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 2:31 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair George Dunlap, Vice-Chair Mark Jerrell

and Commissioners Leigh Altman, Patricia "Pat" Cotham,

Arthur Griffin, Vilma D. Leake, Laura J Meier,

and Susan Rodriguez-McDowell County Attorney Tyrone C. Wade Clerk to the Board Kristine M. Smith Deputy Clerk to the Board Arlissa Eason

Absent: County Manager Dena R. Diorio

Commissioner Elaine Powell

CALL TO ORDER

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

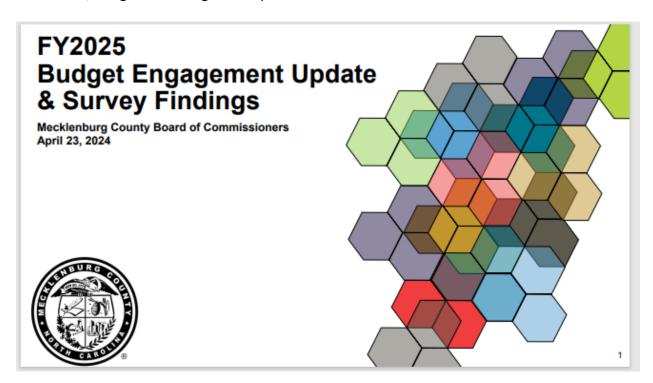
Vice Chair Jerrell entered the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

24-0226 FY2025 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT UPDATE & SURVEY RESULTS

The Board received as information an update on the FY2025 budget engagement strategy and budget survey results.

Background: As part of the annual budget process, the County Manager has instituted a robust strategy to engage with the public. Staff will update the Board on the engagement activities to date and share the results from the FY2025 Budget Survey.

Adrian Cox, Budget Director gave the presentation.



FY2025 Budget Engagement Strategy

Representative Budget Survey Opt-in Budget Survey Outreach to High-Traffic Areas & Events

Student Outreach & Education

Advisory Board Feedback Online Budget Simulator Two Public Hearings

2

Student Outreach and Education

- Staff hosted 12 outreach sessions to youth with approximately 300 total participants.
- Staff presented an overview of County government and budget, then students were given the opportunity to participate in an activity



Student Outreach and Education

- GenerationNation
- GenOne (2 sessions)
- Hopewell High School (10 classes over 5 sessions)
 - All CMS high and middle school teachers were offered the opportunity for OMB presentation
- CPCC Macroeconomics course
- UNCC Introduction to Public Policy
- UNCC MPA Budgeting
- Queens University Community Engagement



4

Budget Simulator

- The Budget Simulator allows participants to make revenue and expense adjustments to balance the County's Budget and is available year-round.
- As part of the FY2025 engagement strategy, promotion of the simulator has increased, including the following:
 - · Highlights on budget.mecknc.gov
 - · Promotion on billboards and County social media
 - Inclusion in newsletters sent to community groups, ARPA recipients, ENN, and others
- The simulator has been updated with the net growth revenue presented at the retreat and will allow users to submit an unbalanced budget.
- As of 4/16/2024, the results are as follows:

Page Views: 1,730

Submissions: 28



Purpose



Gather input from residents to help inform decisions related to the FY2025 budget



Objectively assess needs for County programs/services



Identify priorities for investment based on input from residents

Methodology



Survey

Conducted by ETC Institute, which has conducted more than 20 surveys for the County during the past 2 decades

This survey was focused on budget priorities

Department Directors and County Staff identified public-facing areas of potential investment

Administration

Administered by mail, phone and online

Participation was encouraged via texts, emails and social media ads

2 Samples

Random Sample designed to ensure results are statistically valid for each of the County's 6 Commission Districts

Non-Random Sample was open to anyone in the County

5,332 Completes

Random Sample
1,941 surveys with at least
300 in each commission
district; error of +/- 3% at
the 99% level of confidence

Non-Random Sample 3,381 surveys were completed by residents who opted-in

Opt-In Survey Marketing Strategies

- · Strategy of broad and targeted marketing to maximize awareness and participation.
- Goal to increase total surveys completed and continue targeted outreach to historically underrepresented groups.

Proactive Comm's

- . Story on MeckNC.gov
- News release to all local media, including newspapers, radio, TV.
- Employee News Now
- Board Bulletin, encouraging them to share link
- · Cabinet Update with link

Digital

- Broad Social Media posts and paid ads
- Email blast to Community Relations email list (4,000+)
- Geofenced digital ads in targeted zip codes
- · Ads on MeckTV
- 4th Street Billboard
- Other digital billboards across the County
- Email blasts from LIB and PRK

Printed

- Postcard with QR code link to survey
- Distributed at high-traffic County facilities (CRCs, Park Facilities, Congregate Meal sites, Libraries)

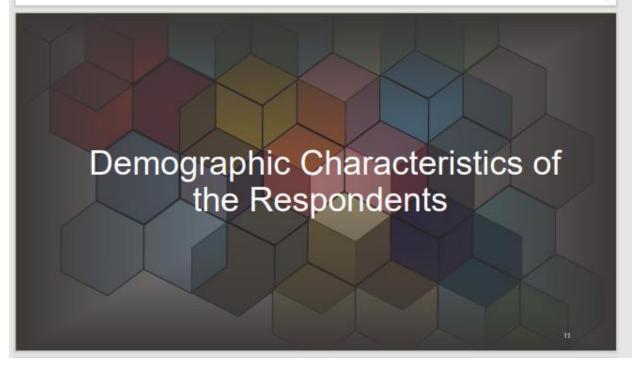
Outreach & Partners

- Public Health & CFAS community-facing staff were provided postcards
- OMB staff attended community events to distribute postcards and encourage survey participation
- OMB provided swag in the form of t-shirts, bags, and frisbees for residents that take a postcard

Opt-In Survey Outreach in High-Traffic Areas

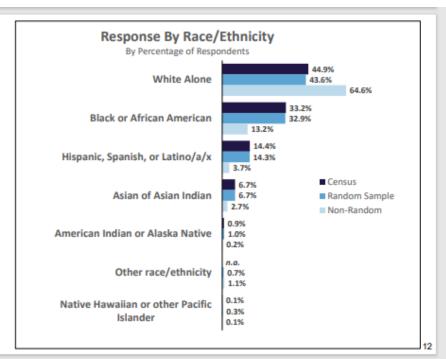
- Budget Office staff reached over 500 residents across 10 events around the County
 - · Charlotte Checkers games (2)
 - Eastway Recreation Center
 - Northern Regional Recreation Center (Senior Meals)
 - · Johnson C. Smith
 - Central Piedmont Community College
 - · Harper Campus
 - · Harris Campus
 - · Central Campus (2)
 - Jury Pool
- Staff engaged directly with residents, answering questions and facilitating discussion about the County budget
- Staff handed out postcards with links to the budget survey as well as giveaways for residents

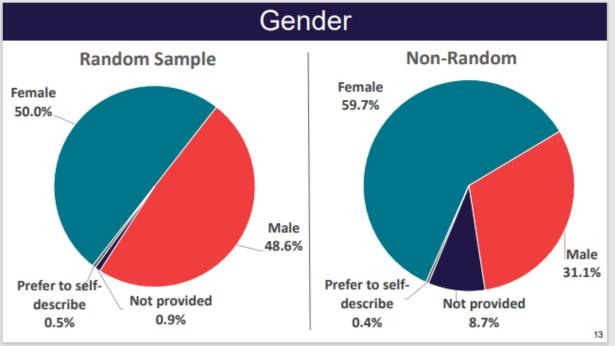


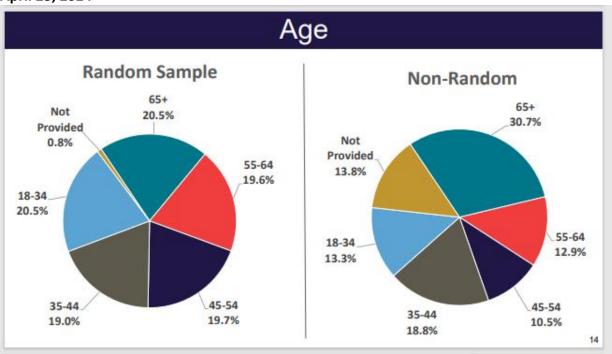


Representation by Race/Ethnicity

- Responses to the random sample total 1,981 and closely match the community by race & ethnicity.
- Response to the nonrandom sample total 3,391.

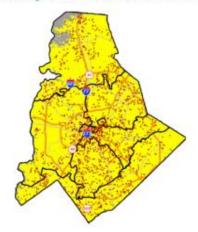






Location of Random Sample Responses

1,941 respondents in the random sample with a minimum of 300 surveys from each of the County's 6 Commission Districts



| Commission District | # Random Surveys Completed | # Non-Random Surveys Completed | Total Surveys Completed |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 341 | 502 | 843 |
| 2 | 302 | 257 | 559 |
| 3 | 303 | 239 | 542 |
| 4 | 321 | 503 | 824 |
| 5 | 348 | 678 | 1026 |
| 6 | 326 | 553 | 879 |
| Not Provided | 0 | 659 | 659 |
| TOTAL | 1941 | 3391 | 5332 |

How Will the Data from the Random vs. Non-Random Samples Be Used?

- The next few slides and major findings in this report are based on the random sample.
- The data from the non random sample will be included in the dashboard ETC Institute is developing to allow a deeper analysis of the data based on location and demographics attributes of the respondents

16

Survey Design/Assessment Methodology

- · Survey was designed to identify priorities for investment
- The methodology used ETC Institute's <u>Priority Investment Rating</u>
 (<u>PIR</u>), which is a budget prioritization tool that was originally
 developed by ETC Institute for the U.S. Army in 2005. The tool was
 used to help the U.S. Army set priorities for capital improvements at
 Army installations based on the <u>importance</u> soldiers and supported
 populations placed on services/ facilities and the <u>needs</u> for these
 services/facilities and the priorities

Survey Design Continued

Over the past 19 years, ETC Institute's Priority Investment Rating (PIR) has been used by leaders in more than 500 local governments to set investment priorities for a wide range of local governmental services, programs, and facilities.

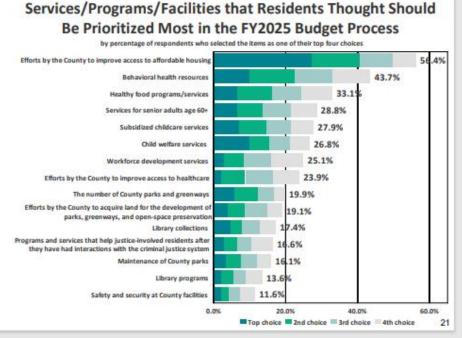
ETC Institute's PIR helps leaders use input from residents to help set priorities based on (1) the <u>importance</u> residents think county leaders should place on these programs/services/facilities in the budget and (2) the <u>unmet need</u> for these programs/services/facilities:

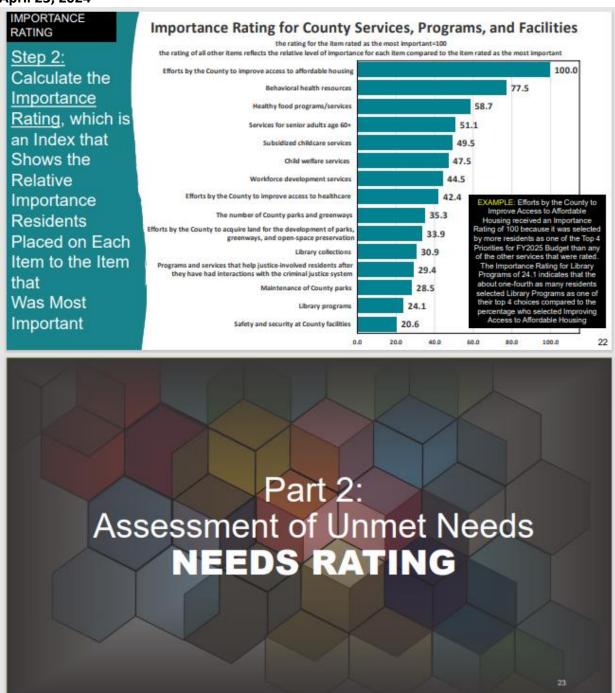
- 50% of the PIR score is from the **IMPORTANCE Rating** (maximum of 100 points)
- 50% of the PIR score is from NEEDS Rating (maximum of 100 points)

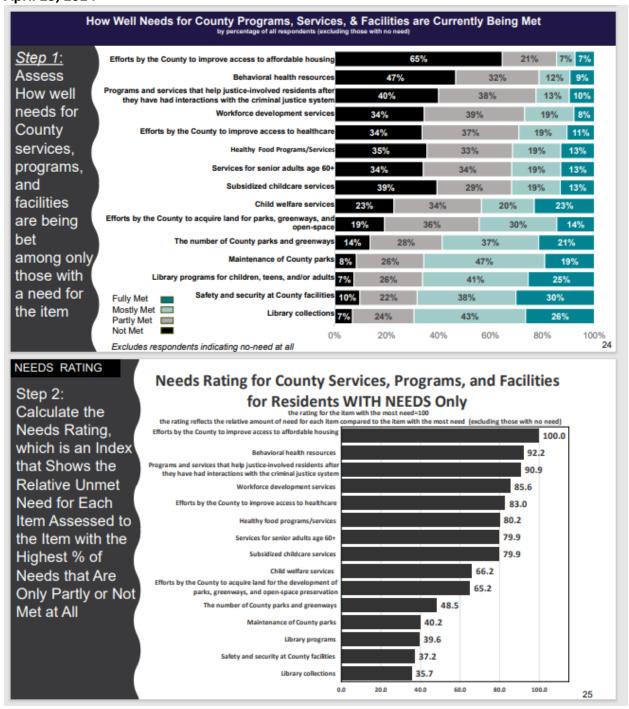
Priority Investment Rating Top four How well are your services/programs/ How Well Needs Being Met household needs for Importance facilities that services/programs/ should be priorities facilities being met? for funding in FY2025 Excluding Only on Those Needing response with The Service no need Importance Need for Service **Priority Investment Rating** 19

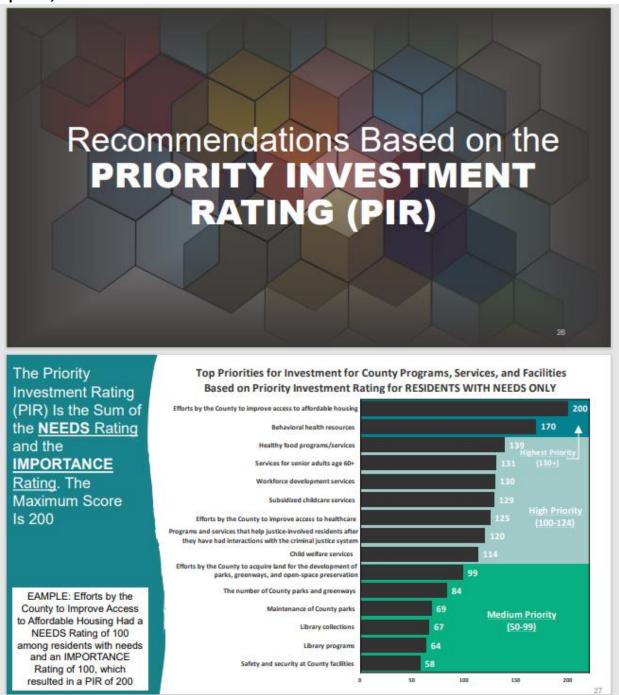


Step 1:
Determine
the Percentage
of Residents
Who Thought
Various Services,
Programs and
Facilities Should
Be Prioritized as
One of the
Highest Priorities
During the
FY 2025 Budget
Process









Summary

<u>Highest Priorities</u> for the FY2025 Budget based on the Priority Invest Rating

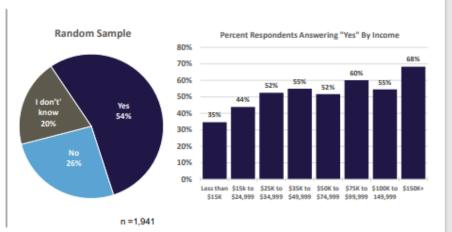
- 1. Improving access to affordable housing
- 2. Behavioral health resources
- 3. Healthy food programs/services
- 4. Services for senior adults age 60+
- 5. Workforce development services

28

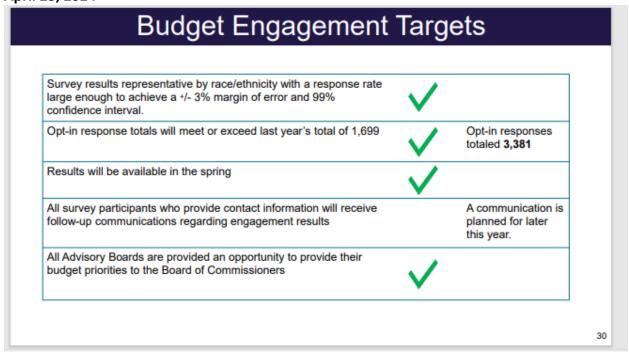
Taxes

- 54% indicated that they would be willing to pay more in taxes for their top priority
- Results vary by income, with lower income respondents less likely to respond Yes
- Based on the latest income and tax rate information, the County has the 3rd highest per-capita income in the state, 13th lowest percent living in poverty, and the 18th lowest property tax rate¹

Would you be willing to pay a slight increase in taxes to help fund improvements in the services/program/facility you selected as your top priority



Per-capita income: https://www.bea.gov/data/income-saving/personal-income-county-metro-and-other-areas
Percent in poverty: https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/salpe/#/7s_state=37&s_county=&s_district=&s_geography=county&s_measures=aa
Property tax rates: https://indd.adobe.com/view/a21302db-6dd1-4257-ab27-0edf7d337859



Comments

Commissioner Altman asked how they polled jurors. *Mr. Cox said it was through the Public Information Department. He said speaking with them while they were waiting was a good opportunity.* Commissioner Altman asked how many they thought they reached. *Laura McBryde, Sr. Management & Budget Analyst said approximately 100.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked for clarification for random and non-random samples. *Mr. Cox said the nonrandom samples were self-selected (anybody could take the survey), and the random was ahead of time before they started collecting their research.*

Commissioner Meier said many people didn't know the difference between their city and county districts. She asked how it was asked in the surveys. Mr. Cox said their address predetermined it.

Commissioner Griffin asked, regarding affordable housing, if the ETC Institute distinguished the difference between affordable housing and workforce housing. *Mr. Cox said they asked about workforce development – efforts by the County to improve access to affordable housing. He said there wasn't a carve-out for workforce housing.*

Vice Chair Jerrell said he noticed succinctness with the County demographics and respondents.

He asked why there wasn't a blend for all three elements (parks, greenways, open space preservation). Mr. Cox said they could go back and look and see how it might have lined up if it was done as some type of composite. He said it would change the overall standing based on what they were looking at. He said the reason there were different ways was because they were trying to find how investments would be made and trying to get the distinction they needed.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell said the way the questions were posed felt limited. She said she was skeptical about some of the results.

Commissioner Cotham said she would have liked a history of the methodology. She asked if it was typical or more or less than expected. Mr. Cox noted previous surveys had not been representative. He said this was the first time for a representative survey. He said the voluntary survey exceeded what they had the previous year and was *close to exceeding what was received in 2020 of almost 4,000.*

Commissioner Cotham asked about some of the questions and topics. She asked if they had talked with the people about the fact that behavioral health was not the core responsibility of the City and the State. Mr. Cox said they didn't tell them who was responsible for them. He noted that behavioral health was about resources.

Commissioner Cotham asked if they distinguished from the schools about the responsibilities of the City and County. *Mr. Cox said they didn't*.

Commissioner Meier asked if anyone got back to the ones with open-ended questions. *Mr. Cox* said they would look into contact information to provide them with responses to legitimate questions.

Commissioner Cotham said she looked at the survey as interesting but just information, not anything to live by. She said she appreciated it and that it was important to do those things.

Commissioner Leake asked about services in the different areas and how they evaluate wraparound services. *Mr. Cox said it varied by the programs they provided.*

Commissioner Leake asked about double support given to the families by zip code. Deputy County Manager Anthony Trotman said it depended on the individual's needs.

Commissioner Leake asked if they immediately took care of that, as she was receiving complaints about services. Deputy County Manager Trotman said he would speak to her offline. He said if it were a specific case, he would need to look into it.

24-0229 FY2025 PROPOSED FEE ADJUSTMENTS

The Board received as information presentations on proposed fee adjustments for FY2025 from Park and Recreation, Land Use and Environmental Services (LUESA), and Public Health.

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.

W. Lee Jones, Director, Peter Cook, and Greg Clemmer from Park and Recreation gave the first presentation.



Today's Overview

- Proposed Fee Adjustments
 - Natural Turf Fields Increases
 - Synthetic Turf Fields Increases
 - Field Prep Fees
 - Memorial Stadium Fee Increase
 - Revenue and Capital Reserve Projected Increases

2

Field Comparison Rates

| Facility | Synthetic Field Hourly Rate | Natural Grass Field Hourly Rate |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mecklenburg County Sportsplex Matthews, NC | \$42 | \$42 |
| Manchester Meadows Rock Hill, SC | \$50 | \$50 |
| OrthoCarolina Sportsplex Pineville, NC | \$55 | \$55 |
| WakeMed Soccer Park Cary, NC | \$100 | \$100 |
| Truist at Bryan Park Greensboro, NC | \$100 | \$75 |
| Truist Sports Park Winston-Salem, NC | \$108 | \$72 |

Multi-Purpose & Baseball/Softball Rates

| Reservations | FY 24 Current Fees | FY25 Recommended Increase – 20% | FY26 Recommended Increase – 20% |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Natural Grass Hourly Field Rental Rate (Resident) | \$17 | \$21 | \$25 |
| Natural Grass Hourly Field Rental Rate (Non-Resident) | \$25 | \$30 | \$37 |
| Synthetic Field Hourly Field Rental Rate (Resident) | \$42 | \$50 | \$60 |
| Synthetic Field Hourly Field Rental Rate (Non-Resident) | \$65 | \$78 | \$94 |

^{*}Tournament fee packages will be increased based on any new per hour rate changes

4

Field Preparation Fees

| Reservations | Current | FY25 Recommended Rate | FY26 Recommended Rate |
|--|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Baseball/Softball Field Prep (Resident) | \$10 | \$12 | \$15 |
| Baseball/Softball Field Prep (Non-Resident) | \$25 | \$30 | \$36 |
| Multi-Purpose Field Prep (Resident) | \$21 | \$25 | \$30 |
| Multi-Purpose Field Prep (Non- Resident) | \$31 | \$37 | \$45 |

American Legion Memorial Stadium- Rental Fees

| Stadium Rental Fee | Current | FY25 Recommended Increase | FY26 Recommended Increase |
|--|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Weekend Rental (For Profit) | \$6,200 | \$7,400 | \$8,900 |
| Weekend Rental (Non- Profit) | \$5,270 | \$6,300 | \$7,500 |
| Additional Hours Weekend (For Profit) | \$517 | \$620 | \$750 |
| Additional Hours Weekend (Non-Profit) | \$439 | \$525 | \$567 |

6

Revenue Projections

- FY25 20% Fee Increases ~ \$200,000 (General Fund)
- FY25 20% Fee Increases ~ \$125,000 (Synthetic Capital Reserve)

Note: These total estimates represent a full FY of fee increases – Our contracts generally run in 6-month increments, so it will take $^{\sim}$ 18 months to fully realize all fee increases. Park and Recreation will request an additional 20% in FY26.



Comments

Commissioner Cotham asked if it was a good idea to wait so long and then go up 20% instead of doing it incrementally. *Peter Cook, Deputy Director of Park and Recreation, said fees had remained the same in certain areas. He said because of COVID, some costs increased by 300%.* He said they would get on a regular routine to evaluate every three or four years.

Commissioner Cotham asked about parking and security. Mr. Cook said there was an additional agreement for the facility's parking. Commissioner Cotham followed up, asking how that would work. Mr. Cook noted whoever was renting the facility would pay the parking fee.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked for clarification on page 3. She said it was compared to other fields in the area. Some had sponsorships from corporations, but the County didn't. She asked if they should be looking for sponsors. *Mr. Cook said the County's costs were going up by 40-50%, and fields needed to be replaced every ten years.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked if they weren't going about it like others, assuming they had found solutions. She also asked, referring to page 6—weekend rentals for-profit and non-profit- if the difference should be greater if someone did an event for a profit. *Mr. Cook said they had guidelines for lowering the rate.*

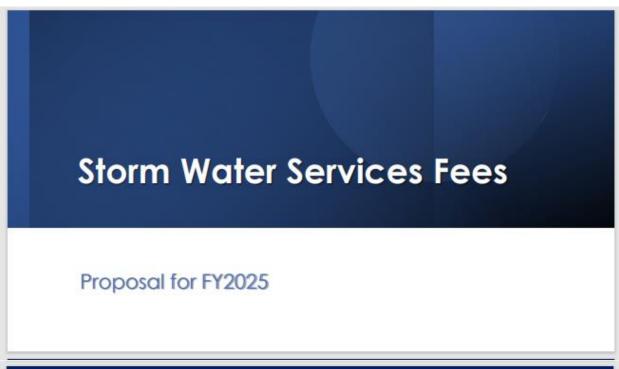
Chair Dunlap said one concern about sponsorships is that some wanted to name the facility. He said people were less likely to sponsor if they couldn't rename the field.

