

**Catawba County Board of Commissioners  
FY25-26 Budget Workshop  
Monday, April 14, 2025 – 8:45 a.m.  
Government Center  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
Newton, North Carolina 28658**

1. Call to Order.
2. Presentations.
  - [FY25-26 Budget Preview.](#)
3. Adjournment.

**Presenters:**  
County Manager Mary Furtado



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# FY2025-26 Requested Budget Overview

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April 14, 2025

# Today's Agenda

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- FY24: Quick Look Back
- FY25: Year-to-Date Status Check
- FY26: Revenue Outlook
- FY26: Overview of Budget Requests
- Next Steps



# Ended FY23-24 with Strong Financial Performance



- General Fund Balance: +\$6.2M
  - Unassigned = 32.5% of GF expenditures
- Outstanding Debt Decrease: -\$17.6M
- General Fund: +\$15.4M net position
- Overall revenue composition remained stable, total collection increased \$7.4M



# FY24-25 Year-to-Date: Tightening Revenue Margins



Major Year-to-Date Revenue Summary				
Revenue Source	FY24/25 Budget	Revenue to Date (4/7/25)	% Collected	Status
Property Tax	122,621,000	120,878,482	98.58%	●
Sales tax	45,230,000	24,567,502	54.32%	●
Other Taxes	2,482,500	3,730,169	150.26%	●
Federal	23,074,061	10,458,854	45.33%	●
State	8,960,112	4,856,817	54.20%	●
Federal & State	6,256,137	3,746,567	59.89%	●
Local	6,046,126	5,818,048	96.23%	●
Permit fees	16,213,160	12,966,006	79.97%	●
Miscellaneous	3,382,131	2,710,266	80.13%	●



# FY25-26 Game Plan



- Maintain positive business climate - *stable, predictable tax rate*
- Invest in strategic plan priorities - Address existing commitments
- Maintaining critical services supporting quality of life
- Take care of our people – “*Retention is the new recruitment*”
- Continue conservative budgeting practices
- Build plans for resilience and adaptability – *flexibility is key operating principle*



# FY25-26 Revenue Outlook

Major General Fund Revenue Summary				
Revenue Source	FY24/25 Adopted Budget	FY25/26 Estimated Revenue	\$ Change	% Change
Property tax	\$122,621,000	\$126,496,000	\$3,875,000	3.2%
Sales Tax	\$45,230,000	\$46,356,000	\$1,126,000	2.5%
Other Taxes	\$2,482,500	\$2,582,500	\$100,000	4.0%
Federal	\$18,705,583	\$18,844,688	\$139,105	0.7%
State	\$8,165,553	\$8,371,538	\$205,985	2.5%
Federal & State	\$6,256,137	\$6,294,128	\$37,991	0.6%
Local	\$5,796,126	\$5,697,997	(\$98,129)	-1.7%
Permits & Fees	\$16,213,160	\$17,155,777	\$942,617	5.8%
Miscellaneous	\$3,204,469	\$3,999,337	\$794,868	24.8%
Transfers	\$1,506,508	\$1,277,980	(\$228,528)	-15.2%
Other Sources	\$11,512,400	\$11,355,397	(\$157,003)	-1.4%
Fund Balance	\$7,697,169	\$9,200,000	\$1,502,831	19.5%
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$249,390,605</b>	<b>\$257,631,342</b>	<b>\$8,240,737</b>	<b>3.3%</b>



# Budget Requests Summary

FY26 General Fund Revenue	\$257,631,342
FY26 Requested General Fund Expenses	\$270,651,571
	(\$13,020,229)
Total Positions Requested	16
Total FTEs Requested	13.9





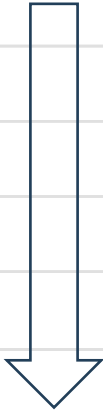
# FY25-26 Strategic Approach



- Balanced conservative budget within available revenue
  - Maximize revenue overcollections and year-end under-expenditures
- Plan for the future – anticipate needs on the horizon
- Keep up with regular replacement cycles – *“don’t kick the can”*
- Culture: budget development is a team sport



# FY26 Non-Discretionary Cost Increases

Beginning revenues	\$8,240,737	3.3%
Anualizing FY25 compensation decisions	\$662,500	
State-mandated retirement / LEO separation allowance	\$499,500	
Health plan costs	\$460,000	
Property & Liability Insurance	\$206,000	
Cost of Existing Commitments	\$1,828,000	
Available revenues	\$6,412,737	2.6%





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## Departmental Request Overview

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# Education: County Funding Responsibility

- *Supplement state current expense* - must fund all three systems on equal per-pupil basis
- *Primarily responsible for capital and construction*
  - Portion of local non-food sales tax restricted for school capital, construction, or debt
- *Fines and forfeitures* - pass-through funding statutorily required to be distributed to schools



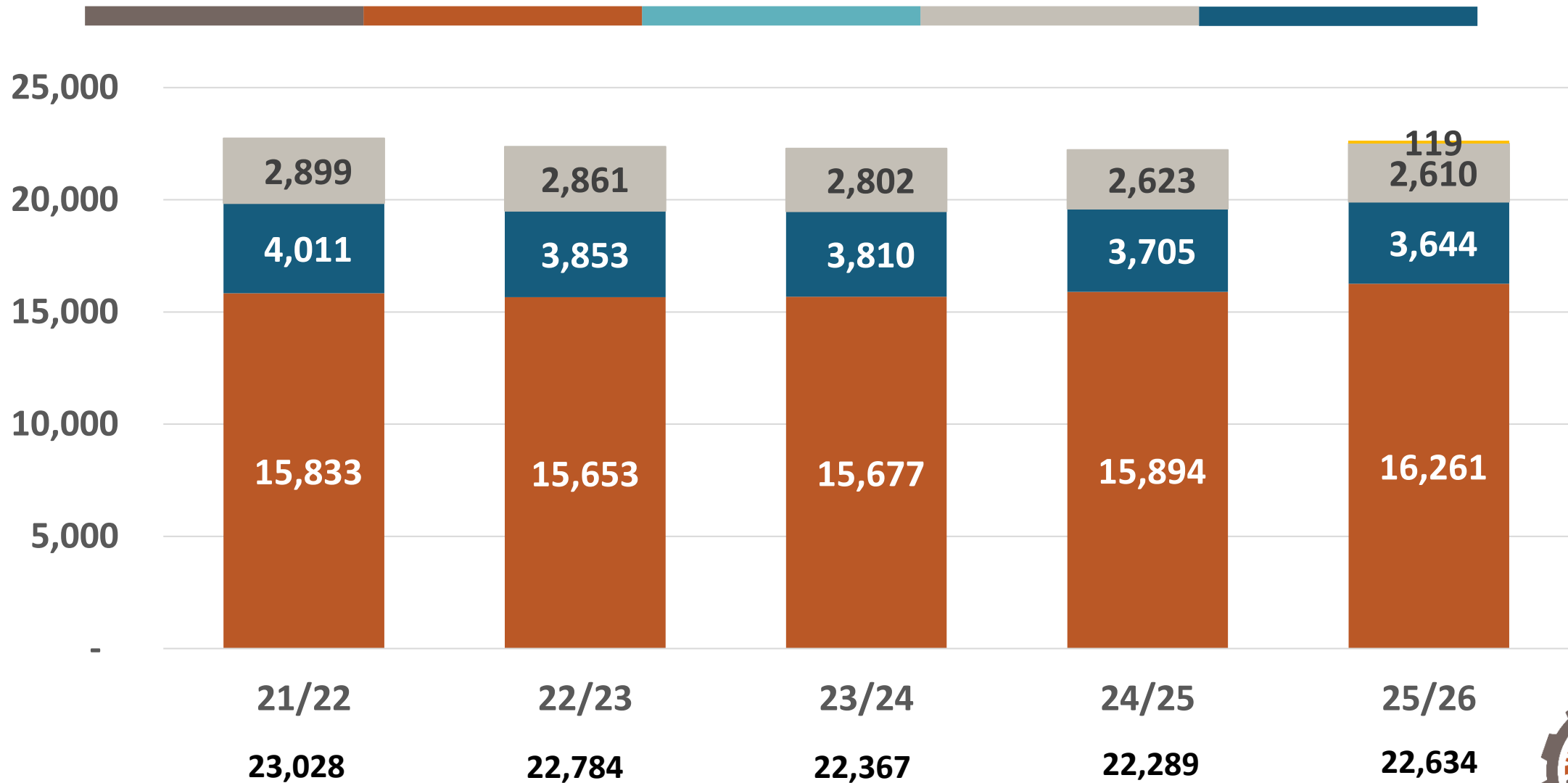
# K-12 Education: We're Growing!

Schools - Requested ADM	Catawba	Hickory	Newton	Total ADM
FY 2025/26	16,261	3,644	2,610	22,515
FY 2024/25	15,894	3,705	2,623	22,222
Increase/Decrease	367	(61)	(13)	293
% Change	2.3%	-1.6%	-0.5%	1.9%

**Lincoln County Line ADM: 119 students (grades 1 - 12) + rising Kinders**



# 5-Year Trend: Turning the Population Curve



# K-12 Education: Current Expense Request

- Each system submits local current expense (operating) budget

All Requested Budgets	Catawba	Hickory	Newton	Total
FY 2025/26	36,528,385	8,567,044	5,872,500	50,967,929
FY 2024/25	33,425,082	7,791,615	5,516,169	46,732,866
Increase/Decrease	<b>3,103,303</b>	<b>775,429</b>	<b>356,331</b>	<b>4,235,063</b>
% Change	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>

- This request is then converted into a per-pupil request

All Requested Per Pupil	Catawba	Hickory	Newton	Avg Per Pupil
FY 2025/26	2,246	2,351	2,250	2,282
FY 2024/25	2,103	2,103	2,103	2,103
Increase/Decrease	<b>143</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>179</b>
% Change	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>



# Education: CVCC Operating Request

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- CVCC requested \$5,673,426 in operating support (+\$373,426; 7%)
- Fall 2024 enrollment increased 4% from FY24 & 10% from FY23
- Facing 25% increase in cleaning services
- Challenger relocation to PAAP Building (as planned)
- Regional Educational Training Center (Hickory partnership) scheduled to open in Summer 2025





# Education: Annual Capital and Schools Construction

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- Annual Capital
  - Requested projects (including CVCC) total over \$22M – rolling list, consistent with past practice
  - Roughly \$11M available (dedicated sales tax)
- Schools Construction
  - FY26 = 3<sup>rd</sup> year of 4-year funding plan (through FY26/27)
  - \$55M to \$65M in debt capacity, based on project timing
  - Continuing to work towards each system's stated priority:
    - CCS: Maiden Middle Renovations, long-term capital plan
    - HCS: Hickory High School
    - NCCS: Newton-Conover High School Phase II



# Healthy, Safe Community: Sheriff's Office

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- Jail Medical Contract renewal: \$247K increase
- Replacement Vehicle cost: \$185K increase
- Contractual Subscription / Service Agreements: \$92K increase
- Sherrills Ford Office Operations: \$37K



# Healthy, Safe Community: Sheriff's Office

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- Evidence/Equipment Garage (Bear Cat, STAR team storage): \$1M
- Lake Patrol (2 FTEs): \$157K in operating and equipment
- 31' Walkaround Boat: \$500K
- Tactical Equipment for Special Operations: \$123K



# Healthy, Safe Community: Emergency Services

- Future Cardiac Monitor Replacement set aside: \$200K
- Replace 3 Microwave point-to-Point Communications: \$110K
- Justice Center Tower Maintenance: \$91K
- Medical Supplies increase: \$30K
- Ambulance New/Remount: \$83K increase
- Ambulance Snow Tire Replacements: \$10K



# Healthy, Safe Community: Human Services

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- Environmental Health Specialist (1 FTE): \$44K for half year
- Medical Records Scanning Project: \$322K
- General Renovations: \$155K



# Community Planning and Development / Nature and Culture



- Utilities & Engineering – Engineer (1 FTE): \$90K on-going
  - .75 General Fund / .25 Solid Waste
- Solid Waste – Scale Attendants (2 FTEs): \$107K
- Cooperative Extension Field Crops/Livestock Full Agent: \$18K



# Community Planning and Development / Nature and Culture

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- Parks
  - 1.5 Additional FTEs & increased part-time wages: \$167K
  - Riverbend Park Improvements: \$960K
  - St. Stephens Park Improvements: \$150K
  - Bakers Mountain Park Improvements: \$115K
  - Mt. Creek Park Improvements: \$10K
  - Tractor & Attachments: \$80K
  - Operating Increases: \$32K



# General Government / Facilities

- New Government Center Generator: \$150K
- Government Center Roof: \$130K
- Generator Management System: \$45K
- Emergency Generator at Animal Shelter: \$150K
- Facility Services Replacement Vehicles (2): \$110K





# General Government / Facilities

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- Social Services Buildings Needs:
  - Family Services (9) Gas Packs: \$260K
  - New Generator at Senior Nutrition: \$60K
  - Chiller: \$500K
  - Building C Elevator \$250K



# General Government / Technology

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- Maintenance Agreements and Program Licenses: \$58K
- Increases in Contractual Services: \$154K
- IT Equipment (40 office switches): \$73K
- Microsoft/SOMA increases: \$42K



# General Government / Technology CIP



- Enterprise Resource Planning Replacement: \$1M increase
- Justice Center AV Updates Project: \$250K
- Technology Infrastructure Project: \$50K increase



# General Government

- Assistant Tax Administrator: \$135K
- Business Personal Property Appraiser: \$63K
- Tax Collection Clerk: \$53K
- Real Estate Appraiser: \$68K on-going \$38K one-time
- PTC Attorney: \$57K increase
- SketchCheck: \$55K
- Trepp: \$32K



# General Government



- Elections: Battery replacement for Xpressvotes: \$25k
- Register of Deeds Passport Agency: \$83K
- Register of Deeds Plat Cabinet: \$13K



# Outside Agencies: Public Safety

Organization	FY25 Adopted Budget	FY26 Requested Budget	Difference
Civic Air Patrol	405	405	0
Conflict Resolution Center	12,188	12,069	(119)
Court Services - Repay	189,404	195,670	6,266
Lake Norman Marine Commission	37,000	37,000	0
Catawba Wateree WMG	0	24,137	24,137
Forestry	113,286	87,454	(25,832)
Rescue Squads	1,363,966	1,975,740	611,774



# Outside Agencies: Economic & Physical Development

Organization	FY25 Adopted Budget	FY26 Requested Budget	Difference
Carolina Land & Lakes	10,000	15,000	5,000
Chamber - Entrepreneurial Support	7,500	7,500	0
Chamber - Tourism Development	5,500	6,500	1,000
Chamber - HKY4Vets	6,000	6,000	0
Convention & Visitors Bureau	20,000	20,000	0
Economic Development Corporation	411,624	422,475	10,851
NC Wildlife Commission	6,000	6,000	0
WPCOG Dues	85,178	85,904	726
WPCOG - Admin. Services	13,250	23,384	10,134
WPCOG - Water Resources	14,732	14,744	12
Sister Cities	500	500	0



# Outside Agencies: Arts & Culture



Organization	FY25 Adopted Budget	FY26 Requested Budget	Difference
Catawba County Historical Association	125,000	135,000	10,000
Hickory Public Libraries	237,000	242,000	5,000
SALT Block Foundation	100,000	100,000	0
United Arts Council	164,642	207,745	43,103





# Fire: Inflationary Pressures Drive Rate Increase Requests

Fire District	FY25 Tax Rate	FY26 Requested Rate	Dif.
Bandys	0.1000	0.1000	-
Catawba	0.1070	0.1270	0.0200
Claremont	0.1122	0.1350	0.0228
Conover	0.0800	0.1200	0.0400
Cooksville	0.0710	0.0710	-
Hickory	0.1250	0.1500	0.0250
Long View	0.0755	0.1000	0.0245
Maiden	0.0883	0.0883	-
Mtn. View	0.0855	0.1000	0.0145
Newton	0.1010	0.1310	0.0300
Oxford	0.0610	0.0610	-
Propst	0.0590	0.0620	0.0030
Sherrills Ford	0.0940	0.0990	0.0050
St. Stephens	0.1240	0.1240	-



# Next Steps



- April 14<sup>th</sup> – early May      Continued discussions with staff and partners
- May 12<sup>th</sup>      County Manager's Recommended Budget presentation
- May 21<sup>st</sup>      BOC Hearings w/Depts, Schools, & Outside Agencies
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>      Public Hearing & Wrap-Up Discussions
- June 2nd      Proposed Budget Adoption





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Questions / Discussion