Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

AGENDA

Call to Order *Vice Chairman Mike LaBrose*

Public Comment Period

Invocation *Vice Chairman, Mike LaBrose*

Pledge of Allegiance *Commissioner, Patrick Starnes*

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public

Agenda Items

1.	Presentation *Keith Hindman*	Communities In Schools
2.	Presentation *Brie Flanagan*	Hope for Caldwell
3.	Proclamation *Mike LaBrose*	EMS Week Proclamation
4.	Proclamation *Brittani Coffey*	Older Americans Month 2026 Proclamation
5.	Presentation *Bryan Moore*	Caldwell Chamber of Commerce Update

Consent

6.	Budget Revisions	Budget Revision - Airport Due Diligence Grant Addition
7.	Budget Revisions	Budget Revision EDC REDO membership
8.	Consent Agenda	NC Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant App P. Pillar
9.	Consent Agenda	Reappointment of Dale Hamby to the CCC&TI Board of Trustees
10.	Consent Agenda	Approval of Fireworks Application-Cedar Rock

11.	Items for Decision	Approval of Regular and Closed Session Minutes from April 27, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting and May 6, 2026, Board of Commissioners Special Meeting

Adjourn

Board of Commissioners Meeting
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Administration	Keith Hindman

AGENDA ITEM # 1

Communities In Schools

BACKGROUND

Communities in Schools of Caldwell County, Executive Director, Keith Hindman, will be in attendance to present an overview of CIS accomplishments.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

BUDGET IMPACT

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

1. Communities In Schools of Caldwell County_ County Commissioner's Meeting May 18, 2026 Presentation

Communities In Schools of Caldwell County (CISCC)

2025-2026 Program Summary & Outcomes

2025-2026 Community Impact

7 Caldwell County Schools served

487 Students received CISCC services

4,397 Students receiving whole school services

100% Graduation Rate For CIS Caldwell Seniors

Senior Future Plans for Forty-Six Graduates:

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute: 21

Haywood Community College: 1

Western Piedmont Community College: 1

Military: 1

Four-Year University: 6

Workforce: 14

Seminary School: 1

Universal Technical Institute – Mooresville: 1

GMS: 69/445 or 15.5%
GFMS: 59/537 or 10.9%
HMS: 49/535 or 9.1%
WLMS: 80/522 or 15.3%
HHS: 76/738 or 10.2%
SCHS: 87/1071 or 8.1%
WCHS: 67/549 or 12.2%
CCS: 487/4397 or 11% at seven CISCC school locations.

Caldwell County's Future Workforce: A Collaborative Pathway to Tech Access and Student Success with Communities In Schools

The Partnership: Funded by a **$270,000 grant from Google** ($90,000k/year for 3 years).
The Problem: Rural students face a "triple threat" to graduation and employment:

- **Digital Divide:** No reliable internet or laptops for training.
- **Financial Hurdles:** Inability to afford specialized tools, certifications, or work attire.
- **Emergency Barriers:** Transportation failures and housing instability that derail career training.

The Mission: To ensure every Caldwell County student—regardless of financial status—is globally competitive and ready for the 21st-century workforce.

Program Impact & Resource Allocation

Objective: A flexible, responsive fund providing 100% direct student support with minimal administrative overhead.

Core Components

- **Hardware Loaner Program:** * **100 Total Devices:** 80 Laptops + 20 Hotspots with data plans.
    - Provides essential tech for coding, engineering, and remote work training.
- **Direct Workforce Assistance:** * **Supplies:** Safety gear (steel-toed boots), specialized tools, and adaptive tech.
    - **Professionalism:** Interview attire, uniforms, and certification exam fees.
    - **Stability:** Emergency gas cards, bus passes, and short-term crisis support.

Annual Budget Breakdown ($90k of the Google Grant)

Category	Allocation	Impact
Workforce Supplies	$30,000	Tools, gear, attire, and certification fees.
Digital Access	$40,000	100 devices, data plans, and maintenance.
Emergency Support	$20,000	Transportation, medical, and housing stability.

Community Service Projects – “**Opportunities**”

Eighth Grade WLMS Supporting Yokefellow of Caldwell County







Community Service Projects – “**Opportunities**”

Seventh Grade CISCC Middle School Sites Partnering with Caldwell County Animal Enforcement Center





All of the 7th Grade CISCC middle School sites toured the Caldwell County Animal Enforcement Center to learn about the importance of pet responsibility. Our county is in need of educating our youth on the role of pet ownership. We give many thanks to the staff of this organization to Mr. Richard Gilliland and his staff in offering our students a visit to this location to learn about various ways they can help with the multiple issues that are negatively impacting animals in our county.

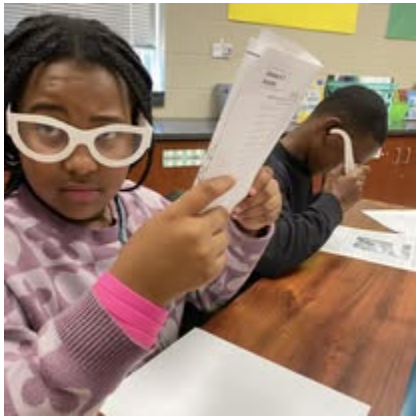
Community Service Projects – “**Opportunities**”

All CISCC Middle School Sites Partnering with the Senior Center of Caldwell County



The students were able to participate in hands on activities to help them gain a deeper understanding and empathy for those who are older. Specialized glasses and gloves showed them what life might be like with Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma, Cataracts, Arthritis and more as the students attempted to find locations on maps, read new articles, sort “pills”, thread a needle or even tie their shoe.

It really gave the kids a whole new perspective on what their elders may be dealing with, and they even said they needed to be more patient, kind, and understanding.



Career Learning Experiences – "**Opportunities**"

All CISCC Ninth Grade Sites Focus on **Career Planning**, **Personal Finance – Dave Ramsey** and how to best utilize the **Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute** to improve outcomes both in and after high school.

Career and College Promise

CCC&TI
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute



The Career and College Promise program lets eligible high schoolers take community college classes to earn job skills and college degrees early. These credits help you graduate from college faster and save time on your future education. Best of all, CISCC covers the costs of your books and fees so the classes are free for you.

Career Learning Experiences – “**Opportunities**”

All CISCC Ninth Grade Sites spent the entire day at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute on a personalized tour





Career Learning Experiences – “**Opportunities**”

All CISCC Ninth Grade Sites spent the entire day at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute on a personalized tour





Career Learning Experiences – “**Opportunities**”

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Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade	Ninth Grade
Transitioning to Middle School	Dave Ramsey Introduction to Personal Finance	Hunger and Homelessness	Transitioning to High School
Computational Skills	Protecting and Caring for Animals	My Truck Ventures	Dave Ramsey Foundations in Personal Finance
Building a Community		Dave Ramsey - Foundations in Entrepreneurship	Career Exploration Unit and CCC&TI Career Tour
Community Service Project	Career Exploration Unit	Shark Tank Competition	Dave Ramsey Board Game Development and Presentations
Bee Cause Unit		Career Exploration	
Elderly and Senior Citizens	End-of-Grade Review	End-of-Grade Review	
End-of-Grade Review			

“Real Skills” Development in all of our CISCC Sites







Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Grade CISCC Students Participate in Weekly Character Education lessons and are ***recognized each month***.



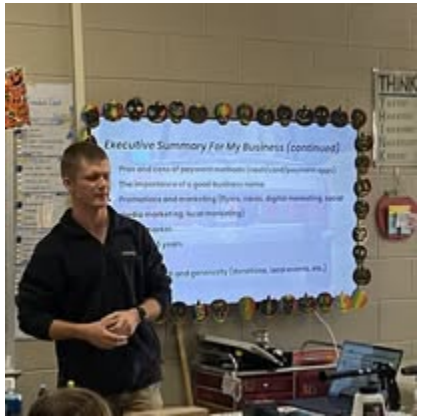




CISCC Most Important Resource – **MENTORS**









How can I get involved to promote character and social growth for the youth in our community?

1. You can become and CISCC Mentor that serves for 30-60 minutes a week at one of our 7 school locations.
2. Allow a CISCC representative to come and speak to your business, church, or civic organization about all the many rewarding gifts that come out of being a CISCC Mentor!

Board of Commissioners Meeting
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Health	Brie Flanagan

AGENDA ITEM # 2

Hope for Caldwell

BACKGROUND

The Hope for Caldwell Coalition is made up of representatives of various community organizations including the Caldwell County Health Department, RHA, UNC Caldwell and many others. This coalitions task is to educate and raise awareness around the community health issue of substance misuse.
We would like to take a moment to highlight the work and efforts of the participants of this year's Fentanyl Awareness Challenge, where high school youth were tasked with creating a method for engaging and educating their peers on the risks and dangers of Fentanyl misuse. Each participant not only created a project but also worked with our coalition to implement their projects into the community as actual health awareness promotional material.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

BUDGET IMPACT

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

None

Board of Commissioners Meeting
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Emergency Services	Mike LaBrose

AGENDA ITEM # 3

EMS Week Proclamation

BACKGROUND

To honor and recognize EMS Week 2026.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

BUDGET IMPACT

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proclamation 06-2026 EMS Week

PROCLAMATION

06-2026

EMS Week 2026

To designate the Week of May 17-23, 2026, as Emergency Medical Services Week (EMS Week).

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services fills healthcare gaps by providing important, out-of-hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating the Emergency Medical Services Week; now

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County declares the week of May 17 - 23, 2026, as EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK in Caldwell County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe

Adopted this 18th day of May 2026.

_____

Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman of the Board
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____

Tasha Brown
Caldwell County Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Board of Commissioners Meeting
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	DSS	Brittani Coffey

AGENDA ITEM # 4

Older Americans Month 2026 Proclamation

BACKGROUND

Adult Protective Services Social Worker, Brittani Coffey, will be in attendance to say a few words prior to the Vice Chairman reading the Proclamation.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

BUDGET IMPACT

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proclamation 07-2026 Older Americans Month 2026

PROCLAMATION

07-2026

Older Americans Month 2026

WHEREAS, May is Older Americans Month, a time for us to recognize and honor Caldwell County's older adults and their immense influence on every facet of American society; and

WHEREAS, older Americans have built the foundations of our communities through their dedication, wisdom, and lifelong contributions to family, work, and civic life; and

WHEREAS, the strength and resilience of our nation depend on honoring the experiences, talents, and achievements of older adults, while ensuring they remain valued, included, and supported members of society; and

WHEREAS, communities thrive when people of all ages are connected, engaged, and empowered to share their knowledge and skills across generations; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to reaffirm our commitment to promoting the health, independence, and dignity of older adults, and to eliminating barriers that prevent their full participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, Older Americans Month provides an opportunity to recognize the diverse contributions of older adults and to highlight the importance of fostering age-friendly communities that respect and celebrate individuals at every stage of life; and

WHEREAS, our community celebrates their achievements, learns from their experiences, and works together to ensure that every older adult is supported, respected, and empowered to continue making valuable contributions to our society.

Now, therefore, we the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2026 as Older Americans Month. This year's theme, "Champion Your Health," emphasizes focus on prevention, wellness, and self-advocacy, encouraging older adults to take an active role in managing their physical, emotional, and social well-being.

We call upon all residents to join us in recognizing the contributions of our older citizens and promoting programs and activities that foster connection, social well-being and support for older adults.

Adopted this the 18th day of May 2026.

_____
Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

_____
Tasha Brown
Caldwell County Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Board of Commissioners Meeting
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Administration	Bryan Moore

AGENDA ITEM # 5

Caldwell Chamber of Commerce Update

BACKGROUND

Caldwell Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, Bryan Moore, will provide a brief update followed by a presentation of a Chamber Building Bridges to Strengthen Local Business Award to the Board of Commissioners and County Manager.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

BUDGET IMPACT

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

None

Board of Commissioners Meeting
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Economic Development	

AGENDA ITEM # 6

Budget Revision - Airport Due Diligence Grant Addition

BACKGROUND

The Golden Leaf has sent the county an additional $26,490 to be used for the airport due diligence project.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

Approve

BUDGET IMPACT

100% grant funds, no local

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

1. Budget Revision - Airport Due Diligence Grant
2. Revised Grantee Agreement GLF Airport environmental project 04282026

Budget Revision # _____

Item No. _____

Date: _____

Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

BUDGET REVISION

Subject:

Background and explanation for the Budget Revision:
This budget revision allows the county to accept and spend a grant from the Golden Leaf for the airport utilities study.

The Budget Ordinance is hereby amended by making a Supplemental Appropriation with appropriations and revenues being adjusted as follows:

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

Line Item #	Title	I/D	Amount
10.4970.330000.10195	Other Grants	I	$ 26,490.00
Total			**26,490.00**

Line Item #	Title	I/D	Amount
10.4970.444100.10195	Contractual	I	$ 26,490.00
Total			**26,490.00**

Attachments (Yes or No): Yes
Public Hearing (Yes or No):

Distribution:
Original - Finance Office
Duplicate - Clerk to the Board
Triplicate - Department Head

Staff Recommendation:

Board Action:

Department Head	Date	Finance Director	Date	County Manager	Date
			04/30/26		

The Golden LEAF Foundation ("Golden LEAF")

REVISED GRANTEE ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT

1. Grantee: County of Caldwell

2. Number & Title: G-202403-09276/ Foothills Regional Airport Industrial Park Due Diligence

3. Purpose of Grant: This award provides funding to Caldwell County to conduct Golden LEAF-approved due diligence analyses on approximately 913 acres within the Foothills Regional Airport Industrial Park. All due diligence must meet requirements described in the Golden LEAF SITE Program.

4. Original Amount of Grant: $50,000.00

   Revised Amount of Grant: $76,490.00

5. Award Date: June 6, 2024

   Revision Date: April 2, 2026

6. Special Terms and Conditions Applicable to Grant:
   a) The term of the grant is 24 months, commencing on the Award Date. Golden LEAF may extend the term of the Grant. All project-related expenses must be incurred during the term of the grant. The provisions of this Grantee Acknowledgment and Agreement (this "Agreement") that by their nature extend beyond the term of the grant will survive the end of the term of the grant.

7. Standard conditions on the release of grant funds:
   a) Release of grant funds is contingent on Grantee attending a Golden LEAF grants management workshop or participating in satisfactory discussions with Golden LEAF staff to gain training in the management of Golden LEAF grants and reporting requirements.
   b) Release of funds is contingent on Grantee returning a fully executed copy of this Agreement no later than forty-five (45) days after the Award Date, unless Golden LEAF agrees to extend the deadline for its submission.
   c) Release of funds is contingent on Golden LEAF's approval of activities and outcomes that will be used to monitor and assess Grantee's implementation of the project. Unless otherwise directed by Golden LEAF, Grantee must submit proposed outcomes and activities for approval within forty-five (45) days of the Award Date.
   d) Release of funds is contingent on the Grantee submitting a project budget for approval by Golden LEAF. The project budget must be submitted for approval within forty-five (45) days of the Award Date unless Golden LEAF agrees to extend the deadline. Unless otherwise approved, the project budget must be submitted on Golden LEAF form(s).
   e) If the approved project budget includes funds from other sources that are required for project implementation, Golden LEAF grant funds will not be released until Grantee demonstrates that it has secured those funds.
   f) Golden LEAF grant funds may not be used for acquisition of interests in real property or for costs of grant administration.
   g) If the Grantee fails to comply with its obligations under this Agreement, no further grant funds will be released unless such noncompliance is resolved to the satisfaction of Golden LEAF.

8. Confirmation of Eligibility/Permissible use of Funds: The Grantee confirms: (1) that the Internal Revenue Service has determined that the Grantee is an organization described in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and that such determination has not been revoked, or (2) that the Grantee is a federal, state, or local governmental unit. Grantee agrees to notify Golden LEAF promptly if the Grantee's tax-exempt status is revoked or modified in any

way. The Grantee agrees that it will use the funds from this grant only for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and that it will not use the funds from this grant in any way that would result in or give rise to private inurement or impermissible private benefit. The Grantee agrees that no funds from this grant will be used to carry on propaganda or otherwise to attempt to influence legislation, to influence the outcome of any public election, or to carry on directly or indirectly any voter registration drive. If grant funds are used to pay for sales tax for which the Grantee receives a refund, Grantee will use the refund for expenses that are consistent with the purpose of the grant and permissible under this Agreement. Unless otherwise agreed by Golden LEAF in writing, no portion of the Grantee's rights or obligations under this Agreement may be transferred or assigned to any other entity.

9. Compliance with laws/liens: The Grantee is in material compliance with all federal, state, county, and local laws, regulations, and orders that are applicable to the Grantee, and the Grantee has timely filed with the proper governmental authorities all statements and reports required by the laws, regulations, and orders to which the Grantee is subject. There is no litigation, claim, action, suit, proceeding or governmental investigation pending against the Grantee, and there is no pending or (to the Grantee's knowledge) threatened litigation, claim, action, suit, proceeding or governmental investigation against the Grantee that could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect upon the Grantee's ability to carry out this grant in accordance with its terms. The Grantee has timely paid all judgments, claims, and federal, state, and local taxes payable by the Grantee the non- payment of which might result in a lien on any of the Grantee's assets or might otherwise adversely affect the Grantee's ability to carry out this grant in accordance with its terms.

10. Conflict of interest: In connection with the project funded by Golden LEAF, no employee, officer, director, volunteer, or agent of the Grantee shall engage in any activity that involves a conflict of interest or that would appear to a reasonable person to involve a conflict of interest. Without limiting the foregoing principle, except as described below, in connection with implementation of the project funded by Golden LEAF, Grantee shall not procure goods or services from any Interested Person or from any individual or entity with which any Interested Person has a financial interest or from any family member of an Interested Person, nor shall Grantee use Golden LEAF grant funds to provide goods, services, or compensation (other than customary and reasonable wages and benefits) to any Interested Person or to any family member of an Interested Person. "Interested Person" includes officers and directors of the Grantee, and employees of the Grantee with authority to procure goods or services for the Grantee related to the project funded by Golden LEAF. For purposes of this section, family members shall include: (1) spouse, (2) ancestor, (3) brother, (4) half-brother, (5) sister, (6) half-sister, (7) child (whether by birth or by adoption), (8) grandchild, (9) great grandchild, or (10) spouse of brother, half-brother, sister, half-sister, child, grandchild, or great grandchild. An Interested Person has a financial interest if the Interested Person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family: a) an ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Grantee has a transaction or arrangement; b) a compensation arrangement with the Grantee or with any entity or individual with which the Grantee has a transaction or arrangement; or c) a potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Grantee is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial. An Interested Person must inform the Grantee of the Interested Person's financial interest upon becoming aware that the Grantee is considering procuring goods or services from any individual or entity with which any Interested Person has a financial interest. The foregoing notwithstanding, if after exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee of the Grantee determines that the Grantee is not reasonably able to secure a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from an individual or entity with which an Interested Person does not have a financial interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Grantee's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination the Grantee shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement and shall keep written records of the meeting at which that decision was made. The Grantee shall inform all Interested Persons of the requirements set forth in this section. If the requirements set forth in this section conflict with any statute or regulation applicable to the Grantee, the statute or regulation shall control. If the Grantee has a conflicts of interest policy or similar policy that provides more stringent restrictions and protections than those in this section, the Grantee may comply with its policy rather than the policy contained herein. The Grantee may request that the President of the Foundation approve a conflict of interest policy that varies from the requirements of this section. This section does not alter the requirement that Grantee may not use the funds from this grant in any way that would result in or give rise to private inurement or impermissible private benefit.

11. Procurement/Disposition: All goods or services acquired using Golden LEAF grant funds must be reasonably necessary to implement the project funded. All procurement transactions involving the use of Golden LEAF grant funds will be

conducted to provide, to the extent possible and reasonable, free and open competition among suppliers. The Grantee should use reasonable efforts to procure goods and services from local businesses, small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises. The Grantee will seek competitive offers where possible and reasonable to obtain the best possible quality at the best possible price. Some form of cost or price analysis shall be made and documented in connection with every individual procurement in excess of $1,000.00. Price analysis may be accomplished in various ways, including the comparison of price quotations or market prices, including discounts. For any single procurement of $100,000.00 or more, Grantee will use a competitive bid process that is designed to attract a reasonable number of responsive bidders. The requirements of the bid process may vary depending on the value of the procurement. When evaluating bids received, the Grantee is not required to take the lowest price if other factors are reasonably important to the Grantee; however, the bases for evaluation and selection should be listed in the procurement documents and there should be an objective method for the decision made by the Grantee. The decision should be documented in writing. If the Grantee is subject to statutory or regulatory procurement requirements, those requirements supersede this section. The Grantee may request that the President of Golden LEAF approve the Grantee's use of a procurement policy that varies from the requirements of this section. If equipment purchased by the Grantee using Golden LEAF funds is no longer needed or used for the project funded, the Grantee may donate the equipment to a North Carolina governmental entity or a North Carolina organization recognized as an organization described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In making such a donation, the Grantee must comply with statutory or regulatory requirements that apply to the Grantee, must use reasonable efforts to ensure that the equipment is used for purposes consistent with this grant, and must document and retain records evidencing the donation in accordance with the terms and condition of this Agreement.

12. Project and budget modification: The Grantee will immediately notify Golden LEAF of anything that may materially affect the Grantee's ability to perform the project funded. **If the Grantee proposes to modify the budget, the objectives, or any other feature of the project funded, the Grantee shall not encumber or expend any funds from this grant for such purposes unless and until Golden LEAF has approved such proposed modifications in writing.** Moreover, no further payments shall be made to the Grantee in connection with the project funded unless and until Golden LEAF has approved such proposed modifications in writing, which may be a communication sent through Golden LEAF's grants management system to the Grantee.

13. Use of grant funds/rescission and termination of grants: The Grantee accepts and will retain full control of the disposition of funds awarded to the Grantee by Golden LEAF under this grant and accepts and will retain full responsibility for compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant. Grant funds shall be utilized exclusively for the purposes set forth above. If the Grantee breaches any of the covenants or agreements contained in this Agreement, uses grant funds for purposes other than those set out above, or any of the representations and warranties made by the Grantee are untrue as to a material fact, the Grantee agrees to repay to Golden LEAF the full amount of this grant. Any condition, purpose, term or provision in Golden LEAF's resolution approving funding, in this Agreement, or in the budget or other forms approved by Golden LEAF shall take precedence over any conflicting provision in the Grantee's application. Grantee shall not use grant funds for any purpose not included in the Grantee's application for funding unless specifically approved by Golden LEAF. If there is a conflict between the purpose of the grant and use of grant funds described in this Agreement and the Grantee's application for funding, this Agreement will control.

14. The Grantee acknowledges receipt of Golden LEAF's policy regarding termination and rescission of grants, which policy is incorporated in this Agreement by reference and is intended to supplement but not replace or limit the rights and remedies of Golden LEAF set forth elsewhere in this Agreement. The Grantee acknowledges that Golden LEAF may, from time to time, amend its policy regarding termination and rescission of grants, and the Grantee acknowledges that the Grantee will be subject to the policy as amended.

15. Release of Funds: Unless otherwise agreed by Golden LEAF, up to twenty percent (20%) of funds may be released in advance after all conditions on the release of funds are satisfied. Funds may be released in additional advances of up to twenty percent (20%) of the grant amount upon receipt of evidence satisfactory to Golden LEAF that funds previously released have been properly expended and accounted for. Funds may also be released on a reimbursement basis, in which case payments may be made in an amount equal to or up to eighty percent (80%) of the grant amount upon receipt of evidence satisfactory to Golden LEAF that funds have been properly expended and accounted for. Unless otherwise approved by the President of Golden LEAF, a sum equal to twenty percent (20%) of the total amount of the grant will be retained by Golden LEAF until the Grantee completes its obligations under this grant, including submission of a satisfactory final report on the project funded. This final twenty percent (20%) retained by Golden LEAF shall be paid to the Grantee on a reimbursement basis. If the grant is conditional or contingent, all conditions and contingencies must be

met before any payment will be made. Each request for payment shall be submitted through Golden LEAF"s online grants management system in accordance with instruction provided by Golden LEAF, unless otherwise directed by Golden LEAF. Payment should not be requested until the Grantee has need for actual expenditures of the funds. The Grantee should request payment at least thirty (30) days prior to its desired payment date.

16. Reporting: The Grantee agrees to submit a progress report to Golden LEAF twice each year, to be received by Golden LEAF six months from the date of award and every six months thereafter unless some other schedule is approved by Golden LEAF. The Grantee agrees to submit a final Progress Report for receipt by Golden LEAF within sixty (60) days after the completion of all obligations for the project funded or the end date, whichever comes first. The Grantee may be required to report results and accomplishments to Golden LEAF for a period beyond the grant term that is reasonably necessary to evaluate the outcomes of the grant. Report forms may be found on Golden LEAF's website, www.goldenleaf.org.The Grantee will submit reports through Golden LEAF's online grants management system following in accordance with instructions provided by Golden LEAF, unless otherwise directed by Golden LEAF. The Grantee will furnish additional or further reports if requested by Golden LEAF on forms and following in accordance with processes prescribed by Golden LEAF.

17. Records: The Grantee agrees to maintain full, accurate and verifiable financial records, supporting documents, and all other pertinent data for the project funded in such a manner so as to identify and document clearly the activities and outcomes of the project funded and the expenditure of Golden LEAF grant funds. Financial records regarding Golden LEAF's grant shall be maintained in such a way that they can be reported separately from monetary contributions, or other revenue sources of the Grantee. The Grantee agrees to retain all financial and programmatic records, supporting documents, and all other pertinent records related to the project funded for a period of five (5) years from the end of the grant term. In the event such records are audited, all project records shall be retained beyond such five-year period until all audit findings have been resolved. The Grantee shall provide to Golden LEAF copies of all financial and other records requested by Golden LEAF and shall make available to Golden LEAF, or Golden LEAF's designated representative, all of the Grantee's records that relate to the grant, and shall allow Golden LEAF or Golden LEAF's representative to audit, examine and copy any data, documents, proceedings, records and notes of activity relating to the grant. Access to these records shall be allowed upon request at any time during normal business hours and as often as Golden LEAF or its representative may deem necessary. The Grantee may be subject to audit by the State Auditor.

18. This Section 18 is applicable if the following blank is marked: _____ Staff Initials & date:_____

    Intellectual property/new developments: In consideration of its receipt of funds granted by Golden LEAF, the Grantee agrees that during the course of the project funded by the grant, the Grantee, and any recipient of grant funds, will promptly disclose to Golden LEAF any improvements, inventions, developments, discoveries, innovations, systems, techniques, ideas, processes, programs, and other things, whether patentable or unpatentable, that result from any work performed by or for the Grantee in connection with the project funded, or by individuals whose work is funded by the grant (the "New Developments"). If the Grantee provides to Golden LEAF a copy of any Invention Disclosure Reports it receives from Grantee employees that report making inventions under this Agreement, then the Grantee will be deemed to have satisfied the disclosure requirement in the preceding sentence.

    The Grantee agrees that it, and any recipient of grant funds, shall take all reasonably appropriate actions to assure that the New Developments shall be and remain the sole and exclusive property of the Grantee. In the event that the interests of the public would be served by commercialization of the New Developments, the Grantee agrees to use its best reasonable efforts to pursue the commercialization of any such New Developments in a manner that will serve the interests of the public, including but not limited to the transfer, assignment or licensing of such New Developments; provided, however, that the Grantee, and any recipient of grant funds, shall not transfer, assign or license such New Developments in part or in whole without first having obtained the written consent of Golden LEAF.

    Any revenue generated as a result of transferring, assigning, or licensing New Developments will be managed by the Grantee in accordance with its published patent, copyright and technology transfer procedures, if any, and in the absence of such procedures such revenue will be managed by the Grantee in accordance with procedures approved by Golden LEAF. Such procedures typically will prioritize the distribution of revenues to insure that the Grantee first honors its obligation to its inventors and then to cover its own out-of-pocket expenses as necessary to protect its intellectual property.

    The Grantee and Golden LEAF further agree that should there be any revenue generated greater than that necessary to

meet the obligations of the preceding paragraph ("Net Revenue"), the Net Revenue shall be managed by the Grantee as follows:

a) 15% of the Net Revenue will be retained by the Grantee as a fee for the management and distribution of funds as required under this Agreement.
b) 30% of the remaining Net Revenue will be paid to Golden LEAF.
c) 70% of the remaining Net Revenue will be retained by the Grantee and used in accordance with the procedures referenced in the preceding paragraph above.

The Grantee's obligations pursuant to this Section will continue beyond the expiration of the funding period.

19. Independent entity: The Grantee acknowledges and agrees that the Grantee is an entity independent from Golden LEAF, is not an agent of Golden LEAF, and is not authorized to bind Golden LEAF to any agreement of payment for goods or services. The Grantee is responsible for payment of all its expenses, including rent, office expenses and all forms of compensation to employees. It shall provide workers compensation insurance to the extent required for its operations and shall accept full responsibility for payments of unemployment compensation, social security, income taxes and any other charges, taxes or payroll deductions required by law in connection with its operations, for itself and its employees. All expenses incurred by the Grantee are the sole responsibility of the Grantee, and Golden LEAF shall not be liable for the payment of any obligations incurred in the performance of the project funded.

20. Non-discrimination: The Grantee shall not discriminate by reason of age, race, ethnicity, religion, color, sex, parental status, national origin, genetic information, political affiliation, protected veteran status, or disability, or any other legally protected status, in connection with the activities of a project funded by Golden LEAF.

21. Publicity: All publicity and printed materials regarding projects or activities supported in whole or in part by this grant should contain the following language: **"This project received support from the Golden LEAF Foundation."** The Golden LEAF logo is to be displayed in all of the Grantee's publicity and printed materials relating to this grant. The Golden LEAF Brand and Publicity Guide can be accessed at www.goldenleaf.org/brand-and-publicity-guide/. For assistance with publicity, including review of all press releases, please contact Golden LEAF staff (news@goldenleaf.org).

22. Authority to execute/Necessary Approvals Obtained: The individual signing below certifies their authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Grantee and that the Grantee has received any third-party approval that may be required prior to entering this Agreement. By executing this Agreement, the Grantee, to induce Golden LEAF to make this grant, makes each of the representations set forth hereinabove and certifies that each of such representations is true, accurate and complete as of the date hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantee has executed this Agreement as of the date below:

Name of Grantee Organization (print): Caldwell County, NC

Signature: 

Name of Person Signing (print): Ashley Bolick

Title of Person Signing (print): Economic Development Director

Date: 04/28/2026

Board of Commissioners Meeting

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Economic Development	

AGENDA ITEM # 7

Budget Revision EDC REDO membership

BACKGROUND

Blue Ridge Energy has given a $1,500 grant to the county to allow it to join Northwestern NC Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO).

RECOMMENDED MOTION

Approve

BUDGET IMPACT

100% grant funded

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

1. REDO membership_0001

Budget Revision # _____

Item No. _____

Date: _____

Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

BUDGET REVISION

Subject:

Background and explanation for the Budget Revision:

Blue Ridge Energey has granted $1,500 to the county to allow it to join a new economic development organization called Northwestern NC Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO). This budget revision accepts those funds and allows them to be spent.

The Budget Ordinance is hereby amended by making a Supplemental Appropriation with appropriations and revenues being adjusted as follows:

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

Line Item #	Title	I/D		Amount	Line Item #	Title	I/D		Amount
10.4970.310000	Misc Rev	I	$	1,500.00	10.4970.444100	Contractual Expense	I	$	1,500.00
Total				**1,500.00**	**Total**				**1,500.00**

Attachments (Yes or No): No

Public Hearing (Yes or No):

Distribution:
Original - Finance Office
Duplicate - Clerk to the Board
Triplicate - Department Head

Staff Recommendation:

Board Action:

Department Head	Date	Finance Director	Date	County Manager	Date
			04/30/26		

Board of Commissioners Meeting
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Economic Development	

AGENDA ITEM # 8

NC Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant App P. Pillar

BACKGROUND

The North Carolina Building Reuse Program, administered by the NC Department of Commerce, provides grants to local governments for two purposes: the renovation of vacant buildings and the renovation or expansion of buildings occupied by an existing North Carolina Company wishing to expand in its current location.

The program is reimbursement-based and requires a legally binding commitment to create a specific number of new jobs that meet or exceed the county average annual wage, $51,338 (Caldwell County Average Private Sector Wage 2026). Project eligibility also requires employers to offer at least 50% employer-paid health insurance. Grant awards will never exceed one-half of the renovation and/or construction cost and include claw-back provisions requiring repayment of the grant if the jobs committed are not created and/or maintained for six consecutive months during the two-year grant period. The maximum award amount is $500,000, which would require a 5% local match ($25,000) payable from the Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund.

Upon approval, staff will work with Project Pillar to complete and submit the grant application. If awarded, staff will return to the Board of Commissioners for final project details, including capital investment, job commitment, grant amount, and local match requirement.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move to approve the Building Reuse Grant Application for Project Pillar.

BUDGET IMPACT

None. If awarded, local match funds would come from the Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund already budgeted.

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

Yes

ATTACHMENTS

None

Board of Commissioners Meeting

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Administration	

AGENDA ITEM # 9

Reappointment of Dale Hamby to the CCC&TI Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDED MOTION

BUDGET IMPACT

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

None

Board of Commissioners Meeting
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Emergency Services	

AGENDA ITEM # 10

Approval of Fireworks Application-Cedar Rock

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDED MOTION

BUDGET IMPACT

No impact

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

1. 521966 Village of Cedar Rock permit packet

Caldwell County Fire Marshal's Office

Phone (828)757-1277 | Ricky K. Brown, Fire Marshal | Fax (828)757-1182
2345 Morganton Blvd.
PO Box 2200
Lenoir NC, 28645

APPLICATION FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMIT

- Name: Zambelli Fireworks (individual, group or organizational sponsor)
- Address: 1060 Holland Drive, Suite J
  Boca Raton, FL 33487
- Location of Display: Cedar Rock Country Club (Street Address)
  2065 Cedar Rock Estates Drive
  Lenoir, NC 28645
- Name, Address and Phone number of fireworks display operator:
  Gregg Gettys - NCDOI License attached - Cell# 828-303-0289
- Date and Time of Fireworks Display: July 5, 2026 - 15 minutes @ 9:00pm
- Proposed Rain/Wind date if event is postponed: September 7, 2026
- Provide a copy of approval for the fireworks display from the Caldwell County Commissioners or from the Municipality if authority has been transferred by the Board of Commissioners.
- Provide the qualifications of the operator which demonstrate experience with use of fireworks and knowledge of all safety precautions related to the storage, handling or use of fireworks. Operators **must have a Permit from the Office of State Fire Marshal** and provide a copy of permits of all personnel involved in the display to this office or provide documentation as required for assistants on site.
- Provide Evidence of Financial Responsibility by the sponsor of the event or the operator of the fireworks display. (Insurance Certificate) **Caldwell County is to be included in the Certificate Holder section.**
- Provide a "Procedure Plan for Failures" which establishes procedures to follow and actions to be taken in the event that a shell fails to ignite or other malfunctions.
- Provide a diagram (including distances) of the grounds on which the outdoor fireworks display is to be held showing the point at which the fireworks are to be discharged, the location of all buildings, highways and other lines of communication, the lines behind which the audience is to be restrained, and the location of other possible overhead obstructions.
- Provide information regarding the number and types of fireworks which will be discharged.
- Provide information regarding the manner and place of storage of such fireworks prior to delivery to the outdoor fireworks display site.

By signing this document, the applicant agrees that the operation of this outdoor fireworks display will conform to the terms of NFPA 1123 or NFPA 1126, and the General Statutes of North Carolina.

(Signature of Applicant) 04/21/2026 (Date)

rbrown@caldwellcountync.org

CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY): 4/8/2026

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER Acrisure Great Lakes Partners Insurance Services 223 West Grand River Ave #1 Howell MI 48843	**CONTACT NAME:** **PHONE (A/C, No, Ext):** 216-658-7100 **FAX (A/C, No):** 216-658-7101 **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** info@brittongallagher.com
INSURED 3599 Zambelli Fireworks Mfg. Co. 280 Executive Dr. Ste 200 Cranberry Township PA 16066	**INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE** / **NAIC #** INSURER A : Palomar Excess and Surplus Insurance Company 16754 INSURER B : Continental Indemnity Company 28258 INSURER C : HDI GLOBAL SPECIALTY SE 1340041 INSURER D : INSURER E : INSURER F :

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:** 593661700 **REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS	
A	X COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY			AESPLMR-GL-26-00022	2/1/2026	2/1/2027	EACH OCCURRENCE	$ 1,000,000
	CLAIMS-MADE X OCCUR						DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence)	$ 500,000
							MED EXP (Any one person)	$
							PERSONAL & ADV INJURY	$ 1,000,000
	GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER:						GENERAL AGGREGATE	$ 2,000,000
	POLICY X PRO-JECT LOC						PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG	$ 2,000,000
	OTHER:							$
B	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY			BESCRMNPA011601_171256_01	2/1/2026	2/1/2027	COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident)	$ 1,000,000
	X ANY AUTO						BODILY INJURY (Per person)	$
	OWNED AUTOS ONLY / SCHEDULED AUTOS						BODILY INJURY (Per accident)	$
	X HIRED AUTOS ONLY / X NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY						PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident)	$
								$
C	UMBRELLA LIAB X OCCUR			25QS1596	2/1/2026	2/1/2027	EACH OCCURRENCE	$ 9,000,000
	X EXCESS LIAB CLAIMS-MADE						AGGREGATE	$ 9,000,000
	DED RETENTION $							$
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY Y / N						PER STATUTE OTH-ER	
	ANYPROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED?	N / A					E.L. EACH ACCIDENT	$
	(Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below						E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE	$
							E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT	$

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

Additional Insured extension of coverage is provided by above referenced General Liability policy where required by written agreement.
Date of Display: July 5, 2026 C# 521966
Location: Cedar Rock Country Club - 2065 Cedar Rock Estates Dr., Lenoir, NC
Additional Insureds: Village of Cedar Rock; Cedar Rock Development Association; Cedar Rock Country Club; Course Recovery Services; Caldwell County; State of North Carolina - ATIMA.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Village of Cedar Rock
Attn: Ernie McAteer, Councilman
2065 Cedar Rock Estates Drive
Lenoir NC 28645

CANCELLATION

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

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CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY): 4/9/2026

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER CONNIE PHILLIPS INSURANCE INC PO BOX 1028 FREDERICK, MD 21702-0028 30165 P33130	CONTACT NAME: CONNIE PHILLIPS INSURANCE INC PHONE (A/C, No, Ext): (301)662-5717 FAX (A/C, No): 3016620556 Email Address: cpi@insurance-financial.net
INSURED Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing, 280 Executive Dr Ste 100 Cranberry Township, PA 16066-6448	INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE — NAIC # INSURER A: CHESAPEAKE EMPLOYERS' INSURANCE COMPANY — 11039 INSURER B: INSURER C: INSURER D: INSURER E: INSURER F:

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:** **REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INS LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSRD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YY)	LIMITS	
	COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY						EACH OCCURRENCE	$
	☐ CLAIMS-MADE ☐ OCCUR						DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence)	$
							MED. EXP (Any one person)	$
							PERSONAL & ADV INJURY	$
	GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER:						GENERAL AGGREGATE	$
	☐ POLICY ☐ PROJECT ☐ LOC						PRODUCTS – COMP/OP AGG.	$
	☐ OTHER							$
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident)	$
	☐ ANY AUTO						BODILY INJURY (Per person)	$
	☐ OWNED AUTOS ONLY ☐ SCHEDULED AUTOS						BODILY INJURY (Per accident)	$
	☐ HIRED AUTOS ONLY ☐ NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY						PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident)	$
								$
	☐ UMBRELLA LIAB ☐ OCCUR						EACH OCCURRENCE	$
	☐ EXCESS LIAB ☐ CLAIMS-MADE						AGGREGATE	$
	☐ DED ☐ RETENTION $							$
A	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY Y/N ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? Y (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	N/A		8031231-00	2/5/2026	2/5/2027	X PER STATUTE ☐ OTH-ER	
							E.L. EACH ACCIDENT	$ 1,000,000
							E.L. DISEASE - EACH EMPLOYEE	$ 1,000,000
							E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT	$ 1,000,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

VARIOUS MARYLAND LOCATIONS / ZURICH WC 0956272 - 00 (NC COVERAGE) / 2065 CEDAR ROCK ESTATES DR., LENOIR, NC 28645

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

VILLAGE OF CEDAR ROCK
ATTN: ERNIE MCATEER, COUNCILMAN
2065 CEDAR ROCK ESTATE DR
LENOIR, NC 28645-9129

CANCELLATION

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

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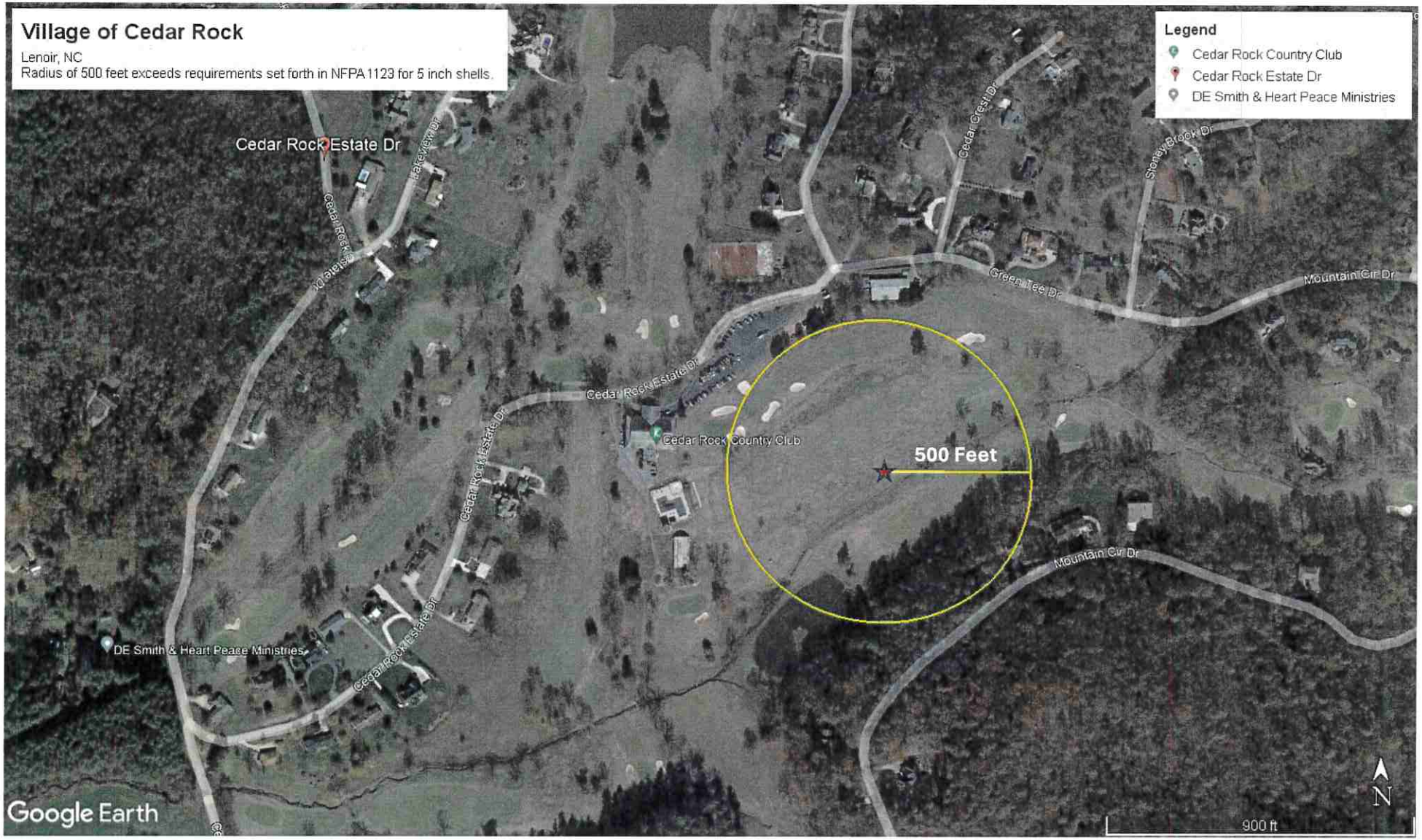
Work Order Shell Summary

Show No: 521966
Village of Cedar Rock **Lenior, NC**
Show Date: 7/5/2026

Shell Class	Description	Quantity
3 Inch Finale	3 inch Finale Assorted	180
3 Inch Finale Sal	3 inch Finale Salutes	30
3 Inch PP	3 inch Singles Prepacked	144
4 Inch Finale	4 inch Finale Assorted	30
4 Inch PP	4 inch Singles Prepacked	72
5 Inch PP	5 inch Singles Prepacked	18
Cake 150	Cake 150 Shot	1
Cake 165	Cake 165 Shot	1
Cake 35	Cake 35 Shot	4


Village of Cedar Rock
Lenoir, NC
Radius of 500 feet exceeds requirements set forth in NFPA 1123 for 5 inch shells.
Legend
Cedar Rock Country Club
Cedar Rock Estate Dr
DE Smith & Heart Peace Ministries
Cedar Rock Estate Dr
Lakeview Dr
Cedar Crest Dr
Stoney Brook Dr
Green Tee Dr
Mountain Cir Dr
Cedar Rock Estate Dr
Cedar Rock Country Club
500 Feet
Cedar Rock Estate Dr
Mountain Cir Dr
DE Smith & Heart Peace Ministries
Cedar Rock Estate Dr
Google Earth
N
900 ft

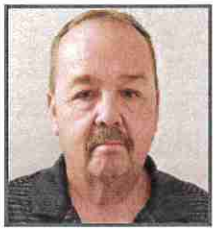
Zambelli
FIREWORKS

Changes in NCDOI Operator(s) and Assistant(s)

Should the assigned NCDOI Operator(s) and/or Assistant Operator(s) become unavailable for a display due to illness, work schedule, emergency, etc., Zambelli will assign an equally qualified NCDOI Operator(s) and/or Assistant Operator(s) who will carry with them, evidence of their current licensing as provided by the NCDOI and will present such license to the AHJ upon request. Zambelli will also endeavor to notify all parties in the event that any changes need to be made.

Holder's Full Name: Gregory Allan Gettys
Business Name: Zambelli Fireworks
Government ID By: North Carolina
Government ID Type: Driver License
ID Number: ********6734

cell #
828-303-0289



License Number: 1017
License Type: 1.3G Pyrotechnic
License Level: Operator
License Status: Valid
Expiration Date: 05/31/2028

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

1 Identification

· Product identifier Fireworks, Division 1.3 Explosive

· Trade name:
Fireworks, Display

· Product code:
Fireworks, 1.3G UN0335

· Recommended use and restriction on use
· Recommended use: Explosive product for professional use for entertainment and technical purposes
· Restrictions on use: Contact manufacturer/supplier

· Details of the supplier of the Safety Data Sheet
· Manufacturer/Supplier:

Zambelli Fireworks Mfg.
20 South Mercer Street
New Castle, PA 16101

Phone: 724-658-6611
Fax: 724-658-8318

· Emergency telephone number:
ChemTel Inc.
(800)255-3924, +1 (813)248-0585

2 Hazard(s) identification

· Classification of the substance or mixture
Expl. 1.3 H203 Explosive; fire, blast or projection hazard.

· Label elements
· GHS label elements
The product is classified and labeled according to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS).
· Hazard pictograms:



GHS01

· Signal word: Danger
· Hazard statements:
H203 Explosive; fire, blast or projection hazard.
· Precautionary statements:
P210 Keep away from heat/sparks/open flames/hot surfaces. No smoking.
P250 Do not subject to grinding/shock/friction.
P280 Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.
P373 DO NOT fight fire when fire reaches explosives.
P370+P380 In case of fire: Evacuate area.
P372 Explosion risk in case of fire.

(Cont'd. on page 2)

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

Trade name: Fireworks, Display

(Cont'd. of page 1)

P401 Store in accordance with local/regional/national/international regulations.
P501 Dispose of contents/container in accordance with local/regional/national/international regulations.

· **Other hazards** There are no other hazards not otherwise classified that have been identified.
· **Explosive Product Notice**
PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS IN THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES - The prevention of accidents in the use of explosives is a result of careful planning and observance of the best known practices. The explosives user must remember that he is dealing with a powerful force and that various devices and methods have been developed to assist him in directing this force. He should realize that this force, if misdirected, may either kill or injure both him and his fellow workers.

WARNING - All explosives are dangerous and must be carefully handled and used following approved safety procedures either by or under the direction of competent, experienced persons in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, or ordinances. If you have any questions or doubts as to how to use any explosive product, DO NOT USE IT before consulting with your supervisor, or the manufacturer, if you do not have a supervisor. If your supervisor has any questions or doubts, he should consult the manufacturer before use.

3 Composition/information on ingredients

· **Chemical characterization: Mixtures**

· **Components:**
Components for product possesing only physical hazards do not require reporting. These components are considered proprietary.

4 First-aid measures

· **Description of first aid measures**
· **General information:**
Information is only applicable to product contents, and not to product as normally supplied. This information is applicable to damaged, leaking, or spilled product as contact with contents is possible under these conditions.
· **After inhalation:** Supply fresh air; consult doctor in case of complaints.
· **After skin contact:**
Wash with soap and water.
In case of minor burns, flush with cool water.
If skin irritation is experienced, consult a doctor.
· **After eye contact:**
Remove contact lenses if worn.
Rinse opened eye for several minutes under running water. If symptoms persist, consult a doctor.
· **After swallowing:**
Unlikely route of exposure.
Do not induce vomiting; immediately call for medical help.

(Cont'd. on page 3)

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

Trade name: Fireworks, Display

(Cont'd. of page 2)

· **Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed:**
Blast injury if mishandled.
Thermal burns, if mishandled.
· **Danger:** Danger of blast or crush-type injuries.
· **Indication of any immediate medical attention and special treatment needed:**
Product may produce physical injury if mishandled. Treatment of these injuries should be based on the clinical presentation.

5 Fire-fighting measures

· **Extinguishing media**
· **Suitable extinguishing agents:**
DO NOT fight fire when fire reaches explosives.
Flood area with water. If no water is available, carbon dioxide, dry chemical or earth may be used. If the fire reaches the cargo, withdraw and let fire burn.
· **For safety reasons unsuitable extinguishing agents:** None.
· **Special hazards arising from the substance or mixture**
Explosive; fire, blast or projection hazard.
During heating or in case of fire poisonous gases are produced.
· **Advice for firefighters**
· **Protective equipment:**
Wear self-contained respiratory protective device.
Wear fully protective suit.
· **Additional information:**
Eliminate all ignition sources if safe to do so.
In case of fire: Evacuate area. Fight fire remotely due to the risk of explosion.
Cool endangered receptacles with water spray.
Flammability Classification: (defined by 29 CFR 1910.1200) Explosive. Can explode under fire conditions. Individual devices will randomly explode. Mass explosion of multiple devices is possible under certain conditions. Burning material may produce toxic and irritating vapors. In unusual cases, shrapnel may be thrown from exploding devices under containment. See 2012 Emergency response Guidebook for further information.

6 Accidental release measures

· **Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures**
Wear protective equipment. Keep unprotected persons away.
Remove persons from danger area.
Ensure adequate ventilation.
Isolate area and prevent access.
· **Environmental precautions**
Do not allow undiluted product or large quantities of it to reach ground water, water course or sewage system.
· **Methods and material for containment and cleaning up**
Pick up mechanically.

(Cont'd. on page 4)

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

Trade name: Fireworks, Display

(Cont'd. of page 3)

Send for recovery or disposal in suitable receptacles.

· **Reference to other sections**
See Section 7 for information on safe handling.
See Section 8 for information on personal protection equipment.
See Section 13 for disposal information.

7 Handling and storage

· **Handling**
· **Precautions for safe handling:**
Handle with care. Avoid jolting, friction and impact.
Restrict the quantity stored at the work place.
Keep out of reach of children.
· **Information about protection against explosions and fires:**
In case of fire: Evacuate area.
Explosion risk in case of fire.
Keep away from sparks and open flames. - No smoking.
Emergency cooling must be available in case of nearby fire.

· **Conditions for safe storage, including any incompatibilities**
· **Storage**
· **Requirements to be met by storerooms and receptacles:**
Avoid storage near extreme heat, ignition sources or open flame.
· **Information about storage in one common storage facility:**
Store in accordance with local/regional/national/international regulations.
Store away from foodstuffs.
Store away from flammable substances.
· **Further information about storage conditions:**
Store in cool, dry conditions in well sealed receptacles.
Store locked up.
· **Specific end use(s)** No relevant information available.

8 Exposure controls/personal protection

· **Control parameters**
· **Components with limit values that require monitoring at the workplace:**
The product does not contain any relevant quantities of materials with critical values that have to be monitored at the workplace.

· **Exposure controls**
· **Personal protective equipment:**
· **General protective and hygienic measures:**
The usual precautionary measures for handling chemicals should be followed.
Keep away from foodstuffs, beverages and feed.
Wash hands before breaks and at the end of work.
· **Engineering controls:** Provide adequate ventilation.

(Cont'd. on page 5)

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

Trade name: Fireworks, Display

(Cont'd. of page 4)

· **Breathing equipment:** Not required under normal conditions of use.
· **Protection of hands:** When needed, wear gloves for protection against mechanical hazards.
· **Eye protection:**



Safety glasses

Follow relevant national guidelines concerning the use of protective eyewear.
· **Body protection:** When needed, wear protective clothing for protection against mechanical hazards.
· **Limitation and supervision of exposure into the environment**
No relevant information available.
· **Risk management measures**
Organizational measures should be in place for all activities involving this product.

9 Physical and chemical properties

· **Information on basic physical and chemical properties**	
· **Appearance:**	
Form:	Outer shell containing powder, granular, or solid materials.
Color:	According to product specification
· **Odor:**	Odorless
· **Odor threshold:**	Not determined.
· **pH-value:**	Not applicable.
· **Melting point/Melting range:**	Not determined.
· **Boiling point/Boiling range:**	Not determined.
· **Flash point:**	Not applicable.
· **Flammability (solid, gaseous):**	Fire or projection hazard.
· **Auto-ignition temperature:**	Not determined.
· **Decomposition temperature:**	Not determined.
· **Danger of explosion:**	Heating may cause an explosion.
· **Explosion limits**	
Lower:	Not determined.
Upper:	Not determined.
· **Vapor pressure:**	Not applicable.
· **Density:**	Not determined.
· **Relative density:**	Not determined.
· **Vapor density:**	Not applicable.
· **Evaporation rate:**	Not applicable.

(Cont'd. on page 6)

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

Trade name: Fireworks, Display

(Cont'd. of page 5)

· **Solubility in / Miscibility with Water:**	Insoluble.
· **Partition coefficient (n-octanol/water):**	Not determined.
· **Viscosity**	
Dynamic:	Not applicable.
Kinematic:	Not applicable.
· **Other information**	No relevant information available.

10 Stability and reactivity

· **Reactivity:** No relevant information available.
· **Chemical stability:**
· **Thermal decomposition / conditions to be avoided:** Risk of explosion if heated under confinement.
· **Possibility of hazardous reactions**
Explosive; fire, blast or projection hazard.
Toxic fumes may be released if heated above the decomposition point.
Reacts with strong acids and alkali.
· **Conditions to avoid**
Excessive heat.
Sources of ignition: sparks, open flame, incompatible materials
· **Incompatible materials** Oxidizers, strong bases, strong acids
· **Hazardous decomposition products**
Carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide
Nitrogen oxides
Sulfur oxides (SOx)

11 Toxicological information

· **Information on toxicological effects**
· **Acute toxicity:**
· **LD/LC50 values that are relevant for classification:** None.
· **Primary irritant effect:**
· **On the skin:**
Not a skin irritant in unused form. Vapors/particles from used product are possibly irritating to skin.
· **On the eye:**
Not an eye irritant in unused form. Vapors/particles from used product are possibly irritating to eyes.
· **Sensitization:** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met.

· **Carcinogenic categories**

· **IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer):**
None of the ingredients are listed.

(Cont'd. on page 7)

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

Trade name: Fireworks, Display

(Cont'd. of page 6)

· **NTP (National Toxicology Program):**
None of the ingredients are listed.

· **OSHA-Ca (Occupational Safety & Health Administration):**
None of the ingredients are listed.

· **Probable route(s) of exposure:**
Skin contact.
Eye contact.
Inhalation.
· **Acute effects (acute toxicity, irritation and corrosivity):**
Danger of blast or crush-type injuries.
Risk of thermal burns.
· **Repeated dose toxicity:** From product as supplied: None.
· **CMR effects (carcinogenity, mutagenicity and toxicity for reproduction)**
· **Germ cell mutagenicity:** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met.
· **Carcinogenicity:** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met.
· **Reproductive toxicity:** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met.
· **STOT-single exposure:** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met.
· **STOT-repeated exposure:** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met.
· **Aspiration hazard:** Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met.

12 Ecological information

· **Toxicity**
· **Aquatic toxicity** No relevant information available.
· **Persistence and degradability** No relevant information available.
· **Bioaccumulative potential:** May be accumulated in organism
· **Mobility in soil:** No relevant information available.
· **Other adverse effects** No relevant information available.

13 Disposal considerations

· **Waste treatment methods**
· **Recommendation:**
Must not be disposed of together with household garbage. Do not allow product to reach sewage system.
Incinerate in accordance with local, state and federal regulations.
The user of this material has the responsibility to dispose of unused material, residues and containers in compliance with all relevant local, state and federal laws and regulations regarding treatment, storage and disposal for hazardous and nonhazardous wastes. Residual materials should be treated as hazardous.

(Cont'd. on page 8)

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

Trade name: Fireworks, Display

(Cont'd. of page 7)

· **Uncleaned packagings**
· **Recommendation:** Disposal must be made according to official regulations.

14 Transport information

· **UN-Number**	
· **DOT, ADR, IMDG**	UN0335
· **IATA**	FORBIDDEN
· **UN proper shipping name**	
· **DOT, ADR, IMDG**	Fireworks
· **IATA**	FORBIDDEN
· **Transport hazard class(es)**	
· **DOT**	
· **Class**	1.3
· **Label**	1.3G
· **ADR**	
· **Class**	1.3
· **Label**	1.3G
· **IMDG**	
· **Class**	1.1
· **Label**	1.3G
· **IATA**	
· **Class**	FORBIDDEN
· **Packing group**	
· **DOT**	II
· **Environmental hazards**	
· **Marine pollutant:**	No
· **Special precautions for user**	Not applicable.

(Cont'd. on page 9)

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

Trade name: Fireworks, Display

(Cont'd. of page 8)

· **EMS Number:**	F-S,B-X
· **Transport in bulk according to Annex II of MARPOL73/78 and the IBC Code**	Not applicable.

15 Regulatory information

· **Safety, health and environmental regulations/legislation specific for the substance or mixture**
· **United States (USA)**
· **SARA**

· **Section 302 (extremely hazardous substances):**
None of the ingredients are listed.

· **Section 304 (emergency release notification):**
None of the ingredients are listed.

· **Section 355 (extremely hazardous substances):**
None of the ingredients are listed.

· **Section 313 (Specific toxic chemical listings):**
Contact manufacturer.

· **TSCA (Toxic Substances Control Act)**
All ingredients are listed.

· **Proposition 65 (California)**

· **Chemicals known to cause cancer:**
Contact manufacturer.

· **Chemicals known to cause reproductive toxicity for females:**
Contact manufacturer.

· **Chemicals known to cause reproductive toxicity for males:**
Contact manufacturer.

· **Chemicals known to cause developmental toxicity:**
Contact manufacturer.

· **Carcinogenic categories**

· **EPA (Environmental Protection Agency):**
None of the ingredients are listed.

· **IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer):**
Contact manufacturer.

(Cont'd. on page 10)

Safety Data Sheet
acc. to OSHA HCS (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Printing date: 01/06/2017 Revision: 01/06/2017

Trade name: Fireworks, Display

(Cont'd. of page 9)

· **NIOSH-Ca (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health):**
Contact manufacturer.

16 Other information

This information is based on our present knowledge. However, this shall not constitute a guarantee for any specific product features and shall not establish a legally valid contractual relationship.

· **Date of preparation / last revision** 01/06/2017 / -

· **Abbreviations and acronyms:**
ADR: European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road
IMDG: International Maritime Code for Dangerous Goods
DOT: US Department of Transportation
IATA: International Air Transport Association
CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service (division of the American Chemical Society)
LC50: Lethal concentration, 50 percent
LD50: Lethal dose, 50 percent
NIOSH: National Institute for Occupational Safety
OSHA: Occupational Safety & Health
TLV: Threshold Limit Value
PEL: Permissible Exposure Limit
REL: Recommended Exposure Limit
LDLo: Lowest Lethal Dose Observed
Expl. 1.3: Explosives – Division 1.3

· **Sources**
Website, European Chemicals Agency (echa.europa.eu)
Website, US EPA Substance Registry Services (ofmpub.epa.gov/sor internet/registry/substreg/home/overview/home.do)
Website, Chemical Abstracts Registry, American Chemical Society (www.cas.org)
Patty's Industrial Hygiene, 6th ed., Rose, Vernon, ed. ISBN: 978-0-470-07488-6
Casarett and Doull's Toxicology: The Basic Science of Poisons, 8th Ed., Klaasen, Curtis D., ed., ISBN: 978-0-07-176923-5.
Safety Data Sheets, Individual Manufacturers

SDS Prepared by:
ChemTel Inc.
1305 North Florida Avenue
Tampa, Florida USA 33602-2902
Toll Free North America 1-888-255-3924 Intl. +01 813-248-0573
Website: www.chemtelinc.com

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Federal Explosives License/Permit
(18 U.S.C. Chapter 40)

In accordance with the provisions of Title XI, Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, and the regulations issued thereunder (27 CFR Part 555), you may engage in the activity specified in this license or permit within the limitations of Chapter 40, Title 18, United States Code and the regulations issued thereunder, until the expiration date shown. THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE UNDER 27 CFR 555.53. See "WARNINGS" and "NOTICES" on reverse.

Direct ATF Correspondence To	ATF - Chief, FELC 244 Needy Road Martinsburg, WV 25405-9431	License/Permit Number	**8-PA-019-20-7B-02043**
Chief, Federal Explosives Licensing Center (FELC)	Maria Howard	Expiration Date	**February 1, 2027**

Name
ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING CO

Premises Address (Changes? Notify the FELC at least 10 days before the move.)
280 EXECUTIVE DRIVE SUITE 100
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066-

Type of License or Permit
20-MANUFACTURER OF EXPLOSIVES

Purchasing Certification Statement

The licensee or permittee named above shall use a copy of this license or permit to assist a transferor of explosives to verify the identity and the licensed status of the licensee or permittee as provided by 27 CFR Part 555. The signature on each copy must be an original signature. A faxed, scanned or e-mailed copy of the license or permit with a signature intended to be an original signature is acceptable. The signature must be that of the Federal Explosives Licensee (FEL) or a responsible person of the FEL. I certify that this is a true copy of a license or permit issued to the licensee or permittee named above to engage in the business or operations specified above under "Type of License or Permit."

Mailing Address (Changes? Notify the FELC of any changes.)

ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING CO
280 EXECUTIVE DRIVE SUITE 100
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066-

George R Zambelli JR MD	OWNER
Licensee/Permittee/Responsible Person Signature	Position/Title
GEORGE R. ZAMBELLI JR. MD	10/12/24
Printed Name	Date

Previous Edition is Obsolete ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING CO 280 EXECUTIVE DRIVE SUITE 100 16066 8-PA-019-20-7B-02043 February 1, 2027 20-MANUFACTURER OF EXPLOSIVES

ATF Form 5400.14/5400.15 Part 1
Revised September 2011

Federal Explosives License (FEL) Customer Service Information

Federal Explosives Licensing Center (FELC)
244 Needy Road
Martinsburg, WV 25405-9431

Toll-free Telephone Number: (877) 283-3352
Fax Number: (304) 616-4401
E-mail: FELC@atf.gov

ATF Homepage: www.atf.gov

Change of Address *(27 CFR 555.54(a)(1))*. Licensees or permittees may during the term of their current license or permit remove their business or operations to a new location at which they intend regularly to carry on such business or operations. The licensee or permittee is required to give notification of the new location of the business or operations not less than 10 days prior to such removal with the Chief, Federal Explosives Licensing Center. The license or permit will be valid for the remainder of the term of the original license or permit. **(The Chief, FELC, shall, if the licensee or permittee is not qualified, refer the request for amended license or permit to the Director of Industry Operations for denial in accordance with § 555.54.)**

Right of Succession *(27 CFR 555.59)*. (a) Certain persons other than the licensee or permittee may secure the right to carry on the same explosive materials business or operations at the same address shown on, and for the remainder of the term of, a current license or permit. Such persons are: (1) The surviving spouse or child, or executor, administrator, or other legal representative of a deceased licensee or permittee; and (2) A receiver or trustee in bankruptcy, or an assignee for benefit of creditors. (b) In order to secure the right provided by this section, the person or persons continuing the business or operations shall furnish the license or permit for for that business or operations for endorsement of such succession to the Chief, FELC, within 30 days from the date on which the successor begins to carry on the business or operations.

