MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Burke County Services Building, 110 N. Green Street, Entrance E, in Morganton, North Carolina. The meeting was streamed live on the County's YouTube channel, BurkeCountyNC, and it was broadcast on the local cable systems. The agenda, in its entirety, was posted to the County's website, www.burkenc.org, several days prior to the meeting. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2024-17, adopted and effective on August 20, 2024, the Burke County Board of Commissioners conferred upon itself all the power, duties, and responsibilities of the Board of Health and the Social Services Board. Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS:	Randy Burns, Acting Chair Brian Barrier Mike Stroud
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman (mission trip) Phil Smith, Vice Chairman (health-related matter)
STAFF:	Brian Epley, County Manager Dylan Laws, Wilson, Lackey, Rohr & Hall P.C. (County Attorney Designee) Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners
STAFF ABSENT:	Margaret Pierce, Finance Director/Deputy County Manager (excused)

CALL TO ORDER
Brian Epley, County Manager, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIR (RULE 21)
Pursuant to the 2026 adopted Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure, Rule 21. Presiding Officer in the Chair's Absence, the vice chair shall preside over meetings of the board in the chair's absence. If both the chair and vice chair are absent, the members present may choose a temporary chair from among themselves. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Brian Epley, County Manager, opened the floor for nominations. Mike Stroud nominated Randy Burns. There being no other nominations, Mr. Epley called for a motion.

Motion: To appoint Commissioner Burns as the Acting Chair for the July 20, 2026, regular meeting of the Burke County Board of Commissioners.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

Following the appointment, County Manager Brian Epley turned the meeting over to Acting Chair Burns, who presided over the remainder of the meeting.

INVOCATION
Pastor David Bridges, First Apostolic Church Morganton, delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Burke County 8u Softball All Stars, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.



APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

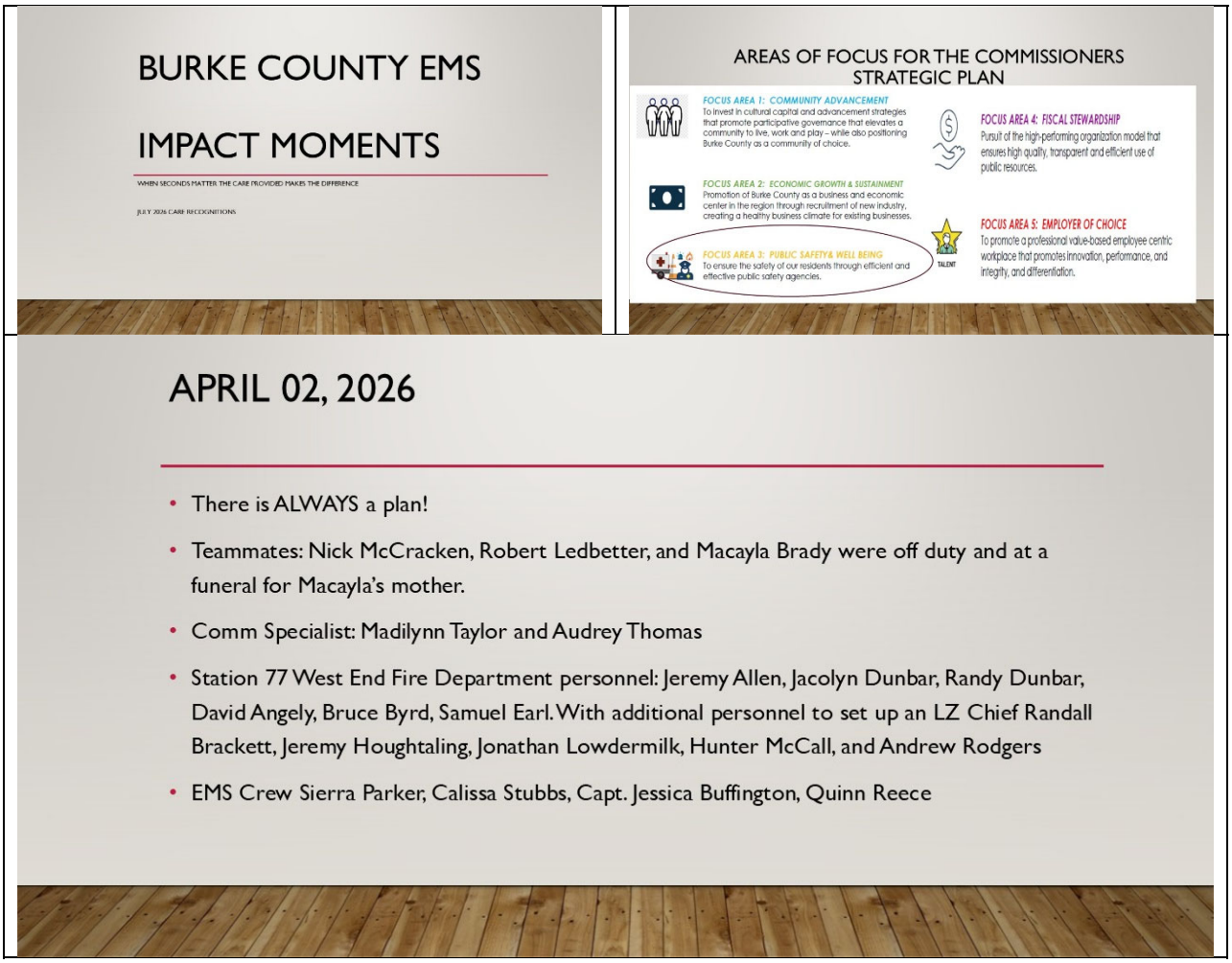
Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 5, 2026 (budget & strategic planning meeting), March 16, 2026 (regular), March 30, 2026 (special), April 6, 2026 (special), April 6, 2026 (pre-agenda), April 20, 2026 (regular), May 4, 2026 (pre-agenda), and May 18, 2026 (regular) meetings as written.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

PRESENTATIONS

EM - RECOGNITION OF LIFE SAVERS
James Robinson, Emergency Services Director, requested the recognition of several Emergency Services staff members for their outstanding lifesaving efforts during recent emergency incidents. He presented the details of their heroic efforts as follows:

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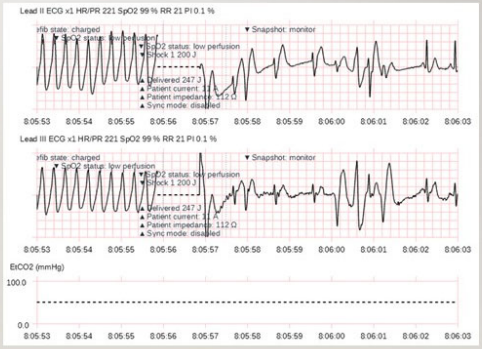




Burke County Commissioners, professional staff, emergency responders, two-year-old Delora Gragg, and her parents, Clayton Gragg and Bridgett Langston, following the recognition honoring the first responders whose lifesaving actions during Delora's critical April 2026 accident contributed to her remarkable recovery.

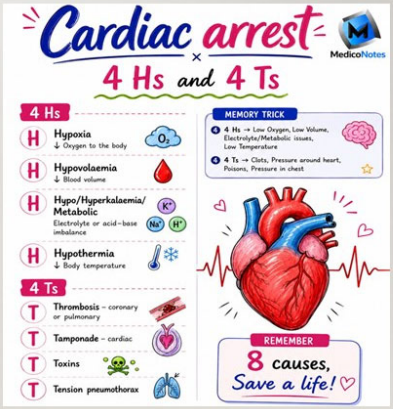
APRIL 26, 2026

- Training, Recognition, and a great bedside manner
- Crew 3: Katie Rudicill and Lillianna Swan
- Survival Rates for cardiac conditions are directly related to the care received and the time the condition is untreated.



MAY 3, 2026

- Respiratory Distress call with recent hx of pneumonia
- Upon arrival first responders had placed the pt on O2
- Patient condition continued to deteriorate while enroute to Frye.
- Multiple treatment options tried
- Cardiac Arrest with ROSC
- EMS Team: Hailey Deal and John Mooney



MAY 6TH, 2026

- Training and Quick recognition pays off
- Bryan Christy with WPCC is a former BCEMS employee and accredits his response to his time with BCEMS
- First Responders and EMS providers
  - BCRS: Chief Wes Taylor, First Responders Will Soper, Anne Soper, Thomas Smith, and Bradley Hinton
  - Comm Specs: Haley Smith and Jesse Cooper
  - BCEMS: Capt. Scott Brasecker, Jerry Baker, and Talma Parker



MAY 25, 2026

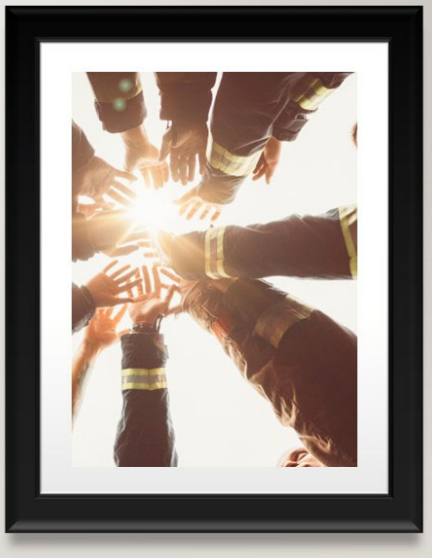
- George Hildebran Fire Rescue and Burke County EMS dispatched for a fainting call.
- Family stated that the patient may have had a brief seizure and stopped moving.
- First Responders: Kyle Boice, Shelby Boice, Richard Patton, Skylar Hudson, Connie Pollard, Travis Thompson, Chief Bobby Craig
- Fire Fighters: Timmy Hudson and Earnest Lail (CPR Certified)
- EMS Crew: Lindsey Chapman, Sean Miller, Lt. James Deal

JUNE 15, 2026

- On June the 15th I was contacted by the Growth and Outreach Liaison about recognizing two employees for being patient advocates and team players.
- Michael Stacey and Melanie Miller were working on the east end of the county (Station 4).
  - Pt. one was a patient with a challenging medical condition that required the use of mutual aide equipment to transport. The crew was recognized for going above and beyond in their care and teamwork to manage the patient
  - Hours later they were dispatched to a sick patient. While the patient's vitals were stable the condition of the patient did not meet her normal. The team gave a report to the hospital staff via radio and recommended the patient be evaluated by a physician without delay. Upon arrival the patient was moved to the facility bed. Normally this handoff ends the care by the crew, but the hospital was busy, so the team stood by to give report when the patient went into sudden cardiac arrest unexpectedly. Their quick care helped obtain ROSC and the patient had no negative effects from the incident.

BURKE COUNTY EMS

We are very appreciative of every volunteer and employee and the job that they do. Today's appreciation recognition is only a glimpse of the work that is done every single day across the county.



Mr. Robinson also recognized Deputy EMS Director John Hood, Chesterfield Firefighter Roger

Suttles, and Chief Robinson, Chesterfield Fire Department, for their extraordinary actions during a recent residential structure fire. While off duty, both Mr. Hood and Mr. Suttles responded to the emergency after hearing the dispatch and assisted in rescuing a resident with significant mobility limitations who was unable to evacuate the burning home. Mr. Robinson and Chief Robinson noted that their actions, together with the coordinated response of Chesterfield Fire Department, mutual aid partners, and other emergency personnel, contributed to the successful rescue and the resident's recovery.



The Commissioners pose with the first responders honored for their heroic, lifesaving actions.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

DE / BOC - DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION GRANT PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION OF ROBIN NICHOLSON

Robin Nicholson, Government and Community Relations District Manager for Duke Energy, announced that the Duke Energy Foundation had awarded two (2) competitive emergency preparedness grants to Burke County. Ms. Nicholson presented a $10,000 grant to the Burke County Fire Marshal's Office and a $25,000 grant to Burke County Emergency Services in support of emergency preparedness initiatives.



Depicted from left to right are John Hood, Quinn Reese, James Robinson, Robin Nicholson, Jennifer Hood, and Robert Bishop following the presentation of Duke Energy Foundation emergency preparedness grant awards.

Following the grant presentations, Acting Chair Burns recognized Ms. Nicholson for her

longstanding partnership with Burke County and presented a proclamation honoring her outstanding service, leadership, and lasting contributions to the community.



Following the presentation of a proclamation recognizing her outstanding service and dedication to Burke County, Robin Nicholson, Government and Community Relations District Manager, Duke Energy, poses with (left to right) County Manager Brian Epley, Acting Chair Randy Burns, Fire Marshall Robert Bishop, Emergency Services Director James Robinson, Commissioner Mike Stroud, and Commissioner Brian Barrier.

Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2026-09 as presented.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

Proclamation No. 2026-09 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION HONORING MS. ROBIN NICHOLSON
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO BURKE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Ms. Robin Nicholson has dedicated more than forty years to the electric utility industry, demonstrating outstanding leadership in customer relations, government affairs, community engagement, and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure as Government and Community Relations District Manager for Duke Energy Carolinas, she has built lasting partnerships with Burke County, local governments, community organizations, and business leaders to strengthen collaboration and support community growth; and

WHEREAS, through her leadership and stewardship of philanthropic investments made possible by The Duke Energy Foundation, Ms. Nicholson has supported initiatives that have enhanced the quality of life for the citizens of Burke County; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of outdoor recreation to Burke County's quality of life and economic vitality, Ms. Nicholson championed public access by helping facilitate multiple trail easements across Duke Energy lands, creating lasting opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the county's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, her steadfast support of Burke County Emergency Management and emergency services has advanced public safety through projects including river safety signage, trail naming, and the acquisition of remote-access emergency response equipment, improving responder capabilities and wilderness emergency response; and

WHEREAS, through her servant leadership, generous spirit, and unwavering commitment to Burke County, Ms. Nicholson has earned the respect and admiration of local officials, first responders, community organizations, and citizens, becoming a trusted partner and advocate for our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burke County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to Ms. Robin Nicholson for her exceptional service, unwavering support, and lasting contributions to Burke County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Burke County Board of Commissioners recognizes Ms. Nicholson's legacy of leadership, partnership, and community stewardship, and extends its heartfelt appreciation for her dedicated service to the citizens of Burke County.

Approved this 20th day of July 2026.

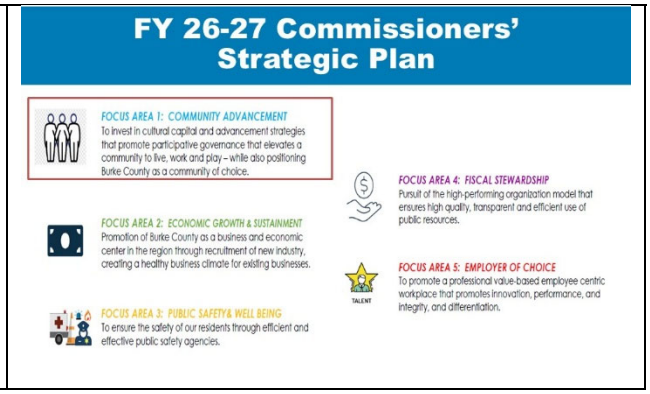
/s/: Randy Burns
Randy Burns, Acting Chair
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

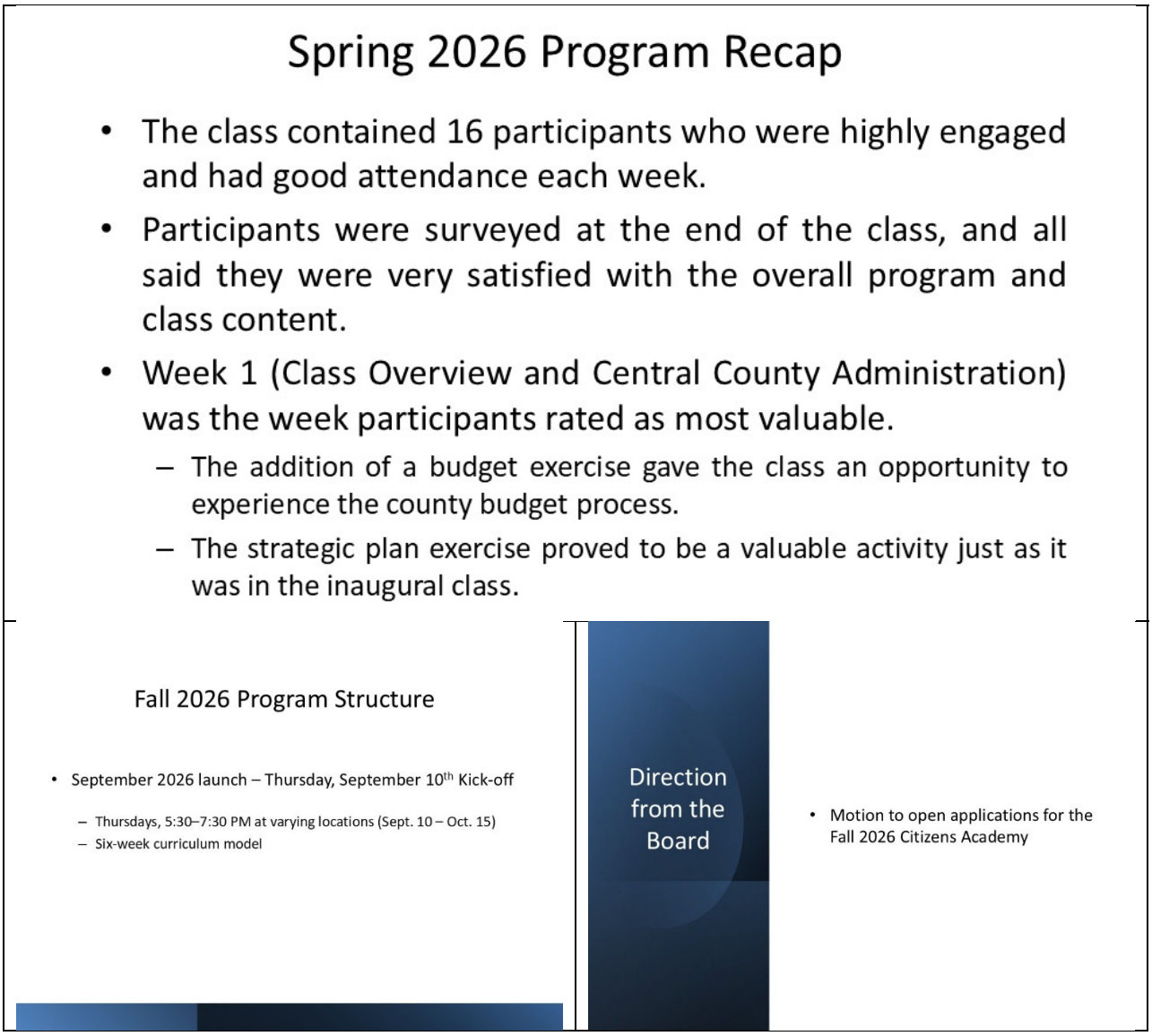
Attest:

/s/: Morgan Buchanan
Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

CM - PRESENTATION ON THE FALL 2026 CITIZENS ACADEMY
Brian Epley, County Manager, provided an overview of the Citizens Academy program, including the upcoming application and selection timeline as follows:







Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a motion.

Motion: To accept the report as presented and open the application portal.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

TA - TAX REVALUATION PRESENTATION

Brian Epley, County Manager, introduced Travis Isaacs, Tax Administrator, to provide an update on the County's 2027 revaluation process. Mr. Epley noted that the Board established the Revaluation Task Force in 2025 to promote transparency, encourage public participation, and oversee the County's first in-house revaluation, resulting in significant cost savings compared to contracting the work. He stated that staff would begin providing monthly updates to the Board as the project progresses toward adoption of the Schedule of Values.

Mr. Epley explained that, although North Carolina counties historically have conducted revaluations at varying intervals, significant fluctuations in the real estate market following the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in more frequent state-required revaluations in many jurisdictions. He emphasized that the Board is conducting the 2027 revaluation in compliance with North Carolina law and the oversight of the North Carolina Department of Revenue, rather than as a matter of local policy, noting that the State requires counties to conduct a revaluation when statutory sales ratio thresholds indicate assessed values no longer reflect market value. He then introduced Mr. Isaacs to provide the revaluation update.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Task Force Meeting Topics



> *One thread ties every topic together: the values we set come straight from actual sales. A reappraisal updates values — it does not set your tax bill.*

WHY A REAPPRAISAL NOW

NCDOR Required Sales Ratio Study

The state requires an annual sales ratio study: a random sample of real property sales compared against their corresponding assessed tax value.

- For counties with population greater than 75,000, a reappraisal is required within 3 years if the ratio falls above 1.15 or below 0.85.
- Burke County is on a 4-year valuation cycle. The last countywide reappraisal took effect January 1, 2023.

2025 SALES RATIO

78.91%

Below the required 0.85 threshold — a new countywide reappraisal must be conducted.

Target range: 0.85 – 1.15

THE EVIDENCE

Sales Ratios Are Declining

Sales Ratio by Year — Improved vs. Vacant

Median assessed ÷ sale price under the current (2023) roll · target = 1.00

Sale Year	Improved SR	Improved Sales	Vacant SR	Vacant Sales	Total Sales
2023	**0.828**	1,011	**0.883**	432	**1,443**
2024	**0.747**	1,104	**0.828**	503	**1,607**
2025	**0.733**	1,178	**0.769**	450	**1,628**
2026 (partial)	**0.769**	338	**0.785**	128	**466**

Unique qualified sales. Vacant = building + misc improvement value = 0. 2026 partial (through June).

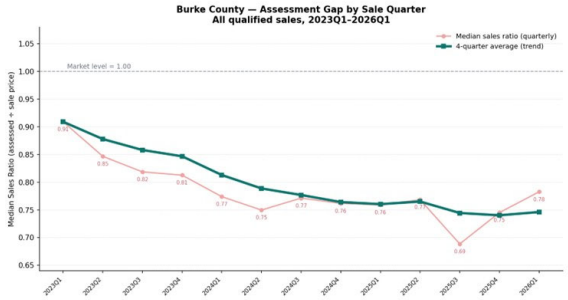
Source: Burke County Countywide Sales Ratio.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Sale prices are rising and ratios keep dropping as newer sales come in (assessed value ÷ sale price).
- 2026 doesn't yet have enough data to draw conclusions.
- The model is built to adjust if prices start to fall, too.

THE EVIDENCE

Values Have Fallen Behind the Market



22%

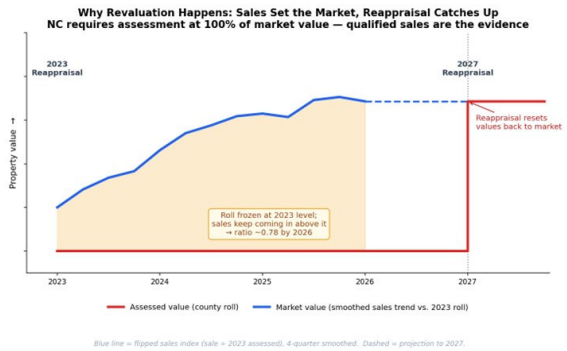
GAP BELOW MARKET VALUE

Current values sit about 22% below what properties actually sell for. The gap opened because values froze in 2023 while the market kept moving. Reappraisal simply closes that gap — catching values up to sales.

BURKE COUNTY • 2027 REAPPRAISAL 6

THE EVIDENCE

Values Reset to Market Every Cycle



State law requires assessment at 100% of market value, using sales as the evidence.

Values hold flat between reappraisals, then reset to market — that's the 2027 step-up.

Resetting values to market is not a tax increase. The tax rate is set separately.

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THE EVIDENCE

Countywide Taxable Value, 2025–2027

Burke County Taxable Value — 2025 / 2026 / 2027

Residential vs. commercial, by market area (values in $ billions)

Class	2025	2026	2027	26 → 27
Residential	$7.20B	$7.41B	$9.74B	+31.5%
Commercial	$1.47B	$1.53B	$1.87B	+22.0%
Total	**$8.67B**	**$8.94B**	**$11.61B**	**+29.9%**

2027 REAPPRAISAL

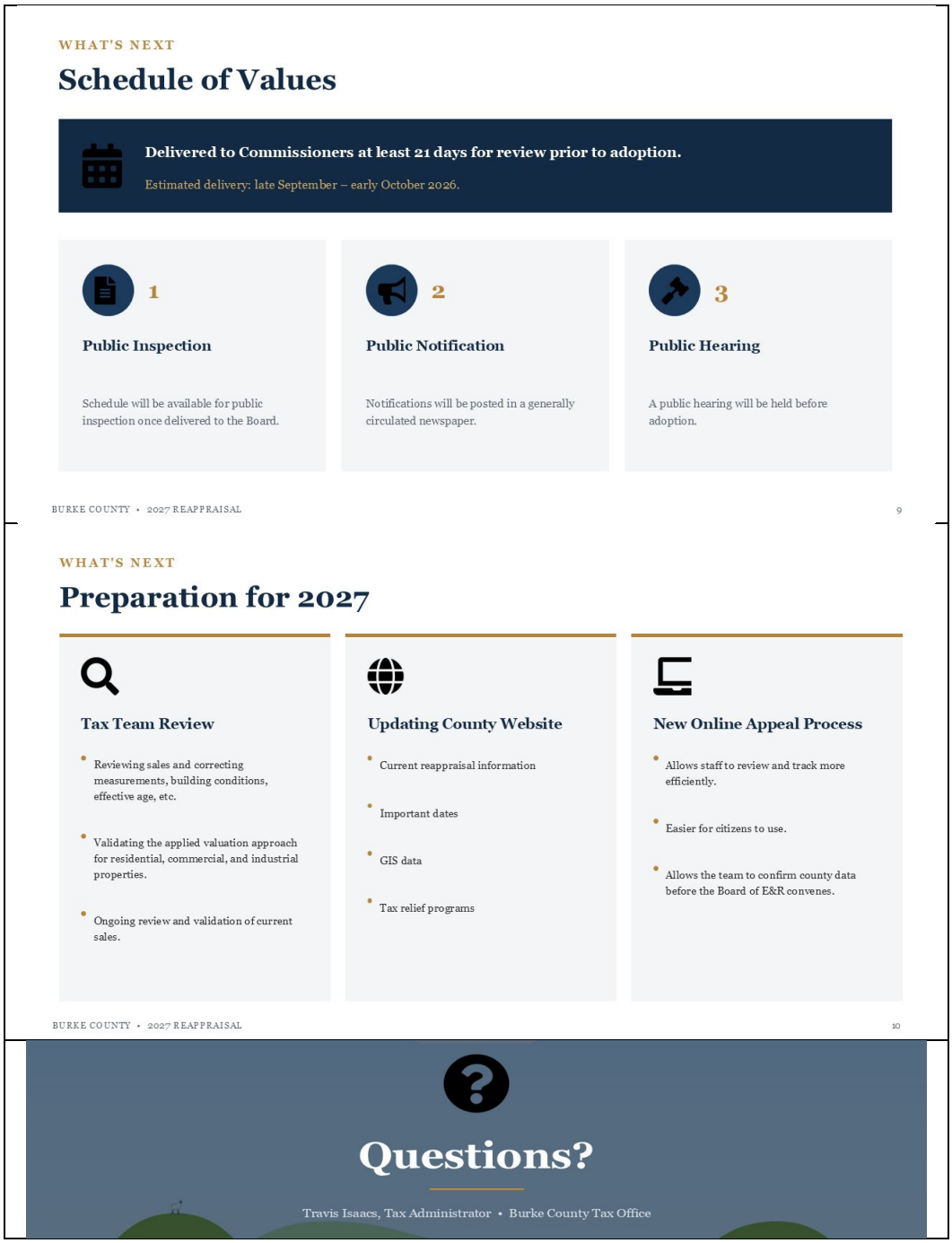
+31%
Residential

+22%
Commercial

+30%
Overall

This is the taxable base the new tax rate gets set against.

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Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions and comments.

Commissioner Barrier welcomed Mr. Isaacs to Burke County and expressed appreciation to County Manager Epley, the Revaluation Task Force, and Tax Office staff for their work on the in-house revaluation process. He noted that conducting the revaluation in-house represents significant cost savings for Burke County taxpayers and helps reduce the financial burden on citizens. Mr. Isaacs responded that the Revaluation Task Force is prepared to serve as a public conduit for information and community engagement. He stated that outreach efforts are expected

to begin in late September or October as the County moves closer to completion of the Schedule of Values.

There being no further discussion, Acting Chair Burns called for a motion.

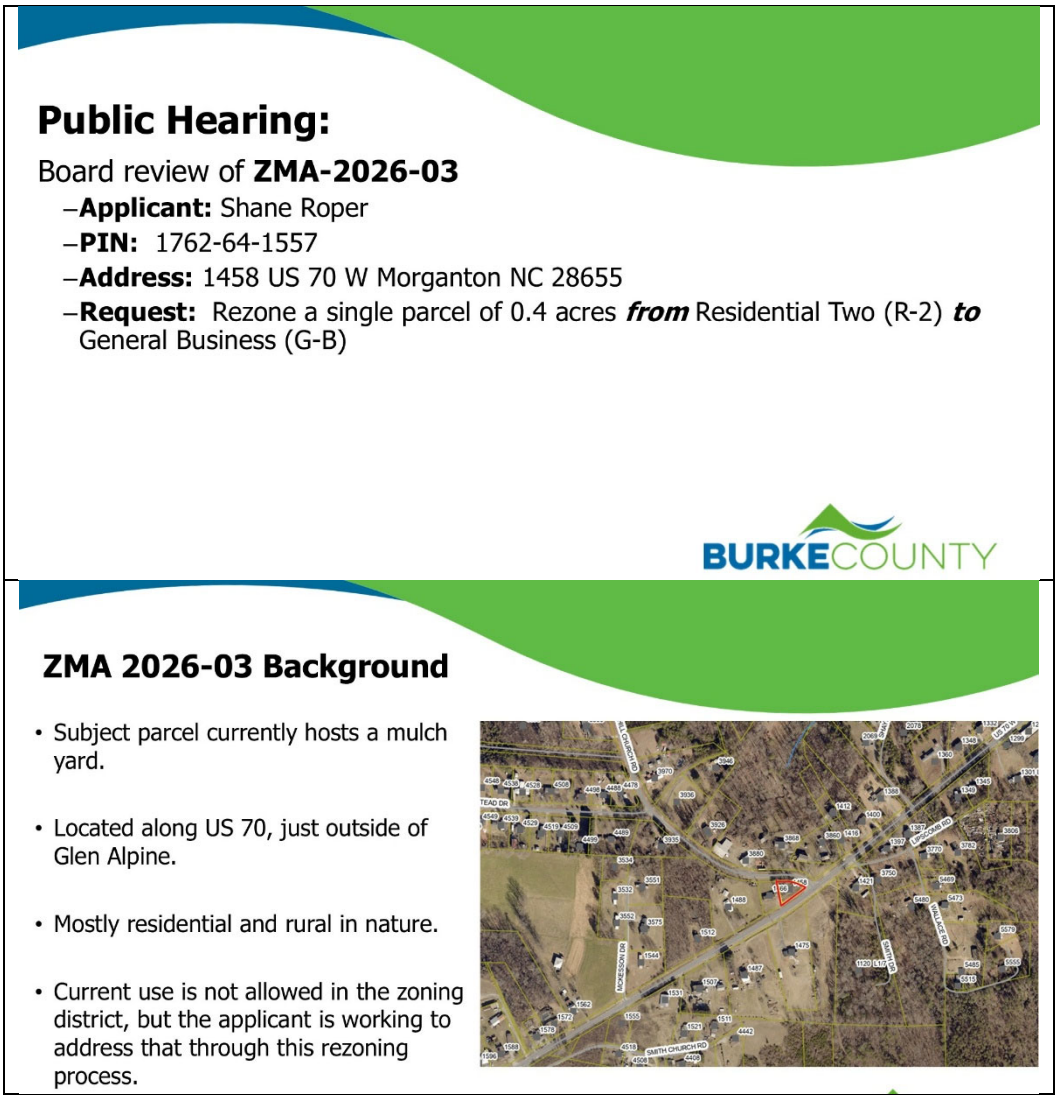
Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

CD- ZMA 2026-03,1458 US 70 W, MORGANTON, NC- ZONING MAP AMENDMENT & PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:00 P.M.

Patrick Dickinson, Planner, presented a zoning map amendment request as follows:

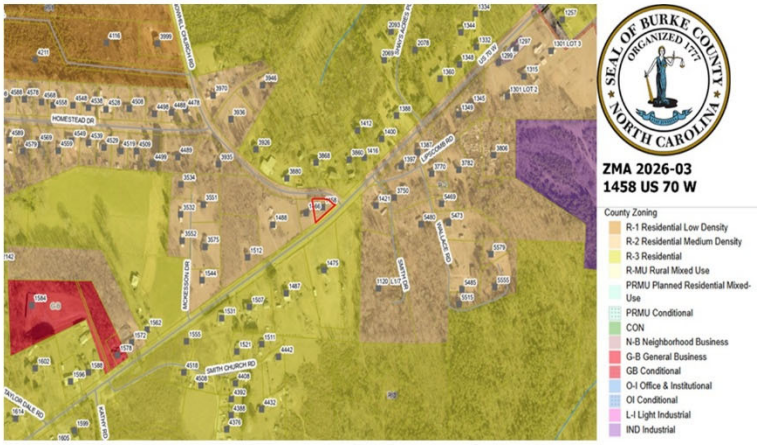


ZMA 2026-03 Site Photos



ZMA 2026-03 Current Zoning

- **Current Zoning: Residential Two (R-2)**
  - Stick Built, Modular, & Class A Manufactured Homes
  - Special uses: Parks, Golf Courses & Schools
- **Proposed Zoning: General Business (G-B)**
  - Allows most retail, entertainment, and services uses.
  - Special uses: retail larger than 100,000 sqft, adult entertainment, scrapyards.



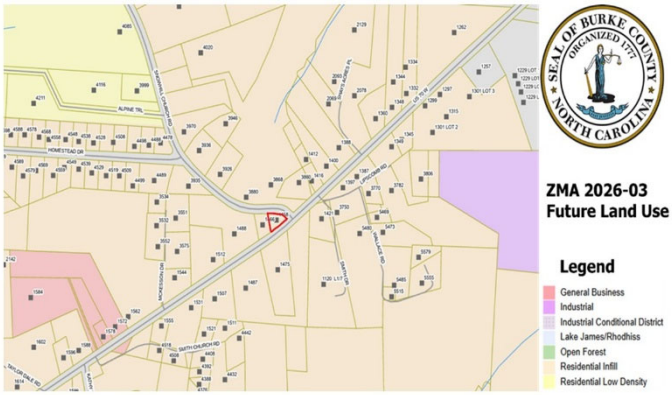
ZMA 2026-03 Future Land Use Map

Current Designation: Residential Infill

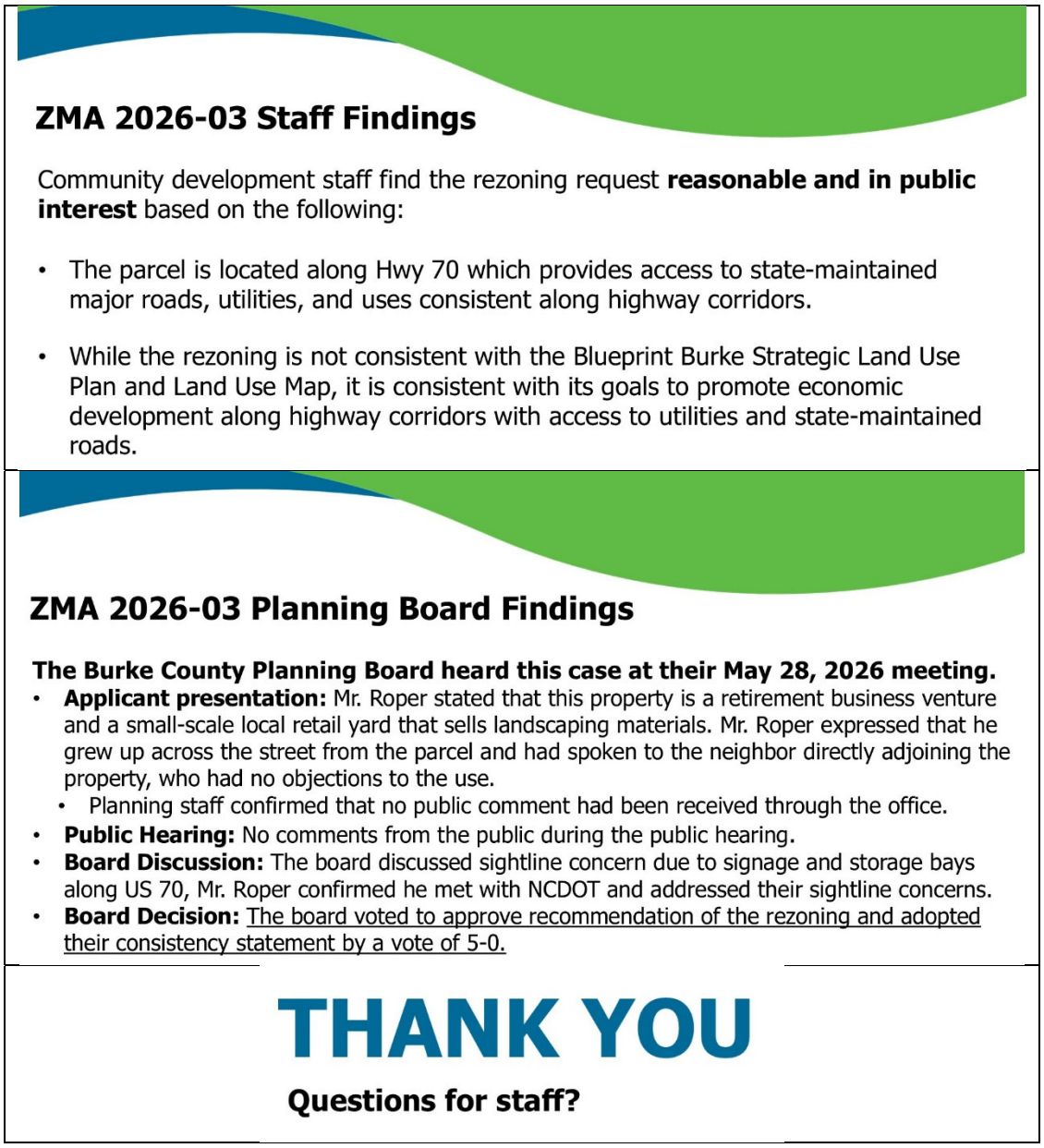
- R-2 & R-3 (higher density) zoning.
- Encourages use of single-family stick built or manufactured & multifamily developments.

Proposed Designation: General Business

- Access to major roadways and utilities.
- Residential, commercial, retail, warehouses uses are encouraged.



BURKECOUNTY



Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he opened the public hearing at 6:59 p.m. The public hearing notice was published in *The News Herald* on July 9 and 16, 2026. Further, the notice was also posted on the County's website (www.burkenc.org) on July 9, 2026. There being no one present to address the Board; the public hearing was closed at 6:59 p.m. He then called for a motion.

Motion: To adopt Ordinance No. 2026-08 as it relates to ZMA 2026-03 to rezone a request to rezone 0.4 acres at 1458 US 70 W, PIN 1762-64-1557, from Residential-Two (R-2) to General Business (G-B), adopt the amending ordinance, and amend the Future Land Use Map to General Business. The Board finds that the request is reasonable and in the public interest because, while inconsistent with the 'Residential Infill' map designation, the rezoning aligns with the comprehensive plan goals to foster economic development along established highway corridors with utility access in Burke County.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

Ordinance No. 2026-08 reads as follows:

An Ordinance Amending the Official Burke County Zoning Map
ZMA 2026-03

Be it ordained that the Official Burke County Zoning Map is hereby amended as follows:

A single parcel totaling 0.4 acres located at 1458 US 70 W, Morganton, NC 28655, and identified by PIN: 1762641557 shall be rezoned from Residential Two (R-2) to General Business (G-B).

Consistency Statement

The Board of Commissioners finds that Ordinance No. 2026-08 related to ZMA 2026-03, a 0.4-acre parcel at 1458 US 70 W, is reasonable and in the public's interest. Although inconsistent with the 2022-2030 Blueprint Burke Future Land Use Map designation of Residential Infill, the amendment aligns with comprehensive plan goals to foster economic development along established highway corridors with utility and state-maintained road access. Therefore, the Future Land Use Map is hereby amended to designate the parcel as General Business.

Adopted this 20th day of July 2026.

/s/: Randy Burns
Randy Burns, Chair Pro Tempore
Burke County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Morgan Buchanan
Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
At 7:00 p.m., Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for public comments and asked speakers to limit their comments to three (3) minutes.

Kelly Michaels, urged the Board to work with the Burke County Board of Education to pause the planned demolition of the former Chesterfield Elementary School and explore an interlocal property transfer to repurpose it as a multigenerational community center and park. Ms. Michaels submitted a petition containing approximately 200 signatures, examples of former schools in western North Carolina that have been successfully repurposed and supporting materials outlining the proposed concept. She stated that the site could provide recreational, educational, and community spaces while preserving the property for public use.

There was no one else to address the Board; therefore, Acting Chair Burns closed this portion of the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

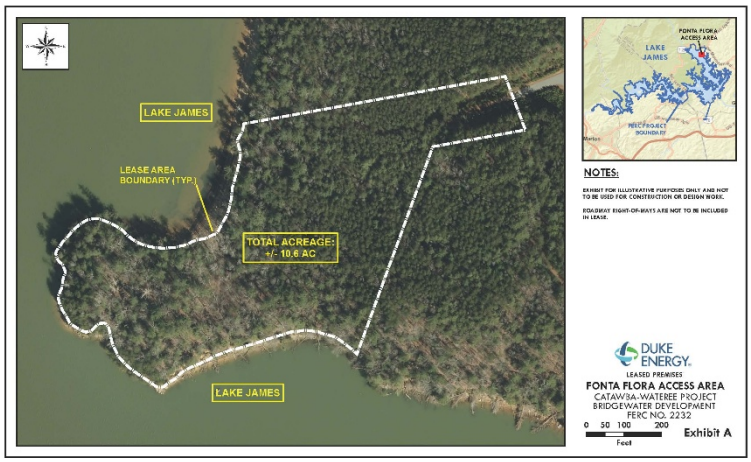
CONSENT AGENDA - NONE

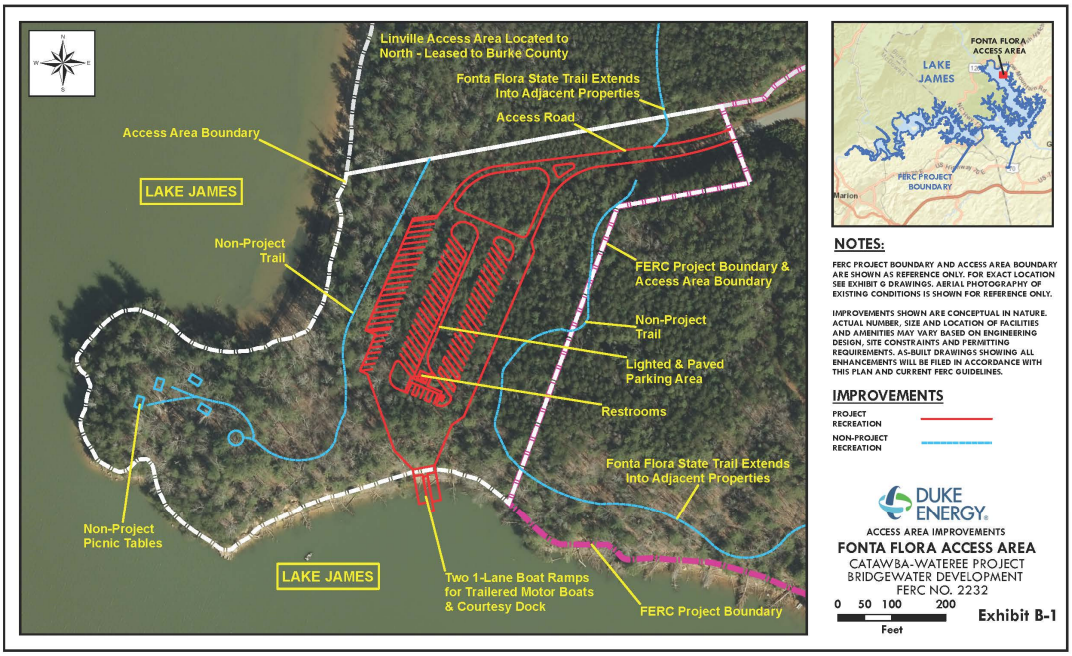
ITEMS FOR DECISION

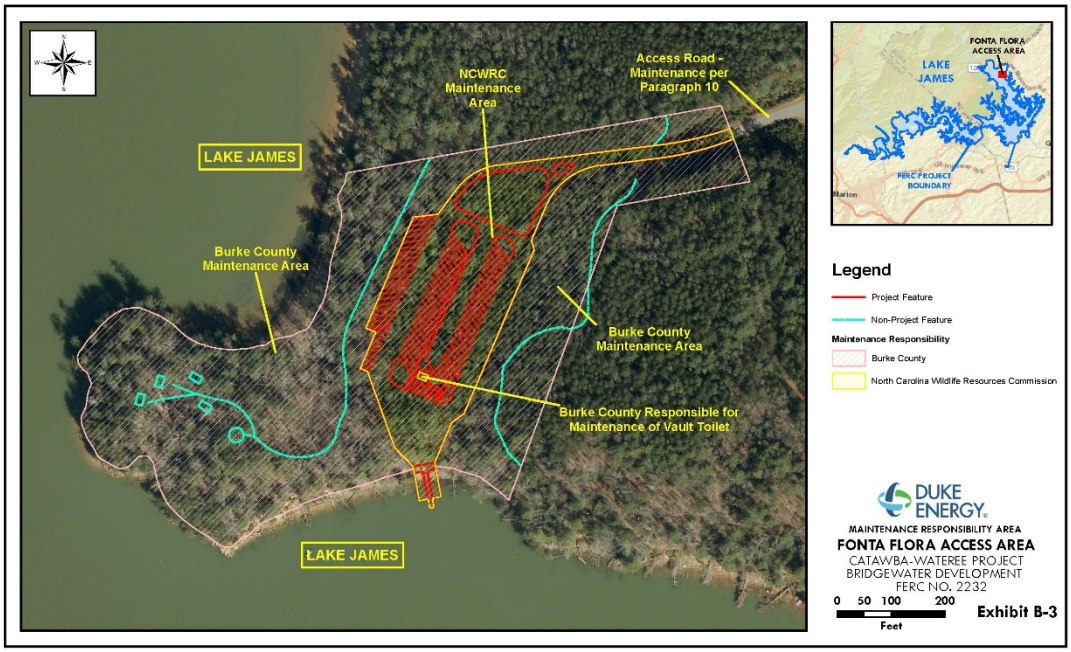
CD - LEASE FOR FONTA FLORA ACCESS AREA

Sarah Chabaane, Planner – Trails Specialist, reported that as part of the Catawba-Wateree Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA), Duke Energy is constructing the Fonta Flora Access Area on Lake James and has extended the opportunity to Burke County to lease the 10.6-acre project area (REID 62857) to be operated in partnership with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). Improvements in this project include extending the access road, two one-lane paved boat ramps with a courtesy dock, paved parking area, lighting, restrooms, speed bumps in advance of trail crossings, and signage. The permitted uses may include boating access, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking, biking, and picnicking. The Fonta Flora Access Area will have no user fees for access and remain open to the public. Burke County will serve as the primary operator of Fonta Flora Access Area and will be responsible for the day-to-day operation, maintenance, and management of the site except for the responsibilities assigned to NCWRC as described in the lease agreement as an operational partner. Burke County Parks and Recreation Department will include Fonta Flora Access Area in their maintenance plans. The community benefits from Parks and Recreation's management by having the opportunity to expand recreational opportunities at the site and a local entity as a responsive land manager.

Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments. In response to a question from Commissioner Barrier regarding anticipated maintenance costs, Brian Epley, County Manager, stated that the County does not anticipate any increase in maintenance expenses or budgetary impact. He explained that the required maintenance is minimal and can be absorbed by existing Parks and Recreation staff. Mr. Epley further noted that there is no lease costs associated with the property and that, after review by the County Attorney, the agreement does not transfer operational liability to the County, as the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission will remain responsible for operating the facility. There being no further discussion, Acting Chair Burns called for a motion.





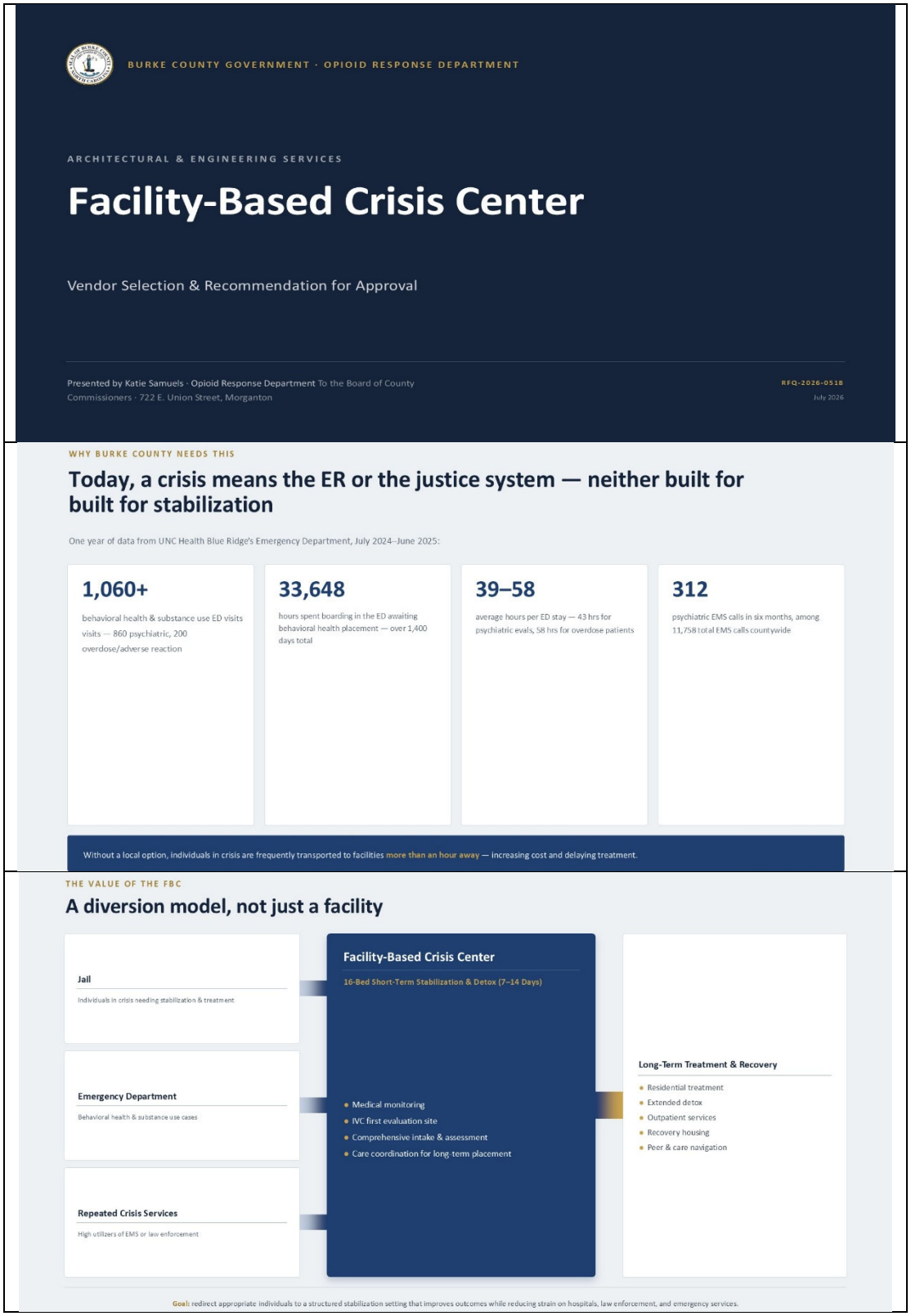


Motion: To authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute a lease with Duke Energy for the Fonta Flora Access Area, subject to review and/or revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

OR - RFQ FOR PHM BUILDING & SELECTION OF AN ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING FIRM FOR THE BURKE COUNTY FACILITY-BASED CRISIS CENTER

Dr. Katie Samuels, Opioid Response Director, presented the following for Board consideration:



THE VISION & OUR PARTNERSHIP

A community solution, built through partnership

Burke County brought together Partners Health Management, UNC Health Blue Ridge, emergency services, law enforcement, and community stakeholders to strengthen the county's behavioral health crisis continuum — resulting in a 16-bed Facility-Based Crisis Center.

Burke County Government

- Project sponsor and local lead
- Property owner
- Responsible for procurement and capital project oversight
- Responsible for long-term ownership of the facility

Partners Health Management

- Fiscal administrator for the state capital allocations
- Project partner
- Provides technical assistance and behavioral-health expertise
- Coordinates with the state (DMH/DD/SUS) on capital funding

HOW THE PROJECT IS FUNDED

Two state capital sources, no local capital dollars

~$6.5M

total capital funding secured

SOURCE 1
NC General Assembly allocation

SOURCE 2
DMH/DD/SUS capital allocation
Awarded to complete the project

FUNDS COVER

- Property acquisition
- Architectural & engineering services
- Building renovation
- Medical equipment
- Furnishings
- Technology
- Security systems
- Licensure preparation

Remaining funds, if any, may support allowable startup and implementation costs.

WHAT WE ARE BUILDING

A licensed 16-bed crisis stabilization facility

16
crisis beds (voluntary & IVC capable)

~6,800
sq ft single-story building, with possible expansion

Design-Bid- Build
project delivery method

722 E. Union Street
Morganton, NC — purchased for $865,000



MUST MEET

DHSR licensure & physical-plant rules · NC Medicaid Clinical Coverage Policy 8A · State-Funded FBC service definitions · ligature-resistant, trauma-informed design

HOW THE FIRM WAS SELECTED

A qualifications-based selection

Per N.C. practice for professional design services, firms are evaluated and ranked on **qualifications** — experience, team, and approach.
and approach. Fees are negotiated only after a firm is selected.

Apr 27	May 4	May 18	Late May	Jun 23	Tonight
RFQ Issued	**Questions Due**	**Submittals Due**	**Committee Scoring**	**Shortlist Interviews**	**Recommendation**
Posted publicly on burkenc.org/Bids burkenc.org/Bids	Answers posted to all firms	Six firms submitted qualifications qualifications	Five-member panel scored each firm each firm	Top three firms interviewed	Approval to begin negotiations

WHAT THE COMMITTEE SCORED

Six evaluation criteria

Each panelist scores **1–5** Five reviewers · 150
150 points maximum

01
Project Approach & Understanding
Grasp of FBC design, DHSR coordination, cost & schedule risk schedule risk

02
Relevant Experience
Healthcare, behavioral health, secure & adaptive-reuse projects

03
Team & Personnel Qualifications
Licensed staff, subconsultants, roles and certifications certifications

04
Schedule & Capacity
Proposed timeline, milestones, and capacity to deliver deliver

05
References
Three similar projects completed within five years

06
Overall Quality of Proposal
Completeness, clarity, and responsiveness to the RFQ RFQ

ROUND 1 · WHO REVIEWED THE PROPOSALS

A multi-stakeholder review panel

Five reviewers independently scored all six proposals — bringing together county leadership, the regional health system, and the behavioral-health
the behavioral-health managing organization that will operate alongside the center.

Burke County Government
COUNTY LEADERSHIP

Dr. Katie Samuels
Opioid Response Director

Hugh Sandoe
Burke County Government

UNC Health Blue Ridge
REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM PARTNER

Dr. Anthony Frank
UNC Health Blue Ridge

Partners Health Management
BEHAVIORAL-HEALTH MANAGING ORGANIZATION

Dr. Paul Holden
Partners Health Management

Jamie Sales
Director, Network Operations

ROUND 2 A separate interview panel — **Brian Nieft** (Finance), **Katie Samuels** (Opioid Response), **Jamie Sales** & **Dr. Paul Holden** (Partners), and **Hugh Sandoe** (County Manager's Office) — then interviewed the top three firms.

ROUND 1 · INITIAL PROPOSAL REVIEW

Six firms, ranked by proposal review score

Five reviewers · six criteria **150** **points** maximum

	FIRM	APPROACH	EXPERIENCE	TEAM	SCHEDULE	REFERENCES	QUALITY	TOTAL
1	**Holland & Hamrick Architects** INTERVIEWED	22	23	23	24	25	24	**141**
2	**CPL** INTERVIEWED	23	25	21	20	20	21	**130**
3	**Atriax, PLLC** INTERVIEWED	23	23	23	18	19	22	**128**
4	**1919 Architects**	20	17	21	22	19	19	**118**
5	**Masters Architecture, PLLC**	21	21	20	19	14	20	**115**
6	**Sizemore Group**	21	20	19	19	16	20	**115**

ROUND 2 · SHORTLIST INTERVIEWS, JUNE 23, 2026

The top three firms were interviewed

Each firm presented and answered questions on FBC design experience, DHSR coordination, schedule, and the Union Street site. **Brian Nieft** (Finance), **Katie Samuels** (Opioid Response), **Jamie Sales** & **Dr. Paul Holden** (Partners), and **Hugh Sandoe** (County

RANK 1 — **117**/125

Holland & Hamrick Architects Architects

Deep behavioral-health & secure-facility portfolio; strong command of DHSR review, adaptive reuse, and sightline/ligature requirements.

RANK 2 — **109**/125

CPL

Broad institutional healthcare experience and capacity; capacity; strong overall proposal and references.

RANK 3 — **106**/125

Atriax, PLLC

Strong NC presence and team; solid approach and experience across the evaluation criteria.

COMMITTEE & STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Holland & Hamrick Architects

The top-ranked firm — and the strongest fit for a licensed Facility-Based Crisis Center. Crisis Center.

- Top-ranked in both rounds — 141 of 150 in review, 117 of 125 in interviews
- Direct behavioral-health, crisis, and secure-facility design experience
- Perfect 25 / 25 on references; top marks on schedule, capacity, and overall quality
- Interview confirmed command of schedule, sightlines, and clinical workflow

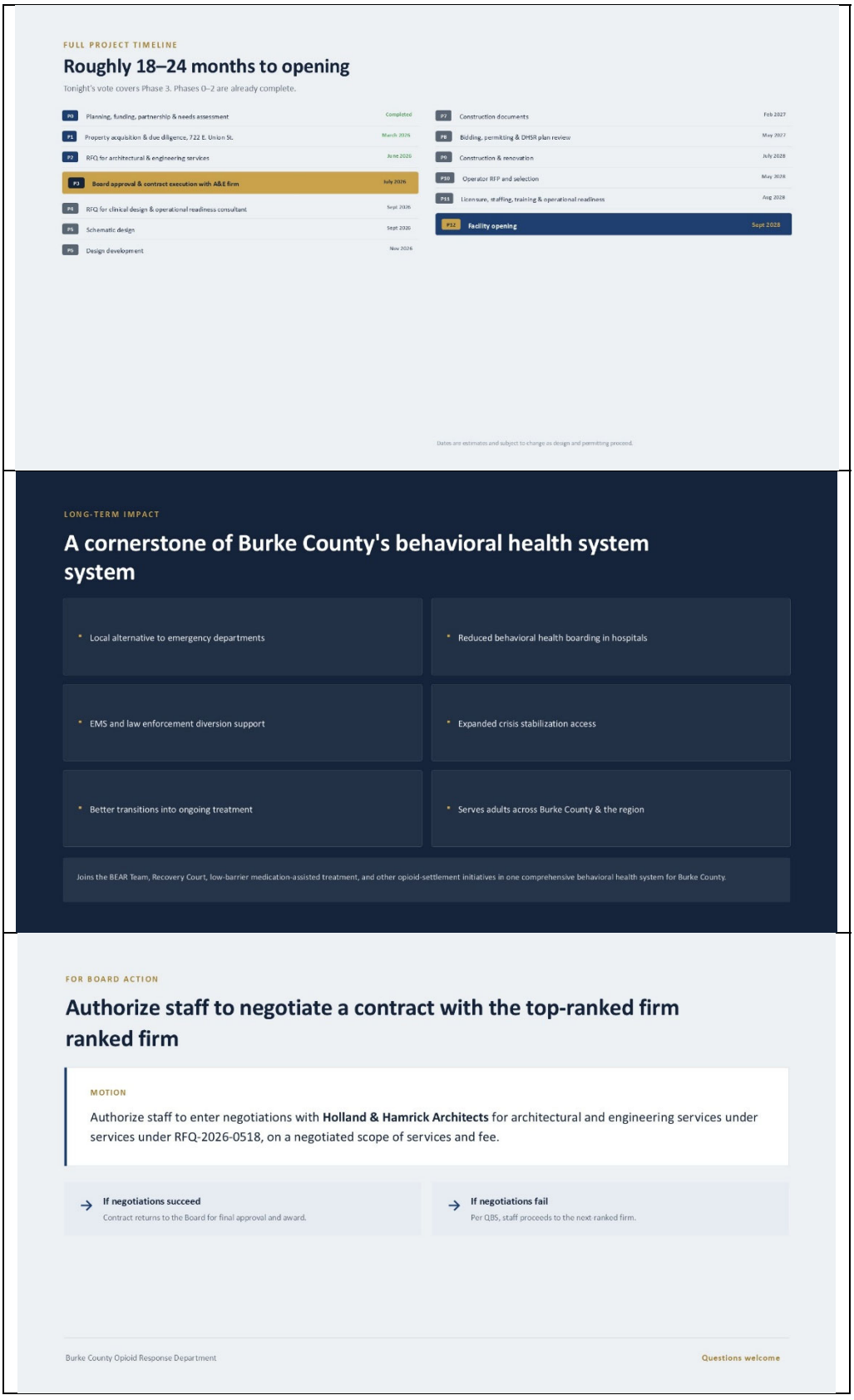
EVALUATION SCORE

141/150

Rank #1 of 6 firms

22 · 23 · 23 · 24 · 25 · 24

points by criterion · out of 25 each


FULL PROJECT TIMELINE
Roughly 18–24 months to opening
Tonight's vote covers Phase 3. Phases 0–2 are already complete.
P0 Planning, funding, partnership & needs assessment Completed
P1 Property acquisition & due diligence, 722 E. Union St. March 2026
P2 RFQ for architectural & engineering services June 2026
P3 Board approval & contract execution with A&E firm July 2026
P4 RFQ for clinical design & operational readiness consultant Sept 2026
P5 Schematic design Sept 2026
P6 Design development Nov 2026
P7 Construction documents Feb 2027
P8 Bidding, permitting & DHSR plan review May 2027
P9 Construction & renovation July 2028
P10 Operator RFP and selection May 2028
P11 Licensure, staffing, training & operational readiness Aug 2028
P12 Facility opening Sept 2028
Dates are estimates and subject to change as design and permitting proceed.
LONG-TERM IMPACT
A cornerstone of Burke County's behavioral health system system
Local alternative to emergency departments
Reduced behavioral health boarding in hospitals
EMS and law enforcement diversion support
Expanded crisis stabilization access
Better transitions into ongoing treatment
Serves adults across Burke County & the region
Joins the BEAR Team, Recovery Court, low-barrier medication-assisted treatment, and other opioid-settlement initiatives in one comprehensive behavioral health system for Burke County.
FOR BOARD ACTION
Authorize staff to negotiate a contract with the top-ranked firm ranked firm
MOTION
Authorize staff to enter negotiations with Holland & Hamrick Architects for architectural and engineering services under services under RFQ-2026-0518, on a negotiated scope of services and fee.
If negotiations succeed
Contract returns to the Board for final approval and award.
If negotiations fail
Per QBS, staff proceeds to the next-ranked firm.
Burke County Opioid Response Department
Questions welcome

The bid tab read as follows:

Vendor:
Holland & Hamrick Architects
1919 Architects
Atriax, PLLC
CPL
Masters Architecture, PLLC
Sizemore Group

Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments. Commissioner Barrier asked how ongoing operating, maintenance, and staffing costs would be handled once the facility is operational. Dr. Samuels explained that the selected service provider would be responsible for staffing, operations, and services, while the County would retain ownership of the building. She stated that operational and maintenance responsibilities would be negotiated as part of the service provider contract. Commissioner Barrier noted that he wanted to clarify the funding structure for the benefit of the public. There being no further discussion, Acting Chair Burns called for a motion.

Motion: To authorize the County Manager to enter into negotiations with Holland & Hamrick Architects, P.A. for Architectural and Engineering design for the Facility-Based Crisis Center Uplift project. Further, authorize the County Manager to execute the associated agreement subject to review and revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

OR - INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CALDWELL COUNTY FOR REGIONAL ADULT TREATMENT COURT COORDINATION SERVICES

Dr. Katie Samuels, Opioid Response Director, presented an Interlocal Agreement between Burke County and Caldwell County to regionalize Adult Treatment Court services within the newly established Prosecutorial District 36 for Board consideration. Dr. Samuels explained that the January 2027 prosecutorial district realignment provided an opportunity to standardize Recovery Court operations across Burke and Caldwell counties by utilizing a shared Treatment Court Coordinator. She stated that the regional approach would provide consistent operations among judges, attorneys, probation and parole personnel, and other stakeholders while enhancing the Recovery Court program and reducing costs through shared staffing.

Under the agreement, Caldwell County will employ the Treatment Court Coordinator, and Burke County will reimburse Caldwell County for 50% of the coordinator's salary and employer-paid fringe benefits, not to exceed $60,000 annually, upon receipt of monthly invoices documenting actual expenditures. The agreement establishes the operational framework, staffing responsibilities, governance structure, reporting expectations, and cost-sharing provisions for the regional program and is effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with the option for renewal by mutual written agreement.

Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a motion.

Motion: To approve the Interlocal Agreement between Burke County and Caldwell County for Regional Adult Treatment Court Coordination Services and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement and any associated documents consistent with its terms.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

CM - APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1- $20,000

Brian Epley, County Manager, requested approval of Budget Amendment No. 1, which recognizes additional revenue granted from the Library Foundation of Burke County to Burke County Government, for the purpose of purchasing books.

Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a motion.

Motion: To adopt Budget Amendment No. 1 as presented.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

Budget Amendment No. 1 reads as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1
FY 26-27

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1			
REVENUES AND EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
REVENUES			
100-55500-06-436500	Contributions & Donations	$20,000	
EXPENSES			
100-55500-25-562700	Books	$20,000	
Purpose: This Amendment recognizes an additional $20,000 in revenue that is to be received by the Burke County Library Foundation. The Foundation currently contributes towards library program activities and is desiring also to contribute to book purchases.			
A copy of these amendments shall be furnished to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer of the County to be kept on file for direction in the disbursement of funds.			

Adopted this 20th day of July 2026.

/s/: Randy Burns

Randy Burns, Acting Chair
Burke County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Morgan Buchanan
Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

CM - STREAMFLOW REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (STRAP) GRANT ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2- $1,630,000

Lea-Ann Branch, Soil and Water Director, presented an overview of the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) and requested approval of Budget Amendment No. 2, which recognizes the grant award in the amount of $1,630,000. This funding will be utilized over a multi-year period on 19 approved sites for soil and stream bank restoration. Highlights of her presentation were as follows:



Program Overview

StRAP Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program

DIVISION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION NORTH CAROLINA

The Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) was established in 2021 under General Statute §139-65 to assist in protecting and restoring North Carolina's waterways. The program provides funding for the maintenance and repair of waterways and drainage structures to reduce flooding, improve stream health and reduce risks to life and property. StRAP projects also help reduce erosion and improve water flow and quality which helps improve natural habitat for fishing, boating and other recreation.

Eligible Projects

StRAP funding addresses a variety of issues affecting flood risk and stream health. StRAP funding can be used toward:

- Stream debris removal
- Streambank stabilization
- Stream restoration
- Instream sediment removal
- Repair of P.L. 566 Small Watershed Structures (such as repairs to spillways and dams, replacement of tide gates and removal of sediment from impoundments).

StRAP is a flexible funding solution that can be used for both disaster recovery and routine maintenance of waterways.

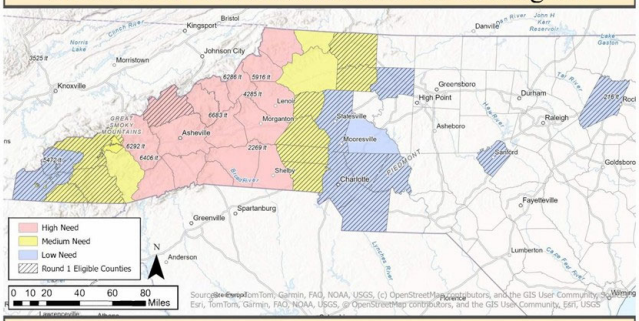


Burke County Impact

Total funding allocation: $1,630,000-6th highest amount in the state

19 approved sites

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program



StRAP Round 1 Application Window:
December 8 - February 6

StRAP Round 1 Eligible Counties

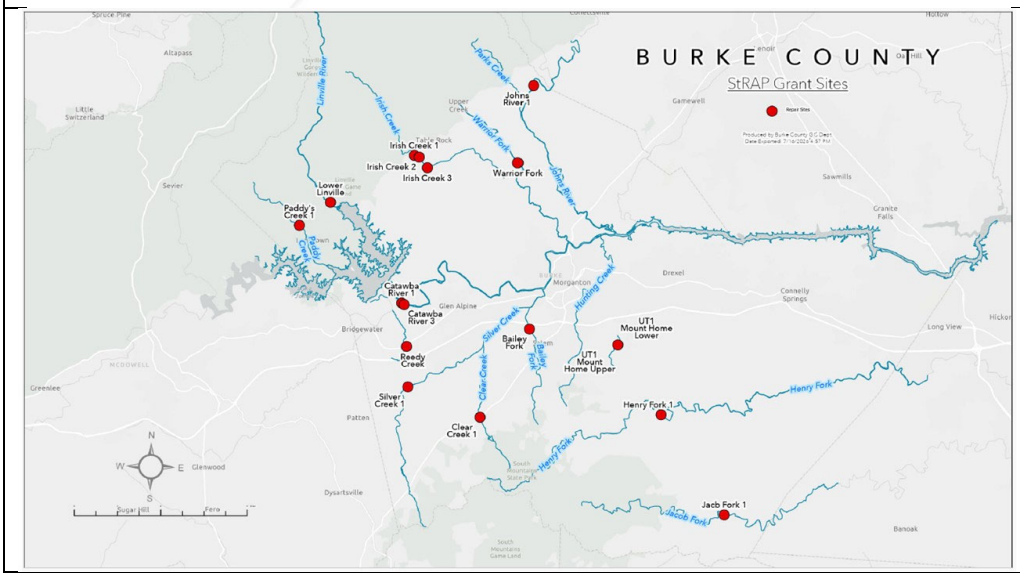
Alexander	Forsyth	Lincoln	Stanly
Cabarrus	Gaston	Macon	Surry
Cherokee	Graham	Madison	Swain
Clay	Iredell	Mecklenburg	Union
Catawba	Lee	Nash	Yadkin

Allocation Amounts
(% of funds going to High/Medium/Low Need Counties)

70/20/10

10% withheld for supplemental allocation

$23,940,000 across all high-need counties, $1,496,250 each
$6,840,000 across all medium-need counties, $526,154 each
$3,420,000 across all low-need counties, $310,909 each





Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a motion.

Motion: To adopt Budget Amendment No. 2 as presented.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

Budget Amendment No. 2 reads as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2
FY 26-27

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2

REVENUES AND EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
REVENUES			
100-61000-01-435201	State Funding- Streamflow Rehab	$1,630,000	
EXPENSES			
100-61000-35-533404	Streamflow Rehabilitation Grant	$1,630,000	
Purpose: This Amendment recognizes an additional $1,630,000 from the state. This funding will be utilized over a multi-year period on 19 approved sites for soil and streambank restoration efforts.			
A copy of these amendments shall be furnished to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer of the County to be kept on file for direction in the disbursement of funds.			

Adopted this 20th day of July 2026.

/s/: Randy Burns
Randy Burns, Acting Chair
Burke County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Morgan Buchanan
Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

RECESS OF THE MEETING
Due to an audio issue, Acting Chair Burns called for a brief recess of the meeting at 7:27 p.m. IT staff promptly diagnosed and resolved the issue, and the meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE ANIMAL SERVICES BOARD
Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board, explained that the Animal Advisory Board serves as a citizen advisory board to the Burke County Board of Commissioners on matters related to animal welfare and the operation of the County animal shelter. The Board reviews animal-related issues, provides recommendations on policies and ordinances, and promotes public awareness and support for Animal Services programs.

The terms of appointment end on July 31, 2026, for the following board members:

- Seat No. 1- 501c3/Rescue or Foster Agency: Gwen Hood
- Seat No. 3- Board of Health Member or designee (excluding director): Gwen Stephens
- Seat No. 5- Law Enforcement (excluding Animal Control): Jeff Robinson
- Seat No. 7- At-Large/Pet Owner: Ms. Denise Smith

The terms are for two (2) years and will expire June 30, 2028.

Note: An application was not received for Jeff Robinson.

Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a

motion.

Motion: To reappoint Gwen Hood to Seat No. 1 (501c3 Rescue or Foster Agency), Gwen Stephens to Seat No. 3 (Board of Health Member or Designee), and Denise Smith to Seat No. 7 (At-Large/ Pet Owner) for 2-year terms ending June 30, 2028.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC)
Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board, stated that the JCPC serves to promote public safety and juvenile delinquency prevention, intervention, and treatment through the operation of a seamless comprehensive juvenile justice system.

The following seats have a term that expired June 30, 2026:

- Seat No. 4: D Attorney or Designee, Kaylee Wohlenhaus
- Seat No. 15: Chief Dist. Court Judge or Designee, Scott Conrad
- Seat No. 24: At Large, Chris Norman

Note: An application was not received from Kaylee Wohlenhaus.

Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a motion.

Motion: To reappoint the following applications to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for a 2-year term ending June 30, 2028: Seat No. 15: Chief Dist. Court Judge or Designee, Scott Conrad, and Seat No. 24: At Large, Chris Norman.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENT TO THE REGIONAL AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board, reported that the Older Americans Act of 1965 requires Area Agencies on Aging to establish an advisory council consisting of older individuals to advise the Area Agency on all matters relating to the development of an area / regional plan on aging and the administration of the plan and the operations conducted under the plan. At least 51% of advisory council members must be age 60+ and include minority individuals as well as individuals residing in rural areas. Advisory Council Members are appointed by County Commissions from each of the four (4) counties that comprise Region E (Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba).

The current council consists of 16 members who assist the Area Agency on Aging by providing direction for programming and services for adults ages 60 and over who reside in the region. The council meets quarterly at the Western Piedmont Council of Governments in Hickory. Council members serve as the “eyes and ears” of their communities and must be aware of the needs of older adults in their respective counties, as well as being familiar with existing services / programs that may prove beneficial to the senior population.

Rosie O'Hearn is currently a Burke County appointee who has a term expiring June 30, 2026. This was a request to reappoint Ms. O'Hearn.

3	Rosie O'Hearn	A-UT	7/19/2022
		R	7/16/2024
		TE	6/30/2026

Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a motion.

Motion: To reappoint Rosie O'Hearn to the Regional Aging Advisory Committee Seat No. 3 for a 2-year term ending June 30, 2028.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

TAX - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

Travis Isaacs, Tax Administrator, presented the Tax Collection Report for the period ending June 30, 2026, as follows:

Year-to-Date Revenue Collections 2025-2026

	Budget	Actuals To Date	% Collected	
Current Year Taxes	$ 60,495,871	$61,360,155	101%	$ 864,284
Discounts	(350,000)	(346,436)		
Delinquent Taxes	700,000	720,782	102%	20,872
Interest & Fees	329,000	508,544	154%	179,544
	$ 61,174,871	$ 62,243,045		

Total Levy for 2025-2026 Tax Year

	Current Year Amended Levy	Current Year Collected	% Collected	Remaining
Property Taxes	$55,363,828	$54,463,015.00	98%	$900,913
Motor Vehicles	$5,456,857	$6,499,700	119%	$1,042,843
Fire Tax	$6,506,939	$6,408,920	98%	$98,019

Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a motion.

Motion: To accept the Tax Collection Report as presented.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

TAX - TAX RELEASE AND REFUND REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

Travis Isaacs, Tax Administrator, presented the Tax Release and Refund Report for the period ending June 30, 2026, as follows:

Tax System Refunds and Releases			
Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
$255,767.92	$22,194.21	$233,783.31	$0

VTS Refunds Over $100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	$411.28

Payee Name	Refund Description	Refund Reason	Create Date	Tax Jurisd	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
BRADSHAW, MARY KATHRYN	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0090404288-2025-2025-0000	Situs error	4/9/2026	01	TAX	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
CARVER, JOSHUA SHANE	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0086944304-2025-2025-0000	Situs error	4/22/2026	01	TAX	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
DRAUGHN, DAVID RALPH	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0090381366-2025-2025-0000-01	Over Assessment	4/8/2026	01	TAX	($80.80)	$0.00	($80.80)
SIMPLY GREEN RECYCLING INC	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0088880585-2025-2025-0000-00	Exempt Property	4/7/2026	01	TAX	($555.00)	$0.00	($555.00)
							Refund Total	$1637.11

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount($)	Release Amount($)	Bill Amount after Release($)
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Adjustment**						
0000025321-2026-2025-0000-00-REG	HOWARD, JASON M	4/24/2026	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/24/2026	$ 436.14	$ 92.00	$344.14
0000055297-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	WALKER-PAYNE, BARBARA ANN	7/15/2024	AMANDA CONLEY	4/29/2026	$ 4,615.59	$ 435.54	$4,180.05
0000055297-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	WALKER-PAYNE, BARBARA ANN	7/1/2025	AMANDA CONLEY	4/29/2026	$ 4,579.16	$ 431.65	$4,147.51
Subtotal					**$ 9,630.89**	**$ 959.19**	**$8,671.70**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing**						
0024084789-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	WEST, BENJAMIN DAVID	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/13/2026	$ 49.58	$ 49.58	$0.00
0024085257-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MATHIS, CLAY	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/10/2026	$ 109.58	$ 109.58	$0.00
0024085262-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	JONES, RANDY	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/10/2026	$ 128.21	$ 128.21	$0.00
0024085572-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SMITH, TYLAR JAYMES	8/29/2025	LINDA WILBUR	4/6/2026	$ 5.62	$ 5.62	$0.00
0024085625-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	JOHNSON, MICHELE DUNCAN	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/16/2026	$ 17.12	$ 17.12	$0.00
0024086046-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	D A M SOLUTIONS SERVICESSMLLC	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/17/2026	$ 108.25	$ 108.25	$0.00
0024086197-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	GODFREY, BOBBY EVERETTE III	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/2/2026	$ 221.08	$ 221.08	$0.00
0024086533-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	STOGNER, JOEY SEAN JR	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/2/2026	$ 141.48	$ 141.48	$0.00
0024086904-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	DILLINGHAM, CALOBE SHANE	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	3/31/2026	$ 196.08	$ 196.08	$0.00
0024086958-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MIGUEL, ANTONIO PEDRO	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/10/2026	$ 13.32	$ 13.32	$0.00
0024087249-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	LOWERY, MADELINE ADARA	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/8/2026	$ 54.23	$ 54.23	$0.00
0024087292-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SEXTON, PEYTON MATTHEW	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/8/2026	$ 35.27	$ 35.27	$0.00
0024087370-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	REITZEL, HEATHER EUGENIA	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/2/2026	$ 57.75	$ 57.75	$0.00
0024087606-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	THOMPSON, SUSAN SUTTLES	8/29/2025	LOUISE JOHNSON	4/8/2026	$ 12.02	$ 12.02	$0.00
0024087612-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	GREENE, JACOB SCOTT	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/16/2026	$ 47.22	$ 47.22	$0.00
0024087792-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SETZER, MARISSA LANE	8/29/2025	LOUISE JOHNSON	4/28/2026	$ 29.41	$ 29.41	$0.00
0024087957-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SHERLIN, JAMIE CHRISTOPHER	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/6/2026	$ 76.18	$ 76.18	$0.00
0024087992-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	HERNANDEZ RODRIGUEZ, BRENDY	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	3/31/2026	$ 69.71	$ 69.71	$0.00
0024088088-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	BAKER, ANNA ALISE	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/1/2026	$ 76.31	$ 76.31	$0.00
0024088100-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	WHEELER, SAMUEL BRIAN	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/8/2026	$ 7.63	$ 7.63	$0.00
0024088346-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	WHEELER, SAMUEL BRIAN	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/8/2026	$ 75.56	$ 75.56	$0.00
0024088503-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	GREENE, BENJAMIN RAY	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/28/2026	$ 97.64	$ 97.64	$0.00
0024089463-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	WHEELER, SAMUEL BRIAN	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/8/2026	$ 101.01	$ 101.01	$0.00
0024089548-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	BOLDEN, CAROLYN ABERNATHY	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/8/2026	$ 47.41	$ 47.41	$0.00
0024089648-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	BLACK, ALICIA MONIQUE	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/21/2026	$ 94.46	$ 94.46	$0.00
0024089714-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	HIGGINS, TOBY SCOTT	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/7/2026	$ 11.10	$ 11.10	$0.00
0024089866-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MILLER, ASHLEY RENEE	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/22/2026	$ 67.00	$ 67.00	$0.00
0024089915-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	LIVINGSTON, SHELLY MARIE	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/2/2026	$ 33.30	$ 33.30	$0.00
0024090521-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MENDOZA LOPEZ, ANIBAL ELISEO	8/29/2025	LINDA WILBUR	4/8/2026	$ 14.23	$ 14.23	$0.00
0024090599-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	BROTHWELL, DARREN JAMES	8/29/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/17/2026	$ 4.05	$ 4.05	$0.00
0024090847-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	ALEX'S TIRES AND MOTORSPORTS	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	3/31/2026	$ 132.64	$ 132.64	$0.00
0024091112-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SEXTON, PEYTON MATTHEW	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/8/2026	$ 90.20	$ 90.20	$0.00
0024091501-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	BODDE, DYLAN MARTIN	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/6/2026	$ 92.78	$ 92.78	$0.00
0024091523-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MACALLISTER, ROSE TIREE	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/13/2026	$ 168.72	$ 168.72	$0.00
0024091803-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	KIRKLAND, THOMAS LEIGH	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/1/2026	$ 45.36	$ 45.36	$0.00
0024092486-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SIGMON, KELLY BROOKE	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	3/31/2026	$ 14.30	$ 14.30	$0.00
0024092659-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	M&G FARMS & HAULING LLC	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/29/2026	$ 48.33	$ 48.33	$0.00
0024092925-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	BOICE, KYLE JAMES	8/29/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/24/2026	$ 67.13	$ 67.13	$0.00
Subtotal					**$ 2,661.27**	**$ 2,661.27**	**$0.00**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Exempt Property**						
0024098825-2026-2025-0000-00-REG	WALKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	2/16/2026	LOENDORF JOSEPH	4/7/2026	$ 15.06	$ 15.06	$0.00
Subtotal					**$ 15.06**	**$ 15.06**	**$0.00**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Not in Burke County**						
0024033369-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	INTEGRITY FLEET MANAGEMENT LLC	7/1/2019	LINDA WILBUR	4/9/2026	$ 103.21	$ 103.21	$0.00
0024033369-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	INTEGRITY FLEET MANAGEMENT LLC	7/1/2020	LINDA WILBUR	4/9/2026	$ 92.88	$ 92.88	$0.00
0024033369-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	INTEGRITY FLEET MANAGEMENT LLC	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	4/9/2026	$ 83.60	$ 83.60	$0.00
0024033369-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	INTEGRITY FLEET MANAGEMENT LLC	7/1/2022	LINDA WILBUR	4/9/2026	$ 83.60	$ 83.60	$0.00

0024033369-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	INTEGRITY FLEET MANAGEMENT LLC	7/1/2022	LINDA WILBUR	4/9/2026	$ 83.60	$ 83.60	$0.00
0024033369-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	INTEGRITY FLEET MANAGEMENT LLC	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	4/9/2026	$ 67.36	$ 67.36	$0.00
0024033369-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	INTEGRITY FLEET MANAGEMENT LLC	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	4/9/2026	$ 67.36	$ 67.36	$0.00
0024033369-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	INTEGRITY FLEET MANAGEMENT LLC	7/1/2025	LINDA WILBUR	4/9/2026	$ 66.76	$ 66.76	$0.00
0024077303-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	CLARKE, CORY PETER	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/21/2026	$ 292.28	$ 292.28	$0.00
0024085044-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	ROGERS, BENJAMIN DALE	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/10/2026	$ 6.86	$ 6.86	$0.00
Subtotal					**$ 863.91**	**$ 863.91**	**$0.00**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Penalty Correction**						
0024085260-2025-2025-0000-01-REG	JNH PROPERTIES LLC	7/1/2025	LINDA WILBUR	4/29/2026	$ 7,020.75	$ 638.25	$6,382.50
Subtotal					**$ 7,020.75**	**$ 638.25**	**$6,382.50**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Situs Correction**						
0024052376-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	PATTON, DOUGLAS	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	4/1/2026	$ 6.64	$ 6.64	$0.00
0024052376-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	PATTON, DOUGLAS	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/1/2026	$ 6.58	$ 6.58	$0.00
Subtotal					**$ 13.22**	**$ 13.22**	**$0.00**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Sold/Traded**						
0024023791-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	ROMEO, TRACEY	7/1/2022	KAYLA BURGESS	4/21/2026	$ 6.12	$ 6.12	$0.00
0024023791-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	ROMEO, TRACEY	7/3/2023	KAYLA BURGESS	4/21/2026	$ 6.16	$ 6.16	$0.00
0024023791-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	ROMEO, TRACEY	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	4/21/2026	$ 6.16	$ 6.16	$0.00
0024023791-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	ROMEO, TRACEY	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/21/2026	$ 6.11	$ 0.56	$5.55
0024023791-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	ROMEO, TRACEY	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	4/21/2026	$ 5.55	$ 5.55	$0.00
Subtotal					**$ 30.10**	**$ 24.55**	**$5.55**
Total					**$ 20,235.20**	**$ 5,175.45**	**$15,059.75**

Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a motion.

Motion: To accept the Tax Release and Refund Report as presented.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

DSS - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE FOR PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 2026

Korey Fisher-Wellman, DSS Director, presented the monthly departmental update as follows:



PERSONNEL

Hiring & Separation Report

May 2026

Current Openings:

Position Title	Position #:	Status
IMC II	51783	
IMC II	51403	
IMC II	51649	
IMC II	51395	
IMC III Leadworker	51769	
IMC II	51375	
IMC III Leadworker	51367	
SOCIAL WORKER IA&T	51778	
SOCIAL WORKER III	51466	
SOCIAL WORKER III	51468	
PROCESSING ASST IV	51400	
SOCIAL WORKER IA&T	51905	

Separations:

Total = 5

Number of Hirings:

Total = 6

IMC III = 2

Social Worker III = 1

Social Worker IA&T = 3

BURKECOUNTY

OPERATIONS

Economic Services MOU Data

METRICS PER MOU						
	FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES					
		MOU MEASURE	95%	95%		
ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APP TIMELINESS RATE- REGULAR	APP TIMELINESS RATE-EXPEDITE	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE		
9,754	5,091	Achieved	Achieved	Acheived		
WORK FIRST FAMILY ASSISTANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES						
ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	MOU MEASURE	95%	95%		
			APPLICATION TIMELINESS	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE		
84	51		Achieved	85.71		
MEDICAID		MOU MEASURE	90	90	95	
TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES		REPORT CARD MAD	REPORT CARD OTHER	Straight Through Processing	
28,121	23,015		Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
SPECIAL ASSISTANCE						
	MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE			85%	85%	
SA ACTIVE CASES				SAA TIMELINESS APPLICATIONS	SAD TIMELINESS APPLICATIONS	
248				Achieved	Achieved	
ENERGY PROGRAMS						
	MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE				95%	95%
	CIP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED	LIEAP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED			% PROCESSED TIMELY -NO SOURCE 1 DAY	% PROCESSED TIMELY -WITH SOURCE 2 D
	26	0			Achieved	Achieved
CHILD CARE SUBSIDY						
		PERFORMANCE MEASURE		95%		
	ACTIVE CASES			APPLICATION TIMELINESS		
	393			Achieved		

Economic Services Update

MEDICAID

	AGED OR DISABLED ADULT ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS Does not include MXP or FP cases	ADULT ACTIVE CASES *Does not include MXP or FP cases	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE CASES	TOTAL MEDICAID APPLICATIONS TAKEN	TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS	TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS WITHOUT WAIVERS	CAP REFERRALS	LTC REFERRALS	TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS	TOTAL NEMT TRIPS	REPORT CARD MAD	REPORT CARD OTHER	RECERT COMPLETION TIMELINESS RATE	Straight Through Processing	Total
MOU MEASURE												90	90	95		
MAY	5351	7,658	23365	15,147	382	*	*	3	9	28,716	713	93%	97%		100%	97%
JUN	5338	7,683	23515	15,235	346	1540		0	17	28,851	698	96%	94%		100%	95%
JUL	5327	7,734	23,544	15,333	382	1435		2	18	28,873	*	93%	95%		100%	95%
AUG	5283	7,753	23448	15,418	325	1386		1	12	28,731	823	100%	96%		100%	96%
SEP	5289	7,744	23471	15,459	378	1586		2	16	28,740	756	100%	94%		100%	94%
OCT	5311	7,747	23422	16,290	398	1606		1	16	28,733	638	100%	98%		100%	98%
NOV	5342	7,755	23,381	15,465	472	1825		2	12	28,723	624	100%	96%		100%	97%
DEC	5313	7,761	23,324	15,542	560	1890		3	15	28,637	832	100%	95%		100%	96%
JAN	5319	7,748	23194	15,527	531	503		2	19	28,513	606	100%	93%		100%	93%
FEB	5318	7,781	23123	15,439	405	1893		2	10	28,441	809	100%	87%		100%	88%waiver
MAR	*	7,826	*	15,420	504	1767		3	11	28,446	933	90%	94%	*	100%	94%
APR	5368	7,836	22876	15,301	413	1651		5	20	28,246	849	92%	95%	*	100%	94%
MAY	5369	7,791	22750	15,224	456	1423		2	15	28,121	910	100%	94%	*	100%	94%

Economic Services Update

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

	ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APPLICATIONS TAKEN	APP TIMELINESS RATE-REGULAR	APP TIMELINESS RATE-EXPEDITE	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE	RECERTS COMPLETED	FNS EBT BENEFITS
MOU MEASURE				95%	95%	95%		
MAY	11,002	5732	576	98.11%	99.15%	99.13%	692	1,808,941.00
JUN	10,804	5,597	598	97.69%	92.73%	98.19%	553	1,783,246.00
JUL	10,715	5,556	594	96.83%	96.84%	98.74%	548	1,760,696.00
AUG	10,783	5602	558	99.52%	99.31%	98.86%	528	1,778,789.00
SEP	10,794	5605	580	99.13%	97.98%	99.41%	509	1,752,253.00
OCT	10,695	5568	512	99..07%	99.02%	98.65%	445	1,797,705.00
NOV	10,418	5445	417	99.15%	98.81%	99.70%	336	1,759,731.00
DEC	10,269	5389	479	100.00%	100%	99.36%	336	1,721,688.20
JAN	10,112	5307	505	96%	99.09%	97.51%	482	1,662,857.00
FEB	9,992	5228	542	100.00%	98.15%	98.15%	432	1,645,153.00
MAR	9,889	5197	543	98.45%	99.28%	99.21%	505	1,647,954.00
APR	9,805	5142	500	99.45%	97.98%	99.49%	587	1,618,144.00
MAY	9,754	5091	540	100.00%	100.00%	99.00%	564	1,645,145.00

ADULT SERVICES UPDATE



Guardianship
- Total Wards: 76
- Contracted Wards: 17

SAIH (Special Assistance In-Home)
- Active Cases: 60
- State Average Caseload: 25-30

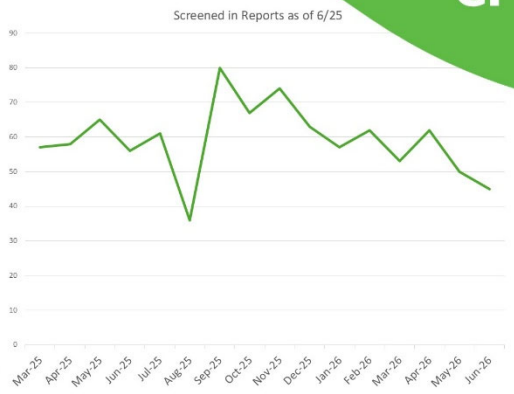
CAP (Community Alternatives Program)
- Current Enrollment: 129
- Waiting list for CAP: 37

May APS Data

Category	Number	Notes
Total APS Reports Received	22	
APS Reports Screened In	12	Reports meeting criteria for an investigation
Substantiated Cases	3	
Confirmed Cases	7	Includes substantiations and other confirmations
Cases Opened for Services	3	Ongoing support and case management
Outreach Cases Assigned	4	Proactive engagement with at-risk adults
Service Referrals	5	Referrals for supportive community services
Guardianship Referrals	3	Referrals for potential legal guardianship

BURKECOUNTY

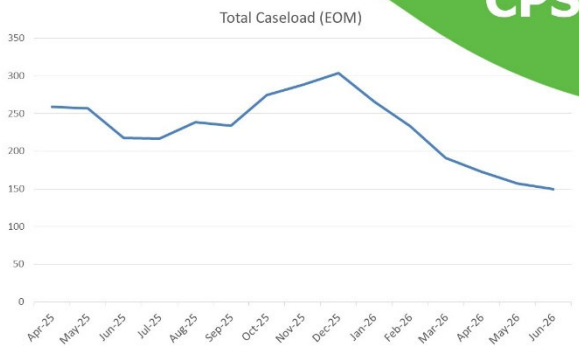
CPS Reports



- September 2025 intake peak
- As of 6/25, 45 Screen-In's for June

BURKECOUNTY

CPS CASELOADS



- Caseload currently at 150 as of 6/25/2026
- 50% reduction within since 12/25

BURKECOUNTY

FOSTER CARE UPDATE

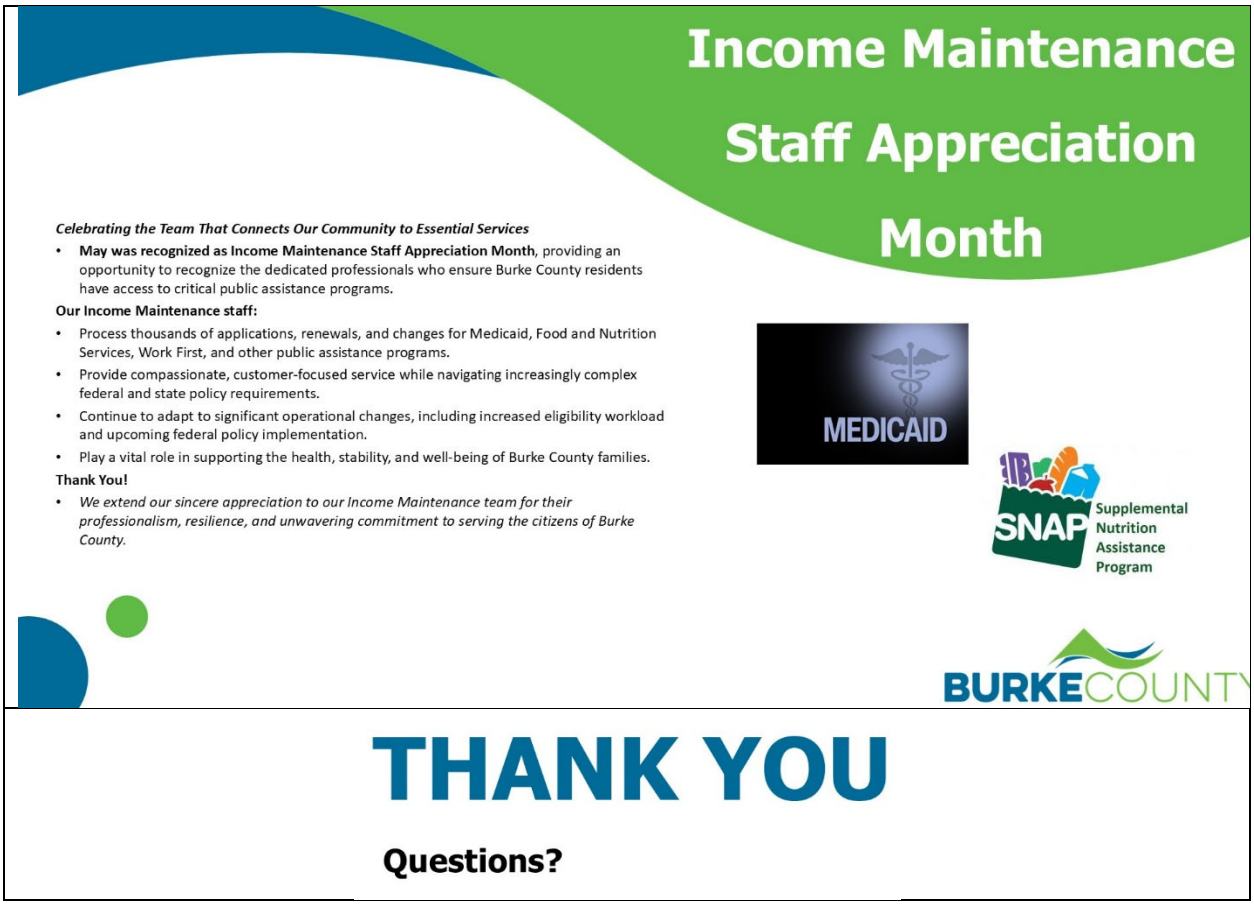


Every child deserves a family

Foster Care Snapshot – Burke County

- Total children in foster care: 220
- New entries into care this period: 11
- Exits from care this period: 2

BURKECOUNTY



Acting Chair Burns opened the floor for questions and comments.

Commissioner Stroud commended DSS staff for their dedication and the progress being made to improve services for children and families. Commissioner Barrier asked about staffing for children requiring overnight supervision at DSS and whether volunteers could assist in that role. Mr. Fisher-Wellman explained that, due to background check requirements and other regulations governing the supervision of children, the Department relies on trained part-time employees rather than volunteers. He noted that they maintain a pool of approximately 10 part-time staff members, supplemented as needed by other employees, to provide continuous supervision. In response to Commissioner Barrier's question regarding opportunities for community involvement, Mr. Fisher-Wellman stated that interested individuals may apply for part-time positions when vacancies occur and, if selected, must successfully complete the required screening and background check process before serving in the role. He added that the current staffing pool has generally met the Department's needs but emphasized that extended placements of children in the office remain challenging regardless of the staffing model.

There being no further discussion, Acting Chair Burns called for a motion.

Motion: To accept the May DSS report as presented.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

BOC - REPORT & COMMENTS
Acting Chair Burns shared information regarding upcoming Board meetings. He also invited youth groups to sign up to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at future Board of Commissioners meetings and encouraged members of the clergy and other faith leaders to contact the Clerk to deliver the invocation. Additionally, he encouraged citizens to help keep Burke County clean by refraining from littering and reporting areas of roadside litter through the Community Beautification section of the County's website.

Acting Chair Burns then opened the floor for reports and comments from Board members and professional staff. There being no additional comments, he proceeded to the next item of business.

RESULT:	**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, announced the following vacancies on county boards or committees as follows:

- Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
- America 250 NC Committee
- Burke County Public Health Advisory Board
- Burke Senior Center Advisory Council
- Dangerous Dog Appeal Board
- Drexel Planning Board - ETJ Alternate
- Hickory Regional Planning Commission
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Partners Health Management’s Human Rights Committee

Both the Clerk and Acting Chair Burns encouraged citizens to participate and get involved.

RESULT:	**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

CLOSED SESSION
Acting Chair Burns announced that a closed session is needed and called for a motion.

Motion: To go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential, to discuss threatened or pending litigation, to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to discuss economic development matters, to discuss contractual matters (land acquisition) and to discuss personnel matters as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a) (1), (3), (4), (5) and (6).

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Acting Chair
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

Motion: To come out of closed session.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mike Stroud, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION
Acting Chair Burns announced that no action was taken.

ADJOURN
Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Brian Barrier, Commissioner
AYES:	Randy Burns, Brian Barrier, and Mike Stroud
ABSENT:	Jeffrey C. Brittain and Phil Smith

Approved this 6th day of August 2026.

_____
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

_____
Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners