

Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2025

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Budget/Public Policy Session in Conference Center Room 267 on the 2nd floor of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, North Carolina at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Mark Jerrell, Vice-Chair Leigh Altman
and Commissioners Arthur Griffin,
Vilma D. Leake, Laura J. Meier, Elaine Powell,
Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, Yvette Townsend-Ingram
County Manager Dena R. Diorio
County Attorney Tyrone C. Wade
Clerk to the Board Kristine M. Smith
Deputy Clerk to the Board Arlissa Eason

Absent: Commissioner George Dunlap

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Jerrell, followed by introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

25-0227 FUNDING OPTION FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS (VFD) FOR FY26

The Board received information regarding funding option and potential tax rate for the Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) in the Charlotte Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).

Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi, P.E., Director, Land Use & Environmental Services Agency gave the presentation.

Background: Since 2012, several volunteer fire departments in the extra territorial jurisdictions of the City of Charlotte and the towns have been funded through a fire service district tax. In 2013, Mecklenburg County levied a Fire Protection Service District (FPSD) tax to pay for fire services in the towns and unincorporated area. A total of five service districts were created to service the extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJs) left in the County. The ETJs include geography outside the four towns (Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville and Mint Hill) and the City of Charlotte. These districts were created to fund the cost of providing fire protection services to all residents in the service district, with the cost burden carried by all service district property owners, through the fire protection service district.

This briefing provides the Board of County Commissioners with the requests received from the VFDs in the Charlotte ETJ and a recommended option with a corresponding tax rate.

Feedback received by the staff would inform the proposed tax rate that will be included in the County Manager budget proposal to the BOCC.



FY26 Service Delivery Option for Volunteer Fire Districts (VFD)

BOCC Public Policy Workshop
April 22, 2025

Presentation Outline

- Funding history of VFDs
- Tax Rate Calculation
- VFD Requests
- Funding Option



VFD Funding History

- **Pre-FY2012 – Each VFD granted \$80k**
- FY2012-18 – Grant amounts established based on requests and service areas
- FY2020– Contract amounts adjusted to increase hourly rate from \$13 to \$15 per hour and \$50k per station capital funding
- FY2022 – Increased capital to \$85k per station, funding for 3FF per station and capital funding for Steele Creek Station 3
- FY2023 - Standardized at \$956,960 per station – funding for 4FF per station.
- FY2023 - Standardized at \$17/hr for 3 FF and Chief at \$20/hr.
- FY2024 - Standardized at \$20/hr for 3 FF and Chief at \$24/hr, increased capital include first responder (MEDIC) funding allowance – typically **\$1,150,840** per VFD.
- FY2025 – Additional \$100k for inflation and capital – typically **\$1,250,840** per VFD.



Tax Rate

| ETJ | FY16 | FY17 | FY18-19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
|--------------|------|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Charlotte | 6¢ | 7¢ | 8¢ | 6.67¢ | 7.5¢ | 8.0¢ | 10.15¢ | 8.76¢ | 8.76¢ |
| Cornelius | 5¢ | 5.7¢ | 5.7¢ | 3.62¢ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 4.53¢ | 4.53¢ |
| Davidson | 6¢ | 5.5¢ | 8.5¢ | 6.50¢ | 8.90¢ | 8.90¢ | 8.90¢ | 7.08¢ | 7.08¢ |
| Huntersville | 5¢ | 5¢ | 5¢ | 4.10¢ | 4.56¢ | 5.80¢ | 6.63¢ | 6.53¢ | 8.95¢ |
| Mint Hill | 7¢ | 8¢ | 8¢ | 7¢ | 7¢ | 7.50¢ | 7.50¢ | 6¢ | 6¢ |



Charlotte District Approved FY25 Funding

| Standardized | Adopted FY24 | Additional Allowance | Approved FY25 | Change from FY24 to FY25 |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Huntersville & Rural | \$1,100,000 | \$ 75,000 | \$ 1,175,000 | \$ 75,000 |
| Cooks | \$1,150,840 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 1,250,840 | \$ 100,000 |
| Robinson | \$1,150,840 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 1,250,840 | \$ 100,000 |
| Steele Creek | \$4,448,532 | \$ 300,000 | \$ 4,748,532 | \$ 300,000 |
| Carolina | \$1,150,840 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 1,250,840 | \$ 100,000 |
| West Meck | \$1,700,000 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 1,800,000 | \$ 100,000 |
| Long Creek | \$1,150,840 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 1,250,840 | \$ 100,000 |
| Total | \$ 11,841,892 | \$ 875,000 | \$ 12,726,892 | \$ 875,000 |



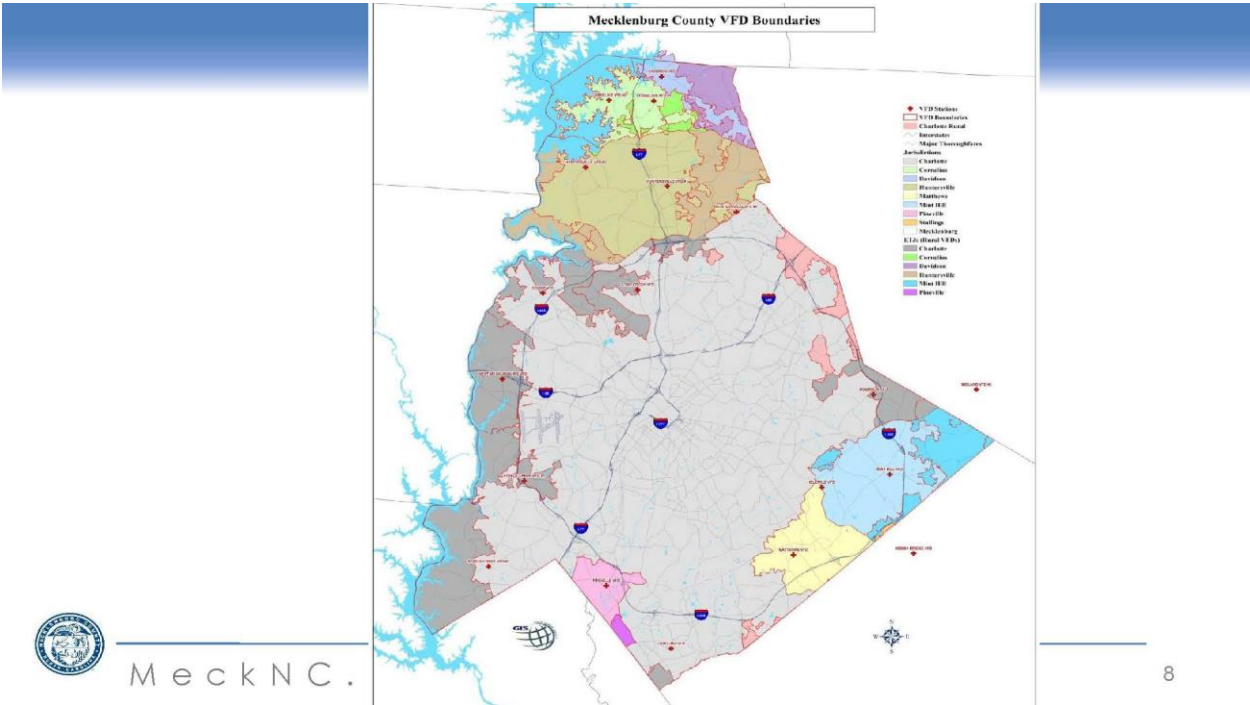
Charlotte District VFDs

- Carolina Volunteer Fire Department – 1 Station
- Cooks Volunteer Fire Department – 1 Station
- Charlotte Rural (City of Charlotte)
- Huntersville Volunteer Fire Department
- Long Creek Volunteer Fire Department – 1 Station
- Robinson Volunteer Fire Department – 1 Station
- Steele Creek Volunteer Fire Department – 3 Stations*
- West Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Department – 2 Units



Response Categories

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 52C-Alarm-Carbon Monoxide• 52F-Alarm-FIRE• 53-Citizen Assist/Service Call (<i>Routine</i>)• 55-Electrical Hazard• 56-Elevator/Escalator Rescue• 59-Fuel Spill - Routine• 60-Gas Leak INSIDE• 60-Gas Leak OUTSIDE• 63-Lightning STRUCTURE• 64-Marine Fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 65-Mutual Aid/Assist• 66-Odor (Strange/Unknown) (<i>Routine</i>)• 67-Outside Fire• 67-Outside Fire Multi• 68-Smoke Investigate(Outside) (<i>Routine</i>)• 69-Structure Fire• 72-Water Rescue• 73-Watercraft in Distress• 77- Motor Vehicle Collision |
|---|--|



FY26 VFD Funding



Challenges

- Staffing and response configurations continue to be a challenge
- Voluntary annexations continue to reduce taxable area
- State Audit compliance concerns



State Notification

- **Failure to meet the minimum requirements** for a certified department will lead to a change in the rating classification of the department and the fire district(s) it serves to a Class 10 rating.
- Your department currently holds a Class 4/9E rating.
- If this rating classification were implemented, the change to a Class 10 would affect **all property insurance premium calculations** for residential occupancy insured under Homeowner policies and other special schedule surveyed property.



Charlotte District

FY26 Requests – Salaries, Operational & Capital

| Departments | FY26 Budget Request | FY25 Allocation | Difference |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Huntersville & Rural | \$ 1,200,000.00 | \$ 1,175,000.00 | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Cooks | \$ 1,378,000.00 | \$ 1,250,840.00 | \$ 127,160.00 |
| Robinson | \$ 1,286,800.00 | \$ 1,250,840.00 | \$ 35,960.00 |
| Steele Creek | \$ 5,144,050.00 | \$ 4,748,532.00 | \$ 395,518.00 |
| Carolina | \$ 1,570,000.00 | \$ 1,250,840.00 | \$ 319,160.00 |
| West Meck | \$ 1,799,412.00 | \$ 1,800,000.00 | \$ (588.00) |
| Long Creek | \$ 1,414,880.04 | \$ 1,250,840.00 | \$ 164,040.04 |
| County FMO | \$ 200,000.00 | | \$ 200,000.00 |
| Total | \$ 13,993,142.04 | \$ 12,726,892.00 | \$ 1,266,250.04 |



Tax Values & Revenue Estimates – FY26

| FPSD | FY 2025 Estimated Value | FY24 Tax Rate | Collection Rate | 2025 Estimate Revenue |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Charlotte | \$ 15,101,148,328 | 8.76 | 99% | \$ 13,096,323 |

Note: Estimated value includes Real Estate and Personal Property such as cars etc.



Tax Rate Comparison

| ETJ | FY16 | FY17 | FY18-19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY26 |
|--------------|------|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Charlotte | 6¢ | 7¢ | 8¢ | 6.67¢ | 7.5¢ | 8.0¢ | 10.15¢ | 8.76¢ | 8.76¢ | 9.62¢* |
| Cornelius | 5¢ | 5.7¢ | 5.7¢ | 3.62¢ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 4.53¢ | 4.53¢ | 4.53¢ |
| Davidson | 6¢ | 5.5¢ | 8.5¢ | 6.50¢ | 8.90¢ | 8.90¢ | 8.90¢ | 7.08¢ | 7.08¢ | 7.60¢ |
| Huntersville | 5¢ | 5¢ | 5¢ | 4.10¢ | 4.56¢ | 5.80¢ | 6.63¢ | 6.53¢ | 8.95¢ | 9.25¢ |
| Mint Hill | 7¢ | 8¢ | 8¢ | 7¢ | 7¢ | 7.50¢ | 7.50¢ | 6¢ | 6¢ | 6.50¢ |



Considerations

- Continue staffing at four (4) personnel per station
- Full funding of capital and operation of Steele Creek Station 3
- Sustain rate of \$20/hr for 3 FF and Chief at \$24/hr
- Continue allocation to account for MEDIC related supply expenses
- Require in-station presence of four FFs for response



Additional Considerations for FY26

- Fund one **Senior Deputy Fire Marshal** (reclassified from a vacant code enforcement position) to manage contract and performance obligations
- Fund Fire Marshal educator (\$100k) from the Fire District tax
- Supplement approximately \$55k from fund balance for remaining appropriation in lieu of tax rate increase



Charlotte District FY26 Funding Proposal

| Standardized | Adopted FY25 | Total Proposed FY26 | Change from FY25 to FY26 |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Huntersville & Rural | \$ 1,175,000 | \$ 1,200,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Cooks | \$ 1,250,840 | \$ 1,250,840 | |
| Robinson | \$ 1,250,840 | \$ 1,250,840 | |
| Steele Creek | \$ 4,748,532 | \$ 4,748,532 | |
| Carolina | \$ 1,250,840 | \$ 1,250,840 | |
| West Meck | \$ 1,800,000 | \$ 1,800,000 | |
| Long Creek | \$ 1,250,840 | \$ 1,350,840 | \$ 100,000* |
| County FMO | | \$ 200,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| Total | \$ 12,726,892 | \$ 13,051,892 | \$ 325,000 |



Recommended Tax Rate

| ETJ | FY16 | FY17 | FY18-19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY26 |
|--------------|------|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Charlotte | 6¢ | 7¢ | 8¢ | 6.67¢ | 7.5¢ | 8.0¢ | 10.15¢ | 8.76¢ | 8.76¢ | 8.76¢ |
| Cornelius | 5¢ | 5.7¢ | 5.7¢ | 3.62¢ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 4.53¢ | 4.53¢ | 4.53¢ |
| Davidson | 6¢ | 5.5¢ | 8.5¢ | 6.50¢ | 8.90¢ | 8.90¢ | 8.90¢ | 7.08¢ | 7.08¢ | 7.60¢ |
| Huntersville | 5¢ | 5¢ | 5¢ | 4.10¢ | 4.56¢ | 5.80¢ | 6.63¢ | 6.53¢ | 8.95¢ | 9.25¢ |
| Mint Hill | 7¢ | 8¢ | 8¢ | 7¢ | 7¢ | 7.50¢ | 7.50¢ | 6¢ | 6¢ | 6.50¢ |



Questions?



Comments

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked for clarification on slides 11 and 16, with failure to meet the minimum requirements. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi reiterated what the slides implied.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked what the person they currently had did. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said the person did the work as an extra special project, essentially as a liaison.*

Commissioner Meier asked on slide 16, with “Supplement approximately \$55k from fund balance for remaining appropriation in lieu of tax rate increase,” what happened over the years going forward. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said the tax rate would go up. He said they would hope to absorb that by next year.*

Commissioner Leake asked for clarification as to why Mint Hill’s recommended tax rate changed. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said they had a turnover of their Chief, and the transition between the old and new Chief was not properly handed over. He said he believed the new Chief was unaware of the necessary information needed, so when the State came to inspect, they couldn’t find a lot of validating documentation.* Commissioner Leake asked how they handled it. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said they were working to make sure they were complying within 6 months.* Commissioner Leake asked who they would hold accountable. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said the Fire Marshal’s Office would constantly watch over them and increase the number of times they randomly visited sites.*

Commissioner Griffin asked on slide 7 about the response categories and whether it would be appropriate to have data on the number of calls received. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said he could provide him with the data.* Commissioner Griffin said concerning the tax base in the ETJ, they should pick up the city planners or organizing developments. He said that with the revaluation, they should have been able to collect more dollars, but that also added new responsibilities. He asked if there was a forecast of what the potential revenue might have been. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said a challenge was that while development was ongoing, he said once they annexed, it went off their tax books and to the City.* Commissioner Griffin said there was some acreage that had requirements for annexation, and there were potential and actual developments that were blocked from annexation. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said they had some information but weren’t sure they could put a number on it. He said from a code enforcement perspective, they were averaging around 14,000 to 15,000 units a year.*

Commissioner Powell said it was her understanding that with all the stations, there was only

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one that was not in compliance. She asked where the Fire Marshal educator would educate since the ETJ was so small. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said they would go to schools in the ETJ. He said they had to provide education to schools and other community events.* Commissioner Powell asked in the cost analysis where the MEDIC-related supply-related expenses went. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said that, from a personnel hourly rate standpoint, they were already compensating each volunteer fire department 24/7 for four people. He said their salary cost were already handled. He said that within the previous year, they programmed it so that each station received around \$40,000.*

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked what the tax rate was based on. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said each town had an ETJ, excluding Matthews, so the rate was only charged to the residents in each town's ETJ. He said Mint Hill recently built a new fire station, which was why the tax rate would go up for their residents.* Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked for clarification on the drastic changes between the previous years. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said they adjusted their hourly rates. He said they also went from 2 to 3 to 4 full-time firefighters and chiefs.*

Vice Chair Altman asked how many stations they were responsible for in the ETJ. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said 9.* Vice Chair Altman said they should no longer call them volunteer fire departments since they were giving them over a million dollars. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said that over time, they added "Staff" but were all still registered as 501(c)(3)s.* Vice Chair Altman asked if all municipalities consented to the tax increases. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said that all the rates had been requested by the town managers.*

Chair Jerrell asked County Manager Diorio if they had baked this into her overall recommendation on tax rates. *County Manager Diorio said she included their respective rates, but it was a separate tax and fund.*

25-0240 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Board received an update on the FY2026- 2030 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Background: An update on the FY2026- 2030 CIP will be provided.

David Boyd, CFO, gave the presentation.

FY26-30 Capital Improvement Plan

April 22, 2025

TODAY'S AGENDA

- CIP Funding Recap
- New Project Recommendations
- Questions/Feedback

1

CIP Funding Model Update

- ➡ 6/30/2024 year-end results
 - Less Spending
- ➡ Updated projected project cashflows
 - Future spending pushed out
- ➡ Sizing and timing of debt issuance
 - Less borrowing / Lower interest rate
- ➡ Revenue Assumptions
 - Slight increase
- ➡ Result = increased capital capacity

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LAND ACQUISITION

| | Currently Approved Funding | Additional Funding Recommended | Total |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| FY2026 | 11,828,249 | 18,171,751 | 30,000,000 |
| FY2027 | 12,248,250 | 17,751,750 | 30,000,000 |
| FY2028 | 12,668,517 | 17,331,483 | 30,000,000 |
| FY2029 | | 30,000,000 | 30,000,000 |
| FY2030 | | 30,000,000 | 30,000,000 |
| | 36,745,016 | 113,254,984 | 150,000,000 |

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Summary: New Project Requests

(approximate capacity = \$200-225 million 2026-2030)

| Department | Total Funds Requested | # Projects Requested |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| AFM | 77,414,140 | 5 |
| CPCC | 12,795,997 | 3 |
| ELAP | 90,597,998 | 31 |
| LIB | 52,608,556 | 3 |
| PRK | 89,831,461 | 5 |
| | 323,248,152 | 47 |

See handout with summary description of each project request

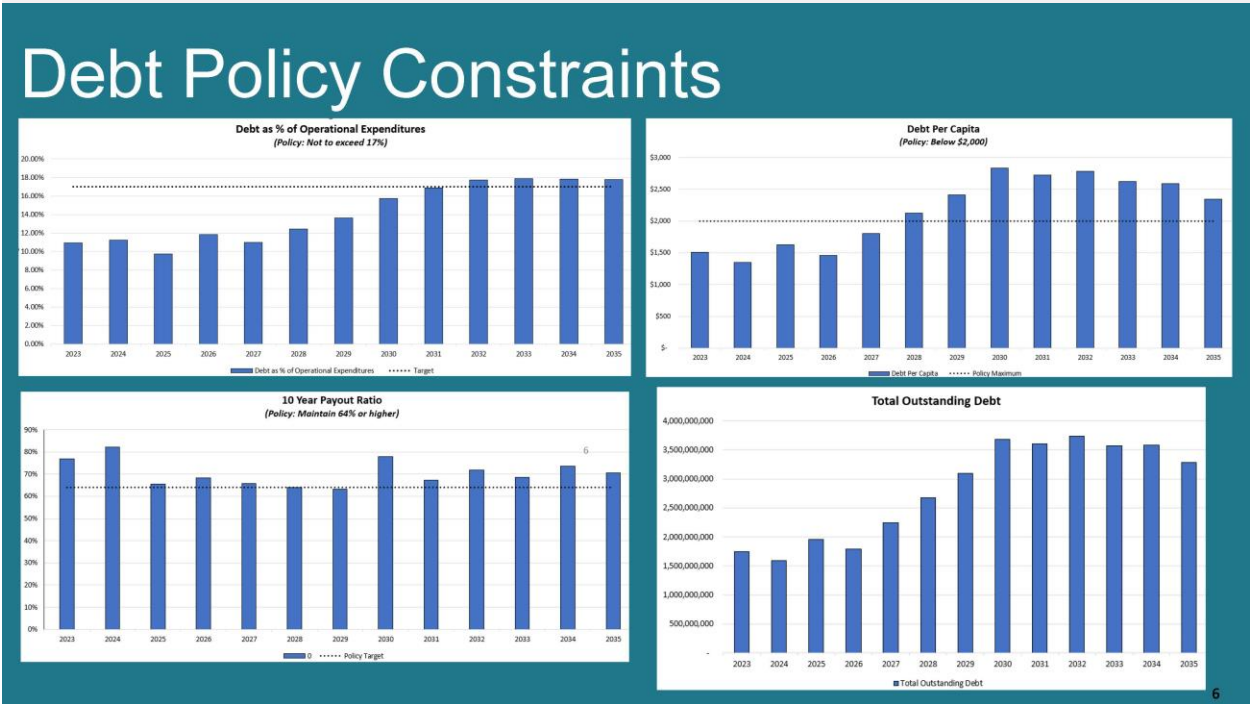
4

Final Recommendation

| Department | Total Funds | # Projects |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Asset and Facility Management | 32,507,938 | 4 |
| Central Piedmont Community College | 10,139,829 | 2 |
| Charlotte Mecklenburg Library | 40,599,848 | 2 |
| Park and Recreation | 70,904,200 | 4 |
| ELAP | 61,313,020 | 26 |
| | 215,464,835 | 38 |
| LAND- FY2026 | 18,171,751 | |
| LAND- FY2027 | 17,751,750 | |
| LAND- FY2028 | 17,331,483 | |
| LAND- FY2029 | 30,000,000 | |
| LAND- FY2030 | 30,000,000 | |
| | 113,254,984 | |
| Total | 328,719,819 | |
| Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools | 150,000,000 | |

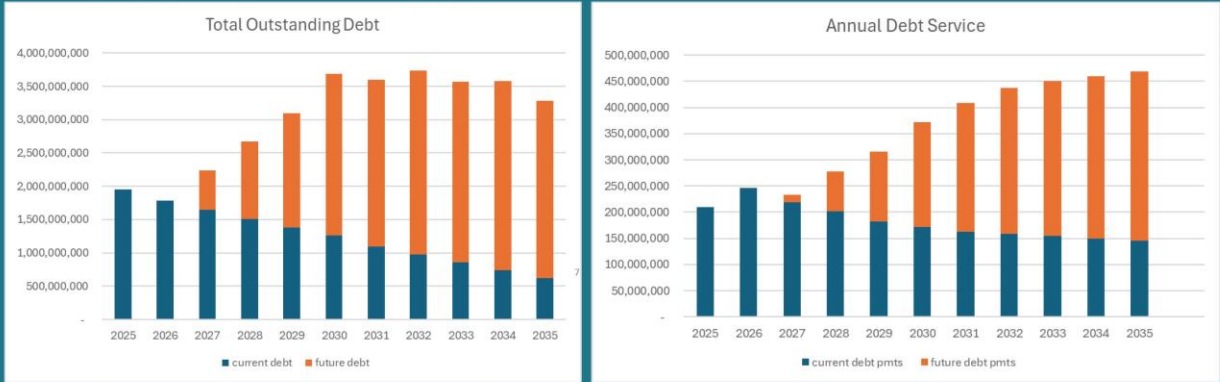
See handout with all projects approved by fiscal year start date (FY26-31)

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Debt Projections



Future Tax Increases



Tax increases are anticipated to fund the CIP:

- 2 cents in FY2028
- 1 cent in FY2029

Impact of eliminating tax increase in 2029

| Capital Reduction Required | | Before End of Year |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| \$60 Million | | 2031 |
| None | 8 | 2032 |
| \$50 Million | | 2033 |
| \$40 Million | | 2034 |
| \$25 Million | | 2035 |

Total reduction of \$175 million before end of 2035 & new CIP capacity thereafter reduced to \$110 – 115 Million annually

Asset & Facility Management Project Requests

| Department | Project Name | Project Cost |
|------------|--|--------------|
| AFM | New Courthouse-HVAC Controls-Smoke Damper Modifications | 4,631,172 |
| AFM | Mecklenburg County Courthouse-Interior Finish Replacement | 16,612,943 |
| AFM | 4th Street Parking Deck Expansion and Renovation | 44,906,202 |
| AFM | Judge Clifton E. Johnson Building - First Floor Renovation for CJS | 7,311,245 |
| AFM | WTVI-Caldwell Rd Tower-Paint | 3,952,578 |
| | | 77,414,140 |

Central Piedmont Community College Project Requests

| Department | Project Name | Project Cost |
|------------|---|--------------|
| CPCC | Renovation for Fitness Center and Multi-purpose Classroom | 4,869,643 |
| CPCC | Renovation to Support EV Technology Program Expansion | 2,656,168 |
| CPCC | Harris Campus Parking Expansion | 5,270,186 |
| | | |
| | | 12,795,997 |

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Project Requests

| Department | Project Name | Project Cost |
|------------|--|--------------|
| LIB | Thomasboro Branch Library | 29,251,954 |
| LIB | Allegra Westbrooks Branch Library Renovation | 11,347,894 |
| LIB | Mint Hill Library Renovation | 12,008,708 |
| | | |
| | | 52,608,556 |

Park & Recreation Project Requests

| Department | Project Name | Project Cost |
|------------|---|--------------|
| PRK | Irwin Creek Greenway - Hamilton to Existing Irwin Creek Gwy | 9,668,816 |
| PRK | East Charlotte Park | 16,621,046 |
| PRK | Stewart Creek/Stewart Creek Trib - Alleghany to Freedom Dr to West Blvd | 14,188,111 |
| PRK | Camp Greene Park & Stewart Creek Trib Greenway | 30,426,227 |
| PRK | McAlpine Creek Greenway - Providence Road to Colony Road | 18,927,261 |
| | | |
| | | 89,831,461 |

ELAP Project Requests

| | Original Requests | Revised Requests |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Deep Energy Retrofits | 12 | 11 |
| EV Chargers | 14 | 11 |
| On-Site Solar | 6 | 4 |
| | 32 | 26 |

| | Original Requests | Revised Requests |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Deep Energy Retrofits | 61,787,912 | 47,058,999 |
| EV Chargers | 9,922,029 | 6,426,004 |
| On-Site Solar | 19,721,923 | 7,828,017 |
| | 91,431,864 | 61,313,020 |

ELAP- Deep Energy Retrofit Project Requests

| Project Name | Original Cost | Updated Cost | Change |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Deep Energy Retrofits- CCOB FY26 | 1,400,000 | 1,400,000 | - |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY26 Ivory Baker Rec Center | 1,326,394 | 1,159,065 | (167,329) |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY26 LUESA Suttle Ave | 2,683,391 | 2,155,429 | (527,962) |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY26 Spratt A | 2,489,063 | 2,256,276 | (232,787) |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY26 Valerie Woodard Center | 1,750,033 | - | (1,750,033) |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY27 Hwy 16 P&R Admin Office Building | 2,278,034 | 2,103,001 | (175,033) |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY27 Medical Examiner | 2,933,094 | 925,128 | (2,007,966) |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY28 Historic Courthouse | 689,806 | 1,211,440 | 521,634 |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY28 Spratt B | 1,228,871 | 1,070,028 | (158,843) |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY29 New Courthouse | 19,992,940 | 14,634,133 | (5,358,807) |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY30 Aquatic Center | 23,739,104 | 18,867,316 | (4,871,788) |
| Deep Energy Retrofits FY30 Arbor Glen | 1,277,183 | 1,277,183 | - |
| | 61,787,912 | 47,058,999 | (14,728,913) |

ELAP- Electric Vehicle Chargers Project Requests

| Project Name | Original Cost | Updated Cost | Change |
|--|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| EV Charger Project FY28 at 4th St Deck, MCSO and New Courthouse | 689,806 | 319,355 | (370,451) |
| EV Charger Project FY28 at Kuralt | 1,149,669 | - | (1,149,669) |
| EV Charger Project FY28 at new CRC East | 1,149,669 | - | (1,149,669) |
| EV Charger Project FY28 at Park & Recreation Sites | 459,864 | 459,864 | - |
| EV Charger Projects Park & Rec FY27 | 439,961 | 439,961 | - |
| EV Charger Projects FY 27 MCSO Locations | 1,173,237 | 1,173,237 | - |
| EV Charger Projects FY 27 VCW Public Fast Chargers CRTPO | 833,867 | 833,867 | - |
| EV Charger Projects FY26 4th St Parking Deck | 350,008 | 723,351 | 373,343 |
| EV Charger Projects FY26 4th St Parking Deck and Fleet Services Garage | 816,687 | 816,687 | - |
| EV Charger Projects FY26 Hal Marshal Center | 466,681 | 466,681 | - |
| EV Charger Projects FY26 Sheriff Office Building - WRRRC | 233,340 | 233,340 | - |
| EV Charger Projects FY29 MCSO | 399,858 | 399,858 | - |
| EV Charger Projects FY29 Park & Rec Locations | 559,803 | 559,803 | - |
| EV Charger Projects FY30 New CRC SW | 1,199,579 | - | (1,199,579) |
| | 9,922,029 | 6,426,004 | (3,496,025) |

ELAP- On-Site Solar Project Requests

| Project Name | Original Cost | Updated Cost | Change |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Photovoltaic Project FY29 Detention Center North | 3,998,589 | 3,998,589 | - |
| Photovoltaic Projects FY26 Bette Rae Thomas Rec Center | 933,357 | 977,706 | 44,349 |
| Photovoltaic Projects FY26 Matthews Sportsplex | 3,383,417 | - | (3,383,417) |
| Photovoltaic Projects FY27 Valerie Woodard Center | 8,554,837 | - | (8,554,837) |
| Photovoltaic Projects FY28 4th Street and McDowell Decks | 1,532,881 | 1,532,881 | - |
| Photovoltaic Projects FY30 Spratt A and Spratt B | 1,318,841 | 1,318,841 | - |
| | | | |
| | 19,721,923 | 7,828,017 | (11,893,906) |

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Next Steps

- Receive BOCC feedback today
- Make changes (if needed)
- Adopt CIP along with overall budget June 3, 2025

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Questions?

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Comments

Vice Chair Altman said she wanted the public to know there was a lot that public officials needed to do, including being a watchdog for people pushing a \$2.5 billion budget. She said the budget checked out, and it was very complicated. She said she understood the recommended cuts made sense and vetted through the process. She said she supported them. She said she received a request from someone to keep Nations Ford within the budget. *Mr. Boyd said there wasn't a recreation/community center at the center of their asks for 2030. Mark Hahn said the person was probably referencing the community resources center (CRC), which was already approved. County Manager Diorio asked what the status of the project was. Mr. Hahn said there was still a year or so between it being designed. Mr. Boyd said that in 2028 was when it would be funded.*

Commissioner Powell said it was important to highlight their commitment to land acquisition in the CIP. She said it was important to have dedication to environmental leadership. She said the \$36 million to retrofit was maintenance they would do anyway. She said it was important to have details on what they were doing. She said the most urgent priority was the land acquisition.

Commissioner Griffin said he liked the rolling CIP concept, and it gave the citizens a perspective of capital expenses for the County. He asked if they were reducing the annual spend for FY31. *Mr. Boyd said the amounts were what they requested for that current year, but pushed it to 2031. He said it would eat into the \$150 million that was out there.* Commissioner Griffin said the regional recreation center was expensive, but it was a concern for Southwest Mecklenburg County. He said they had to commit as a Board to make sure the capital projects had a degree of equity to them. He said five years was a long way away to make commitments to the County. He said regional recreation centers were amenities that were important. He said they had to make sure people were engaged and that they could continue the dialogue next year.

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked how sensitive the projections were to the current economic swing and tariffs. *Mr. Boyd said the tariffs were a concern, but they didn't know what to do with them. He said that as they got bids, they would have to add rather than subtract due to costs.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell said their documents should outline that the land acquisition was for ELAP. She said Meck Playbook was coming and asked if the conversations around recreation and community centers should be held then. *County Manager Diorio said yes.* Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, on slide 16, asked if the juvenile detention center was the one they didn't use. *County Manager Diorio said the food came from there, but they weren't housing any guests there, but it was still being used.* Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked if they were using it only for food service. *Mr. Hahn said the HVAC and other utilities were still being used. He said it was going from a carbon source to a non-carbon source.* Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked if there was anything to know concerning the conversations with the Sheriff. *County Manager Diorio said they hadn't engaged in any additional conversation to reopen the center.*

Commissioner Meier told the public that no single department would be able to cut \$175 million from the CIP. She said it was necessary, and they had to keep up. She said she was glad to see it in numbers and hoped the public would as well.

Commissioner Leake said when she looked at the information concerning the detention center, were they saying they would be able to improve what they already had at those sites, or wait for the public to inform them of what they needed to do. *Mr. Boyd said it was to put solar panels on the roofs. Mr. Hahn said it went to the implementation of the environmental leadership action policy and plan, and to reach the goal of going net-zero by 2035.* Commissioner Leake asked for clarification of what was to happen to parks within District 2. *Bert Lynn, Capital Planning Division Director, said there would be renovations and expansions.*

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He said there would be conversations with stakeholders in the area.

Chair Jerrell said the equity lens was very important to the Board and thanked the staff. On slide 14 and the aquatic center, he asked if they needed to be more forward-looking by looking at another facility instead of investing \$18 million. *County Manager Diorio said they needed additional water(pools), but thought people wanted additional pools. Bert Lynn said the conversations with stakeholders had been around, expanding the facility, not replacing it.*

25-0242 FY2026 PROPOSED FEE ADJUSTMENTS

The Board received as information presentations on proposed fee adjustments for FY2026 from Park and Recreation, Land Use and Environmental Services (LUESA), and Public Health.

Nick Walker, Director, Park and Recreation

Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi, Director, Land Use and Environmental Services

Dr. Raynard Washington, Public Health Director, gave the presentation.

Background: Each year, the Board of County Commissioners receives a presentation highlighting proposed fee adjustments that the County Manager is considering as part of the Recommended Budget. Staff from Park and Recreation, Land Use and Environmental Services, and Public Health will provide the context for each proposed fee adjustment and respond to any questions.



Today’s Overview

Proposed Fee Adjustments

- Natural and Synthetic Turf Fields
- Field Preparation
- American Legion Memorial Stadium
- Meck-Pass Memberships
- Campground Rentals

FY26 Revenue Projections

2

Natural & Synthetic Field Rates

| Reservations | Current FY25 | Recommended Increase FY26 | New |
|---|--------------|---------------------------|------|
| Natural Grass Hourly Field Rental Rate (Resident) | \$21 | \$4 | \$25 |
| Natural Grass Hourly Field Rental Rate (Non-Resident) | \$30 | \$7 | \$37 |
| Synthetic Field Hourly Field Rental Rate (Resident) | \$50 | \$10 | \$60 |
| Synthetic Field Hourly Field Rental Rate (Non-Resident) | \$78 | \$16 | \$94 |

**Tournament fee packages will increase based on the new per hour rate change*

3

Field Preparation Fees

| Reservations | Current FY25 | Recommended Increase FY26 | New |
|---|--------------|---------------------------|------|
| Baseball/Softball Field Prep (Resident) | \$12 | \$3 | \$15 |
| Baseball/Softball Field Prep (Non-Resident) | \$30 | \$6 | \$36 |
| Multi-Purpose Field Prep (Resident) | \$25 | \$5 | \$30 |
| Multi-Purpose Field Prep (Non-Resident) | \$37 | \$8 | \$45 |

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American Legion Memorial Stadium - Rental Fees

| Stadium Rental Fee | Current | Recommended Increase FY26 | New |
|--|---------|------------------------------|---------|
| Weekend Rental (For Profit) | \$7,400 | \$1,500 | \$8,900 |
| Weekend Rental (Non-Profit) | \$6,300 | \$1,530 | \$7,500 |
| Additional Hours Weekend (For Profit) | \$620 | \$130 | \$750 |
| Additional Hours Weekend (Non-Profit) | \$525 | \$45 | \$570 |

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Mecklenburg County Meck-Pass Memberships

| Meck-Pass Memberships | Current Rates (Resident/Non-Resident | Recommended Increase FY26 | New Rate |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|----------|
| Youth or Senior | \$22/30 | \$3 | \$25/35 |
| Military Member | \$35/35 | \$5 | \$40/40 |
| Adult | \$45/55 | \$5/5 | \$50/60 |
| Family | \$65/85 | \$7/10 | \$72/95 |

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Campground Fee Increases

| McDowell Campground Fees | Current County/Non-County | Proposed FY26 County/Non-County |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Camping- McDowell Nature Preserve Campsites: | | |
| RV Sites | \$26/33 | \$35/40 |
| Drive-to-Site | \$19/28 | \$30/40 |
| Primitive Site | \$15/19 | \$20/25 |
| Copperhead Island - Weekday Large Shelter | \$62/92 | \$135/210 |
| Copperhead Island (Entire Island) - Weekday Weekend | \$134/210 \$196/316 | \$255/360 \$320/465 |

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FY26 Revenue Projections

- Athletic Field Related Fee Increases ~ \$150,000
 - MeckPass Fee Increases ~ \$250,000
 - Campground Fee Increases ~ \$50,000
- Total New Revenue Estimate: ~\$450,000

Questions?



Proposed Fee
Adjustments
FY2026



Air Quality

11

Air Quality Fee Adjustments

- Annual fee adjustments based on the average monthly change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) as calculated by USEPA
- This adjustment methodology is specified in Part 70 of the Clean Air Act for federally regulated (Title V) permits
- The adjustment was presented to and agreed to by the Air Quality Commission on March 25, 2025

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Air Quality Fee Adjustments

- Each year EPA publishes the % increase or decrease of their presumptive minimum fee rate based on average monthly change in the Consumer Price Index
- The value published for the current federal fiscal year is 3.18%

| County Fiscal Year | CPI Adjustment Factor Published by EPA |
|--------------------|--|
| FY22 | 1.46% |
| FY23 | 2.99% |
| FY24 | 7.69% |
| FY25 | 5.43% |
| FY26 | 3.18% |

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Air Quality Fee Adjustments

Annual Facility Fees and Application Fees

| Class | # of Businesses | Examples of Industry Type | Annual Facility Fee | Application Fee |
|---------|-----------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Title V | 7 | Foundries, Steel Mill, Wood-fired boilers | \$12,020 \$12,400 | \$12,650 \$13,050 |
| SM | 60 | Gasoline terminals, Hospitals, Asphalt plants | \$6,830 \$7,050 | \$950 \$980 |
| SB | 30 | Water treatment facilities, Small industries with boilers | \$2,210 \$2,280 | \$630 \$650 |
| B | 47 | Concrete plants, Larger printing/coating | \$1,580 \$1,630 | \$320 \$330 |
| C | 67 | Auto-body shops, Commercial printing/coating | \$790 \$820 | \$320 \$330 |
| Stage I | 324 | Gasoline Stations | \$130 \$130 | \$250 \$260 |

- Annual Emission Fee = ~~\$63/ton~~ \$65
- Annual Ambient Monitoring Fee= ~~\$320~~ \$330

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Storm Water Services

15

Environmental Leadership Policy Goals

- Storm Water Services directly supports the BOCC's Environmental Leadership Action Plan (ELAP) through the establishment of 15-year Capital Improvement Project (CIP) goals:
 - Flood Risk Reduction Goal –Reduces the flood risk to properties in the floodplain through flood mitigation, specifically the *retroFIT Program* and *Buyout Program*.
 - Stream Improvement Goal – Restores and improves major creeks so that they will be stable and partially supporting of diverse aquatic life.

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Storm Water Budget Highlights

- Proposed FY2026 fee increase based on financial model and associated funding strategy
- Assumes **\$50M** Bond Sale in late FY2026 or early FY2027
- Proposed FY2026 Storm water fee rates below were supported by the Storm Water Advisory Committee on February 20, 2025.

Major System Fee (Countywide)

| Tiers | FY2025 Monthly Rate | FY2026 Monthly Rate (proposed) | FY2026 Monthly Rate Increase (proposed) |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| I | \$1.21 | \$1.36 | \$0.15 |
| II | \$1.84 | \$2.07 | \$0.23 |
| III | \$2.81 | \$3.16 | \$0.35 |
| IV | \$5.23 | \$5.88 | \$0.65 |
| Commercial (per acre) | \$32.32 | \$36.36 | \$4.04 |

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Storm Water Budget Highlights

- Proposed FY2026 fee increase based on Land Development Fee model
- Proposed Land Development fees will more accurately cover costs for providing services

Proposed Land Development User Fees

| Fee Type | FY25 Fee | FY26 Fee |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Land Development Fees - Multi-year Projects (last updated FY25) | | |
| Large Commercial Plan (>1 acre denuded or PCO applies) | \$ 9,400 | \$ 10,800 |
| Per denuded acre (>5 acres) | \$ 1,000 | No Change |
| Small Subdivision (<10 acres denuded) | \$ 16,500 | \$ 18,900 |
| Per denuded acre below 10 acres | \$ 1,050 | No Change |
| Mid Size Subdivision (>10 and < 25 acres) | \$ 27,500 | \$ 31,300 |
| Per denuded acre | None | No Change |
| Large Subdivision (>25 acres denuded) | \$ 27,500 | \$ 31,300 |
| Per denuded acre (>25 acres) | \$ 500 | No Change |
| Public Projects | \$ 4,900 | \$ 5,400 |
| Public Projects per denuded acre | \$ 1,000 | No Change |

Note: Denuded means to “strip/clear land” for development. Minor adjustments to proposed fees may be made prior to final approval

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Storm Water Budget Highlights

- Proposed FY2026 fee increase based on Land Development Fee model
- Proposed Land Development fees will more accurately cover costs for providing services

Proposed Land Development User Fees

| Fee Type | FY25 Fee | FY26 Fee |
|--|----------|-----------|
| Land Development Fees - Single-year Projects (last updated FY25) | | |
| Concept Plan - Commercial | \$ 2,400 | \$ 2,600 |
| Concept Plan - Subdivision | \$ 2,400 | \$ 2,600 |
| Small Commercial Plan | \$ 4,700 | \$ 5,300 |
| Plat Review | \$ 1,700 | No Change |
| Erosion Control Only per denuded acre | \$ 710 | \$ 800 |
| Driveway Permit | \$ - | \$ - |
| Minor Revision to Approved Plans | \$ 1,500 | No Change |
| Major Revision to Approved Plans | \$ 2,300 | \$ 2,500 |
| Plat Revision | \$ 810 | No Change |
| As-Built Survey - Storm Drainage | \$ 1,300 | No Change |
| As-Built Survey - BMP | \$ 1,900 | No Change |
| Posting Bond | \$ 1,300 | \$ 1,500 |
| Renewing Bond | \$ 1,300 | \$ 1,500 |
| Replacing Bond | \$ 1,300 | \$ 1,500 |
| Releasing Bond | \$ 1,300 | \$ 1,500 |
| Bond Default Letter | \$ 560 | \$ 580 |
| Re-Inspection | \$ 430 | No Change |
| Re-Plan Review (\$/hr) | \$ 110 | No Change |

Note: Minor adjustments to proposed fees may be made prior to final approval

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Storm Water Budget Highlights

- Proposed FY2026 fee increase based on Land Development Fee model
- Proposed Land Development fees will more accurately cover costs for providing services

Proposed Land Development User Fees

| Fee Type | FY25 Fee | FY26 Fee |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Floodplain Permit Fees (last updated FY25 unless noted) | | |
| Development in the Flood Fringe - Minor Impact | \$ 810 | \$ 1,000 |
| Development in the Flood Fringe - Major Impact | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,500 |
| Development in the Floodway - Minor Impact | \$ 4,000 | \$ 4,600 |
| Development in the Floodway - Major Impact | \$ 10,200 | \$ 11,600 |
| Community Letter of Map Revision | \$ 10,400 | \$ 11,600 |
| Minor Revision to an Existing Floodplain Permit * | \$ 250 | \$ 800 |

Note: Minor adjustments to proposed fees may be made prior to final approval
* Fee last updated in 2022

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Solid Waste Services

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Solid Waste Adjustments

- Consistent with financial model that includes a mix of fee increases and bond issuance (versus 100% PayGo)
- Stable, long-term funding strategy for operating and capital programs – **\$45M** borrowing occurred in FY2025 (\$31M anticipated in FY27)
- FY26 budget with fee adjustments was presented to the Waste Management Advisory Board (WMAB) on Feb. 18, 2025, and the WMAB unanimously approved on March 18, 2025.
- Construction will continue for multiple Capital Projects in FY26-FY28

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Solid Waste Yard Waste Fee

Mulch Imbalance:

- A Request For Proposal (RFP) was initiated in FY24 to find a partners to process Yard Waste outside of the County system – due to closure of the Airport Compost Site
- Increase of yard waste fees of **\$2/ton** to process up to 60,000 tons of yard waste offsite

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Fee Adjustments – Residential Availability

Residential Availability Fee (RAF): **\$5** adjustments to cover costs associated with new infrastructure needs, recyclables processing and ongoing capital projects

- Originally Presented to the BOCC on Nov. 15, 2022
- **FY26** proposed to increase **\$5**/property annually (**\$0.42**/month/property)
- Currently **\$49.50** proposed to increase to **\$54.50** annually

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Solid Waste FY26 Proposed Technical Fee Adjustments

Proposed increases in tip fees to cover contractual increases

- **Speedway Landfill** - **\$40.00** to **\$41.25**/ton
- These costs affect those external jurisdictions that are party to Agreements for waste disposal and recycling processing.
- Speedway Landfill contract is through FY28 with stepped increases
 - We will begin the RFP process in FY 26 for disposal capacity

Note: Technical Fees are included in the Solid Waste Fee Ordinance

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FY26 Technical Fee Adjustments Summary

- Construction Debris: **\$60/ton** to **\$62/ton**
- Yard Waste: **\$38/ton** to **\$40/ton**
- Annual **Out of County** Residential Stickers:
 - Increase by \$10: **\$110** annual ; **\$55** for 2nd half of the year
- Transfer Fee - **\$15/ton** to **\$18/ton**
 - Added to other disposal fees for commercial customers and the City
- Speedway Landfill: **\$40** to **\$41.25/ton**

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Proposed Technical Fee Adjustments

- **Commercial Recycling Collection:**
 - Monthly commercial collection will increase by **\$25** per customer/month; from **\$75/month** to **\$100/month** (**this is a voluntary program for participants who choose to have full business recycling**)
 - **Approximately 70 businesses participate in this program**

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State Tire Reimbursement

- The Waste Tire Fund Subsidy is anticipated to be **\$675,000** in FY26 to make up for shortfall of State revenue for processing tires
- State continues to underfund grant programs associated with waste tires and electronic waste

| | Tons of Tires Processed | Total Cost | State Reimbursement | Shortfall (Availability Fee Covers) |
|------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| FY24 | 25,224.99 | \$2,779,383.83 | \$2,258,620.54 | \$520,763.29 |
| FY25 | 26,612.36 | \$2,932,249.94 | \$2,382,844.67 | \$549,405.27 |
| FY26 | 27,410.73 | \$2,991,232.48 | \$2,315,987.87 | \$675,244.61 |

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Questions!

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Proposed FY26 Fee Adjustments Public Health

Presented to the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners
by
Dr. Raynard Washington, Health Director

April 22, 2025

Medication Fees

| Service Type | CPT | Proposed FY26 |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|
| Permethrin (Scabies Cream) | A9270 | At 340B Drug Discount Program Acquisition Cost |
| Miconazole 2% Cream (Monistat) | A9150 | Increasing from \$5 to \$6 |

Note: Permethrin is a new offering for Public Health. 340B pricing for Permethrin ranges between \$10 and \$20. Monistat is an over-the-counter medication which is provided at a lower price than retail pharmacies, but the acquisition cost for Public Health has risen above \$5.

Clinical Services Fees

| Service Type | CPT | Proposed FY26 |
|--|-------|---------------|
| RSV Intramuscular Injection Administration | 96381 | \$20.45 |

Note: The charge for RSV vaccine administration is the same as for other vaccines. This code was established in FY24.

Fee Changes– BCCP Program

| Service Type | CPT | FY25 Fee | Proposed FY26 Fee | Change |
|---|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Colposcopy of the Cervix | 57452 | \$117.71 | \$115.39 | -\$2.32 |
| Colposcopy of the cervix, with biopsy and endocervical curettage | 57454 | \$156.95 | \$154.15 | -\$2.80 |
| Colposcopy of the cervix, with biopsy | 57455 | \$150.27 | \$147.46 | -\$2.81 |
| Colposcopy of the cervix, with endocervical curettage | 57456 | \$141.61 | \$138.27 | -\$3.34 |
| Surgical Pathology, Gross and microscopic examination | 88305 | \$66.84 | \$66.03 | -\$0.81 |
| | 88305TC | \$32.36 | \$31.97 | -\$0.39 |
| | 88305-26 | \$34.48 | \$34.06 | -\$0.42 |
| Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination; requiring microscopic evaluation of surgical margins | 88307 | \$274.84 | \$260.81 | -\$14.03 |
| | 88307TC | \$196.08 | \$186.27 | -\$9.81 |
| | 88307-26 | \$78.76 | \$74.54 | -\$4.22 |

Fee Changes Continued– BCCP Program

| Service Type | CPT | FY25 Fee | Proposed FY26 Fee | Change |
|--|-------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| Cytopath, c/v, interpretation by physician | 88141 | \$21.76 | \$23.00 | \$1.24 |
| Cytopath, c/v, thin layer | 88142 | \$26.00 | \$20.26 | -\$5.74 |
| Cytopath c/v auto fluid redo | 88175 | \$20.00 | \$26.61 | \$6.61 |

Note: The colposcopy clinic utilizes a sliding scale for women with an income below 250% of the poverty line. Services are never denied due to an inability to pay.

Environmental Health Fees - New

| Service Type | | | Proposed FY26 |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|---------------|
| Special Event Coordinator Fee | Vendors: | 1 – 5 | \$350 |
| | | 6 – 10 | \$700 |
| | | 11 – 15 | \$1,050 |
| | | 16 - 20 | \$1,500 |
| | | 21 + | \$3,000 |

Note: Tiered fees charged to event coordinators to help recover some cost of in office and onsite field visits and coordinating activities unrelated to individual vendor permits.

| Service Type | Proposed FY26 |
|--|---------------|
| Mobile Food Truck Change of Commissary | \$100 |

Note: This charge is for Food Trucks that want to change the commissary that their permit is tied to; they are free to use any commissary, but each time there is a change an inspector must visit the location for approval.

Comments

Commissioner Meier asked if all the fees were helping supplements or costs. *Dr. Washington said they helped recover costs when billing insurance. He said it didn’t help with cost.* Commissioner Meier asked if they budgeted for the costs that weren’t being covered. *Dr. Washington said it was part of their annual budget request. Mr. Walker said they ranged from 0 to 100% cost recovery. He said that, as it related to the increases and athletic fields, it would help them close the gap between what was currently being subsidized and getting to zero percent. He said it did help supplement the cost, but not at 100%. Mr. Gujjarlapudi said it covered all the costs; he said with air quality, there was a small property tax supplement.*

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram said that with the American Legion, since they were reducing the waiver, was there a layaway plan for non-profits that couldn't pay all upfront. *Mr. Walker said yes, he said they had the capacity to book 6 months out. He said that agencies that aligned with their values leaned towards being more equitable.* Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked if unincorporated areas were charged with fees such as sewage and water waste, and how it was handled. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said it was consistent throughout the County. In the cities, they did pickups, and they had contracts with private providers. He said on the backend, they were coming to LUESA for processing or sending it to landfills. He said the fees handled that and not the actual collection.* Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked why there was an unauthorized balance for Ryan White. *Dr. Washington said they contracted those services with vendors, and there may be a reason why vendors didn’t spend all the funds.*

Commissioner Meier left the meeting during this time.

Commissioner Leake asked if the Health Department was still providing chest X-rays to educators. *Dr. Washington said they were only providing X-rays to those with or suspected of having Tuberculosis.* Commissioner Leake said chicken pox was rapid in other counties, and asked how it was spreading in Mecklenburg County. *Dr. Washington said they were seeing very few cases, and they continued to do work to make sure children were being vaccinated.* Commissioner Leake to Mr. Walker – asked concerning Nations Fords, where they were with looking at equipment and seeing if it needed to be replaced. *Mr. Walker said they put in reinvestment dollars yearly, and they did inspections on playgrounds and equipment. He said they started with what was considered unsafe first. He said they also partnered with Asset and Facilities Management to do the work as well.*

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Commissioner Griffin asked Dr. Washington for clarification on special events coordinator fees. *Dr. Washington clarified the meaning of what the fees entailed.* Commissioner Griffin asked Mr. Gujjarlapudi for clarification, referencing slide 22, borrowing \$50 million the previous fiscal year and potentially \$31 million for the next fiscal year. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi clarified the reasoning for the previous and upcoming years' ask.* Commissioner Griffin asked what the residential availability fee was, and on slide 25 and in slide 27, why the commercial fee was being increased. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said the residential fee was charged to every property in Mecklenburg County for operating the recycling locations. He said commercial users paid another fee.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked for clarification on slide three and natural/synthetic grass. She said she thought the synthetic grass would cost more, and the natural grass would take more maintenance. *Mr. Walker said the upfront costs and the clay were significantly higher for synthetic grass, although the operating costs were significantly lower.*

Commissioner Powell asked if they would increase the field prep fees and why they were so low. She asked if stormwater and air quality fees were high enough. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said they wanted to consider the customers.* Commissioner Powell said with the increase of yard waste fees, she was concerned with the burning and excess mulch, but thought they needed to do better. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said they had been getting the word out. He said the contractors had to pay, and residents could get some for free.* Commissioner Powell said on state tire reimbursements, she wanted the Board to understand how unfair it was. *Jeff Smithberger, Solid Waste Director, said they gave brush mulch away for free, and that they only charged for select colored mulch. He said there was a bill in the General Assembly to redistribute the amount of money, but it hadn't passed yet, or he didn't know if it would. He said the \$675,000 was going up from the loss they expected from the previous years, and there was a slight amount of over \$500,000. He said some of the other counties that were large were seeing the same numbers as Mecklenburg County.*

Vice Chair Altman asked what the legal limits were for charging out-of-county residents a higher fee for facilities. *County Manager Diorio said she didn't know if there was a limit. Attorney Wade said he would look into it.* Vice Chair Altman asked them to explore the option since they were not contributing, and it could assist with maintenance. Vice Chair Altman asked LUESA with yard waste if there was guidance on the County's website to reduce the amount of waste. *Mr. Smithberger said yes, there was information on giving the mulch away and how to use it. He said it had a practical limitation.*

Commissioner Powell asked why it was important to increase the rate due to the limited landfill space they were going to have. She said the fees weren't that large compared to other urban areas. She asked why it was important for them to go up. *Mr. Smithberger said a lot of people didn't understand that they operated as a utility. He said they had a contract with Speedway for the disposal of materials until 2028, but they have a fixed amount for now. He said that because landfill space was dwindling and because they would have more waste and higher costs, they were in the process of building multiple transfer stations. He said their financial model is modeled at least 10 years into the future. He said they had a rate increase every year, but they were set at the moment, and the future would get more expensive.*

Chair Jerrell asked for clarification on the request to change for nonprofits. *Mr. Walker said that because it was a fee waiver, it was difficult. He said it was done with good intentions, but it didn't seem in the spirit of good intentions when they had groups renting at 50% discounts while charging fees.* Chair Jerrell asked if they were moving groups to 25% that weren't legacy providers. *Mr. Walker said no, they would get the discount, but there was an avenue of complete fee waiver. He said that would be for organizations that were putting on programs for community benefit.* Chair Jerrell said he would advocate that those nonprofits still got the 50% waiver. *Mr. Walker said it became difficult when they began to get into "intent." He said the 25% made it an easier pathway.* Chair Jerrell said he heard that it was difficult for some organizations to reach the 50%, let alone 75%.

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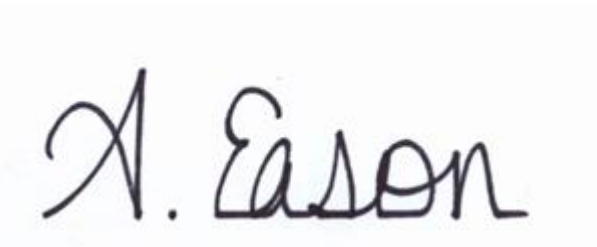
25-0247

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

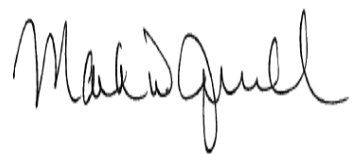
Commissioners shared information of their choosing within the guidelines as established by the Board, which included, but not limited to, past and/or upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Jerrell declared the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "A. Eason". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Arlissa Eason, Deputy Clerk

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mark Jerrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Mark Jerrell, Chairman