

**Cleveland County Board of Commissioners**  
**May 20, 2025**

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met on this date, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

**PRESENT:** Kevin Gordon, Chairman  
Deb Hardin, Vice-Chair  
Doug Bridges, Commissioner  
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner  
Tony Berry, Commissioner  
Jonathan Sink, County Attorney  
David Cotton, County Manager  
Kerri Melton, County Manager's Office  
Tiffany Hansen, Health Department Director  
Sandra Orvig, Foothills Shooting Range Director  
Rebecca Johnson, Social Services Director  
Philip Steffen, Finance Director  
Betsy Harnage, Register of Deeds  
Tommy McNeilly, Emergency Medical Services Director  
Clifton Philbeck, Board of Elections Director  
Jason Falls, Business Development Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Bridges led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hardin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Berry and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the agenda as presented.***

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Clerk to the Board included Minutes from the ***May 6, 2025***, regular Commissioners' meeting in Board members' packets.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and passed unanimously by the Board to, ***approve the Minutes as written.***

**TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT: APRIL 2025**

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §105-350.7, the Tax Collector shall submit to the governing body, at each of its regular meetings, a report to include the amount collected on each year's taxes with which she is charged, the amount remaining uncollected, and the steps being taken to encourage payment of uncollected taxes. The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding taxes collected during ***April 2025.***

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and passed unanimously by the Board to, ***approve the April 2025 monthly tax report submitted by the Tax Collector.***



2218	5/1/2025	011	506	Social Services Admin	Btd 2218 To Cover Accounts Over Budget.	Advertising/Promotions	\$ (1,500.00)
2218	5/1/2025	011	506	Social Services Admin	Btd 2218 To Cover Accounts Over Budget.	Maint Contracts-Equip	\$ 35,000.00
2219	5/1/2025	010	421	Information Technology	Btd 2219 County Network Infrastructure Hardware Purchase For Replacement Of End Of Life Hardware.	Controlled Property Exp	\$ 2,210.00
2219	5/1/2025	010	421	Information Technology	Btd 2219 County Network Infrastructure Hardware Purchase For Replacement Of End Of Life Hardware.	License/Permit/Certificate	\$ (2,210.00)
2220	5/5/2025	012	539	Family Planning	Transfer Funds To Cover Rx And Credit Card Fees	Prescription Drugs	\$ 5,000.00
2220	5/5/2025	012	539	Family Planning	Transfer Funds To Cover Rx And Credit Card Fees	Lab Supplies	\$ 7,000.00
2220	5/5/2025	012	539	Family Planning	Transfer Funds To Cover Rx And Credit Card Fees	Rental/Lease Equip/Other	\$ (500.00)
2220	5/5/2025	012	539	Family Planning	Transfer Funds To Cover Rx And Credit Card Fees	Contracted Services	\$ 500.00
2220	5/5/2025	012	539	Family Planning	Transfer Funds To Cover Rx And Credit Card Fees	Hospital Insurance	\$ (12,000.00)
2222	5/1/2025	010	426	Facilities Maintenance	Btd 2222 To Cover The Capital Equipment Shortage After Purchase Approval. Maintenance Bldg And Grounds Does	Maint Bldg/Grounds	\$ (35,000.00)
2222	5/1/2025	010	426	Facilities Maintenance	Btd 2222 To Cover The Capital Equipment Shortage After Purchase Approval. Maintenance Bldg And Grounds Does	Capital Equipment	\$ 35,000.00
2223	5/9/2025	026	454	E911 Telephone System	Move Funds To Cover Dept Supplies Ye Purchases	Departmental Supply	\$ 1,094.00
2223	5/9/2025	026	454	E911 Telephone System	Move Funds To Cover Dept Supplies Ye Purchases	Emerg & Contingency	\$ (1,094.00)
2224	5/9/2025	054	473	Disposal/Landfill	Btd 2224 To Fund Lsc Quote And Negative Balance In Account 241.00	Motor Fuels/Oils	\$ (101,100.00)
2224	5/9/2025	054	473	Disposal/Landfill	Btd 2224 To Fund Lsc Quote And Negative Balance In Account 241.00	Maint Bldg/Grounds	\$ 101,100.00
2225	5/9/2025	010	470	Public Firing Range	Btd 2225	Departmental Supply	\$ (8,000.00)
2225	5/9/2025	010	470	Public Firing Range	Btd 2225	Travel/Training	\$ (400.00)
2225	5/9/2025	010	470	Public Firing Range	Btd 2225	Contracted Services	\$ (8,000.00)

BUD #	DATE SUBMITTED BY DEPT	Fund #	DEPT #	DEPT NAME	EXPLANATION	Account Description	BUDGET AMOUNT
2225	5/9/2025	010	470	Public Firing Range	Btd 2225	Maint Contracts-Equip	\$ 20.00
2225	5/9/2025	010	470	Public Firing Range	Btd 2225	Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 1,200.00
2225	5/9/2025	010	470	Public Firing Range	Btd 2225	Professional Serv	\$ (2,000.00)
2225	5/9/2025	010	470	Public Firing Range	Btd 2225	Prap Merchandise	\$ 19,000.00
2225	5/9/2025	010	470	Public Firing Range	Btd 2225	Concealed Weapons Classes/Meals	\$ 900.00
2225	5/9/2025	010	470	Public Firing Range	Btd 2225	Capital Equipment	\$ (2,720.00)
2226	5/9/2025	010	445	Emergency Management	Btd 2226 Moving Money For Eq2153 Supplies	Awards/Appreciation	\$ (4,574.00)
2226	5/9/2025	010	445	Emergency Management	Btd 2226 Moving Money For Eq2153 Supplies	Capital Equipment	\$ 4,574.00
2228	5/9/2025	010	418	Elections	Btd 2228 Transfer Funds For Shortages	Maint Contracts-Equip	\$ (1,000.00)
2228	5/9/2025	010	418	Elections	Btd 2228 Transfer Funds For Shortages	Professional Serv	\$ 1,000.00
1200	5/9/2025	054	474	Collections/Manned Sites	To Fund Solid Waste Camera System From Managers Contingency Fund	Contributions From Pri Fd	\$ 13,000.00
1200	5/9/2025	054	474	Collections/Manned Sites	To Fund Solid Waste Camera System From Managers	Controlled Property	\$ 13,000.00
1200	5/9/2025	010	890	Reimbursement Resolution	To Fund Solid Waste Camera System From Managers	Interfund Transfers	\$ 13,000.00
1200	5/9/2025	010	981	Fund Transfers	To Fund Solid Waste Camera System From Managers Contingency Fund	Emerg & Contingency	\$ (13,000.00)

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #069)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

Account Number	Project Code	Department/Account Name	Increase	Decrease
013.660.4.510.78		Employee Wellness Center/Wellness Tier 5	\$457,250	
013.660.5.230.01		Employee Wellness Center/Prescription Drugs	\$457,250	

**Explanation of Revisions:** Budget allocation of \$457,250 in drug rebates for employee drug purchases Tier 3 – 5.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #070)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

Account Number	Project Code	Department/Account Name	Increase	Decrease
010.497.4.350.00	08300-P432	TACC/State Govt Grants	\$90,417	
010.497.5.700.00	08300-P432	TACC/Grants	\$90,417	

**Explanation of Revisions:** Budget allocation of \$90,417 in additional grant funds for the FY25 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) funds from the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The total includes \$26,976 in Work First Funds that are normally budgeted for Social Services.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #071)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
012.540.4.310.40		WIC/Federal Govt Grants	\$19,299	
012.540.5.310.40		WIC/Travel-Training	\$19,299	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation of \$19,229 in additional grant funds from the North Carolina Division of Children and Family Well-Being WIC program due to the increased case load. Funds will be used towards travel and training expenses.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #072)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
012.547.4.350.00	01120-5318	CC4C-PCM/State Govt Grants	\$1,365	
012.547.5.310.00	01120-5318	CC4C-PCM/Travel-Training	\$1,365	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation of \$1,365 in additional grant funds from the Department of Health and Human Services Child Care Coordination Funds. Funds will be used towards travel and training expenses

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #073)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
012.537.4.350.37		Child Health/State Govt Grants	\$712	
012.537.5.210.00		Child Health/Department Supplies	\$712	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation of \$712 in grant funds from the Department of Health and Human Services for the Child Health Program. There is \$84,595 allocated in the budget. The Health Department requests the additional \$712 to match state funding. Funds will be used towards departmental supplies.

**BURNS HIGH SCHOOL: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #074)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.410.5.700.00		Outside Agency/Outside Agency Request	\$75,000	
010.410.4.991.00		General Revenue/Fund Balance Appropriated	\$75,000	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation of \$75,000 to Burns High School Booster Club for a new scoreboard.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE: REMOVAL OF SERVICE WEAPON FOR RETIRING DEPUTY KEITH MILLER AND DEPUTY DANNY HOWELL**

The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office wants to present retiring Deputy Keith Miller with his departmental service weapon. Deputy Miller will retire on June 1, 2025, after 21 years of full-time law enforcement service with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Miller's service weapon, requested removal from county inventory, is a Glock 9mm, model 17, serial# BDKT-843 —county asset#201294.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges and unanimously adopted by the Board, ***to approve the request to remove the service weapon from the county inventory and issue it to Deputy Keith Miller.***

The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office wants to present retiring Deputy Danny Howell with his departmental service weapon. Deputy Howell will retire on July 1, 2025, after 5 ½ years of full-time law enforcement service with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Howells's service weapon requested removal from the county inventory is a Glock 9mm, model 17, serial# BDKT-792 — county asset#201283.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the request to remove the service weapon from the county inventory and issue it to Deputy Danny Howell.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**COUNTY MANAGER’S FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026 RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

Chairman Gordon recognized County Manager David Cotton to present the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 – 2026 Recommended Budget. The budget set by Commissioners is a financial planning document that is the driving mechanism for providing community services and resources, funding personnel, and satisfying debts. The budget process begins early in the year and includes:

- North Carolina General Statutes §159.7 – Local Government Budget & Fiscal Control Act
- Board of County Commissioners
- Departments/Agencies/Offices
- External Funded Agencies
- Budget Team

The balanced revenue-neutral budget is based on multifunctional factors, including essential county services, emerging issues, and the Board’s strategic plan, while supporting the county’s community partners. The Commissioner’s top priorities for the FY 2025 – 2026 include:

- Continued partnership with Cleveland County Schools for implementation of the long-term school capital facility plan
- Maintain support for County Public Safety Departments through implementation of the five-year Public Safety Strategic Plan
- Commitment to the implementation of the County’s Capital Improvement Plan – using the Facility Master Plan to prioritize, including creating a Justice Center Campus, E911 Communications Center, Emergency Operations Center, and Elections Office
- Focus on community wellness by identifying health disparities and partnering with community agencies to improve Cleveland County’s health rankings
- Focus on being an Employer of Choice – competitive pay, modern policy & career progression

The FY 2025 – 2026 General Fund budget highlights include:

Revenues

- Ad Valorem Taxes (County) – \$59.58 Million
  - (~ \$1.52 Million/2.48% < FY 24 – 25)
- Local Option Sales Tax – \$16.44 Million
  - (~\$478 Thousand/3.00% > FY 24 – 25)
- Permits & Fees – \$4.27 Million
  - (~\$2.96 Million/222.44% > FY 24 – 25)
- Investment Earnings – \$4.00 Million
  - (~ \$2.00 Million/33.33% < FY 24 – 25)
- All Other Revenue Sources – Negligible Change

The General Fund is balanced on a revenue-neutral basis of 0.4050 cents. The proposed tax rate for the County is three cents below the revenue-neutral rate. Cleveland County Schools is balanced at a 0.1400-cent tax rate, and the Fire District tax is balanced at a 0.0700-cent tax rate. The recommended total tax rate reduction is 0.1425 cents. These adjustments are designed to ensure fiscal responsibility while maintaining essential services.

Ad Valorem:	FY 24 – 25	FY 25 – 26 <sup>1</sup>	Delta
<b>Total Tax Rate</b>	<b>0.6875¢</b>	<b>0.5450¢<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(-0.1425¢)</b>
County	0.5475¢	0.4050¢	(-0.1425¢)

Direct Support Public Schools	<u>0.1000¢</u>	<u>0.0350¢</u>	(-0.0650¢)
County (Adjusted)	<b>0.4475¢</b>	<b>0.3700¢</b>	<b>(-0.0775¢)</b>
Public Schools	0.1400¢	0.1400¢	(±0.0000¢)
Direct Support Public Schools	<u>0.1000¢</u>	<u>0.0350¢</u>	(-0.0650¢)
Public Schools (Total Tax Levy)	<b>0.2400¢</b>	<b>0.1750¢</b>	<b>(-0.0650¢)</b>
Fire District	0.0875¢	0.0700¢	(-0.0175¢)

A penny on the county's tax rate has equated to approximately \$1MM since 2022. That amount is projected to increase to \$1.47MM in FY 2025 – 2026. Roughly two-thirds of the general fund revenue comes from ad valorem and local sales taxes. The state mandates that all North Carolina counties provide residents with services such as the school system, Social Services, and the Sheriff's Office. Those services also have mandated funding allocations, which are factored into the budget. Public safety, human services, and education expenditures comprise 63.50% of the county's budget.

Next, Mr. Cotton reviewed the FY 2025 – 2026 general fund expenditures. These include costs such as salaries, new positions, and departmental needs.

#### Expenditures – General Fund

- Department/Office/Agency & Externally Funded Agency Funding Requests (Unedited)
  - \$141.40 Million
- Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Budget
  - \$113.49 Million
- County Manager's Recommendation
  - \$111.34 Million
  - Δ - \$22.61 Million/16.90% < FY 25 – 26 Unedited Requests
  - Δ - \$2.15 Million/1.89% < FY 24 – 25 Budget
- All Funds – \$240.3 Million

#### Expenditures

- Inherent Overtime
- Personnel Recommendations
- Employer of Choice
  - Strategic Investments
  - Training & Credentialing
  - Recruitment & Retention
- Thirty Position Requests
  - Eight Position Recommendations
    - Fire Inspector
    - Housekeeper/Custodian (6)
    - Voting Systems Technician


#### Expenditures

- Capital Outlay Funding Recommendation – Follow Level Funding Plan – Vehicle Replacement Plan, Information Technology & Radio System Replacement Plan, Equipment Replacement, Asset Investment/Maintenance
- Educational Support Recommendations
  - Cleveland County Public Schools – \$35,032,272 (Teacher's Supplement, Annual Capital, Debt Service & Current Expense = FY 24 – 25)
  - Cleveland Community College – \$3,883,873 (+\$250,000 > FY 24 – 25 // Year 3 of 5)
- Community (External) Funded Agencies Recommendations – \$1,872,941

Lastly, Mr. Cotton reviewed the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund

- Solid Waste (Enterprise Fund)
  - Continuation of Fee Structure Adjustments per the Decennial Rate Stabilization Metric
  - Enterprise Total Budget – \$21,792,331 (\$9,782,288 > FY 24 – 25)
    - Primary Driver for Delta – Municipal Solid Waste Cell IV Construction

The following information and PowerPoint were presented to the Commissioners.



County of Cleveland  
NORTH CAROLINA  
"Making Our Community Better"

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026

BUDGET PRESENTATION

### INTRODUCTION

- Budget Process
- Commissioners' Guidance & Direction
- Mandates
- Revenues
- Expenditures
- Budget Overview
- Budget Summary
- Next Steps

### BUDGET PROCESS

North Carolina General Statutes § 159.7 – Local Government Budget & Fiscal Control Act

Board of County Commissioners

Departments/Agencies/Offices

External Funded Agencies

Budget Team

### CLEVELAND COUNTY – OUR VALUES

- High Performance:** We provide high quality, solution-focused customer services.
- Courage:** We demonstrate strength and commitment to persevere and withstand opposition or difficulty.
- Teamwork:** We believe in the power of working together and we create an environment that is diverse and inclusive of all.
- Integrity:** We do what is right by being open, honest, and transparent and take responsibility for our actions.
- Innovation:** We learn from outcomes, welcome change and are committed to continuous improvement.

### FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026 COMMISSIONERS TOP PRIORITIES

Continued partnership with Cleveland County Schools for implementation of the long-term school capital facility plan

Maintain support for County Public Safety Departments through implementation of the five-year Public Safety Strategic Plan

Commitment to the implementation of the County's Capital Improvement Plan – using the Facility Master Plan to prioritize; including creating a Justice Center Campus, E911 Communications Center, Emergency Operations Center and Elections Office

Focus on community wellness by identifying health disparities and partnering with community agencies to improve our County's health rankings

Focus on being an Employer of Choice – competitive pay, modern policy & career progression

### FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026 GENERAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS

Revenues

- Ad Valorem Taxes (County) – \$59.58 Million
  - (~ \$1.52 Million/2.48% < FY 24 – 25)
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- Investment Earnings – \$4.00 Million
  - (~ \$2.00 Million/33.33% < FY 24 – 25)
- All Other Revenue Sources – Negligible Change

### FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026 TAX RATE COMPARISON & RECOMMENDATIONS:

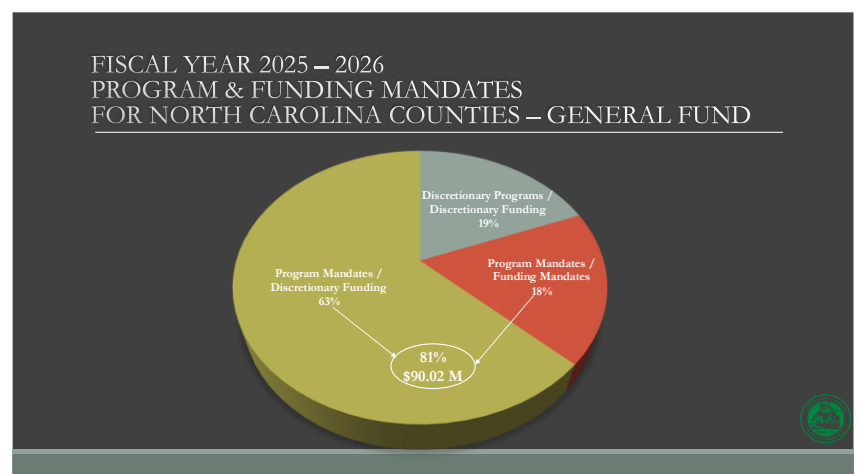
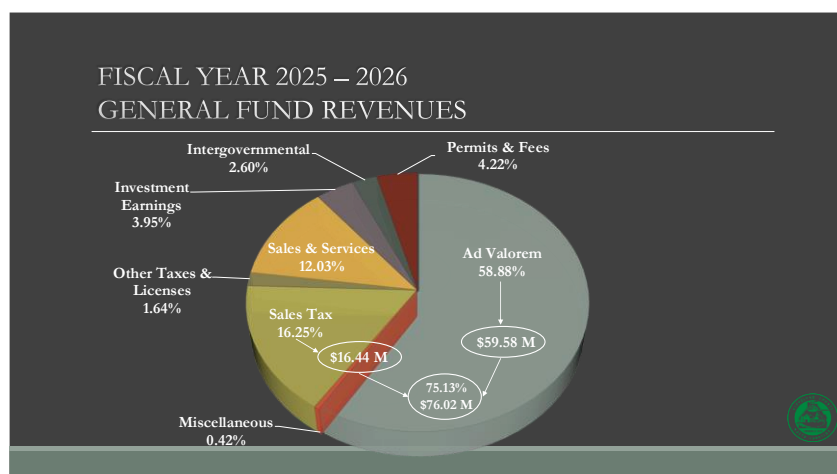
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<b>Total Tax Rate</b>	<b>0.6875¢</b>	<b>0.5450¢<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(-0.1425¢)</b>
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<sup>1</sup> - Revaluation  
<sup>2</sup> - Revenue Neutral

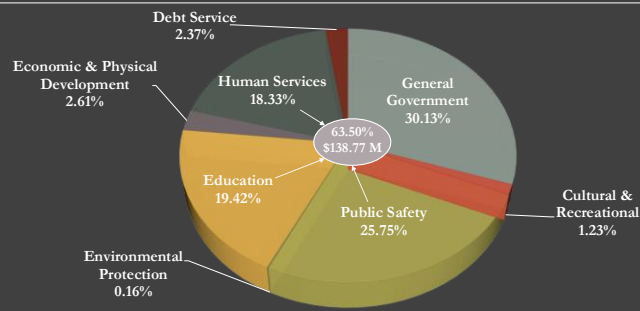
### FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026 AD VALOREM TAX VALUATION

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026 <sup>1</sup>
Total County Tax Base	\$10.333 B	\$10.615 B	\$11.279 B	\$11.295 B	\$14.711 B
Tax Rate	0.5475¢/\$100	0.5475¢/\$100	0.5475¢/\$100	0.5475¢/\$100 <sup>1</sup>	0.4050¢/\$100 <sup>2</sup>
Value of a Penny	\$1.0 M	\$1.025 M	\$1.089 M	\$1.110 M	\$1.471 M

<sup>1</sup> - Revaluation  
<sup>2</sup> - Recommended



FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026  
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026  
GENERAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS

- Expenditures – General Fund
- Department/Office/Agency & Externally Funded Agency Funding Requests (Unedited)
    - \$141.40 Million
  - Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Budget
    - \$113.49 Million
  - County Manager's Recommendation
    - \$111.34 Million
    - Δ - \$22.61 Million/16.90% < FY 25 – 26 Unedited Requests
    - Δ - \$2.15 Million/1.89% < FY 24 – 25 Budget
  - All Funds – \$240.3 Million

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026  
GENERAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS

- Expenditures
- Inherent Overtime
  - Personnel Recommendations
    - Employer of Choice
    - Strategic Investments
    - Training & Credentialing
    - Recruitment & Retention
  - Thirty Position Requests
  - Eight Position Recommendations
    - Fire Inspector
    - Housekeeper/Custodian (6)
    - Voting Systems Technician

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026  
GENERAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS

- Expenditures
- Capital Outlay Funding Recommendation – Follow Level Funding Plan – Vehicle Replacement Plan, Information Technology & Radio System Replacement Plan, Equipment Replacement, Asset Investment/Maintenance
  - Educational Support Recommendations
    - Cleveland County Public Schools – \$35,032,272 (Teacher's Supplement, Annual Capital, Debt Service & Current Expense = FY 24 – 25)
    - Cleveland Community College – \$3,883,873 (+\$250,000 > FY 24 – 25 // Year 3 of 5)
  - Community (External) Funded Agencies Recommendations – \$1,872,941

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026  
ENTERPRISE FUND HIGHLIGHTS

- Solid Waste (Enterprise Fund)
- Continuation of Fee Structure Adjustments per the Decennial Rate Stabilization Metric
  - Enterprise Total Budget – \$21,792,331 (\$9,782,288 > FY 24 – 25)
    - Primary Driver for Delta – Municipal Solid Waste Cell IV Construction

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026  
NEXT STEPS

- Budget Presentation and Call to a Public Hearing – May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Milestone – Deadline for Budget Officer to Submit Budget & Budget Message to the Board of Commissioners – N.C.G.S. § 159-11 – June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Budget Public Hearing & Budget Ordinance – June 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Milestone – Deadline for Board of Commissioners to Adopt Budget Ordinance – N.C.G.S. § 159-13 – July 1<sup>st</sup>

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026  
GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

Budget Message, Budget Details & Budget Ordinance Will be Available at:

- Clerk to the Board's Office (County Administration)
- County Library Locations
- Online Through the County's Website

Chairman Gordon opened the floor to the Board for questions and discussion. Commissioners thanked Mr. Cotton and his budget team for their hard work and time spent developing the budget. On May 23, 2025, a full copy of the proposed FY 2025 – 2026 budget will be available at the following locations:

- Office of the Clerk to the Board, 311 E Marion Street, Shelby (during regular business hours)
- Cleveland County Public Libraries (Boiling Springs, Kings Mountain, Lawndale, Shelby)
- Cleveland County website

The Board of County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget for Cleveland County's Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 on Tuesday, June 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing will be held in the Commission Chamber, County Administrative Office Building, 311 East Marion Street, Shelby, North Carolina. At that time, the public will have the opportunity to make any comments or recommendations relating to the proposed

budget. Commissioners will also be able to approve, deny, or make modifications to the proposed budget at that time.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hardin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and passed unanimously by the Board to *approve setting the public hearing as requested.*

**BOARD APPOINTMENT**

**CLEVELAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIEF FUND BOARD**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Bridges made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to appoint Philip Paul Barrett to serve as a member of this board.*

**CLOSED SESSION**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hardin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to go into closed session per North Carolina General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure and per North Carolina General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. (A copy of the closed session Minutes is sealed and found in the Closed Session Minute Book.)*

**RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION**

Chairman Gordon stated, *“The Board is in open session. Regarding North Carolina General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3), the Board had discussions with the County Attorney, and direction was given. Regarding North Carolina General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6), the Board conducted the annual review of the Clerk to the Board and authorized an increase to the Clerk’s pay to \$94,000 annually.”*

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Hardin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adjourn.* The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for *Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm* in the Commissioners’ Chambers.

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Kevin Gordon, Chairman  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners

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Phyllis Nowlen, CMC, NCMCC  
Clerk to the Board  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners