City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: June 9, 2026

Staff Resources:

- Tony McDowell, Finance & Management Services Director
- Heather Curry, Assistant Budget & Performance Manager

Action Requested:

- Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the UNC School of Government to participate in the North Carolina Benchmarking Project for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028 at a cost of $10,000 per year, for a total of $30,000 over three years.

Background:

- The UNC School of Government annually convenes a group of NC municipalities to participate in the North Carolina Benchmarking Project. Participating cities and towns compare performance data to understand how efficiently and effectively they are providing core municipal services and also learn from each other by sharing best practices and innovative ideas.
- The City of Asheville participated in the NC Benchmarking Project from at least 2005 until 2019. The City rejoined the Project in 2023.
- This resolution would authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with the UNC School of Government to participate in the next three years of the NC Benchmarking Project at an annual cost of $10,000 per year.
- Funding is included in the Finance & Management Services Department's annual operating budget.

Vendor Outreach:

- Vendor outreach was not performed for this work. No other organization has the network or connections with North Carolina municipalities to convene this group or provide this service.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A Well-planned and Livable Community
- A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment
- Transportation and Accessibility
- Fiscally Resilient City

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- People and Environment

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- Participation in the NC Benchmarking Project costs $10,000 per year, for a three-year total of $30,000.
- Funding will be budgeted each year in the Finance and Management Services operating budget

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the UNC School of Government to participate in the North Carolina Benchmarking Project for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028 at a cost of $10,000 per year, for a total of $30,000 over three years.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the UNC School of Government to participate in the North Carolina Benchmarking Project for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028 at a cost of $10,000 per year, for a total of $30,000 over three years.

Whereas, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 160A-20.1 to contract with and appropriate money to any person, association, or corporation in order to carry out any public purpose authorized by law; and

Whereas, the City has an interest in measuring performance, continuous improvement of services, and learning from other municipalities; and

Whereas, the UNC School of Government convenes the North Carolina Benchmarking Project for the purposes described above, and

Whereas, participation in the North Carolina Benchmarking Project costs $10,000 annually.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is authorized to enter into an agreement with the UNC School of Government to participate in the North Carolina Benchmarking Project for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028 at a cost of $10,000 per year, for a total of $30,000 over three years.

Read, approved and adopted this 9th day of June, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk