatment & processing of tires, grinding, mulch & compost area in conjunction with the C&D Landfill closure. Its new location will provide for a safer and more accessible area for customers.
- **\$250,000 New 40x40 Operator's Building** - Additional space is required to support landfill operations. The new operator's building will be equipped with a much-needed restroom facility.
- **\$150,000 LFG Collection Improvements** - Construct new methane gas extraction wells and purchase associated piping, fittings, heads, etc. in completed waste areas of MSW Landfill cells. This will allow Landfill to expand the extraction of methane from these areas to increase gas flow to the renewable natural gas facility.

GRETCHEN PEED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This scholarship was established in November 1996 by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners and Board of Social Services to honor former Commissioner Gretchen Peed. It is intended for any post-high school education program and will be available to any child who is or has been in the legal custody of Catawba County Social Services. This shall be a perpetual fund, and scholarships shall be generated from interest accrued from the donated principal. The principal shall not be accessed.

Social Services has made a concerted effort to encourage secondary education. To help ensure better connectivity and opportunities for these children's education, Social Services will continue this emphasis.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

GRETCHEN PEED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Fund 260

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Donations	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	0%
Interest Earnings	2,733	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$4,233	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	0%
Expenses					
Scholarships	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	0%
Total	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	0%

The budget includes funding for scholarships at up to \$2,000 each for youth currently or previously in Social Services custody.

DSS REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE FUND

Social Services receives and distributes funds on behalf of some of its child and adult clients, accounted for in a special revenue fund.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

DSS REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE FUND

Fund 294

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
State & Federal	\$269,790	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	0.0%
Total	\$269,790	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	0.0%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$272,953	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	0.0%
Total	\$272,953	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	0.0%

HOSPITAL RESERVE FUND

The Hospital maintains a balance with the County, in the Hospital Capital Reserve Fund. This Fund is intended to be used to finance and construct major Hospital capital projects, if needed, and the school nurse program at Public Health. Catawba Valley Medical Center is a public non-profit hospital and an entity or component unit of Catawba County Government. The County owns the assets but the Hospital is not a line department of the County and therefore is not included in the County budget. The Hospital is authorized to operate as an enterprise fund.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

HOSPITAL RESERVE FUND

Fund 235

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Local	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Interest on Investments	86,076	20,000	50,000	50,000	150%
Fund Balance Applied	0	480,000	450,000	450,000	-6%
Total	\$586,076	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	0%
Expenses					
General Fund	\$360,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	0%
Total	\$360,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	0%

The budget continues to transfer up to \$500,000 of the reserve to the General Fund in support of the school nurse initiative. The Hospital has been a vital partner in the school nurse initiative, providing up to \$1 million annually, between this transfer and annual payments to Public Health of \$500,000 towards the effort to place school nurses throughout the county's three public school systems. Per the FY2025 ACFR the Hospital Reserve Fund has an available balance on \$1,821,097.

SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION FUND

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Counties are responsible for funding school construction needs. Larger projects, typically those over \$1 million, are budgeted in Schools' Construction and are primarily debt financed. Every four years, in conjunction with revaluation, the County develops a multi-year funding plan for schools' construction. Annually, the budget appropriates the projects planned for the coming year.

Budget Highlights

SCHOOLS' CONSTRUCTION FUND

Fund 423

	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues			
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	0%
From General Fund	\$5,740,397	\$6,407,566	0%
Total	\$7,240,397	\$7,907,566	0%
Expenses			
Arbitrage Rebate	1,500,000	1,500,000	
Future Debt Project	5,740,397	6,407,566	0%
Total	\$7,240,397	\$7,907,566	0%

The FY2027 budget for school construction includes \$1,500,000 anticipated for an arbitrage payment; this payment is required based on interest collected from funds which were received as proceeds from financing and have generated interest as the funds were drawn down over a period of time. \$6.4M is funded toward future school construction debt.

Schools' Capital Projects		Fund 420	
	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	
Revenues			
1st 1/2 cent Sales Tax (Restricted)	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	
2nd 1/2% Sales Tax (Restricted)	\$7,459,000	\$7,459,000	
2nd 1/2% Sales Tax - Food (Unrestricted)	\$788,000	\$788,000	
From General Fund	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	Chromebook Replacement Reserve
Fund Balance Applied	\$17,466,056	\$211,456	
From General Fund	\$0	\$0	
Total	\$28,313,056	\$11,058,456	
Expenses			
Catawba County Schools			
Maintenance Department Recommendations			
CTE			
Maiden High School - enlarge masonry structure	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Fred T. Foard - restroom addition	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Fire Alarm Systems			
Tuttle Elementary	\$240,000	\$240,000	
Blackburn Elementary School	\$240,000	\$240,000	
High School Tracks			
Bunker Hill High School - replace track surface	\$425,000		
Fred T. Foard - replace track surface	\$400,000		
St. Stephens - replace track surface	\$400,000		
HVAC/Boilers/Chillers/Building Automation Systems			
Bunker Hill High School - repair/replace gym HVAC	\$2,500,000	\$575,000	
Claremont - complete RTU project	\$400,000	\$400,000	
Riverbend - duct-sock install	\$80,000		
Tuttle - replace/refurbish duct work	\$750,000		
System-wide - replace freezers	\$175,000	\$175,000	
Webb Murray - control upgrade/system replacement	\$250,000	\$250,000	
Webb Murray - replace/refurbish duct work	\$950,000	\$950,000	
Interior Water Line Relocations & Replacements			
Bandys High School - water line relocation	\$150,000	\$150,000	
Fred T. Foard - water line relocation	\$150,000	\$150,000	
Lighting			
Fred T. Foard - tennis court lights	\$325,000	\$325,000	
Maiden High School - tennis court lights	\$325,000	\$325,000	
System-wide - elementary gym light replacements	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Maintenance Department			
Maiden High School - robotic floor scrub units	\$75,000		
System-wide - replace two (2) maintenance vehicles	\$150,000		
System-wide - transition to FMX maintenance work order system	\$50,000		
System-wide - fire ant treatment	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Paving			
Bandys High School - tennis court repave	\$100,000		
Blackburn Elementary School - playground track repave	\$55,000		
Bunker Hill High School - parking area repave	\$150,000		
COMPASS - new walking track/bus parking lot repave	\$75,000		
Catawba Elementary School - playspace repave	\$25,000		
Clyde Campbell Elementary School - ADA lobby door repave	\$40,000		
Lyle Creek Elementary School - parking lot repave	\$325,000		
Mountain View Elementary School - ramp repave	\$50,000		
Oxford Elementary School - parking lot/basketball court repave	\$200,000		
St. Stephens - student parking lot pave	\$75,000		
Webb Murray Elementary School - extend parking	\$75,000		
System-wide - parking lot restriping	\$50,000		
Renovations			
Fred T. Foard - hallway window replacements	\$625,000		
Bandys High School - hallway window replacements	\$600,000		
Bunker Hill High School - hallway window replacements	\$250,000		

Bandys/Bunker Hill/Fred T. Foard/St. Stephens - ADA sidewalk repairs	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Roofing			
Arndt Middle School - roof replacement	\$350,000	\$350,000	
Fred T. Foard - gym roof repair	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Mountain View Elementary School - gym roof repair	\$130,000	\$130,000	
Clyde Campbell Elementary School - gym roof repair	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Snow Creek Elementary School - valley re-work	\$50,000		
Security			
System-wide - cameras, fencing, security systems, bollards	\$200,000	\$200,000	
Walkway Awnings/Canopies			
Lyle Creek/Maiden Middle School/Sherrills Ford - ramp awning	\$400,000	\$300,000	Funding not approved for Maiden Middle School
Building/Function Capital Requests			
Arndt Middle School			
Renovate 8th grade student/staff restrooms	\$150,000		
Balls Creek Elementary School			
Basement wall repair	\$40,000		
Update pre-K/EC adaptive class playground for ADA compliance	\$150,000	\$150,000	
Exterior paint	\$50,000		
Bandys High School			
Desk/cafeteria table replacement	\$70,000		
Renovate drama classroom to make black box theater	\$20,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Electronic sign install	\$50,000		
Banoak Elementary School			
Cafeteria table replacement	\$10,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Landscaping - add rock to front/side hill	\$20,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Blackburn Elementary School			
Gym bleacher replacement	\$75,000		
Exterior fence extension	\$30,000		
Playground update	\$25,000		
Mobile Unit ramp repair	\$30,000		
Bunker Hill High School			
Main entrance awning repair/extension	\$150,000		
Interior paint	\$150,000		
Restroom renovation to meet capacity	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Field House/baseball locker room renovation	\$125,000		
Flooring replacement	\$70,000		
COMPASS			
Replace ramp/deck to storage trailers	\$15,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Catawba Elementary School			
Rubber mats/surface on playground	\$65,000	\$65,000	
Sidewalk grading	\$10,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Window tints at front windows for security	\$10,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Challenger High School			
Exterior fence extension	\$14,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Four (4) new outdoor tables	\$5,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding

Flag pole install	\$8,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Claremont Elementary School			
Office space partition - create office space for counselor, therapist, and itinerant staff	\$50,000		
Media center flooring replacement	\$50,000		
Playground update	\$75,000		
Exterior light install	\$10,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Acoustic panel install	\$5,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Clyde Campbell Elementary School			
Restroom renovation near 5th/6th grade hallway	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Desk replacement for 6th graders	\$20,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Fred T Foard High School			
Restroom renovation - update existing and create EC restroom	\$10,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Gym renovations - replace bleachers, door frames, gym lobby floor	\$135,000		
Jacobs Fork Middle School			
Classroom carpet replacement	\$150,000		
Band room carpet replacement	\$15,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Locker updates	\$13,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Electronic sign install	\$25,000		
Lyle Creek Elementary School			
Shower addition	\$70,000		
Media Center flooring replacement	\$45,000		
Exterior gate install at playground/blacktop	\$5,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Maiden High School			
Auditorium restroom addition	\$150,000		
Tennis courts bleacher install	\$30,000		
Maiden Middle School			
Exterior fence replacement - remove barbed wire and install panic gate	\$50,000		
Exterior door paint	\$5,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Mill Creek Middle School			
Classroom carpet replacement	\$425,000		
Window tints - bottom of windows where blinds cannot reach for security	\$5,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Concession stand/restroom addition at athletic fields	\$500,000		
Mt. View Elementary School			
Student shower addition	\$45,000		
Oxford Elementary School			
Paint all interior doors and trims	\$10,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
River Bend Middle School			
Classroom carpet removal	\$425,000		
Remove paint from ventilations pipes in the gym and repaint/add duct sock	\$80,000		
Sherrills Ford E.S.			

Replace interior & exterior doors in 400 hallway	\$30,000		
St. Stephens Elementary School			
Acoustic panel install/creation of covered eating area outside	\$75,000		
Landscaping - mulch removal and addition of rock at front parking	\$15,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Student shower addition	\$65,000	\$65,000	
Mend and launder stage curtains	\$15,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
St. Stephens High School			
Locker room and restroom addition at sports field	\$2,500,000		
Display case install	\$10,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Snow Creek Elementary School			
Interior paint	\$400,000		
Playground update - add shade structures	\$45,000		
Staff restroom addition	\$150,000		
Startown Elementary School			
Window tints	\$10,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Cafeteria ceiling repair - stained tiles	\$3,500		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Ceiling repair - leaks	\$4,500		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Camera install	\$1,500		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Exterior lighting at bus and staff parking lots	\$7,500		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Playground gate	\$2,500		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Tuttle Elementary School			
Office carpet replacement	\$35,000		
Classroom carpet replacement	\$65,000		
Blacktop paint	\$5,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Webb Murray Elementary School			
Playground expansion - install fence, create outdoor classroom, add shade, add soccer goals	\$250,000		
Interior paint	\$50,000		
Electronic sign install	\$25,000		
Acoustic panel install	\$60,000		
School's Construction Manager	\$45,000	\$120,000	Adjusted based on allocation of construction activity between school systems - CCS increased
Per Capita 16,055 @ \$52.00	\$834,860	\$834,860	Per Pupil Equivalent of Recommendations
Catawba County Schools Total	\$20,944,360	\$6,629,860	\$413.67
Hickory City Schools			
District-wide wall repairs	\$250,000	\$210,000	
District-wide furniture, fixtures, and equipment improvements	\$400,000	\$365,000	
Jenkins Elementary HVAC upgrade	\$375,000	\$330,000	
District-wide PA upgrade	\$125,000	\$130,000	
District-wide fleet renewal	\$210,000	\$166,000	
Jenkins Elementary playground update	\$225,000		
Oakwood Elementary kitchen drainage improvements	\$135,000	\$129,000	

District-wide refrigeration truck power system	\$14,000		Per capita - projects under \$25,000 are recommended to be addressed with Per Capita funding
Hickory High School HVAC replacement	\$95,000		
Jenkins Elementary restroom renovation	\$150,000		
District-wide parking lot reseal	\$90,000		
Viewmont Elementary HVAC modernization	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Hickory High School boiler replacement	\$70,000		
Hickory High School stadium pressbox roof restoration	\$150,000		
District-wide exterior digital sign install	\$75,000		
Jenkins - Exterior Structural Repairs		\$75,000	
Resource Center building management/HVAC upgrade	\$75,000		
Per Capita 3,633 @ \$52.00	\$188,916	\$188,916	Per Pupil Equivalent of Recommendations
Hickory City Schools Total	\$2,677,916	\$1,643,916	\$451.13
Newton-Conover			
System-wide HVAC Upgrades & Replacements	\$225,000	\$225,000	
System-wide security upgrades	\$150,000	\$150,000	
System-wide roof repairs	\$100,000	\$100,000	
System-wide door/floor renovations	\$60,000		
Construction Manager	\$100,000	\$25,000	Adjusted based on allocation of construction activity between school systems - NCCS reduced
Per Capita 2,590 @ \$52.00	\$134,680	\$134,680	Per Pupil Equivalent of Recommendations
Newton-Conover City Schools Total	\$769,680	\$634,680	\$243.17
Chromebook Replacement Reserve	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	
Catawba Valley Community College			
HVAC	\$550,000	\$250,000	Robert E. Paap chiller replacement is approved.
General Renovations	\$500,000	\$500,000	
Paving	\$1,200,000		Paving was not prioritized by the organization.
Cosmetology facility lease	\$180,000	\$180,000	
Truck replacement	\$195,000	\$120,000	Two vehicles approved based on organization prioritization.
CVCC Total	\$2,625,000	\$1,050,000	
Total	\$28,116,956	\$11,058,456	

FINES & FORFEITURES FUND

The County receives funds from fines and forfeitures and distributes to the local school systems. These are pass-through funds, meaning all collections are distributed to the schools on an equal per pupil basis.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Fines & Forfeitures Fund

Fund 292

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Adopted	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Fines & Forfeitures	\$296,458	\$534,744	\$534,744	\$534,744	0.0%
Total	\$296,458	\$534,744	\$534,744	\$534,744	0.0%
Expenses					
Catawba County Schools	\$208,643	\$384,648	\$384,648	\$384,648	0.0%
Hickory Public Schools	50,527	87,456	87,456	87,456	0.0%
Newton-Conover City Schools	37,012	62,640	62,640	62,640	0.0%
Total	\$296,182	\$534,744	\$534,744	\$534,744	0.0%

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND					Fund 250
	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
NC Community Foundation	\$5,885	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	0.0%
Investment Earnings	10,085	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$15,970	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	0.0%
Expenses					
Supplies & Operations	\$5,885	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	0.0%
Total	\$5,885	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	0.0%

Projected donations to the endowment.

ARPA FUND

The ARP Act Fund was established in 2021 to account for revenues received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act and expenses related to COVID-19 response.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

ARPA Fund

Fund 291

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Federal	\$5,523,852	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Miscellaneous	252,987	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$5,776,839	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Expenses					
Transfer to County W&S Capital Fund	\$4,046,784	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Transfer to Gen. Fund	1,011,544	0	0	0	0%
Capital	398,903	0	0	0	0%
Supplies & Operations	85,287	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$5,542,518	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND

In July 2021, Attorney General Josh Stein announced a historic \$26 billion agreement to desperately needed resources to communities harmed by the opioid epidemic. The agreement resolves litigation over the role of four companies in creating and fueling the opioid epidemic. The agreement also requires significant industry changes that will help prevent this type of crisis from ever happening again. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the State and local government directs how opioid settlement funds are distributed and used in our state.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Opioid Settlement Fund

Fund 293

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Opioid Settlement Revenue	\$2,048,660	\$777,980	\$932,117	\$948,650	21.9%
Miscellaneous	340,818	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$2,389,478	\$777,980	\$932,117	\$948,650	21.9%
Expenses					
Opioid MAT Services	\$0	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	11.1%
NCCS Resilience Program	80,000	0	0	0	0%
To General Fund	267,678	597,980	732,117	748,650	25.2%
Total	\$347,678	\$777,980	\$932,117	\$948,650	21.9%

The budget appropriates the anticipated costs for the coming year for the following strategies:

- PORT, a post-overdose response team (PORT) (\$576,358) follow-up program that allows Community Paramedics to visit a person who experienced an overdose within 24-72 hours of the incident. PORTs provide support, education, and access to evidence-based treatment such as medication for opioid use disorder and other life-saving resources. This year's budget includes the purchase of a QRV for the program.
- Medicated Assisted Treatment (\$200,000) in Detention Center to fund the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders.
- Opioid / Substance Use Disorder Program Coordinator position (\$172,292) in Public Health and related operating expenses to oversee the County's collaborative strategic planning efforts related to Opioid / Substance Use Disorder, criminal justice diversion, and youth prevention programs. While these are the two strategies most directly linked, the work will involve many of the other approved efforts as allowed by the MOA.

STREAM REHAB FUND

The Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) is a State program that provides grants to projects that help reduce flooding and restore streams across North Carolina. The program was created by the NC General Assembly, which approved \$38 million in funding for StRAP in the budget appropriations bill for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. StRAP allocates money for projects that protect and restore the integrity of drainage infrastructure of North Carolina's waterways.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Stream Debris Removal Fund

Fund 285

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
State	\$79,779	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Local	37,899	0	0	0	0%
Miscellaneous	11,176	0	0	0	0%
Fund Balance	0	80,000	0	0	0%
From Gen. Fund	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	0%
Total	\$203,854	\$155,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	-52%
Expenses					
Expenses	\$58,245	\$155,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	-52%
Total	\$58,245	\$155,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	-52%

The budget continues to include \$75,000 in local funds to support additional StRAP projects.

SUBDIVISION ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

In 2020, in support of the Board of Commissioners' Strategic Plan, the Board adopted Resolution 2020-17 creating a petition-driven program to facilitate acceptance of private roads into the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Secondary Road Maintenance Program. Through this program, the County provides up-front funding to improve private roads to NCDOT standards so NCDOT can assume maintenance responsibility, and the cost of improvements is assessed against the property owners and recouped over a 10-year period through the special assessment process. To participate in the program, at least 75 percent of the homeowners to be assessed must voluntarily sign a petition supporting the project, and the owners who sign the petition must account for at least 75 percent of the road frontage to be improved through the assessment. The Board initially seeded the fund with \$2.5 million and dedicated street assessment repayments from homeowners as well as interest earned to future road improvement projects.

Subdivision Road Improvement

Fund 413

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Current	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues					
Street Assessments	\$309,259	\$384,347	\$0	\$0	-100.0%
Interest on Investments	51,243	73,675	0	0	-100.0%
Fund Balance Applied	0	59,864	0	0	-100.0%
Total	\$360,502	\$517,886	\$0	\$0	-100.0%
Expenses					
Contractual Services	\$660,448	\$517,885	\$0	\$0	-100.0%
Total	\$660,448	\$517,885	\$0	\$0	-100.0%

To date, Utilities & Engineering has worked with 13 neighborhoods through the entire process. Of the initial \$2.5 million in seed funding, there is \$714,178 available for future projects, through a combination of unappropriated funds, interest earned, and revenues received from citizens' repayment of assessments. Staff is currently working with several neighborhoods in various stages of the process leading up to the final assessment.



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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW

The County's Capital Improvement Plan is a five-year plan for the scheduling and appropriation of funds for major projects representing significant contributions to the overall inventory of physical assets. The types of projects traditionally included in the CIP are major non-recurring expenditures for the:

- construction, purchase or major renovation of buildings, utility systems, schools, solid waste, parks, or other physical structures
- purchase of land for utilities, right of way, schools, solid waste, parks, and sites associated with proposed public buildings
- purchase and implementation of technology
- stimulation of economic development

To be considered as a project in the CIP, the project must meet the following criteria:

- project or equipment life of greater than five years
- estimated cost of at least \$100,000 or be set aside for future spending

The CIP is a planning tool as well as a financial plan and fulfills the County's policy of planning ahead for our future facilities and equipment needs. The first year of the CIP represents the actual capital project budget appropriated for that year. Approval of the CIP therefore commits the County to the first year of the capital projects with conditional approval for those projects listed in the four future planning years. Each year, the CIP is updated (with deletion of the "prior year" data and the addition of a planning year) to maintain five-year plan with the exception of Schools Construction, which is only four years in conjunction with the County's property revaluation.

The CIP preparation is concurrent with the budget process. In the fall of each year, all County departments submit their budget requests along with any capital projects for consideration and inclusion in the CIP. The requests are reviewed by the Facilities Director and the Budget Staff and submitted to the County Manager as part of the County's budget.

Capital Projects Fund accounts for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities and include the following:

- **General Capital Projects Fund:** to account for the financing and construction of all major general government capital projects, operating impacts to the General Fund are identified.
- **Schools Construction Fund:** to account for the financing and construction of all school projects across all the school systems. Projects are debt financed and are part of the County's long-range plan. Debt service is budgeted in the General Fund. Debt service for schools is financed through dedicated funding and by maintaining a constant contribution to debt as existing debt is retired
- **Water & Sewer and SECC Construction Funds:** to account for the financing and construction or major water and sewer capital projects in the unincorporated sections of the County and within the SECC service area. As enterprise funds, the capital plan also reflects the five-year projected operating plans.
- **Solid Waste Fund:** to account for the financing and construction of all major solid waste projects. . As an enterprise fund, the capital plan also reflects the five-year projected operating plan.

GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMARY		Funding in FY 2026/27	Funding in FY 2027/28	Funding in FY 2028/29	Funding in FY 2029/30	Total In 4- Year Plan
Ongoing & Periodic Projects						
Economic Development Reserve		628,000	641,000	654,000	667,000	2,590,000
Facilities - General Renovations		150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	600,000
Libraries - Future Branch		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	400,000
Public Safety Project		0	200,000	200,000	200,000	600,000
Technology - Infrastructure Upgrades		0	875,000	900,000	925,000	2,700,000
Technology - Server & Desktop Applications		0	275,000	275,000	275,000	825,000
Pay as You Go Projects						
Facilities - 1924 Courthouse Buildings/Improvements/Maint.		0	0	170,000	0	170,000
Facilities - Old ARC Demo		0	1,100,000	0	0	1,100,000
Facilities - Government Center Improvements/Maint.		0	15,000	400,000	400,000	815,000
Human Services - Public Health Building Improvements/Maint.		0	750,000	0		750,000
Human Services - Social Services Buildings		660,000	360,000	450,000	0	1,470,000
Parks		0	450,000	150,000	0	600,000
Public Safety - Justice Center - AV Refresh		75,000	0	0	0	75,000
Public Safety - Justice Center Improvements/Maint.		0	0	450,000	200,000	650,000
Technology - ERP/PeopleSoft Upgrade/Replacement		0	1,000,000	500,000	0	1,500,000
Totals		1,613,000	5,916,000	4,399,000	2,917,000	14,845,000
Revenues						
From General Fund		75,000	3,600,000	3,195,000	2,149,999	9,019,999
From General Fund - Library Reinventing Surplus		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	400,000
From General Fund - Social Services Reinventing		660,000	360,000	450,000	0	1,470,000
1/4 Cent Sales Tax - Economic Development		628,000	641,000	654,000	667,000	2,590,000
General Capital Fund Balance		150,000	1,215,000	0	0	1,365,000
Total Revenue		1,613,000	5,916,000	4,399,000	2,917,000	14,845,000

GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	
Ongoing & Periodic Projects	
Economic Development Reserve - A portion 1/4 cent sales tax dedicated toward investment in economic development.	
Facilities - General Renovations - General renovations.	
Library - Future Branch - Funds are set aside from Library Reinventing Surplus toward a future library.	
Public Safety Project - Reserves funds in a Public Safety project for future investment as needed to provide “right care, right place, right time” public safety services.	
Technology - Infrastructure Upgrades - Recurring funds used to maintain the County's network.	
Technology - Server & Desktop Applications - Recurring cost to keep County in compliance with licensing requirements for operating systems, security systems, e-mail management, database management, desktop publishing, etc.	
Pay as You Go Projects	
Facilities - 1924 Courthouse Buildings/Improvements/Maint. - Replace 9 HVAC units.	
Facilities - ARC Demo - Projected turnkey cost to demolish the old Agricultural Resources Center Building once all services have been relocated.	
General Gov't - Government Center Improvements/Maint. - Maintenance and repairs to the Government Center.	
Human Services - Public Health Building Improvements/Maint. - Maintenance and repairs to buildings currently housing Public Health staff.	
Human Services - Social Services Buildings Improvements/Maint. - Maintenance and repairs to buildings currently housing Social Services staff.	
Parks - Resurface Riverbend Park parking lot (\$450,000) and replace heat pump at Bean house (\$15,000).	
Public Safety - Justice Center - AV Refresh - update out of maintenance equipment	
Public Safety - Justice Center Improvements/Maint. - Convert generator from city to county FY27 \$200,000, refurbish old Sheriff's Office generator FY27 \$15,000, and addition of an elevator in the old section FY28 \$250,000.	
Technology - ERP/PeopleSoft Upgrade/Replacement - County has used PeopleSoft as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software for Human Resources, Finance, Purchasing, and Budget since 1999. Oracle's long-range plan indicates PeopleSoft support ends in 2033. County targets having new system implemented by 2030.	
Totals	

SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION FUND

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Counties are responsible for funding school construction needs. Larger projects, typically those over \$1 million, are budgeted in Schools' Construction and are primarily debt financed. Every four years, in conjunction with revaluation, the County develops a multi-year funding plan for schools' construction. Annually, the budget appropriates the projects planned for the coming year.

Budget Highlights

SCHOOLS' CONSTRUCTION FUND

Fund 423

	2026/27 Requested	2026/27 Adopted	Percent Change
Revenues			
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	0%
From General Fund	\$5,740,397	\$6,407,566	0%
Total	\$7,240,397	\$7,907,566	0%
Expenses			
Arbitrage Rebate	1,500,000	1,500,000	
Future Debt Project	5,740,397	6,407,566	0%
Total	\$7,240,397	\$7,907,566	0%

The FY2027 budget for school construction includes \$1,500,000 anticipated for an arbitrage payment; this payment is required based on interest collected from funds which were received as proceeds from financing and have generated interest as the funds were drawn down over a period of time. \$6.4M is funded toward future school construction debt.

WATER AND SEWER CIP Summary	Funding in FY 2026/27	Funding in FY 2027/28	Funding in FY 2028/29	Funding in FY 2029/30	Funding in FY 2030/31	Total New in 5 Years
COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS						
SECC Sewer Projects						
Brown Chapel Rd. & Mollys Backbone Rd. LS Upgrades (3rd pumps, valves, elect) -21029	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Maiden Rd. Gravity Sewer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hickory-Catawba WWTP Future Expansion - 21028	2,000,000	2,000,000	4,000,000	5,000,000	18,000,000	31,000,000
Hickory- Catawba WWTP Headworks Expansion -20144	0					
Lake Norman Marina LS Upgrade (Impellers)	0	0	700,000	0	0	700,000
New Wastewater Conveyance - new FY27	2,000,000	0	0	0	40,000,000	42,000,000
Village Center & Sherrills Ford LS Upgrades (pumps, elect, wet well, etc.) PER/Design/Construction - 28002	0	0	0	0	0	0
SECC Water Projects						
Additional 0.50 MG Water Storage Tank on Anderson Mtn. (\$8/gallon) Construction FY35 -28009	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	500,000	1,500,000
Buffalo Shoals Rd. Water (Construction). -28008	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Maiden Rd. Watermain Upgrade: Upsize 16-inch Watermain along East Maiden Rd. to 20-inch Watermain. Projected for FY38	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Booster Pump Station for SF Rd & Hwy 150	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Treatment Capacity Purchase (3.3MGD @ \$1.50/Gal. \$4,950,000) - 28005	464,000	464,000	464,000	464,000	464,000	2,320,000
Total	4,714,000	2,714,000	5,414,000	5,714,000	58,964,000	77,520,000
COUNTY DEBT SERVICE & OPERATING COSTS						
Personal Services (3%)	204,390	211,000	217,000	224,000	231,000	1,087,390
General Operating (2%)	676,199	689,723	703,517	717,587	731,939	3,518,965
Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Debt Payment and Operations	950,000	950,000	950,000	250,000	250,000	3,350,000
HCWTP 2029 Expansion Debt Service	0	0	0	0	1,254,167	1,254,167
New Wastewater Conveyance Debt Service	0	0	0	0	2,916,667	2,916,667
Blackburn-Plateau Water Loop Debt Payment	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	375,000
Southeastern Catawba County (SECC) Wastewater Collection Debt Payment	171,450	167,510	0	0	0	338,960
Reserves / Future Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Water & Sewer Capital Fund	4,714,000	2,714,000	5,414,000	714,000	964,000	14,520,000
Total Debt Service & Operating	6,791,039	4,807,233	7,359,517	1,980,587	6,422,773	27,361,149
TOTAL PROJECT, DEBT SERVICE, AND OPERATING EXPENSES	11,505,039	7,521,233	12,773,517	7,694,587	65,386,773	104,881,149

WATER AND SEWER CIP Summary	Funding in FY 2026/27	Funding in FY 2027/28	Funding in FY 2028/29	Funding in FY 2029/30	Funding in FY 2030/31	Total New in 5 Years
REVENUE						
Property Tax (value of 1 cent) (2%)	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/4 cent Sales Tax (2%)	1,517,000	1,547,000	1,578,000	1,610,000	1,642,000	7,894,000
System Development Fees (1%)	2,973,600	3,003,000	3,033,000	3,063,000	3,094,000	15,166,600
Revenue Sharing Contracts (1%)	1,423,000	1,437,000	1,451,000	1,466,000	1,481,000	7,258,000
Debt Financing	0	2,000,000	4,000,000	5,000,000	58,000,000	69,000,000
Transfer from W&S Oper. & Capital Reserve Funds	4,714,000	2,714,000	5,414,000	714,000	964,000	14,520,000
Fund Balance Applied	877,439	(3,179,767)	(2,702,483)	(4,158,413)	205,773	(8,957,451)
TOTAL REVENUE	11,505,039	7,521,233	12,773,517	7,694,587	65,386,773	104,881,149

SOLID WASTE CIP Summary	Funding in FY 2026/27	Funding in FY 2027/28	Funding in FY 2028/29	Funding in FY 2029/30	Total in 4 Years
PAY AS GO CAPITAL - CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND					
Closure Project (485-20116)	0	0	0	0	0
Landfill Administrative Office Building (new)	0	0	0	0	0
Landfill Gas Collection Improvements (485-20113)	150,000	0	0	0	150,000
Sherrills Ford Convenience Center Improvements (485-22023)	0	0	0	0	0
Subtitle D Cell Construction (485-22017)	16,127,000	0	0	0	16,127,000
Treatment & Grinding Processing Area (485-22024)	338,000	0	0	0	338,000
40X40 Operator's Building (485-22026)	250,000				250,000
White Goods/Scrap Metal Pad (485-22025)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Pay As Go Capital Projects Fund	16,865,000	0	0	0	16,865,000
PAY AS GO CAPITAL - OPERATING FUND					
Bulldozer	475,000	475,000	0	0	950,000
Compactor, rebuild	0	0	0	0	0
Excavator	0	0	425,000	0	425,000
Grinder	0	1,300,000	0	0	1,300,000
Tandem Roll-Off Truck	260,000				
Pickup Truck 3/4 Ton and/or 1/2 Ton	0	0	75,000	0	75,000
Utility Terrain Vehicle	0	27,000	0	0	27,000
Total Pay As Go Operating Fund	735,000	1,802,000	500,000	0	3,037,000
OPERATING COSTS & TRANSFERS					
Personal Services	2,807,069	2,891,000	2,978,000	3,067,000	11,743,069
General Operating	4,788,853	4,837,000	4,885,000	4,934,000	19,444,853
Landfill Closure/Post Closure Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Landfill Closure/Post Closure Assurance Reserves	75,000	500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	3,575,000
Add to Reserves	0	0	613,000	613,000	1,226,000
Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	15,486,686	0	0	0	15,486,686
TOTAL OPERATING	23,157,608	8,228,000	9,976,000	10,114,000	51,475,608
TOTAL EXPENSES	40,757,608	10,030,000	10,476,000	10,114,000	71,377,608

SOLID WASTE CIP Summary	Funding in FY 2026/27	Funding in FY 2027/28	Funding in FY 2028/29	Funding in FY 2029/30	Total in 4 Years
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REVENUES					
Landfill User Fees	10,354,680	10,772,000	11,207,000	11,207,000	43,540,680
Tire Disposal Tax	300,000	303,000	306,000	309,000	1,218,000
White Goods Disposal Tax	80,000	81,000	82,000	83,000	326,000
Solid Waste Disposal Tax (5 year average 20% of tax paid in)	85,000	86,000	87,000	88,000	346,000
Solid Waste Franchise Fee	100,000	100,000	0	0	200,000
Miscellaneous & All Others Revenues	698,381	705,000	712,000	719,000	2,834,381
Debt Financing	11,127,000	0	0	0	11,127,000
Transfer from Solid Waste Management Fund	15,486,686	0	0	0	15,486,686
Fund Balance Appropriated (Management Operating Fund)	1,147,547.00	(2,017,000)	(1,918,000)	(2,292,000)	(5,079,453)
Fund Balance Appropriated (Closure / Post Closure Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0
Fund Balance Appropriated (Capital Fund)	1,378,314	0	0	0	1,378,314
TOTAL REVENUES	40,757,608	10,030,000	10,476,000	10,114,000	71,377,608



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MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

APPENDIX



FINANCIAL STATISTICS, STATEMENTS & POLICIES

Investment Policy

Revised 4.16.25

SCOPE

This investment policy applies to all financial assets of Catawba County. The County combines the cash resources of its various funds into a single pool in order to maximize investment earnings. Each fund's portion of total cash and investments is shown by fund type in the combined balance sheet of the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This policy applies to all transactions involving the financial assets and related activity of all the various funds accounted for in the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

OBJECTIVES

Funds of the County will be invested in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 159-30, the County's Investment Policy and written administrative procedures. The County's investments shall be undertaken in a manner that (1) seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio (safety), (2) provides for sufficient liquidity to meet the cash needs of the County's various operations (liquidity), and (3) attains a fair market rate of return (yield). Cash management functions will be conducted in such a manner as to ensure that adequate funds will always be available to meet the County's financial obligations and to provide the maximum amount of funds available for investment at all times.

RESPONSIBILITY

In accordance with North Carolina General Statutes, the Finance Director is designated as the Investment Officer of the County and is responsible for the County's financial assets. The Finance Director is also responsible for investment decisions and activities and shall develop and maintain written administrative procedures for the operation of the cash management and investment program, consistent with North Carolina General Statutes. In order to promote the efficiency of investment duties and related activities, the Finance Director may, at his/her/her option, designate one or more members of his/her/her staff to perform the functions of cash management and investing. Such delegation shall not relieve the Finance Director of responsibility for all transactions and executions performed by the designated individuals.

The standard of prudence to be used by the Investment Officer shall be the "prudent person" standard and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. It states that investment officers acting in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes, this policy, written administrative procedures, and exercising due diligence, shall be relieved of personal responsibility for an individual security's credit risk or market price change, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely fashion and appropriate action is taken to control

adverse developments. Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived.

ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Finance Director, designated Investment Officer and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution and management of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Investment officials and employees shall disclose to the County Manager any material interests in financial institutions that conduct business with Catawba County, and they shall further disclose any personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the County's portfolio. This disclosure need not include normal banking or brokerage relationships that are at normal market rates and conditions available to the general public.

STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION

The legal limitations of local government investments are defined in N.C.G.S. 159-30. Accordingly, the following classes of securities are indicative of the investments utilized by Catawba County:

- A. Obligations of the United States or obligations fully guaranteed both as to principal and interest by the United States.
- B. Obligations of the Federal Financing Bank, the Federal Farm Credit Bank, the Bank for Cooperatives, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Federal Land Banks, the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Government National Mortgage Association, the Federal Housing Administration, and the Federal Farm Credit Bank.
- C. Obligations of the State of North Carolina.
- D. Deposits at interest or purchase of certificates of deposit with any bank, savings and loan association or trust company in North Carolina, provided such deposits or certificates of deposit are fully collateralized.
- E. Prime quality commercial paper bearing the highest rating of at least one nationally recognized rating service and not bearing a rating below the highest (A1, P1, F1) by any nationally recognized rating service which rates the particular obligation.
- F. Participating shares in a mutual fund for local government investment (such as the N.C. Capital Management Trust), which is certified by the N.C. Local Government Commission.
- G. Participating shares in a commingled investment pool established by interlocal agreement by two or more units of local government pursuant to G.S. 160A-460 through

G.S. 160A-464 (such as the NC Investment Pool and NC Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System).

ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRICTIONS

In addition to the previously noted limitations on appropriate securities, Catawba County's investment activities are further restricted in the following manner:

- A. It is the policy of Catawba County to diversify its investment portfolio. Assets held shall be diversified to eliminate the risk of loss resulting from the over concentration of assets in a specific issuer or specific class of securities. Diversification strategies shall be determined and revised periodically by the Finance Director. Portfolio maturities shall be staggered to avoid undue concentration of assets in a specific maturity sector. Maturities selected shall provide for stability of income and reasonable liquidity.
- Catawba County will invest its short-term investments (< one year) based on cash flow analysis
 - Catawba County will invest minimal levels in money market funds or local government investment pools unless these instruments have higher yields
 - Short-term investments will be aggressively managed to maximize yield
 - Reserve funds and other funds with longer-term investment horizons (> one year) will be invested in higher yield, longer maturing investments to maximize the investment opportunity available.
- B. Catawba County recognizes that investment risks can result from issuer defaults, market price changes or various technical complications leading to temporary illiquidity. Portfolio diversification is employed as a way to minimize default risk. No individual investment transaction shall be undertaken that jeopardizes the capital position of the overall portfolio. In the event of a default by a specific issuer, the Finance Director shall review and, if appropriate, proceed to liquidate securities having comparable credit risks.

SELECTION OF SECURITIES

The Finance Director, or his/her/her designee, will determine which instruments shall be purchased and sold, and the desired maturity date(s) that are in the best interest of the County. All brokers and dealers transacting business with the County must be licensed to do business within North Carolina. They must also have extensive knowledge of NC General Statutes and have references from other North Carolina local governments. The selection of an instrument will involve the evaluation of, but not be limited to, the following factors:

- A. Cash flow projections and requirements
- B. Current market conditions
- C. Overall portfolio balance and makeup

D. Relative liquidity of the instrument

CUSTODY AND SAFEKEEPING OF SECURITIES

Securities will be held by an independent third-party safekeeping agent selected by the County and evidenced by safekeeping receipts in the County's name. Transactions will be processed on a delivery versus payment basis, which insures that securities are deposited in an eligible financial institution prior to the release of funds.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Finance Director is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurances that the assets of Catawba County are protected from loss, theft, or misuse by third parties or County employees. Accordingly, the Finance Director shall establish a process for an annual independent review by an external auditor to assure compliance with policies and procedures.

REPORTING

The Finance Director shall prepare an investment report on a semi-annual basis, including a management summary that provides an analysis of the status of the current investment portfolio. The report will include the following:

- Listing of individual securities held at the end of the reporting period.
- Average weighted yield to maturity of portfolio on investments.
- Listing of investments by maturity date.
- Percentage of each type of investment in the total portfolio.

**Assessed Valuation and Actual Value of Taxable Property
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

Fiscal Year	Real Property	Personal Property	Public Utility Property	Total Taxable Assessed Value	Total Direct Tax Rate ⁽¹⁾	Estimated Real Market Value
2016 ⁽²⁾	11,564,008,687	3,742,083,773	788,247,696	16,094,340,156	0.5750	16,261,837,078
2017	11,682,762,282	3,910,899,616	827,530,781	16,421,192,679	0.5750	16,571,997,860
2018	11,821,086,656	4,032,470,698	846,131,001	16,699,688,355	0.5750	17,439,106,470
2019	11,984,593,390	4,339,896,854	856,998,611	17,181,488,855	0.5750	18,580,608,689
2020 ⁽²⁾	13,101,976,344	4,431,826,297	922,892,477	18,456,695,118	0.5750	18,821,838,791
2021	13,386,384,363	4,761,084,974	987,346,080	19,134,815,417	0.5750	20,837,215,961
2022	13,586,700,647	5,161,064,795	1,088,939,158	19,836,704,600	0.5750	21,309,644,077
2023	13,881,215,480	5,331,939,160	1,177,969,708	20,391,124,348	0.5750	22,198,505,303
2024 ⁽²⁾	23,120,142,240	6,227,004,758	1,282,087,212	30,629,234,210	0.3985	32,594,446,300
2025	23,754,669,421	6,339,892,407	1,327,946,509	31,422,508,337	0.3985	35,270,323,710

⁽¹⁾ Tax rate expressed in dollars of tax per \$100 of assessed valuation.

⁽²⁾ Increase as a result of the County 4-year real property revaluation cycle.

Source: Catawba County Property Appraiser

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Table 6
Page 1 of 2

**Property Tax Rates - Direct and Overlapping Governments ⁽¹⁾
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	Fiscal Year				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Catawba County					
Property Tax	0.3985	0.3985	0.5750	0.5750	0.5750
Fire Districts:					
Bandys	0.1000	0.0785	0.1150	0.1150	0.1150
Catawba Rural	0.1070	0.1070	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300
Claremont Rural	0.1122	0.0925	0.1300	0.1100	0.1100
Conover Rural	0.0800	0.0800	0.1150	0.1100	0.1100
Cooksville	0.0710	0.0540	0.0750	0.0750	0.0750
Hickory Rural	0.1250	0.1250	0.1500	0.1500	0.1500
Long View Rural	0.0755	0.0755	0.1130	0.0830	0.0830
Maiden Rural	0.0883	0.0720	0.1053	0.0753	0.0753
Mountain View	0.0855	0.0730	0.0770	0.0718	0.0718
Newton Rural	0.1010	0.1010	0.1500	0.1300	0.1300
Oxford	0.0610	0.0610	0.0650	0.0650	0.0650
Propst	0.0590	0.0590	0.0770	0.0620	0.0620
Sherrills Ford	0.0940	0.0840	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300
St. Stephens	0.1240	0.1040	0.1200	0.1200	0.1200
Municipalities:					
Town of Brookford	0.4000	0.4000	0.5200	0.5200	0.5200
Town of Catawba	0.5000	0.4000	0.5800	0.5800	0.5800
Town of Long View	0.4900	0.4900	0.5700	0.5700	0.5700
Town of Maiden	0.3800	0.3800	0.3800	0.3800	0.3800
City of Claremont	0.4175	0.4175	0.4900	0.0490	0.0490
City of Conover	0.3950	0.3950	0.5000	0.0500	0.0500
City of Hickory	0.4550	0.4550	0.6275	0.6275	0.5875
City of Newton	0.4500	0.4500	0.5400	0.5400	0.5400
Total Maximum Rate - Fire District	0.5235	0.5235	0.7250	0.7250	0.7250
Total Maximum Rate - Municipalities	0.8985	0.8535	1.2025	1.2025	1.1625

⁽¹⁾ All tax rates are expressed in dollars of tax per \$100 of assessed valuation. For the above years, the tax levies were assessed at one hundred percent (100%) of the actual value.

Source: Catawba County Tax Collector

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINATable 6
Page 2 of 2**Property Tax Rates - Direct and Overlapping Governments ⁽¹⁾
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	Fiscal Year				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Catawba County					
Property Tax	0.5750	0.5750	0.5750	0.5750	0.5750
Fire Districts:					
Bandys	0.0780	0.0820	0.0820	0.0820	0.0820
Catawba Rural	0.1300	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.0850
Claremont Rural	0.0900	0.0900	0.0900	0.0800	0.0800
Conover Rural	0.1100	0.1100	0.0900	0.0900	0.0900
Cooksville	0.0750	0.0620	0.0620	0.0620	0.0620
Hickory Rural	0.1500	0.1200	0.1200	0.0900	0.0900
Long View Rural	0.0830	0.0730	0.0730	0.0730	0.0730
Maiden Rural	0.0753	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0750
Mountain View	0.0718	0.0750	0.0750	0.0750	0.0600
Newton Rural	0.1200	0.1200	0.0900	0.0900	0.0900
Oxford	0.0650	0.0650	0.0650	0.0650	0.0650
Propst	0.0620	0.0620	0.0620	0.0620	0.0620
Sherrills Ford	0.1300	0.1100	0.1100	0.1100	0.0810
St. Stephens	0.1200	0.1200	0.1200	0.1200	0.0900
Municipalities:					
Town of Brookford	0.5200	0.5200	0.5200	0.5200	0.5200
Town of Catawba	0.5800	0.5800	0.4800	0.4800	0.4800
Town of Long View	0.5700	0.5700	0.5200	0.5200	0.4200
Town of Maiden	0.3800	0.3800	0.3800	0.3800	0.3800
City of Claremont	0.0490	0.4900	0.4900	0.4900	0.4900
City of Conover	0.0500	0.5000	0.4700	0.4700	0.4700
City of Hickory	0.5875	0.5665	0.5665	0.5665	0.5665
City of Newton	0.5400	0.5400	0.5400	0.5400	0.5400
Total Maximum Rate - Fire District	0.7250	0.6950	0.6950	0.6950	0.6650
Total Maximum Rate - Municipalities	1.1625	1.1550	1.1415	1.1415	1.1415

⁽¹⁾ All tax rates are expressed in dollars of tax per \$100 of assessed valuation. For the above years, the tax levies were assessed at one hundred percent (100%) of the actual value.

Debt Management Policy

INTRODUCTION

The County currently holds a bond rating of Aa1 from Moody's and AA from Standard and Poor's. Catawba County recognizes that a formal debt policy is essential to effective financial management. Adherence to a debt management policy signals to rating agencies and capital markets that the government is well managed and therefore likely to meet its debt obligations in a timely manner. In addition, it helps to insure that a government maintains a sound financial position and that credit quality is protected. Debt management policies are written guidelines, allowances and restrictions that guide the debt issuance process and it is a recommended practice of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

Many of the processes for approval, sale and repayment of debt are controlled by North Carolina General Statutes and may not all be repeated within this policy. This debt policy is to be used in conjunction with those laws and regulations along with the operating and capital budgets and other financial policies. Objectives of the debt policy have been established to assist the County in retaining its bond ratings and include:

- Funding a Capital Improvement Plan
- Maintaining an appropriate mix of pay-as-you-go and debt funding
- Maintaining an adequate fund balance, including an appropriate level of unassigned fund balance
- Structuring debt repayment schedules that observers expect of highly rated (AA or AAA) counties

DEBT INSTRUMENTS

The County will use appropriate debt instruments to provide funding for capital assets and improvements at the lowest cost with minimal risk:

General Obligation Bonds

General Obligation Bonds are bonds secured by a promise to levy taxes in an amount necessary to pay debt service, principal and interest, coming due each fiscal year until repaid. General obligation bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the County. These bonds are authorized by a referendum or by non-voted (2/3) authorization by the governing body. The non-voted authorization allows governments to issue up to two-thirds of the previous year's net debt reduction without a referendum.

Revenue and Special Obligation Bonds

Revenue bonds are bonds that pledge revenues generated by the debt-financed asset or by the operating system of which that asset is a part. Special Obligation Bonds are bonds that are payable from the pledge of revenues other than locally levied taxes.

Other Financing Options

Installment financings are alternative financing methods that do not require a referendum. Certificates of Participation or Limited Obligation Bonds represent an undivided interest in the payments made by a public agency pursuant to a financing lease or an installment purchase

agreement. The security for this financing is represented by a lien on the property acquired or constructed.

An Installment Purchase Contract is an agreement with a financial institution in which the equipment or property is acquired and periodic payments are made to satisfy the debt service.

The County will typically use this type of financing to finance a capital asset for ten to fifteen years with the capital asset being used as collateral for the loan. In other cases, this financing will be used for short-term equipment/vehicle purchases of three to five years.

The County will use pay-as-you-go funding for capital improvements or capital assets having a cost of less than \$250,000 or assets having a useful life of less than ten years unless budgetary constraints require the use of financing to acquire the necessary funding for those capital improvements or capital assets.

PURPOSES FOR DEBT ISSUANCE

The County may issue debt for the purpose of acquiring or constructing capital assets including land, buildings, machinery, equipment, fixtures and any other eligible expenses of a project and for making major renovations to existing capital improvements that are for the good of the public. Exceptions to this rule will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the contemplated debt is in the best interest of the County. Long-term debt shall not be used for financing ongoing operational expenses. When applicable, debt issuance will be pooled together to minimize issuance expense.

Before issuing any new debt the County will consider the following factors:

- Global, national and local financial environment and economy
- Current interest rates and expected interest rate changes
- Cash position and current debt position
- Availability of funds to repay the debt
- Urgency of current capital needs and flexibility to meet future needs
- Appropriate debt issuance practices and debt structuring

DEBT STRUCTURE

The debt structure is made up of the type of debt, interest rate and principal maturity schedule. This could include General Obligation Bonds, Revenue or Special Obligation Bonds or other installment financings. The cost of taxable debt is typically higher than the cost of tax-exempt debt; however, the issuance of taxable debt is mandated in some circumstances and may allow flexibility in subsequent contracts with users or managers of the improvements constructed with bond proceeds. The County will usually issue obligations on a tax-exempt basis, but may occasionally issue taxable obligations when there is an expected benefit from doing so. The County shall establish an affordable debt level to preserve credit quality and insure sufficient revenue is available to pay annual debt service obligations.

General Obligation Bonds will generally be competitively bid with no more than a 20-year life unless there are compelling factors which make it necessary to extend beyond and applicable law allows a longer term. In a competitive sale, the County may sell its debt obligations by allowing an interested underwriter or syndicate to submit a proposal to purchase and issue bonds. The

bonds are awarded to the underwriter presenting the best bid according to stipulated criteria set forth in the notice to sale.

Negotiated sales or private placements may be used where allowed when complex financing or sales structure is a concern with regard to marketability. In a negotiated sale, the bonds may be sold through an exclusive arrangement between the County and an underwriter or underwriting syndicate. At the end of successful negotiations, the issue is awarded to the underwriter. This method offers the most flexibility to the County. The criteria used to select an underwriter or syndicate in negotiated sales should include, but not be limited to the following: overall experience, marketing philosophy, capability, recent experience, underwriter's discount and overall expenses.

The County may elect to sell its debt obligations through a private placement with a financial institution when appropriate. Selection through private placement shall be determined through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Debt service for each issue will be structured in an attempt to minimize the County's interest payments over the life of the issue while taking into account the existing debt obligations of the County. Any debt issued shall not have a maturity date beyond the useful life of the asset being acquired or constructed by the debt proceeds.

The County may also consider various financing methods including fixed or variable interest rate debt in order to minimize the interest costs over the life of the issue. The use of these methods will be evaluated based on market conditions and the maximum benefit to the County while minimizing the County's risk. When appropriate, the County may choose to issue securities that pay a rate of interest that varies according to a predetermined formula or results from a periodic remarketing of the securities or reset date determined by the bondholder. The County will limit the issuance of variable rate debt to help maintain the County's credit rating. The County's long term variable rate debt will not exceed 10 percent of the total outstanding general debt.

Investment of bond proceeds will be consistent with those authorized by existing state law, the County's investment policy and applicable bond covenants. Bond proceeds shall be invested and tracked separately from other investments.

DEBT RATIOS

The County will use an objective, analytical approach to determine the amount of debt to be considered for authorization and issuance. This process involves the comparison of generally accepted debt ratios from similar counties to the current County ratios. These ratios will be reevaluated every five (5) years or sooner as market conditions dictate. The County shall adhere to the following ratios:

Net Direct Debt Per Capita

This ratio measures the burden of direct debt placed on the population supporting the debt. This is widely used by rating agencies as a measure of an issuer's ability to repay the debt. The County's General Obligation debt per capita will be in line with other North Carolina counties that maintain the same credit rating. The County will maintain per capita debt that does not exceed \$2,000.

Net Direct Debt as a Percentage of Assessed Valuation

This ratio measures debt levels against the property tax base that generates the tax revenues used as the main source of debt repayment. The County will maintain its debt at no more than 1.50 percent of the countywide assessed value (legal limit is 8 percent).

Net Direct Debt Service as a Percentage of Operational Budget

This ratio reflects the County's budgetary flexibility to adjust spending levels as economic conditions change. The County will maintain its net debt service at no more than 20 percent of the operational budget.

Ten-Year Payout Ratio

This ratio measures how quickly the County retires its outstanding indebtedness. A higher payout ratio preserves the County's capacity to borrow for future capital needs. The County will maintain its ten-year payout at a 65 percent level or higher.

REFINANCING OF OUTSTANDING DEBT

The County will continually review its outstanding debt and recommend issue for refunding as market opportunities arise. Debt shall only be refinanced for the purpose of achieving debt service savings, unless required to achieve specific debt management goals of the County. The estimation of net present value savings should be, at a minimum, in the range of 3 percent of the refunded maturities before a refunding process would be considered unless the County otherwise determines the annual savings warrant the refunding. The County will not refinance debt for the purpose of deferring scheduled debt service, unless unique circumstances are present. The County is aware that refinancing for the purpose of deferring debt service may have an impact on its credit rating.

The County may issue advance refunding bonds when advantageous, legally permissible and prudent while net present value savings are achieved. Advance refunding transactions are those undertaken in advance of the first date the refunded debt can be called for optional redemption and will require an establishment of an escrow account for the defeasance of the refunded debt. All costs incurred in completing the refunding shall be taken into account when determining the net present value savings.

The County may issue current refunding bonds when advantageous, legally permissible and prudent while net present value savings are achieved. Current refunding transactions shall be considered whenever possible. These transactions are undertaken at or after the call date on outstanding debt and provide for redemption and replacement of refunded debt within ninety days of issuance of the refunding debt.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO FUNDING

The County shall use pay-as-you-go and other alternative sources of funding for capital projects to minimize debt levels. To have an effective pay-as-you-go program, at least one funding source must be identified that is consistent, reliable and large enough to provide for capital needs in an amount that reduces dependency on debt. In order to reduce the impact of capital programs on future years, the County will annually appropriate funds for its capital improvement plan. The County will also appropriate proceeds from the sale of capital assets and land, as deemed appropriate, for capital projects. This practice will allow additional funding of capital improvement

projects and reduce the County's dependence on borrowing. Pay-as-you-go funding will save money by eliminating interest expense on funded projects and will improve financial flexibility in the event of sudden revenue shortfalls or emergency spending.

ISSUANCE OF DEBT

The scheduling and amount of bond sales and installment purchase transactions will be recommended by the Chief Financial Officer and County Manager. The Board of County Commissioners must approve the sale. These decisions will be based upon the identified cash flow requirements for each project to be financed as well as market conditions and other relevant factors including debt ratios. If the cash requirements for capital projects are minimal in any given year, the County may choose not to issue the debt and fund the project costs and reimburse these costs when financing is arranged. In these situations, the County will adopt a reimbursement resolution prior to the expenditure of project funds.

Fixed rate General Obligation Bond sales are conducted on a competitive basis by the Local Government Commission (LGC), a division of the Office of State Treasurer. Variable rate bonds, revenue and special obligation bonds will be sold on a negotiated basis with a selected underwriter.

The County must receive an opinion acceptable to the market from a nationally recognized law firm that each financing transaction complies with applicable laws and all agreements in connection with any financing are legal, valid and binding obligations of the County.

CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

In accordance with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Rule 15c-2-12, the County will provide financial and operating information to the repository or repositories designated by the SEC. Where applicable, the county will also provide its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and other relevant information to rating agencies, corporate trustees and financial institutions as required by continuing disclosure requirements within all debt financing documents.

ARBITRAGE LIABILITY MANAGEMENT

The County will maintain a system of record keeping and reporting to meet the arbitrage and rebate compliance requirements of the federal tax code. This effort includes tracking investment earnings on bond proceeds, calculating rebate payments in compliance with tax law and remitting applicable earnings to the federal government in a timely manner in order to preserve the tax-exempt status of the County's outstanding debt issues.

It is the County's policy to minimize the cost of arbitrage rebate and yield restriction while strictly complying with the applicable laws. Because of the complexity of arbitrage rebate regulations and the severity of non-compliance penalties, arbitrage calculation will be performed by qualified arbitrage professionals in strict adherence to applicable laws and regulations. These calculations will be done in accordance with required Internal Revenue Service reporting dates.

FINANCING TEAM, ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The County will provide for a solicitation and selection process for securing all professional services required in connection with any debt issues. The service professionals selected will be required to follow the County's debt management policy with the goal of continuity, quality service and competitive prices.

The County Manager and Chief Financial Officer are responsible for the administration and issuance of debt including the completion of specific tasks and responsibilities included in this policy.

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
General Long-Term Debt Requirements and Maturity Schedule
June 30, 2025

Schedule J-1

Fiscal Year Ended June 30	Governmental Activities			Business Type Activities		
	Debt Principal	Interest	Total	Debt Principal	Interest	Total
2026	13,054,356	3,750,735	16,805,091	249,756	5,969	255,725
2027	12,285,887	3,361,082	15,646,969	246,449	3,545	249,994
2028	12,064,310	3,046,702	15,111,012	242,507	1,173	243,680
2029	8,845,376	2,677,568	11,522,944	75,000	-	75,000
2030	8,842,658	2,357,057	11,199,715	75,000		75,000
2031-2035	29,181,000	7,927,911	37,108,911	-	-	-
2036-2040	18,606,000	3,095,189	21,701,189	-	-	-
2041-2043	5,760,000	460,800	6,220,800	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 108,639,587</u>	<u>\$ 26,677,044</u>	<u>\$ 135,316,631</u>	<u>\$ 888,712</u>	<u>\$ 10,687</u>	<u>\$ 899,399</u>

Net Position by Component
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Governmental activities:					
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 155,762,872	\$ 143,222,369	\$ 134,654,820	\$ 131,737,711	\$ 124,449,252
Restricted	42,468,603	38,499,089	77,672,252	36,821,265	50,609,042
Unrestricted	42,220,085	39,923,893	2,544,137	10,189,348	(35,914,333)
Total governmental activities net position	240,451,560	221,645,351	214,871,209	178,748,324	139,143,961
Business-type activities:					
Net investment in capital assets	81,216,201	76,286,926	75,539,961	74,283,661	70,980,887
Unrestricted	50,766,516	43,592,587	35,749,473	32,268,436	43,799,475
Total business-type activities net position	131,982,717	119,879,513	111,289,434	106,552,097	114,780,362
Primary government:					
Net investment in capital assets	236,979,073	219,509,295	210,194,781	206,021,372	195,430,139
Restricted	42,468,603	38,499,089	77,672,252	36,821,265	50,609,042
Unrestricted	92,986,601	83,516,480	38,293,610	42,457,784	7,885,142
Total primary government net position	\$ 372,434,277	\$ 341,524,864	\$ 326,160,643	\$ 285,300,421	\$ 253,924,323

Data Source
Audited Financial Statements

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Table 1
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Net Position by Component
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Governmental activities:					
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 115,574,093	\$ 102,979,361	\$ 102,894,759	\$ 92,137,818	\$ 82,024,110
Restricted	39,677,297	47,104,886	26,520,247	32,847,390	37,336,072
Unrestricted	(40,780,172)	(47,734,012)	(31,770,408)	(20,049,846)	(17,909,411)
Total governmental activities net position	<u>114,471,218</u>	<u>102,350,235</u>	<u>97,644,598</u>	<u>104,935,362</u>	<u>101,450,771</u>
Business-type activities:					
Net investment in capital assets	68,855,090	64,560,596	60,993,467	57,243,979	53,727,147
Unrestricted	44,606,556	47,132,939	46,791,325	46,440,583	47,385,811
Total business-type activities net position	<u>113,461,646</u>	<u>111,693,535</u>	<u>107,784,792</u>	<u>103,684,562</u>	<u>101,112,958</u>
Primary government:					
Net investment in capital assets	184,429,183	167,539,957	163,888,226	149,381,797	135,751,257
Restricted	39,677,297	47,104,886	28,828,234	32,847,390	37,336,072
Unrestricted	3,826,384	(601,073)	15,020,917	26,390,737	29,476,400
Total primary government net position	<u>\$ 227,932,864</u>	<u>\$ 214,043,770</u>	<u>\$ 207,737,377</u>	<u>\$ 208,619,924</u>	<u>\$ 202,563,729</u>

Data Source
Audited Financial Statements

Changes in Net Position
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Expenses					
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 17,051,927	\$ 17,320,359	\$ 14,546,056	\$ 12,447,523	\$ 13,652,217
Public safety	76,334,923	69,620,374	62,766,431	52,626,431	51,540,354
Environmental protection	910,171	1,079,964	919,966	707,228	632,202
Economic and physical development	27,789,727	27,930,551	30,298,998	23,117,588	21,826,814
Human services	58,560,006	58,144,330	54,721,694	48,364,606	48,364,606
Culture and recreation	4,779,690	3,914,178	4,457,230	3,974,978	3,843,536
Education	90,803,474	86,471,223	69,572,807	61,203,839	65,156,094
Interest on long-term debt	3,693,407	4,016,063	3,353,695	2,562,883	3,951,535
Total governmental activities expenses	279,923,325	268,497,042	240,636,877	205,005,076	208,967,358
Business-type activities:					
Solid waste management	8,515,250	8,847,578	7,277,256	6,944,338	6,629,739
Water and sewer	3,639,322	2,377,819	6,963,208	2,786,959	1,624,959
Total business-type activities expenses	12,154,572	11,225,397	14,240,464	9,731,297	8,254,698
Total primary government expenses	292,077,897	279,722,439	254,877,341	214,736,373	213,447,563
Program Revenues					
Governmental activities:					
Fees, fines, and charges for services:					
General government	2,587,535	2,836,118	2,418,527	1,930,031	1,960,548
Public safety	13,731,009	11,340,173	11,163,077	10,767,020	9,794,544
Environmental protection	54,087	61,851	42,037	30,545	16,175
Economic and physical development	6,973,197	6,436,919	6,156,230	5,442,985	4,454,616
Human services	1,984,755	2,127,863	11,158,175	3,012,971	1,927,447
Culture and recreation	43,246	33,297	43,559	(218,953)	70,270
Education	296,458	310,153	416,781	355,119	344,400
Operating grants and contributions	62,938,618	49,954,720	43,644,291	59,025,254	36,094,621
Capital grants and contributions	-	-	63,712	14,472	14,472
Total governmental activities program revenues	88,608,905	73,101,094	75,106,389	80,359,444	54,677,093
Business-type activities:					
Fees, fines, and charges for services	13,838,248	13,797,946	11,939,366	9,772,558	8,777,537
Operating grants and contributions	1,789,872	1,476,292	3,309,523	1,340,993	1,096,384
Capital grants and contributions	-	-	-	-	-
Total business-type activities program revenues	15,628,120	15,274,238	15,248,889	11,113,551	9,873,921
Total primary government program revenues	104,237,025	88,375,332	90,355,278	91,472,995	64,551,014
Net (Expenses) Revenues					
Governmental activities	(191,314,420)	(195,395,948)	(165,530,488)	(136,184,632)	(154,581,002)
Business-type activities	3,498,548	4,048,841	1,008,425	1,382,254	1,619,223
Total primary government net expense	(187,815,872)	(191,347,107)	(164,522,063)	(134,802,378)	(152,961,779)
General Revenues and Other Changes in Net Position					
Governmental activities:					
Taxes					
Property taxes	139,994,923	135,716,793	129,669,568	125,402,460	120,612,862
Local option sales taxes	60,400,197	54,323,165	57,784,060	53,494,247	46,887,470
Other taxes	2,778,562	2,159,786	2,566,755	2,664,019	2,213,573
Investment earnings, unrestricted	10,180,539	10,470,691	2,107,593	(5,676,338)	(42,857)
Gain (loss) on sales of capital assets	813,193	122,703	1,936,418	-	8,075
Transfers	(4,046,785)	(623,048)	(2,695,027)	8,674,500	700,000
Total governmental activities	210,120,629	202,170,090	191,369,367	184,558,888	170,379,123
Business-type activities:					
Taxes					
Local option sales taxes	1,443,383	1,321,607	-	-	-
Other taxes	485,157	503,058	477,064	439,249	397,811
Investment earnings	2,520,331	2,080,025	401,863	(1,804,268)	1,682
Gain on sales of capital assets	109,000	13,500	154,958	429,000	-
Transfers	4,046,785	623,048	2,695,027	(8,674,500)	(700,000)
Total business-type activities	8,604,656	4,541,238	3,728,912	(9,610,519)	(300,507)
Total primary government	218,725,285	206,711,328	195,098,279	174,948,369	170,078,616
Change in Net Position					
Governmental activities	18,806,209	6,774,142	25,838,879	48,372,292	15,798,121
Business-type activities	12,103,204	8,590,079	4,737,337	(8,228,265)	1,318,716
Total primary government	\$ 30,909,413	\$ 15,364,221	\$ 30,576,216	\$ 40,144,027	\$ 17,116,837

Data Source
Audited Financial Statements

Changes in Net Position
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Expenses					
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 12,155,897	\$ 11,645,266	\$ 10,229,231	\$ 12,702,261	\$ 11,860,452
Public safety	50,525,230	42,615,139	40,842,983	39,368,324	34,879,104
Environmental protection	620,215	629,550	599,963	679,490	585,457
Economic and physical development	20,154,248	18,490,744	17,042,823	16,638,619	14,883,762
Human services	46,071,393	44,620,992	43,083,045	48,949,754	46,621,822
Culture and recreation	3,786,087	3,372,144	3,545,635	3,518,210	3,595,626
Education	58,197,754	65,517,013	69,146,541	57,013,840	50,223,611
Interest on long-term debt	4,064,107	4,318,642	3,615,378	3,707,890	3,477,042
Total governmental activities expenses	195,574,931	191,209,490	188,105,599	182,578,388	166,126,876
Business-type activities:					
Solid waste management	8,122,386	6,576,468	5,640,840	5,575,002	5,346,204
Water and sewer	3,040,068	3,210,852	2,289,106	2,074,045	2,279,892
Total business-type activities expenses	11,162,454	9,787,320	7,929,946	7,649,047	7,626,096
Total primary government expenses	206,737,385	200,996,810	196,035,545	190,227,435	173,752,972
Program Revenues					
Governmental activities:					
Fees, fines, and charges for services:					
General government	2,010,935	2,413,382	2,048,789	1,645,516	1,664,523
Public safety	8,325,780	8,753,953	9,082,972	9,062,382	8,617,461
Environmental protection	24,502	40,791	35,125	33,368	35,269
Economic and physical development	3,472,412	2,639,454	2,886,862	2,783,017	2,552,503
Human services	2,199,185	1,986,009	2,104,653	2,777,252	7,390,409
Culture and recreation	60,759	63,150	60,763	57,805	61,537
Education	-	-	-	-	-
Operating grants and contributions	31,304,752	29,495,898	29,180,562	33,826,622	33,083,275
Capital grants and contributions	565,040	465,997	246,568	114,292	250,000
Total governmental activities program revenues	47,963,365	45,858,634	45,646,294	50,300,254	53,654,977
Business-type activities:					
Fees, fines, and charges for services	9,225,356	7,972,268	7,384,774	6,615,230	6,421,312
Operating grants and contributions	1,049,294	870,227	1,500,375	742,079	743,064
Capital grants and contributions	996,137	13,364	-	-	223,191
Total business-type activities program revenues	11,270,787	8,855,859	8,885,149	7,357,309	7,387,567
Total primary government program revenues	59,234,152	54,714,493	54,531,443	57,657,563	61,042,544
Net (Expenses) Revenues					
Governmental activities	(147,611,566)	(145,350,856)	(142,459,305)	(132,278,134)	(112,471,899)
Business-type activities	108,333	(931,461)	955,203	(291,738)	(238,529)
Total primary government net expense	(147,503,233)	(146,282,317)	(141,504,102)	(132,569,872)	(112,710,428)
General Revenues and Other Changes in Net Position					
Governmental activities:					
Taxes					
Property taxes	115,771,446	107,841,934	104,070,254	102,512,789	98,691,384
Local option sales taxes	39,552,244	37,938,247	36,065,390	34,612,225	32,903,055
Other taxes	1,849,277	1,795,787	1,848,291	1,768,591	1,590,916
Investment earnings, unrestricted	2,559,582	4,175,509	702,975	209,348	1,470,473
Gain (loss) on sales of capital assets	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	(1,694,984)	(1,653,489)	(1,600,000)	(1,617,050)
Total governmental activities	159,732,549	150,056,493	141,033,421	137,502,953	133,038,778
Business-type activities:					
Taxes					
Local option sales taxes	-	900,150	848,925	821,860	870,975
Other taxes	369,136	372,218	425,298	340,216	327,044
Investment earnings	1,184,091	1,867,691	292,600	52,518	715,609
Gain on sales of capital assets	106,551	5,161	54,598	48,748	54,235
Transfers	-	1,694,984	1,653,489	1,600,000	1,617,050
Total business-type activities	1,659,778	4,840,204	3,274,910	2,863,342	3,584,913
Total primary government	161,392,327	154,896,697	144,308,331	140,366,295	136,623,691
Change in Net Position					
Governmental activities	12,120,983	4,705,637	(1,425,884)	5,224,819	20,566,879
Business-type activities	1,768,111	3,908,743	4,230,113	2,571,604	3,346,384
Total primary government	\$ 13,889,094	\$ 8,614,380	\$ 2,804,229	\$ 7,796,423	\$ 23,913,263

Data Source
Audited Financial Statements

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Table 3
Page 1 of 2
Fund Balances, Governmental Funds
Last Ten Fiscal Years

(modified accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
General Fund					
Nonspendable					
Inventories	\$ 247,683	\$ 250,513	\$ 258,729	\$ 299,636	\$ 319,229
Prepaid	76,415	53,179	234,868	61,080	18,419
Notes receivable	5,282,583	4,494,175	2,039,100	584,026	913,027
Leases	6,403	5,741	14,096	2,036	-
Restricted					
Stabilization by State Statute	25,714,402	24,095,174	24,393,747	22,335,350	18,655,860
Register of Deeds	87,251	158,645	142,308	139,535	115,021
Debt service	26,699,815	24,842,036	22,984,713	21,122,635	19,265,800
Social Services	236,000	236,000	236,000	240,000	240,000
General Capital Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Committed					
Tax Reappraisal	208,353	156,237	57,931	122,185	128,307
Assigned					
Public Health	2,092,414	1,828,840	1,774,173	991,262	680,178
Social Services	11,510,988	10,569,501	8,419,669	7,125,114	5,149,537
County Manager	826,335	708,089	653,613	422,335	388,954
Human Resources	454,685	418,182	493,724	361,748	238,628
Library	725,105	781,410	709,882	675,350	693,938
Subsequent year's expenditures	8,664,411	8,384,519	9,179,705	11,154,833	8,511,516
Unassigned	75,851,616	71,610,448	70,740,956	65,591,057	57,306,094
Total general fund	158,806,948	148,592,689	142,333,214	131,228,182	112,624,508
Restricted					
Stabilization by State Statute	425,526	309,466	10,047,553	3,933,063	9,198,727
Public Safety	2,162,518	3,537,823	2,691,485	2,042,228	1,670,080
Human Services	7,571,204	5,529,404	1,726,217	-	25,552
Fire Protection	2,458,554	2,016,288	2,119,912	2,077,632	1,747,215
Environmental Protection	252,558	106,760	-	-	-
Library Endowment	218,692	208,592	199,671	197,841	225,206
Scholarship	59,894	55,657	55,751	56,244	58,703
Parks Preservation	-	121,359	89,905	76,104	55,824
Community Development	156,595	30,992	531	50,694	20,136
Education	1,791	371	-	-	-
Representative Payee	39,803	42,966	87,084	104,255	-
American Rescue Plan Act	-	-	-	-	15,473,757
CARES Act	-	-	-	-	-
General Capital	90,931	90,345	89,891	89,786	5,022,380
School Capital and Construction	11,020,153	17,563,127	33,392,468	1,816,691	5,795,919
NC Railroad	41,973	21,295	-	-	-
Hospital Capital	2,047,164	1,817,718	2,081,502	2,230,555	2,807,987
Committed					
General Capital	35,572,678	39,147,195	30,569,952	26,902,456	7,471,743
Subdivision Road Improvement	934,632	1,234,578	833,295	565,810	-
School Capital	23,055,474	19,265,471	11,747,236	9,825,269	8,460,279
School Construction	-	5,795,435	9,903,730	7,988,924	10,242,253
Hospital Construction	5,170,079	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	(174,859)	(1,023,972)	(338,651)	(15,495,456)
Total fund balances	91,280,219	96,719,983	104,612,211	57,618,901	52,780,305
Total governmental funds	\$ 250,754,682	\$ 245,312,672	\$ 246,945,425	\$ 191,847,084	\$ 165,404,813