(Continued on reverse side)

Cut Here ✂

Federal Explosives License/Permit (FEL) Information Card

License/Permit Name: **ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING CO**

Business Name:

License/Permit Number: **8-PA-019-20-7B-02043**

License/Permit Type: **20-MANUFACTURER OF EXPLOSIVES**

Expiration: **February 1, 2027**

Please Note: Not Valid for the Sale or Other Disposition of Explosives.

Board of Commissioners Meeting

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	DEPARTMENT	PREPARED BY
May 18, 2026	Administration	

AGENDA ITEM # 11

Approval of Regular and Closed Session Minutes from April 27, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting and May 6, 2026, Board of Commissioners Special Meeting

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDED MOTION

BUDGET IMPACT

APPROVED FOR BUDGET YEAR

No

ATTACHMENTS

1. April 27, 2026, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT
2. May 6, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners Minutes DRAFT
3. 26-27 PP Budget Workshop PDF
4. Bolick Property Project Ordinance

Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

MINUTES

Attendance

Randy T. Church, Chairman
Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman
Jeff Branch, Commissioner
Donnie Potter, Commissioner
Patrick Starnes, Commissioner
Shane Fox, County Manager
Destin Hall, County Attorney
Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

Call to Order
Chairman Church called the April 27, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Public Comment Period
Faith Naff was the first to come to the podium. Ms. Naff expressed concerns about the previous year's property tax increase. She noted several accounting figures from the prior year budget and financial audit. She asked why the County can't increase spending on education. She also stated that she is hoping for a 2.2-million-dollar savings in the new budget year.

Kate Daly also signed up to speak. However, when Chairman Church recognized her to the podium she passed on speaking.

Invocation
Reverend Leonard H. Bolick from Philadelphia Lutheran Church led the invocation for those in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance
Commissioner Potter led the Pledge of Allegiance for those in attendance.

DRAFT

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public

County Manager Shane Fox informed the Board of an amendment to the agenda. This amendment is a late addition of a resolution authorizing the County to participate in the Remnant Opioid Settlement Agreement. Mr. Fox then stated that he would move to add this to the consent agenda as Item number 17.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented by the County Manager.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Church then recognized the loss of a great firefighter in our community, Chief Keith Owens of the Gamewell Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that he was a mentor to many firefighters in our community. He also recognized Owens for serving as the Chief in Gamewell for 31 years combined with his service at the North Carolina Forest Service as well as his service through Lenoir Fire Department, with a cumulative total of 55 years of service to Caldwell County and the residents. Church then shared that The Chief Owens Firefighter School is now open to 6th - 8th graders in the County.

Agenda Items

1. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Laura Harrison, Caldwell County DSS Deputy Director came to the podium. Ms. Harrison stated that the department can't do this alone and relies on community partners including Law Enforcement, Schools, Emergency Services, Mental Health, the Hospital, the Board of Commissioners, and the DSS Board to effectively serve the community.

Chairman Church then read Proclamation 02-2026, proclaiming April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to adopt the proclamation as read.
The motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation

Chairman Church welcomed Becky Price, Amanda Duty, Johnathan Norris, Dawn Hardin, who is a 30-year employee as of last month and Ryan Dula to the podium to be recognized. They serve the County as Telecommunicators on both day and night shifts. Ms. Price stated that they do a wonderful job and make her job much easier. She then said that they are always there and ready to lend a hand to anyone that calls or comes in.

Chairman Church stated appreciation for everything they do for our County. He then said when you dial 911and someone answers that call; it is very important. He reiterated appreciation for all they do. Chairman Church then read the Proclamation 05-2026, proclaiming April 12th – April 18th, 2026, Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Commissioner Branch stated appreciation for what they do, and mentioned the new location they will be moving to.
Ms. Price said that she appreciated the new location and they needed the space.

Commissioner Starnes said that he appreciates what they do because they are the first and the last call, without you the community is lost, and he appreciates their time and efforts.

Commissioner Starnes made a motion to adopt the Proclamation.
The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Church stated that there are several Proclamations tonight. He said that he read recently someone said that the Commissioners like to do Proclamations and very little business. He then said that the Board does like to honor those who deserve that Honor. Commissioner Potter agreed. Church said we are trying to highlight the importance of all our County and those that have a part.

3. Proclamation National Apprenticeship Week 2026 Proclamation

Next to the podium was Ashley Bolick, Economic Development Director, along with Tara Brossa, Executive Director of Rise Caldwell – Watauga. Ms. Bolick stated that this is the 12th annual National Apprenticeship Week, and it is coordinated by the US Department of Labor. This will take place April 26th – May 2nd under the theme America at Work, Making America Skilled Again, through registered apprenticeships. Ms. Bolick said that this week is meant to showcase the value of registered apprenticeships in building the skilled workforce. She then mentioned that she wanted to take time to highlight a local initiative, R.I.S.E (Regional Initiative for Skilled Employment) Caldwell - Watauga. It is a joint effort between Caldwell and Watauga Counties that continues to build on emphasizing employer driven work force development. She then introduced Tara Brossa to speak. Ms. Brossa thanked the Board for their support of the twenty students in the program that are thriving and she is grateful to the thirteen employers who have partnered with them. She added she is very excited about this summer and that there will be over 50 students in the program in Caldwell County. Ms. Bolick then recognized Dr. Mark Poarch as one of threads that ties Caldwell – Watauga together and our Community College. She stated that Dr. Poarch Chairs the Executive Committee which includes herself and the Economic Director of Watauga as well as the School Superintendents for both Counties.

Chairman Church then read the Proclamation 03-2026, proclaiming April 26th – May 2nd 2026, National Apprenticeship Week.

Commissioner Branch made a motion to adopt the Proclamation as presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

4. Proclamation Professional Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners' Week

Chairman Church then read the final Proclamation of the night, 04-2026 Professional Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners Week, proclaiming May 3rd – May 9th 2026, Clerk to the Boards of Commissioners Week, to honor and recognize our Clerk to the Board.

Commissioner Starnes then thanked Ms. Brown for the job that she does and expressed appreciation for what she has done.

Chairman Church stated that they were fortunate to have Ms. Brown join their staff and for everything she does for us.

Commissioner Starnes made a motion to adopt the Proclamation.
The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Branch recognized Iris Whitt, and the work she did serving as the Interim County Clerk. Chairman Church thanked her and recognized the work she continues to do as the Deputy Clerk when the need arises for back up.

5. Appointment of Commissioner to the Library Board of Trustees

Chairman Church offered his name to serve as the appointee unless someone else desires to serve on the Library Board.

Commissioner Branch made a motion to appoint Chairman Church to the Board.
The motion carried unanimously.

6. Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund Request for Economic Development

Chairman Church welcomed Ashley Bolick, Economic Development Director back to the podium to present a Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund Request for a property purchase for Economic Development. Ms. Bolick started by explaining that the Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund is basically a savings account for the purpose of economic development and officially this fund represents an agreement between Caldwell County and the municipalities of Cajah's Mountain, Hudson, Gamewell, Granite Falls and Sawmills. Where these municipalities help fund economic development within the County by consideration of the County's continued election of the per capita method of local government sales tax and use dollars. These municipal partners collectively contribute $600,000 annually to this fund. And we use this fund to offer grant matches such as the NC Department Department of Commerce Building Re-Use Grant, Local Jobs Creation Grants, and Product Development. Ms. Bolick then

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spoke about product development, describing it as the process of creating or improving or launching new properties that enhance our competitiveness as a community to spur innovation and economic growth through product development. And that is what this request is, it is for continuing product development in Caldwell County. Ms. Bolick said that since the February 23rd Board of Commissioners meeting, the County has decided to pursue the purchase of the Lower Cedar Valley property itself and not through the nonprofit, Vista Ventures. She also noted that also during that time, staff has been able to conduct the required due diligence needed and has a more accurate understanding of the cost, so we have been able to lower the original request from $552,000 to $545,000. Ms. Bolick said the request to be purchased is a 15.562 acre property on Lower Cedar Valley Road, located in the Town of Sawmills for the development of a new industrial building or industrial park. The negotiated purchase price is $525,000 with the total request of $545,000 to cover acquisition, due diligence, soil compaction testing, environmental work, and closing project costs. Ms. Bolick then showed an aerial photo of the property as well as a survey. She then spoke on product development from the State level. She stated that they work with EDPNC, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. They lead the state's business recruitment and tourism efforts.

Chairman Church then declared the Public Hearing open. No one signed up to speak during the public hearing. With that, Chairman Church closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Starnes made a motion to adopt the Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund Request for Economic Development.
The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Church then asked Ms. Bolick if it was correct that this property was known as the Bolick property. She responded, yes. Chairman Church then stated that they see the potential there for economic development, the location off Hwy 321, the property already has water and sewer and a power hub.

7. Capital Project and Strategic Initiative Updates

County Manager, Shane Fox, was next to the podium to provide an update on several projects and initiatives the County has been working on and may consider moving forward. Mr. Fox started by listing the capital projects, other updates and initiatives he would be speaking about. Mr. Fox started with the Collettsville Water Tank Project. He stated discussion began in 2018 for this project. The project includes a 200,000-gallon elevated tank located at 4487 Rocky Road on 8 acres of land and was purchased in 2018. Low water pressure and fires in this area drove the project. The project was bid twice and awarded in August 2023. Fox said the cost for the project was $4.8 million, $3.2 million ARPA funded and the remainder funded through the water capital fund. Fox then mentioned the water fund does not have any debt and the project was fully funded. With the project now complete the pressure and fire suppression has improved and the County now has four tanks online at 200,000-gallons each. He also mentioned the water fund has over 10,000 customers and a wonderful staff that does a tremendous job. This tank will be beneficial to those in the Collettsville area with water pressure as well as firefighters and others that need that valuable resource.

Mr. Fox then spoke about the Cajah's Mountain EMS Base Project. He mentioned the project started as a doctor's office and discussions began over 18 years ago for the project. EMS Base #8 is located at 1901 Connelly Springs Road. Fox stated that in 2023 the County purchased the land, 2 acres. A contractor out of Hickory was selected and broke ground in June 2024. Fox added that the total project cost with the land, building, renovations, and addition was $5.2 million. Fox also mentioned the partnership with the Town of Cajah's Mountain, who contributed financially to the project in the amount of $500,000. Fox said that the base has three double bays where six vehicles can be located. It houses two crews and the building also includes several areas that are truly cutting edge. This includes several mock rooms. An Emergency Room with triage and hospital station, and the other mock room being an in home situation and the third being an ambulance "box" room, all designed to assist EMS with training. The base was online on Monday April 20th and ran 40 calls in 7 days.

Chairman Church mentioned he was glad to see the completion of this project.

Mr. Fox then discussed the Kincaid Building Project that is located at 240 Pleasant Hill Rd. He stated this is now being called Caldwell County Government and Emergency Operations Complex. Discussions began about the space needed for a new EOC/911 in 2021. The original plan was to construct a standalone facility with an estimated cost of $50 million, that was not feasible. However, in early 2025 Kincaid/La-Z-Boy reached out to the EDC as they were making transitions with their corporate structure. This included a potential sale of this building. The County moved forward with the purchase in November 2025 for $4.78 million utilizing state appropriated monies received in 2021. Fox then stated that no local money has or will go into this building. He then showed pictures of the building and stated that along with the building the County purchased 20.55 acres of land. He also described the layout of each floor is separated by stairs allowing for easy separation, creating four quadrants. This building will house Emergency Management, EMS, Fire Marshall, 911 Communications, IT, State Agencies, along with HR, Finance, and Administration. Fox said the building itself was in good shape at only 24 years old and no structural work was needed. Cosmetic renovations began around December 2025 that includes paving, fencing, carpet, paint, interior walls, IT wiring, and furniture. The total project cost will be around $6 million or $187 per square foot. Fox then paused to thank Jimmy Harrison, Deputy County Manager, for his work on leading this project and the tremendous job he has done. He said that the building is now open to a few, Jimmy Harrison, IT and the State Agencies, with the others too follow as it is close to completion within the next 30 days.

Chairman Church stated that he felt this property was a big win for our County. He also wanted to highlight the State Agencies housed there. The North Carolina Emergency Management Western Regional Office is moving to this location in our County. Having that resource in your County is a big win in handling any emergency in Western North Carolina. Church also mentioned the grading that had been done to create a helipad for the Governor and others to fly in for emergency situations.

Commissioner Starnes thanked Mr. Fox and Mr. Harrison, fellow Commissioners and anyone involved in getting us far away from spending $50 million dollars. He appreciates that.

Vice Chairman LaBrose stated that this was a good use of taxpayer dollars, we saved money and accomplished great things. He also said he was grateful for the State and all that they have been able to do to help us with this.

Commissioner Potter said that a lot of people had been thanked and he wanted to also thank the Speaker Destin Hall, he said without his help a lot of this would not be possible.

Next, Mr. Fox discussed the Hickory Springs Warehouse located at 2145 Norwood Street. He said discussion began back in 2021 for EO/911 space needed. Fox also said that during Helene this building was leased through a special meeting held on 10/2/2024 to house equipment and supplies during Helene. The building is an 89,000 square foot space and 6 acres of land. The negotiated price of the property purchase was $2.4 million which closed right before Christmas in December 2025. This property was purchased with state appropriated funds the County received in 2021. Mr. Fox then showed several photos of the building and mentioned that EMS, Emergency Management, Fire Marshall, Sheriff and Water were utilizing the space to house equipment. The Sheriff's office is currently utilizing the office space in the building as well. The space was in very good condition and no structural changes were needed. The space is open and being utilized.

Vice Chairman LaBrose stated that one of the main reasons for this warehouse was to bring the Counties' assets together for emergency response in a disaster, instead of being spread out causing delays. This location can house assets from multiple departments in an environment that keeps them out of the weather, which prevents deterioration of the assets. He also asked if the State Emergency Management was leasing space in the warehouse for their vehicles and equipment.

Mr. Fox replied that is correct.

Vice Chairman LaBrose then added that the rent received from the State Emergency Management is being utilized to pay for the buildings' utilities. He said that no County tax dollars are used for this space other than upkeep and maintenance.

Commissioner Potter then thanked Jeff Cardwell for the work he has done for this project and for helping them understand the need for this building.

Mr. Fox then shared that with the last two projects mentioned, the County has really set themselves apart from a disaster and preparedness standpoint and ability to respond.

County Manager, Fox, then provided an update on the Plaza/Uptown "Services" Building also known as the Alden E. Starnes County Office Plaza. He stated that the building is currently home to Tax, Register of Deeds, Finance, Human Resources, Administration, PIO, IT, Mapping, GIS and Veteran Services Departments. He added that with the Kincaid Building several departments would be moving and would help to reimagine this space as a true services building and a one stop shop approach for the public while also bringing more traffic to the downtown area. With that Water, Building Inspections, Planning and Zoning and Environmental Health Departments will be moving in. Fox added that no major changes were needed to the space and the goal is for Fall 2026 for completion.

Chairman Church said that again this is a great utilization of the space and he added that the Board has heard for years that people who need a building permit must go to two or three different locations to obtain one. This will be a benefit for our citizens and public. You will be able to come to the County Plaza and pay everything in one place without traveling throughout the County to two or three different locations.

Mr. Fox then discussed a FEMA update as related to Hurricane Helene that occurred on September 27, 2024. He provided a recap and said the recovery process had begun in October 2024. Fox recognized the core team members within the recovery process, Suzette Bradshaw, Vic Misenheimer, Jeff Cardwell, and Jimmy Harrison. This team was put together to start the recovery and reimbursements due to Helene. He stated that the County had a total of 16 FEMA Public Assistance Projects that totaled $9 million. With removal of debris in public right of ways totaling $6.1 million, private property debris removal $1.1 million, County-Wide Emergency Protective Measures $600,000, Wilson Creek Center/Flood Sirens $500,000, Warehouse cost $425,000 and Management costs $240,000. Mr. Fox stated there are several private projects still to be completed with 70% complete as of now. Those private projects have been turned over to NCEM SMART Program and are not County driven or paid. He added all work on the County projects has been completed except for the Wilson Creek Field Renovation and Collettsville Convenience Site funded through the North Carolina Office of State Budget Management in the amount of $1.5 million. Fox added that all monies have been obligated and received and he recognized Suzette Bradshaw and her dedication and hard work to get us to this point and for the County to be fully reimbursed is a wonderful accomplishment.

Commissioner Potter then thanked Suzette for her dedication and her hard work.

Chairman Church then mentioned the amount of debris that had been picked up, the families helped, the housing that took place to help those who were displaced. He then commended the team for the astronomical job they have done.

Vice Chairman LaBrose mentioned that during the onset the County was having to spend a lot of money and weren't getting reimbursed at that time. He then commended the Board for their forethought in moving forward to pay for what was needed utilizing fund balance to take care of the needs of the citizens. He then thanked Tony Helton, Chief Financial Officer, and the team effort.

Commissioner Starnes then said that there is a County in this state that is owed more than their budget and they have not received what is owed.

Mr. Fox then presented an update on Trash and Litter. He mentioned the Gold Star Contract, that we have and they clean up debris on secondary roads and has been in place for several years that is funded with monies from the landfill. He added that there is a need for more and so there is now a Litter Committee that has been formed including Caldwell County, Caldwell County Schools, NCDOT, and Republic Waste.

Commissioner Potter, who is on this committee, stated that they will be working on solutions to help solve the litter problem and educate the public, especially our children. He also mentioned that the State is working on increasing fines for littering. He also mentioned that County employees will be participating in a cleanup day on 5/21/26.

Manager Fox said that the NCDOT has collected 10 tons of trash this year in Caldwell County. The numbers are staggering. These are the things the committee will be talking about and trying to work on finding solutions for this problem.

Commissioner Potter then mentioned that the State changed their contract for pickup on Highway 18/Loop. When the change occurred, it was removed from the list. This has now been corrected and they will be keeping up with that area now.

Chairman Church asked if we knew the amount that Gold Star has collected.

Manager Fox replied that to date he does not. However, he knows what they have in the past has been beyond 10 tons.

Commissioner Potter asked how much the contract is with Gold Star.

Fox said that the County budgets $70,000 annually for the contract. He added that this is paid for through revenues received from Republic at the landfill.

Mr. Fox then presented the last topic on the updates concerning DSS and Health Governance. He mentioned that in the past there have been conversations concerning the governance of DSS and Health. He stated that in North Carolina, Counties have four primary governance options for DSS and Health Departments which were allowed with House Bill 438 – Session Law 2012-126. Fox then listed the four options starting with Separate Agencies with Appointed Governing Boards, which Caldwell County currently has, Separate Agencies with the Board of Commissioners Governance which Burke County has, Consolidated Human Services Agency with Appointed CHS Board, Gaston County has this form, or a Consolidated Human Services Agency with Board of County Commissioners Governance and Alexander County has this form. He presented facts across North Carolina. 66 Counties have either Appointed or BOCC oversight with separate agencies and 34 Counties have Consolidated Agencies. Fox then listed pros and cons for each option. Fox noted that if we were to move forward with any changes several things would need to be considered. First, which option separate or consolidated boards –

governance BOCC or Appointed. Second, a Public Hearing would have to be held with a 30-day notice to the public prior. Then a Resolution would have to be adopted to give authority for any changes. We would then need to create a Public Advisory Committee if the Board of Health is replaced by the Board of County Commissioners, there can also be a DSS Advisory Committee as well. Lastly, we would need to decide to keep within the NC Personnel Plan or the State Human Resources Act.

County Manager Fox then announced the Budget Workshop for the FY 26/27 Budget will be held on Wednesday May 6th at 4:00 PM and will be open to the public.

Chairman Church thanked Mr. Fox for covering so much information and he hopes that the public was able to get some of the knowledge that they desire from this.

Consent

Chairman Church then turned the meeting over to County Manager, Shane Fox to present the Consent Agenda.

8. **Budget Revision - Health Dept Employee Retention and Training funds**
   This budget revision is for an Agreement Addendum received from the State in the amount of $33,649 that allows for the funds to be used for retention and training for employees. This is 100% State funds with no local match.

9. **Golden Leaf Foundation SITE Application Approval**
   The Economic Development Staff would like to submit an application for Golden Leaf funds to be used toward the local government match, should the county be awarded the Federal US EDA Grant for the Foothills Regional Airport Sewer Project.

10. **Congressional Directed Spending Funding Application**
    The Caldwell County Sheriff's Department is requesting to apply for Congressionally Directed Spending to acquire a Mobile Incident Command Vehicle to serve as a deployable Emergency Operations Center.

11. **Firehouse Subs Grant**
    The Caldwell County Sheriff's Department is requesting to receive funds awarded through the Firehouse Subs Grant in the amount of $16,392. These funds would be used to replace five AED's that have completed their useful match. This is a zero match grant.

12. **BJA FY 25 Adult Treatment Court Program Grant**
    The Caldwell County Sheriff's Department is requesting to apply for BJA Adult Treatment Court Grant. If awarded, this grant requires a 25% match. The request is to apply for the maximum allowed, $1,000,000 with a match of $333,334. This would be shared with Burke County to satisfy the requirements. Currently, the Adult Treatment Court is fully funded by the County.

13. Revision of Circulation and Access Policy at the Caldwell County Public Library

The Public Library Director, Janet Fore, is requesting revisions of the Circulation and Access Policy primarily focused on eligibility and registration.

14. Fireworks Application for Town of Sawmills

The Town of Sawmills is requesting approval of a firework application to be conducted on May 9th located at 4077 Baird Drive in the Town of Sawmills Baird Park.

15. Fireworks Application for Town of Granite Falls

The Town of Granite Falls is requesting approval of a firework application to be conducted on May 1st located at 56 Pinewood Road at the Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Center.

16. Approval of Regular and Closed Session Minutes from March 23, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting

Approval of March 23, 2026, Board of Commissioners Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes was requested.

17. Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Remnant Defendant Opioid Settlement Agreement

This is a request to participate in another Opioid settlement and class action suit with a May 4th deadline to participate.

Vice Chairman Labrose made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by the County Manager.
The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session – Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4)

Commissioner Potter made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss potential economic development projects at 7:49 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Commissioner Branch made the motion to adjourn at 8:55 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

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BK 2163 PG 617 - 617 (1)
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04/28/2026 09:16:44 AM

Fee $0.00
10118219
Caldwell County North Carolina
Wayne L. Rash, Register of Deeds

PROCLAMATION

02-2026

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, we recognize that children are vital to our county, state and nation's future success, prosperity and quality of life, as well as, being our most vulnerable assets;

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development;

WHEREAS, Caldwell County, received 2060 reports of child abuse and neglect and investigated reports involving 1638 children in 2025;

WHEREAS, children who experience abuse and neglect have higher rates of academic failure, chronic long-term health issues and increased propensity to violence, if gone untreated;

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community;

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human services agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County does herby proclaim April 2026 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support children and families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

Adopted this the 27th day of April 2026.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Donnie Potter

Michael W. LaBrose, Vice Chairman

Patrick Starnes

Jeff Branch

Attest: Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

BK 2163 PG 621 - 621 (1)
This document presented and filed:
04/28/2026 09:16:47 AM

Fee $0.00
10118222
Caldwell County North Carolina
Wayne L. Rash, Register of Deeds

PROCLAMATION

05-2026

PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK
APRIL 12th – 18th, 2026

Whereas, Caldwell County Telecommunicators play a vital role in the protection of human life and property in our community: and

Whereas, they have been successfully serving the public safety communication needs of Caldwell County throughout the year; and

Whereas, while enduring long hours, abnormal schedules, and handling frequent life and death emergencies. Telecommunicators set high standards in performing their duties in a dedicated, diligent, and compassionate manner; and

Whereas, they provide a critical communication link between the residents and Emergency Responders; and

Whereas, Telecommunicators efficiently coordinate emergency services to ensure the health and safety of our residents, visitors, and travelers in our community, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week; and

Whereas, our Public Safety Communications personnel serve the public daily in countless ways without due recognition by the beneficiaries of their services;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County do hereby proclaim the week of April 12th – April 18th, 2026, **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week** in Caldwell County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

Adopted this 27th day of April 2026.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest: Tasha Brown
Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

BK 2163 PG 618 - 618 (1)
This document presented and filed:
04/28/2026 09:16:45 AM

Fee $0.00
10118220
Caldwell County North Carolina
Wayne L. Rash, Register of Deeds

PROCLAMATION

03-2026

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026
APRIL 26th – MAY 2ND 2026

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week annually raises awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeships provide in meeting critical industry workforce demands. Registered Apprenticeship programs develop the highly skilled workforce that employers need and create pathways for Americans to catapult into in-demand, high-paying careers; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are industry-driven, high-quality career pathways that enable employers to develop and train their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience with a mentor, receive progressive wage increases, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County Government recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain a highly skilled workforce that is capable of meeting the current and future demands of the industry we serve and fortifying our economy.

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are uniquely able to meet the changing demands of the Caldwell County economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County, does hereby proclaim April 26th to May 2nd, 2026, as **National Apprenticeship Week** in Caldwell County

This the 27th day of April 2026.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest:
Tasha Brown. Clerk to the Board

BK 2163 PG 619 - 620 (2)
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04/28/2026 09:16:46 AM

Fee $0.00
10118221

Caldwell County North Carolina
Wayne L. Rash, Register of Deeds

PROCLAMATION

04-2026

PROFESSIONAL CLERKS TO THE BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WEEK MAY 3rd – MAY 9th, 2026

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the democratic process that a well-informed citizenry participates in the operation of their local government.

WHEREAS, the office of the Clerk to the Board provides the communication link between the citizens, the local governing body, administrative departments, and local government partners.

WHEREAS, the position of clerk is one of the oldest in local government, dating at least to biblical times, and whose term has long been associated with the written word; so, it is that modern-day clerks are official recordkeepers for their counties.

WHEREAS, North Carolina law require boards of county commissioners to appoint a clerk, serving at the pleasure of the board.

WHEREAS, the clerk's most significant statutory duties concern the preparation, filing and safeguarding of local government records, but the statutory duties constitute only a portion of what the clerk actually does.

WHEREAS, the clerk plays a vital role in county government and provides the written record needed to ensure that the board is accountable to the county's citizens and to other public and private officials.

WHEREAS, the clerk is sometimes described as "the hub of the wheel" in local government because of the central work that the clerk plays in the government's communication network.

WHEREAS, as local government becomes larger and more complicated, the clerk's role as a professional, dispassionate provider of information to citizens, government officials, and the media becomes more and more important.

WHEREAS, Clerks have the opportunity to participate in the North Carolina Association of County Clerks, a very active professional association of public officials dedicated to improving

the professional competency of clerks through regular regional and statewide educational opportunities.

WHEREAS, in cooperation with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government and International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the North Carolina Association of County Clerks helps to sponsor a nationally recognized examination-based certification program that culminates in receipt of the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk.

WHEREAS, in addition, the North Carolina Association of County Clerks and the School of Government sponsor state certification programs leading to the designation of North Carolina Certified County Clerk, as well as opportunities for experienced clerks to obtain the continuing professional education needed to remain state-certified or to earn an advanced Master Clerk designation.

WHEREAS, in addition to conducting education programs, the North Carolina Association of County Clerks also directly assists clerks on the job with mentoring programs to provide guidance to assist clerks in their day-to-day work.

WHEREAS, Clerks, upon their own initiative, participate in these certification and education programs, including annual meetings of the North Carolina Association of County Clerks and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, which not only improve the operation of their office, but through their achievements and awards bring favorable publicity to the counties in which they serve.

WHEREAS, Clerks are involved at the state level, as well as in potential legislative and other matters of interest.

WHEREAS, although clerks work for the boards of county commissioners, they truly provide public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize the week of May 3 through May 9, 2026, as Professional Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners' Week, and extends appreciation to Caldwell County Clerk to the Board, Tasha Brown, and to all County Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the county they represent.

Adopted this 27th day of April 2026.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Donnie Potter

Michael W. LaBrose, Vice Chairman

Patrick Starnes

Jeff Branch

Attest: Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE REMNANT DEFENDANT OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Caldwell County (the "Subdivision") has been involved in litigation and/or potential claims relating to the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, a proposed nationwide settlement known as the Remnant Defendant Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") has been negotiated to resolve claims against certain opioid-related defendants; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides for monetary payments and other relief to participating political subdivisions, with allocations determined pursuant to the Plan of Allocation set forth in Exhibit E of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement contemplates participation by political subdivisions through execution of required participation documents and releases, and provides for the administration and distribution of settlement funds by a Notice and Claims Administrator (see § VI(B)(1)(d)); and

WHEREAS, participation in the Agreement is intended to secure funding for opioid remediation and related purposes for the benefit of the Subdivision and its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. **Approval of Settlement Participation.**

The Subdivision hereby approves participation in the Remnant Defendant Settlement Agreement and elects to become a Participating Subdivision, subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein.

2. **Authorization of Execution.**

The County Manager is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents required for participation in the Agreement, including any Participation Agreement, Release, or related certifications.

3. **Acknowledgment of Allocation and Use of Funds.**

The Subdivision acknowledges that any settlement funds received will be allocated pursuant to Exhibit E and administered in accordance with the Agreement, including any applicable State-Subdivision Agreement governing distribution and use of funds (§ I(VV)).

4. **Compliance with Terms.**

The Subdivision agrees to comply with all applicable terms of the Agreement, including requirements related to claims submission, release of claims, and use of funds for approved opioid remediation purposes.

5. **Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 27th day of April, 2026.

Randy Church, Chairman
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Special Meeting

May 6, 2026, at 4:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

MINUTES

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Attendance

Randy T. Church, Chairman
Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman
Jeff Branch, Commissioner
Donnie Potter, Commissioner
Patrick Starnes, Commissioner
Shane Fox, County Manager
Tony Helton, Chief Financial Officer
Tasha Brown, County Clerk

Call to Order

Chairman Church called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM. Church welcomed everyone in attendance from the public and department heads that were interested in the budget work session. He stated that this meeting was for information purposes for the Board and staff. The formal budget presentation will be held June 1st. He added that there is no public comment at this meeting.

Consent

Chairman Church turned the meeting to County Manager, Shane Fox, to review the consent agenda.

1. **Capital Project Ordinance and Budget Revision for the Bolick Property Purchase**

   This budget revision appropriates $545,000 from the Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund to create a new capital project ordinance for the purposes of purchasing the “Bolick” property located at 4016 Lower Cedar Valley Rd, for economic development purposes.

2. Budget Revision — Firehouse Subs Grant

This budget revision allows the Sheriff's office to accept and spend a grant from Firehouse Subs. The funds will be spent on new AEDs.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by the County Manager.

The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

3. Budget Workshop and Discussion 2026/2027 Fiscal Year

County Manager, Shane Fox then started the presentation of the Caldwell County Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Workshop Agenda. Starting first with information and budget objectives. The objectives include maintaining or improving service levels, priority based (needs not wants), analysis of financial position (2025-2026), review of prior years and actuals, eye on the future, debt roll – offs, projects, and property tax impacts on citizens. Fox then explained the budget process as an ongoing all year evaluation daily, weekly, monthly, looking at actuals vs. budget. He then recognized the Chief Financial Officer, Tony Helton, his finance staff, and department heads for the work they have done to this point on the budget. He said beginning in March 2026 through May 2026 department head meetings occurred to begin the initial budget preparation. And then on this date May 6th, 2026, the budget workshop. The Manager's recommended budget will be presented June 1st, 2026, to the Board of Commissioners and to the public. With the Public Hearing and budget adoption at the June 22nd, 2026, meeting. Fox then reviewed the last five years, 2022-2026, in the General Fund. Adding that we have seen significant contributions to these areas, public safety, human services, education, economic and cultural, library over the last five years. He then moved to a budget review of the current budget for 2025-2026 including General Fund Highlights. Starting with Communications salary increases, Maintenance – 2 new positions for mowing, refill Bailiff position, Ambulance and 2 QRV's and 2 Vehicles at DSS, new voting scanners and tabulators. Sheriff's Office received 15 marked and 2 unmarked cars and one jail transport, and additional $150,000 and $350,000 to CCC&TI & Caldwell County Schools, and there were some additional changes made right after budget adoption. He then listed those additional changes starting with EMS raises and changes made in July 2025 equaling $1 million annually, Sheriff Department raises made in February 2026 equaling $540,000 annually. He noted the property tax rate was set to .4975 with $54 million collected YTD compared to $48 million collected in the previous YTD. Sales Taxes are up over $1 million YTD, ambulance fees are up approximately $460,000 YTD with our cash position up approximately $5 million through March 2026. Fox noted that we are currently on pace to finish the year with 2% - 3% added to Fund Balance, which is our

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savings account. Fox then reviewed Fund Balance. Noting at 6.30.25 General Fund Balance was at 21.46%. He added that 1% equals approximately $1 million. He said that it is important to know where we are with fund balance going into a new budget. Fox said that the County is ending the year 2025-2026 strong, with revenues up, fund balance up, modest debt rolls off in 2026-2027. He mentioned a couple factors going into the new budget that are mandated, health insurance has increased $1 million, and retirement has increased $2 million. He mentioned that during the meeting with department heads they have asked all departments to hold the line on FTE's if possible, and the property tax rate needs to be evaluated for citizens.

Chairman Church asked if the $2 million for retirement was based on any increases staff may receive in the new year. Fox replied, yes, it does include that based on the current merit system.

County Manager Fox then reviewed General Fund Revenues by Type. With property taxes accounting for 51% of the overall revenues, Department Revenues/Fees 21%, Sales Tax 11%, Appropriated Fund Balance 7%, Vehicle Tax 4%, Other General Fund Revenues 4%, and Transfers In/Installment 2%. He then reviewed the property tax base and the 53% increase from 2022-2027 adding that our neighboring Counties have also seen this type of growth or more. He then added that the property tax rate from 2022-2025 was .63 with a decrease in 2026 to .4975. Caldwell County has the 25th lowest property tax rate in the state.

Commissioner Branch mentioned he believed a few years prior the County was scolded by the auditors Martin Starnes for not having a 20% fund balance in reserves.

Manager Fox replied, yes, the state wants counties to be like their peers.

Commissioner Potter asked if the 20% fund balance would have any impact on borrowing.

Fox replied we are not bonded, no bond rating. So that is where that would factor in. For typical borrowing it's more about your collateral and the amount of the loan. Tony Helton also added that the Local Government Commission typically reviews before any debt borrowing.

Commissioner Potter mentioned the courthouse project, and he would like to see it happen. However, he doesn't want to jump too soon and would like to see where the state can come in and help. He does not want the public to carry the burden on the cost. He doesn't believe it is a project for the very near future.

Chairman Church said that the courthouse project is looming out there. He then asked how much Cleveland County just spent on a new courthouse.

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Fox said it was over $200 million.

Chairman Church stated no one wants to put that in their budget. He added that there have been numerous meetings looking at renovations to the current courthouse. He added that he has heard the citizens loud and clear and the Board is going to do everything they can to get the tax rate down. He said he doesn't know what the fund balance needs to be whether it's 18% or 20%.

Finance Officer Tony Helton added that with COVID and Helene the County was financially prepared and able to float $9 million for Helene because we have reserves.

Chairman Church said he was glad we were prepared. Nature has a way of changing your plans quickly. He noted it is good to be able to plan and be prepared ahead of these things, however he doesn't just want to build a big fund balance at the expense of the taxpayers, which includes the commissioners and staff who also pay property taxes.

Vice Chairman LaBrose said that the prior four years the County maintained the tax rate and even prior to that stayed at .63. With that we were able to add a little at a time to fund balance without raising taxes over an eight-year period. He then added in terms of a long-range project he thinks we should look at the landfill.

Fox said that he plans to discuss the landfill later in the presentation. He added that the Board needed to start thinking through a fund balance policy or an informal percentage goal.

Fox then moved to discuss Sales Tax Revenue, mentioning that overall sales tax revenue projected is up 14% over last year's budget. Actuals were taken into consideration as to what we are expecting to receive this year. Noting that sales tax is an economic driver that needs to be looked at when budgeting. He then introduced Economic Development Director, Ashley Bolick, to share information on retail strategies. Ms. Bolick said that the biggest ask in the EDC budget was for funds to utilize a group called Retail Strategies, to target retail and attract retail and commercial establishments to Caldwell County. She added that her department typically targets commercial and manufacturing and they feel this would be a way to increase sales tax revenue and grow the retail environment in the County. The cost for this program is $55,000.

Vice Chairman LaBrose said that it is good to note that over the last few years the NC Legislature has changed laws for online purchases to go to the point-of-sale location.

Commissioner Potter added that there is a direct coalition between sales tax and growth and you could look at the landfill for the correlation.

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Commissioner Starnes said that he believes the common household probably pays more in sales tax than property tax. If we kept the receipts and tracked them, because whatever you buy is taxed.

Commissioner Potter added that the state of North Carolina is growing and that is a big driver as well.

Manager Fox then moved on to mention fees. He said that we are not planning any changes to the fees for the consumer with building inspections nor the Register of Deeds. He also noted that the building inspections department is a self-sustaining department based on the fees collected. As well as the Register of Deeds department. The only fee change to the consumer is in the EMS department. The current rates we charge are less than our recommended rates. He then introduced Trevor Key, Emergency Services Director. Key said that our billing vendor made the presented chart and they recommend an increase in fees due to the increase in fuel, supplies, medications and operating an ambulance. Fox then said they are constantly trying to figure out a way to lower the subsidy to cover EMS. In the current budget, the break-even cost is $6.5 million for EMS. Changing these rates will add $500,000 to these numbers.

Commissioner Potter asked Trevor Key if they have seen an increase in multiple calls. Key responded that it is a mix, and they have seen a decrease in call volume.

Fox then spoke about all other revenues in the general fund, stating that there were no major changes with other revenues. However, they are watching potential changes with the HR1 Bill (The One Big, Beautiful Bill) for Department of Social Services and the Health Department.

Vice Chairman LaBrose asked what was expected with potential cuts to Medicaid expansion. Department of Social Services Director, Kim Arnett, said that we have no guidance from the state currently that they are going to be cutting administrative reimbursement for Medicaid.

Manager Fox then moved on to discuss the Landfill. He noted there are two revenue sources for the landfill. First is the host fees received from Republic for trash that comes in from outside the County, approximately $1.1 million. The second is methane gas revenue of approximately $600,000 that is received. Fox added that in the previous year the Board voted to move the methane gas revenues to a Capital Project fund for future landfill cost. He stated that he and Jimmy Harrison had met with Republic and the permitted contract timeline for the landfill is 2038, they felt the capacity would be 2050. He mentioned that the County should have a plan several years prior to the contract end date.

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Commissioner Potter asked how much the County was paying to take off TV's and computers now. Chairman Church said at one time it was $500,000. Jimmy Harrison said the cost has come down. Tony Helton then added that the cost was now $50,000.

Chairman Church then made a motion to call a recess at 5:17 PM.

Chairman Church then reconvened the meeting at 5:48 PM.

County Manager Fox then presented an overview of General Fund Expenditures. He mentioned a breakout of how the County spends a dollar with Public Safety being 31%, Human Services 25%, Education 17%, General 14%, Physical Econ. 7%, Debt Service 5% and cultural 2%.

Commissioner Potter noted that our Debt Service is significantly lower than our counterparts.

Fox then discussed the request of the Sheriff's Office for 6 FTE's totaling $523,000 and 5 FTE's for Communications totaling $386,000. The Communications request is tied to the City of Lenoir contract to take over their calls. The Sheriff then spoke and said that the department has asked for 6 employees because the need is there. They wouldn't ask if they didn't them. He added that two of those 6 positions would not require vehicles. He then turned to the Division Captain of Investigations, Shelly Hartley. Hartley said they had been one detective short for several years and now they are short another detective. She stated that the Internet Crimes Against Children detective is bombarded with cases, and they could use five more detectives in this area. Adding the need was desperate and the case load was too large. The Detention Division Captain then spoke and said that they were asking for two new baliff's to help with housing issues at the jail and court transport. We are housing out of County, and the transport is running a lot. He then added that the average daily total housed is 214 and the capacity is 185. Manager Fox stated that there were two areas requesting salary adjustments, Sheriff's Office and Department of Social Services. Then the Patrol Captain spoke; he stated the request for 10% increase was to make Caldwell competitive again. He added that with the increase the department would still be behind our competitor agencies $5,000-$7,000. He said as this number moves out we will start to lose employees. Fox then recognized Kim Arnett, Director of the. Department of Social Services to speak on the salary increase request for her department. Ms. Arnett mentioned that the department is significantly falling behind neighboring counties salaries. She stated the request was for a 10% increase across the board and added that it was a conservative request, she said with that increase they would still be 12% below the top two in comparison for the Income Maintenance Caseworker position and 8-10% below with social worker positions. She stated they are experiencing significant turnover in Child Protective Services.

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Commissioner Potter said that we need to understand the burden. These are educated people, when you look for quality employees you must pay them. Ms. Arnett added that with the high turnover we are losing money on paying to train individuals and then they are leaving for higher pay elsewhere.

Fox then reviewed the annual Merit System program that is based on a 4.0 system. Evaluations of employees are carried out every year. No merit is given if score is 0-2.9, $1,000 is given if the score is 3-3.4, and $2,000 is given when the score is 3.5-4.0. Fox stated that they are not proposing any changes to the benefits. He noted that retirement and insurance are where the majority is spent and both are mandated by the State. Fox then gave a brief review of the benefits offered and provided for employees.

Fox then spoke about Capital Outlay. He mentioned that the capital outlay request was trending down and that the departments were trying to re-purpose and consolidate some equipment to save money. With the total request being $1.72 million. The items that make up that request are from the Sheriff's department for replacement of handguns, SWAT body armor, fleet computers, and 8 marked patrol cars, 3 unmarked, and 1 truck, for EMS an Ambulance remount, and AEDs for public buildings, for Animal Control 2 Ford F-150s, 2 Climate controlled dog boxes, and markings and lighting for trucks, for Information Technology AP replacements for ACE and HHS, 4 Lenovo servers, scanner, switches, and an etherscope network tester. Emergency Services Director, Trevor Key, said that the department is looking to get re-purpose two or three under utilized units with remounts.

Fox then moved on to discuss Debt Service. Fox stated that the General Fund Debt is trending down as debt is paid and rolls off the schedule. He also mentioned that there is no debt in the Water Fund.