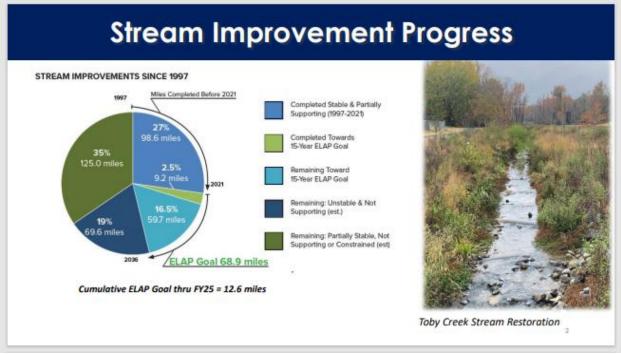
Commissioner Meier asked how the reservations worked. *Mr. Cook said they reserve the field space with maintenance agreements that set rates. He said it was a little different with associations and one-time users.*

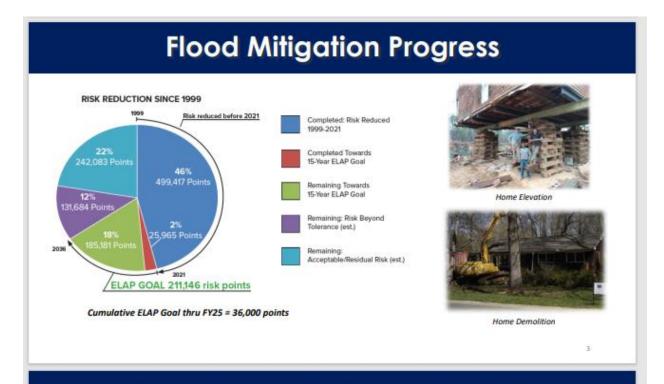
Commissioner Griffin asked them to separate the various groups (profit and nonprofit) so that if there was some distinction between increased or decreased use by certain organizations/groups, the Commission could respond.

Commissioner Leake asked what was used the most and where they were most used. Mr. Cook said the synthetic and turf fields were in high demand throughout the County. He said there was *good availability for the other fields*.

Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi, Director, Don Cecerrelli, and Jeff Smthberger of Land Use and Environmental Services gave the presentation.







Storm Water Budget Highlights

 Support the 2035 goals of the ELAP (Increased Capital Costs = \$3.2 M) based upon the financial model

Storm Water Budget Highlights

- Proposed FY2025 fee increase based on financial model and associated funding strategy
- Assumes \$50M Bond Sale in FY2027

Major System Fee (Countywide)

| Tiers | FY2024 Monthly Rate | FY2025 Monthly Rate (proposed) | FY2025 Monthly Rate Increase (proposed) |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| l l | \$1.12 | \$1.21 | \$0.09 |
| ll . | \$1.71 | \$1.84 | \$0.13 |
| III | \$2.60 | \$2.81 | \$0.21 |
| IV | \$4.84 | \$5.23 | \$0.39 |
| Commercial (per acre) | \$29.93 | \$32.32 | \$2.39 |

5

Land Development Services Fee Model

- Regulatory services provided on behalf of the Towns and City (floodplain only)
- Land Development Fee Model developed in FY2020 to recover 100% of its costs for each service and minimize subsidies from other services
- Fees have not been adjusted since FY2021 based upon model predictions.
- Proposed fee increases will be presented to the Land Development Budget Committee (made up of 5 Town Managers and the Director of County Storm Water) on April 16, 2024.
- Proposed fee increases (floodplain only) are supported by the Storm Water Advisory Committee.
- Proposed fee increases will be shared with the development community (Home Builders Association and the Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition) in April 2024

Land Development Services Fee Model

 Proposed Floodplain Permit fees will more accurately cover costs for providing services and have not been adjusted since FY2021

| Fee Type | | '24 Fee | FY | 25 Fee |
|--|------------|---------|----|--------|
| Floodplain Permit Fees (last | updated FY | (21) | | |
| Development in the Flood Fringe - Minor Impact | \$ | 540 | \$ | 810 |
| Development in the Flood Fringe - Major Impact | \$ | 1,200 | \$ | 2,000 |
| Development in the Floodway - Minor Impact | \$ | 2,600 | \$ | 4,000 |
| Development in the Floodway - Major Impact | \$ | 6,200 | \$ | 10,200 |
| Community Letter of Map Revision | \$ | 6,200 | \$ | 10,400 |

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

15

Land Development Services Fee Model

 Proposed Land Development fees will more accurately cover costs for providing services and have not been adjusted since FY2021

| Fee Type | F | Y24 Fee | FY: | 25 Fee | | |
|--|----|---------|------|--------|--|--|
| Land Development Fees - Single-year Projects (last updated FY21) | | | | | | |
| Concept Plan - Commercial | \$ | 2,200 | \$ | 2,400 | | |
| Concept Plan - Subdivision | S | 2,200 | \$ | 2,400 | | |
| Small Commercial Plan | \$ | 4,500 | \$ | 4,700 | | |
| Plat Review | S | 1,500 | \$ | 1,700 | | |
| Erosion Control Only per denuded acre | \$ | 620 | \$ | 710 | | |
| Driveway Permit | S | | \$ | 325 | | |
| Minor Revision to Approved Plans | \$ | 970 | \$ | 1,500 | | |
| Major Revision to Approved Plans | 5 | 1,800 | 5 | 2,300 | | |
| Plat Revision | \$ | 740 | \$ | 810 | | |
| As-Built Survey - Storm Drainage | \$ | 740 | \$ | 1,300 | | |
| As-Built Survey - BMP | S | 1,100 | \$ | 1,900 | | |
| Posting Bond | \$ | 1,200 | \$ | 1,300 | | |
| Renewing Bond | \$ | 1,200 | \$ | 1,300 | | |
| Replacing Bond | \$ | 1,200 | \$ | 1,300 | | |
| Releasing Bond | \$ | 1,200 | \$ | 1,300 | | |
| Bond Default Letter | \$ | 530 | 5 | 560 | | |
| Re-Inspection | 5 | 370 | \$ | 430 | | |
| Re-Plan Review (\$/hr) | S | 110 | No (| Change | | |

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

Land Development Services Fee Model

 Proposed Land Development fees will more accurately cover costs for providing services and have not been adjusted since FY2021

| Fee Type | F١ | /24 Fee | FY25 Fee |
|--|------|----------|-----------|
| Land Development Fees - Single-year Projects (la | st u | pdated F | Y21) |
| Large Commercial Plan (>1 acre denuded or PCO applies) | \$ | 9,300 | \$ 9,400 |
| Per denuded acre (>5 acres) | \$ | 1,000 | No Change |
| Subdivision | | | |
| (≤10 acres denuded) | \$ | 16,200 | \$ 16,500 |
| Per denuded acre | \$ | 1,050 | No Change |
| (>10 and ≤ 25 acres) | \$ | 26,700 | \$ 27,500 |
| Per denuded acre | \$ | - | No Change |
| (>25 acres) | \$ | 26,700 | \$ 27,500 |
| Per denuded acre (>25 acres) | \$ | 500 | No Change |
| Public Projects | \$ | 4,600 | \$ 4,900 |
| 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

9

Solid Waste Services Fees

Proposal for FY2025

Comments

Commissioner Altman said she didn't recall seeing a fee for denuded acres. She said it looked and sounded like an impact fee, which she had been hoping for, and she was looking for a way to have such assessments on developments. She asked if they could make it more and what the history was. Mr. Cecerrelli said it was not an impact fee. He said it had been around for years and was a way to adjust fees based on the project size. In terms of making it more, he said they could, but with the model, they ran, they set out a goal for their reserves should have and were making their way to meet that number.

Commissioner Altman asked what the fees covered. *Mr. Cecerrelli said it was purely the services they provided when someone had a developmental meeting to plan reviews and inspections.*

Commissioner Altman asked when they denuded a natural environment and made it more visible if they factored in costs to the public when someone was developing. *Mr. Cecerrelli said the items they had implemented to offset those impacts were ordinances, specifically one passed in 2007. He said any development before that did not have to have stormwater treatment centers. He added that after 2007, all developments had to have stormwater treatment centers.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked if stricter regulations would result in fewer fees for the public. She also asked if assuming the General Assembly had stricter regulations, it would have less impact. *Mr. Cecerrelli said that was true*.

Chair Dunlap said they determined this was the cost of doing business with the County and that it was not an effort to generate extra revenue. He said if they offered additional services, there would be a cost to complete those services. He asked how people were being charged. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said they only paid for the amount of imperviousness on their property. He said fees increased for residents if they extended their driveway or built a patio, for example. He said those fees were fees Mecklenburg Stormwater Services provided to Towns for land development review services. He said it had nothing to do with the impact.*

Commissioner Cotham asked how they thought the development community would receive the information. Mr. Cecerrelli said the last time they increased fees in FY20-21, the fees were phased in. He said they didn't have a financial model then, and they (the development community) were concerned about the increase. He said the increases then were almost double what they were paying previously.

Vice Chair Jerrell asked for clarification on whether the impact of development was or wasn't impacting the increase they were seeing in residential homeowners. He asked if the cost was not attributed to residents. Mr. Gujjarlapudi said he wasn't saying that. He clarified that the fees shared with residents and business owners were the downstream effect of *development* and bringing their creeks back up to health.

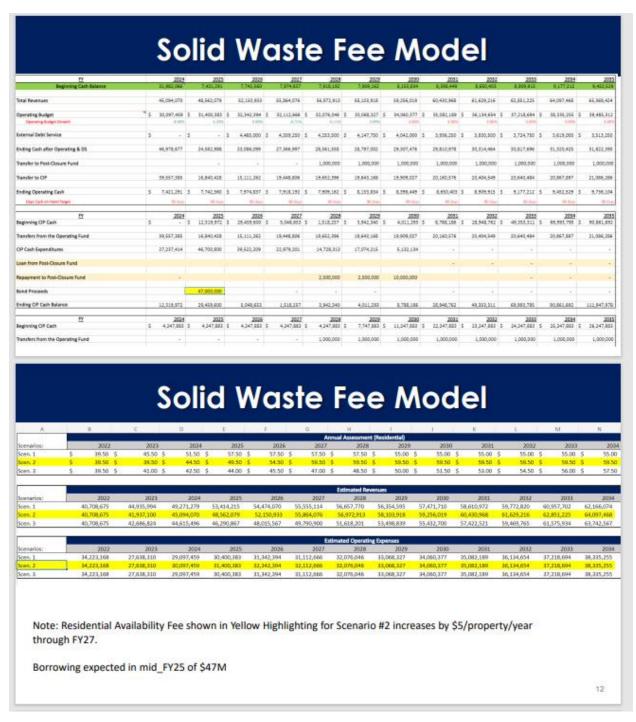
Vice Chair Jerrell asked why they would have to pass on the fee to residents who weren't contributing to the problem. Mr. Cecerrelli said it was the one reason, many years ago, they went to a fee for impervious areas. He said if there were no more developments at that time, the fee would still increase. He said it was a way to do it fairly throughout the County.

Vice Chair Jerrell said to be clear, he was not calling for more development. He said he was trying to ensure residents were protected and they weren't passing on fees they had no control over.

Chair Dunlap said that when they discussed an increase in fees, the people who developed affordable housing were impacted by that. He asked how it would impact those developers and whether there were any waivers or amenities that they allowed for those developers. *Mr. Cecerrelli said there were currently no waivers because the work they did was based on the project size. He said it had been a concern for the Home Builders Association of Greater Charlotte and the Real Estate & Building Industry Coalition (REBIC) in the past for affordable housing. Mr. Gujjarlapudi said they hadn't found opportunities to waive fees cause they were a utility.*

Commissioner Altman asked Attorney Wade if he could advise if there were a legal way to treat landowners differently. Attorney Wade said taxes had to be uniform across all bases.

Jeff Smithberger gave this portion of the presentation.



Solid Waste Fee Highlights

NO INCREASE PROPOSED FOR RESIDENTIAL DISPOSAL FEES

Residential "Flat-Fee" costs charged at Full-Service Centers **will be not be increased** to match the "weighed" disposal rate.

13

Solid Waste Fee Highlights

Residential Availability Fee (RAF): adjustment to cover costs associated management of infrastructure, recyclables processing and ongoing capital projects.

- Presented to the BOCC on Nov. 15, 2022; \$5/property increase was recommended and acknowledged by the BOCC. Anticipated fee increases through FY27.
- FY25 proposed to increase \$5/property annually (0.42/month/property);
- Currently \$44.50/annually/property proposed to \$49.50 annually

Solid Waste Technical Fee Highlights

Proposed increases in tip fees to <u>cover contractual increases</u>

- Speedway Landfill: \$38.95 to \$40.00/ton
- Non-County Recyclables: \$116 to \$124.00/ton
- These costs affect those external jurisdictions that are party to Agreements for waste disposal and recycling processing.