Data Source

Audited Financial Statements

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Table 3
Page 2 of 2

Fund Balances, Governmental Funds
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(modified accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
General Fund					
Nonspendable					
Inventories	\$ 304,083	\$ 310,198	\$ 314,246	\$ 315,603	\$ 326,899
Prepaid	617,948	595,103	600,017	650,755	791,762
Notes receivable	1,195,145	930,261	828,179	1,140,298	1,487,417
Leases	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted					
Stabilization by State Statute	16,340,426	17,310,522	16,277,027	15,043,605	15,930,246
Register of Deeds	43,326	46,265	17,382	17,170	5,883
Debt service	17,412,407	15,552,488	13,923,346	11,878,801	10,014,375
Social Services	243,133	245,354	-	-	-
General Capital Reserve	-	-	405,964	404,237	462,531
Committed					
Tax Revaluation	95,125	94,005	119,803	173,005	172,990
Assigned					
Public Health	662,279	572,272	734,665	684,018	376,026
Social Services	3,892,520	3,434,388	3,758,037	4,133,196	5,189,684
County Manager	263,100	251,336	251,049	168,882	165,824
Human Resources	203,989	210,196	323,652	396,894	498,613
Library	691,398	515,113	307,791	127,497	103,073
Subsequent year's expenditures	6,389,453	7,606,196	6,809,722	6,196,066	8,740,222
Unassigned	49,576,091	41,970,308	39,478,996	38,512,665	34,098,284
Total general fund	97,930,423	89,644,005	84,149,876	79,842,692	78,363,829
Restricted					
Stabilization by State Statute	16,168,544	22,009,972	2,642,305	9,998,054	13,762,920
Public Safety	1,539,652	1,282,323	934,306	607,282	494,667
Human Services	-	-	-	-	-
Fire Protection	1,408,760	1,881,139	1,487,254	1,521,675	1,370,246
Environmental Protection	-	-	-	-	-
Library Endowment	205,165	199,878	193,303	192,424	192,428
Scholarship	58,670	56,815	54,953	53,725	52,740
Parks Preservation	23,032	5,515	5,335	5,312	1,099
Community Development	19,960	4,408	25,764	15,821	-
Education	-	-	-	-	-
Representative Payee	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan Act	-	-	-	-	-
CARES Act	4,923	-	-	-	-
General Capital	6,946,054	17,884,858	30,058,365	452,704	2,231,565
School Capital and Construction	2,717,631	6,066,675	22,578,401	22,019,761	-
NC Railroad	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital Capital	3,305,995	3,728,084	4,104,986	4,586,527	5,063,041
Committed					
General Capital	532,909	2,462,695	17,584,405	16,137,346	18,875,251
Subdivision Road Improvement	-	-	-	-	-
School Capital	8,969,464	6,791,275	6,116,496	7,159,669	5,499,929
School Construction	6,027,961	8,877,798	7,216,972	12,264,434	6,790,440
Hospital Construction	-	-	-	-	24,433
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	(1,106,533)	-	-	-	(712)
Total fund balances	46,822,187	71,251,435	93,002,845	75,014,734	54,358,047
Total governmental funds	\$ 144,752,610	\$ 160,895,440	\$ 177,152,721	\$ 154,857,426	\$ 132,721,876

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Table 4
Page 1 of 2
Changes in Fund Balances, Governmental Funds
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(modified accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Revenues					
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 139,474,617	\$ 135,725,988	\$ 128,764,971	\$ 125,412,180	\$ 121,024,799
Other taxes	\$ 62,425,499	55,617,482	59,483,016	55,315,391	48,220,380
Unrestricted intergovernmental revenues	2,082,260	2,380,950	2,328,801	2,251,449	2,094,948
Tax assessment road improvement	309,259	107,173	13,586	-	-
Restricted intergovernmental revenues	67,406,559	57,162,670	48,116,692	51,478,242	40,647,300
Permits and fees	6,670,100	6,332,622	6,416,413	6,183,904	5,352,866
Sales and services	12,419,457	10,780,323	11,289,538	10,128,551	7,780,817
Investment earnings	10,180,539	10,470,693	2,107,593	(5,676,335)	(42,859)
Miscellaneous	5,153,782	4,265,084	4,042,248	3,580,511	3,517,835
Total revenues	306,122,072	282,842,985	262,562,858	248,673,893	228,596,086
Expenditures					
Current:					
General government	17,590,330	16,644,375	15,622,327	14,627,408	14,898,197
Public safety	72,803,631	65,864,728	58,042,095	51,074,409	48,186,161
Environmental protection	877,260	1,034,207	884,946	702,965	601,045
Economic and physical development	23,935,795	24,751,405	25,781,815	21,894,798	19,023,000
Human services	54,295,559	53,673,544	50,521,075	47,203,285	45,273,661
Culture and recreation	4,358,763	4,082,519	4,117,820	3,992,511	3,496,614
Education	52,429,047	50,073,582	47,969,792	47,384,443	46,477,634
Capital Outlay	52,920,647	46,831,826	29,391,429	26,917,395	30,208,203
Debt service:	-	-	-	-	-
Principal	14,485,695	17,054,307	15,202,850	14,950,643	14,577,808
Interest	4,215,573	4,538,231	3,264,944	3,835,712	4,314,087
Payment to refunded bond escrow agent	-	-	-	-	-
Bond issuance costs	-	-	411,276	7,616	145,011
Total expenditures	297,912,300	284,548,724	251,210,369	232,591,185	227,201,421
Other Financing Sources (uses)					
Transfers from other funds	14,359,296	19,825,756	18,040,339	38,858,350	14,349,626
Transfers to other funds	(18,406,080)	(20,448,804)	(20,735,366)	(30,183,850)	(13,649,626)
Installment purchase obligations issued	813,193	-	-	-	18,550,000
Lease liabilities issued	-	-	119,987	1,579,797	-
SBITA liabilities issued	465,829	573,331	1,113,045	-	-
Premium on installment obligations issued	-	-	-	-	-
Bonds issued	-	-	38,480,000	10,757,408	-
Premium on bonds issued	-	-	4,791,431	-	-
Payment to refunded escrow agent	-	-	-	(10,757,408)	-
Proceeds for sale of properties	-	-	1,875,841	-	-
Sales of capital assets	-	122,703	60,577	-	8,075
Total other financing sources (uses)	(2,767,762)	72,986	43,745,854	10,254,297	19,258,075
Net change in fund balances	\$ 5,442,010	\$ (1,632,753)	\$ 55,098,343	\$ 26,337,005	\$ 20,652,740
Debt service as a percentage of noncapital expenditures	6.6%	8.0%	7.6%	8.7%	8.8%

⁽¹⁾ Note: Beginning FY 2012, current refundings are shown as debt service expenditures rather than other financing use.

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Table 4
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Changes in Fund Balances, Governmental Funds
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(modified accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Revenues					
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 115,496,421	\$ 108,017,836	\$ 104,028,855	\$ 102,643,115	\$ 98,864,292
Other taxes	40,497,590	38,794,760	36,953,090	35,395,806	33,513,929
Unrestricted intergovernmental revenues	1,987,827	1,859,693	1,895,660	1,915,010	1,914,853
Tax assessment road improvement	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted intergovernmental revenues	35,480,559	33,799,515	32,872,765	37,710,248	36,702,096
Permits and fees	3,678,377	3,648,564	3,545,784	3,270,330	2,725,409
Sales and services	8,079,661	7,679,583	7,789,214	7,955,557	9,289,078
Investment earnings	2,559,583	4,175,516	702,974	209,348	1,451,782
Miscellaneous	3,838,422	3,258,451	3,584,753	3,544,286	7,502,488
Total revenues	211,618,440	201,233,918	191,373,095	192,643,700	191,963,927
Expenditures					
Current:					
General government	13,057,864	13,645,725	12,033,377	12,813,629	12,646,281
Public safety	46,544,256	40,511,383	40,537,103	40,004,086	34,477,572
Environmental protection	594,076	607,125	581,569	661,156	573,409
Economic and physical development	18,731,430	17,619,284	16,222,681	15,493,426	15,010,630
Human services	43,149,372	42,815,566	42,039,157	47,706,576	46,315,883
Culture and recreation	3,492,983	3,603,514	3,397,645	3,407,377	3,513,584
Education	45,497,776	44,679,342	43,331,107	41,012,204	40,239,272
Capital Outlay	37,444,960	34,042,704	35,780,090	27,343,949	26,081,492
Debt service:					
Principal	14,676,883	13,445,368	13,501,848	13,430,361	10,582,661
Interest	4,571,669	4,826,204	3,507,375	3,763,682	3,744,689
Payment to refunded bond escrow agent	-	-	-	-	-
Bond issuance costs	-	-	375,651	115,551	-
Total expenditures	227,761,269	215,796,215	211,307,603	205,751,997	193,185,473
Other Financing Sources (uses)					
Transfers from other funds	7,162,914	5,158,796	6,641,134	10,302,305	8,376,971
Transfers to other funds	(7,162,914)	(6,853,780)	(8,294,623)	(11,902,305)	(9,994,021)
Installment purchase obligations issued	-	-	-	50,530,000	570,000
Lease liabilities issued	-	-	-	-	-
SBITA liabilities issued	-	-	-	-	-
Premium on installment obligations issued	-	-	-	-	-
Bonds issued	-	-	39,085,000	-	-
Premium on bonds issued	-	-	4,798,292	-	-
Payment to refunded escrow agent	-	-	-	(13,686,153)	-
Proceeds for sale of properties	-	-	-	-	-
Sales of capital assets	-	-	-	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	(1,694,984)	42,229,803	35,243,847	(1,047,050)
Net change in fund balances	\$ (16,142,829)	\$ (16,257,281)	\$ 22,295,295	\$ 22,135,550	\$ (2,268,596)
Debt service as a percentage of noncapital expenditures	9.5%	9.1%	8.6%	8.9%	8.1%

⁽¹⁾ Note: Beginning FY 2012, current refundings are shown as debt service expenditures rather than other financing use.

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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**Principal Property Taxpayers
Current Year and Nine Years Ago**

Taxpayer	Type of Business	Fiscal Year 2025		
		Taxable Assessed Value	Rank	Percentage of Total Taxable Assessed Value
Apple, Inc.	Computer Server	\$ 1,476,648,949	1	4.70
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC	Electric Utility	1,057,575,039	2	3.37
GKN Driveline Newton, LLC	Gears Mfg.	244,285,457	3	0.78
Corning Incorporated	Cable Mfg.	213,130,895	4	0.68
Prysmian Cables and Systems	Cable Mfg.	171,483,489	5	0.55
CommScope Inc of North Carolina	Cable Mfg.	165,547,513	6	0.53
Piedmont Natural Gas Co., Inc.	Gas Utility	130,836,456	7	0.42
Shurtape Technologies, Inc.	Manufacturing	122,721,855	8	0.39
Duke LifePoint (Frye Regional Medical)	Medical Care	115,365,668	9	0.37
Target Corporation	Warehouse/Retail	112,528,409	10	0.36
		<u>\$ 3,810,123,730</u>		<u>12.15</u>
Total Assessed Valuation		<u>\$ 31,422,508,337</u>		

Source: Catawba County Tax Collector

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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**Principal Property Taxpayers
Current Year and Nine Years Ago**

		Fiscal Year 2016		
Taxpayer	Type of Business	Taxable Assessed Value	Rank	Percentage of Total Taxable Assessed Value
Apple, Inc.	Computer Server	\$ 1,065,891,653	1	6.62
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC	Electric Utility	602,186,605	2	3.74
GKN Driveline Newton, LLC	Gears Mfg.	168,439,111	3	1.05
CommScope Inc. of North Carolina	Cable Mfg.	96,248,172	4	0.60
Target Corporation	Warehouse/Retail	85,329,962	5	0.53
Corning Cable System	Cable Mfg.	71,296,078	6	0.44
Frye Regional/American Medical	Medical Care	61,951,492	7	0.38
Draka Comteq Americas, Inc.	Cable Mfg.	55,470,441	8	0.34
HSM Solutions	Furniture Supplies	51,155,238	9	0.32
Valley Hills Mall, LLC	Retail	38,724,561	10	0.24
		<u>\$ 2,296,693,313</u>		<u>14.26</u>
Total Assessed Valuation		<u>\$ 16,094,340,156</u>		

Source: Catawba County Tax Collector

Property Tax Levies and Collections
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(modified accrual basis of accounting)

Fiscal Year	Tax Year	Total Tax Levy for Fiscal Year ⁽¹⁾	Collected within the Fiscal Year of the Levy		Collections in Subsequent Years	Total Collections to Date	
			Amount	Percentage of Levy		Amount	Percentage of Levy
2016	2015	92,542,456	90,856,714	98.18	1,654,157	92,510,871	99.97
2017	2016	94,639,996	93,070,059	98.34	1,527,494	94,597,553	99.96
2018	2017	96,140,422	94,571,921	98.37	1,525,466	96,097,387	99.96
2019	2018	99,113,042	97,751,358	98.63	1,281,878	99,033,236	99.92
2020	2019	106,244,575	104,660,807	98.51	1,504,950	106,165,756	99.93
2021	2020	110,229,070	109,080,596	98.96	1,043,120	110,123,716	99.90
2022	2021	114,633,420	113,541,410	99.05	947,718	114,489,128	99.87
2023	2022	117,592,279	116,372,521	98.96	945,339	117,317,860	99.77
2024	2023	123,290,628	121,835,558	98.82	877,218	122,712,576	99.53
2025	2024	125,365,085	123,567,513	98.57	-	123,567,513	98.57

⁽¹⁾ Includes discoveries, releases and abatements

Source: Catawba County Tax Collector

Ratios of Outstanding Debt by Type
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Fiscal Year	Governmental Activities							
	General Obligation Bonds	Certificates of Participation	Installment Purchases	Qualified Zone Academy Bonds	Qualified School Construction Bonds	Build America Bonds	Limited Obligation Bonds	Long-Term Leases/ SBITAs
2016	-	10,582,008	37,299,345	300,000	27,808,553	5,504,583	52,638,035	-
2017	-	9,293,560	72,741,291	250,000	27,808,553	-	47,533,477	-
2018	-	8,020,112	65,653,300	200,000	27,808,553	-	86,320,939	-
2019	-	6,776,664	58,593,253	150,000	27,808,553	-	80,993,922	-
2020	-	5,558,217	51,671,667	100,000	27,808,553	-	74,282,234	-
2021	-	4,369,770	63,366,667	50,000	27,808,553	-	67,583,819	-
2022	-	2,880,000	66,675,408	-	27,808,553	-	48,816,483	1,229,837
2023	-	1,890,000	56,134,456	-	27,808,553	-	88,528,602	1,940,973
2024	-	930,000	45,861,146	-	27,808,553	-	82,849,648	1,763,307
2025	-	-	38,317,288	-	27,808,553	-	77,160,693	1,297,299

N/A = Not available

Sources:

¹ U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis² Population based on estimates issued by the Bureau of the Census

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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**Ratios of Outstanding Debt by Type
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

Year	North Carolina Department of Commerce	Business Type				Total Primary Government	Percentage of Personal Income ⁽¹⁾	Per Capita ⁽²⁾
		Installment Purchases	Limited Obligation Bonds	Revolving Loan	Long-Term Leases/ SBITAs			
2016	2,600,000	6,158,434	4,562,032	1,050,000	-	148,502,990	2.59	953
2017	2,100,388	5,522,224	4,030,882	975,000	-	170,255,375	2.71	1,092
2018	1,590,784	4,874,499	3,501,003	900,000	-	198,869,190	3.07	1,274
2019	1,070,988	4,215,049	2,972,398	825,000	-	183,405,827	2.67	1,165
2020	540,796	3,543,664	2,528,372	750,000	-	166,783,503	2.32	1,052
2021	-	2,860,127	2,086,253	675,000	-	168,800,189	2.27	1,052
2022	-	1,567,592	-	600,000	12,151	149,590,024	1.73	931
2023	-	1,111,877	-	525,000	5,167	177,944,628	1.96	1,081
2024	-	691,521	-	450,000	1,907	160,356,082		965
2025	-	513,712	-	375,000	-	145,472,545		865

N/A = Not available

Sources:

¹ U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

² Population based on estimates issued by the Bureau of the Census

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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**Legal Debt Margin Information
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Assessed value (after exemption)	31,422,508,337	30,629,234,210	20,391,124,348	19,836,704,600	19,134,815,417
Debt limit rate	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
Debt limit	2,513,800,667	2,450,338,737	1,631,289,948	1,586,936,368	1,530,785,233
Less: Total net debt applicable to limit	117,481,804	125,009,239	153,017,789	129,084,877	149,537,030
Legal debt margin	<u>2,396,318,863</u>	<u>2,325,329,498</u>	<u>1,478,272,159</u>	<u>1,457,851,491</u>	<u>1,381,248,203</u>
Total net debt applicable to the limit as a percentage of debt limit	5%	5%	9%	8%	10%

Legal Debt Margin Calculation for Fiscal Year 2025

Assessed value (after exemptions)	\$ 31,422,508,337
Debt limit (8% of assessed value)	2,513,800,667
Debt applicable to limit:	
Certificates of participation	-
Installment purchase	38,317,288
Qualified School Construction Bonds	27,808,553
Limited Obligation Bonds	77,674,405
Federal Revolving Loan	375,000
Less: Statutory deductions	
Sinking Funds	<u>(26,693,442)</u>
Total net debt applicable to limit	<u>117,481,804</u>
Legal debt margin	<u>\$ 2,396,318,863</u>

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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Legal Debt Margin Information
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Assessed value (after exemption)	18,456,695,118	17,181,488,855	16,699,988,355	16,421,192,679	16,094,340,156
Debt limit rate	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
Debt limit	1,476,535,609	1,374,519,108	1,335,999,068	1,313,695,414	1,287,547,212
Less: Total net debt applicable to limit	149,376,135	167,855,980	198,869,191	170,255,375	148,502,990
Legal debt margin	149,376,135	1,206,663,128	198,869,191	1,143,440,039	1,139,044,222
Total net debt applicable to the limit as a percentage of debt limit	10%	12%	15%	13%	12%

**Demographic and Economic Statistics
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

Fiscal Year	Population Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Personal Income	Per Capita Income ⁽²⁾	Median Age ⁽³⁾	School Enrollment ⁽⁴⁾	Unemployment Rate ⁽⁵⁾
2016	156,182	6,243,298,000	40,265	40.82	23,679	4.90
2017	156,106	6,489,428,000	41,477	41.06	23,509	4.00
2018	157,424	6,895,726,000	43,651	41.20	23,203	3.80
2019	158,579	7,193,629,000	45,342	41.25	22,705	4.20
2020	160,504	7,397,881,000	46,367	39.23	22,593	8.30
2021	160,732	7,886,011,000	49,193	41.70	21,701	4.7
2022	161,909	8,625,094,000	53,333	41.40	21,636	3.8
2023	164,642	9,026,785,000	55,223	41.70	21,870	3.4
2024	166,196	9,487,534,000	57,624	42.40	21,815	4.1
2025	168,248	N/A	N/A	39.40	22,603	3.8

N/A = Not available

Sources:

¹ NC Budget and Management Office of State Planning - Based upon estimates issued by the U.S. Census Bureau

² Bureau of Economic Analysis

³ NC Budget and Management Office of State Planning

⁴ North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

⁵ United States Department of Labor - Bureau of Labor Statistics

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**Table 12****Principal Employers
Current Year and Nine Years Ago**

Employer	Industry	2025		2016	
		Employees	Rank	Employees	Rank
Catawba Valley Medical Center	Health Care & Social Assistance	1,000+	1	1,000+	2
Catawba County Schools	Education & Health Services	1,000+	2	1,000+	1
Corning Optical Communications, LLC	Manufacturing	1,000+	3	1000+	6
Target Stores DIV	Transportation & Warehousing	1,000+	4	-	-
Catawba County Government	Public Administration	1,000+	5	1,000+	5
Wal-Mart Associates, LLC	Retail Trade	1,000+	6	-	-
Dlp Partner Frye, LLC	Health Care & Social Assistance	1,000+	7	-	-
Commscope Inc of NC	Manufacturing	1,000+	8	1,000+	3
Pierre Foods Inc	Manufacturing	500-999	9	500-999	9
Century Furniture	Manufacturing	500-999	10	-	-
GKN Driveline Newton LLC	Manufacturing	500-999	11	-	-
Westrock Services LLC	Manufacturing	500-999	12	-	-
City of Hickory	Public Administration	500-999	13	-	-
Shurtape Technologies LLC	Manufacturing	500-999	14	-	-

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Full Time Equivalent County Employees by Function
Last Ten Fiscal Years

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	Full-time Equivalent Employees as of June 30				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Function					
Governmental activities:					
General government	80	84	84	81	82
Public safety	446	453	447	442	439
Environmental protection	5	6	5	5	5
Economic and physical development	109	114	111	108	97
Human services	519	530	541	519	516
Culture and recreation	38	38	38	38	38
Total governmental activities	<u>1,197</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>1,226</u>	<u>1,193</u>	<u>1,177</u>
Business-type activities:					
Water sewer	1	1	1	1	1
Solid waste management	32	30	29	30	30
Total business-type activities	<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>
Total primary government	<u>1,230</u>	<u>1,256</u>	<u>1,256</u>	<u>1,224</u>	<u>1,208</u>

Source: Catawba County Human Resources Department

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Full Time Equivalent County Employees by Function
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Table 13
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Full-time Equivalent Employees as of June 30					
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Function					
Governmental activities:					
General government	81	80	82	82	81
Public safety	425	374	370	358	355
Environmental protection	5	5	4	4	4
Economic and physical development	91	91	86	84	78
Human services	516	515	510	505	541
Culture and recreation	38	38	37	36	35
Total governmental activities	<u>1,156</u>	<u>1,103</u>	<u>1,089</u>	<u>1,069</u>	<u>1,094</u>
Business-type activities:					
Water sewer	1	1	1	1	1
Solid waste management	29	29	29	27	26
Total business-type activities	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>
Total primary government	<u>1,186</u>	<u>1,133</u>	<u>1,119</u>	<u>1,097</u>	<u>1,120</u>

Source: Catawba County Human Resources Department

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Table 14
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Operating Indicators by Function
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Function	Fiscal Year				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Governmental activities:					
General government					
Number of registered voters	115,334	114,326	109,754	110,265	107,141
Number of marriage licenses issued	1,174	1,043	1,065	1,035	1,091
Number of tax bills issued	120,915	118,387	117,237	111,937	116,095
Public safety					
Number of 911 dispatch/calls	89,710	94,555	97,782	94,350	94,507
Sheriff Department offenses reported	3,677	4,262	4,036	2,265	4,273
Environmental protection					
Cooperative extension agent contacts	162,953	73,303	103,900	93,842	123,654
Economic and physical development					
Number of commercial permits issued	497	517	599	614	590
Number of residential permits issued	2,829	2,815	2,749	2,348	2,210
Human services					
Households received assistance with energy bills	3,239	2,586	1,683	2,653	3,341
Medicaid transportation provided (round trips)	11,846	15,375	13,779	15,225	14,751
Child support services cases currently open	4,453	4,669	5,090	5,482	5,886
Public health clients served	41,032	38,151	43,260	39,451	44,616
Restaurant inspections	1,565	1,839	1,408	1,406	1,386
Culture and recreation					
Total circulation for library system	611,111	526,650	480,600	493,586	535,336
Number of patrons visiting parks	636,871	585,372	509,650	278,253	151,326
Education					
Public school student enrollment K-12	22,603	21,815	21,870	21,636	21,701
Business-type activities:					
Solid waste management					
Tons buried - MSW	246,009	236,259	200,167	173,994	167,940
Tons buried - C&D	-	-	54,410	49,399	47,974
Tons recycled	27,810	14,629	24,129	20,875	24,597

⁽¹⁾ The State of North Carolina implemented combined motor vehicle registration renewal and property tax collection system whereby the State issues the bills for motor vehicle taxes

Sources: Catawba County Departments, NC Department of Public Instruction

Operating Indicators by Function
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Function	Fiscal Year				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Governmental activities:					
General government					
Number of registered voters	106,113	99,706	105,035	101,790	101,330
Number of marriage licenses issued	995	964	1,081	1,081	1,074
Number of tax bills issued	114,422	111,625	106,065	104,928	104,396
Public safety					
Number of 911 dispatch/calls	89,553	89,712	90,118	92,049	93,089
Sheriff Department offenses reported	2,697	9,417	5,914	6,054	6,169
Environmental protection					
Cooperative extension agent contacts	265,124	170,863	46,075	46,997	41,348
Economic and physical development					
Number of commercial permits issued	605	506	602	605	631
Number of residential permits issued	1,576	1,515	1,467	1,398	1,182
Human services					
Households received assistance with energy bills	3,706	3,681	2,628	3,344	3,550
Medicaid transportation provided (round trips)	17,941	21,368	25,679	27,235	27,590
Child support services cases currently open	6,139	6,512	6,501	6,562	6,682
Public health clients served	42,100	40,768	17,148	9,037	10,958
Restaurant inspections	1,303	1,374	1,434	1,353	1,347
Culture and recreation					
Total circulation for library system	426,914	476,434	468,898	525,988	555,132
Number of patrons visiting parks	208,492	166,853	160,803	166,319	170,295
Education					
Public school student enrollment K-12	22,593	22,705	23,203	23,509	23,679
Business-type activities:					
Solid waste management					
Tons buried - MSW	159,100	157,312	153,207	139,638	133,843
Tons buried - C&D	45,316	34,384	33,858	33,041	32,819
Tons recycled	19,255	19,685	20,256	21,761	19,737

⁽¹⁾ The State of North Carolina implemented combined motor vehicle registration renewal and property tax collection system whereby the State issues the bills for motor vehicle taxes

Sources: Catawba County Departments, NC Department of Public Instruction

Capital Asset Statistics by Function
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Function	Fiscal Year				
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Governmental activities:					
General government					
Buildings	4	4	6	5	5
Vehicles	7	9	7	7	5
Public safety					
Buildings	16	16	15	15	14
Vehicles	333	322	277	258	260
Environmental protection					
Buildings	2	2	2	2	2
Vehicles	3	4	3	3	3
Economic and physical development					
Buildings	3	2	2	2	2
Vehicles	96	96	79	71	74
Human services					
Buildings	33	35	34	37	38
Vehicles	29	29	27	28	41
Culture and recreation					
Buildings	6	6	5	5	5
Vehicles	2	2	2	2	2
Business-type activities:					
Solid waste management					
Buildings	11	11	10	10	10
Vehicles	30	27	25	23	26
Water and sewer					
Buildings	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0

N/A = Not available

Sources: Catawba County Departments

Capital Asset Statistics by Function
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Function	Fiscal Year				
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Governmental activities:					
General government					
Buildings	5	5	6	6	6
Vehicles	8	5	6	4	5
Public safety					
Buildings	14	14	13	12	11
Vehicles	233	225	247	230	221
Environmental protection					
Buildings	2	2	2	2	2
Vehicles	3	3	3	2	2
Economic and physical development					
Buildings	2	2	2	2	2
Vehicles	60	66	62	58	48
Human services					
Buildings	38	38	38	37	38
Vehicles	37	35	39	40	41
Culture and recreation					
Buildings	5	5	5	5	5
Vehicles	2	2	1	1	1
Business-type activities:					
Solid waste management					
Buildings	10	10	10	10	10
Vehicles	25	24	26	24	23
Water and sewer					
Buildings	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0

N/A = Not available

Sources: Catawba County Departments

GLOSSARY

Ad Valorem Tax: A tax levied in proportion to the value of a property.

Accrual Basis of Accounting: Revenues are reported on the income statement when they are earned not when they are received. Expenses are matched with related revenues and/or are reported when the expense occurs, not when the cash is paid. The result of accrual accounting is an income statement that better measures profitability during a specific time period.

Activity: Departmental efforts which contribute to the achievement of a specific set of program outcomes; the smallest unit of the program budget.

Allocate: To set apart portions of budgeted expenditures which are specifically designated to organizations for special activities or purposes (i.e., various rescue squads).

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF), which is a program that provides funding over a two-year period to all states, counties, and municipalities across the country, including nearly all counties and cities in North Carolina.

Annual Budget: A budget covering a single fiscal year.

Appropriation: An authorization granted by the Board of Commissioners to make budgeted expenditures and to incur obligations for purposes specified in the budget ordinance.

Approved Budget: The budget as formally adopted by the Board of Commissioners for the upcoming fiscal year.

Arbitrage: The difference between the interest expense paid by the bond debt issuer and the earnings from the invested proceeds. Tax-exempt municipal bond issuers are subject to Federal arbitrage compliance rules as a condition of bond covenants or other issuance requirements.

Assessed Value: The value of real estate or personal property as determined by tax assessors and used as a basis for levying taxes.

Assessment: The process for determining values of real and personal property for taxation purposes.

Audit: The examination or inspection of various books of accounts by an auditor followed by physical checking of inventory to make sure that all departments are following the documented system of recording transactions. It is done to ascertain the accuracy of financial statements provided by the organization.

Authorized Bond: Bonds which have been legally approved but may or may not have been sold.

Available Fund Balance: Total cash and investments minus liabilities, encumbrances, and deferred revenues at the end of each fiscal year.

Balanced Budget: Occurs when planned expenditures equal anticipated revenues. In North Carolina it is required that the budget submitted to the Board of Commissioners be balanced.

Board of County Commissioners: Five-member Board elected at large by the voters of the County for four year terms.

Bond: A written promise to pay a specific amount of money with interest within a specific time period, usually long-term.

Bond Issued: Bonds that are sold.

Bond Rating: A grade indicating a governmental unit's investment qualities. Generally speaking, the higher bond rating, the more favorable the interest rate and the lower the cost of financing capital projects funded by bonds. A high rating is indicative of the Government's strong financial position. Ratings range from AAA (highest) to D (lowest).

Budget Document: A formal document presented to the Board of Commissioners containing the County's financial plan for a fiscal year.

Budget Message: A written overview of the proposed budget from the County Manager to the Board of Commissioners which discusses the major budget items and the County's present and future financial condition.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): A long term plan of proposed capital improvement projects which includes estimated project costs and funding sources that the County expects to undertake within a five-year period. The plan is updated annually to reassess capital needs.

Capital Outlay: An expenditure expected to have a useful life greater than three years or an estimated total cost of \$5,000 or more. Capital outlay expenditures include such purchases as a vehicle, ambulance equipment, or Landfill equipment.

Capital Project: A project expected to have a useful life greater than ten years or an estimated total cost of \$100,000 or more and requiring professional certification. Capital projects include the construction, purchase, or major renovation of a building or the purchase of land.

Capital Projects Fund: A fund used to account for the acquisition or construction of major governmental capital facilities and equipment which are not financed by other funds.

Certificate of Participation (COPS): is a type of financing where an investor purchases a share of the lease revenues of a program rather than the bond being secured by those revenues. Certificates of participation are, therefore, secured by lease revenues.

Contingency Account: Account in which funds are set aside for unforeseen expenditures which may become necessary during the year and which have not been provided for in the context of the annual operating budget. Transfers from this account must be approved by the County Manager or Board of Commissioners.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act): economic stimulus bill passed by the 116th U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 27, 2020, in response to the economic fallout of the COVID disease.

Current Expense: Local funds used to supplement the State's minimum level of support for operating the schools. These funds by State law are appropriated on a per pupil basis.

Debt Service: Used for payment of general long-term debt principal, interest, and related costs.

Delinquent Taxes: Taxes that remain unpaid after the due date on which a penalty for nonpayment is incurred.

Department: A major administrative division of the County that has overall management responsibility for an operation within a function area.

DHR: Represents Departments of Human Resources that includes Social Services, Public Health, and Partners Behavioral Health Management (Partners BHM).

Encumbrance: A financial commitment for services, contracts, or goods that have not as yet been delivered or performed.

Enterprise Fund: A grouping of activities whose expenditures are wholly or partially offset by revenues collected from consumers in the form of fees and charges.

Expenditures: The total costs of a program or capital project.

Fire Protection Service Districts: Districts established pursuant to NCGS 153A-301(a)(2) within the County for the purpose of establishing fire tax rates to provide fire protection services.

Fiscal Year: The time period beginning July 1 of a calendar year and ending on June 30 of the following calendar year. Budgeting is carried out on a fiscal year schedule.

Fixed Asset: An asset of long-term character. For budgetary purposes a fixed asset is defined as an item costing \$5,000 or more with an expected life of more than three years.

Fringe Benefits: For budgeting purposes fringe benefits include employer payments for social security, retirement, group health, life insurance, dental insurance, and worker's compensation.

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): An FTE converts the hours worked by a position into a percentage of a full year's number of hours. One FTE equals 40 hours per week or 2,080 hours per year per permanent position.

Fund: An accounting entity created to record the financial activity for a selected financial grouping. A fund is set up to carry out a special function or attain certain objectives in accordance with set laws and regulations.

Fund Balance: Amounts shown as fund balance represent monies which remain unspent after all budgeted expenditures have been made. North Carolina statutes dictate that a portion of fund balance should be retained and not made available for appropriation in the following fiscal year.

Function: A broad grouping of activities and departments whose outcomes and expenditures are inter related. Examples of functions within Catawba County include Human Services, Public Safety, and General Government.

GAAP: Generally accepted accounting principles

General Fund: The general operating fund of the County used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

General Obligation Bonds: Bonds issued by a government that are backed by the full faith and credit of its taxing authority.

Governmental Funds: There are three groups of funds for which financial statements are prepared—governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Proprietary funds are employed to report on activities financed primarily by revenues generated by the activities themselves, such as a utility. Fiduciary funds contain resources held by a government but belonging to individuals or entities other than the government. Governmental funds account for everything else. Catawba County has three types of governmental funds:

- General Fund and like funds
- Special Revenue Funds
- Capital Project Funds

Grants: A broad statement of desired conditions to be maintained or achieved through the efforts of an organization.

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC): A investigation division that works with state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children.

Indirect Cost: The component of the total cost for a service that is provided by and budgeted within another department or division. Indirect costs are budgeted to more accurately reflect the true total cost for such services such as those provided by the Administrative Departments.

Installment Purchase Contract: is a contract used to finance the acquisition of assets. Under the terms of such an agreement, the buyer pays the seller the full purchase price by making a series of partial payments over time. The payments include stated or imputed interest

Intergovernmental Revenues: Revenues from other governments (State, Federal, or local), which can be in the form of grants, shared revenues, or entitlement.

Lease Purchase: A method of purchasing equipment in which payments are spread over a period of time.

Levy: The amount of tax, service charge, and assessments imposed by the government.

Line Item: A budgetary account representing a specific object of expenditure.

Major Fund: Major funds represent the significant activities for the County and can include any fund whose revenues or expenditures constitute more than 10% of the revenues or expenditures of the appropriated budget.

Modified Accrual: The County budgets all funds on the modified accrual basis of accounting according to North Carolina General Statute. This is an accounting method in which revenues are recorded when they are earned or billed and expenditures are recorded when they are obligated.

Non-Major Fund: Any fund whose revenues or expenditures constitute less than 10% of the revenues or expenditures of the appropriated budget.

Opioid Funds: Funds from a national settlement with opioid companies that can be used to help needed resources to communities harmed by the opioid epidemic.

Ordinance: A formal legislative enactment by the Board of Commissioners that has the full force and effect of law within the boundaries of the County.

Permanent Employee: An employee, except those employed by the sheriff and the register of deeds, who has satisfactorily completed a probationary period and has been approved for permanent status by his or her department head. If the employee hired is designated a trainee or is assigned to a "work against" position, the employee shall also satisfy the minimum education and work experience requirements of the position before attaining permanent status. Permanent status is waived when an employee who has reached permanent status is transferred, promoted or demoted to a position for which he must be a trainee.

Personal Services: Salaries and wages paid to employees for full-time, part-time, and temporary work including overtime and similar compensation. Also included in this account group are fringe benefits paid for employees.

Program: A well-defined portion of the operating plan for which a distinct set of goals and outcomes may be developed.

Program Objective: A specific statement about what is to be accomplished or achieved for a particular program during the fiscal year.

Public Safety: A group of expenditures related to the provision and enforcement of law enforcement and fire and disaster protection.

Reappraisal: The process of revaluing a jurisdiction's real property in order to adjust the tax value to the market value. By North Carolina law, a revaluation must be conducted at a minimum of every eight years.

Reclassification: A change in the classification and corresponding job title of an existing position that results from a major change in assigned responsibilities.

Reinventing Department: One of four departments operating under alternative methods for budgeting which give more flexibility for accounts.

Reserve: An account designated for a portion of the fund balance that is to be used for a specific purpose.

Revenue: Income including transfers and excluding proceeds from the sale of bonds or notes for the fiscal year. The major categories of revenue include taxes, intergovernmental, Federal and State, permits and fees, sales and services, and interest on investments.

SDF: System Development Fees

Self-Insurance: A risk management method where by an eligible risk is retained, but a calculated amount of money is set aside to compensate for the potential future loss. The amount is calculated using actuarial and insurance information so that the amount set aside (similar to an insurance premium) is enough to cover the future uncertain loss.

Special Revenue Fund: A fund used to account for the revenues from specific sources that are to be used for legally specified expenditures.

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP): A program created by the NC General Assembly, which approved \$38 million in funding for grants to projects that help reduce flooding and restore streams across North Carolina.

Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA): A contract that conveys control of the right to use another party's (a SBITA vendor's) information technology (IT) software, alone or in combination with tangible capital assets (the underlying IT assets), as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.

Tax Levy: Revenue produced by applying a given tax rate to a property's assessed or tax value.

Unassigned Fund Balance: Available fund balance minus fund balance appropriated for subsequent year's expenses and Board of Commissioner designations such as Reinventing Surplus, which may or may not be spent, and other reserves.

Unit Hour Utilization (UHU): A performance metric used in EMS and fire services to measure the efficiency and workload of ambulance crews, calculated by dividing the total number of patient transports by the total number of hours a unit is staffed and available

Working Capital: The amount of current assets that is in excess of current liabilities. Used frequently to measure a firm's ability to meet current obligations.

WPCOG: Western Piedmont Council of Government



FISCAL YEAR 2026/27 FEE SCHEDULE

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FISCAL YEAR 2026/27 CATAWBA COUNTY FEE SCHEDULE
July 1, 2026

EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMS Fees

Ambulance Base Rates

Advanced Life Support (Non-Emergency)	165% of the Medicare allowable rate
Advanced Life Support (Emergency)	165% of the Medicare allowable rate
Advanced Life Support – ALS2	165% of the Medicare allowable rate
Basic Life Support (Non-Emergency).....	165% of the Medicare allowable rate
Basic Life Support (Emergency).....	165% of the Medicare allowable rate
 Mileage	 165% of the Medicare allowable rate
Specialty Care Transport.....	165% of the Medicare allowable rate
Treatment / No Transport	\$225.00

Public Assists

Public Assist Fee (billed for the 5th and all subsequent “assist” calls in a rolling calendar year)	
.....	\$50.00per occurrence

This fee shall only be applied to individuals or facilities who request EMS assistance for people who are uninjured and have no medical complaint (i.e.: moving an individual from one place to another).

This fee shall not be applied to individuals who are injured or require medical treatment.

EMS Standbys

Dedicated EMS Specialty Vehicle (1-EMS provider and an EMS UTV or QRV) ...\$100.00 per event, per day.

Dedicated ALS Ambulance (1-ALS ambulance and 2-personnel)\$150.00 per hour, per ambulance (min. fee of \$450.00)

This fee will be billed to any individual or entity requesting Catawba County EMS to dedicate an ALS unit for standby (21-days advanced notice required). Payment is due at the time of the event.

Non-Dedicated Standbys may be provided at no charge based on the needs of the event and the requesting agency. Non-Dedicated standby units are subject to be called away for emergencies and may or may not be at the event the entire time, or at all dependent on call volume.

**No standby is guaranteed, and all requests for EMS Standby are subject to EMS personnel availability and requests must be approved by the EMS Manager, Emergency Services Director, or their designee.*

Animal Services

Animal Adoption

Cat/Kitten/Dog/Puppy.....	\$5.00
Exotics/Reptiles (specific care).....	\$35.00

Livestock

Tier 1 (chickens, roosters, ducks).....	\$0.00
Tier 2 (goats, sheep, pigs)	\$25.00
Tier 3 (cows)	\$75.00
Tier 4 (equines).....	\$150.00

New Lease on Life.....\$65.00

Owner Surrender fee.....\$35.00

Civil Penalties

1 st Violation	\$50.00
2 nd Violation	\$75.00

3 rd Violation	\$150.00
4 th Violation and each subsequent offense (Habitual Offender)	\$250.00
Animal Cruelty Violation	\$300.00
Dangerous Dog Violation	\$150.00
Home Quarantine	\$60.00
Impound Fee	\$50.00 1 st occurrence
.....	\$75.00 2 nd occurrence
.....	\$100.00 3 rd and subsequent occurrences
Barn Cat Program Pull Fee	Free
Cat Carrier Fee	\$10.00
Services and Vaccines	
Microchip	\$15.00
Boarding Fees	\$10.00 per day
Rabies Vaccine (one year)	\$10.00
Bordetella Vaccine	\$10.00
Distemper/Parvo Vaccine – dogs only	\$10.00
Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia Vaccine – cats only	\$10.00
Feline Leukemia Virus Test	\$15.00
Heartworm Test	\$5.00
Animal Collar	\$5.00
Animal Leash	\$10.00
Fire Permit Fees (O = Operational, C = Construction)	
Amusement buildings (O)	\$50.00
Carnivals and Fairs (O)	\$50.00
Change of Business / Owner – ABC required permit for alcohol sale (O)	\$50.00
Compressed Gases (excess) (C)	\$50.00
Covered Mall Buildings (O)	\$50.00
Emergency Responder Radio System (C)	\$50.00
Exhibits and Trade Shows (O)	\$50.00
Explosives Manufacturing, Storage, Handling, Sale or Use, and Blasting Operations (O)	\$150.00
Fire Alarm, Detection Systems, Related Equipment (install, modify) (C)	\$50.00
Fire Extinguishing Systems, automatic (includes sprinklers, installation, and modification) (C)	\$75.00
Fire Hydrants, private (installation and modification) (C)	\$50.00
Fire Hydrants, private (removal from service, use, or operation) (O)	\$50.00
Fire Pumps and Related Equipment (installation and modification) (C)	\$50.00
Flammable or Combustible Liquids	
Change type of contents in tank to more hazardous material (O) <100 Gallons	\$50.00
Change type of contents in tank to more hazardous material (O) >100 Gallons	\$75.00
Construct, install, or alter vehicles and facilities (C)	\$50.00
Install, remove, abandon, and place out-of-service above and underground tanks (O)	\$100.00 per tank
Manufacture, process, blend, or refine (O)	\$50.00
Operation of facilities, tank vehicles, & equipment (O)	\$50.00
Insecticide Fogging, storage of materials (O)	\$50.00
Hazardous Materials Facilities (construction and alterations) (C)	\$50.00
Industrial Ovens Construction (C)	\$50.00
Liquid Fuels	
Dispensing into fuel tanks of motor vehicles at commercial, industrial, government, or manufacturing facilities (O)	\$50.00
Display, operate, or demonstrate liquid or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings (O)	\$50.00
Membrane Structures, Tents, and Canopies (temporary, permit to erect based on minimal	

size (more than 800 square feet) (C).....	\$50.00
Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles (Food Truck) Inspection (O).....	\$100.00
Pyrotechnic special effects material use and handling (fireworks exhibitions) (O).....	\$150.00
Safety Inspection due to Change of Use, Business, or Owner (over 30 days) or ABC required safety inspection permit for alcohol sales (O)	\$75.00
Spraying/Dipping Operation (flammable or combustible liquids or combustible powders (O)	\$50.00
Spraying/Dipping Operation (modification or installation of spray booths, rooms, or dip tanks (C).....	\$50.00
Standpipe Systems (installation, modification, or removal) (C).....	\$50.00
Temporary membrane structures, tents, and canopies (O).....	\$50.00
Tents or air-supported structures (more than 800 square feet)	\$50.00
Work Started without Permit	Double Permit Fee

Hazardous Materials Emergencies (fees charged back to responsible entity)

Cost associated with extended operations	County cost
Emergency Response Vehicle (Haz Mat Truck, Mobile Command Post).....	\$150.00 per hour
EMS Unit (medical stand-by for Haz Mat Team)	\$100.00 per hour
Haz Mat Response Staff	\$25.00 per person per hour
Local Fire Department Emergency Response (reimbursed to Fire Department)	
Ladder Truck.....	\$300.00 per hour
Marine Unit	\$50.00 per hour
Pumper or Tanker.....	\$200.00 per hour
Squad Truck	\$100.00 per hour
Materials (booms, suits, absorbent, etc.).....	County cost + 15%
Support Vehicle.....	\$25.00 per hour
Support Trailer (Decon, Air Unit, Light Tower, etc.)	\$25.00 per hour

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Copy/Print Charges	
Black and White.....	\$0.10 per page
Color	\$0.25 per page
Returned Check Fee	County Cost

LIBRARY

Copy/Print Charges	
3D Printing	\$2.00 per print, \$1.00 per cubic inch of filament
Digital Cutting	\$0.50 per cut, plus material cost
Large Format Printing.....	plain paper: \$3.00/linear foot
.....	photo paper: \$4.00/linear foot
Interlibrary Loan Materials	Extended use fee per day \$0.50
Lost or damaged materials resources	\$ Replacement cost

PLANNING

Board of Adjustment	
Appeal.....	\$500.00
Cottage Business	\$500.00
Extension/Change of Non-Conforming Use	\$500.00
Non-Conforming Use.....	\$500.00
Special Use Permit	\$500.00
Variance.....	\$500.00
Copies of Ordinances/Plans	
Unified Development Ordinance	\$35.00

Fee In-Lieu Of	\$1,000.00 per lot
<i>(In lieu of providing open space on-site, a developer may make a one-time payment in the amount of \$1,000 per lot. The fee in-lieu is payable to the Parks Trust Fund for development of capital projects associated with the County Parks Master Plan or other accepted plans.)</i>	
Rezoning Application	
General Districts	\$720.00
Special Districts and Conditional Zoning.....	\$1,000.00
<i>(i.e. Planned Development (PD), Planned Development – Industrial Parks (PD-IP), 321 Economic Development District (321-ED), Village Center, Manufactured Home Parks (MHP), Conditional Zoning District) Signs</i>	
Development Entrance	\$50.00
Limited Access User	\$50.00
New development street sign (per sign).....	\$200.00/pole
Off-Premise.....	\$50.00
Off-Premise – Directional	\$50.00
On-Premise – Canopy	\$50.00
On-Premise - Freestanding	\$50.00
On-Premise – Wall Sign	\$50.00
Subdivisions	
Exempt Plat Review	\$25.00
Extension of Major Preliminary Plat	\$70.00
Major Final Plat.....	\$200.00 + \$5.00 each lot
Major Preliminary Plat	\$200.00 + \$5.00 each lot
Minor/Family Subdivision Review.....	\$100.00
Performance Guarantee Extension (non-residential and subdivision)	\$110.00
Performance Guarantee - Initial Review	\$110.00
Performance Guarantee Inspection	\$50.00
Revised Major Preliminary/Sketch Plat Approval.....	\$70.00
Telecommunication Towers	
Eligible Facilities Requests/Substantial Modifications	\$1,000.00
New Wireless Support Structure/Wireless Facility	\$11,000.00
Site Assessment	\$6,000.00
Permit	\$5,000.00
Text Amendment (Applicant Initiated).....	\$1,000.00
Zoning Permits	
Backyard Business	\$25.00
Accessory Dwelling	\$25.00
Floodplain Development – Regulatory	\$50.00
Floodplain Development – Non-regulatory.....	\$10.00
Duplex.....	\$25.00
Home Occupation Permit	\$25.00
Non-residential Accessory Structure Site Plan Review/Permit.....	\$50.00
Non-residential Change of Occupancy	\$50.00
Non-residential Site Plan Review/Permit for new structures	\$200.00
Non-residential Temporary Structure Site Plan Review/Permit.....	\$50.00
Residential Single Family	\$25.00
Residential Additions/Accessory Structures (includes pools)	\$25.00
Temporary Event.....	\$25.00
Zoning Confirmation Letters	\$65.00

PARKS

Educational/Meeting Room.....	\$100.00 for half day; \$150.00 for full day rental
Damage Deposit.....	\$50.00 refundable deposit
Picnic Shelter	\$20.00 per hour, per shelter; 2-hour minimum rental
Vendor/Sales Permit	\$50 per day
Parks Merchandise	\$2.00 or 20% whichever is greater

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

4-H Camps, Conferences, and Retreats (for youth).....	\$50-555.00 Varies depending on camp
T-Shirts (4-H)	\$15.00
Master Gardener Course Fee	\$150.00
Farm City Banquet Tickets.....	\$25.00
Local Food Cooking Classes	\$15.00
Educational Workshops	Varies, depending on workshop
Safe Plates Certification Course and Test.....	\$140.00 course cost and \$64.00 exam retest

PUBLIC HEALTH

Clinic Services

Note: Public Health is authorized to offer vaccinations based on public demand and need. The fee for each vaccination is the cost of the vaccine plus a flat administrative fee. Below is a list of currently offered vaccinations.

Tests

Measles IgM Antibody (serum).....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Measles PCR NAAT (urine)	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + .25%
Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
QuantIFERON TB Gold Plus (IGRA).....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Rabies Titer Test	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Tuberculosis Skin Test	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00

Vaccines

COVID-19 (Pfizer)	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Dtap (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis).....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Dtap (Combo)	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Gardasil	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Hemophilus Influenza B.....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Hepatitis A - Adult.....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Hepatitis A – Pediatric	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Hepatitis B - Adult.....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Hepatitis B – Pediatric	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
HIB-PRP-OMP (Hemophilus b)	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Influenza	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Japanese Encephalitis.....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Measles IMlg	Cost of vaccine + \$27.00
Meningitis.....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Meningitis B	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Meningococcal (Menactra)	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
M.M.R.	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
MMRV	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Monkey Pox (Jynneos).....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Pneumococcal (Pneumovax)	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Prevnar-13	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Prevnar-20	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Polio (IPV).....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00

Rabies, pre/post-exposure (Imovax)	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Rotavirus (Rotarix).....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
RSV.....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Shingles.....	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Td (Tetanusatun, Toxoid Diphtheria)	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Twinrex (Hep A/B)	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Typhoid	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Varicella (Varivax)	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Yellow Fever	Cost of vaccine + \$22.00
Other	
17 OHP	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Biopsy Charge	\$25.00
Car Seat Co-Pay	\$10.00
Cortisol.....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
CPR/First Aid Education Fee	Cost of Completion Card and/or Student Workbook + \$20.00
CPR K-12 Only	Cost of Completion Card + \$20.00
DHEA-S	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Estradiol	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Fluoride Kit.....	\$3.00
Foreign Travel Consultation Stamp.....	\$10.00
Free Testosterone	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
FSH.....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
HCG	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Hemoglobin A1c	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Herpes Simplex Virus I & II	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Human Papillomavirus Screening	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
IGF-1.....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
LH	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Prolactin.....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Total Testosterone.....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
TSH.....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Urine Dipstick.....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Urine Pregnancy Test.....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Vaccine Admin – 1 injection	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Vaccine Admin – each additional injection.....	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Oral Administration	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%
Depression Screening	Medicaid Reimbursement Rate/cost + 25%

Environmental Health Division

Improvement Permit

Site/Soil Evaluation.....	\$150.00
(a2) Improvement Permit	\$150.00
Authorization to Construct (New, Repair, Expansion, Relocation – includes Improvement Permit fee):	
Any system, 360 gallons per day and less.....	\$300.00
Any system, 361-600 gallons per day	\$450.00
Any system, 601-1,000 gallons per day	\$650.00
Any system, 1,001 gallons per day and above	\$900.00
Septic Tank Only	\$150.00
(a2) Authorization to Construct:	
Any system, 360 gallons per day and less.....	\$60.00
Any system, 361-600 gallons per day	\$120.00
Any system, 601-1,000 gallons per day	\$200.00
Any system, 1,001 gallons per day and above	\$300.00
Septic Tank Only	\$60.00
(a2) Improvement Permit + (a2) Authorization to Construct (applied for together):	
Any system, 360 gallons per day and less.....	\$120.00
Any system, 361-600 gallons per day	\$180.00
Any system, 601-1,000 gallons per day	\$260.00
Any system, 1,001 gallons per day and above	\$360.00
Engineered Option Permit.....	\$35.00
Authorized Onsite Wastewater Evaluator.....	\$35.00
Existing Systems Inspection (on-site inspection)	\$80.00
Septic System Maintenance Inspections	
Type IIIB Pump Systems (inspections required every 5 years).....	\$94.00
Type IV Systems (inspections required every 3 years).....	\$150.00
Type V Systems (inspections required every year)	\$175.00
Type VI Systems (inspections required twice per year).....	\$175.00
Additional trips to complete inspection or re-inspect.....	\$100.00
Well Construction and Inspection Permit (New or Replacement).....	\$485.00
Well Repair Permit	\$150.00
Well Abandonment.....	\$100.00
Well Variance Evaluation	\$75.00
Variance Well Repair	\$350.00
Water Samples (per sample)	
Bacteriological	\$100.00
Fluoride, Lead, Nitrite/Nitrate, Pesticide, Petroleum	\$150.00 each
Inorganic	\$128.00
Hexavalent Test.....	\$155.00
Coal Ash Test	\$170.00
Swimming Pools/Spas (Public Facilities Only)	
Inspection Fee/Permit Operating < 8 months	\$150.00
Inspection Fee/Permit Operating > 8 months	\$200.00
Pool Plan Review	\$300.00
Display Spa Inspection	\$75.00

Tattoo establishment	
Permit for Tattoo Artist (per artist for 12 months).....	\$225.00
Plan Review for New Establishment	\$265.00
Temporary Permit for Tattoo Artist for Convention (valid for 7 days).....	\$150.00

Temporary Food Establishment	
Permit for Event (Single Event Maximum 21 Days).....	\$75.00

Food & Lodging	
Plan Review Fee	\$250.00
Plan Review for Push Mobile Food Unit and Push Cart Only	\$150.00
This fee will be paid upon completion of a Food and Lodging Walk-Through consultation. If the citizen decides to proceed with a full Food and Lodging Plan Review, then the \$75 fee will be applied towards the \$250 cost of the full plan review.	

Any site visit not listed above (Re-trip/re-design for Improvement permit, Authorization to Construct, Well Permit, and/or Well Variance; Re-trip for Swimming Pool Permitting, Review of Permitted Establishments for Ownership Change, Commissary Change, Walk-Through..... \$75.00

*All fees are non-refundable once a visit is made**

Administrative Fee	\$30.00
Archive Research (per project)	\$30.00

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Fee for impounded vehicles (per car, per day).....	\$5.00
Inmate Housing Fee (per day, out of County)	\$40.00 per day (Local), \$101.00 per day (Federal)

Inmate Medical Service Fees:

Lab Services Co-Payment.....	\$10.00
Over the Counter Medications.....	\$3.00
Medical transportation to private doctor	\$50.00
Prescription Drug Co-Payment.....	\$10.00
Sick Call Medical Visit	\$20.00
Sick Call (Follow-up visit)	\$5.00
Fingerprinting	\$10.00
Postage and handling per ejectment mail out	\$1.00
Project Lifesaver Bracelet Replacement Battery and Band	\$10.00 per month
Project Lifesaver Bracelet rental battery replacement/month	\$20.00
Service of Civil Process (out-of-state cases).....	\$50.00
Surrendered weapon storage fee (per weapon, per month)	\$5.00
Transport Involuntary Commitment to another County's Facility	\$75.00 per hour (or portion)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Confidential Intermediary Program for Adult Adoptees	
Initial non-refundable fee, residents	\$350.00
Initial non-refundable fee, non-residents	\$425.00
Additional services beyond standard agreement	\$75.00/hour
Waiver of fees for those with incomes less than the National Poverty Level	

TAX**ABC Licenses**

Beer on premises	\$25.00
Beer off premises	\$5.00
Wine on premises	\$25.00
Wine off premises	\$25.00

Copies

Tax Cards	\$0.10
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TECHNOLOGY**GIS Fees**

Analyst time.....	\$50.00 per hour (1 hour minimum/1 map)
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Map Printing**Color Printer**

8½ x 11	\$0.25
11 x 17	\$3.00

Plotter Reprints

Bond Paper (all sizes)	\$15.00
High Gloss (ortho)	\$20.00
Aerial Map - Laser Printer - Color	\$0.75
Custom Map or Report - Laser Printer (picked-up)	\$0.50

Aerial Photography	\$10.00 for CD plus postage
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ITC Fees

Reports	\$1.00 per CD
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UTILITIES & ENGINEERING

Building Permit Fees

Building Permits (Schedule A)

	Blanket Fee*	
Residential	\$0.50 /sqft	
Residential Accessory	\$0.25 / sqft	
Residential Deck (stand along)	\$0.25 / sqft	
Commercial	\$0.55 /sqft	1 - 100,000 sqft
	\$0.40 /sqft	100,001 - 1,000,000 sqft
	\$0.25 /sqft	Over 1,000,000 sqft

*Blanket permit covers the cost of trade permits; however, each trade contractor must complete an application and be issued a permit.

Phased Construction (Schedule B)

Category of Work	Building	Mechanical	Electrical	Plumbing
Footing/Foundation	25% of Building	25% of Mechanical	25% of Electrical	25% of Plumbing
Shell-In	25% of Building	25% of Mechanical	25% of Electrical	25% of Plumbing
Up-fit	100% of Blanket Permit			
Fees in this table are based on the respective permit fee(s) total and are in addition to the full building permit fees.				

Electrical (Schedule C)

Scope of Work	Residential	Commercial
Change or Repair of existing service or panel	\$60.00	\$100.00
Addition of a new service or panel	\$75.00	\$150.00
Electrical wiring per tenant space	\$60.00	\$150.00
Reconnect Power	\$60.00	See Schedule G
Temporary Electrical (by agreement per building)	\$120.00	\$200.00
Temporary Power Pole	\$60.00	
Any work category not listed	Minimum Fee (See Schedule F)	

Electrical permits are required for the installation, extension, alteration, or general repair of any electrical wiring, devices, appliances, or equipment.

Plumbing (Schedule D)

Scope of Work	Residential	Commercial
Replacement of existing like fixture(s)	\$60.00*	\$60.00
New fixtures	\$60.00	\$60.00
Water Connection	\$60.00	\$60.00
Sewer Connection	\$60.00	\$60.00
Maximum Permit Fee	\$275.00	\$3,000.00
Any work category not listed	Minimum Fee (See Schedule F)	
Fees in this table are assessed per fixture and include associated trades.		

*Permits are not required if a licensed contractor is conducting the work.

Plumbing Permits are required for the installation, extension, or general repair of utilization equipment, drain, waste, vent, and water distribution systems. Examples of utilization equipment include water heaters, dishwashers, disposals, wells, etc.

Mechanical (Schedule E)

Scope of Work	Residential	Commercial
Install Mechanical System/Equipment - Per System	\$75.00	\$100.00
Install Mechanical Appliance - Per Appliance	\$60.00	\$60.00
Exhaust Fans	\$60.00	\$60.00
Ductwork Only	\$60.00	\$60.00
Fire Sprinkler System for existing building	NA	\$60.00
Gas Lines	\$60.00	\$60.00
Maximum Permit Fee	\$275.00	\$3,000.00
Reconnect Gas	\$60.00	See Schedule G
Temporary Gas (by agreement per building)	\$120.00	\$200.00
Any work category not listed	Minimum Fee (See Schedule F)	
Fees in this table are assessed per fixture and include associated trades.		

Mechanical permits are required for installation, extension, alteration, or general repair of Systems/Equipment, Appliances, and Gas Lines as defined below.

Systems/Equipment consisting of heat pumps, apollo units, gas packs, furnaces, air conditioners, radiant heat systems, chillers, air handlers, refrigeration units, spray booths, boilers, hood systems, etc.

Gas Appliances consisting of unit heaters, wall furnaces, fireplace inserts, gas lights, gas grills, gas logs, gas water heaters, etc. *

*Fireplace Construction Permit – required for installation of all prefabricated or masonry fireplaces

Gas Lines* shall be permitted as a Mechanical Appliance regardless of whether it is issued to a Mechanical or Plumbing Contractor (See Schedule E). Separate gas permits are required.

Miscellaneous (Schedule F)

	Building	Electrical	Plumbing	Mechanical
Minimum Permit Fees	\$90.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Scope of Work	Residential		Commercial	
Cell Towers	NA		Schedule H	
Demolition	\$60.00		\$75.00	
Generator	\$60.00		Schedule H	
Manufactured Home: Singlewide	\$150.00		NA	
Manufactured Home: Multi-wide	\$200.00		NA	
Modular Unit	\$270.00		\$270.00	
Pier	\$90.00		Schedule H	
Pool: Above Ground	\$75.00		Schedule H	
Pool: In-ground	\$150.00		Schedule H	
Re-roof	\$60.00		\$150.00	
Retaining wall (per continuous section)	\$90.00		\$90.00	
Signs	NA		\$150.00	
Solar Arrays	\$100.00		Schedule H	
Solar Farms	NA		Schedule H	
Fees in this table are assessed per project and include associated trades.				

Other Miscellaneous Fees (Schedule F)		
Administrative Fee		\$30.00
Archive Research (per project)		\$30.00
Change of any contractor (owner must remain same)		\$30.00
Change of Owner		Minimum fees apply to all permits
Homeowners Recovery Fund (single family units)		\$10.00
Off Duty/After Hours Inspections		\$105.00 per hour or any fraction thereof
Refunds on Active Permits with no inspections		Less Administrative Fee
Re-Trip Fee of any inspection		\$120.00
Work started without permit	Residential Double Permit Fee	Commercial Double Permit Fee

Safety Inspections (based on square footage) (Schedule G)

0-5,000 sqft	\$80.00
5,001-10,000 sqft	\$120.00
10,001-50,000 sqft	\$165.00
Over 50,000 sqft	\$205.00

All special events conducted within the inspection jurisdiction of Catawba County where site constructed stages exceed 120 square feet or where temporary electrical power is installed and utilized for the event, must acquire a Zoning permit/approval from the local jurisdiction and make application for a Safety Inspection. All costs associated with required inspections for stages and electrical installation will be covered in the initial fee

collected at the time of permit issuance if inspections are conducted during Catawba County's normal business hours. After Hour Inspections fee (see Schedule F) will apply for any requested inspection of the special event for the stage and electrical during non-business hours. After Hour Inspections must be specifically requested a minimum of 48 hours before the needed inspection with an approved method of payment.

Building Permit Fees - Existing Structures (Schedule H)

Alterations, renovations, and repairs to existing structures based on contractor's estimate and using the fee schedule below, with a minimum building permit fee of \$90.00.	
\$0-\$5,000	\$90.00
\$5,000-\$100,000	\$90.00 + \$3.00 for each additional thousand or part thereof
\$100,001-\$1,000,000	\$375.00 + \$2.50 for each additional thousand or part thereof
Over \$1,000,000	\$2,625.00 + \$1.50 for each additional thousand or part thereof

Plan Review (fee due at time of submittal) (Schedule I)

*Commercial - New	\$0.08 sqft
*New commercial plan review fees will be applied to Building Permit fee when issued.	
The following plan review fees are not deducted from building permit fees.	
Resubmittal:	
1 st Resubmittal	No charge
2 nd Resubmittal	½ Original Fee
3 rd Resubmittal	Original Fee
4 th Resubmittal	Original Fee
5 th Resubmittal or Greater	In office meeting with Designer \$100 per hour review, 2 hour minimum
Plan Revisions (after Plan Review is completed)	½ Original Fee
Attached Residential (up to 2 units)	\$50.00
Alterations, renovations, and repairs to existing structures	\$0.04 sqft
Trade only plan review fee	\$90 per trade

Minimum plan review fee.....	\$90.00
Racking systems	\$90.00
Retaining wall (per continuous section).....	\$90.00
Signs, ground or wall each (per address).....	\$90.00
Solar Farms (per acre)	\$90.00
Modular units (each unit).....	\$90.00

Contracted Plan Review Services.....\$100.00 per hour plus reimbursable expenses
All review fees are for paper or electronic formats.

Plan Review expires in 90 days with no refunds or fees being applied to Building Permit fees.

If there is a Code change, project must begin anew.

All fees are based on current fee schedule at time of payment.

Erosion and Sedimentation Control

These fees are for sites that disturb more than one acre.

Sites that disturb more than one acre are required to submit a formal erosion control plan. Once the site has been permitted, it will be inspected on a regular basis.

Plan Review \$200.00
(Includes the first acre disturbed, plus \$150.00 per disturbed acre or any part thereof, above the first acre disturbed.

Stormwater Plan Review \$200.00
Sites that disturb more than one acre and within WS-IV watershed area.
(Includes the first acre disturbed, plus \$150.00 per disturbed acre or any part thereof, above the first acre disturbed.

Stand Alone Express Plan Review \$97.50 per hour
or any fraction thereof minimum \$200.00, plus \$150.00 per disturbed acre or any part thereof, above the first acre disturbed.

Fines for Notice of Violation Varies based on severity, adherence to approved plan, prior record, whether the violation was committed willfully, amount of money saved by noncompliance, cost of rectifying the damage, and staff investigative costs.

Reinspection Fee (required after Notice of Violation) \$125.00
If a site is out of compliance, it will receive a Notice of Violation. Any project that is under an NOV may not have any activity (I.E. Building Services inspections) until the site is brought into compliance and the required fine is paid to the Catawba County Finance Department, and the re-inspection fee has been paid.

These fees are for sites that disturb less than one acre.

Permit Fee \$50.00
If a site is out of compliance, it will receive a Notice of Violation. Any project that is under an NOV may not have any activity (I.E. Building Services inspections) until the site is brought into compliance and the required fine is paid to the Catawba County Finance Department.

Solid Waste Management Disposal

(Fees include \$2.00 Solid Waste State Disposal Tax where applicable)

Archive Research (per request) \$22.00

Commercial Truck Weigh \$15.00 per weigh

Unloading After Hours \$25.00 per 15 minutes or any part thereof

Uncovered/Unsecured Load \$50.00 per occurrence

Safety Vest \$1.00 each

Safety vests are required to be worn while visiting the landfill. You may provide your own vest that meets NC OSHA standards.

Failure to Weigh-Out/Pay for Disposal \$200.00 per axle

Municipal Solid Waste Landfill

Hours of operations are 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday,

8:00 am – 11:30 am, Saturday

Closed Sunday

Municipal Solid Waste (1,000 lbs. or less \$20.55 minimum)..... \$41.09 per ton

- Household items – garbage, furniture, clothes, toys, etc.
- Non-Hazardous Industrial/Commercial Waste
- Industrial Wood Waste –glued, treated, painted, creosote wood, or stained
- Chipboard, plywood, pressboard
- Roofing/Shingles
- Drywall
- Non-Friable Asbestos - containing transit siding, vinyl floor tiles, asphalt roofing shingles
- Grubbing, Roots, and Stumps
- Brick, block, or concrete that is painted or has reinforcement material and/or contaminated with other waste

Municipal Water & Wastewater Sludge Triple Fee..... \$120.84 per ton

Must have no visible free liquids and have a minimum 30% solids content

Other Wood Waste (1,000 lbs or less \$7.50 minimum) \$15.00 per ton

Saw Dust

Other Waste (Triple Fee 1,000 lbs or less \$61.63) \$123.26 per ton

- Contaminated with more than
 - 10% Cardboard (from industrial entities only)
 - 20% Springs
 - 50% Foam Rubber

- Wire or cable over 4 ft. (Banded or Unbanded)
- Bulky items not easily compacted
- Natural wood pallets
- Materials Removal and Handling Fee
Applies to each load that contains any materials banned by North Carolina State Law or Bulky Solid Waste Management Rules, current and future or unloaded in an incorrect location.
- Fine wood fibers or metal dust that causes clogging and/or blocking of radiators and/or filters

Friable Asbestos (1,000 lbs or less \$66.15 minimum)..... \$132.30 per ton
State regulations requires friable asbestos to be covered with soil requiring extra landfill space.

Dead Animals

(less than 280 pounds)..... \$5.00
(over 280 pounds) 1,000 lbs or less \$20.55 minimum)..... \$41.09 per ton

Grinding Area

Hours of operations are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday

8:00 am to 11:30 am, Saturday

Closed Sunday

Definitions

- *Natural Wood* – is wood that has not been processed in any form. Wood that is not chipboard, creosote, glued, painted, stained, treated, plywood, pressboard, etc. This is defined based on State regulation.

Natural, Clean Wood Waste (1,000 lbs or less \$10.00 minimum) \$23.00 per ton

- Clean, natural furniture wood waste for grinding (containing no glue, stain, chipboard, pressboard, plywood, etc.
- Clean, natural, uncontaminated wood pallets
- Natural lumber, less than 8 feet in length

Loose grass and leaves (de-bagged or in compostable paper bags)

Residential \$5.00 per load

Commercial \$20.00 per load

State-Banned Landfill Materials (must be clean recyclable material) **No Charge**

- Asphalt (no dirt or trash)
- Brick, block, concrete not painted and w/o reinforcement, less than 6 inches, and separated from other waste
- Liquid Paint (residential only limit 10 gallons per visit-no businesses)

Electronics and televisions (residential only-no businesses)

Ground Brush, Limbs, Trees, etc. (no minimum) \$23.00 per ton

No longer than 8 feet and/or 14 inches in diameter

- Brush, Limbs, and Trees (grindable)
- (Brush, limbs, and trees must be cut so it is no longer than 8 feet in length and/or 14 inches in diameter and be kept separated from roots, stumps, and grubbing for recycling purposes)
- If a load of waste is unloaded at the grinders and it has other materials mixed in that makes the load non-grindable, triple the MSW fee will be applied

Mulch and Compost

Mulch (3 yard scoop/bucket) No Charge
Compost (3 yard scoop/bucket) \$10.00 or \$10.00 per ton
(customers may choose to pay per 3 yard scoop/bucket or have their vehicle weighed)

Scrap Tires

Tires without proper documentation, Tires stockpiled prior to January 1, 1994,... \$140.00 per ton
Tires that have been buried contains mud or water \$300.00 per ton
Off Road Tires \$400.00 per ton

Water and Sewer

Connections (System Development Fee) Revised October 16, 2023

Existing or New property improvements after construction is completed

1 inch or less water meter/tap:	\$1,660 water; \$5,691 sewer
1.5 inch water meter/tap:.....	\$3,320 water; \$11,382 sewer
2 inch water meter/tap:.....	\$5,312 water; \$18,211 sewer
3 inch water meter/tap:.....	\$9,960 water; \$34,146 sewer
4 inch water meter/tap:.....	\$16,600 water; \$56,910 sewer
6 inch water meter/tap:.....	\$33,200 water; \$113,820 sewer
8 inch water meter/tap:.....	\$53,120 water; \$182,112 sewer
10 inch water meter/tap:.....	\$76,360 water; \$261,786 sewer
12 inch water meter/tap:.....	\$142,760 water; \$489,426 sewer

(Construction period includes 12 months warranty period after construction is completed)

- To entice the connection of existing buildings that exist at the onset of construction of County funded water and sewer utilities to municipal services, System Development Fees for existing property improvements shall be reduced by 50 percent during the utility construction period. (Existing property improvements include all types of occupancies that rely upon existing non-municipal water and sewer provisions and are adjacent to the utility under construction)

Minimum System Development Fee\$1,660 water; \$5,691 sewer

Other

Residential & Commercial Subdivision& Development Engineering Fee

0 - 100 lots or units	\$250.00
101 - 200 lots or units	\$500.00
201 - 300 lots or units	\$750.00

Engineering Fee will continue at a rate of \$250 per 100 lots or units or any part thereof.

CURRENT FEE POLICIES

UTILITIES & ENGINEERING

Building Services Fees

Building Inspection fees are in place to recover the cost of the Building Services Office. Fees will be benchmarked against other counties each year and rates will be set to recover as much of the County's cost as possible given economic conditions and the results of the benchmarking.

Erosion Control Fees

Erosion control fees are in place to recover a portion of the cost of the local Erosion and Soil Sedimentation Control program.

Solid Waste Fees

Consistent with County Code, landfill fees will generate sufficient revenues to operate the landfill and build reserve for future needs as well as encourage protection and preservation of the environment.

Water and Sewer Fees

Recover a portion of the cost of constructing water and sewer infrastructure.