Chairman Church asked for clarification, that the Cajah's Mountain EMS Base was built and funded with no debt taken on to cover the cost. Manager Fox replied yes, that is correct no debt owed on that new Base.

Moving on to discuss operating expenses, Fox shared that overall operating expenses are down. Noting that they are down in over half of the 40 departments or areas of the budget compared to last year. As we are trying to find ways to operate for less money while still providing the same or better service levels to the public. He then spoke about special appropriations which include Parks and Ruritan Clubs. He mentioned there had been no change to this except for a request from the Fairgrounds of $12,000 for a 1" water line and 37-yard hydrants installation to improve the grounds. Commissioner Potter mentioned he had spoken with Ron Lackey at the Fairgrounds and he said they are trying to bring more activities to the Fairgrounds and they need some help getting the property up and running to be utilized.

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Mr. Fox then added that the Forestry Service has requested an increase of $37,000. This increase is to cover the local portion of the truck cost. They are requesting this to purchase a new truck and our local amount would be $37,000. Fox said these were the only two requests in the special appropriations for the new budget.

Mr. Fox then moved on to discuss Education requests. Starting with CCC&TI has requested a total of $4,955,226. The main reason being facilities and staffing and insurance and utilities. They have also requested an additional capital request for $340,000 for a roof for Building A. Fox then said that Caldwell County Schools had requested a total of $17,108,648 up from $14,800,000 in the current year. School Superintendent Dr. Howell was in attendance and spoke. Howell addressed that he wanted the Commissioners to understand that the school system has done their due diligence and plans to cut 35-60 positions this year starting at the central office. He added they also have approximately 50 acres for sale in the Smokey Creek area and if the School Board approves, they will be able to sell the old Dudley Shoals property as well to help offset the fund balance that is being used. He added another reason for the increased request was due to declining enrollment and the increased cost to employee teachers and operate the buildings. Manager Fox added that the cost for School Resource Officer's also continues to increase, with $400,000 being funded through a State grant and the total cost being $1.6 million. Dr. Howell thanked the Commissioners for what they do in covering the School Resource Officers for every school. Dr. Howell added a possible one-time request for a safety issue in the Dudley Shoals area, with a traffic concern getting in and out of the school. Potentially looking into adding additional emergency access which would cost $150,000 at least. Commissioner Starnes asked the Sheriff to elaborate on the issue with one way in and out at Dudley Shoals School. The Sheriff replied it is an issue that has not been addressed. Starnes asked if it was an issue for them to only have one way in and out for an emergency, or school shooting. The Sheriff said that they would find another way in if there was a shooting. Commissioner Branch asked if the access road would be used by all to go around the school. Dr. Howell stated that the access road would be for emergency use only.

Manager Fox then gave a brief review of the meeting thus far.

Commissioner Potter then mentioned that he would like to see some discussion around a COLA for employees. He feels that the merits are good and reward an individual employee but he feels having a COLA helps us maintain our salary ranges.

Fox then moved on to discuss the Water Fund. He mentioned that the County will have a proposed 5% increase from the City of Lenoir, whom most of the water is purchased from. With this increase the average of 3,000 gallons would increase the monthly bill by $1.45. He then listed comparison costs with other Counties. He noted that this fund is debt free. Commissioner Branch said that millions had been spent

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recently, to update the water tanks. Fox then said yes, the newest water tank just went online and we now have access to an online mapping system to lines and meters. Adding that the water system has over 10,000 customers, with a great crew.

Fox then moved to review Fire Departments. After looking over all fire departments, he noted that only one fire department has requested a change, that being the Town of Sawmills. They are requesting to increase the fire tax .03 and the rescue tax .04 for a combined total from .135 to .18. Commissioner Potter asked if the Town of Sawmills lowered their rate last year. Fox said yes, they lowered it .03.

The Opioid Fund was discussed next. The source of revenue is through the settlement that we receive. Approximately $16 million is expected to be received from 2022 – 2038. With 12 years remaining we have a current cash balance of $4 million. The current budget is $815,000 per year which currently employees six individuals in that department. The department has requested a new peer support specialist and a new recovery transport. Trevor Key then added that both requests are for Recovery Court that started in January of 2026 with a lot of participants, ancillary services, and treatment.

Fox stated that the proposed budget would be presented at the June 1st meeting.

Chairman Church thanked everyone for being there and said that the meeting was very informative.

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Adjourn

Commissioner Starnes made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

CALDWELL COUNTY
2026-2027
BUDGET WORKSHOP

SHANE FOX
COUNTY MANAGER

2026-2027 Budget Workshop Agenda

- Budget Objectives and Process
- 2025-2026 General Fund Budget and Review
- Fund Balance Update
- 2026-2027 General Fund Budget
  - Revenues
  - Expenditures
- Water Fund
- Fire Depts
- Opioid Fund



BUDGET OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS

Budget Objectives



- Maintain or Improve Service Levels
- Priority Based (Needs not Wants)
- Analysis of Financial Position (2025-2026)
- Review of Prior Years and Actuals
- Eye on the future, debt roll-offs, projects
- Property Tax Impact on Citizens

Budget Process

All Year

- Evaluate daily, weekly, monthly, actuals vs. budget

March 2026 – May 2026

- Department Head meetings, budget preparation

May 6, 2026

- 2026-2027 Budget Workshop – may need more dates?

June 1, 2026

- Manager's Recommended Budget Presented to the BOC

June 22, 2026

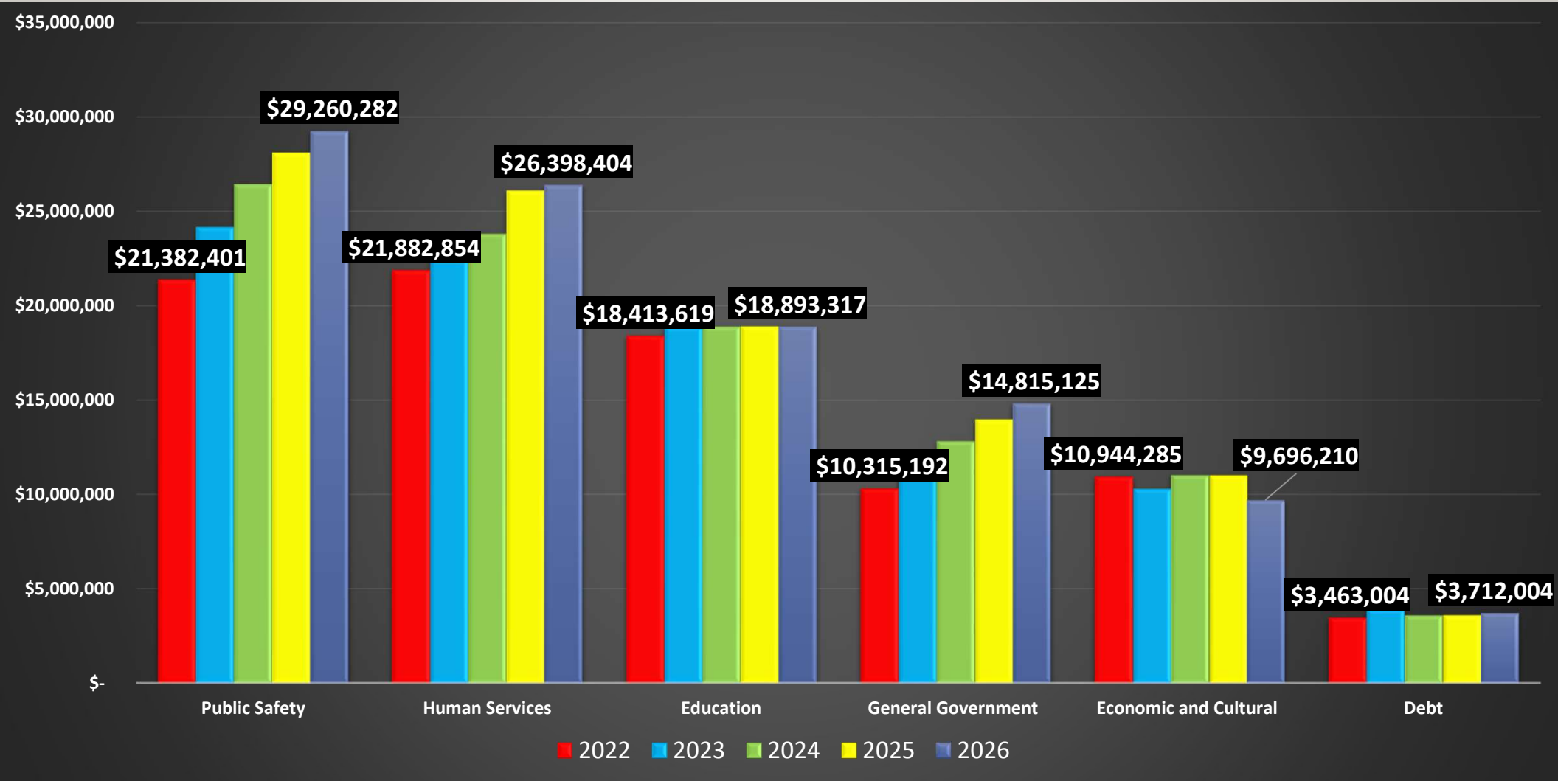
- Public Hearing, and budget adoption

Before we go forward let’s go back…..

LAST 5 YEARS
2022-2026
GENERAL FUND



General Fund Budget by Function 2022 – 2026



2025-2026 BUDGET IN REVIEW

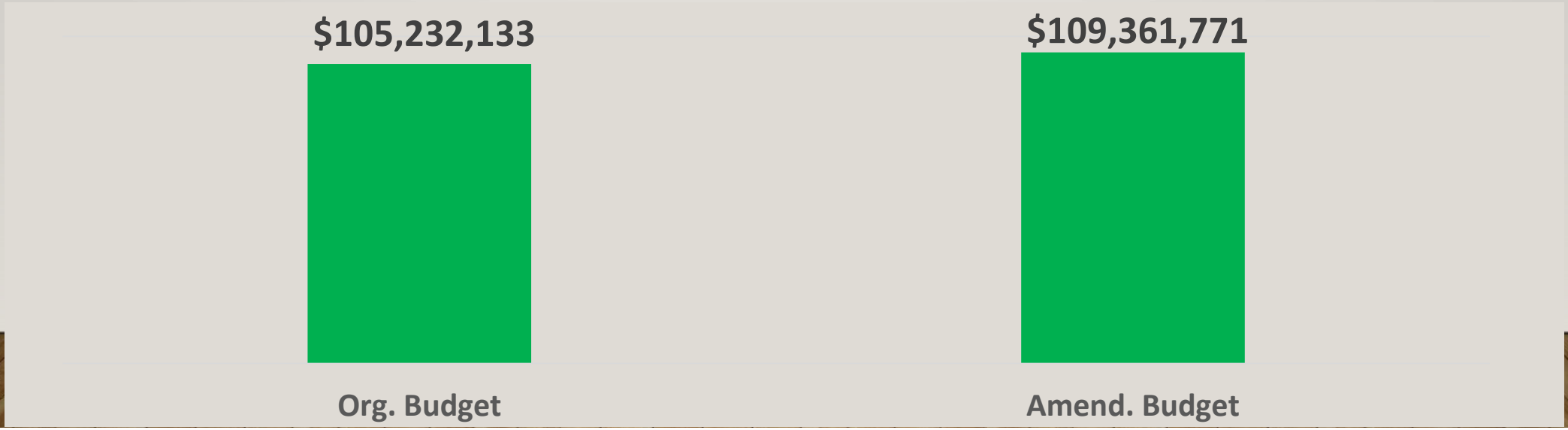


2025-2026 General Fund Highlights

- Communications Salary Increases
- Maintenance – 2 new positions for mowing
- Refill Bailiff position
- Ambulance and 2 QRV's and 2 Vehicles at DSS
- New Voting Scanners and Tabulators
- Sheriff – 15 Marked and 2 Unmarked cars and One Jail Transport
- Additional $150K and $350K to CCCTI and CCSS
- Additional changes made right after budget adoption…

2025-2026 General Fund Budget – Changes made

- EMS Raises and changes made in July 2025 = $1M+ annually
- Sheriff Dept Raises made in February 2026 = $540K annually
- Other items = Rollovers and Grant monies



2025-2026 General Fund Budget in Review



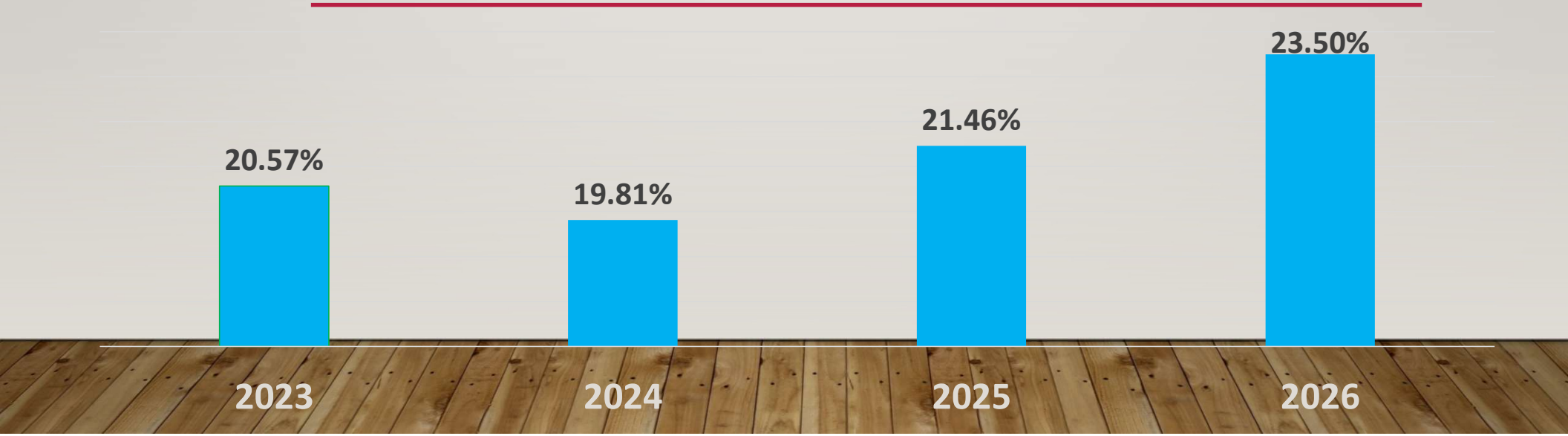
- **Property Tax rate set at .4975**
  - **$54M Collected YTD - $48M in PY YTD**
- **Sales Taxes are up over $1M year to date**
- **Ambulance fees are up approx. $460K year to date**
- **Cash position is up approx. $5M through March 2026**
- **Currently on pace to finish the year with:**
  - **+2% to +3% added to Fund Balance**

FUND BALANCE REVIEW



Fund Balance Update

- 6.30.25 General Fund Balance = 21.46%
- On pace to add 2% to 3% = 23.5% to 24.5%
- 1% = approx. $1M - Need to start thinking about a %



Factors going into 2026-2027 budget



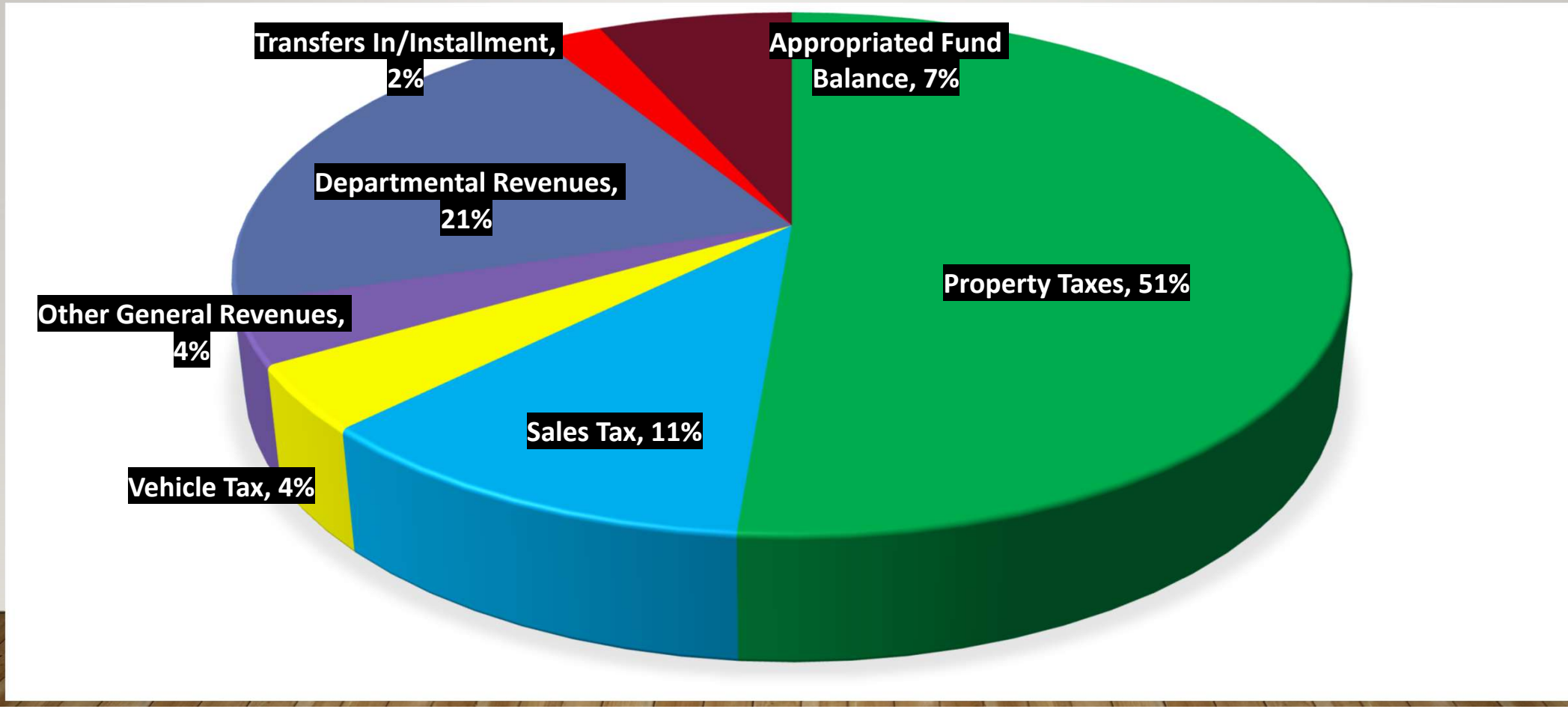
- Ending the 2025-2026 year strong
  - Revenues are up
  - Fund Balance is up
- Modest debt roll-off in 2026-2027, more in 2027-2028
- Health Insurance is up $1M~
- Retirement is up $2M~
- Have asked all dept. to hold the line on FTE's if possible
- Property Tax Rate needs to be evaluated for citizens

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

- Property Taxes
- Sales Tax
- Fees
- Other Revenues



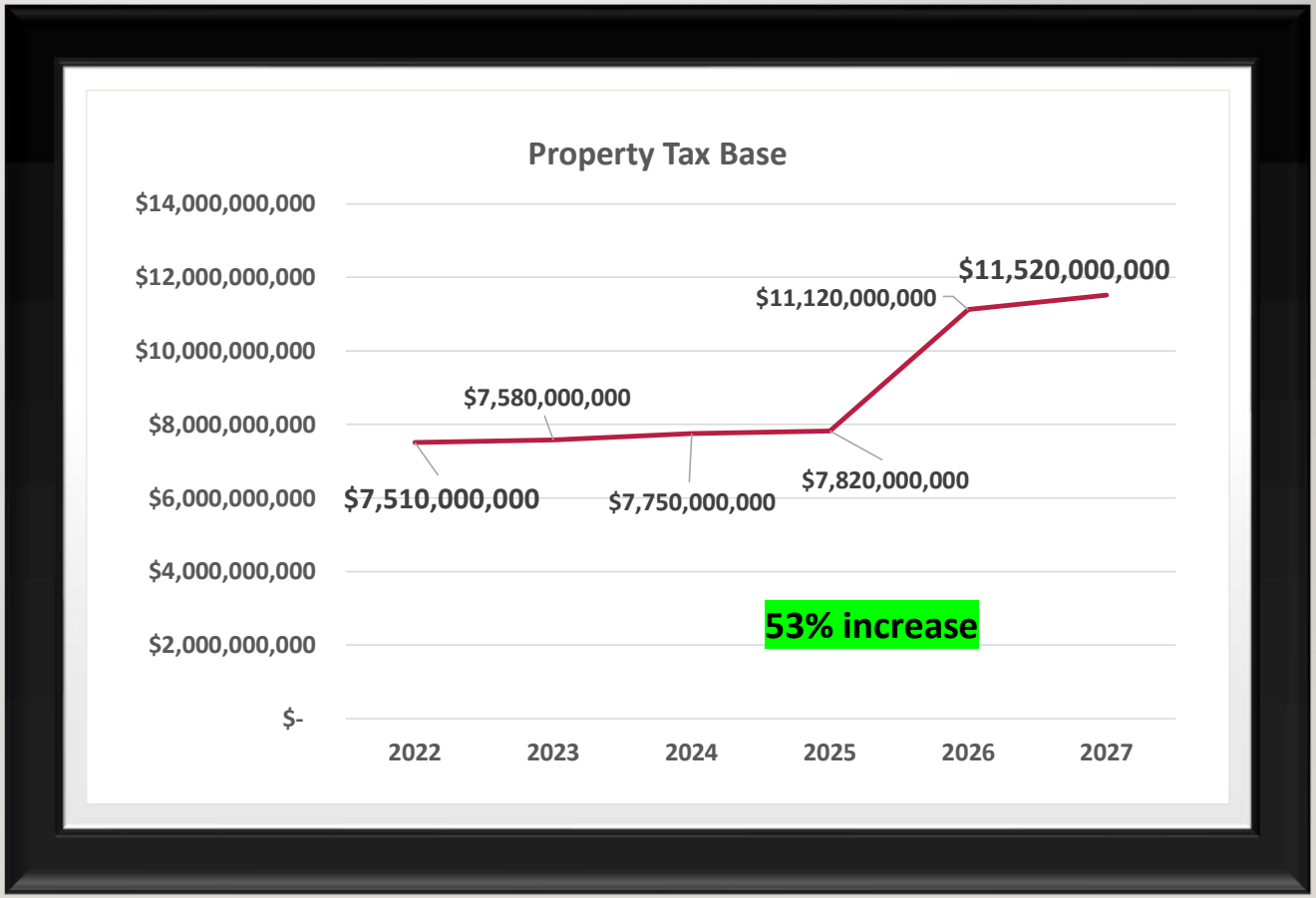
General Fund Revenues by Type
2026-2027 Budget