15

Solid Waste Technical Fee Highlights

- Construction Debris: \$57/ton to \$60/ton
- Yard Waste: \$36/ton to \$38/ton
- Annual <u>Out of County</u> Residential Stickers:
 - Increase by \$10 annually: \$100 for a year; \$50 for 2nd half year
- Transfer Fee \$12/ton to \$16/ton
 - Added to other disposal fees and will affect commercial customers and the City who will use the new center.

Solid Waste Technical Fee Highlights

- Tires and TV Disposal:
 - Tires will increase by \$0.50/tire for all sizes
 - TV disposal for <u>Commercial Customers</u> will increase \$5/unit: from \$30 to \$35 each device
- Commercial Recycling Collection:
 - Monthly collection will increase by \$15 per customer; from \$60/month to \$75/month (this is a voluntary program for participants who choose to have full business recycling)

17

QUESTIONS?

Comments

Chair Dunlap asked if they had done a study to determine when they increased fees and if it had a negative impact. He gave the example of leaving tires on the side of the road or going to one of the facilities. *Mr. Smithberger said they weren't charged a fee to get rid of tires, and only people with more than five tires were charged.*

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



Proposed FY25 Fee Adjustments Public Health

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

April 23, 2024

Clinical Services Fees - New

| Service Type | СРТ | Proposed FY25 |
|--|-------|------------------|
| RPR Titer – Syphilis test, non- treponemal antibody; quantitive | 86593 | 5.61 |
| Rapid HIV – Oraquick – Antibody; HIV-1 and HIV-2, single result | 86703 | 14.95 |
| Hepatitis C Ab Hepatitis C Antibody | 86803 | 18.15 |
| Hepatitis A Antibody (HAAb) | 86708 | 15.75 |

Note: These fees are only billed to insurance for reimbursement and are never charged directly to patients.

Clinical Services Fees

| Service Type | CPT | FY24 | Proposed FY25 | Change |
|---|-------|----------|---|-----------|
| Medrxyprogesterone acetate injection (Depo-Provera) | J1055 | \$47.00 | Remove – Duplicate fee on fee schedule | -\$47.00 |
| Kyleena | J7296 | \$541.39 | Remove – product no longer available. | -\$541.39 |

Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA) Fees - New

| Service Type | СРТ | Proposed FY25 |
|---|-------|------------------|
| Conditioning play audiometry – special hearing test | 92582 | 31.76 |

Note: This fee is only billed to insurance for reimbursement and never charged directly to patients.

Environmental Health Fees

| Service Type | FY24 | Proposed FY25 (max) | Change | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------|--|--|--|
| Well Monitoring – 3 Wells | \$150 | \$200 | +\$50 | | | |
| Well Monitoring – 4 Wells | \$180 | \$225 | +\$45 | | | |
| Well Monitoring – 5 Wells | \$210 | \$250 | +\$40 | | | |
| Well Monitoring – 6 Wells | \$240 | \$275 | +\$35 | | | |
| Well Monitoring – 7 - 10 Wells | \$290 | \$375 | +\$85 | | | |
| Well Monitoring – 11 - 25 Wells | \$450 | \$750 | +\$300 | | | |
| Well Monitoring – 26 - 50 Wells | \$650 | \$1,375 | +\$725 | | | |
| Well Monitoring – 50+ Wells | itoring – 50+ \$850 | | +\$550+ | | | |
| Requested fee structure: \$150 first well. \$25 each additional well. | | | | | | |

Environmental Health Fees

| Service Type | FY24 | FY25 Proposed | Change |
|-------------------------------------|-------|---------------|--------|
| Food and Lodging Plan Re –Review | \$150 | \$200 | +\$50 |
| Public Pool Plan Review | \$350 | \$500 | +\$150 |
| Public Pool Plan Re-Review | \$250 | \$350 | +\$100 |

Meeting Minutes April 23, 2024

Comments

Commissioner Meier asked for clarification on wells. Dr. Washington clarified.

Chair Dunlap asked if Colonial Pipe fell into the category. *Dr. Washington said yes, they would.* He said it depended on how big individual sites were that they would have to monitor.

Commissioner Altman said she was always concerned about women's access to reproductional rights. She asked him to explain the impact and whether anyone was unable to get the family planning products they wanted due to cost. *Dr. Washington said they had several options they could choose from, but they no longer carried Kyleena, and the depo shot was just a duplicate fee on the schedule they were correcting.*

Commissioner Altman asked what categories of contraceptives were available at the time in Public Health. *Dr. Washington said there was a range from condoms to long-acting implants to pharmaceutical options such as pills, short-action, and emergency contraception.* Commissioner Altman asked if they were reduced costs. *Dr. Washington said it was provided at no cost, but there were some that paid a sliding fee depending on their income.* Commissioner Altman asked if they ever had to deny someone the product that they needed due to them not having enough or if the person couldn't afford it. *Dr. Washington said they had a large supply of contraception, so for the most part, women had an option when they came in for family planning.*

Commissioner Cotham asked for an update on the pools at hotels that failed inspections and became weekly hotels with no expectations. *Dr. Washington said that based on the law, even without a nightly lodging permit, the pool would still be designated a public pool if they were using it. He said it would still have to go through environmental health to be inspected.*

Deputy County Manager Trotman provided a brief synopsis of the matter to Dr. Washington.

24-0241 FUNDING OPTION FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS (VFD) FOR FY25

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, Director, Land Use & Environmental Services Agency made 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.



FY25 Service Delivery Option for Volunteer Fire Districts (VFD)

BOCC Public Policy Workshop April 23, 2024

Presentation Outline

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



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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.



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2

Approved Enhancements for FY24

- Required in-station four-person staffing
- \$15k increase in Capital increase from \$85k to \$100k
- Increase in Operating including MEDIC supplement
- Hourly rate increase from \$17/hr to \$20/hr for 3 FF
- Hourly rate increase for Chief from \$20/hr to \$24/hr
- Funding for first responder supplement (MEDIC)



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Summary of Changes for FY2024

| FY23 Allocation | FY24 Recommendation (Increase) | Change |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| \$ 956,960 | \$ 1,150,840 | \$ 193,880 |

| Sub-Total | \$ 128,880 | |
|-----------|------------|----------------------------|
| | \$ 15,000 | Increase in Capital |
| | \$ 35,040 | Chief (\$20/hr to \$24/hr) |
| | \$ 78,840 | \$17/hr to \$20/hr |

| Remaining Increase | \$ 65,000 | Includes MEDIC Supplement and other increases | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|--|
|--------------------|-----------|---|--|

Tax Rate History

| ETJ | FY15 | FY16 | FY17 | FY18-19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 |
|--------------|------|------|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Charlotte | 6¢ | 6¢ | 7¢ | 8¢ | 6.67¢ | 7.5¢ | 8.0¢ | 10.15¢ | 8.76¢* |
| Cornelius | 5¢ | 5¢ | 5.7¢ | 5.7¢ | 3.62₡ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 4.53¢ |
| Davidson | 6⊄ | 6⊄ | 5.5¢ | 8.5⊄ | 6.50¢ | 8.90¢ | 8.90¢ | 8.90¢ | 7.08¢ |
| Huntersville | 5¢ | 5¢ | 5¢ | 5⊄ | 4.10¢ | 4.56¢ | 5.80¢ | 6.63¢ | 6.53¢ |
| Mint Hill | 7¢ | 7¢ | 8⊄ | 8⊄ | 7¢ | 7¢ | 7.50¢ | 7.50¢ | 6.00¢ |



M e c k N C . g o v *Note: Revenue Neutral Rate is 6.94¢

Charlotte District

FY24 Funding

| Fire Department | Total Allocation | FY23 | Change from FY23 to FY24 |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Huntersville & Rural | \$ 1,100,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 100,000 |
| Cooks | \$ 1,150,840 | \$956,960 | \$ 193,880 |
| Robinson | \$ 1,150,840 | \$ 956,960 | \$ 193,880 |
| Steele Creek | \$ 4,438,532 | \$ 2,813,920 | \$ 1,624,612 |
| Carolina | \$ 1,150,840 | \$ 956,960 | \$ 193,880 |
| West Meck | \$ 1,700,000 | \$ 1,363,920 | \$ 336,080 |
| Long Creek | \$ 1,150,840 | \$ 956,960 | \$ 193,880 |
| Total | \$ 11,841,892 | \$ 9,005,680 | \$ 2,836,212 |



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7

Summary for FY2024

- Required in-station four person staffing
- \$15k increase in Capital increase from \$85k to \$100k
- Increase in Operating Allocation to include MEDIC supplement
- Hourly rate increase from \$17/hr to \$20/hr for 3 FF
- Hourly rate increase for Chief from \$20/hr to \$24/hr
- Proposed Tax Rate of 8.76¢ (increase of 1.82 cents) over revenue neutral rate of 6.94¢.

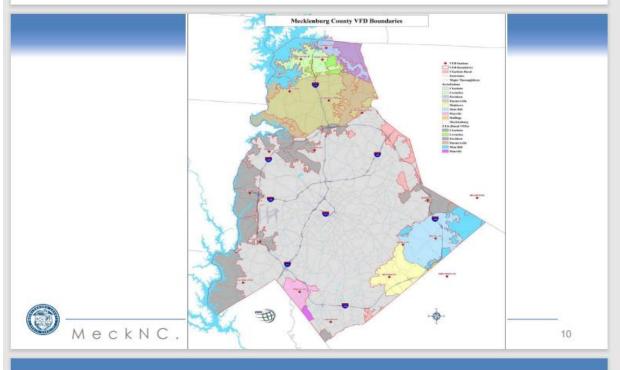


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Charlotte District VFDs

- 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 2 Stations
- West Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Department 2 Units





FY25 VFD Funding



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1

Charlotte District

FY25 Requests – Salaries, Operational & Capital

| Departments | FY25Operational Budget Request | FY25 Capital Request | Total FY25 Request | FY24 Allocation | Difference |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Huntersville & Rural | \$ 1,100,000 | | \$1,100,000 | \$ 1,100,000 | \$0 |
| Cooks | \$ 1,363,000 | \$488,910 | \$1,851,910 | \$ 1,150,840 | \$ 701,070 |
| Robinson | \$ 1,090,800 | \$196,000 | \$1,286,800 | \$ 1,150,840 | \$ 135,960 |
| Steele Creek | \$ 4,537,019 | \$ 775,141 | \$5,312,160 | \$ 4,438,532 | \$ 873,628 |
| Carolina | \$ 1,050,840 | \$100,000 | \$1,150,840 | \$ 1,150,840 | \$0 |
| West Meck | \$ 1,569,728 | \$170,000 | \$1,739,728 | \$ 1,700,000 | \$ 39,728 |
| Long Creek | \$ 1,609,644 | \$200,000 | \$1,809,644 | \$ 1,150,840 | \$ 658,804 |
| | | | | | |
| Total | \$ 12,321,031 | \$1,930,051 | \$14,251,082 | \$ 11,841,892 | \$ 2,499,190 |



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Tax Values & Revenue Estimates – FY25

| FPSD | FY 2025 Estimated Value | FY24 Tax Rate | Collection Rate | 2025 Estimate Revenue |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Charlotte | \$14,941,371,390 | 8.76 | 98% | \$12,826,892 |

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



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13

Tax Rate Comparison

| | | | EV/10 10 | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|------|----------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| 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¢ | 9.73¢* |
| Cornelius | 5¢ | 5.7¢ | 5.7¢ | 3.62¢ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 6.12¢ | 4.53¢ | TBD |
| 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⊄ |



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*Estimated based on requests

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.
 - Modest increases to account



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15

Charlotte District

FY25 Funding Proposal

| Standardized | Standardized Adopted FY24 | | Total Proposed 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 | |



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Meeting Minutes April 23, 2024

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¢ | TBD |
| 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¢ |



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17

Questions?



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Meeting Minutes April 23, 2024

Comments

Chair Dunlap asked how giving each station an extra \$100,000 stacked up, concerning tax rates, as a resident, if one lived in Cornelius versus Davidson. He said it was almost as if they were using money from one district to balance out and pay for another district. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said all of Charlotte was one district. He said all of the areas in the Charlotte ETJ would pay 8.76. He said in Davidson, since they have their own ETJ, they would propose their own rate. He said Huntersville, up until 2024, only had a volunteer fire department, hence the increase. He said they would have a town fire department beginning in 2025.*

Chair Dunlap asked if the County was only funding other departments (Robinson, Steele Creek, etc.) and where the money was coming from. *Mr. Gujjarlapudi said it came from the 8.76 cents they collected as part of their taxes, which would generate 8 to 12 million dollars.*

24-0238 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 Boadjourned at 4:30 p.m. | pard, Chair Dunlap declared the meeting |
|--|---|
| | |
| Arlissa Eason, Deputy Clerk to the Board | George Dunlap, Chairman |