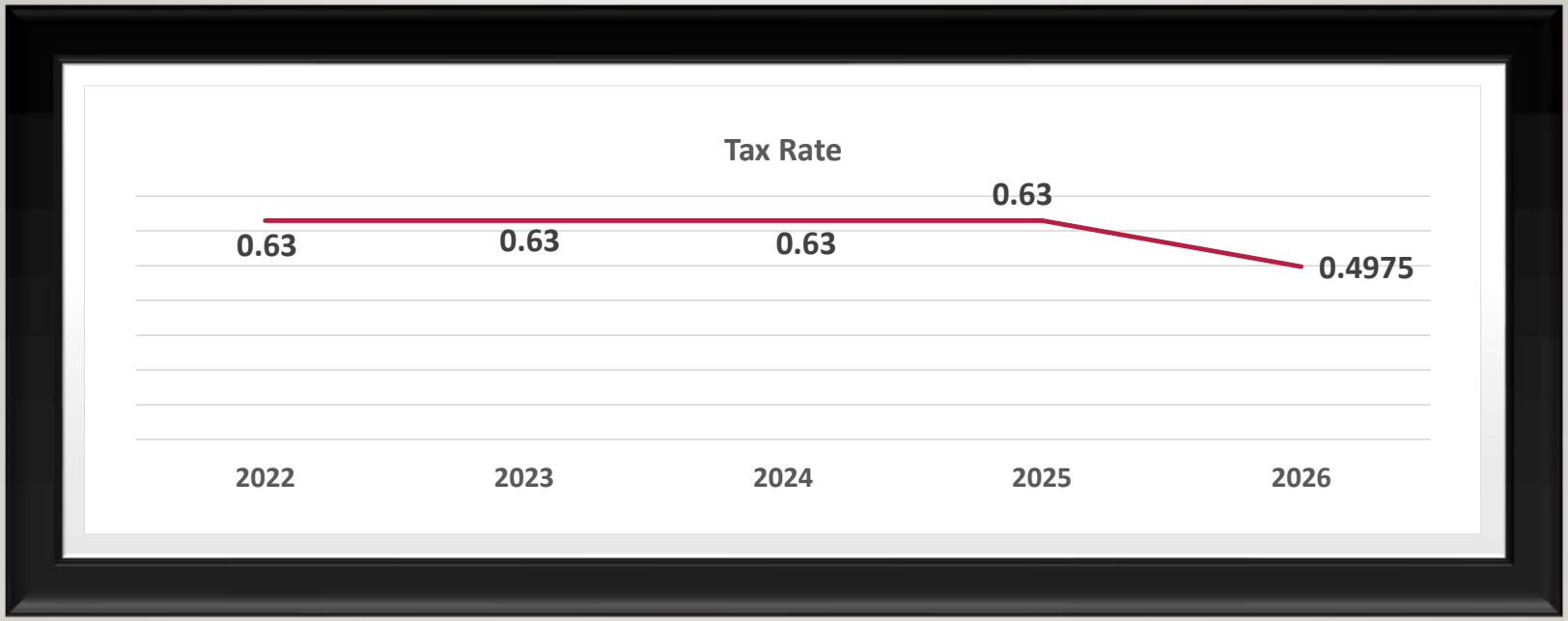




PROPERTY TAXES

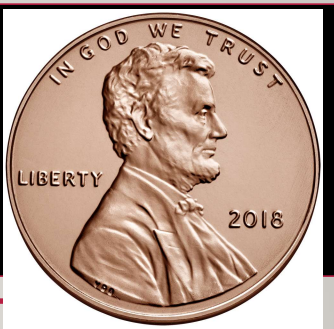
PROPERTY TAX BASE SINCE 2022





PROPERTY TAX RATE SINCE 2022

Property Taxes and Value of a Penny



	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Total Tax Base	$7.82 Billion	$11.12 Billion	$11.52 Billion
Tax Rate	63 cents	49.75 cents	?
Value of Penny	$782k	$1.12M	$1.15M

3.6% Growth

How do we compare?

Property Tax Rates (2025-2026 rates)



Caldwell County - .4975 (25th)

- **Range: Carteret .2250 to Scotland .99**
- **Neighbors:**
  - **Alexander .65**
  - **Burke .55**
  - **Lincoln .499**
  - **Wilkes .42**
  - **Catawba .3985**
  - **Watauga .318**

Property Tax Rate Factors to Consider:

- Value of a penny = $1.15M
- Balanced budget – appropriated Fund Balance
- Current Fund Balance – Goal?
  - Use Fund Balance?
- Debt Service capacity
  - Courthouse, projects?
- Revaluation impacts past/future
- Statewide factors and potential legislation

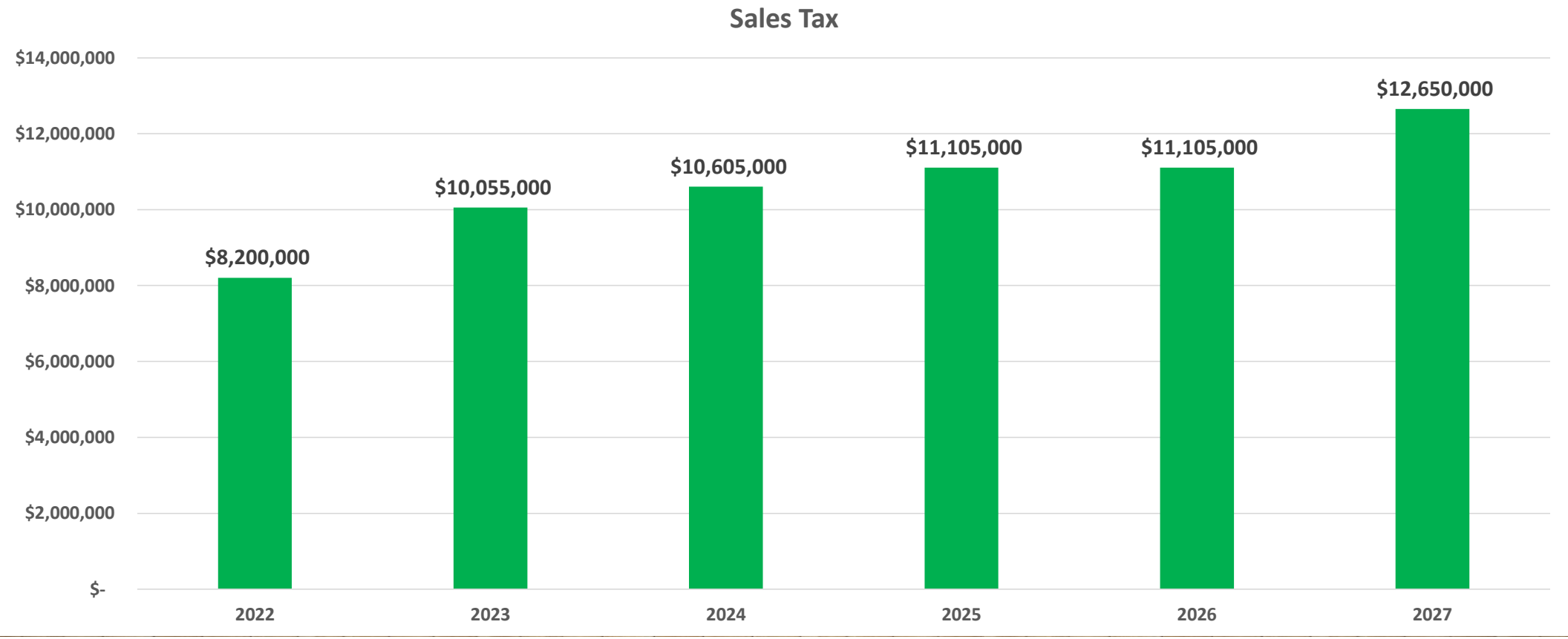




SALES TAX REVENUE

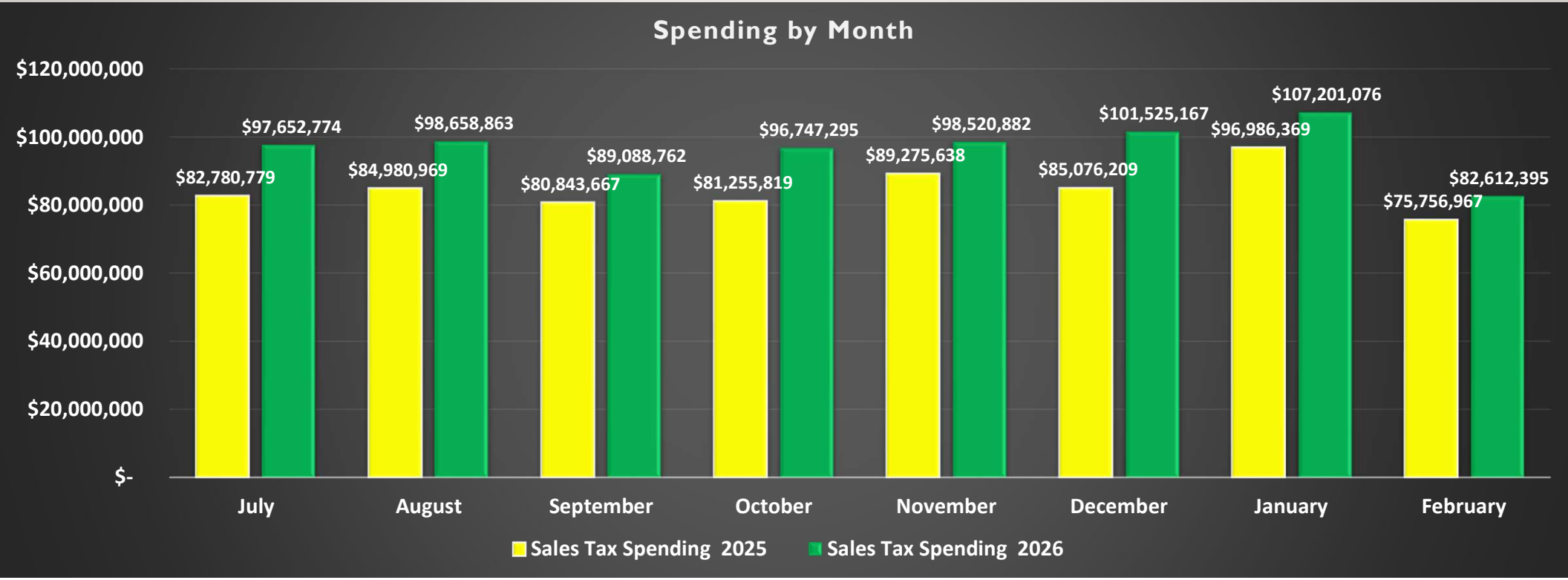
Sales Taxes Projections

- **Overall Sales Tax projection is up 14% - even with actuals YTD**



Sales Taxes Projections

- **Sales Tax Year over Year is up $95M YTD for a total of $772M ($1.2B)**
- **State is up as well**



Sales Taxes Info

- We are averaging around $100M a month in Sales Revenue, which equals around $1M in Sales Tax Revenue – or 1 cent on the tax rate
- Jan. 2026 Example:
  - Caldwell County = $107M in Sales or $1.2M in Sales Tax Rev.
  - Wilkes County = $103M
  - Watauga County = $150M
  - Retail Strategies – EDC?

GENERAL FUND FEES



Fees – General Fund

- Building Inspections – no changes
  - Building Inspections fees covers full cost of operations
- ROD – no changes
  - With Passport revenues – covers costs of operations ($40K)
- No other Fee changes – General Fund except EMS

Fees – General Fund

- **EMS Fee Changes**
  - **(New Rate to align with Medicare Fee Schedule)**
  - **Current budget - $6.5M to Breakeven for EMS**

Level Of Service	2026 Medicare Allowable (Urban)	Current Charge	Recommended (150% MFS)	Recommended (200% MFS)	Recommended (300% MFS)	Recommended (350% MFS)	2026 Approved Charge
ALS NE A0426	$331.97	$485.67	$497.96	$663.94	$995.91	$1,161.90	$0.00
ALS E A0427	$525.61	$768.98	$788.42	$1,051.22	$1,576.83	$1,839.64	$0.00
BLS NE A0428	$276.64	$404.73	$414.96	$553.28	$829.92	$968.24	$0.00
BLS E A0429	$442.62	$647.58	$663.93	$885.24	$1,327.86	$1,549.17	$0.00
ALS 2 A0433	$760.75	$1,113.00	$1,141.13	$1,521.50	$2,282.25	$2,662.63	$0.00
Specialty Care Transports A0434	$899.07	$1,315.37	$1,348.61	$1,798.14	$2,697.21	$3,146.75	$0.00
Mileage A0425	$9.33	$13.73	$14.00	$18.66	$27.99	$32.66	$0.00

OTHER REVENUES



Other Revenues - General Fund

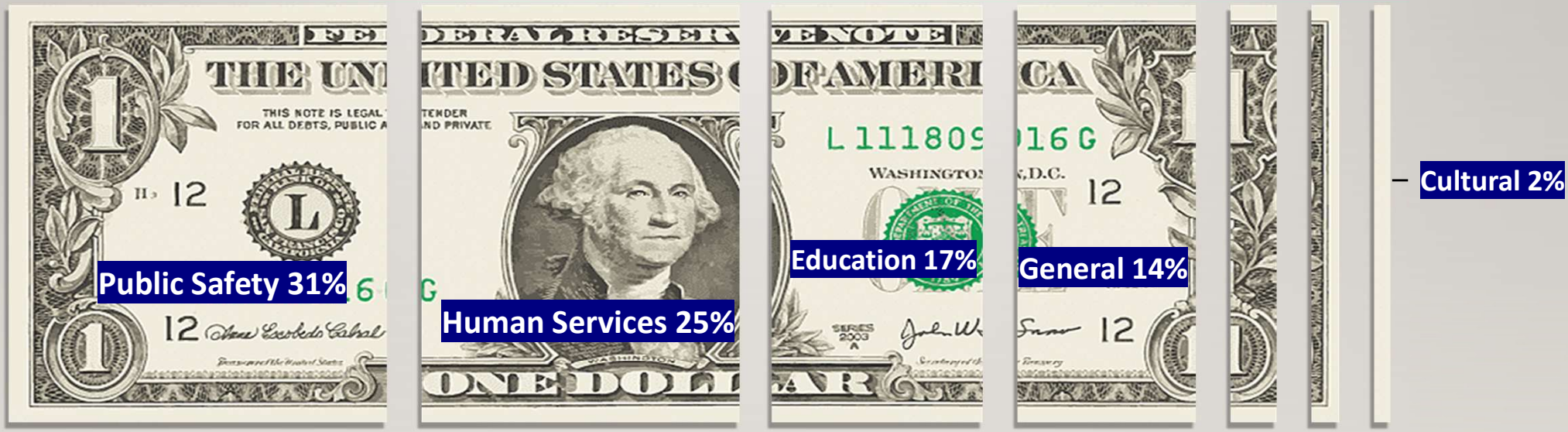
- No major changes with other revenues (DSS/Health)
  - Watching HR1 and impacts

- Landfill Revenue x 2:
  - Host Fees = $1.1M
  - Methane Gas = $600K – Capital Project for Future Landfill Costs

- Investment Income remains high - $1M~

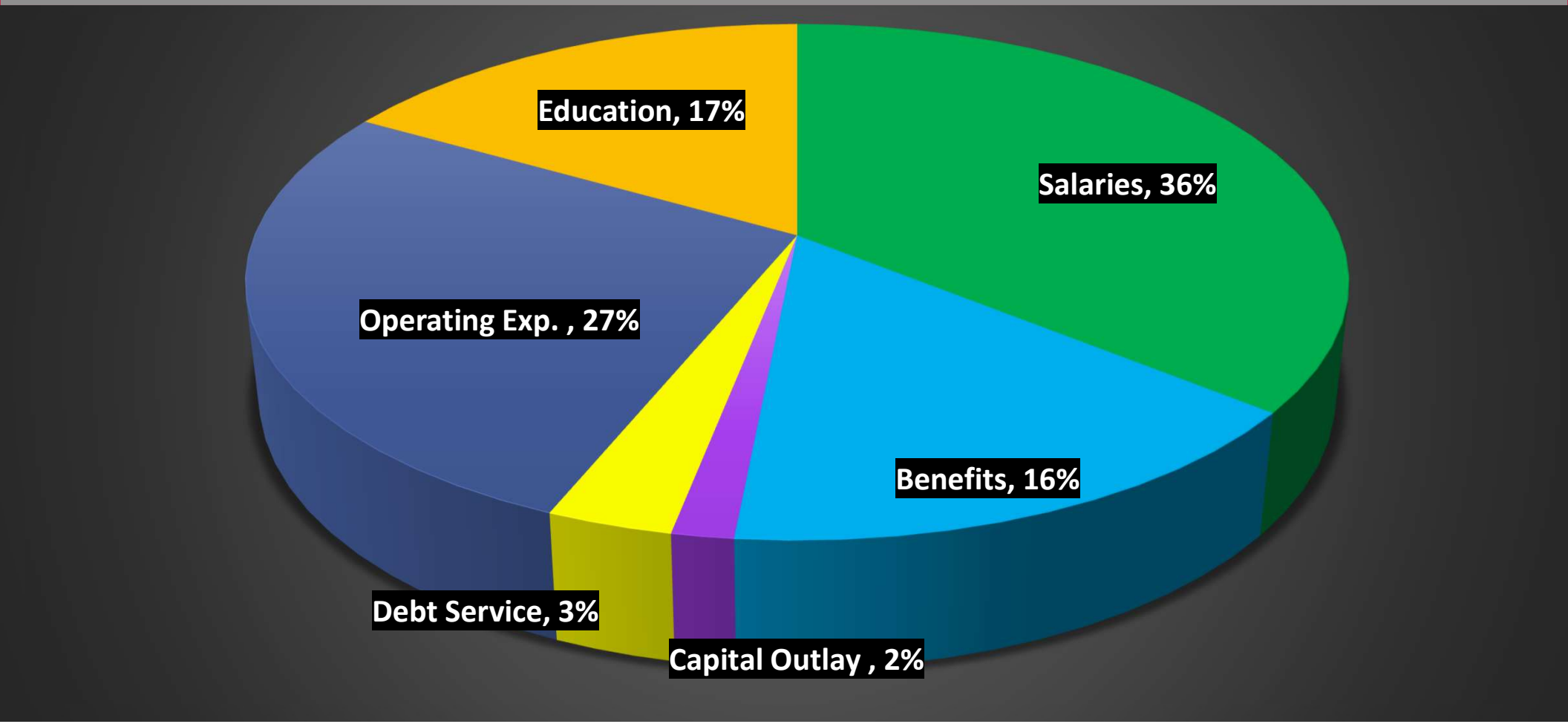
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Expenditures by Function

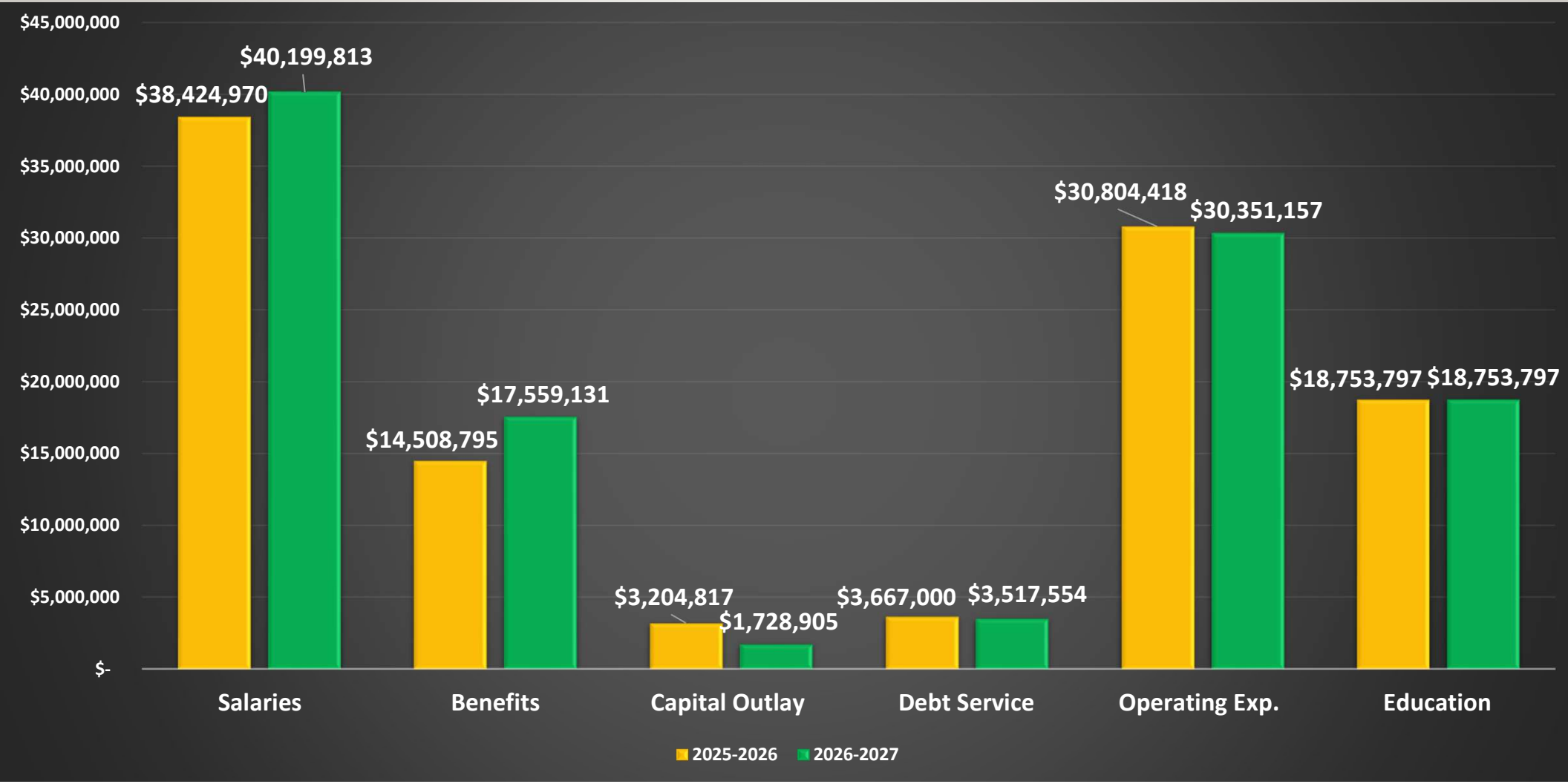


How Does the County spend a $1??

General Fund Expenditure by Type
2027 Budget



2026-2027 Budget compared to 2025-2026



SALARIES AND BENEFITS
CAPITAL OUTLAY
DEBT SERVICE
OPERATING EXPENDITURES





EMPLOYEE SALARIES AND BENEFITS

Salaries and FTE's– 26-27 Requests

- New FTE's
  - Sheriff – 6 FTE's Requested ($523K) and Communications –5 FTE's Requested ($386K)
  - No other FTE's requested (A couple down…)
- Salary Adjustments
  - DSS Requested a 10% COLA across the Board ($1.2M)
  - Sheriff Raises – Patrol and Jail ($216)



Employee Merit System

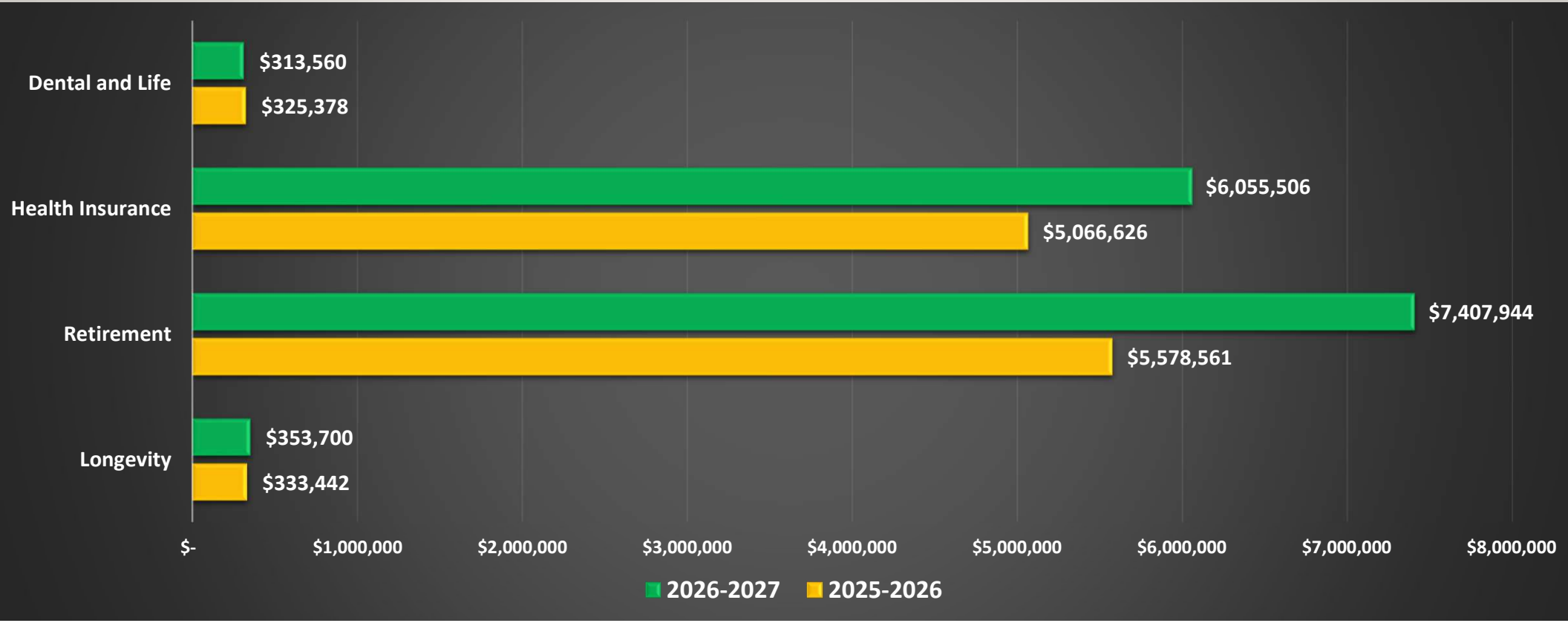
- Current Merit System
  - Annual Evaluation (4.0 system)
    - No Merit = 0 – 2.9
    - Merit I = 3.0 - 3.4 = $1,000
    - Merit II = 3.5 – 4.0 = $2,000

- Current Budget has money for Merit I and II
- 2026-2027 Budget has money for Merit I and II ($700K)
- Average employee makes $56K Annually
  - Merit I = 1.8% increase
  - Merit II = 3.6% increase

Benefits

Health Insurance is up….$1M = or…a 2.5% COLA

Retirement is up …$1.8M = or…..a 4.5% COLA



Health Insurance– No changes proposed

- **Health Insurance at a low cost ($35-$160mo) (Market Place -$611)**
  - **$800 budget month cost to the County**

2026 Premiums

STANDARD PPO & PLUS PPO PLAN
for Active Subscribers

North Carolina State Health Plan
FOR TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES
A Division of the Department of State Treasurer

Monthly Premium Rates January, 2026 to December 31, 2026	STANDARD PPO PLAN Salary Band				PLUS PPO PLAN Salary Band			
	UNDER $50,000	$50,001 - $65,000	$65,001 - $90,000	$90,001 + OVER	UNDER $50,000	$50,001 - $65,000	$65,001 - $90,000	$90,001 + OVER
ACTIVE SUBSCRIBERS								
Subscriber Only	$35	$50	$65	$80	$66	$94	$122	$160
Subscriber + Child(ren)	$185	$200	$215	$230	$276	$304	$332	$370
Subscriber + Spouse	$575	$590	$605	$620	$746	$774	$802	$840
Subscriber + Family	$575	$590	$605	$620	$746	$774	$802	$840

Other Employee Benefits – No changes proposed

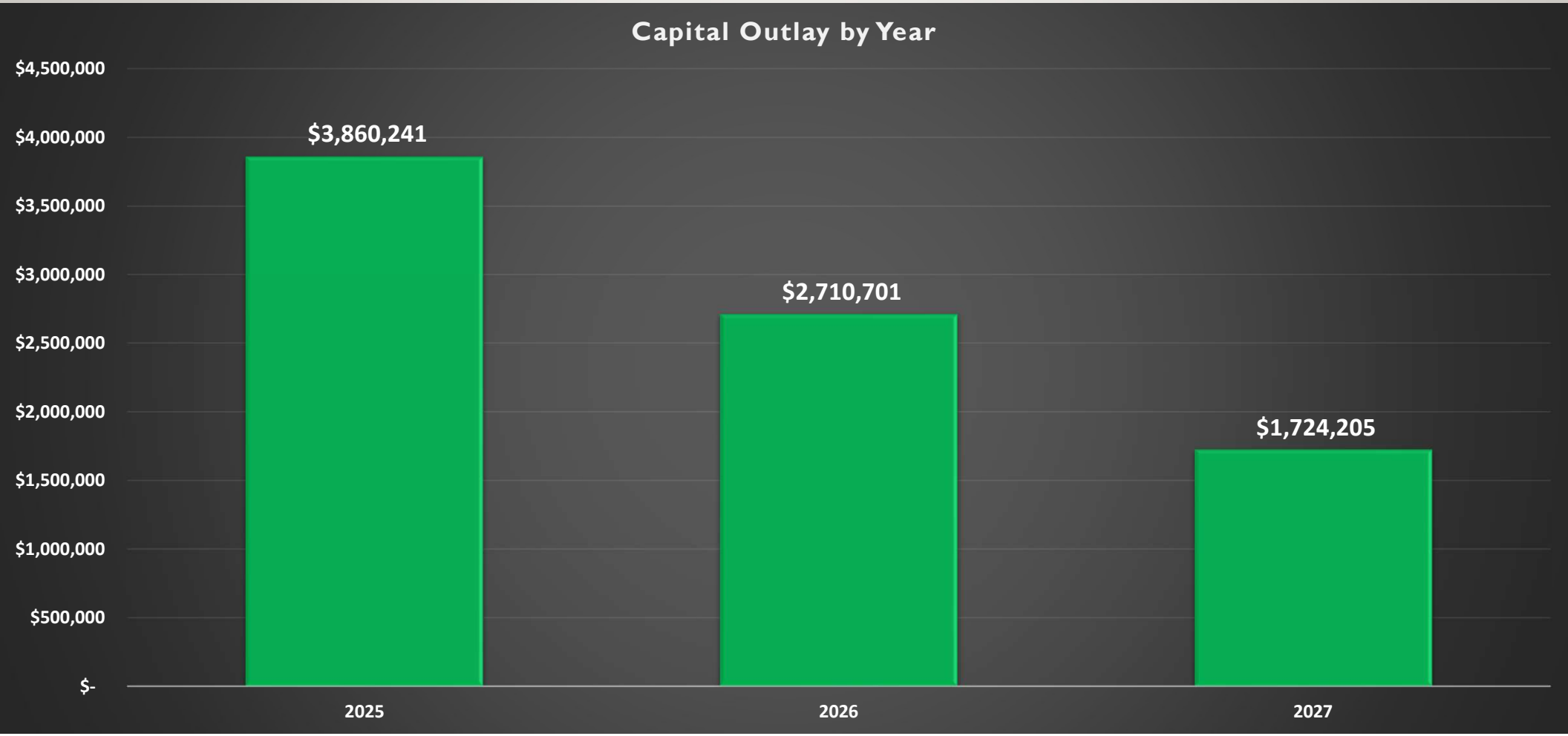
- Dental ($5mo.) and Vision ($8mo.) at a low cost
- Life Insurance included ($10K to $50K)
- Aflac Products at low costs (Cancer, Accident, Life, etc.)
- Longevity payments after 5 years ($400 to $2,500)
- Time Off (min. 40 days)
  - Holiday Time – 12 paid
  - Vacation time (15 days to 33 days Paid)
  - Sick time earned is 8 hours per month
  - School Function time – 8 Hours a Year
  - FTE – up to 4 weeks paid for parental leave
- Tuition Reimbursement up to $2,500 per Semester
- State Retirement System….

Salaries and Benefits Summary

- Health Insurance and Retirement are up…..
- New Positions at Sheriff?
- New Positions at Communications?
- Sheriff Increases?
- DSS Increases?
- Merit System?
- Changes to Benefits?

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Capital Spending Trends



CAPITAL OUTLAY

Sheriff		
	Replacement Handguns	62,057
	SWAT Body Armor	45,660
	Fleet Computers	40,781
	8 Marked Patrol Cars, 3 Unmarked 1 Truck	914,633
EMS		
	Ambulance Remount	382,800
	AEDs for public buildings	22,100
Animal Control		
	2 Ford F150s	86,174
	2 Climate controlled dog boxes	43,000
	Markings and Lighting for trucks	10,000
Information Technology		
	AP replacements for ACE and HHS	20,000
	4 Lenovo Servers	40,000
	Scanner	9,000
	Switches	24,000
	Etherscope network tester	24,000



DEBT SERVICE

TOTAL DEBT GENERAL FUND

	Total Debt Service	Principle	Interest
Infrastructure Loans			
Early College, Towers, Etc.	865,830.22	857,894.68	7,935.54
Human Services Building	672,368.36	657,894.68	14,473.68
Lenoir EMS Bases	227,924.00	206,000.00	21,924.00
Animal Shelter	300,968.80	247,000.00	53,968.80
59 Month Loans (Vehicles & Equipment)			
Truist 21/22	156,171.40	154,000.00	2,171.40
BOA 23/24	356,085.57	314,000.00	42,085.57
24/25	441,132.55	378,000.00	63,132.55
25/26	497,062.22	420,000.00	77,062.22
Total	3,517,543.12	3,234,789.36	282,753.76

Debt Service

- GF Debt is trending downwards
- Faye Broyhill Building Paid off in 25-26 = $498K

- 2026-2027 – big year for roll off
  - Early College, Towers, Etc. = $866K
  - Human Services Building = $672K

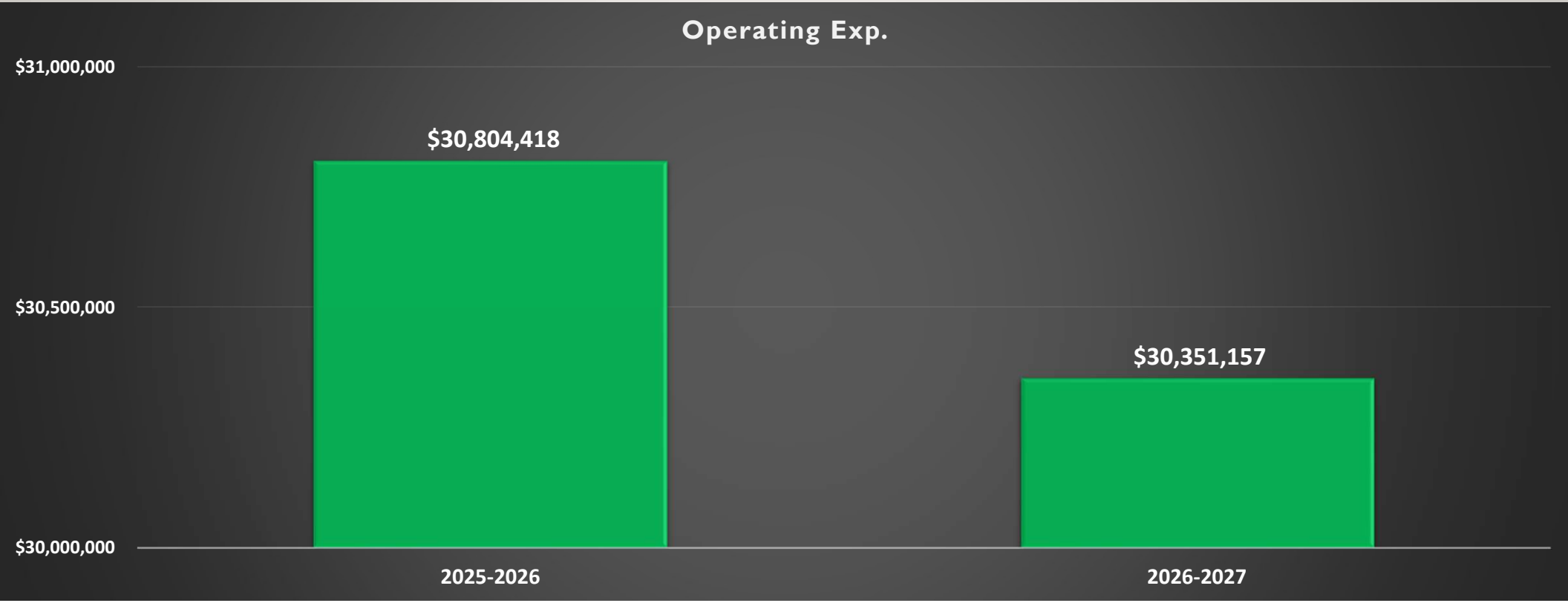




OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Operating Spending Trends

- Operating expenditures overall are down
- 40 dept/areas of Budget – half are down this year from last



Special Appropriations

- No changes to CY Budget Amounts except the following:
  - Fairgrounds - $12K (water line installation)
  - Forestry Service – Request increased $37K from $113K to $150K
    - Local Portion of a Truck
    - Continued Funding for County and Assist. Ranger and Smokechaser
- All Parks remain the same and Park Grant remains at $25K

EDUCATION REQUESTS

Education – CCCTI

- Total Request of $4,955,226 ($3,953,797 CY + $150K)
- Annual Operating Requests = $4,655,226
  - Facilities Staffing - $107K
  - Insurance and utilities - $160K
- Capital = $340K ($180K Current since 2014)
  - Have completed the replacement on 4 roofs this past year with grant money.
  - Building A Roof = $140K
  - Capital projects = $200K

Education – Caldwell County Schools

Total Request = $17,108,648 ($14,800,000 CY+$350K)

- **Current Expense Budget Request = $708,648**
  - 5% increase for certified and non-certified staff
  - 1% increase in retirement
  - $405 per covered employee for hospitalization
  - Utility increases
- **SRO Support**
  - Current County Contracts total = $1.6M
  - State Grant covers $402,750
- **State Funding Reductions**
  - Caldwell County Schools is projected to lose approx. $2.2M due to declining enrollment

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

Summary of 2026-2027 budget



- Ending the 2025-2026 year strong
  - Revenues are up
  - Fund Balance is up
- Modest debt roll-off in 2026-2027, more in 2027-2028
- Sheriff Dept. and Communications Requests
- DSS Salary increase Request
- Health Insurance is up $1M~ and Retirement is up $2M~
- Operating Expenditures are down overall
- School System and CCCTI Requests
- Property Tax Rate needs to be evaluated for citizens



WATER FUND

Water Rates - Proposed

Water Rates

Residential		Business	
0-99 gallons (availability fee)	$18.03	0-99 gallons (availability fee)	$18.03
100-3000 gallons	$18.03 + 13.10 = $31.13	100-3000 gallons	$18.03 + 15.21 = $33.24
All over 3,000 gallons	$6.82 per 1,000	All over 3,000 gallons	$7.05 per 1,000

Fire Departments	$33.24	Fire Departments Fire Suppression	 No Charge

Water Rates Proposed



- **Proposed 5% increase (City of Lenoir 5%)**

Residential

- **Current 3,000 gallon invoice = $29.68**
  - **$6.50 per 1,000 gallons over 3,000 gallons**
- **Proposed Rates – 3,000 gallon invoice = $31.13**
  - **$6.82 per 1,000 gallons over 3,000 gallons**
- **3,000 gallon invoice would increase $1.45 per month**

How do we compare?

3,000 Gallon Bill

- **Caldwell County Water = $31.13 Month**
- **Alexander County Water = $54 Month**
- **Burke County Water = $49.50 Month**



FIRE DEPARTMENTS

- **Fire Departments:**
  - **Sawmills has requested to .105 to .14 Fire and .03 to .04 Rescue or from .135 to .18 combined**

Fire and Rescue Combined:	2025-2026 rate	2026-2027 rate	Inc./(Dec.)
Sawmills	$ 0.135	$ 0.180	$ 0.045
North Catawba	$ 0.178	$ 0.178	$ -
Valmead	$ 0.150	$ 0.150	$ -
Hudson	$ 0.150	$ 0.150	$ -
Granite Falls	$ 0.150	$ 0.150	$ -
Collettsville	$ 0.139	$ 0.139	$ -
Kings Creek	$ 0.135	$ 0.135	$ -
Little River	$ 0.133	$ 0.133	$ -
Gamewell	$ 0.130	$ 0.130	$ -
Grace Chapel	$ 0.130	$ 0.130	$ -
Yadkin Valley	$ 0.120	$ 0.120	$ -
Blowing Rock	$ 0.115	$ 0.115	$ -
Patterson	$ 0.111	$ 0.111	$ -
Bethelem	$ 0.053	$ 0.053	$ -

OPIOID FUND

Opioid Settlement Fund

- **Approx. 16M~ Total Received (2022-2038)**
- **Cash Balance - $4M~**
- **2026-2027 Budget - $815K Total**
  - **6 Employees Currently**
  - **Requested a new Peer Support Specialist**
  - **New Recovery Transport - $54K**

Questions??

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOLICK PROPERTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, there is a need for continued economic development in Caldwell County.

WHEREAS, Caldwell County has identified a parcel of land deemed suitable for economic development uses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners that:

Section 1. The governing board hereby creates a project fund for the purpose of administering the Bolick Property Project.

Land Acquisition	$545,000

Section 2. The fund will remain operational until completion of the project and the disbursement of all project funds.

Section 3. The project shall be effective May 6, 2026.

Adopted May 6, 2026.

ATTEST:

Tasha Brown
Clerk to the Board

Randy Church
Chairman

CALDWELL COUNTY 18 41 NORTH CAROLINA

BK 2164 PG 609 - 609 (1)

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Fee $0.00

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Caldwell County North Carolina
Wayne L. Rash, Register of Deeds