AGENDA

Keith Wood, Vice Chair
Wayne Barneycastle, Chair
Sonya Cox, Commissioner
Brad Chandler, Commissioner
Rick Morris, Commissioner

REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Monday, June 8, 2026
COMMISSIONERS CHAMBERS
6:00 PM

I. Call to Order

II. Invocation

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of the Agenda

V. Public Comments

VI. Comments - Managers/Commissioners

VII. Conflicts of Interest

VIII. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

b. Project Ordinances

IX. Information Agenda

a. Retirement Recognition

X. Discussion Agenda

a. Annual Budget Ordinance

XI. Action Agenda

XII. Closed Session

a. Rationales

XIII. Adjournment

*Anyone with a disability(is) who needs an accommodation to participate in this meeting is requested to inform us 48 hours prior to the scheduled time of the affected group meeting
*Attachments may be delivered before or at the time of the meeting
*Times may vary due to times preset for agenda items

Board of County Commissioners
June 8, 2026

Item number: VIII.a

Minutes

Drafter: Olivia Jessup

Summary:
Minutes from March 23rd, 2026 Regular Meeting and April 13th, 2026 Regular Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:
03.23.26Minutes
04.13.26Minutes

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	**)**	**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS**
	)	**STOKES COUNTY**
COUNTY OF STOKES	**)**	**GOVERNMENT DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA**

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026

Regular Session of the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Regular Session in the Commissioners Chambers on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 2:00 PM with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Keith Wood, Wayne Barneycastle, Sonya Cox, Brad Chandler, Rick Morris

County Administration Present: County Manager Jeff Sanborn, Assistant County Manager Bryan Miller, Clerk to the Board Olivia Jessup, Director of Finance Tammy Keaton, and County Attorney Jennifer Michaud.

Absent: None

I. Call to Order

Chairman Barneycastle called the meeting to order.

II. Invocation

Chairman Barneycastle invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Invocation, if desired.

Vice-Chairman Wood delivered the Invocation.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Barneycastle invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to amend or approve tonight's agenda.

Commissioner Chandler moved to Approve .

Vice Chair Wood seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

V. Public Comments

Chairman Barneycastle noted that there were no individuals signed up to speak tonight in Public Comments.

VI. Comments - Managers/Commissioners

Chairman Barneycastle opened the floor for comments from the manager and commissioners.

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- Good afternoon, everybody. Good to see everybody here. It's a beautiful day. We'll have a lot to going to comment on today. We got a kind of a busy agenda, but one thing that was very interesting to me last week, I saw a statistic that kind of stood out to me and don't quote me on the beginning year, but something like from 2014 until the end of 2025 where Stokes County has led the state where we've lost 30% of our crop land cover. So, we're losing our farms, folks. We lead the state during that during that time period and, to me, it's just very kind of concerning.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Welcome everybody, it's good to have you here today participating. We've got a schedule with one item I've been waiting for a long time for today and I can't wait to get on with business, so I'll stop and that's all I have to say.

Vice-Chair Wood commented:

- Welcome everybody and I appreciate y'all coming out and that's all I got.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- Sorry I was a few minutes late. I hit every red light between King and here plus all the road construction around Danbury. So lucky me. I missed the last meeting because I had grandchildren that were born a couple of days before the meeting and I was babysitting their big sister that day and they were still at the hospital. I hate I missed it. I'm so glad I'm here today to do this business that we need to take care of the hospital. That's very exciting. Like Rick said, we've been waiting a while. And if I had been here last meeting, I would have definitely wanted to mention Deputy Caleb Mitchell and his family and my condolences to them. And the Bowman family, Ronnie Bowman passed away in a motorcycle accident in Nashville. He is a one of Stokes County's legendary bluegrass players and songwriters in Nashville and his sister Kathy and Colonel Bowman. We just extend our condolences to that family as well.

County Manager Sanborn commented:

- The senior staff has been very heavily involved in budget development over the last several weeks. Over the last two weeks, we've been going through the process of going through individual department level budgets. I'm happy to report that you know by and large all of the submissions that we got and requests that we got from our department heads were very appropriate. We did make a handful of changes to many if not most of those submissions but by and large, they're very appropriate and responsible budgets that our departments had submitted. So we're on track for our budget development. We're still missing a few key pieces from external actors or some other agencies out there before we can bring it all together.

On the agenda this evening is the is our update for the five- year financial forecast. That does not include the results of the budget scrubs that we just took that just took place over the last two weeks. So some of that might change up or down one way or the other as we move forward.

Assistant County Manager Miller commented:

- The only thing I'll add is I'm happy to be here. I'm happy to help in any way I can and thank you for your support.

Chair Barneycastle commented:

- Again, I'd like to reiterate as the commissioners said, welcome everybody here. God bless a beautiful day. I appreciate all the texts, phone calls, and prayers. And I really appreciate Novant Cancer Center. Great team doing a super job as far as I'm concerned. I'll just be glad when I get through it. Thank y'all for being here.

VII. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were stated by the Board.

VIII. Consent Agenda

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

VIIIa.. Tax Office Agenda

VIIIb.. Minutes

VIIIc.. Recommendation for Award of Independent Audit Services RFP

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Chandler moved to Approve .

Vice Chair Wood seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

IX. Information Agenda

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

IXa.. Child Fatality Prevention Team

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Tammy Martin to present Child Fatality Prevention Team. Martin explained that Stokes County must choose between joining a multi-county team or remaining a single-county team. She recommended remaining a single-county team.

With little discussion, the Board agreed to move the item to the action agenda for approval.

IXb.. 5-Year Financial Forecast Update

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Jeff Sanborn to present Five-Year Financial Forecast.

Sanborn reviewed ongoing budget planning for the next five years. Key updates included:

- Maintaining existing major expenses, including broadband planning, DSS building expansion, and emergency radio replacement.
- New priorities: county communications plan, emergency management planning for nuclear readiness, zoning ordinance updates, and emergency radio needs.
    - A full replacement of radios in 2027 would cost about $ 1.4 million; staff recommended switching to a phased replacement plan to reduce upfront cost.
- Financial projections under the current tax rate show fund balance dipping slightly below the 30% policy minimum in certain years.
    - Increasing the tax rate by one cent would stabilize the fund balance.
- Next steps include a budget preview on April 13, full proposal on May 11, and adoption in June.

The Board expressed support for the phased radio replacement plan and exploring the use of federal funds for broadband instead of county funds.

X. Public Hearing

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

Xa.. Public Hearing Outline and Rules

Chairman Barneycastle opened the floor for the public hearing at 2:31 pm.

The following individuals signed up to speak in public comments:

Dwayne R. Young
1387 Hart Road
Lawsonville, NC
RE: Hospital Lease

Greg Collins
3188 Horseshoe Road
Westfield, NC
RE: Hospital Lease

Pamela P. Tillman
113 Gayle Drive
King, NC
RE: Hospital Lease

Chairman Barneycastle closed the floor for the public hearing at 2:41pm.

XI. Discussion Agenda

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

XIa.. Novant Lease Agreement

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to the Board to discuss the Novant Lease Agreement.

All commissioners expressed strong support for the Novant Lease, and the community benefit it will bring. They noted the rural healthcare challenges and the hard work of the current staff. The Board agreed that language can still be refined later with mutual consent from Novant.

The item was moved to the Action agenda for today's meeting.

XIb.. New Animal Shelter Project

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Glenda Pruitt to present the New Animal Shelter Project.

Pruit noted that the bids had been reviewed and that GenCon Group was the lowest bidder. The project is over budget, but after cuts, costs were reduced by 7%. Pruitt requested the Board to approve the addition of necessary funds and move project forward.

The Board was supportive and the item was moved to the Action agenda for today's meeting.

XIc.. Opioid Litigation Update

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Jennifer Michaud to present Opioid Litigation Update.

Michaud provided a brief opioid litigation update with formal discussion deferred to closed session.

XId.. Proposed 2026 Stokes County Fee Schedule

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Bryan Miller to present Proposed 2026

Stokes County Fee Schedule.

Miller presented the new and updated fees for Stokes County for the 2026–2027 fiscal year. Increases were mostly tied to service costs and consistency with other jurisdictions.

With little discussion, the Board moved the item to the Action agenda for today's meeting.

XII. Action Agenda

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

XIIa.) Child Fatality Prevention Team

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Commissioner Cox moved to Approve .

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

XIIb.) Novant Lease Agreement

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Commissioner Chandler moved to Approve .

Vice Chair Wood seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

XIIc.) New Animal Shelter Project

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Vice Chair Wood moved to Approve .

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

XIId.) Proposed 2026 Stokes County Fee Schedule

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Commissioner Chandler moved to Approve. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

XIII. Closed Session

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to enter closed session at 3:03 pm.

Chair Barneycastle moved to go into closed session for the following rationales:

To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body, as well as to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion.

With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The Board entered closed session.

XIV. Action

XIVa.) Opioid Litigation Update

After Closed Session, Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Commissioner Chandler moved to Approve. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

XIVb.) TC Morphis Contract Extension

After Closed Session, Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Commissioner Morris moved to Approve. Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

XV. Adjournment

The Board reentered open session.

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Cox moved to adjourn at 4:30 pm. Commissioner Chandler seconded.

The motion Passed (5-0).

_____	_____
Olivia Jessup **Clerk to the Board**	**Wayne Barneycastle** **Chair**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	**)**	**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS**
	)	**STOKES COUNTY**
COUNTY OF STOKES	**)**	**GOVERNMENT DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA**

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

Regular Session of the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Regular Session in the Commissioners Chambers on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Keith Wood, Wayne Barneycastle, Sonya Cox, Brad Chandler, Rick Morris

County Administration Present: County Manager Jeff Sanborn, Assistant County Manager Bryan Miller, Clerk to the Board Olivia Jessup, Director of Finance Tammy Keaton, and County Attorney Jennifer Michaud.

Absent: None

I. Call to Order

Chairman Barneycastle called the meeting to order.

II. Invocation

Chairman Barneycastle invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Invocation, if desired.

Commissioner Cox delivered the Invocation.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Barneycastle invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to amend or approve tonight's agenda.

Commissioner Chandler moved to Approve .

Vice Chair Wood seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

V. Public Comments

Chairman Barneycastle opened the floor for public comments at 6:03 pm.

The following individuals signed up to speak in public comments:

Kathryn Converse
3955 NC 66 Hwy N
Westfield, NC
RE: Francisco Park

Chairman Barneycastle closed the floor for public comments at 6:10pm.

VI. Comments - Managers/Commissioners

Chairman Barneycastle opened the floor for comments from the manager and commissioners.

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- Welcome everybody, all of you that are here in attendance and then also on streaming. A little bit about the park, they do a great job in the community. They're putting a lot of heart and soul into making this a really a great feature for the northern side of Stokes County. So, if you if you do get a chance to be able to attend one of these events, please come out and enjoy the park. Other than that, all I got to say is keep in mind all of our airmen, soldiers, and military personnel that that are back in the fight with the conflict in Iran.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody as well. And I was going to say the same thing Brad did about the military to keep those folks in mind. These blockades and so forth. They're getting ready to do high-risk operations and you really got to know what you're doing. They're in harm's way and doing very risky stuff. So, and they've proven here recently that they're capable of doing those kind of things, but but we definitely need to keep them in our prayers.

Vice-Chair Wood commented:

- Welcome everybody. I hope everybody's enjoying Stokes County Pollen as much as I am this year.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I'll echo what my fellow commissioners mentioned about the military because we do have several Stokes County people that I personally know that are over there right now. A matter of fact, I think Dr. Bryce's son was headed over there last that I heard, was on a ship um headed that way and he probably had time to be there by now. I don't know if they're just waiting orders or what, but there's also other people from our community that have kids that are that are over there. So, we definitely want to remember them and our in our thoughts and prayers. And I think there's this is some really good stuff with this Francisco Park. We'll give them a shout out for being as committed as they are and putting in all the work that that takes to do something like this cause just building the playground when we did in King I know how much work goes into trying to get the grants and the money and the doing that background work for all of that. And they they've done their homework and hopefully we can help move this forward for them next

time. Also there is a play at South Stokes this weekend, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night. It's communitywide theater of all the high schools and I think it's at 7 each night and it's a musical and Eddy's brother is the teacher. He's really good. So I'm looking forward to that. Your farmer appreciation is next Thursday, the 23rd.

Chair Barneycastle commented:

- Again, I appreciate everyone being here, everyone watching live stream. I'd like to thank everybody for the texts, phone calls, and the main thing is prayers. I got a good report on my cancer, so I'm feeling good. I hope it continues to go well. Also, I want to send out a big thanks to our folks at the animal shelter. I actually made it a point to stop by there and personally thank them. I know we pay people to do a job, but it's nothing wrong with stopping by and showing a little gratitude or appreciation of the work they've done and the grade they got for our county. Considering what they got to work with, I think they've done an outstanding job and I think when people do that they need to be recognized. So again my hats off to those folks and as everybody else I pretty much has mentioned is the military. I never served but my heart goes out to them boys. They give us the freedom we got today and I hope God wraps his arms around them, secures them, and brings them all back home to us. I really do.

VII. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were stated by the Board.

VIII. Consent Agenda

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

a. FY 2026-2027 Fee Schedule (Updated)

b. Budget Amendments

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to approve the Consent

Agenda. Commissioner Chandler moved to Approve.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

IX. Discussion Agenda

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

a. Budget Preview

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Jeff Sanborn to present Budget Preview.

Sanborn presented the Fiscal Year 2027 budget preview and five year financial plan. The proposed general fund is $77.33 million, a 3.1% increase. A proposed one penny increase to the tax rate was also presented, but Commissioners leaned toward no tax increase (staying at 58.5 cents). Additionally, fund balance use reduced from $6.8M to $5M. Six new positions were proposed (planning, IT, Emergency Communications QA, DSS Social Workers, Parks & Rec Coordinator). Capital items include the new animal shelter completion, a staggered 5 year replacement of emergency radios, one new ambulance and one remount, and the Mountain View Road green box site.

Stokes County Schools requested $17.3 million. Sanborn recommended $ 16.5 million, citing expected fund balance carryover and past variance. Commissioners agreed the recommendation was reasonable. The proposed fire district rate remains at 9 cents, but funding requests exceed revenue by ~$500k. The Fire Commission proposal includes added staffing stipends, paying off substation debt, a new pumper-tanker for Pinnacle, a generator for Northeast Stokes, and a replacement brush truck. Sanborn expressed concerned about sustainability of fund balance over 4–5 years. The Board discussed either raising the fire tax to 10 cents or reducing the fire commission budget request. The Commissioners asked manager to meet with fire commission directly.

In the Five Year Forecast, Sanborn presented scenarios for no tax increase, Half cent increase, and one cent increase. Without an increase, fund balance dips below policy minimum in FY29, but revaluation in 2030 could correct course. The Board favored no tax increase for now. The School Capital Fund (4 cent fund) is still on track for building a new elementary school in 2030. Some shortfalls may be possible but can be managed with grants, fund balance, or adjustments.

b. Resolution Voiding Rezoning and Text Amendment

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Jennifer Michaud to present Resolution Voiding Rezoning and Text Amendment.

Michaud noted that this resolution was needed to restart the rezoning and text amendment process for a previous project relating to data centers.

With little discussion, the Board moved the item to the Action Agenda for tonight's meeting.

c. TCC and TAC Representation

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Commissioner Chandler to present TCC and TAC Representation.

Commissioner Chandler noted that he is stepping off TAC. The Board discussed replacement options and preferred to wait for new board in December for permanent replacement. Additionally, the County Manager can appoint a TCC representative now, which will likely be Jeff Sanborn or Bryan Miller.

d. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Appointment

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Olivia Jessup to present Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Appointment.

An application was received from Andrew Mathys. The Board nominated Mathys and moved the item to action at next meeting.

e. Tourism Development Authority Appointments

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Olivia Jessup to present Tourism Development Authority Appointments.

Applications were received from Jacob Tilley to fill the Danbury seat and finish term for current member, as well as Katie Tedder and Elizabeth O'Neal as vacation rental property seats.

The Board nominated all and moved the item to action at the next meeting.

f. Board of Adjustments Appointments

Chairman Barneycastle turned the floor over to Olivia Jessup to present Board of Adjustments Appointments.

Jessup noted that the Planning Board members agreed to serve as Board of Adjustment members, as the BOA rarely meets. Doing so is legal and appropriate given the similar nature of the BOA and Planning Board.

List of seven members nominated (Tommy White, W. Mark Sizemore, Ronnie Tilley, Jeffrey Whitaker, Ronnie Morris, Shannon Stanley, and Patrick Flinchum). The Board will assign primary vs. alternate at next meeting.

X. Action Agenda

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

a. Resolution Voiding Rezoning and Text Amendment

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Commissioner Morris moved to Approve.

Vice Chair Wood seconded the motion.

The motion passed (5-0).

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Barneycastle entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Chandler moved to adjourn at 7:13 pm.

Vice-Chair Wood seconded. The motion Passed.

_____

Olivia Jessup
Clerk to the Board

_____

Wayne Barneycastle
Chair

Board of County Commissioners
June 8, 2026

Item number: VIII.b

Project Ordinances

Drafter: Tammy Keaton, Finance Director

Summary:
The Public Schools Building Repair and Renovation Fund - To establish a multi-year project ordinance for Stokes County Schools Career & Technical Education classroom expansion that includes three classrooms and three hands-on learning spaces (shop areas), and restrooms.

Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund - To establish a multi-year project ordinance for Stokes County Schools for the remaining balances for critical school capital improvements.

ATTACHMENTS:
Stokes County Schools Needs Based Capital Fund Project Ordinance 2026.pdf
Stokes County Schools Repair and Renovation Project Ordinance 2026.pdf

STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE

STOKES COUNTY SCHOOLS NEEDS BASED CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Stokes County, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1: Project Description
The grant project authorized by this ordinance consists of critical school capital improvements for **Stokes County Schools**. These improvements are funded via a grant pass-through from the **Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF)**, administered through the **North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI)** and backed by **North Carolina State Lottery revenues.**

This ordinance formally establishes a multi-year project fund to consolidate all **remaining balances** of the project. This replaces the county's historical practice of executing year-to-year operational budget amendments for these ongoing capital funds G.S. 159-13.2.

Section 2: Authorization & Lifespan
The County Finance Officer is hereby authorized to direct the administration of this project in accordance with the grant agreement, North Carolina General Statutes, and NCDPI School Planning compliance regulations. This ordinance shall remain in full force and effect for the entire duration of the grant project, spanning multiple fiscal years, until all authorized work is completed and the project is formally closed.

Section 3: Revenue Appropriations (Remaining Project Balances)
The following remaining balances and anticipated revenues are hereby appropriated to complete this school capital project:

- **Total Project Grant Revenue:** **$5,125,250.00**
- **Remaining NBPSCF Grant Revenue (NCDPI Pass-Through):** **$2,730,760.74**

Section 4: Expenditure Appropriations
The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the completion of the ongoing architectural, engineering, construction, and renovation line items for Stokes County Schools:

- **Total Project Grant Expenditures (to date):** **$2,394,489.26**
- **Total Anticipated Project Expenditures:** **$2,730,760.74**

Section 5: Financial Reporting & Lifecycle Durability
1. **Multi-Year Operational Duration:** This ordinance shall remain in effect for the entire remaining lifespan of the grant project G.S 159-13.2. All remaining fund balances will

roll forward automatically at the end of each fiscal year. This eliminates the necessity of annual budget amendments for these specific funds G.S. 159-13.2.

2. **Reporting Schedule:** The Stokes County Finance Officer shall submit required Annual Reports to NCDPI on or before April 1 of each year, and a final completion report within 90 days of project closure.

Section 6: Filing

Within five days after adoption, copies of this grant project ordinance shall be officially filed with the Stokes County Budget Officer, the Stokes County Finance Officer, and the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____ Date: _____

Wayne Barneycastle , Chairman
Stokes County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

_____

Olivia Jessup, Clerk to the Board

4/28/2026

County 84 Stokes

LEA 850 Stokes County

Public School Building Capital Fund - Fiscal Year Totals
ADM, Lottery Fund,
Needs Based Lottery Fund,
and Repair Renovation Lottery Fund

Fiscal Year	ADM Fund: Tax Revenue	ADM Fund: Interest On Revenue	ADM Fund: Interest On Disburs Bal	ADM Fund: Project Allocation	ADM Fund: Unallocated Balance	Lottery Fund: Lottery Revenue	Lottery Fund: Interest On Revenue	Lottery Fund: Interest On Disburs Bal	Lottery Fund: Project Allocation	Lottery Fund: Unallocated Balance	Needs Based Lottery Fund: Needs Based Lottery Revenue	Needs Based Lottery Fund: Interest On Revenue	Needs Based Lottery Fund: Interest On Disburs Bal	Needs Based Lottery Fund: Project Allocation	Needs Based Lottery Fund: Unallocated Balance	Repair and Renovation Lottery Fund: Rep Reno Lottery Revenue	Repair and Renovation Lottery Fund: Interest On Revenue	Repair and Renovation Lottery Fund: Interest On Disburs Bal	Repair and Renovation Lottery Fund: Project Allocation	Repair and Renovation Lottery Fund: Unallocated Balance
2010-11	0.00	1,087.08	316.03	178,931.04	10,520.81	950,223.00	22,888.82	8,012.18	3,045,226.00	695,407.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011-12	0.00	51.30	2,720.40	7,615.00	5,677.51	433,714.00	8,575.89	5,487.10	-1,358,615.25	2,501,799.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2012-13	0.00	24.62	101.87	0.00	5,804.00	459,285.00	7,977.07	3,189.55	1,883,778.97	1,088,471.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2013-14	0.00	15.93	48.16	5,798.00	70.09	467,148.00	3,461.13	2,171.04	1,500,000.00	61,252.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2014-15	0.00	0.36	7.95	0.00	78.40	470,287.00	1,122.03	339.71	400,000.00	133,000.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2015-16	0.00	0.62	25.53	0.00	104.55	433,674.00	1,909.00	425.31	400,000.00	169,009.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2016-17	0.00	1.20	11.64	0.00	117.39	468,783.00	1,936.91	1,847.06	450,000.00	191,576.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017-18	0.00	1.81	12.44	0.00	131.64	412,544.00	2,188.43	1,968.19	450,000.00	158,276.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2018-19	0.00	3.29	75.85	0.00	210.78	312,173.00	3,925.25	1,526.80	450,000.00	25,901.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2019-20	0.00	4.43	0.00	0.00	215.21	434,976.00	1,609.85	3,164.00	450,000.00	15,651.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2020-21	0.00	0.97	0.00	0.00	216.18	547,662.00	320.93	701.45	450,000.00	114,336.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2021-22	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.00	216.66	356,467.00	90.00	624.27	450,000.00	21,517.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	230,207.00	348.79	0.00	0.00	230,555.79
2022-23	0.00	4.76	0.00	0.00	221.42	400,976.00	827.38	5,362.71	426,230.00	2,453.36	3,356,615.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,356,615.00	499,025.00	13,746.28	0.00	0.00	743,327.07
2023-24	0.00	10.33	41.03	0.00	272.78	387,179.00	6,904.15	1,553.00	396,820.00	1,269.51	1,768,635.00	0.00	0.00	372,117.84	4,753,132.16	493,425.00	46,455.17	0.00	0.00	1,283,207.24
2024-25	0.00	12.13	0.00	0.00	284.91	455,202.00	7,166.88	1,686.57	63,373.50	401,951.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,797,949.27	2,955,182.89	577,343.00	74,459.96	0.00	0.00	1,935,010.20
2025-26	0.00	9.88	0.00	0.00	294.79	258,605.00	4,308.51	198.53	401,950.00	263,113.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	224,422.15	2,730,760.74	336,108.00	69,698.77	0.00	30,000.00	2,310,816.97
Totals:	**6,517,575.67**	**789,579.48**	**169,615.25**	**7,476,475.61**		**10,237,177.00**	**234,038.10**	**55,661.62**	**10,263,763.22**		**5,125,250.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,394,489.26**		**2,136,108.00**	**204,708.97**	**0.00**	**30,000.00**	

5,125,250.00

(2,394,489.26)

2,730,760.74 Left (unallocated)

COUNTY OF STOKES
G/L TRANSACTION DETAIL REPORT

From Date: 07/01/2023
To Date: 06/01/2026
Selected Accounts: 112-5911-5011005 , 100-5911-5011005

Run Date: 06/01/2026
User: llankford@co.stokes.nc.us
Include Accounts With No Activity

G/L#	EFFECTIVE DA	DESCRIPTION	STP	SOURCE	JE#	CHECK	VENDOR	VENDOR INVOICE	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
100-5911-5011005		NEEDS BASED GRANT							Balance Forward		0.00
		TOTAL							**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
									Balance Forward		0.00
	11/10/2025	GRANT FUNDS	SYS	AP	65883	496321	STOKES COUNTY BC GRANT-11/25		51,092.14		51,092.14
	05/14/2026	NEEDS BASED-WEST STOKE	SYS	AP	101253	499803	STOKES COUNTY BC 5/12/26		39,025.00		90,117.14
	05/27/2026	CORRECT CODING NEEDS B	AJ	GL	104536					30,000.00	60,117.14
		TOTAL							**90,117.14**	**30,000.00**	**60,117.14**
112-5911-5011005		NEEDS BASED GRANT							Balance Forward		0.00
	06/15/2024	I-061524 C-478226 STOKES	USR	AP	1939				50,485.37		50,485.37
	06/30/2024	NEEDS BASED LOTTERY FU	USR	JE	2248				1,687,683.85		1,738,169.22
		TOTAL							**1,738,169.22**	**0.00**	**1,738,169.22**
									Balance Forward		1,738,169.22
	07/18/2024	I-NEEDS BASED C-478666 S	USR	AP	2257				321,632.47		2,059,801.69
	07/18/2024	NEEDS BASED LOTTERY	AJ	GL	54078					321,632.47	1,738,169.22
	07/18/2024	RECONCILIATION OF NEED!	AJ	GL	59123					46,671.64	1,691,497.58
	07/18/2024	RECONCILIATION OF NEED!	AJ	GL	59123					178,142.05	1,513,355.53
	07/18/2024	RECONCILIATION OF NEED!	AJ	GL	59123					1,054,329.23	459,026.30
	12/11/2024	I-12/11/24 C-481675 STOKI	USR	AP	2652				1,054,329.23		1,513,355.53
	02/11/2025	NEEDS BASED GRANT	SYS	AP	4576	490074	STOKES COUNTY BC 2/10/25		518,806.35		2,032,161.88
	03/11/2025	GRANT FUNDS	SYS	AP	11410	490801	STOKES COUNTY BC 2/27/25		46,671.64		2,078,833.52
	04/07/2025	NEEDS BASED GRANT	SYS	AP	16641	491322	STOKES COUNTY BC 4/7/25		178,142.05		2,256,975.57
	06/30/2025	WALNUT COVE REQUEST #:	SYS	AP	44085	493981	STOKES COUNTY BC 6/30/25		164,305.01		2,421,280.58
	06/30/2025	TO ADJUST 6/30/25 BALAN	AJ	GL	62761					86,908.46	2,334,372.12
		TOTAL							**2,283,886.75**	**1,687,683.85**	**2,334,372.12**
		GRAND TOTAL							**4,112,173.11**	**1,717,683.85**	**2,394,489.26**

Public School Building Capital Fund - Monthly Needs Based Lottery Projects Report

(Sorted by Approval Date)

4/28/2026

850 Stokes County

Project Title	LEA	Fund Type	Approval Date	Total Approved	Total Allocated	Beg. Date	Comp. Date
Piney Grove MS - Re-roofing - DESIGN	Stokes County	NB Lottery Fund	4/25/2024	20,425.00	20,425.00	03-24	08-24
West Stokes HS - Roofing project - DESIGN	Stokes County	NB Lottery Fund	4/25/2024	18,230.50	18,230.50	08-23	05-24
Walnut Cove ES - Roofing project - DESIGN	Stokes County	NB Lottery Fund	4/25/2024	18,691.25	18,691.25	04-24	09-24
Piney Grove MS - Re-roofing - CONSTRUCTION	Stokes County	NB Lottery Fund	6/26/2024	664,337.85	664,337.85	03-24	08-24
West Stokes HS - Roofing project - CONSTRUCTION	Stokes County	NB Lottery Fund	11/26/2024	1,158,510.76	1,158,510.76	08-23	05-24
Walnut Cove ES - Roofing project - CONSTRUCTION	Stokes County	NB Lottery Fund	1/28/2025	505,268.90	505,268.90	04-24	02-25
North Stokes HS - Band Room - Fieldhouse Roofing - DESIGN	Stokes County	NB Lottery Fund	4/28/2026	9,025.00	9,025.00	02-26	06-26
			LEA TOTALS	**2,394,489.26**	**2,394,489.26**		

STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE

STOKES COUNTY SCHOOLS REPAIR AND RENOVATION PROJECT FUND

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Stokes County, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1: Project Description
The Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund was established by S.L. 2021-180, Section 4.4.(A1). The purpose of the Fund is to provide revenue to counties for repair and renovation projects. Per G.S. 115C-546.16, counties are to utilize funds for enlargement, improvement, expansion, repair, or renovation of classroom facilities at public school buildings within local school administrative units (LEAs) located in the county. As used in this context, "Public School Buildings" shall include only facilities for individual schools that are used for instructional and related purposes, and does not include administration, maintenance, or other facilities.

The funds will be used for Career & Technical Education classroom expansion that includes three classrooms and three hands-on learning spaces (shop areas), and restrooms. The project is estimated to begin Fall 2026 and complete Spring 2027.

Section 2: Authorization & Lifespan
The County Finance Officer is hereby authorized to direct the administration of this project in accordance with the grant agreement, North Carolina General Statutes, and NCDPI School Planning compliance regulations. This ordinance shall remain in full force and effect for the entire duration of the grant project, spanning multiple fiscal years, until all authorized work is completed and the project is formally closed.

Section 3: Revenue Anticipated
The following revenues are anticipated to be available to the county to complete the specified school repair and renovation initiatives:

Account / Revenue Source	Description	Amount
100-3100-3100176	Repair & Renovation Lottery Fund	$2,630,000
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE		**$2,630,000**

Section 4: Expenditures Authorized
The following amounts are hereby appropriated to the Stokes County Repair & Renovation Lottery Fund for the execution of approved repair and renovation projects:

Account / Expenditure Line	Description	Amount
100-5911-5011006	Planning & Design Services	$ 30,000
	New Construction – Addition(s)	$2,600,000
TOTAL AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES		**$2,630,000**

Section 5: Financial Reporting and Restrictions

1. **Segregation of Funds:** The Finance Officer is directed to maintain this grant within a separate project fund to prevent co-mingling with county general operations.
2. **Pre-Audit & Direct Compliance:** No county or school personnel shall incur obligations or distribute cash against this project until a specific, written funding request has been processed and cleared by NCDPI School Planning.
3. **Prohibited Uses:** In accordance with G.S. 115C-546.2(d), these lottery funds shall not be utilized for administrative office upgrades, real property acquisitions, or school technology needs.

Section 6: Distribution of Copies

Within five (5) days of adoption, copies of this project ordinance must be formally filed with the County Finance Officer, the Budget Officer, and the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____ Date: _____

Wayne Barneycastle , Chairman
Stokes County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

_____

Olivia Jessup, Clerk to the Board

DISTRIBUTION REQUEST
PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING
REPAIR & RENOVATION FUND
NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY

DPI USE ONLY
Approved By:
Date:

Date of Request: April 20, 2026

County: Stokes County
Address: PO Box 20
LEA: 850 Stokes County Schools
Address: PO Box 50, Danbury, NC 27016

Contact Person: Tammy Keaton
Title: Finance Director
Phone: 336-914-9188
Email: tkeaton@co.stokes.nc.us

Project Title: Career & Technical Education Learning Facility
Project Address: 1400 Priddy Road
King, NC 27041
Type of Facility: Standalone Metal Building with CTE Classroom and Hands-on Learning Space

The Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund was established by S.L. 2021-180, Section 4.4.(a1). The purpose of the Fund is to provide revenue to counties for repair and renovation projects. Per G.S. 115C-546.16, counties are to utilize funds for enlargement, improvement, expansion, repair, or renovation of classroom facilities at public school buildings within local school administrative units (LEAs) located in the county. As used in this context, "Public School Buildings" shall include only facilities for individual schools that are used for instructional and related purposes, and does not include administration, maintenance, or other facilities.

Brief Project Description (include est. start/end dates): Career & Technical Education classroom expansion that includes three classrooms and three hands-on learning spaces (shop areas), and restrooms. Estimated to begin Fall 2026 and complete Spring 2027.

Estimated Start Date: Fall 2026 Estimated Completion Date: Spring 2027

Estimated Costs:

Planning and Design Services	$ 30,000.00
New Construction – Facility Enlargement	$
New Construction – Addition(s)	$ 2,600,000.00
Existing Construction – Facility Improvements	$
Existing Construction – Facility Repairs	$
Existing Construction – Facility Renovations	$
TOTAL	$ 2,630,000.00

We, the undersigned, agree to submit a statement of state monies expended for this project within 60 days following completion of the project.

The County Commissioners and the Board of Education do hereby jointly request approval of the above project, and request the release of $ 2,630,000.00 from the Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund. We certify that the project herein described is within the parameters of G.S. 115C-546.

(Signature – Chair, County Commissioners) 4/27/26 (Date)

(Signature – Chair, Board of Education) 4/20/26 (Date)

PRINT FORM Form Date: March 12, 2024 CLEAR FORM

Board of County Commissioners
June 8, 2026

Item number: IX.a

Retirement Recognition

Drafter: Jamie Clark

Summary:
The Human Resources office and DSS Director, Stacey Elmes will recognize and honor Stephanie Mabe for her years of dedicated service to Stokes County.

Board of County Commissioners
June 8, 2026

Item number: X.a

Annual Budget Ordinance

Drafter: Tammy Keaton, Finance Director

Summary:
FY 2027 Stokes County Annual Budget Ordinance

ATTACHMENTS:
FY 2027 Stokes County Annual Budget Ordinance
FY 2027 Stokes County Operating Plan



COUNTY OF STOKES
Budget Ordinance
Fiscal Year 2027

BE IT ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED by the Stokes Board of County Commissioner's of Danbury, North Carolina, in the Regular Meeting assembled this 8th day of June 2026 as follows:

SECTION 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation of Stokes County Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

EXPENDITURES:

Administration	$	659,783
Animal Control	$	1,032,980
Arts Council	$	240,999
Contingency	$	375,000
Cooperative Extension	$	344,384
Debt Service	$	2,286,681
District Resource Center	$	266,269
Economic Development	$	210,316
Elections	$	343,769
Emergency Communications	$	1,817,044
Emergency Management	$	184,551
Emergency Medical Services	$	7,605,647
Environmental Health	$	693,514
Finance	$	1,125,395
Fire Marshal	$	492,672
Forsyth Tech	$	440,860
Governing Body	$	346,433
Health Department	$	1,654,408

Human Resources	$	582,754
Information Systems	$	794,610
Insurance	$	1,789,720
Jail	$	3,535,734
Libraries	$	639,541
Mapping/GIS	$	359,778
Medical Examiner	$	27,000
Natural Resources	$	220,740
Parks & Recreation	$	247,040
Planning	$	967,163
Public Buildings	$	3,311,030
Purchasing	$	162,842
Register of Deeds	$	420,084
Revaluation	$	256,513
Senior Services	$	931,707
Sheriff's Department	$	7,994,388
Social Services	$	12,361,138
Solid Waste	$	2,013,986
Special Appropriation	$	811,539
Superior Court	$	162,580
Tax Administration	$	1,175,161
Transfer to Tourism & Development Authority	$	125,000
Vehicle Maintenance	$	294,924
Veteran Services	$	87,113
Transfer to Dedicated Debt Service	$	411,820
School Budget	$	16,768,286
Title XIX	$	1,056,787
Mental Health MOE	$	378,820
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$**	**78,008,503**

SECTION 2. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Ad Valorem Taxes	$	40,064,874
Other Taxes & Licenses	$	11,720,254
Unrestricted Intergovernmental Revenues	$	1,255,000
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	$	9,706,972
Permits and Fees	$	807,954
Sales and Services	$	5,836,022
Investments Income	$	945,368
Other General Revenues	$	1,147,899
Transfers & OFUs	$	170,481
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	6,353,679
TOTAL	**$**	**78,008,503**

SECTION 3. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of fifty-eight and a half cents ($0.585) per one hundred dollars ($100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027, for the purpose of raising revenue in the General Fund in Section 2 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a total valuation of property for the purposes of taxation of $6,877,821,716 and an estimated collection rate of 98.02% for real and personal property and 100.0% for motor vehicles.

SECTION 4. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the School Capital Outlay / Capital Reserve Fund to the Board of Education's Capital Outlay account for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

School Capital Outlay	$	3,000,000
Transfer to Dedicated Debt Service	$	500,000
TOTAL	**$**	**3,500,000**

SECTION 5. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the School Capital Outlay / Capital Reserve Fund to the Board of Education's Capital Outlay account for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Fund Balance Appropriated	$	500,000
BOE 1/2 cent Sales Tax-Article 40	$	1,400,000
BOE 1/2 cent Sales Tax-Article 42	$	1,600,000
TOTAL	**$**	**3,500,000**

SECTION 6. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Regional Sewer Fund for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Sewer Fees	$	194,262
TOTAL	**$**	**194,262**

SECTION 7. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Regional Sewer Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Salaries & Wages	$	52,689
On Call Pay	$	800
Social Security	$	3,267
Medicare Tax	$	764
Retirement	$	7,978
401K	$	527
Group Insurance	$	10,142
Dental Insurance	$	443
Unemployment Insurance	$	500
Term Life Insurance	$	52
Auto Fuel	$	2,100
Departmental Supplies	$	7,000
Telephone	$	1,000
Utilities	$	13,000
Maint. & Repairs Equipment	$	25,000
Maint. & Repairs Auto	$	500
Miscellaneous Contractual Services	$	66,000
Miscellaneous Expense	$	500
Dues & Subscriptions	$	1,500
Travel	$	500
TOTAL	**$**	**194,262**

SECTION 8. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Dedicated Debt Fund (4¢ Fund) for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Ad Valorem Tax	$	2,438,467
State Collected MV Taxes	$	245,317
Lottery & IRS Interest Refund (QSCAB / QZAB)	$	1,248,000
Interest Income	$	104,474
Transfer from General Fund	$	411,820
Transfer from School Capital	$	500,000
TOTAL	**$**	**4,948,078**

SECTION 9. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Dedicated Debt Fund (4¢ Fund) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

School Debt and Interest Payment	$	3,571,957
Transfer to General Fund - Current School Expense	$	119,294
Future Debt Reserve	$	1,256,827
TOTAL	**$**	**4,948,078**

SECTION 10. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of four cents ($.04) per one hundred ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2026 located within the Dedicated Debt Fund for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the Dedicated Debt Fund. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of property of $6,219,310,832 for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.02%). Motor Vehicle Tax rate is based on estimated valuation of $613,293,180 and a (100%) collection rate. This fund was established to accumulate funds for debt service payments and operating expenses for Dedicated Debt Fund projects

SECTION 11. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Enhanced 911 Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

E-911 Charges	$	211,920
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	158,080
TOTAL	**$**	**370,000**

SECTION 12. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Enhanced 911 Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Telephone	$	25,000
Maint. & Repairs to Equipment	$	125,000
Training	$	10,000
Misc. Contractual Services	$	80,000
Equipment	$	125,000
Equipment Non Capitalized	$	5,000
TOTAL	**$**	**370,000**

SECTION 13. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Danbury Water Fund for the operation and activities of the fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Salaries & Wages	$	51,922
On Call Pay	$	1,200
Social Security	$	3,220
Medicare Tax	$	753
Retirement	$	7,861
401K	$	520
Group Insurance	$	11,268
Dental Insurance	$	492
Unemployment Insurance	$	497
Term Life Insurance	$	56
Telephone	$	2,000
Postage	$	700
Utilities	$	13,000
Maint. & Repairs Equipment	$	45,000
Misc. Contractual Services	$	7,000
Auto Supplies	$	1,200
Departmental Supplies	$	25,000
Miscellaneous	$	500
Employee Training	$	1,200
Dues & Subscriptions	$	5,423
Improvements	$	4,000
TOTAL	**$**	**182,812**

SECTION 14. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Danbury Water Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Water Fees	$	182,812
TOTAL	**$**	**182,812**

SECTION 15. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the City of King Fire District for the operation and activities of the District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

City of King Fire District	$	950,340
TOTAL	**$**	**950,340**

SECTION 16. It is estimated that the following revenue will be available in the City of King Fire District Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

District Fire Tax	$	678,426
State Collected MV Taxes	$	98,658
1 & 1/2 Cent Sales Tax	$	100,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	73,256
TOTAL	**$**	**950,340**

SECTION 17. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of ($.09) per one hundred ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2026 located within the City of King Fire District for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the City King Fire District. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of property of $762,899,909 for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.08%). Motor Vehicle Tax is based on estimated valuation of $109,620,390 and a (100%) collection rate.

SECTION 18. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Rural Hall Fire District Fund for the operation and activities of the District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Rural Hall Fire District	$	203,079
TOTAL	**$**	**203,079**

SECTION 19. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Rural Hall Fire District Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

District Fire Tax	$	126,688
State Collected MV Taxes	$	16,810
1 & 1/2 Cent Sales Tax	$	20,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	39,581
TOTAL	**$**	**203,079**

SECTION 20. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of nine cents ($.09) per one hundred dollars ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027 located within the Rural Hall Fire District for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the Rural Hall Fire District. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of $142,387,301 of property for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.08%). Motor Vehicle Tax rate is based on an estimated valuation of $18,677,284 and a (100%) collection rate.

SECTION 21. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Walnut Cove Fire District Fund for the operation and activities of the District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Walnut Cove Fire District	$	637,955
TOTAL	**$**	**637,955**

SECTION 22. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Walnut Cove Fire District Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

District Fire Tax	$	465,920
State Collected MV Taxes	$	55,874
1 & 1/2 Cent Sales Tax	$	78,030
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	38,131
TOTAL	**$**	**637,955**

SECTION 23. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of nine cents ($.09) per one hundred dollars ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027 located within the Walnut Cove Fire District for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the Walnut Cove Fire District. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of $518,760,288 of property for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.08%). Motor Vehicle Tax rate is based on an estimated valuation of $62,082,269 and a (100%) collection rate.

SECTION 24. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Stokes County Service District Fund for the operation and activities of the District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

South Stokes	$	599,710
Danbury	$	269,250
Sauratown	$	444,973
Stokes-Rockingham	$	277,481
Northeast Stokes	$	563,510
Francisco	$	545,174
Lawsonville	$	357,216
Pinnacle	$	367,552
Westfield	$	121,622
Pilot Mountain	$	33,397
Double Creek	$	339,674
TOTAL	**$**	**3,919,559**

SECTION 25. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Stokes County Service District Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Service District Fire Tax	$	3,187,438
State Collected MV Taxes	$	314,901
1 & 1/2 Cent Sales Tax	$	293,952
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	123,268
TOTAL	**$**	**3,919,559**

SECTION 26. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of nine cents ($.09) per one hundred dollars ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027 located within the Stokes County Service District for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the Stokes County Service District. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of $3,576,942,730 of property for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.08%). Motor Vehicle Tax rate is based on an estimated valuation of $349,889,745 and a (100%) collection rate.

SECTION 27. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the DSS Client Account Fund for the activities of the DSS Client Account Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Client Expense Accounts	**$**	**145,000**

SECTION 28. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the DSS Client Accounts Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Client Revenue Accounts	**$**	**145,000**

SECTION 29. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Tourism Development Authority Fund for the activities of the Tourism Development Authority Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Professional Services	$	18,000
Department Supplies	$	2,000
Training	$	4,500
Postage	$	1,000
Printing	$	20,000
Advertising/Marketing	$	41,000
Misc. Contractual Services	$	37,500
Dues & Subscriptions	$	1,000
TOTAL	**$**	**125,000**

SECTION 30. The It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Tourism Development Authority Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Occupancy Tax/Gross Receipts	$	125,000
TOTAL	**$**	**125,000**

SECTION 31 The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Opioid Fund for the activities of the Opioid Settlement Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Salaries & Wages	$	167,500
Salaries & Wages Overtime	$	14,110
Social Security Tax	$	13,405
Medicare Tax	$	3,135
Retirement	$	32,730
401k County Match	$	2,162
Health Insurance	$	33,804
Dental Insurance	$	1,476
Unemployment Insurance	$	978
Term Life Insurance	$	167
Professional Services	$	84,500
Auto Supplies	$	438
Departmental Supplies	$	2,700
Training	$	6,000
Telephone	$	2,300
Postage	$	175
Printing	$	1,000
Maintenance & Repairs - Autos	$	500
Advertising	$	250
Dues & Subscriptions	$	2,710
Lease Payment	$	6,600
TOTAL	**$**	**376,640**

SECTION 32. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Opioid Settlement Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Opioid Settlement Funds	$	376,640
TOTAL	**$**	**376,640**

SECTION 33. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of fifty-eight and a half cents ($0.585) per one hundred dollars ($100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027, for the purpose of raising revenue in the General Fund in Section 2 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a total valuation of property for the purposes of taxation of $6,877,821,716 and an estimated collection rate of 98.08% for real and personal property and 100.0% for motor vehicles.

SECTION 34. Board Compensation – compensation and allowance for the members of the Board of County Commissioners shall be provided in the annual budget, the details of which are shown below:

Compensation: (1) Chairman at $17,493
(1) Vice Chairman at $15,435
(3) Commissioners at $15,435

In addition, cost of living increases as adopted in the annual budget.
FY 2027 rate is set at 2.7% of base pay.

Other Benefits: County Commissioners are offered the opportunity to participate in the County's Health and Dental Insurance Plans and Life Insurance Plans.

SECTION 35. The County Manager is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations as contained herein under the following conditions:

a. The County Manager may transfer amounts between line-item expenditures within a department without limitation and without a report being required.

b. The County Manager may transfer amounts between departments, including contingency appropriations, within the same fund to change an appropriation up to $25,000 in a single budget amendment. The County Manager must make an official report on such transfers at the next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. In the event a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor or designee, unlimited budget amendment authority within the same fund is granted for expenditures directly related to the emergency. He must make an official report on any such transfers authorized under a State of Emergency at the next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

c. The County Manager may not transfer any amounts between funds, except as approved by the Board of County Commissioners in the Budget Ordinance as amended.

SECTION 36. The County Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the necessary agreements within funds included in the Budget Ordinance for the following purposes:

a. Purchase of apparatus, supplies, and materials where formal bids are not required by law;

b. Leases of normal and routine business equipment;

c. Construction or repair work where formal bids are not required by law;

d. Consultant services, professional services, contracted services, or maintenance service agreements up to the amount of $150,000. In the event a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor or designee, unlimited contracting authority is granted for services directly related to the emergency. The County Manager must report to the Board of County Commissioners any executed contracts exceeding $150,000 during the State of Emergency declaration;

e. Agreements for acceptance of State and Federal grant funds; and

f. Grant agreements with public and non-profit agencies.

SECTION 37. The Stokes County Board of Education shall furnish the Stokes County Board of Commissioners a copy of the Board of Education's approved Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and any amendments thereto. The Stokes County Board of Education shall furnish the Stokes County Board of Commissioners quarterly financial statements for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Stokes County Board of Education's annual audit shall include a compliance section for the County funding and requirements.

SECTION 38. County of Stokes will adhere to the IRS mileage rate per the County's Travel Policy.

Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the County Clerk, County Manager, and Finance Director for their direction and implementation.

THIS ORDINANCE passed and adopted this 8th day of June, 2026.

_____

Wayne Barneycastle, Chairman

[SEAL]

_____

Olivia Jessup, Clerk to the Board



2027 Stokes County Operating Plan

County of Stokes, North Carolina

STOKES COUNTY OPERATING PLAN

FY 2027



Wayne Barneycastle, Chairman



Keith Wood, Vice Chairman



Rick Morris, Commissioner

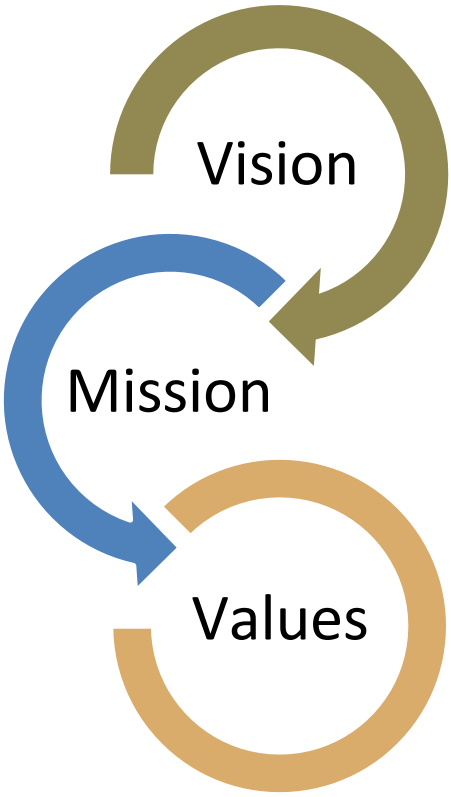


Brad Chandler, Commissioner



Sonya Cox, Commissioner

Stokes County Commissioners



VISION

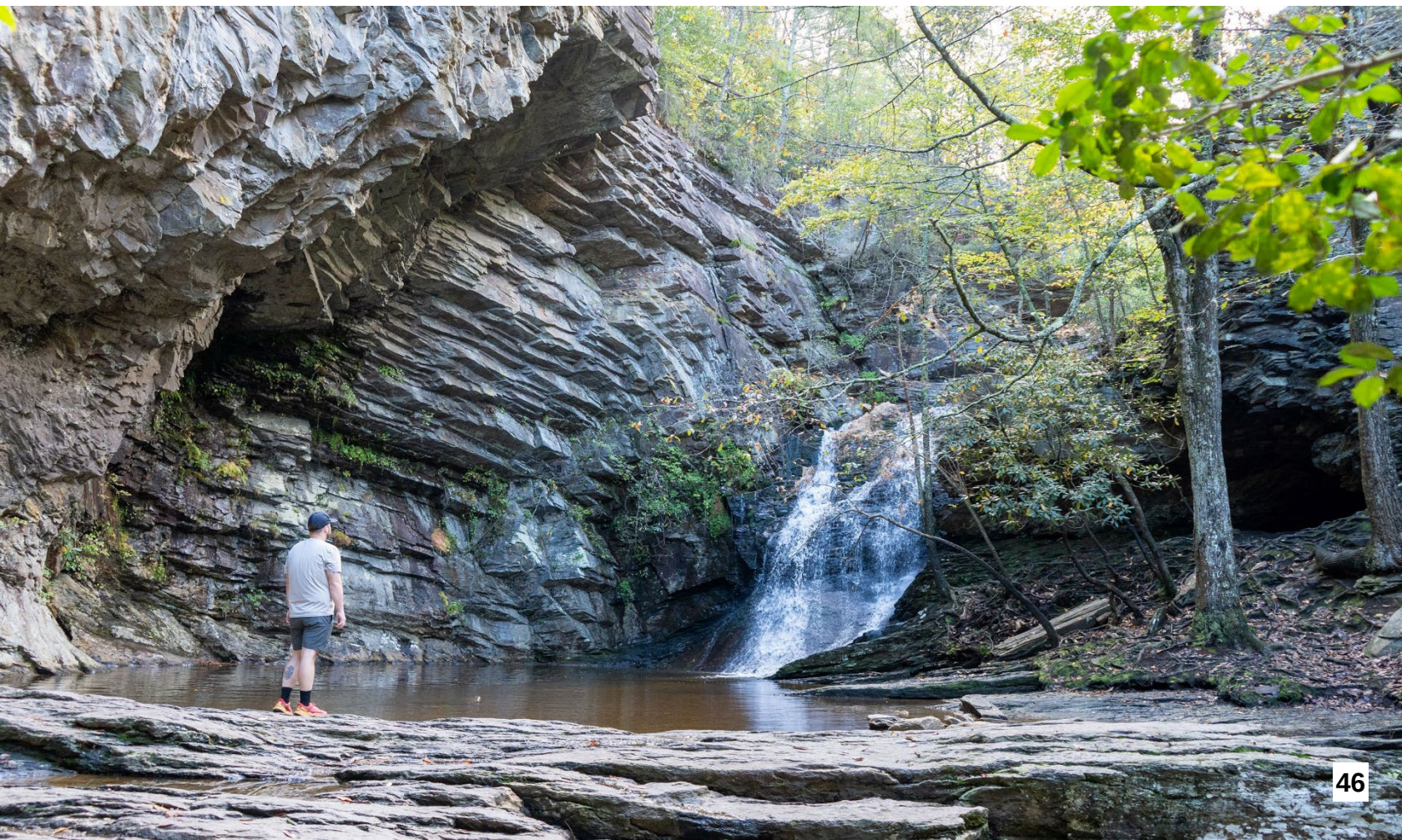
Stokes County is a dynamic, thriving community that is rich in natural beauty and embraces the future while respecting its rural heritage and history.

MISSION

Protect, promote, and enhance, quality of life for Stokes County residents, and visitors.

VALUES

Service, Initiative, Teamwork, and Improvement.



STOKES COUNTY

1014 N. MAIN STREET

DANBURY, NC 27016

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

County Manager	Jeff Sanborn
Assistant County Manager	Bryan Miller
Finance Director	Tammy Keaton
Human Resources Director	Jamie Clark
Purchasing and Project Manager	Glenda Pruitt
Tax Administrator	Richard Brim
Register of Deeds	Brandon Hooker
Board of Elections Director	Jason Perry
Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor	Danny Triplett
Public Works and Solid Waste Director	Stewart Easter
Information Technology Director	Ken Farmer
Stokes County Sheriff	Joey Lemons
Fire Marshal	Scott Aaron
E911 Director	Nicole Durham
Emergency Services Director	Brandon Gentry
Animal Control Director	Tommy Reeves
Planning and Inspections Director	
Economic Development & Tourism	Tory Mabe
Cooperative Extension Director	Matt Lenhardt
Social Services Director	Stacey Elmes
Health Department Director	Tammy Martin
Veterans Services Officer	Larry Hunsucker
Senior Services Director	Vicky East
District Resource Center Director	Laura Jones
Soil and Water Conservation Director	Amelia Harold
Arts and Cultural Services Director	Eddy McGee

TABLE of CONTENTS

Introduction

Table of Contents i
Introduction iv
Organizational Chart vi
Personnel Classification Summary vii

Budget in Brief

Budget in Brief 1

Budget Message

Budget Message 5

About County Services

About County Services 15

Operating Plan Guide

Strategic Planning Process Overview 25
What is New in this Document 26
Financial Policies 26
Budget Requirements 27
Recommended Budget 28
Adoption of the Budget Ordinance 29
About the Document Presentation 30
Department Level Budget Information 32

Operational Priorities Development

Operational Priorities Overview 35
Balanced Scorecard System 36
Annual Operational Planning Process 40

General Fund Summary

General Fund Summary 43
Revenue Highlights 50
Expenditure Highlights 52
Fund Balance 53
Ad Valorem Taxes 54
Other Taxes and Licenses 56
Unrestricted Intergovernmental Revenues 57
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues 58
Permits and Fees 60
Sales and Services 61
Other Revenues 62
Investment Income & Other Financing Sources 63
Other Funding Sources 64

TABLE of CONTENTS

General Fund Department Profiles

Fund Balance Appropriations..... 65
Governing Body..... 66
Administration..... 67
Finance..... 68
Human Resources..... 69
Purchasing/Project Management..... 70
Tax Office..... 71
Register of Deeds 72
Elections 73
Vehicle Maintenance..... 74
Public Buildings 75
Information Technology..... 76
Sheriff's Office..... 77
Jail..... 78
Fire Marshal's Office..... 79
Emergency Communications..... 80
Emergency Services..... 81
Medical Examiner..... 82
Animal Control..... 83
Planning & Inspections..... 84
Economic Development..... 85
Cooperative Extension..... 86
Social Services 87
Public Health 88
Environmental Health..... 89
Veterans Services..... 90
Senior Services..... 91
District Resource Center..... 92
Soil and Water..... 93
Solid Waste..... 94
Arts Council..... 95
Library 96
Superior Court..... 97
Insurance 98
Contingency..... 99
Debt Service..... 100
Schools – Current Expense..... 101
Special Appropriations..... 102

TABLE of CONTENTS

Stokes County Schools Funding

Summary 103
General Fund Support to Schools 105
School/Forsyth Tech (4 Cents) Fund 106
School Capital Outlay Fund 108

Special Revenue Funds

Summary 109
Opioid Settlement Fund 110
Tourism Development Authority 112
Stokes County Fire Service District 113
King Fire District 115
Rural Hall Fire District 116
Walnut Cove Fire District 117
E-911 Fund 118

Enterprise Funds

Description 119
Stokes County Sewer & Water Authority 120
Regional Sewer 121
Danbury Water 122

Capital Projects Fund

Description 127
Budget Highlights 128
Animal Shelter Impact on Budget 129

Five - Year Financial Forecast FY 2027- 2031

Five-Year Financial Forecast 131

Capital Improvement Plan FY 2027-2031

Capital Improvement Plan 139

Annual Budget Ordinance

Budget Ordinance Fiscal Year 2027 153

Operating Plan Glossary

Glossary 179



Introduction

Welcome to Stokes County!

The Stokes County Strategic Operating Plan (SCOP) reflects the Board of Commissioners' and County staff's plans to advance the County's vision and fulfill its mission. This document is intended to serve as a practical resource for residents, businesses, visitors, Commissioners, and staff.

County operating plans can be detailed and, at times, complex. Questions about the information presented in this document may be directed to the County Manager's Office at 336.593.2407.

This document is organized to guide the reader from a broad, countywide view to more detailed information about individual departments and divisions. Because readers use this document for different purposes, it is divided into sections to make information easier to locate and use.

Budget in Brief – This section provides a high-level overview of the FY 2027 Budget as part of the County's operational planning process. It is designed to help readers quickly understand the major initiatives and key elements included in the annual budget.

Budget Message - In this section, the County Manager presents the proposed annual budget and discusses the external factors considered in determining both budgeted expenditures and the revenues required to support them.

About County Services - This section describes the duties and responsibilities of the County's departments and divisions.

Stokes County Operating Plan Guide – The Stokes County Operating Plan Guide serves as an aid to the reader in understanding the data including the required annual balanced budget, five-year forecast and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Operational Priorities & Development - This section provides an overview of the operational planning process, the County's Balanced Scorecard (BSC), and contains the Commissioners' strategic goals and objectives.

General Fund Summary - This section includes detailed information about General Fund revenues and assumptions used to determine budgeted amounts. Every County department or division also appears with individual department profiles and budget summaries. Department goals, objectives, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with short-term and long-term projections are also included. These are the most specific presentations within the document. This section also provides information on debt service and on capital expenditures contained in the current year budget.

Stokes County Schools Funding – This section provides an overview of public school funding in North Carolina and details the multiple ways Stokes County supports Stokes County Schools, including current expense operational funding, capital outlay, and dedicated debt service. A summary table of all County funding across these categories is also included.

Special Revenue Funds Summary – This section includes detailed information about proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

Enterprise Funds Summary – The Enterprise Funds Summary section details the operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business. Stokes Enterprise Funds consist of Stokes County Water Sewer Authority, Danbury Water and Regional Sewer.

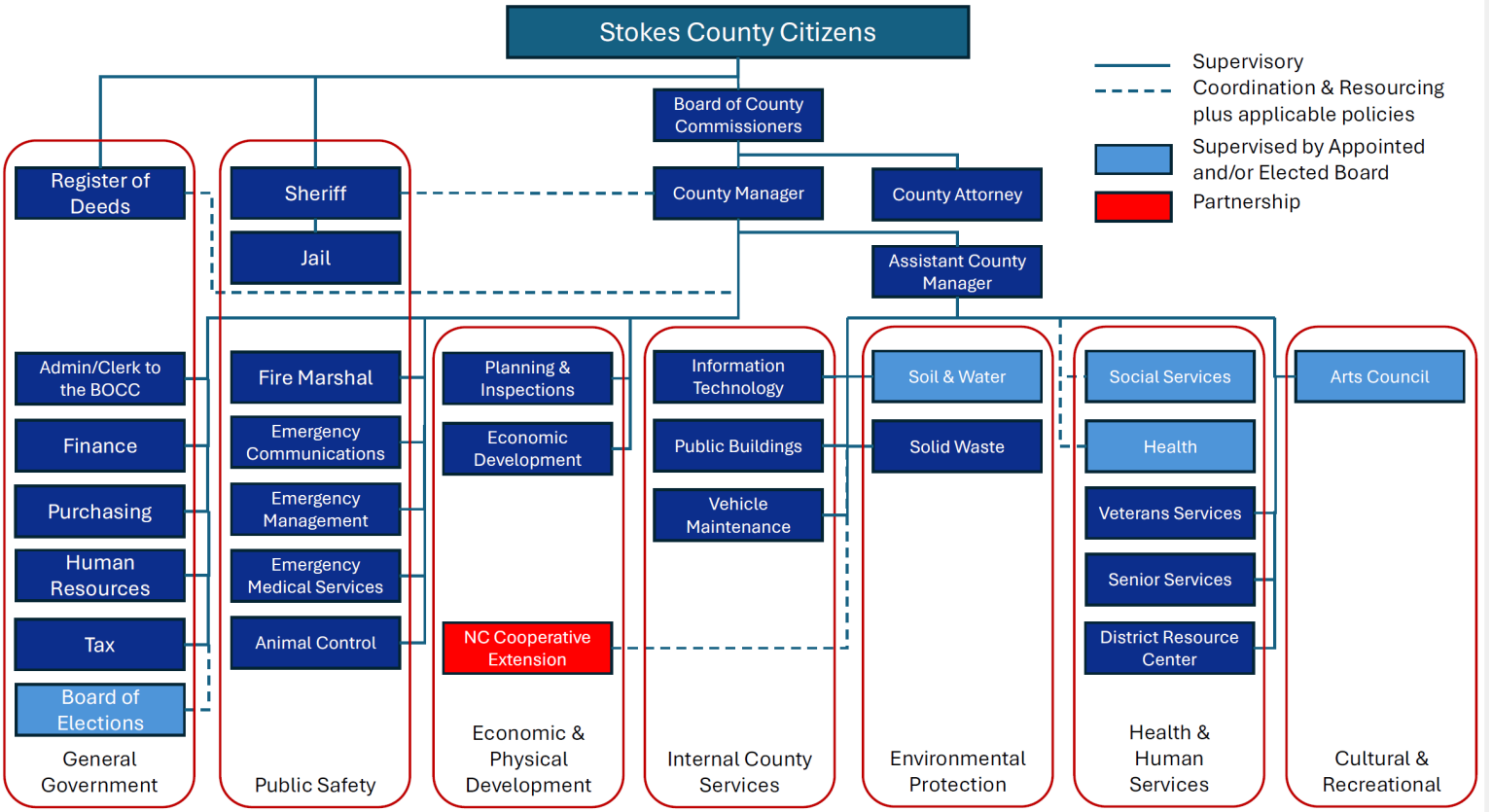
Capital Project Funds **-** Each Capital Project Fund budget is presented separately in this section. It includes an overview of each capital project and its funding sources.

Five-Year Financial Forecast **-** This section presents the County's long-range financial forecast. The forecast is prepared to help ensure that adequate financial resources are available to meet future obligations and to inform decision-makers about the long-term implications of current budget decisions.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) **-** This section outlines the County's plan for the replacement and acquisition of capital assets over the five-year planning period. Capital assets include vehicles, equipment, infrastructure, and new facilities. The County uses this plan to help ensure these investments align with its strategic direction.

Annual Budget Ordinance **-** This section contains the legally adopted ordinance that establishes the annual budget.




Stokes County Citizens
Supervisory
Coordination & Resourcing plus applicable policies
Supervised by Appointed and/or Elected Board
Partnership
Board of County Commissioners
Register of Deeds
Sheriff
Jail
County Manager
County Attorney
Assistant County Manager
Admin/Clerk to the BOCC
Finance
Purchasing
Human Resources
Tax
Board of Elections
Fire Marshal
Emergency Communications
Emergency Management
Emergency Medical Services
Animal Control
Planning & Inspections
Economic Development
NC Cooperative Extension
Information Technology
Public Buildings
Vehicle Maintenance
Soil & Water
Solid Waste
Social Services
Health
Veterans Services
Senior Services
District Resource Center
Arts Council
General Government
Public Safety
Economic & Physical Development
Internal County Services
Environmental Protection
Health & Human Services
Cultural & Recreational



PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

Personnel expenditures comprise 44% of the County's General Fund budget. The Personnel Classification Summary represents a five-year projection of staffing by function as well as a snapshot of the current year's FTEs on which the FY 2027 Budget is based.

Fiscal Year 2027 Staffing By Function in Full-Time Equivalents

Classification Plan Summary	Budgeted FY 2026	FY 2027 Change	Projected FY 2027	Projected FY 2028	Projected FY 2029	Projected FY 2030	Projected FY 2031
General Government							
Administrative							
Governing Body & Administration	8.0	-	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Financial Services	5.5	-	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Purchasing	1.5	-	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Property Tax, Mapping, Revaluation	17.0	-	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Human Resources	3.0	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Register of Deeds	4.0	-	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Elections	2.0	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Superior Court	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Fleet/Vehicle Maintenance	2.0	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Public Buildings and Grounds Maintenance	15.0	-	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Information Technology	3.0	1.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Total Government	**62.0**	**1.0**	**63.0**	**63.0**	**63.0**	**63.0**	**63.0**
Public Safety							
Sheriff	58.0	-	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.0
Jail	33.0	-	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0
Fire Marshal	4.0	-	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Emergency (Management, E-911, Medical Services)	75.0	1.0	76.0	76.0	76.0	76.0	78.0
Animal Control	9.0	-	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Total Public Safety	**179.0**	**1.0**	**180.0**	**180.0**	**180.0**	**180.0**	**182.0**
Economic and Physical Development							
Planning and Inspections	6.0	1.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Economic Development	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Economic and Physical Development	**7.0**	**1.0**	**8.0**	**8.0**	**8.0**	**8.0**	**8.0**
Health and Human Services							
Public Health	23.0	-	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
Environmental Health	6.0	-	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Social Services	88.0	2.0	90.0	91.0	93.0	95.0	95.0
Veterans Services	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Senior Services	4.0	-	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Natural Resources	2.0	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Day Reporting Center	3.0	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total Health and Human Services	**127.0**	**2.0**	**129.0**	**130.0**	**132.0**	**134.0**	**134.0**
Environmental Protection							
Solid Waste	8.0	-	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Total Environmental Protection	**8.0**	**-**	**8.0**	**8.0**	**8.0**	**8.0**	**8.0**
Cultural and Recreation							
Parks	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Arts Council	3.0	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total Cultural and Recreation	**3.0**	**1.0**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**4.0**
GRAND TOTAL	**386.0**	**6.0**	**392.0**	**393.0**	**395.0**	**397.0**	**399.0**
Population	**45,493**		**45,659**	**45,825**	**45,992**	**46,160**	**46,328**
Employees per 1,000 Population	**8.48**		**8.59**	**8.58**	**8.59**	**8.60**	**8.61**

FY 2027 Budget includes an increase of 6.0 FTEs for a Parks and Recreation Coordinator (79% County Funded), a Planner I position, an IT Security & Helpdesk Specialist, an Emergency Communications Training / Quality Assurance Officer, and (2) Social Worker III Foster Care positions.


STOKES COUNTY
1789



Budget in Brief

Letter from the Commissioners

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners is dedicated to maintaining a vibrant community that honors our local heritage. During our inaugural Strategic Retreat in January 2025, the Board collaborated with county management to develop the Stokes County Operating Plan (SCOP), which establishes a budget and a five-year forecast.

Each year, our team refines our operational planning by adopting a balanced scorecard approach to identify strategic objectives for improving County services. Our primary focus this year includes five (5) major initiatives: updating the Comprehensive Plan, adding the Mountain View Road Greenbox site, remodeling the King health facility, establishing and implementing a County Communications Improvement Plan, and Implementing a Comprehensive Emergency Communications Radio Replacement. We've also increased staffing by six (6) full time equivalent positions and (2) part-time positions.

Our Board of Commissioners has adopted mission and vision statements that reflect our goals and aspirations now and in the future. Our mission is to protect, promote and enhance the quality of life for Stokes County residents and visitors with the vision that Stokes County is a dynamic and thriving community, rich in natural beauty and that embraces the future while respecting its rural heritage and history.

The $78.01 million FY 2027 Budget contains a $0.585 per $100 valuation property tax rate, which remains unchanged from the current fiscal year. In addition, a four cents tax rate dedicated to school needs will continue as in previous fiscal years. We are making a commitment to renovation and improvement by taking on other great initiatives and projects that are sure to enhance the quality of life and bring new value to Stokes County.

We remain cautious as federal costs for public health and safety shift to the local level, and state restrictions on taxing power force a greater reliance on unpredictable sales tax revenue. Despite these challenges, our Strategic Operating Plan is designed to sustain and enhance the quality of life in Stokes County. I encourage you to review our FY 2027 Budget and detailed goals in the Stokes County Operating Plan.



Quick Facts

$78.01 M
Total Budget

$0.585
Per $100 of Valuation
Tax Rate

6
Significant Operating
Investments

6
Increase of Staff
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Fiscal Year 2027 Significant Projects, Plans & Initiatives

The FY 2027 Budget includes six new Significant Projects, Plans and Initiatives at a cost of $1.619 million to address the County's strategic goals.

The FY 2027 Significant Projects, Plans & Initiatives Plan and the funding incorporated in the budget include:

1. **Addition of Mountain View Road Greenbox Site ($530,000)**

   The County will be addressing the need of a new site for residents that are underserved due to the longer driving distances to the nearest site.

2. **Increase Staffing Positions by six (6) FTEs ($395,000)**

   The County will add an IT Security and Helpdesk Specialist, a Planner I in Planning and Zoning, two Social Worker III for Foster Care in Social Services, one Training/Quality Assurance Officer for Emergency Communications, and a Parks and Recreation Coordinator.

3. **Replacement of more than 20% of emergency communication radios ($354,000)**

   The County is replacing emergency communication radios through a multi-year schedule to ensure that first responders have reliable, up-to-date technology while stabilizing the impact to the budget.

4. **Update Comprehensive Plan ($200,000)**

   The County's Comprehensive Plan will be a policy roadmap for community growth and preservation, covering land use, infrastructure, housing, and conservation.

5. **Remodel King Health Facility ($100,000)**

   The County will remodel the King satellite office of the Health Department which provides primary care, immunizations, and WIC.

6. **Establishing and Implementing a County Communications Improvement Plan ($40,000)**

   The County will develop, implement and adopt a plan that is designed to meet current community preferences while strategically evolving them for maximum effectiveness. The focus for early FY 2027 will be on development and adoption of the plan with initial priority elements launching within the same fiscal year.

Future Year Significant Projects, Plans & Initiatives:

- **Renovate Plumbing in Jail ($900,000)**
- **Update Zoning Ordinance ($150,000)**
- **Continue the Comprehensive Radio Replacement Plan Schedule ($900,000)**
- **Build a New Danbury Fire Department Station ($3,000,000)**
- **Address adding space to the DSS building or build a new structure (fund with debt) ($1,500,000)**
- **Demo old Danbury School ($200,000)**
- **Build a new Emergency Communications Facility (911 Grant Funded) ($3,000,000)**

Other Significant FY 2027 Projects
Complete construction of new animal shelter (roll funds forward from FY 2026 budget) ($2,851,050)
Ambulance Replacement ($306,000) and one remount of an ambulance ($200,000)
Jail Grease Handling System ($245,000)

How will your tax dollars be spent in FY 2027?

The FY 2027 Budget for salaries and benefits for Stokes County's 392 full-time equivalents (FTEs) accounts for 44% of total expenditures, or $34.18 million. The budget includes a 2.7% cost of living adjustment and merit raises at an average of 2% per employee. The County currently pays for 100% of health, dental, and limited vision insurance coverage and premiums for employee-only coverage.

The FY 2027 Budget includes an increase of 6 FTEs for six positions. These new positions are related to the need to increase staff capacity to serve a growing population in the county.

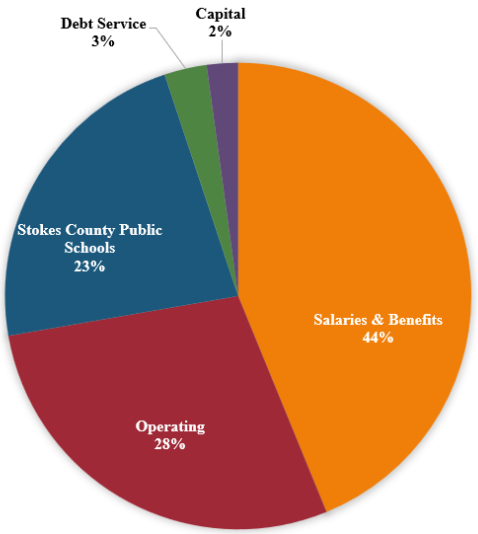
The FY 2027 Budget includes $1.69 million in capital investments, or 2.17% of total expenditures. Significant operating costs include funding for initiatives supporting the County's goals and objectives without adding any to the County's debt service.

The County's third largest expenditure is for Stokes County Public Schools which makes up 22.63% of the overall budget.

New Positions Funded

- Planner I (Planning & Zoning)
- IT Security & Helpdesk Specialist
- Training/Quality Assurance Officer (Emergency Communications)
- Social Worker III (DSS, Foster Care) – 2 employees
- Parks & Recreation Coordinator

$78.01 Million Budgeted Expenditures



Expenditures by Function

Public Safety
(Sheriff, EMS, E-911, Fire Marshall, Inspections)
32.59%

Health & Human Services
(DSS, Public Health, Environmental Health)
23.12%

Education
(Stokes County Public Schools)
22.63%

General Government
(Governing Body, Register of Deeds, IT, Tax)
14.22%

Environmental Protection
(Solid Waste, Soil and Water)
3.54%

Economic & Physical Development
(Economic Development, TDA, Coop. Ext, Planning, Inspections, Forestry, RPO, MPC)
2.28%

Cultural & Recreation
(YMCA, Library, Arts Council, Parks & Recreation)
1.63%

In FY 2027, the County has $2,286,681 in debt service expenditures related to leases of capital assets, Courthouse and Jail Expansion, and EMS Station.

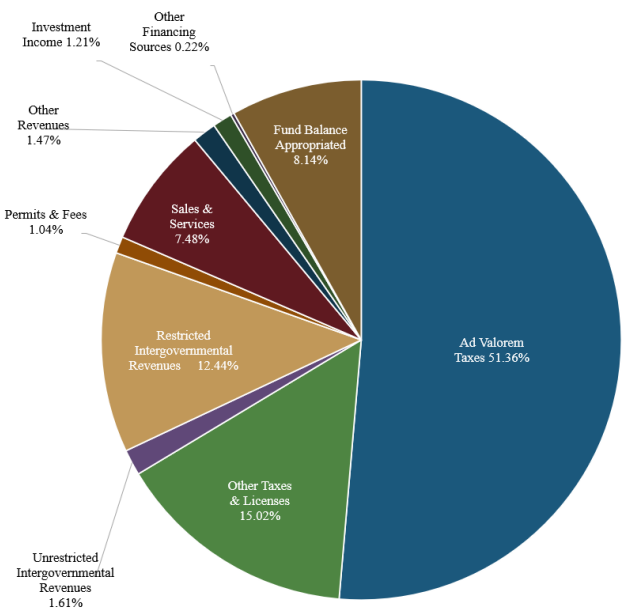
Overall, the FY 2027 Budget totals $78,008,503 or approximately 4.05% more than the prior year's General Fund budget. The FY 2027 Budget as presented results in a per capita expenditure of $1,702.31 based on a projected population of 45,825.

How is Stokes County Funded in FY 2027?

Historically, the primary revenue source for Stokes County is property taxes which account for 51.36% of total revenues, or $40.06 million.

In FY 2027, the County tax rate is maintained at 58.5 cents per $100 of valuation, representing no increase over the previous year.

$78.01 Million Budgeted Revenues



Other key revenues that make up 48.64% of total General Fund revenues include local option sales taxes, utility sales taxes, and other state-collected revenues. Of these, local option sales taxes are the largest intergovernmental revenue source for the County, representing 14.53% of the total budget. Sales tax revenue for FY 2027 is projected 12.0% above FY 2026 estimates.

At the end of the year, the County will use $6.35 million in fund balance to balance the budget which is a decrease of 7.63% from the previous fiscal year.




STOKES COUNTY
1789



BUDGET MESSAGE

June 8, 2026
The Honorable Wayne Barneycastle, Chairman
Members of the Board of Commissioners
Stokes County, North Carolina

Dear Chairman Barneycastle and Members of the Board of Commissioners:

Pursuant to Section 159-11 of the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS), I am pleased to present the 2027 Stokes County Operating Plan (SCOP), our second five-year operating plan, including the recommended budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 for your review and consideration. This document has been prepared to provide a comprehensive view of the County's operating plans over the next five years. We aspire for this document to demonstrate excellence in four key areas: 1) as a policy document, 2) as a financial plan, 3) as an operations guide and 4) as a communications device.

During FY 2025, Stokes County began development and implementation of an all-new strategic planning process rooted in a balanced scorecard approach to measuring and understanding organizational performance. Going forward, our strategic planning process will leverage performance measurement and analysis which will facilitate continuous process and performance improvement. Our planning framework will intentionally provide an integrated approach to organizational performance management that results in the delivery of ever-improving value to our customers and improvement in the overall effectiveness of County governance. Initial implementation of this framework has transformed the County's budgeting process into a more strategic, results-driven process. Resource allocation will now be more closely aligned with the County Board of Commissioners' strategies and focused on achieving the results articulated in our newly developed Balanced Scorecard (BSC).

The FY 2027 Budget as presented was developed using all elements of the County's all-new strategic planning process. However, use of performance measurement was limited due to incomplete initial Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data from the start-up year. This process is described in detail in the *Operational Priorities Development* section of this document. The strategic planning process includes the development of the County's BSC. The BSC contains thirteen strategic goals, 36 strategic objectives, and 87 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Since this process is new, initial performance measurement is occurring during FY 2026. In future years, we will use measured performance of KPIs to understand where resources are best applied to strategically improve performance. The BSC will be the foundation upon which future operating plans are developed to ensure recommended budgets protect, promote and enhance quality of life for Stokes County residents and visitors, while also helping to accomplish our vision. That vision is for Stokes County to be a dynamic, thriving community that is rich in natural beauty and embraces the future while respecting its rural heritage and history.

KEY FACTORS CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE STOKES COUNTY OPERATING PLAN AND FY 2027 BUDGET

While inflation had recently abated, recent actions in the Persian Gulf are exerting upward pressure again and the compounded effect of multiple years of high inflation have significantly increased operating expenses. Goods and services the County purchases to support service delivery are significantly more expensive than they were five years ago. Likewise, the cost of attracting and retaining a high-quality workforce has grown at a relatively unprecedented rate. Meanwhile, recent exhaustion of extensive COVID related grant funding requires that County taxpayers have to bear a larger, more traditional portion of the overall burden. The County experienced unprecedented local option sales tax revenue growth in recent years. Based on FY 2025 audit results as well as year-to-date collections, the FY 2027 budget projects twelve percent higher local option sales tax than the FY 2026 budget did.

Fuel prices had fallen locally and across the US but are now significantly higher due to actions in the Persian Gulf. We expect that impact to be short-lived. Once issues with Iran are resolved, the Trump Administration's energy friendly policies are likely to continue to apply downward pressure on energy prices.

The County must ensure that it remains financially postured to respond to the effects of negative economic shocks, natural disasters, and other major unanticipated expenses. To do so, it is important to maintain a healthy fund balance level. In November of 2025, the Stokes County Board of Commissioners adopted an all-new fund balance policy requiring that annually adopted budgets are developed to provide for predicted, end-of-year fund balances that are at least 30 percent of budgeted expenditures.



In addition to inflation, growth in population and economic development are other key factors considered in the development of this operating plan. According to the North Carolina State Demographer's Office, Stokes County's population increased 2.2 percent from 2020 to 2023. Their projections out to 2030 call for slower growth, with a 2030 estimated population of 46,328 compared to the 2020 Census number of 44,524.

This projected, ten-year growth of 4.1 percent for Stokes County is significantly lower than for the state overall which is 12.5 percent. It seems reasonable to assume that Stokes County's proximity to Winston-Salem and Greensboro may result in slightly greater population growth than state officials currently project. Stokes County's unemployment rate is slightly lower in 2026: 3.2% compared to 3.5% in 2025. This is slightly better than North Carolina and national rates and trends.

Another principal issue affecting the County is workforce capacity in certain areas of our organization as we continue to assess our ability to meet the needs of Stokes County residents, property owners, businesses and visitors. To address this, the FY 2027 Budget includes the addition of six full-time positions. Planning & Inspections, Information Technology and Emergency Communications all gain one employee. The Department of Social Services gains two. A Parks and Recreation Coordinator position is added to oversee implementation of the all-new Active Stokes 2035 Active Recreation Plan.

PRIORITIES AND AREAS OF FOCUS

The recommended FY 2027 Budget provides a financial plan for the ensuing fiscal year and has been developed in accordance with the County's financial policies and the Balanced Scorecard (BSC). At Stokes County's first annual strategic planning retreat, the Board of Commissioners affirmed thirteen strategic goals:

1. Safeguard the county,
2. Promote education and workforce skills development,
3. Support socially and economically vulnerable residents,
4. Promote and safeguard public health,
5. Record, protect and provide access to property records and vital records,
6. Ensure land use compatibility and preservation of rural character,
7. Promote a thriving business community,
8. Support environmental preservation,
9. Promote active living and cultural opportunities
10. Promote election integrity
11. Professionally manage a high performing organization
12. Attract and retain an engaged workforce, and
13. Maintain a healthy financial condition

The five-year planning period includes thirteen significant operational investments totaling $59,759,028. Of these eleven investments, five are scheduled to begin in FY 2027 (or continue from prior years). The largest planned investment is a $50 million strategic investment in a new elementary school in FY 2029. This new school will facilitate consolidation of two or more existing schools, resulting in long-term, reduced operational costs, and will be funded from the $0.04 that has historically been levied to support school system capital requirements.

Strategic Goal	Strategic Objective(s)	Operational Investment	Fiscal Year(s)
Safeguard the county	Deliver effective animal control services	Build new animal shelter (carry-over from 2025)	2027
	Deliver effective law enforcement services	Renovate plumbing in the jail	2028-2030
	Deliver effective emergency communications services	Build a new emergency communications facility	2030
	Deliver effective emergency management services	Develop a small, modular reactor emergency management plan	2029
Safeguard the county and Promote and Safeguard Public Health	Deliver effective emergence communications, law enforcement, emergency medical services and fire marshal services	Implement comprehensive emergency communications radio replacement	2027-2031
Promote and safeguard public health	Deliver effective clinical services	Remodel King health facility	2027
Promote education & workforce skills development	Effectively resource K-12 education	Replace an elementary school and further school consolidation	2029
Support socially & economically vulnerable residents	Deliver effective social work services	Add 3d floor to DSS building or fund office space in another location	2029
Ensure land use compatibility and preservation of rural character	Deliver effective zoning & zoning enforcement services	Update the Comprehensive Plan	2027
		Update zoning ordinance	2028
Support environmental preservation	Provide effective solid waste services	Add Mountain View Rd green box site	2027
Professionally manage a high performing organization	Maintain county assets	Demo old Danbury school	2029
	Communicate with & engage residents and stakeholders	Establish and implement a county communications improvement plan	2027



FY 2027 GENERAL FUND RECOMMENDED BUDGET

OVERVIEW

The General Fund is used to account for resources which are not required legally or by sound financial management to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund is the County's largest annually budgeted fund and provides resources for all of the County's core service functions.

When preparing the FY 2027 Operating Plan, County Management adhered to the following budgetary principles:

- Maintain adequate funding levels for County services,
- Seek to contain operating costs while adequately funding infrastructure and capital replacements,
- Maintain a fund balance of at least 30% of budgeted expenditures, per the County's Fund Balance Policy, and
- Uphold sound budgetary principles such as using conservative revenue estimates and maintaining healthy operating margins.

The FY 2027 recommended General Fund budget totals $78,008,503. The recommended budget as presented results in a per capita expenditure of $1,702 based on a projected population of 45,825.

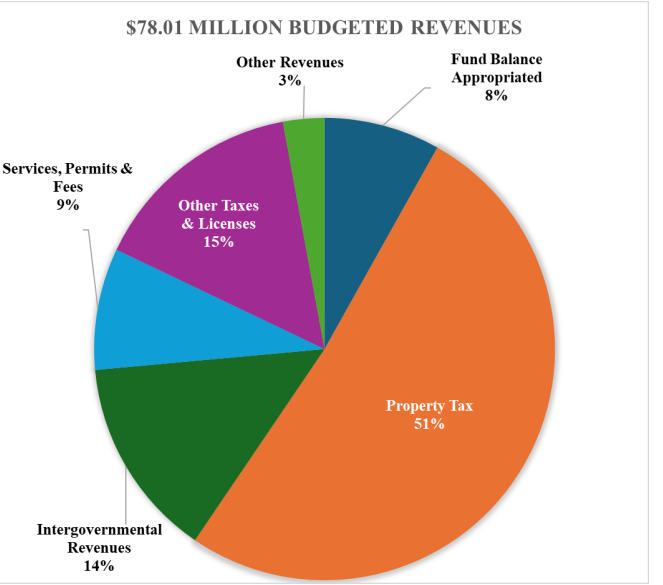
Approximately 72% of all General Fund ongoing operating revenue comes from ad valorem taxes and local option sales taxes. Over the past three years, the County's revenue profile has returned to normal after the exhaustion of COVID related grant funding. Dependence on the ad valorem tax has increased as a result.

Overall, the recommended budget for the General Fund utilizes $6,353,679 of appropriated fund balance. Historically, operating revenues come in at 101% of budget, while operating expenditures are expected to fall 9% below budget. If this projected budget to actual variance is achieved in FY 2027, we will decrease fund balance by approximately $559,055, which will cause fund balance to decrease to 34.3% of budgeted expenditures. This is above the Board's adopted policy minimum of 30%. This positions the County well to address unforeseen emergency circumstances during the year. However, a $0.585 tax rate over the five-year horizon is projected to cause fund balance to fall below policy minimum.

SOURCES OF REVENUE

The General Fund's primary sources of revenue include:

- Ad valorem taxes,
- Local option sales taxes,
- Intergovernmental revenues,
- Permits and fees,
- Sales and service revenues, and
- Investment income.



Ad Valorem Taxes (Property Taxes)

Two characteristics of the property tax distinguish it from other forms of taxation and underlie the methods of determining tax liability and enforcing collection. The first characteristic is that the property tax is levied on property itself, not the owner. The second is that the tax is measured by the value of the property, not by the owner's ability to pay. Thus, it is often called an "ad valorem" tax, from the Latin phrase meaning, "according to value."

In North Carolina, property tax rates are customarily expressed in dollars per $100 valuation. The maximum property tax rate allowed in North Carolina is $1.50 per $100 of valuation. This proposed budget recommends a General Fund property tax rate of $0.585 per $100 of valuation, which is the same as the previous year. This means that for every $100,000 in value of property, $58.5 of ad valorem tax is due. All property was revalued by Stokes County as of January 1, 2025.

With an anticipated collection rate of 98% for real and personal property and 100.0% for motor vehicles, a penny on the tax rate generates approximately $687,782 in revenue. Total ad valorem tax revenues are projected to be $40,064,874 in FY 2027. In North Carolina, the ad valorem tax is the only significant source of revenue that the State allows local governments to control. This revenue accounts for 51% of the General Fund's operating revenues.



Intergovernmental Revenues

Intergovernmental revenues consist primarily of the local option sales taxes, utility sales taxes and hold harmless sales tax reimbursements.

Two (2.0) cents of the six and three quarters (6.75) cents paid in sales tax on retail sales in Stokes represents the local share of this tax. This tax consists of a one percent tax that was first levied in 1971, a one-half percent tax levied in 1983 and a one-half percent tax levied in 1986. The state collects the sales taxes and distributes them to local governmental jurisdictions. Sales tax revenues are distributed on a proportional, taxable assessed value basis to local governments and rural fire districts within Stokes County. 30 percent of one half cent and 60 percent of a second half cent must be provided to Stokes County Schools for capital requirements.

As the County's second largest General Fund revenue source, local option sales tax is expected to generate approximately 15% of the County's operating revenues, or $11,331,254 in FY 2027. This represents an increase of 12.0% from the previous year's budget. This increase is due to findings from our FY 2025 audit and analysis of FY 2026 budget to actual variances.

Sales, Services, Permits and Fees

In FY 2025, the County conducted a comprehensive review and update on its overall fees and charges schedule. Many components of this schedule had not been reviewed or updated for several years. As a result of this update, the County has increased collections of Sales, Services, Permits and Fees receipts FY 2026, thereby shifting financial burden away from taxpayers as a whole and toward the users of specific services.

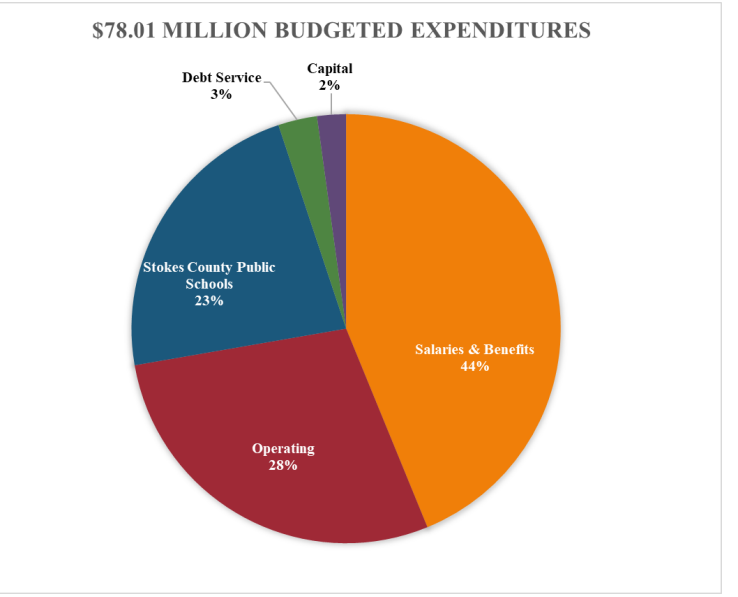
Investment Income

Investment income consists primarily of earnings on cash and investments in the North Carolina Capital Management Trust (NCCMT). The NCCMT portfolio closely tracks the federal interest rates. At current and projected interest rates, investment income is expected to be $945,348 in FY2027, a decrease of 4.5% from the FY 2026 amended budget.

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

General Fund Expenditures fall into one of five categories:

1. Salaries and benefits
2. Operating costs
3. Capital expenditures
4. Debt service
5. Stokes County Schools



Salaries and Benefits

Salaries and benefits for the County's 392 full-time equivalents (FTEs) account for $34,179,732, or 44%, of the total General Fund Budget

For FY 2027, the budget recommends an increase of six full-time positions. Planning & Inspections, Information Technology and Emergency Communications all gain one employee. The Department of Social Services gains two foster care social workers. Finally, a new parks and recreation coordinator is planned to oversee implementation of the recently adopted Active Stokes 2035 Outdoor Recreation Plan.

In accordance with Stokes County Pay and Benefits policy, County employees receive a cost-of-living adjustment annually. This year, that adjustment is 2.7%, which is based on the annual consumer price index percentage for the prior calendar year. Adjustments are effective July 1.

Additionally, 2.0% of salary and associated benefits is included in accordance with County policy to accommodate merit pay increases. Department heads assign merit pay increases such that the average for all members of their departments may not exceed 2.0% and no employee receives more than 3.0%. Annually, the county conducts a salary study of one third of its paid positions to ensure county pay ranges remain appropriate and competitive in the market. For FY 2026, $150,000 is allocated to implement changes pursuant to this study.

Operating Costs

This category of expenditures accounts for $22,196,406 or 28% of the total General Fund Budget. One operational investment is included in the FY2027 budget that adds to operating costs. Based on lessons learned from the FY 2026 resident survey, the county will be establishing and implementing a communications improvement plan. That plan is expected to cost $40,000 annually.

Stokes County Public Schools

General Fund expenditures to support school system operating costs in this budget total $17,650,966. This is an increase of 2.7% compared to FY 2026 funding. Stokes County also funds long-term school capital needs through the separately levied $0.04 School/Forsyth Tech Fund. This year, that fund will pay $3,571,957 in debt service for prior-year school projects. One of the two cents in sales tax that Stokes County receives is statutorily required to fund county school system capital outlay and reserve funding. This is accomplished outside both the General Fund and the $0.04 Fund.

Capital Expenditures

This category of expenditures accounts for $1,694,718, or 2.2% of the total General Fund budget. Estimated operating costs associated with significant non-routine capital expenditures are incorporated into the *Five- Year Financial Forecast* by policy.

Capital expenditures are for the purchase of vehicles, equipment, land, infrastructure, and other items that have a value greater than $5,000 and a life expectancy of at least one year. Detailed information on capital purchases for FY 2026 can be found in the *Capital Improvement Plan* section of the Stokes County Operating Plan document. The list below highlights some of the more notable items for FY 2027:

- Replace four leased Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles
- Replace one ambulance and remount another
- Construct a new green box site on Mountain View Rd
- Conduct minor remodel of the King Health Facility
- Build new animal shelter (from FY 2025, FY 2026)

Debt Service

In FY 2027, the County will have $2,286,681 in debt service expenditures. This is a decrease of $76,692 from FY 2026.

FUND BALANCE

At June 30, 2026, the County's fund balance in the General Fund is projected to be approximately $27.3 million, or 36.0% of the FY 2026 Budget. The budget as proposed for FY 2027 will decrease the level of fund balance to approximately $26.7 million, or 34.3% of expenditures. This is 4.3% above Stokes County's policy minimum but remaining at the current tax rate of $0.585 for three or more years without reducing obligations may result in fund balance falling below the policy minimum.

BALANCED RECOMMENDED GENERAL FUND BUDGET

As required by North Carolina General Statutes, the recommended General Fund budget is balanced. In other words, total revenues equal total expenditures. The budget is based on an ad valorem tax rate of $0.585 per $100 valuation for the General Fund.

Overall budget requests were reduced by approximately $1.8 million to balance the budget. Although the budget does not fund all the requests made by departments or external groups, it does fund appropriate strategically selected investments designed to increase quality of life in Stokes County.



The following tables are a summary of the balanced recommended budget for the County's General Fund for FY 2026:

Revenue by Type	FY 2027 Budget
Ad Valorem	$ 40,064,874
Intergovernmental Revenues	$ 10,961,972
Permits, Fees, Sales and Services	$ 6,643,975
Other Operating Revenues	$ 1,103,427
Investment Income	$ 989,840
Other Taxes & Licenses	$ 11,720,255
Revenues	$ 71,484,343
Other Financing Sources	$ 170,481
Fund Balance Appropriated	$ 6,353,679
Total Revenues	$ 78,008,503

Expenditures by Type	FY 2027 Budget
General Government	$ 11,089,225
Public Safety	$ 25,426,548
Health & Human Services	$ 18,032,066
Education	$ 17,650,966
Environmental Protection	$ 2,764,726
Cultural & Recreational	$ 1,270,175
Economic Develppment	$ 1,774,797
Total Expenditures	$ 78,008,503

A Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the recommended budget was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the Commissioners Chambers. A copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection at in the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners office and website at Stokes County, NC .

I wish to express my thanks to the Board of Commissioners and senior leadership for their support in developing this FY 2027 Budget and operating plan. I also want to recognize all the Stokes County employees who have accomplished so much this past year. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance as you review this proposal.

Respectfully Submitted,




STOKES COUNTY
1789



About County Services

Visit the County of Stokes' web site: www.co.stokes.nc.us

Stokes County is celebrated for its natural beauty, outdoor recreation, and rich history. However, many people may not realize that our local government consists of over 20 departments and divisions, all working together to meet the high expectations of our residents and visitors. Because of this, it can be challenging to know which department to contact for information about county services.

This section is designed to help readers understand the roles and responsibilities of each department and division. For your convenience, we have included an email contact for each department, as well as a phone directory at the end of this section for commonly requested services.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Governing Body (ojessup@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Governing Body of Stokes County is made up of a five-member Board of Commissioners. The Board provides overall policy direction for county operations by considering and adopting ordinances and resolutions that promote the health, safety, and quality of life for all Stokes County residents. The Board determines the level of services the County offers and appoints members to various volunteer boards and commissions that serve in advisory and quasi-judicial roles. The Board is also responsible for selecting and contracting with the County Manager and the County Attorney. All actions of the Board support the County's vision of being a "dynamic, thriving community that is rich in natural beauty and embraces the future while respecting its rural heritage and history."



Administration (jsanborn@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Administration Department provides high-level support to the Board of County Commissioners and the County Manager. Led by the County Manager and Assistant County Manager, the department guides senior staff and serves as a liaison to more than 20 county departments and divisions. Administration works to ensure that services are delivered to residents in an effective, responsive, and cost-efficient manner. The Office of the County Manager oversees the overall operations of Stokes County.

Finance (tkeaton@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Finance Director reports directly to the County Manager and is a member of the senior leadership team. The Finance Department manages the County's fiscal operations, which include cash and investment oversight, debt management, financial reporting, and preparation of the annual budget and five-year financial forecast. The department's mission is to provide expert financial guidance and to promote responsible stewardship of public funds.

Human Resources (jclark@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Human Resources Director reports to the County Manager and serves as part of the senior staff. The Human Resources Department provides traditional HR services for employees and management while also developing programs that support employee satisfaction, retention, and a healthy work-life balance. The department coordinates employee training and recognition programs for both staff and volunteers, all of which contribute to the overall success of the organization.

Purchasing & Project Management (gpruitt@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Purchasing and Project Manager reports directly to the County Manager and serves on the senior leadership team. This position develops and manages procurement strategies that meet the needs of all county departments for goods, services, and technology. All purchasing activities are conducted in compliance with applicable state and federal laws, local ordinances, and County policies. The manager also oversees major county projects, ensuring they remain on schedule, stay within budget, and align with the goals of county management and the Board of Commissioners.



Tax Office (rbrim@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Stokes County Tax Administrator, appointed by the Board of Commissioners, serves in the dual role of Tax Assessor and Tax Collector. The Tax Office is organized into five divisions, all coordinated through Tax Administration, which works closely with county leadership, other departments, the North Carolina Department of Revenue, and provides monthly reports to the County Commissioners.

The Appraisal/Revaluation Division is responsible for valuing approximately 31,600 parcels. This includes assessing new construction, conducting an in-house countywide revaluation every four years, and administering the Present Use Value Deferment Program.

The Assessment Division oversees the valuation of all personal property, including business and individual listings. Staff administer the Elderly/Disabled and Veteran's Exemption Programs and coordinate with the North Carolina Vehicle Tax System (NC VTS) to value motor vehicles.

The Collections Division manages the collection of all property taxes, including those for the county's three municipalities, as well as EMS billing and collections.

The GIS/Mapping Division maps all property conveyances, assigns E-911 addresses, and maintains land transfer records.

Each division plays a critical role in ensuring accurate valuation, fair taxation, and efficient revenue collection for Stokes County.

Register of Deeds (bhooker@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Register of Deeds is an elected position, chosen by Stokes County citizens to serve a four-year term. The Register of Deeds Office is the primary custodian for the county's legal documents and vital records. The office is responsible for recording, preserving, indexing, providing access to, and safeguarding all documents designated for permanent retention. All functions of the Register of Deeds are governed by North Carolina General Statutes, which establish strict policies and procedures that staff must follow in carrying out their duties.



Board of Elections (jperry@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Elections Director reports directly to the Stokes County Board of Elections. The five-member Board provides general oversight of the office, a responsibility shared with Stokes County Administration and the North Carolina State Board of Elections. Elections staff manage the daily operations of the office and ensure that all elections are conducted fairly, accurately, and efficiently. Responsibilities include maintaining up-to-date voter registration records, processing new registrations, party and address changes, transfers, and removing records for deceased individuals and ineligible voters. The office also maintains precinct boundaries and provides candidates, elected officials, and the public with reliable election and voter information as needed.

INTERNAL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS

Vehicle Maintenance (dtriplett@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Vehicle Maintenance Department reports directly to the Assistant County Manager and is responsible for providing regular and preventive maintenance for all county-owned vehicles and equipment. The department performs routine services such as lubrication, oil and filter changes, tire repairs and replacements, and engine and pump maintenance. When new vehicles are added to the fleet, Vehicle Maintenance staff install necessary equipment and customize upfitting to ensure each vehicle is properly outfitted to meet employee needs and support quality service to the public.

Public Buildings & Maintenance (seaster@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Public Buildings and Maintenance Division reports directly to the Public Works Director and is responsible for providing regular and preventive maintenance for all county-owned buildings. The division also oversees grounds maintenance at Moratock Park and other county facilities. Responsibilities include managing custodial operations to ensure clean, well-maintained facilities, as well as coordinating repairs for heating, electrical, and other building systems. The division also performs a wide range of routine maintenance tasks to ensure that county buildings and public spaces remain safe, functional, and welcoming for residents and visitors.



Information Technology (kfarmer@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Chief Information Officer reports directly to the Assistant County Manager. The Information Technology Department provides hardware and software support to all County employees and is responsible for maintaining and securing the County's network infrastructure. The department also manages the County's internet and intranet websites, ensuring reliable access to information and digital services.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Sheriff's Office (jmlemons@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Sheriff is elected by Stokes County citizens to serve a four-year term and acts as the county's chief law enforcement officer. The mission of the Stokes County Sheriff's Office is to protect the county's communities and residents from harm, enforce North Carolina laws and county ordinances, and promote public safety. The Sheriff's Office leads countywide efforts to preserve public peace, safeguard property, protect individual rights, prevent crime, and provide reasonable assistance to residents within its authority. The office is organized into several divisions, including Patrol, Court Services, Detectives, School Resource Officers, and Administrative Support. Together, these divisions work to ensure comprehensive, effective law enforcement services for Stokes County.



Jail (lgoins@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Jail Administrator reports directly to the Sheriff and serves as the key link between the Detention Center and the Sheriff's Office. The Jail Division is responsible for the secure confinement of individuals who are lawfully detained, committed, or otherwise ordered into custody through statutory or judicial processes. The division is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for both the citizens of Stokes County and the individuals housed within the Stokes County Jail.

Fire Marshal's Office (saaron@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Fire Marshal reports directly to the County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) conducts all fire and life-safety inspections and acts as the liaison between Stokes County and the local fire departments. The department also performs fire investigations, completes plan reviews, and provides public education programs for businesses, schools, and community events. As an integral part of the County's Emergency Management Division, the FMO supports Stokes County EMS and local fire departments by assisting with emergency and fire response services.

Emergency Communications - E911 (jdurham@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Emergency Communications Director reports directly to the County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The Stokes County Emergency Communications Center provides continuous assistance to the public, supporting the safety and protection of life, property, and community through 9-1-1 and radio communications. The center provides dispatch services for the Stokes County Sheriff's Office, Stokes County EMS, Emergency Management, Animal Control, the King Police Department, the Stokes County Fire Marshal's Office, all municipal and volunteer fire departments, the North Carolina Forestry Service, Probation, and Hanging Rock State Park. The mission of Emergency Communications is to deliver both emergency and non-emergency services with accuracy, honesty, and empathy, ensuring reliable support for the public, first responders, and all City and County departments.



Emergency Services (bgentry@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Emergency Services Director reports directly to the County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division provides emergency medical response throughout Stokes County and within all municipalities. EMS fulfills this mission using specialty care and advanced life support ambulances, supported by quick-response vehicles, community paramedics, and response-ready administrative personnel. Emergency medical services are available to residents and visitors 24 hours a day from four base locations: Danbury, Lawsonville, King, and Walnut Cove. The division operates six fully equipped ambulances staffed with EMTs and paramedics, along with three quick-response vehicles. The Emergency Management Division is responsible for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. Its mission is to reduce the risks and impacts of both natural and man-made events to protect lives and property. Emergency Management maintains readiness through prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

Animal Control (treeves@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Animal Control Director reports directly to the County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The Animal Control Department is responsible for protecting the public through the enforcement of state and local laws, providing humane sheltering for stray and unwanted animals, and promoting responsible pet ownership through community education. Enforcement duties include upholding laws related to animal welfare, cruelty, neglect, and rabies control. The department includes the County-operated animal shelter, which partners with multiple animal welfare organizations, such as the Friends of Stokes Shelter to help place as many animals as possible into safe, caring homes.

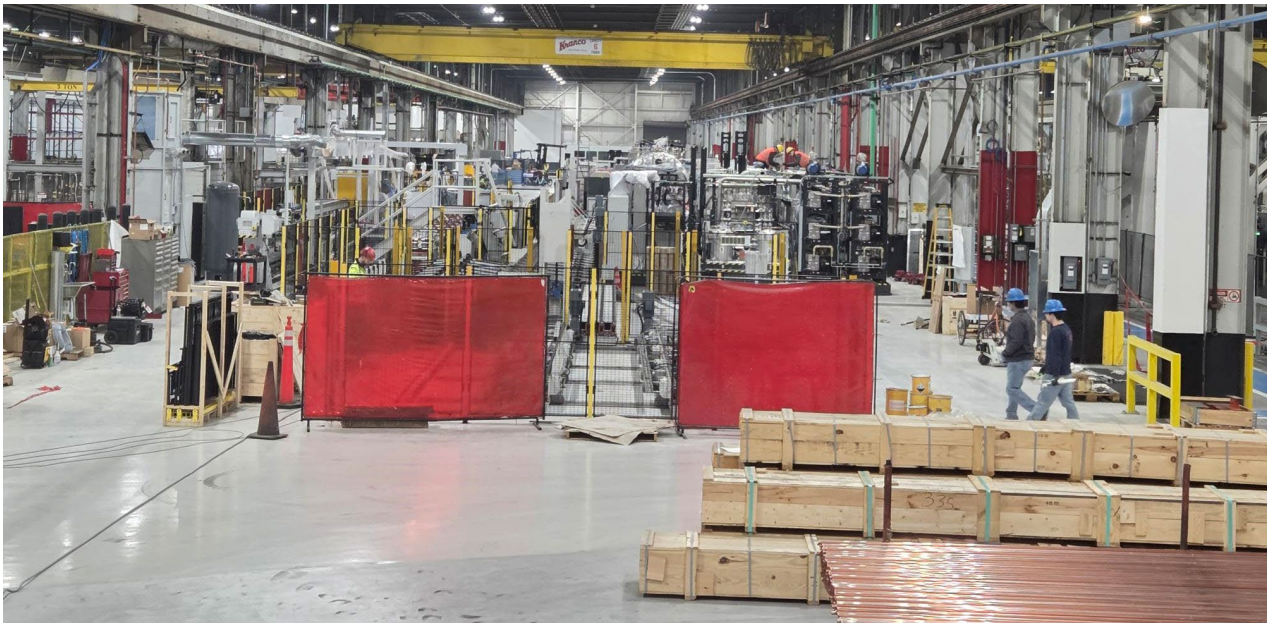
ECONOMIC AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Inspections

The Planning and Inspections Director reports directly to the County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The Planning Division works to preserve and enhance the unique character of Stokes County while guiding growth in ways that support and strengthen the community's quality of life. The Inspections Division ensures that all construction meets required standards under North Carolina law by conducting building, electrical, plumbing, and heating and air inspections. The department also oversees code enforcement to ensure compliance with the Stokes County Zoning Ordinance and other regulations designed to promote a safe and healthy environment for the public.

Economic Development (tlmabe@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Economic Development Department reports directly to the County Manager and is responsible for overseeing economic development, marketing, and promotional activities for Stokes County. The department's purpose is to support a prosperous community for businesses, residents, and visitors while enhancing the already high quality of life enjoyed across the county. Key efforts include supporting business retention and expansion, encouraging new development, and promoting infrastructure investment. The department also manages the County's tourism initiatives, working to increase visitation by highlighting local attractions and encouraging support for area businesses. These efforts are carried out through statewide advertising and online marketing in close partnership with the Tourism Development Authority.



Cooperative Extension (malenhar@ncsu.edu)

Stokes County partners with NC State University and NC A&T State University to support and fund programs that enhance the lives, land, and economy of local residents. The Stokes Center of Cooperative Extension works with the County to provide services in agriculture, horticulture, conservation, environmental protection, nutrition, health, and a range of consumer, youth, and community development needs. The Cooperative Extension's mission is to extend research-based knowledge to all North Carolinians, turning science into practical, everyday solutions that improve lives and strengthen communities.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Social Services (selmes@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Department of Social Services (DSS) Director reports directly to the DSS Board and serves as a key member of the County's senior staff. The Department of Social Services plays a vital role in supporting individuals and families in Stokes County by providing essential preventive and supportive services. The department is dedicated to protecting the county's most vulnerable residents from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. DSS administers a wide range of programs, including child welfare services, adult protective services, public assistance programs, employment and workforce support, housing and emergency assistance, and family and community services. Federal and state agencies provide oversight and establish guidelines under which the County DSS delivers these services directly to the community.



Public Health (tmartin@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Health Director reports directly to the Board of Health and serves as a key member of the County's senior staff. The Stokes County Health Department is governed by an eleven-member Board of Health appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The department plays a vital role in protecting and promoting public health by monitoring community health, enforcing health regulations, and ensuring access to essential health services. The Health Department oversees programs related to communicable disease control, environmental health, maternal and child health, family planning, and emergency preparedness. These efforts help safeguard the well-being of Stokes County residents and support a healthier community.

Environmental Health (bgjoyce@co.stokes.nc.us)

The Environmental Health Supervisor reports directly to the Health Director and leads the Environmental Health team, which is dedicated to protecting the environment and promoting public health. The department is responsible for conducting inspections for food service establishments, institutions, childcare facilities, temporary food events, migrant housing, tattoo artists, public swimming pools, and summer camps. Additionally, staff perform soil and site evaluations, issue permits for new and repair septic systems and conduct inspections of septic system installations and water supply well construction. The team also manages water sampling to ensure safe, reliable water sources for the community.

Veterans Services (lhunsucker@co.stokes.nc.us)
The lead Veterans Service Officer (VSO) reports directly to the Assistant County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The Veterans Services Office supports veterans and their dependents by helping them obtain benefits and services that enhance their quality of life. The VSOs advocate on behalf of Stokes County veterans and their families, assisting them in accessing all federal Veterans Administration and state benefits for which they are legally eligible. Staff provide guidance and support for a wide range of benefits, including disability compensation, dependent and survivor benefits, healthcare services, burial benefits, education and training programs, and more.

Senior Services (veast@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Senior Services Director reports directly to the Assistant County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The Senior Services Department provides programs and resources for older adults to support wellness, prolong independence, and enhance overall quality of life. The department offers a wide range of services, including transportation, congregate and home-delivered meals, fitness classes, health and wellness programming, and assistance connecting seniors with appropriate community resources. The Walnut Cove Senior Center serves as a community hub where older adults can engage in activities, access services, and participate in programs designed to empower and enrich their lives.



District Resource Center (ljones@co.stokes.nc.us)
The District Resource Center (DRC) Director reports directly to the Assistant County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The DRC operates a community-based corrections program that provides the courts with an alternative sentencing option for certain offenders. The program combines accountability measures with rehabilitative services that address needs such as substance abuse, mental health, employment, education, domestic violence, and sex offender treatment. The DRC also manages the County's Pretrial Release Program, which assists non-violent defendants who are unable to meet bond conditions prior to trial. By offering community-based monitoring and support services, the Pretrial Release Program helps prevent local jail overcrowding while addressing the rehabilitation needs of eligible participants.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Soil and Water Conservation (aharold@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Soil and Water Conservation Director works closely with county leadership, state and federal agencies, and public and private organizations to deliver a comprehensive, non-regulatory conservation program. The department's mission is to improve the county's natural resources while assisting private landowners in implementing effective conservation practices. The Soil and Water Conservation District is governed by a five-member board of elected and appointed District Supervisors. The District administers and supports programs that improve water quality and reduce non-point source pollution on agricultural lands.

Solid Waste (seaster@co.stokes.nc.us)
The Solid Waste Division operates under the Public Works Director, who reports to the Assistant County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The division provides safe and convenient disposal options for household solid waste and offers opportunities for recycling. Solid Waste manages eight staffed Green Box sites throughout the county, each accepting household waste and recyclable materials.



CULTURAL AND RECREATION

Arts Council (stokesarts@gmail.com)
The Arts Council operates through a unique dual structure, functioning as both a County department and a nonprofit organization. Staff salaries and benefits are funded by the County, while programming and general operating revenue are generated through the nonprofit. The Director of Arts and Cultural Services and the Executive Director roles are held by the same individual, which has contributed significantly to the Arts Council's success in advancing cultural arts. The mission of the Arts Council is to support and promote cultural arts in Stokes County through performance, exhibits, education, preservation of local traditions, outreach, economic development, agricultural heritage, tourism, recreation, community engagement, and overall quality of life. Stokes Arts fulfills this mission by operating The Arts Place of Stokes, a multi-purpose cultural venue featuring an art gallery, retail market, flexible performance and meeting space, a coffee and ice cream shop, and instructional classrooms and studios.


STOKES COUNTY
1789



Stokes County Budgeting and Operating Plan Guide

The ***Stokes County Budgeting and Operating Plan Guide*** is designed to aid the reader in understanding Stokes County Budgeting, the information contained in this document, and how the document is formatted. The Stokes County Operating Plan is inclusive of the required annual balanced budget, pertinent five-year financial forecasts, and the five- year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Included sections of the document dive into the detailed plans for County operations and this guide will provide explanations for the vast amount of data and information that follows.

Because this section is intended to provide mostly background information, the reader is invited to refer to other sections of the document for more detailed information.

What's in the Document?

The Stokes County Operating Plan was an all-new document last year. Prior annual budget documents included only a budget message, detailed budgeting account information, and the annual adopted budget ordinance. The SCOP moves beyond numbers and describes what we intend to accomplish as well as providing greater context intended to help the reader to better interpret budgeted numbers. Another key aspect of this document is that it is a five-year operating plan rather than just a one-year budget. This document includes sections describing the annual budget for our various funds as well as five-year forecasts for key funds. It also describes our major capital projects over the next five years and a five-year capital improvement plan.

If there is additional information you would like to see presented in future editions, please forward your request to Director of Finance, Tammy Keaton at tkeaton@co.stokes.nc.us

What's new in this Document?

In the spirit of continuous improvement, several enhancements have been made to the 2027 Stokes County Operating Plan:

- The Stokes County Budgeting and Operating Plan Guide includes a comprehensive summary table depicted every major and minor fund that Stokes County operates and maintains, as well as information on Stokes County's financial policies.
- The groupings of General Fund expenditures by function have been updated to be more inline with general understanding and with Stokes County's organizational chart.
- The Special revenue Fund Summary has been updated to include the Enhanced 911 Communications Fund
- The Capital Project Funds section has been updated to include the Capital Reserve Fund
- The Capital Improvement Plan section has been updated to include leased fleet vehicles, which are required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board to be treated as capital for accounting purposes.

Financial Policies

Summary

Stokes County's budgetary and financial policies set fort basic guidance for the fiscal management of the County. These policies are consistent with both the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) and the Counties ordinances. Though general in statement, these policies contribute to the County's financial stability and health. Stokes County's financial policies are summarized below:

Fees and Charges Policy

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners adopted Fees and Charges Schedule is used to set fees and charges at an appropriate level that is consistently applied to all users. Charging fees for elective services efficiently transfers the cost of providing those services to service recipients. Fees charged by Stokes County are intended to cover the full cost of providing a service that can be directly identified.

Fund Balance Policy

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners adopted Fund Balance Policy is intended to ensure Stokes County maintains appropriate operating reserves to ensure it can meet ongoing cashflow requirements throughout the year and to weather unexpected, unpredictable large-scale hardships in the future.

- The County will maintain an unassigned fund balance in the General Fund that significantly exceeds the minimum eight percent (8%) recommended by the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer. The percentage is to be determined by dividing the unassigned fund balance amount by actual annual expenditures. The target goal of the County for the General Fund's unassigned fund balance (i.e. "Reserves") shall be a minimum of 20% with a goal of 30% of the actual expenditures of the then completed fiscal year.
- When preparing the annual General Fund budget, the amount of appropriated fund balance should result in an anticipated ending total fund balance at a minimum of 30% of budgeted expenditures.
- Management is further directed to maintain unassigned General Fund balance as reported in the County's Audited Financial Statement of greater than 20% of actual General Fund expenditures as reported in the Audited Financial Statement.

Budget Requirements

Basis of Accounting and North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act

The budget is prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting for all funds. This approach to accounting recognizes revenues when they become measurable and expenditures at the time liability is incurred. All revenues and expenditures must be included in the annual budget ordinance or appropriate capital and/or grant project ordinances. Any operational appropriations that are not expended or encumbered shall lapse.
The North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (LGBFCA) controls how counties budget and spend money. The major effects of the LGBFCA on the budgeting process are described below.

Budget Calendar

The LGBFCA establishes the dates by which each stage in the annual budget process is to be completed. These dates are as follows:

- Departmental requests must be submitted to the Budget Officer (County Manager) by April 30.
- Revenue requests must be submitted to the Budget Officer by April 30.
- The recommended annual budget must be submitted to the Governing Board by June 1.
- The Governing Board must adopt the annual budget ordinance by June 30.

Budget Form and Procedures

The Budget Officer must prescribe the forms and procedures for the departments to use in preparing their requests; in the words of G.S. 159-10, requests "shall be made in such form and detail, with such supporting information and justification, as the budget officer may prescribe." G.S. 159-10 also requires that a budget request show actual expenditures for the prior year, estimate expenditures in the current year, and request expenditures for the coming budget year.

Department Request

G.S. 159-10 requires that budget request for a department include revenues or fees that it will collect in the budget year.

Recommended Budget

G.S. 159-11 requires that the Budget Officer's recommended budget be balanced unless the Governing Board insists that an unbalanced budget be submitted. A balanced budget as defined by the NCBFCA is when the sum of estimated net revenues and appropriated fund balance in each fund is equal to appropriations in that fund. It is also required that the budget be submitted to the Government Board with a Budget Message. G.S. 159-11(b) states that the message should include:

- A concise explanation of the governmental goals fixed by the budget for the budget year
- Important features of the activities anticipated in the budget
- The reasons for stated changes from the previous year in program goals, programs, and appropriation levels.
- Any major changes in fiscal policy

Governing Board Review

Once the recommended budget is presented to the Governing Board, several general legal provisions apply to Board review and adoption of the budget ordinance:

- At least 10 days must pass between the submission of the recommended budget and adoption of the budget ordinance.
- On the same day the budget is submitted to the Governing Board, the Budget Officer must file a copy of it in the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners' office where it is made available to the public and press.
- The Clerk must publish a notice that the budget has been delivered to the Governing Board and is available for public inspection. This advertisement must also note the time and place of the required public hearing.
- During the time between submission and adoption, the Governing Board may conduct its review at both regular and special meetings. At least one of these dates must be a public hearing at which any person who wishes to comment may.
- North Carolina Open Meetings Law (G.S. 143-318.9 thru 318.18) applies to the budget preparation and adoption process.

Adoption of the Budget Ordinance

The budget ordinance must contain the appropriations, the estimated revenues, and the property tax levy as well as rate.

Budget Adoption and Amendment

The operations conducted by the County are guided by the annual budget ordinance adopted in accordance with the provisions of the LGBFCA. The budget ordinance must be balanced and adopted prior to the beginning of the Fiscal Year (FY) it covers. Adoption of the budget by the Board of County Commissioners establishes the legal authority to incur expenditures in the ensuing fiscal year.

After adoption of the budget ordinance, the Budget Officer is authorized to transfer appropriations between line-item expenditures within a department without making an official report to the governing board. He may also transfer amounts between functional areas, including contingency appropriations, within the same fund to increase an appropriation up to $25,000 in a single budget amendment. These transfers, however, require an official report at the next regular meeting of the Board. All other revisions or budget amendments must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners through legislative action.

Budget Format

The accounts of the County are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts comprised of assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures or expenses as appropriate. Fund accounting segregates funds according to the intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. A minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements. Currently, the County maintains sixteen funds as described in the various sections of this document.

A fund is one of two types: an operational fund or a project fund. The Board appropriates operational funds on an annual basis and an activity's funding lapses at the close of the fiscal year. Project funds continue for the life of each specific capital or grant project with appropriations continuing until the project is finished.

It has been established that budgets, while managed by funds, are also managed by functions. The functions designate the actual use of the funds. For example, Sheriff's Office expenditures pertain to the function of Public Safety and the function of the Finance Department is General Government.

How do the individual departments fit into the functional and fund account process? Each department is a subsection of both a function and a fund. Each department or division belongs to one fund and one function. A fund can include any number of departments, including departments of different functions. A function can include departments from many funds.

About the Document Presentation

This document contains a wealth of diversified information. This information can be found on a departmental, functional, or fund basis. This document places a distinct emphasis on the County's departments and divisions with the General Fund because these pages represent plans associated with the people who are charged with providing services to citizens.

All of the individual department revenue and expenditure totals are consolidated for each fund, which presents the "bottom line" of the budget. The following information details the types of funds the County maintains:

The **General Fund** is used to account for resources traditionally associated with government which are not required legally or by sound financial management to be accounted for in another fund. This fund is established at a local government's inception and exists throughout the government's life.

Capital project funds are used to account for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities, other than those financed by proprietary funds and trust funds.

Special revenue funds are used to account for special revenues that are legally restricted to expenditure for a particular purpose.

An **Enterprise Fund** is a self-supporting government fund that sells goods and services to the public for a fee. These funds are a good way to assure the long-term sustainability of a variety of government-owned infrastructure systems, since they should not require allocations of tax proceeds from the general fund.

Major Funds: Any fund whose revenues or expenditures/ expenses, excluding other financing sources and uses (governmental funds), excluding transfers in and transfers out (proprietary funds) constitute more than 10% of the revenues or expenditures/ expenses of the appropriated budget is considered a major fund.

The follow table summarizes all county funds, by type:

Fund	Described In	Major	Type		
			General	Special Revenue	Enterprise
General Fund	General Fund Summary	Yes	X		
Schools Capital Outlay Fund	Stokes County Schools Funding	No	X		
School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Dedicated Debt Fund	Stokes County Schools Funding	Yes	X		
Capital Projects Fund	Capital Project Funds	Yes	X		
Capital Reserve Fund	Capital Project Funds	No	X		
Stokes County Fire District	Special Revenue Funds Summary	No		X	
King Fire District	Special Revenue Funds Summary	No		X	
Walnut Cove Fire District	Special Revenue Funds Summary	No		X	
Rural Hall Fire District	Special Revenue Funds Summary	No		X	
Opioid Settlement Fund	Special Revenue Funds Summary	Yes		X	
Tourism Development Authority	Special Revenue Funds Summary	No		X	
Enhanced 911 Communications Fund	Special Revenue Funds Summary	No		X	
DSS Client Trust Fund	SCOP Guide	No		X	
Regional Sewer Fund	Enterprise	Yes			X
Danbury Water Fund	Enterprise	Yes			X

The **DSS Client Trust Fund** is used by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to hold and manage funds for individuals receiving assistance, ensuring that their benefits are preserved while providing additional financial support. These funds can be used for various expenses that enhance the quality of life for the beneficiaries without jeopardizing their eligibility for government assistance.

Department Level Budget Information

Departmental budget presentations are summaries of all expenditures and revenues associated with each department's activities. Because the County's accounting structure contains hundreds of individual budget line items, the County has consolidated these items into major classifications for a summarized presentation. For example, expenditures are grouped into three categories: Salaries & Benefits, Operating, and Capital. This consolidation facilitates comparison between different functions. Please contact the Stokes County Finance Department if further detail is desired.

The following tables depict alignment between governmental departments/units and the funds supporting them.

General Government & Internal Governmental Services

Department	General Fund	Other Fund(s)
Administration		
Board of Elections		
Finance		
Human Resources		
Information Technology		
Public Buildings		Regional Sewer & Water, Danbury Water
Purchasing		
Register of Deeds		
Tax		
Vehicle Maintenance		

Public Safety

Department	General Fund	Other Fund(s)
Animal Control		
Emergency Communications		Enhanced Emergency Comms
Emergency Management		
Emergency Medical Services		
Fire Marshal		
Jail		
Sheriff's Office		

Health & Human Services

Department	General Fund	Other Fund(s)
District Resource Center		
Health		Opioid Settlement
Senior Services		
Social Services		DSS Client
Veterans Services		

Economic & Physical Development

Department	General Fund	Other Fund(s)
Economic Development		
NC Cooperative Extension		
Planning & Inspections		

Environmental Protection

Department	General Fund	Other Fund(s)
Soil & Water Conservation		
Solid Waste		

Cultural & Recreation

Department	General Fund	Other Fund(s)
Arts Council		
Funding for Parks		


STOKES COUNTY
1789



Operational Priorities Development

Operational Priorities Overview

The Stokes County Operating Plan (SCOP) is a tool used to develop and communicate the County's operational priorities for the upcoming fiscal year and the five-year planning period. Operational planning is the process of selecting operational enhancement. process improvements funding methodologies to achieve strategic goals and objectives. During FY 2025, Stokes County began the important process of building our strategic framework and annual operational planning process. Our strategic framework uses the widely accepted, balanced scorecard approach. To support this approach, the Stokes County Board of Commissioners adopted the following mission and vision statements:

Mission: Protect, promote and enhance quality of life for Stokes County residents and visitors.

Vision: Stokes County is a dynamic, thriving community that is rich in natural beauty and embraces the future while respecting its rural heritage and history

Our mission statement tells us why we exist. Our vision statement tells us something about the broad, long-term, qualitative outcomes we aspire to achieve.

The next step that we took was to develop strategic goals and strategic objectives. Strategic goals are broad, enduring goals that represent components of mission accomplishment. Strategic objectives tell us more about how we achieve each strategic goal. Everything that employees, volunteers and other representatives of Stokes County government do in the exercise of their duties supports one or more strategic objectives. As a result, those activities also support attainment of strategic goals and mission accomplishment.

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners adopted a Balanced Scorecard including thirteen strategic goals and 37 supporting strategic objectives. Ten of the strategic goals are customer focused; they orient on the delivery of services that our residents and other stakeholders expect or desire. One strategic goal is internally focused: professionally manage a high performing organization. One additional strategic goal is workforce oriented: attract and retain an engaged workforce. Finally, another strategic goal orients on financial health: maintain a healthy financial condition.

For each strategic objective, our Board of Commissioners has also approved a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to be used to measure mission accomplishment With the first set of KPI data being collected during FY 2026, that data was only partially available for development of this FY 2027 – 2031 SCOP. The FYs 2028 – 2032 SCOP will be the first plan that benefits from full analysis of Key Performance Indicators.



Stokes County Balanced Scorecard Summary

Goal 1: Safeguard the Community		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Deliver effective emergency communications services	% of calls answered within 15 seconds	99.05%
	Percentage of calls processed in 90 seconds or less	58%
	EMD protocol compliance	96.20%
	Pre-arrival instructions compliance	78.20%
	Average dispatch time for law, fire and EMS	2:21
Deliver effective law enforcement services	Resident satisfaction with availability of patrols in the county	47%
	Customer satisfaction with processing of permits and fingerprints	
	Resident perception of Stokes County as being a safe place to live	89%
	Crime rate per 1000 unincorporated residents	
Deliver effective fire marshal services	% of annual required commercial inspections completed	100%
	% of annual required school inspections completed	100%
	# of people per 1000 residents contacted through outreach programs	56
Deliver effective building inspection services	Average number of days to complete a building inspection	2
Enable and support rural fire districts	Average time from dispatch to first unit underway	6:41
	Average time from dispatch to first fully staffed apparatus on scene	8:11
	% of residents satisfied with rural fire services	78%
	% of medical calls with no response	0%
Deliver effective emergency management services	Resident satisfaction with operations and support during states of emergency	55%
Deliver effective animal control services	Resident satisfaction with animal control services	34%
	% of shelter animals euthanized	54%
	% of shelter animals rescued or adopted	45%
	# of rabies incidents in the county per 1000 residents	0%
Deliver effective pre and post-trial services	% of pretrial cases completed successfully	55%
	% of DRC program cases completed successfully	
	Referral services completion rate	0%

Goal 2: Promote Education and Workforce Skills Development		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Effectively resource K-12 education	High school graduation rate	87%
	% of schools that earn a grade of C or better on annual report card	75%
	% of schools that meet or exceed annual growth rate goals	69%
	% of teachers who agree that their school is a good place to work and learn	
	Schools system transportation efficiency rating	96%
Effetively support workfoce development training	# of Forsyth Tech students placed with employers in Stokes and immediately surrounding counties	

Goal 3: Support Socially and Economically Vulnerable Residents		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Deliver effective income maintenance services	Resident customer satisfaction with DSS income maintenance services	
	% of NCDHHS income maintenance service standard measures met	91%
Deliver effective social work services	Overall customer satisfaction with DSS social work services	
	% of NCDHHS social work standard measures met	98%
Deliver effective senior services	Overall customer satisfaction with senior nutrition services	84%
	Resident customer satisfaction with senior assistance services	92%
Deliver effective Veterans services	% of costomers satisfied with Veterans advocacy services	

Goal 4: Promote and Safeguard Public Health		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Deliver effective nutrition services	WIC nutrition services customer satisfaction rating	
	Average # of days to process a nutrition services application	5
Deliver effective clinical services	Clinical services customer satisfaction rating	100%
Deliver effective opioid services	Opioid services customer satisfaction rating	70%
Deliver effective environmental health services	Average # of days to process and approve an improvement permit	84
	Average # of days to process and approve a well permit	42
	Average # of days to complete a well inspection	3
	Average # of days to complete a construction authorization (septic)	30
	% of required food and lodging inspections completed to standard	95%
Deliver effective water supply services	% of daily well inspections completed on time and to standard	100%
	% of water sampling tests done on time and to standard	100%
Deliver effective wastewater services	% of wastewater discharge sampling tests done on time and to standard	100%
Deliver effective emergency medical services (EMS)	Average emergency medical services response time	12:17
	% of STEMI patients who reach PCI within 90 minutes	99%
	Cardiac arrest survival rate	16.40%

Goal 5: Record, Protect and Provide Access to Property and Vital Records		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Provide effective register of deeds services	Customer satisfaction with Register of Deeds services	
	Index correction rate	0.30%

Goal 6: Ensure Land Use Compatibility and Preservation of Rural Character		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Deliver effective zoing enforcement services	Resident satisfaction rating with zoning enforcement	25%
	Resident satisfaction rating with zoning regulations	27%

Goal 7: Promote a Thriving Business Community		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Promote economic development	% expansion in commercial tax base	5.23%
Deliver effective agricultural services	Resident customer satisfaction with Cooperative Extension training & services	50%

Goal 8: Support Environmental Preservation		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Provide effective solid waste services	Resident satisfaction with County solid waste services	61%
	Resident satisfaction with availability and accessibility of green box sites	64%
Deliver effective soil and water services	Resident customer satisfaction with soil and water conservation services	
	% of required annual inspections and improvements completed on flood control watershed structures	100%

Goal 9: Promote Active Living an Cultural Opportunities		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Provide and maintain ample parks, walking trails and recreational opportunities	Resident satisfaction with the availability and upkeep of county walking trails	55%
	Resident satisfaction with the availability and upkeep of county parks	63%
	Resident satisfaction with the variety and availability of recreational activities across the County	48%
Provide effective support to the arts	Resident satisfaction with the quality and quantity of arts and cultural events	49%
	# of participants in arts and cultural programs and services	

Goal 10: Promote Election Integrity		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Provide fair, free and impartial elections	Voter participation % during most recent biannual federal election	81%
	Voter participation % during most recent biannual municipal election	18%
	Resident satisfaction with the conduct of the most recent county-wide election	53%

Goal 11: Professionally Manage a High Performing Organization		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Communicate with and engage county residents and stakeholders	Resident satisfaction with Stokes County efforts to enage and communicate with residents	21%
Provide a high level of customer service	Resident satisfaction with customer service provided by Stokes County employees	58%
Continuously improve and innovate	% of KPIs tha show year-over-year improvement	
Maintain County assets	Depreciable life remaining on county owned real property	60%
	Depreciable life remaining on county owned vehicles	27%

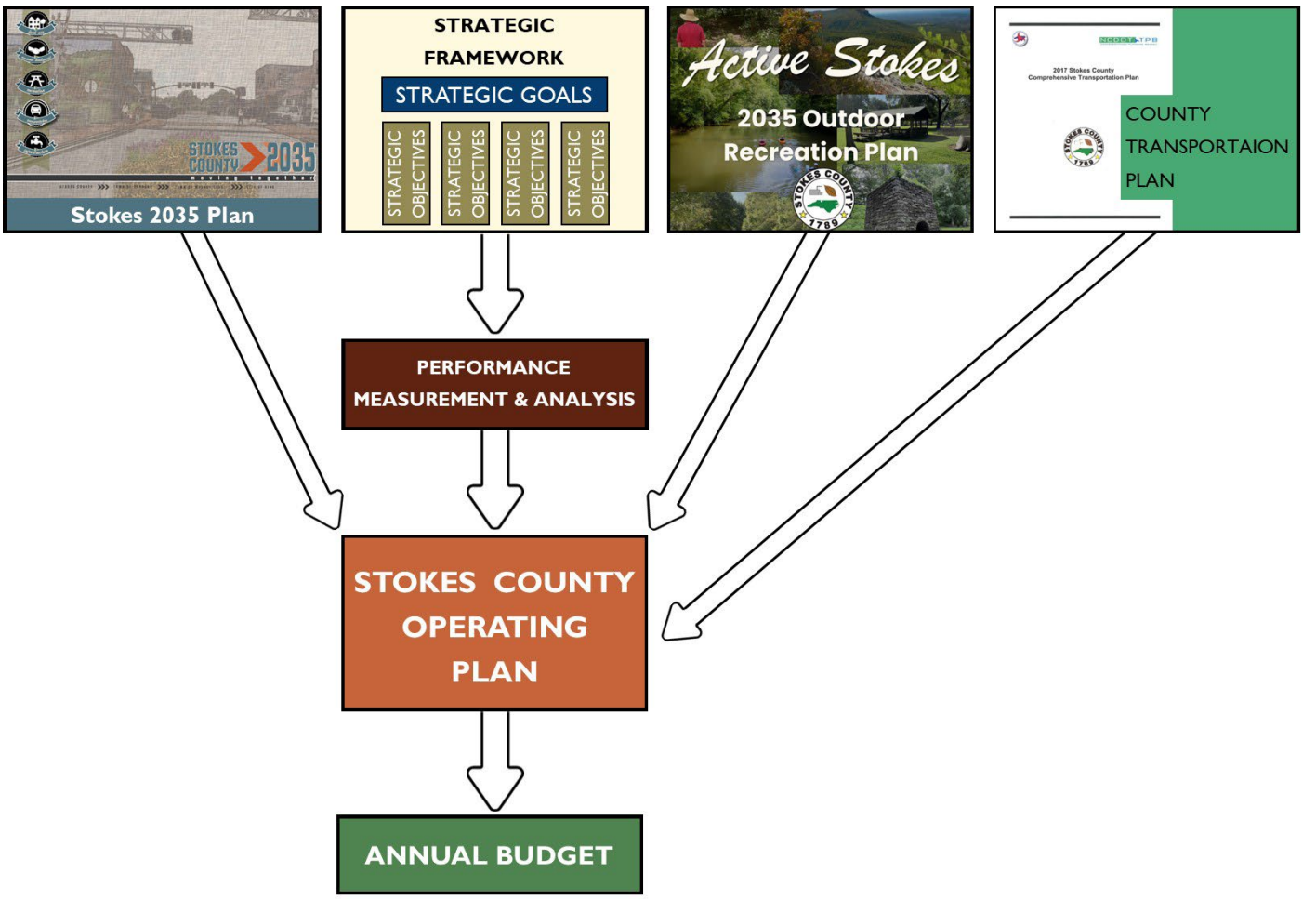
Goal 12: Attract and Retain an Engaged Workforce		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Provide a supportive and rewarding work environment	% of employees who agree that, overall, they like their job	88%
	% of positions evaluated in a salary study within the last three years	32%

Goal 13: Maintain a Healthy Financial Condition		
Objective	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Score**
Provide effective tax valuation and tax collection services	% of property taxes collected	98.0%
	Sales ratio from most recent revaluation	91.1%
Meet or exceed established financial targets	Total fund balance in the General Fund as a percent of actual expenditures	33.70%
	General Fund operating margin	97%
	General Fund debt service ratio	8.20%

Some Key Performance Indicator data in the balanced scorecard is not provided since it is not yet available. Others are data from part of FY 2026.

The Stokes County Operating Plan

The Stokes County Operating Plan (SCOP) is the means by which strategic plans, goals and objectives are translated into actionable and resourced plans for mission accomplishment. In addition to the strategic framework, long-range strategic plans also support the development of the operating plan. These long-range plans include Stokes County 2035, the Stokes County Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Stokes County Transportation Plan. Outcomes and implementing strategies included in these plans are selectively incorporated into the annually developed SCOP. Each year, staff builds a new, recommended FY budget built on plans identified for that year in the previous year's operating plan and improvements identified during the annual operational planning process.



Annual Operational Planning Process

FY 2027 will be the second year during which Stokes County leaders use the annual operational planning process described below. Leaders were able to use this process for the first time in development of the FY 2026 plan.

Leaders from senior staff and management kick off the Operational Planning Process (OPP) with the Senior Leaders Pre-Retreat Meeting in October or early November. The purpose of this meeting is to analyze and correlate key data and KPIs, and conduct an environmental scan to understand market forces and other external trends that will influence future plans. A key outcome from this meeting is the update of codified Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) that senior staff and the Board of Commissioners should consider for inclusion in future operations plans.

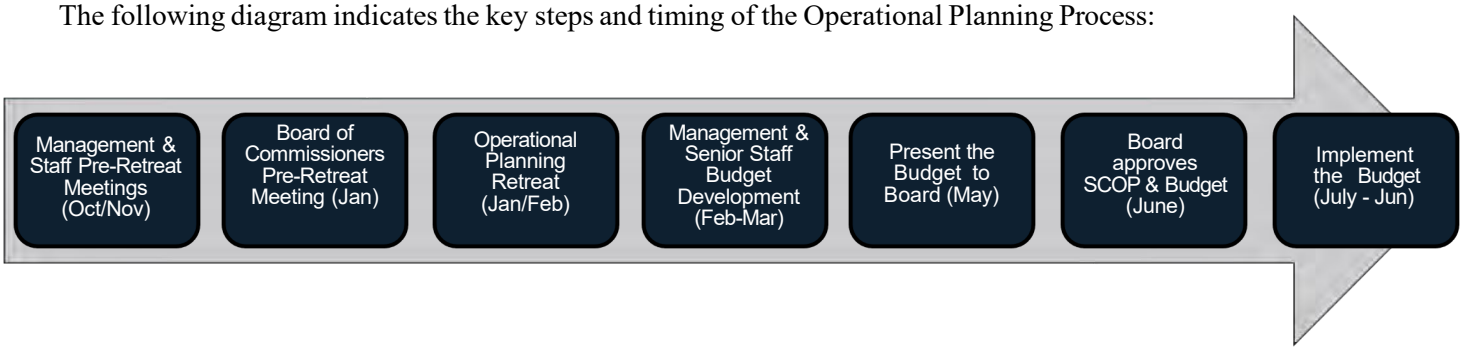
In early January, the Board of Commissioners Pre-Retreat Data Review meeting is held with the Stokes County Board of Commissioners, management and senior staff. The purpose of this meeting is to review data and key findings, conduct an environmental scan, and to review and update the strategic framework if needed.

Next, the Board of Commissioners holds its annual two-day retreat in late January to early February. At this retreat, the Board of Commissioners affirms or modifies the County mission and vision, identifies BSC Areas of Focus for the five-year plan, sets KPI performance goals, and selects OFIs for inclusion in the upcoming five-year operating plan. Areas of Focus are strategic objectives for which the Board desires to place special resourcing emphasis in order to improve performance. OFIs include operational enhancements, projects, staffing changes, and capital improvements.

To determine the County's financial capacity to fund the Stokes County Operating Plan (SCOP), staff prepares a financial forecast that is included in the *Five-Year Financial Forecast* section of the SCOP. Several assumptions are made relative to revenues and expenditures based on historical trends and future projections. The five-year projections include the five-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and address all projected costs associated with Board approved OFIs. The five-year financial forecast is developed to ensure fund balance remains at a minimum of 30% of budgeted expenditures in accordance with the Board's adopted Fund Balance Policy. In addition, the five-year financial forecast is developed to ensure projected operating margins fall within acceptable levels to allow for adequate levels of future capital investment, and to ensure debt service ratios are acceptable and don't place an inappropriate burden on the County's ability to resource future operational requirements.

In developing the five-year CIP, the Strategic Planning Team reviews and determines the Fleet and building component replacement schedules and plans for other major capital improvements and replacements with the respective department heads. Based on overall financial projections, the senior budget team determines which capital investments are best suited for installment financing to ensure there is adequate financial capacity for any required annual debt service.

The following diagram indicates the key steps and timing of the Operational Planning Process:






STOKES COUNTY
1789



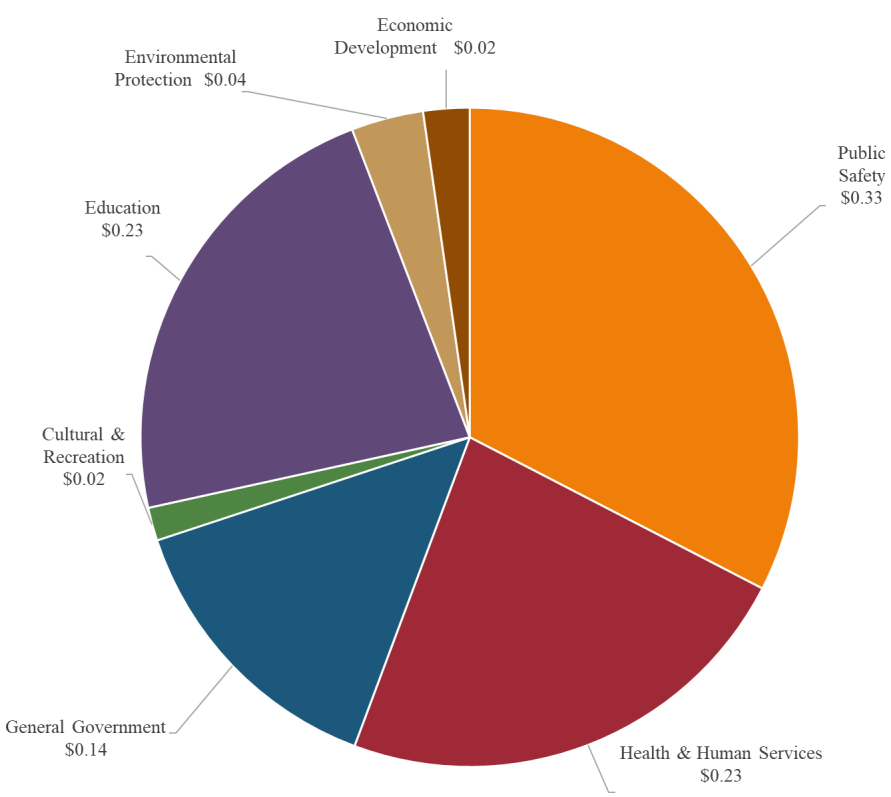
General Fund Summary

Description

The General Fund is used to account for resources traditionally associated with government which are not required legally, or by sound financial management, to be accounted for in another fund. The following functional areas are included in the General Fund:

- General Government
- Public Safety
- Health & Human Services
- Economic Development
- Cultural and Recreation
- Education
- Administration

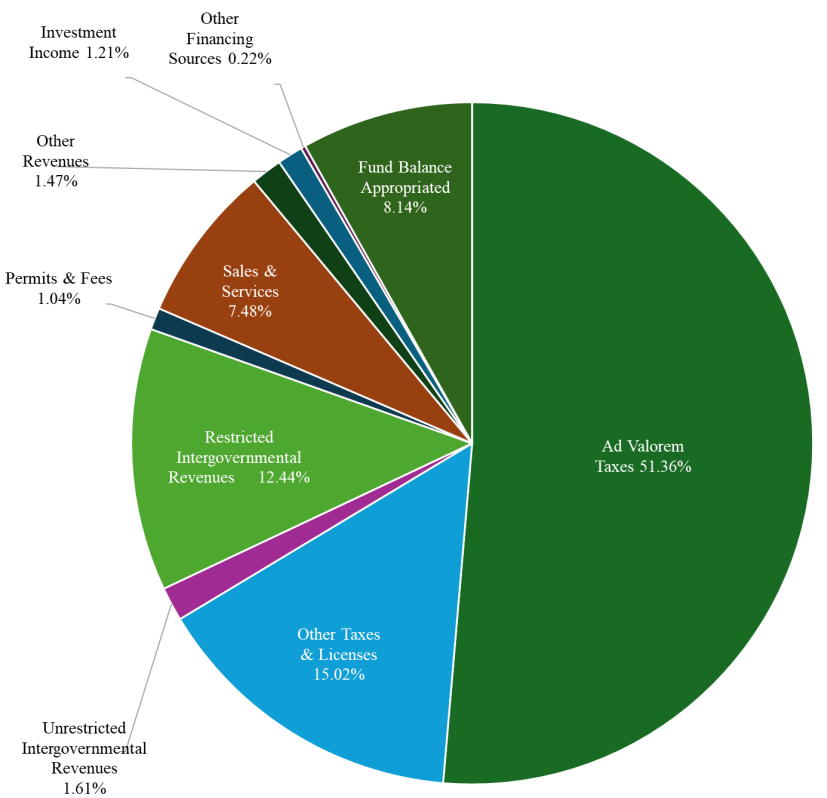
Amount of Tax Dollar Expended by Function in the General Fund



The major revenues, as well as other financing sources budgeted by Stokes County, are summarized in the table and chart below. Ad valorem taxes account for approximately 52% of Stokes County total revenues.

Revenue Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Ad Valorem Taxes	34,489,458	38,653,505	40,064,874	3.65%
Other Taxes & Licenses	11,646,538	10,461,500	11,720,254	12.03%
Unrestricted Intergovernmental Revenues	1,887,851	1,255,000	1,255,000	0.00%
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	10,019,673	9,483,006	9,359,287	2.45%
Permits & Fees	776,511	598,004	807,953	35.11%
Sales & Services	4,932,266	5,421,651	5,836,022	7.64%
Other Revenues	496,467	1,115,419	1,147,899	2.91%
Investment Income	1,450,510	989,840	945,368	-4.49%
Operating Revenues	68,452,668	67,977,925	71,484,343	5.16%
Other Financing Sources	2,893,177	500,663	170,481	-66%
Fund Balance Appropriations	-	7,829,690	6,353,679	-18.85%
Total Revenues	68,592,451	75,960,593	78,008,503	2.70%
Per Capita	$ 1,480	$ 1,642	$ 1,702	3.65%

FY 2027 REVENUES BY TYPE

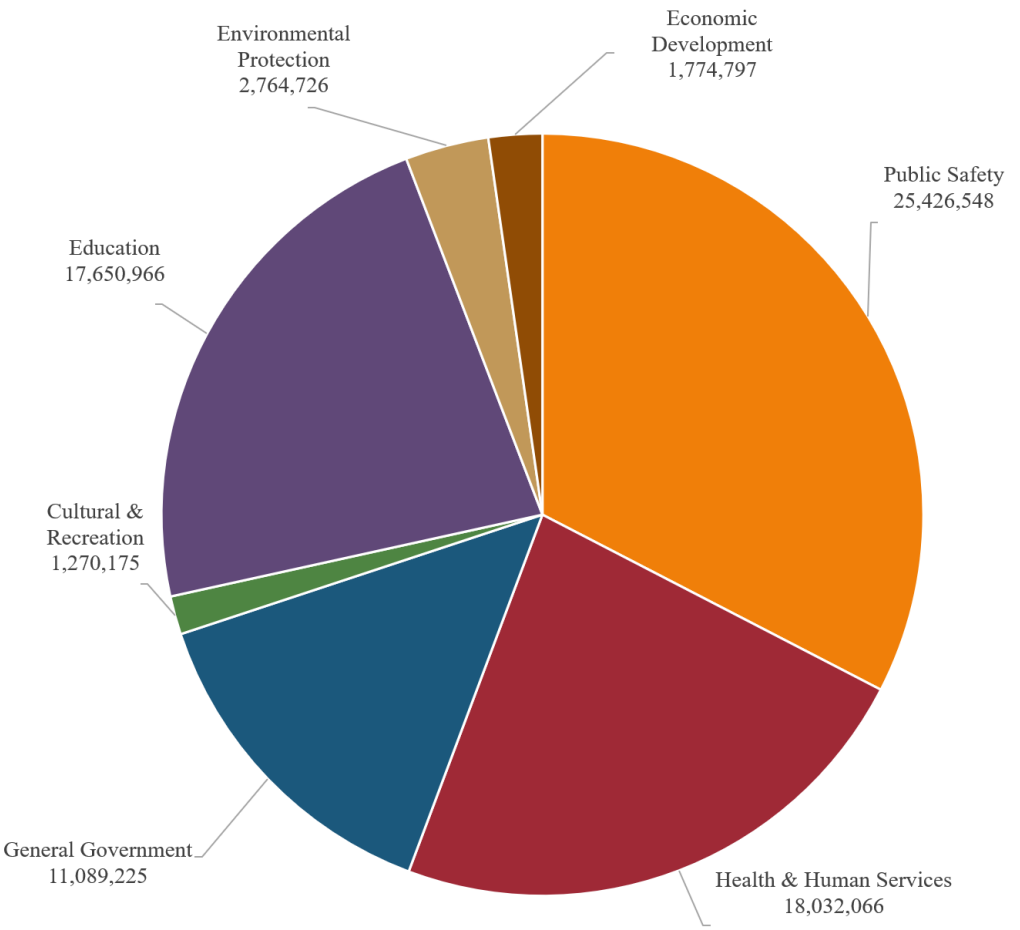


While the County's budget contains multiple departments and divisions, each conducts government activities as part of a functional area. For example, the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Services, E-911, Fire Marshal, Animal Control, and Planning and Inspections are part of the functional area known as Public Safety, as they share the common theme of protecting citizens. Grouping activities by these themes (functions), allows the decision-making process to be managed at a broader, more comprehensive level. The following table and chart present the trends for all the County's different functions.

Expenditure Function	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Public Safety	22,306,285	24,174,004	25,426,548	5%
Health & Human Services	14,662,846	17,497,330	18,032,066	3%
General Government	11,510,354	11,188,034	11,089,225	-1%
Environmental Protection	2,377,718	2,332,970	2,764,726	19%
Cultural & Recreation	1,206,760	1,046,949	1,270,175	21%
Education	22,504,191	17,334,162	17,650,966	2%
Economic and Physical Development	1,427,557	1,495,149	1,774,797	19%
Total Expenditures	$75,995,711	74,972,723	$78,008,503	4%
Per Capita	$ 1,408	$ 1,642	$ 1,702	4%

* *General Government includes debt service, capital and other financing uses.*

Expenditures By Function



The County also summarizes expenditures by type and department to facilitate further analysis of expenditure trends. The following tables provide a summary of expenditures by expenditure type and department for Fiscal Year 2027.

Expenditure Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	$27,403,114	$ 32,350,892	34,396,791	6.32%
Operating	24,622,645	21,321,145	22,045,207	3.40%
Stokes County Public Schools	15,089,840	16,327,445	16,768,286	2.70%
Debt Service	943,432	3,038,077	2,286,681	-24.73%
Contingency	350,000	350,000	375,000	7.14%
Other Financing Uses	993,177	500,663	411,820	-17.75%
Capital	*	1,084,500	1,724,718	59.03%
Total Expenditures	$75,995,711	$74,972,723	$78,008,503	4.05%

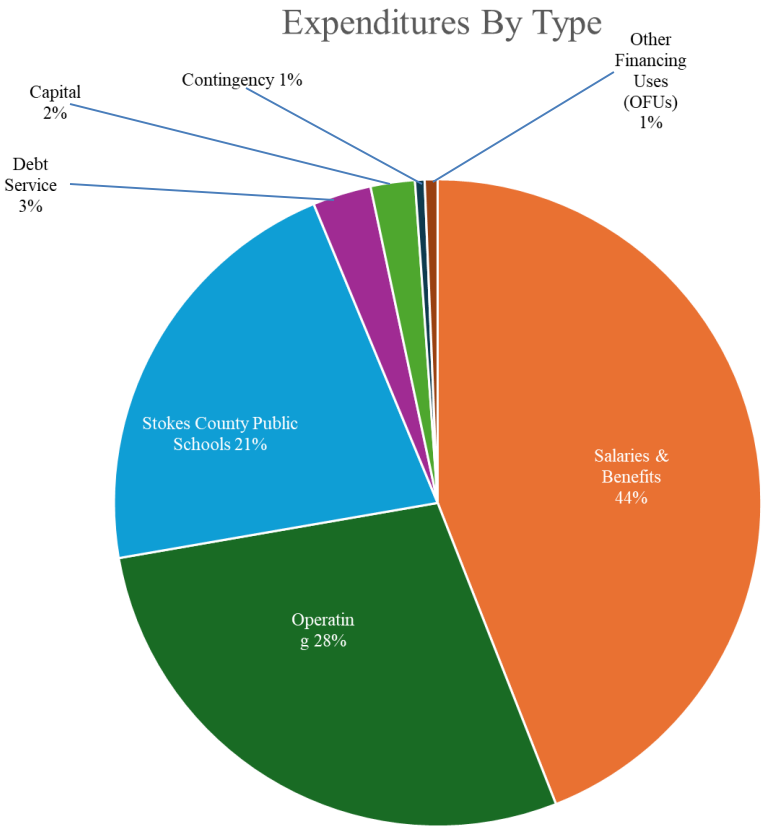
**Capital historically reported in Operating Expenses.*

Expenditures by Department Totaled by Function	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Adopted Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
General Government / Internal County Services				
Governing Body	208,354	1,408,091	346,433	-75%
Administration	395,463	583,179	659,783	13%
Finance	1,279,132	1,002,835	1,125,395	12%
Human Resources	336,927	559,346	582,754	4%
Legal	91,000	0	0	-
Purchasing	148,528	161,590	162,842	1%
Insurance	896,616	1,672,240	1,789,720	7%
Elections	339,030	463,075	343,769	-26%
Tax Office	1,003,050	1,191,263	1,175,161	-1%
Mapping/GIS	288,051	339,588	359,778	-
Revaluation	295,328	260,962	256,513	-
Register of Deeds	342,683	393,321	420,084	7%
Public Buildings	2,620,821	1,978,689	2,289,030	16%
Vehicle Maintenance	164,349	263,996	294,924	12%
Contingency	0	350,000	375,000	7%
Information Services	517,108	578,419	794,610	37%
DS - County Buildings	1,130,747	3,038,077	113,429	-96%
DS - Subscriptions	250,640			
DS - Lease Liabilities	1,202,527			
Total General Government	**11,510,354**	**14,244,671**	**11,089,225**	**-22%**
Public Safety				
Sheriff	7,477,143	6,786,615	7,424,388	9%
Fire Marshal	397,614	429,256	492,672	15%
SA- Stokes Co. Fire & Rescue Association	83,400	90,700	90,700	0%
Jail	2,849,534	3,604,351	3,535,734	-2%
Superior Court	149,192	170,801	162,580	-5%
Animal Control	782,862	825,776	900,262	9%
Emergency Management	195,973	159,960	184,551	15%
Emergency Medical Services	8,798,877	7,319,469	7,605,647	4%
Medical Examiner	36,583	42,000	27,000	-36%
Emergency Communications	1,535,107	1,743,414	1,817,044	4%
DS - Public Safety			2,173,252	
Capital Expenditures			1,012,718	
Total Public Safety	**22,306,285**	**21,172,342**	**25,426,548**	**20%**
Education				
Stokes County Schools	15,638,669	16,327,445	16,768,286	3%
Forsyth Tech Community College	343,621	397,943	440,860	11%
Other Financing Uses (OFU)	2,893,177	500,663	411,820	-18%
DS - Education	3,628,724		30,000	
Total Education	**22,504,191**	**17,226,051**	**17,650,966**	**2%**

Continued from previous page.

Expenditures by Department Totaled by Function	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Adopted Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Health & Human Services				
District Resource Center	235,573	260,875	266,269	2%
SA-Juvinile Crime Prevention Council	222,463	216,994	216,994	0%
Health Department	1,118,842	1,172,444	1,654,408	41%
Title XIX	1,188,086	1,463,871	1,056,787	
Environmental Health	470,195	670,915	693,514	3%
Social Services	9,828,575	12,007,655	12,361,138	3%
Mental Health MOE	350,059	398,820	378,820	-
Senior Services	899,607	928,192	931,707	0%
SA-King Senior Center	7,262	7,262	7,262	0%
SA - YVEDDI	255,225	241,054	241,054	0%
Veterans Services	79,959	84,682	87,113	3%
SA-King American Legion Post 290	7,000	7,000	7,000	0%
Capital Expenditures			130,000	#DIV/0!
Total Human Services	**14,662,846**	**17,459,764**	**18,032,066**	**3%**
Environmental Protection				
Solid Waste	2,130,928	2,100,101	2,013,986	-4%
Soil and Water	246,790	232,870	220,740	-5%
Capital Expenditures			530,000	
Total Environmental Protection	**2,377,718**	**2,332,971**	**2,764,726**	**19%**
Economic and Physical Development				
Economic Development	344,841	288,827	210,316	-27%
Tourism Development Authority	103,152	100,000	125,000	25%
Cooperative Extension	232,665	339,122	344,384	2%
SA-N.C. Forestry Service	105,243	113,768	120,484	6%
SA-NP RPO		3,750	3,750	0%
SA-NP MPO	2,422	3,700	3,700	0%
Planning / Inspections	639,234	640,807	967,163	51%
Total Economic & Physical Dev.	**1,427,557**	**1,489,974**	**1,774,797**	**19%**
Cultural & Recreation				
SA-YMCA	120,595	120,595	120,595	0%
Library	593,594	611,110	639,541	5%
Arts Council	371,532	226,613	240,999	6%
*Parks and Recreation	121,039	88,632	247,040	179%
Capital Expenditures			22,000	
Total Cultural & Recreation	**1,206,760**	**1,046,950**	**1,270,175**	**21%**
Total Expenditures	**75,995,711**	**74,972,723**	**78,008,503**	**4%**

**Capital historically reported in Operating Expenses.*



General Fund Summary

The General Fund reflects the overall economy with revenue growth from both locally generated revenues and statewide intergovernmental revenues. The housing market, over the past few years, is having a positive impact on property tax revenues. As our largest statewide intergovernmental revenue, local option sales tax has experienced growth in prior years.

The proposed General Fund budget for FY 2027 is $78,008,503, an increase of approximately 2.75% from the previous year's budget.

The following table indicates the County's results from operations *before any other financing sources or uses and capital expenditures* over past years.

	Revenues	Expenditures	Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures
6/30/2019 Actual	$46,024,830	$48,541,811	($2,516,981)
6/30/2020 Actual	48,493,389	59,133,938	($10,640,549)
6/30/2021 Actual	52,917,091	53,077,306	($160,215)
6/30/2022 Actual	58,339,873	56,415,514	$1,924,359
6/30/2023 Actual	60,446,612	62,580,860	($2,134,248)
6/30/2024 Actual	62,985,292	64,568,112	($1,582,820)
6/30/2025 Actual	68,452,668	73,102,534	($4,649,866)
6/30/2026 Budgeted	67,977,925	73,387,560	($5,409,635)
6/30/2027 Budgeted	71,484,343	75,871,965	($4,387,622)

After accounting for Other Financing Sources of $170,481, Other Financing Uses of $411,820, Capital Expenditures of $1,724,718 and adding Appropriated Fund Balance of $6,353,679 to revenues, the County's FY 2027 recommended budget is balanced in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes.

Revenue Highlights

The proposed budget for FY 2027 represents a 2.75% increase from the FY 2026 adopted budget. Operating revenues are estimated to increase by approximately 5.23% over FY 2026. The recommended budget as presented results in a per capita expenditure of $1,702 based on a projected population of 45,825.

The projected ad valorem tax revenues, which represent roughly 51% of total operating revenues, are expected to increase by 3.65% over the prior year. The $0.585 tax rate is expected to generate $40,064,874 in ad valorem revenues.

Unrestricted intergovernmental revenues, which are distributed by the North Carolina Department of Revenue, are expected to remain steady overall when compared to FY 2026. These revenues consist of Medicaid Relief – Hold Harmless, beer and wine tax, ABC net revenue, and CATV Time Warner.

Restricted intergovernmental revenues, which consist primarily of funding from the state and other restricted grant funding, are projected to increase by 2.45% compared to the current year fiscal budget.

Permits and fees are expected to see an increase of 35.11% in FY 2027 over the prior year budgeted levels. The increase is due to increased new home permits, fee schedule update, and planned development.

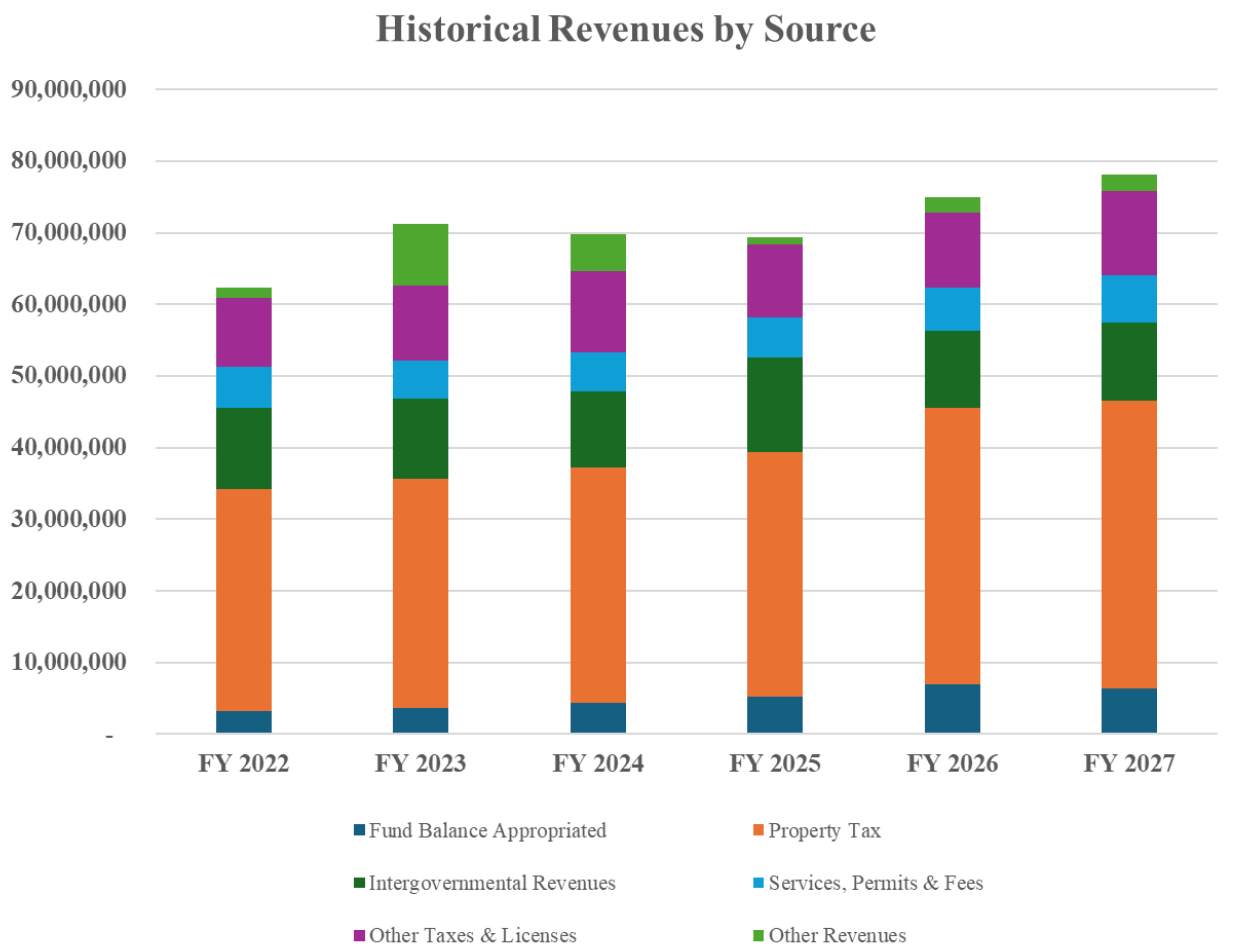


Sales and services revenues, which are primarily derived from fees from Ambulance Services, Environmental Health inspections, Fire Marshal inspections and Health Department Clinic are expected to increase overall by 7.64% over prior year levels. The largest increases are from updates to fee schedules.

Other revenues are expected to increase compared to the prior year. These revenues consist of all miscellaneous revenues throughout the county departments. Local option sales taxes provide approximately 15% of the County's operating revenues and are expected to increase by 12% over the prior year's budget.

Investment income is estimated to decrease by 4.5% over the prior's year budget. Projections from the Federal Reserve expect interest rates to be between 3.50% and 3.75% through most of this year. The County's cash and investments are 100% invested in the North Carolina Capital Management Trust which is comprised primarily of U.S. government securities.

Appropriated Fund Balance of $6,353,679 is being added to revenues to balance the budget.

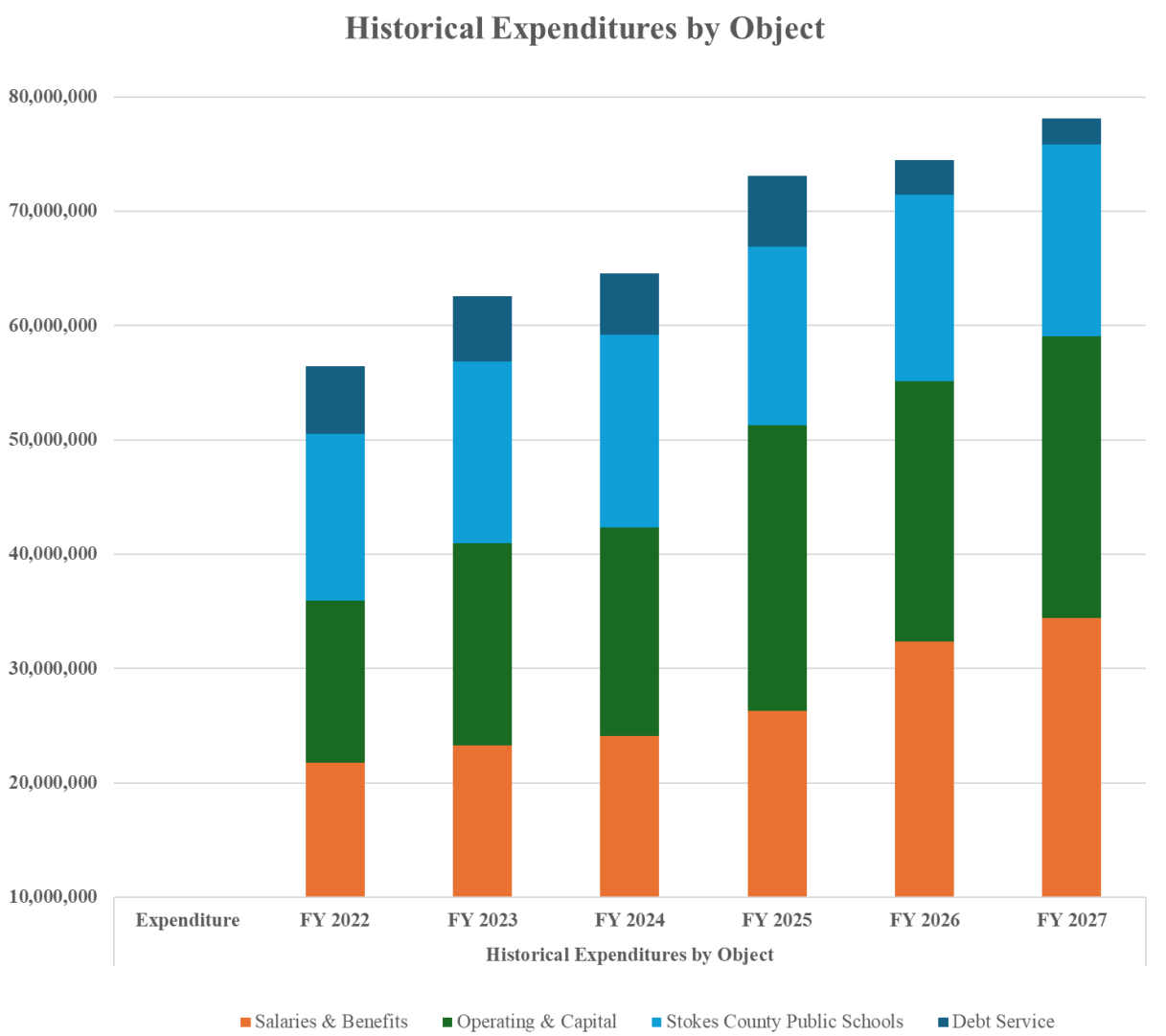


Expenditure Highlights

Salaries and benefits are expected to increase in FY 2027. This is affected by a cost-of-living adjustment of 2.7% and an average 2% merit increase for county employees. Our insurance rates are expected to increase by 8.8% in FY 2027. Additionally, we have added 6 new employee full-time equivalents (FTE) to the budget for the following positions.

County department heads are focused on achieving the operational priorities and performance targets established by the Board of County Commissioners that are reflected on the Balanced Scorecard (BSC). Current year operating expenditures include funding for strategic initiatives supporting the Board's goals and objectives as listed in the Operational Priorities section of this document.

Capital spending for FY 2027 includes $87,000 to replace HVAC units, $60,000 for roofing replacement, $530,000 for the Mountainview Greenbox site, $100,000 for remodeling of the King Health Facility, and $245,000 for a grease handling system.



Fund Balance

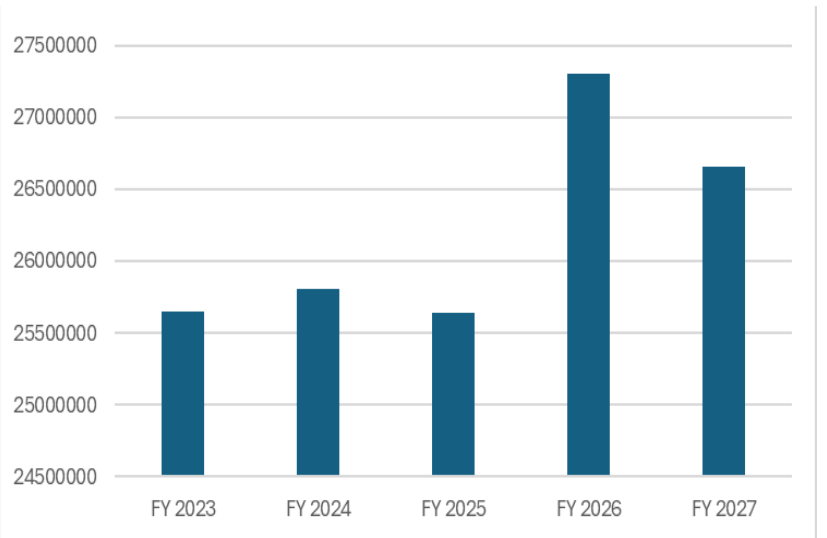
Fund balance refers to the difference between current financial assets and liabilities reported in a fund. It is also referred to as surplus funds. The County has a financial policy recommending that the amount of appropriated fund balance in the General Fund should result in an anticipated ending total fund balance at a minimum of 30% of budgeted expenditures to avoid cash flow interruptions, generate investment income, eliminate the need for short-term borrowing, and have a reserve available for emergencies or opportunities. The County's policy includes a provision to commit excess fund balance for future capital needs.

The following schedules outline the percentage increase or decrease for the County's General Fund balance for the FY 2027 budget and prior fiscal years.

Fund Balance	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted*
Beginning	25,804,697	25,642,311	27,306,329
Ending	25,642,311	27,306,329	26,747,274
Increase/(Decrease)	(162,386)	1,664,018	(559,055)
% Change	-0.63%	6.49%	-2.06%
% of Expenditures	35.08%	37.21%	34.3%

* Assumes an estimated budget-to-actual variance for revenues and expenditures

N.C. General Statutes require that county budgets be balanced. They also require that expenditure budgets not be overspent, even by a small amount. A common way that counties deal with these requirements is to over-budget expenditures slightly and appropriate some of their savings (fund balance) as an off-setting revenue source. Revenues are conservatively estimated as well. For FY 2027, the County has appropriated $6,353,679 of the General Fund fund balance as a revenue source.



Fund balance is estimated to be $27.3 million at June 30, 2026. This represents 36% of the budgeted FY 2026 expenditures of $75,923,773. The County's fund balance policy is to maintain a minimum of 30% of expenditures in fund balance. Fund balance at June 30, 2027 is estimated to be 34.3% of budgeted expenditures, which is above the County's adopted policy minimum of 30% of budgeted expenditures in fund balance. This is 4.3% above Stokes County's policy minimum and it will accommodate building infrastructure maintenance improvement programs in future years.

Description of Revenue Source

Ad valorem taxes are paid on real and personal property located within the Stokes County limits. Taxes for real and personal property, excluding motor vehicles, are levied based upon the preceding January 1 valuations of the property and the tax rate established by the Board of County Commissioners in the Budget Ordinance. These taxes are levied each year and are due on January 6 of the year following the levy. Real and personal property is revalued by the Stokes County Tax Department at least every eight years, with the last revaluation completed in the 2025 tax year, or FY 2026.

The Stokes County Tax Department levies and collects ad valorem taxes.

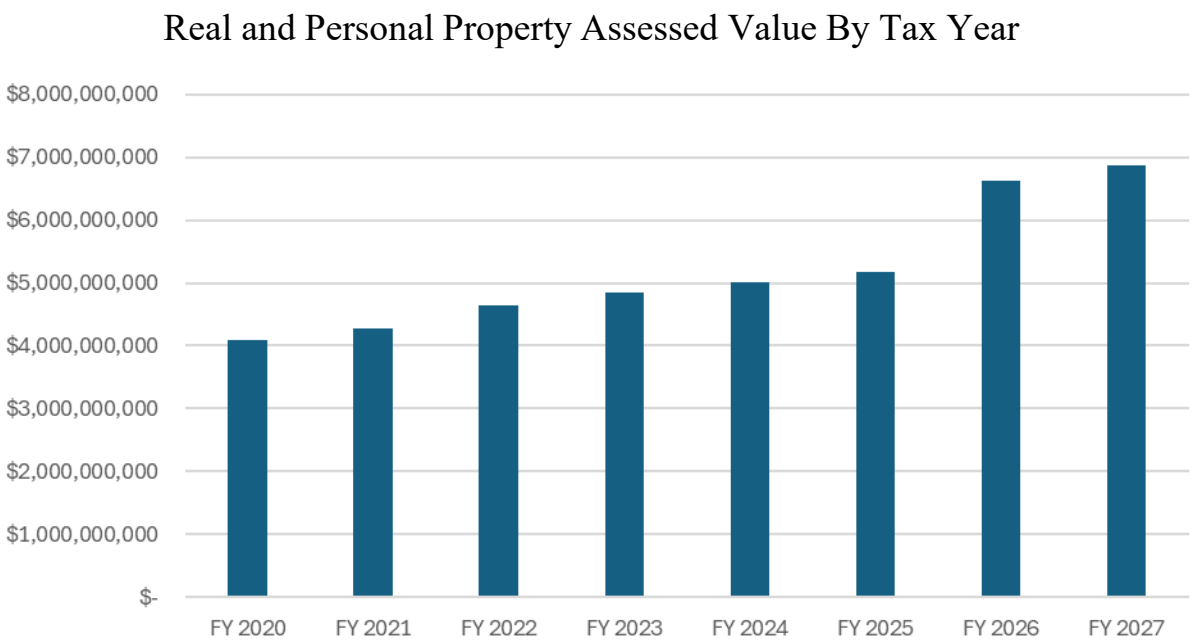
Historically, ad valorem taxes have comprised approximately 51% of all County General Fund operating revenues. This includes current year's collections, prior year's collections, penalties and interest, and refunds.

Ad Valorem Taxes	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Real & Personal - Current Year	29,672,957	34,686,585	35,662,586	15.9%
Real & Personal - Prior Years	520,508	500,000	500,000	0.0%
Motor Vehicles - Current Year	3,997,172	3,416,919	3,852,289	12.7%
Other Tax Use Value Audits	298,821	50,000	50,000	25%
Total Ad Valorem Tax Revenue	$ 34,489,458	$ 38,653,505	$ 40,064,874	13%

Revenue Assumptions

- The Board of County Commissioners is considering a proposed adoption for a tax rate of $0.585 per $100 of property valuation. The ad valorem tax rate is expected to generate $40,064,874 in ad valorem tax revenue.
- The total estimated valuation of real and personal property is $6,877,821,716 of which $6,219,310,832 is real property valuation and $658,510,884 is estimated motor vehicle valuation. The Stokes County Tax Administrator provides the County with estimates of valuation annually.

- The collection rates used to estimate actual ad valorem tax revenue are 98.08% for real and personal property and 100.0% for motor vehicles. These have historically been some of the highest tax collection rates in the State.





Description of Revenue Source

Other taxes and licenses currently consist only of local option sales taxes, white goods disposal tax, scrap tire disposal tax, solid waste disposal tax, electronic management program, real estate transfer taxes, and ABC bottle tax (MOE). Dog Tag Licenses are no longer a revenue source. Occupancy taxes are collected and transferred to the Stokes County Tourism Development fund.

The local option sales tax is levied by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners and is collected by the State of North Carolina on behalf of the County. The local option sales tax rate of 2% consists of four separate taxes that are authorized by the North Carolina General Statutes: Article 39 at 1.0%, Article 40 at 0.5%, Article 42 at 0.5%. These local government sales and use taxes are applied to sales made in the state, including most online transactions, and are allocated to each county based on various legislated formulas. The total amount allocated to Stokes County is then distributed among the county and the local government jurisdictions within the county on a per capita basis, except for Article 46, which remains with Stokes County to support education. The State of North Carolina distributes the County's share of these taxes to the County monthly.

Other Taxes & Licenses	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budgeted	FY 2027 Estimated
Local option sales tax	10,766,270	11,109,073	$ 10,072,500	$ 11,331,254
White goods disposal tax	11,105	23,459	$ 21,000	$ 21,000
Scrap tire disposal tax	86,833	84,134	$ 80,000	$ 80,000
Solid waste disposal tax	48,143	38,605	$ 30,000	$ 30,000
Electronic Management Program	5,419	3,616	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Real estate transfer taxes	248,455	270,013	$ 190,000	$ 190,000
Occupancy taxes	37,617	111,205	$ 60,000	$ 60,000
ABC Bottle Tax (MOE)	5,667	6,326	$ 3,000	$ 3,000
Dog Tag Licenses	240	107	-	-
Total Other Taxes & Licenses	$ 11,209,749	$ 11,646,538	$ 10,461,500	$ 11,720,254



Description of Revenue Source

Unrestricted intergovernmental revenue consists of CATV programming sales tax, hold harmless sales tax, Arts Council Funding, ABC net revenue, and wine and beer tax. These five state-collected local revenues make up approximately 2% of General Fund operating revenues.

The telecommunications tax represents a 7.0% sales tax on telecommunications sales within the County's corporate limits. The State of North Carolina distributes a percentage of this tax collected to the County based upon the County's past share of the old telephone franchise tax that was repealed.

Video programming sales tax is applied to the gross receipts of cable service and direct-to-home satellite service retailers on the video programming provided to subscribers in the State. Programming provided by, or generally considered comparable to programming provided by, a television broadcast station, regardless of the method of delivery is subject to the tax. Gross receipts are taxed at the combined general sales tax rate of 7.0%.

The hold harmless reimbursement is based on taxable sales made in the county and is allocated among the county and the local government jurisdictions within the county based upon a per capita basis. These hold harmless reimbursements were granted to municipalities to replace the Article 44 sales tax that was repealed as part of the Medicaid relief program for counties. The State of North Carolina distributes these funds to the County monthly.

The wine and beer tax is levied by the State of North Carolina on the sale of malt beverages, fortified wine, and unfortified wine. A percentage of the tax on the sales of these beverages that are generated from within the County's corporate limits is distributed to the County by the state annually.

Unrestricted Intergovernmental Revenue	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Medicaid Relief-Hold Harmless	1,660,954	1,000,000	1,000,000	0.0%
Beer & Wine Tax	146,124	175,000	175,000	0.0%
ABC Net Revenue	12,835	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Arts Council Funding				-
CATV Time Warner	67,938	70,000	70,000	0.0%
Total Unrest. Intergovernmental Revenue	$ 1,887,851	$ 1,255,000	$ 1,255,000	0.0%

Revenue Assumptions

- **Local option sales tax estimates** are based on a combination of the expected statewide growth or loss factor for Articles 39, 40, and 42, adjusted for local economic conditions. The statewide rates are estimated by the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) in conjunction with economists from the North Carolina General Assembly. These estimates are communicated to all local governments to aid them in budgeting these state-collected revenues. Due to inflation and continued strong consumer spending on taxable goods, FY 2027 local option sales tax will increase by 12% and associated hold harmless revenue budgets will remain steady over the FY 2026 budget.
- Thus far, distributions of **video programming sales taxes** for FY 2026 are lower than the amounts collected in FY 2025 as the industry continues to face competition from other video content providers, such as streaming services. The County's video programming sales tax revenue is on target with the FY 2026 budget. We anticipate the revenue to remain somewhat steady in FY 2027. as compared to the FY 2026.
- **ABC Net Revenue** is budgeted conservatively at the same level as FY 2026.
- **Beer and wine tax revenues** are dependent on the proportion of beer and wine sold in North Carolina. We are expecting flat revenues in FY 2027 compared to the FY 2026 budgeted amount based on the actuals trend for the County. These revenues are collected during a period of April through March of the following year, with revenues typically distributed by June.



Description of Revenue Source

Restricted intergovernmental revenues include, State Grants, including Federal Pass-Through, and may include other miscellaneous federal or state grants that are restricted for a specific purpose, fines and forfeitures, and court costs and facilities fees. We anticipate an increase of 2.45% overall in restricted intergovernmental revenues.

Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
State Grants, Including Federal Pass-Through	9,509,675	8,873,321	9,097,287	2.52%
Fines & Forfeitures		160,000	160,000	0%
Public School Capital Lottery	401,950			0%
Court Costs & Facilities Fees	108,048	102,000	102,000	0%
Total Rest. Intergovernmental Revenues	$ 10,019,673	$ 9,135,321	$ 9,359,287	2.45%

Revenue Assumptions

- **State Grants, Including Federal Pass-Through revenues** include various state grants for the NC Dept of Health and Human Services, State Grants for programs such as SNAP, WIC, Special Programs for the Aging, and Foster Care, among others. There are also federal awards for programs such as Low-Income Energy Assistance, Adoption, HIV, STD, Immunizations, Family Planning, among others. We anticipate an increase of 2.52% for FY 27.
- **Fines & Forfeitures** pursuant to GS 115c-452 are collected and apportioned according to the projected average daily membership of each local school administrative unit as determined by and certified to the local school administrative units and the Board of County Commissioners by the State Board of Education. The County is estimating no increases for FY 2027.
- **Court Costs and Facilities Fees** pursuant to GS 7A-304(a)(2) are collected upon conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere and are to be remitted to the county providing the facility. Funds can be used for expenses relating courtrooms, space and furniture, jail and juvenile detention facilities, free parking for jurors, and law libraries. We are budgeting for a 0% increase as compared to the FY 2026 budget.

Description of Revenue Source

Permits and fees consist primarily of permit and inspection fees, planning and zoning fees, and fire district inspections and citations. There are also several other minor fees that are included in Permits and Fees revenue.

Permit and inspection fees along with planning and zoning fees are established by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners, reviewed annually, and modified if needed. These permits and fees are charged to builders, developers, and homeowners for new construction and additions/alterations to property. The County's growth is generated primarily by new residential construction; therefore, it is new home construction that really drives this revenue source. In recent years, County staff analyzed permitting, inspections, planning, and engineering fees to determine the rates necessary to cover the County's costs of providing these services.

The Register of Deeds office serves as the primary record custodian for most legal documents and all vital records in Stokes County. Most documents recorded affect real property, such as deeds, deeds of trust, powers of attorney fees and others. Recording fees are reviewed annually and rates are set to cover the County's cost of providing these services.

Permits & Fees	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Permit & Inspection Fees	$ 575,120	$ 370,923	$ 580,871	57%
Register of Deeds	201,391	227,081	227,081	0%
Total Permit & Fees	$ 776,511	$ 598,004	$ 807,953	35%

Revenue Assumptions

- **Planning and Zoning** fees for residential construction expect an increase in FY 2027 over prior year budget. We are budgeting an increase of one percent growth for FY 2027.

- **Register of Deeds fees** are anticipated to remain consistent in FY 2027. Stokes County is becoming a wedding destination and welcomed visitors are taking advantage of being able to obtain a marriage license local to their venue.

Description of Revenue Source

Sales and services revenue consists primarily of three separate revenue sources for rents, concessions and fees, Health Department clinic fees, and Ambulance Fees.

Another major category of Sales and Services revenue is **Rents, Concessions, and other fees collected**. Some examples of revenue in this category include Town of Walnut Cove police, District Resource Center fees, Autumn Square rental fees, tax mapping fees, retainers to municipalities, and impoundment fees.

Sales & Services	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Rents, concessions and fees	1,621,867	1,752,751	1,752,751	0.00%
Health Dept. Title XIX / Clinic Fees	944,383	548,900	963,271	75.49%
Ambulance Fees	2,366,016	3,120,000	3,120,000	0.00%
Total Sales & Services	$ 4,932,266	$ 5,421,651	$ 5,836,022	7.64%

Revenue Assumptions

- Ambulance Fees are budgeted to remain consistent in FY 2027.
- Health Department Clinic Fees are budgeted at an increase of 75.49% in FY 2027 resulting from the review and update of the fee schedule.
- Rents, concessions and fees are expected to remain flat for FY 2027.

Description of Revenue Source

Other revenues include sale of materials, insurance claim refunds, Health Department clinical fees, and other miscellaneous revenues. These revenues fluctuate from year to year. Revenues collected under **Sales of Materials** come from county auctioned items. Revenues from **Insurance Claim Refunds** are primarily from accident settlements involving county vehicles. **Health Department Clinical Fees** are collected for program fees such as family planning, child health, and adult health. **Other Miscellaneous Revenues** stem from county-wide collections of various fees such as returned check and card usage fees, fingerprints, donations, vending machines, animal control fees for owner surrender and pickup of unwanted items, etc.

Other Revenues	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Sales of Materials	242,768	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Insurance claim refunds	62,914	-	-	0.0%
Health Dept. Clinic Fees - Title XIX	50,566	924,919	954,979	3.25%
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	140,219	180,500	182,920	1.34%
Total Other Revenues	$ 496,467	$ 1,115,419	$ 1,147,899	2.91%

Revenue Assumptions

- **Sales of Materials and Insurance Claim Refunds** assumes no change in budget from FY26 to FY27 revenues.
- **Health Department Clinic Fees** are expected to increase in FY 2027. We reviewed and updated our county fee schedules. As a result, the percentage change increased over the current fiscal year.
- **Other miscellaneous revenues** reflect a slight increase in the FY 2027 budget.



Description of Revenue Source

Investment income includes the return earned on cash and investment balances. Interest is earned on the cash balances invested with the North Carolina Capital Management Trust (NCCMT) and First National Bank. NCCMT is a SEC-registered (2a7) money market mutual fund that invests in bank certificates of deposit, U. S. Treasury and Agency securities, and high-grade commercial paper.

Investment Income	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Investment Income	$ 1,450,510	$ 989,840	$ 945,368	-4.49%
Total Investment Income	$ 1,450,510	$ 989,840	$ 945,368	-4.49%

Revenue Assumptions

- **Investment income** of $945,368 is expected in FY 2027 as interest rates in FY 2026 are projected to decline in line with anticipated Federal rate cuts to a 3.25% to 3.75% range. The average rate of return expected in FY 2027 is 3.25% to 3.75.%.



Description of Revenue Source

Other Financing Sources (OFS) is comprised of operating transfers from other funds and lease liabilities issued.

Other Financing Sources	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Transfer from School / Forsyth Tech Fund	14,929,840	116,158	119,294	2.7%
Total School / Forsyth Tech Financing Sources	14,929,840	116,158	119,294	2.7%

Revenue Assumptions

- Transfers from School / Forsyth Tech Fund (often referred to as the 4 Cents Fund) are budgeted to increase 2.7% in FY 2027. These funds represent transfers used for Poplar Springs operating expenses.



Description of Revenue Source

Revenue from **fund balance appropriations** is the use of equity (net position), which has been accumulated from previous fiscal years, to pay for current fiscal year expenditures.

Fund Balance Appropriations	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Fund Balance Appropriated	$ 317,923	$ (7,829,690)	$ (6,353,679)	-18.85%
Total Fund Balance Appropriations	$ 317,923	$ (7,829,690)	$ (6,353,679)	-18.85%

Revenue Assumptions

- For FY 2027, $6,353,679 of the County's fund balance has been appropriated as a revenue source. Historically, operating revenues come in at 101% of budget while operating expenditures typically fall 9% below budget. If historical trends continue for FY 2027, the County's fund balance will decrease by approximately $559,056, which will result in a projected ending fund balance of 34.3% of General Fund expenditures. This is above Board of County Commissioner's adopted policy minimum of 30% and positions the County to address unforeseen circumstances during the year. With a proposed FY 27 tax rate of $0.585 and a $0.59 tax rate projected for each of the subsequent four years, the fund balance is expected to decline to 31.7% over the five-year period.



Governing Body Department Profile

The **Governing Body** of the County consists of a five-member board. The Board provides leadership to achieve the County's mission and strategic vision for the future. The Board considers and adopts local ordinances and resolutions to provide for the health, safety, and overall quality of life for the residents, businesses, and visitors of Stokes.

Other responsibilities include the following:

- Provide governance for a population of approximately 45,000
- Sets strategic direction for approximately 387 full-time equivalents (FTEs)
- Adopts the Stokes County Operating Plan, which includes the annual budget and five-year financial forecast
- Approves policies that provide guidance for all county operations

Additional information about the Governing Body Department may be obtained by contacting Olivia Jessup, County Clerk, at 336.593.2428 or ojessup@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	92,247	97,056	100,383	3%
Operating	$ 116,107	$ 1,311,035	$ 246,050	-81%
Expenditures Total	208,354	1,408,091	346,433	-75%



Commissioners Chambers

Key Factors/Changes:

Salaries and Benefits

- In FY 2025, a salary was implemented for the Board of Commissioners instead of per meeting pay. 2.7% growth is factored in for FY 27 per CPI which mirrors all other employees in budget.

Operating

- Approximately $1 million was removed in expectation of state funding finishing broadband expansion in Stokes County.
- The retainer fee for the County Attorney was moved from its own budget (Legal/4150) in 2026 to the Professional Services line item in the Governing Body budget since they are contracted with the Board. The Legal department was budgeted at zero and will be deleted.

Administration Department Profile

The **Administration Department**, which includes the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, County Clerk, and administrative support staff, executes the mission of the Board to protect, promote, and enhance quality of life for Stokes County residents and visitors.

Additional information about the Administration Department may be obtained by contacting Jeff Sanborn, County Manager, at 336.593.2407 or jsanborn@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	368,636	501,329	537,733	7.26%
Operating	26,827	81,850	122,050	49.11%
Expenditures Total	$395,463	$583,179	$659,783	13.14%

Department Goals:

- Effectively resource k-12 education
- Effectively support workforce development training
- Provide and maintain ample parks, walkways, and recreational opportunities
- Communicate with and engage county residents and stakeholders
- Provide a high level of customer service
- Continuously improve and innovate

FY 2027-2031 Projects

Projects and Plans	FY	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Develop and implement annual resident survey	FY 2026	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000
Develop and implement a communications improvement plan	FY 2027	$40,000	$40,000	$40,000	$40,000	$40,000

Key Factors/Changes:

Salaries and Benefits

- A full-year is budgeted for the Manager, Clerk to the Board, and Assistant to the County Manager.

Operating

- $40,000 was budgeted to develop implement a communications improvement plan.
- Training increased due to the additional staff members and a large certification course is anticipated which may be grant funded.
- The leased fleet vehicle was removed from Administration and moved to a different department in FY 2026.

Finance Department Profile

The **Finance Department** ensures that the County of Stokes achieves its mission by maintaining a healthy financial condition. The Finance Director reports directly to the County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. The department consists of the Director, Assistant Director, Accounting Manager, Accounts Payable and Purchasing Specialist, Financial Analyst, and Payroll Specialist.

Additional information about the Finance Department may be obtained by contacting Tammy Keaton, Finance Director, at 336.593.1665 or tkeaton@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	435,985	544,735	572,645	5.12%
Operating/Capital	843,147	458,100	552,750	20.66%
Total Expenditures	$1,279,132	$1,002,835	$1,125,395	12.22%

Department Objectives:

- Meet or exceed established financial targets to reach the strategic goal of maintaining a healthy financial condition

Key Factors/Changes:

Operations

- The increase in the budget is primarily driven by required software purchases and associated training costs.

Human Resources Department Profile

The **Human Resources Department** furthers the County of Stokes' mission by attracting and retaining an engaged workforce. The Human Resources Director reports directly to the County Manager and serves as a member of the senior staff. Along with the Director, one full-time Assistant Director, and one full-time Human Resources Analyst provide a strategic service for recruitment, retention, and recognition of competent staff. Starting in FY 2026, HR in coordination with County Management began looking at one-third of employee position classifications on an annual basis for necessary adjustments to ensure market competitiveness. This practice will continue in FY 2027 and is reflected in the department's operating budget.

Additional information about the Human Resources Department may be obtained by contacting Jamie Clark, Human Resources Director, at 336.593.2449 or jclark@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	243,634	283,546	298,679	5.34%
Operating	93,293	275,800	284,075	3.00%
Expenditures Total	$336,927	$559,346	$582,754	4.18%

Department Objectives:

- Provide a supportive and rewarding work environment to reach the strategic goal of attracting and retaining an engaged workforce

Purchasing and Project Management Department Profile

The **Purchasing and Project Management Department** furthers the County of Stokes' mission by developing integrated procurement strategies, ensuring all procurement activity is conducted in compliance with laws and policies, and overseeing and executing all major county projects. The Purchasing and Project Manager reports directly to the County Manager and serves as a member of senior staff. In addition to the Manager, the department consists of another full-time employee who splits their time between the finance department and purchasing.

Additional information about the Purchasing Department may be obtained by contacting Glenda Pruitt, Purchasing and Project Manager, at 336.593.2452 or gpruitt@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	134,201	135,440	142,792	5.43%
Operating	14,327	26,150	20,050	-23.33%
Expenditures Total	$148,528	$161,590	$162,842	0.77%

Tax Office Department Profile

The **Tax Office** furthers the County of Stokes' mission by managing all tax-related functions within the county. The Tax Administrator serves as both the Tax Assessor and Tax Collector and is appointed by the Board of Commissioners. In addition to the Tax Administrator, there are 16 full-time employees split up between the different divisions of Tax Administration, Appraisal/Revaluation, Assessment, Collections, and GIS/Mapping.

Additional information about the Tax Office may be obtained by contacting Richard Brim, Tax Administrator, at 336.593.2811 or rbrim@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits - Tax	680,342	781,363	779,761	-0.21%
Salaries & Benefits - Mapping	238,942	258,588	247,878	-4.14%
Salaries & Benefits - Revaluation	241,785	240,262	235,113	-2.14%
Operating/Capital	322,708	409,900	395,400	-3.54%
Expenditures Total	$1,483,777	$1,690,113	$1,658,152	-1.89%

Department Objectives:

- Provide effective tax valuation and tax collection services to reach the strategic goal of maintaining a healthy financial condition

Register of Deeds Department Profile

The **Register of Deeds Office** furthers the County's mission by serving as the primary custodian for all vital records in the county and most legal documents. The Register of Deeds is elected to four-year terms by the citizens of Stokes County. In addition to the elected Register of Deeds, an Assistant Register of Deeds, and two Deputy Registers serve in the office.

Additional information about the Register of Deeds may be obtained by contacting Brandon Hooker, Register of Deeds, at 336.593.2414 or bhooker@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	289,210	311,115	322,592	3.69%
Operating	53,473	82,206	97,491	18.59%
Expenditures Total	$342,683	$393,321	$420,083	6.80%

Department Objectives:

- Provide effective Register of Deeds services to reach the strategic goal of record, preserve, and provide access to property records and vital records.

Elections Department Profile

The **Board of Elections** furthers the County's mission by ensuring the conduction of fair and efficient elections in the county including special, municipal, county, state, and federal elections. The Elections Director reports directly to the Stokes County Board of Elections, a five-member board. In addition to the Elections Director, a Deputy Elections Director, and two part-time Elections Assistants serve in the office. Volunteers and other part-time staff are utilized and necessary during election season.

Additional information about the Board of Elections may be obtained by contacting Jason Perry, Board of Elections Director, at 336.593.2409 or jperry@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	181,926	198,145	204,219	3.07%
Operating/Capital	157,104	181,930	139,550	-23.29%
Expenditures Total	$339,030	$380,075	$343,769	-9.55%

Department Objectives:

- Provide fair, free, and impartial elections to reach the strategic goal of promoting election integrity

Key Factors/Changes:

Operating

- Reduced capital costs (voting machines) drove the reduction in operations and capital.

Vehicle Maintenance Department Profile

The **Vehicle Maintenance Department** furthers the County's mission by providing regular and preventative maintenance for all vehicles and equipment operated by the County. The Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor reports directly to the Assistant County Manager. In addition to the Supervisor, one full-time Mechanic assists in fleet management at the Garage.

Additional information about the Vehicle Maintenance Department may be obtained by contacting Danny Triplett, Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor, at 336.593.1590 or dtriplett@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	139,772	148,496	156,037	5.08%
Operating/Capital	24,577	75,500	138,887	83.96%
Expenditures Total	$164,349	$223,996	$294,924	31.66%

Department Objectives:

- Maintain county assets to reach the strategic goal of professionally manage a high performing organization

Key Factors/Changes:

Operating

- Insurance claims drove the increase in operating and capital expense. This increase in expense is offset by matching revenues.

Public Buildings and Maintenance Department Profile

The **Public Buildings and Maintenance Department** furthers the County's mission by providing regular and preventative maintenance for all buildings and water/sewer systems owned by the County and also for the grounds maintenance at Moratock Park. The department reports directly to the Public Works Director who then reports to the Assistant County Manager. Fifteen employees serve in this department ranging from supervisors, custodians, maintenance technicians, and water and sewer maintenance technicians. The Budget Summary below includes the Public Buildings, Parks, and Forsyth Tech Budgets.

Additional information about the Public Buildings and Maintenance Department may be obtained by contacting Stewart Easter, Public Works Director, at 336.593.2415 or seaster@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits – Public Bldgs	636,658	686,189	722,030	5.22%
Salaries & Benefits – Parks/Recreation	38,882	43,382	124,790	187.65%
Salaries & Benefits – Comm. College	188,934	169,193	217,060	28.29%
Operating/Capital – Public Bldgs	1,984,163	1,190,500	2,589,000	117.47%
Operating/Capital – Parks/Recreation	82,157	45,250	122,250	170.17%
Operating/Capital – Comm. College	154,687	198,750	223,800	12.60%
Expenditures Total	$3,085,481	$2,333,264	$3,998,930	71.39%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective water supply and wastewater services to reach the strategic goal of promoting public health
- Maintain county assets to reach the strategic goal of professionally managing a high performing organization

FY 2027-2031 Projects

Projects and Plans	FY	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Demo old Danbury School	FY 2029	$0.00	$0.00	$200,000	$0.00	$0.00

Key Factors/Changes:

Operating

- The FY 2027 Budget reflects capital investments in building component replacement redirected into Public Buildings and Maintenance from the individual departments. The improvements / repairs are in accordance with the real property capital improvement plan.

IT Department Profile

The **Information Technology (IT) Department** furthers the County's mission by providing hardware and software support for County employees and is responsible for the maintenance and security of the County's network infrastructure. The IT Director reports directly to the Assistant County Manager. In addition to the IT Director, two full-time Systems Administrators work to provide IT services.

Additional information about the IT Department may be obtained by contacting Ken Farmer, IT Director, at 336.593.2417 or kfarmer@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	316,591	339,034	449,123	32.47%
Operating	200,517	239,385	345,487	44.32%
Expenditures Total	$517,108	$578,419	$794,610	37.38%

Department Objectives:

- Maintain county assets to reach the strategic goal of professionally managing a high performing organization

Key Factors/Changes:

Operating

- The FY 2027 Budget reflects one new position in Salaries and benefits. Additionally, IT equipment / subscriptions were redirected to IT from the individual departments.

Sheriff's Office Profile

The **Sheriff's Office** furthers the County's mission by protecting the county, its various communities, and citizens from injury, danger, or loss while enforcing North Carolina State Laws and County Ordinances. The Sheriff is elected to four-year terms and serves as the chief law enforcement officer of the county. Approximately 58 full-time employees work at the Sheriff's Office in addition to many part-time positions that operate in various roles serving the county.

Additional information about the Sheriff's Office may be obtained by contacting Joey Lemons, Stokes County Sheriff, at 336.593.2463 or jmlemons@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits - Sworn	4,546,929	5,097,995	5,379,342	5.52%
Salaries & Benefits – Non-sworn	-	295,015	370,289	25.52%
Operating/Capital	2,930,214	1,293,605	2,244,757	73.53%
Expenditures Total	$7,477,143	$6,686,615	$7,994,388	19.56%

Office Objectives:

- Deliver effective law enforcement services to reach the strategic goal of safeguarding the community

Key Factors/Changes:

Operating

- Addressed the need for communications radios in the FY 2027 Operating / Capital budget.

Jail Profile

The **Stokes County Jail** furthers the County's mission by providing for the confinement support of lawfully detained individuals who have been ordered detained, committed, or confined in the local county facility through statutory and/or judicial process. The Jail Administrator reports directly to the Stokes County Sheriff. In addition to the Jail Administrator, approximately 32 full-time employees work at the Jail in addition to many part-time positions that operate in various roles serving the county.

Additional information about the Stokes County Jail may be obtained by contacting Lt. L. Goins, Jail Administrator, at 336.593.8117 or lgoins@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	1,865,550	2,445,978	2,353,701	-3.77%
Operating	983,984	1,158,373	1,182,033	2.04%
Expenditures Total	$2,849,534	$3,604,351	$3,535,734	-1.90%

FY 2027-2031 Projects

Projects and Plans	FY	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Renovate plumbing in Jail Facility	FY 2028	$0.00	$225,000	$225,000	$450,000	-
Replace grease trap in Jail Facility	FY 2027	$245,000				

Fire Marshal's Office Department Profile

The **Fire Marshal's Office** furthers the County's mission by conducting all fire and life safety inspections and is the liaison between the local fire departments and the County. The Fire Marshal reports directly to the County Manager. In addition to the Fire Marshal, the office is composed of three other full-time employees: Deputy Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Marshal, and Administrative Assistant.

Additional information about the Fire Marshal's Office may be obtained by contacting Scott Aaron, Fire Marshal, at 336.593.2484 or saaron@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	317,990	331,413	371,665	12.15%
Operating/Capital	79,624	90,343	121,007	33.94%
Expenditures Total	$397,614	$421,756	$492,672	16.81%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective fire marshal services and effectively support rural fire districts to reach the strategic goal of safeguarding the community

Key Factors/Changes:

Operating

- Addressed the need for communications radios in the FY 2027 Operating / Capital budget.

Emergency Communications Department Profile

The **Emergency Communications Department** furthers the County's mission by providing ongoing assistance and support to the public for the safety and protection of life, limb, and property through 911 and radio communications. The Emergency Communications Director reports directly to the County Manager. In addition to the Director, the department is composed of a lead supervisor, four shift supervisors, training and quality assurance officer, twelve full-time telecommunicators, and several part-time telecommunicators.

Additional information about the Emergency Communications Department may be obtained by contacting Nicole Durham, E911 Director, at 336.593.2494 or jdurham@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	1,354,354	1,485,264	1,550,806	4.41%
Operating/Capital	180,753	258,150	266,238	3.13%
Expenditures Total	$1,535,107	$1,743,414	$1,817,044	4.22%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective emergency communications services to reach the strategic goal of safeguarding the community

Key Factors/Changes:

Operating

- One new position, Training and Quality Assurance Officer is included in the FY 2027 budget.

Emergency Services Department Profile

The **Emergency Services Department** furthers the County's mission by providing emergency medical response throughout Stokes County and within all municipalities. The Department is also responsible for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. The Emergency Services Director reports directly to the County Manager. In addition to the Director, the department is composed of a Training Officer, Operations Officer, Administrative Assistant, four paramedic shift supervisors, 48 full-time paramedics/EMT's, three community paramedics, and several part-time paramedics. This budget includes the fully implemented schedule change moving from a 24/48-hour schedule to a 24/72-hour schedule.

Additional information about the Emergency Services Department may be obtained by contacting Brandon Gentry, Emergency Services Director, at 336.593.5409 or bgentry@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits - EMS	4,075,371	5,504,869	5,700,883	3.56%
Salaries & Benefits - EM	118,112	125,075	141,051	12.77%
Operating	1,126,301	1,592,457	1,849,485	16.14%
Expenditures Total	$5,319,784	$7,222,401	$7,790,198	6.49%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective emergency management services to reach the strategic goal of safeguarding the community
- Deliver effective emergency medical services to reach the strategic goal of promoting and safeguarding public health

Key Factors/Changes:

Operating

- Addressed the need for communications radios in the FY 2027 Operating / Capital budget.

Medical Examiner Profile

The **Medical Examiner** portion of the general fund is required in order to compensate individuals in the county that serve as certified medical examiners when they are needed throughout the year. Medical examiners are used to investigate deaths due to injury or violence, as well as natural deaths that are suspicious, unusual, or unattended by a medical professional. The State of North Carolina reimburses the County for the majority of expenditures in this department.

Additional information about the medical examiner section of the general fund may be obtained by contacting Brandon Gentry, Emergency Services Director, at 336.593.5409 or bgentry@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Medical Examiner (Professional Svcs)	36,583	42,000	27,000	-35.71%
Expenditures Total	$ 36,583	$ 42,000	$ 27,000	-35.71%

Animal Control Department Profile

The **Animal Control Department** furthers the County's mission by protecting citizens through active enforcement of state and local animal laws, providing for humane sheltering of stray and unwanted animals, and promoting responsible pet ownership. The Animal Control Director reports directly to the County Manager. In addition to the Director, the department is composed of a Shelter Manager, four Animal Control Agents, two Shelter Attendants, and a Dispatcher/Office Clerk.

Additional information about the Animal Control Department may be obtained by contacting Tommy Reeves, Animal Control Director, at 336.994.2788 or treeves@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	544,147	622,803	671,062	7.75%
Operating/Capital	238,715	202,973	361,918	78.31%
Expenditures Total	$782,862	$825,776	$1,032,980	25.09%

Department Objectives:

- Provide effective animal control services to reach the strategic goal of safeguarding the community

Planning and Inspections Department Profile

The **Planning and Inspections Department** furthers the County's mission by preserving and enhancing the unique character of Stokes while managing and guiding growth in ways that complement the quality of life. The Planning and Inspections Director reports directly to the County Manager. In addition to the Director, the department is composed of the Chief Code Enforcement Officer, a Senior Code Enforcement Office, a Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer, the Office Manager, and a Permitting Technician.

Additional information about the Planning and Inspections Department may be obtained by contacting the Planning and Inspections Director, at 336.593.2439.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	477,638	528,029	648,158	22.75%
Operating/Capital	161,596	112,778	319,005	182.86%
Expenditures Total	$639,234	$640,807	$967,163	50.93%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective building inspection services to reach the strategic goal of safeguarding the community
- Deliver effective zoning, zoning enforcement services, and code enforcement services to reach the strategic goal of ensuring land use compatibility and preservation of rural character

FY 2027-2031 Projects

Projects and Plans	FY	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Update comprehensive plan	FY 2027	$0.00	$200,000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Key Factors/Changes:

Operating

$200,000 to update Long Range Comprehensive Plan

Addition of Planner I position

Economic Development Department Profile

The **Economic Development Department** furthers the County's mission by building and maintaining a prosperous county for businesses, residents, and visitors and to improve upon the high quality of life already enjoyed across the county. The Department reports directly to the County Manager.

Additional information about the Economic Development Department may be obtained by contacting Tory Mabe, at 336.593.2497 or tlmabe@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	79,639	87,356	91,316	4.53%
Operating	265,202	201,471	119,000	-40.93%
Expenditures Total	$344,841	$288,827	$210,316	-27.18%

Department Objectives:

- Promote economic development to reach the strategic goal of promoting a thriving business community

Cooperative Extension Profile

Stokes County **Cooperative Extension** furthers the County's mission by working with the County to support agriculture, horticulture, conservation and environmental protection, nutrition and health, as well as a variety of consumer, youth, and economic concerns. The County partners with NC State and NC A&T to support the Stokes Center of Cooperative Extension. In addition to the Director, the department is currently composed of an Administrative Assistant and three Extension Agents covering different areas: 4-H Youth Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Additional information about Stokes Cooperative Extension may be obtained by contacting Matt Lenhardt, County Extension Director, at 336.593.8179 or malenhar@ncsu.edu.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Appropriation	232,665	339,122	344,384	2.1%
Expenditures Total	$ 232,665	$ 339,122	$ 344,384	2.0%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective agricultural support services to reach the strategic goal of promoting a thriving business community

DSS Department Profile

The **Department of Social Services (DSS)** furthers the County's mission by supporting individuals and families in the county by providing essential preventative and supportive services. The DSS Director reports directly to the DSS Board but is a key member of senior county staff. In addition to the Director, the department is composed of 88 full-time employees. The FY 2027 budget includes the addition of two new front-line employees, half of which is paid by the State.

Additional information about the Department of Social Services may be obtained by contacting Stacey Elmes, DSS Director, at 336.593.2861 or selmes@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	5,564,484	6,539,307	7,263,858	11.08%
Operating/Capital	4,264,091	5,418,348	5,097,280	-5.93%
Expenditures Total	$9,828,575	$11,957,655	$12,361,138	3.37%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective income maintenance and social work services to reach the strategic goal of supporting socially and economically vulnerable residents

FY 2027-2031 Projects

Projects and Plans	FY	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Add 3rd floor to DSS building (or build new structure)	FY 2029	$0.00	$0.00	$1.5 M	$0.00	$0.00

Health Department Profile

The **Health Department** furthers the County's mission by providing essential services that protect and promote public health such as monitoring community health, enforcing health regulations, and ensuring access to healthcare. The Health Director reports directly to the Board of Health but is a key member of senior county staff. In addition to the Director, the department is composed of 22 full-time employees.

Additional information about the Health Department may be obtained by contacting Tammy Martin, Health Director, at 336.593.2400 or tmartin@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	846,617	909,964	1,389,481	52.70%
Salaries & Benefits - MOE	-	1,017,358	611,732	-39.87%
Operating/Capital	272,225	262,480	264,927	0.93%
Expenditures Total	$1,118,842	$2,189,802	$2,266,140	3.49%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective nutrition, clinical, and opioid services to reach the strategic goal of promoting public health.

FY 2027-2031 Projects

Projects and Plans	FY	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Remodel King Health facility	FY 2027	$100,000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Key Factors/Changes:

- Title XIX monies were previously budgeted in their own fund. These monies were moved to the General Fund in FY 2026 and are now located in the Health Department budget. Salaries for MOE funds are now separately identified from Health Department salaries.

Environmental Health Profile

Environmental Health furthers the County's mission by protecting the environment and promoting public health. The Environmental Health Supervisor reports directly to the Health Director. In addition to the Supervisor, the department is composed of a Processing Assistant and three Environmental Health Specialists.

Additional information about Environmental Health may be obtained by contacting Brandon Joyce, Environmental Health Supervisor, at 336.593.2403 or bgjoyce@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	401,316	551,131	578,994	5.06%
Operating	68,879	119,784	114,520	-4.39%
Expenditures Total	$470,195	$670,915	$693,514	3.37%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective environmental health services to reach the strategic goal of promoting public health

Veterans Services Department Profile

The **Veterans Services Department** furthers the County's mission by helping veterans and dependents obtain benefits and services in hopes to improve quality of life. The lead Veterans Service Officer reports directly to the Assistant County Manager. In addition to the lead Veterans Service Officer, an additional part-time Veterans Service Officer supports the department.

Additional information about the Veterans Services Department may be obtained by contacting Larry Hunsucker, Veterans Service Officer, at 336.593.2468 or lhunsucker@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	76,135	78,130	81,236	3.98%
Operating	3,824	6,552	5,877	-10.30%
Expenditures Total	$79,959	$84,682	$87,113	2.87%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective veterans services to reach the strategic goal of supporting socially and economically vulnerable residents

Senior Services Department Profile

The **Senior Services Department** furthers the County's mission by providing services to and is a resource center for senior adults to access programs designed to maintain wellness, prolong independence, and improve quality of life. The Senior Services Director reports directly to the Assistant County Manager. In addition to the Director, the department is composed of four additional full-time employees, four part-time employees, and many volunteers.

Additional information about the Senior Services Department may be obtained by contacting Vicky East, Senior Services Director, at 336.593.8156 or veast@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	326,446	349,892	366,407	4.72%
Operating	573,161	578,300	565,300	-2.25%
Expenditures Total	$899,607	$928,192	$931,707	0.38%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective senior services to reach the strategic goal of supporting socially and economically vulnerable residents

DRC Department Profile

The **District Resource Center (DRC)** Department furthers the County's mission by operating a pre-trial release program and a local program for community-based corrections which provides a community-based sentencing alternative for the courts to use in managing certain offenders. The DRC Director reports directly to the Assistant County Manager. In addition to the Director, the department is composed of an Administrative Assistant, a Work Program Coordinator, and a couple part-time employees.

Additional information about the DRC Department may be obtained by contacting Laura Jones, DRC Director, at 336.593.3029 or ljones@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	208,455	224,700	236,294	5.16%
Operating	27,118	36,175	29,975	-17.14%
Expenditures Total	$235,573	$260,875	$266,269	2.07%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective pre- and post-trial services to reach the strategic goal of safeguarding the community.

Soil and Water Department Profile

The **Soil and Water Conservation** Department furthers the County's mission by working with both public and private organizations in a non-regulatory capacity to carry out a comprehensive conservation program. The Soil and Water Conservation Director reports directly to the Assistant County Manager. In addition to the Director, the department is composed of a full-time District Soil and Watershed Conservationist.

Additional information about the Soil and Water Department may be obtained by contacting Janice Pack, Soil and Water Conservation Director, at 336.593.2490 or aharold@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	151,743	161,930	160,613	-0.81%
Operating	95,047	70,940	60,127	-15.24%
Expenditures Total	$246,790	$232,870	$220,740	-5.21%

Department Objectives:

- Deliver effective soil and water services to reach the strategic goal of supporting environmental preservation

Solid Waste Department Profile

The **Solid Waste** Division furthers the County's mission by providing a safe and convenient way for citizens to dispose of their solid waste and the opportunity to participate in recycling. Solid Waste falls under the Public Works Director who reports directly to the Assistant County Manager. The department is composed of a Solid Waste Supervisor, Administrative Assistant, five Sanitation Equipment Operators, and many part-time Green Box Site workers.

Additional information about the Solid Waste Division may be obtained by contacting Stewart Easter, Public Works Director, at 336.593.2415 or seaster@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	869,421	980,151	1,021,636	4.23%
Operating/Capital	1,261,507	988,950	992,350	0.34%
Expenditures Total	$2,130,928	$1,969,101	$2,013,986	2.28%

Department Objectives:

- Provide effective solid waste services to reach the strategic goal of supporting environmental preservation

FY 2027-2031 Projects

Projects and Plans	FY	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Add Mountain View Road Green Box Site	FY 2027	$530,000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Arts Council Profile

The **Arts Council** furthers the County's mission by supporting cultural arts in Stokes County as it relates to performance, exhibit, education, preservation of traditions, outreach, economic development, agricultural heritage, tourism, recreation, community, and quality of life. The Director reports directly to the Assistant County Manager and is supported by two other full-time employees.

Additional information about the Arts Council may be obtained by contacting Eddy McGee, Director of Arts and Cultural Services, at 336.593.8159 or stokesarts@gmail.com.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	212,571	226,613	240,999	6.35%
Operating	158,961	-	-	-
Expenditures Total	$371,532	$226,613	$240,999	6.35%

Department Objectives:

- Provide effective support to the arts to reach the strategic goal of promoting active living and cultural opportunities

Stokes Libraries Profile

The three **libraries** in Stokes County are part of the Northwestern Regional Library (NWRL) System: Danbury Public Library, King Public Library, and Walnut Cove Public Library. The libraries further the County's mission by actively promoting lifelong learning, encouraging the joy of reading, and strengthening our community. The Director reports directly to the NWRL Board and the support of many staff members plays a key role in making the libraries successful. The majority of funding for the libraries comes from the County.

Additional information about the libraries in Stokes County may be obtained by contacting Joan Sherif, Director of the Northwestern Regional Libraries, at 336.835.4894 or jsherif@nwrl.org.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Stokes Libraries	593,594	611,110	639,541	3.0%
Expenditures Total	$ 593,594	$ 611,110	$ 639,541	3.0%

Clerk of Court Profile

The **Clerk of Superior Court** is a constitutional State office and is the hub of all judicial proceedings in Stokes County. The Clerk of Court is an elected judicial official to four-year terms and is responsible for all administrative, clerical, and record-keeping functions of the district and superior court. The Office and staff work for the North Carolina Judicial Branch under the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). While the Clerk of Court is a State function and its operating expenses are paid for by the State, General Statute 7A-302 provides that the county shall be responsible for providing "courtrooms, office space for juvenile court counselors, support staff and related judicial facilities (including furniture), as defined in this Subchapter". Facilities fees collected by the courts are used to help fund these requirements.

At the request of the Superior Court Judges, the Board of Commissioners approved an Accountability and Recovery Court (ARC) Coordinator position in FY 2025 to assist in the creation of a drug court in Stokes County. Training and half of the position's salary is paid by the Opioid Settlement Funds and the other half of the salary along with benefits, and a few other necessities are paid for by the County in the general fund. The breakdown between superior court expenses and the ARC Coordinator position is reflected below.

Additional information about the Superior Court may be obtained by contacting Brad Lankford, Clerk of Court, at 336.593.4400 or bradley.t.lankford@nccourts.org.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Superior Court Expenses	113,338	120,755	106,148	-12.10%
ARC Coordinator (1/2 of Salary)	35,854	50,046	56,432	12.76%
Expenditures Total	$149,192	$170,801	$162,580	-4.81%

Insurance Department Profile

The **Insurance** section of the general fund covers retiree insurance, medical costs, and insurance for property, liability, and workers compensation. In the FY 2026 and 2027 budgets, the HRA for employees will no longer be offered since less than 30 percent of employees took advantage of the benefit. Because the HRA was removed, health insurance deductibles were able to be lowered instead.

Additional information about the Insurance section may be obtained by contacting Jamie Clark, HR Director, at 336.593.2449 or jclark@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)	12,935	-	-	-
Wageworks Administrative Fees			600	-
Retiree Insurance	323,432	366,240	399,450	9.07%
Medical Cost	-334,480	350,000	375,000	7.14%
Property, Liability, and Workers Comp Insurance	894,729	956,000	1,014,670	6.14%
Expenditures Total	$ 896,616	$ 1,672,240	$ 1,789,720	7.03%

Contingency Profile

The **Contingency** Budget is managed by the Finance Director who oversees the implementation of the County budget along with the County Manager. Stokes operates under an annual balanced budget ordinance like other local governments in North Carolina. Contingency appropriations are used for unforeseen expenses or emergencies and must be authorized by approval of the governing body.

Additional information about the Contingency Budget may be obtained by contacting Tammy Keaton, Finance Director, at 336.593.1665 or tkeaton@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Contingency Funds	-	350,000	375,000	7.14%
Expenditures Total	$ -	$ 350,000	$ 375,000	7.14%

Debt Service Profile

As a means to finance long-term capital purchases and projects, the County of Stokes utilizes long-term debt. While simultaneously benefiting from its use, the County has traditionally maintained a conservative position regarding the use of debt. Because of its importance to the County's financial solvency, debt is regulated not only by North Carolina statutes, but also by Board policy. For information on anticipated debt, please refer to the *Capital Improvement Plan* section.

The County has entered into financing agreements to pay for certain projects and purchases that exceed the funding capacity of the County's reserve (general fund) or in which cases the financing option more appropriately fits the capital obligation. The debt service expenditures budgeted in FY 2027 represent the annual principal and interest payments on the existing finance agreements for the *General Fund*. Long-term debt has also been required for school capital obligations through the Dedicated Debt Service Fund (4-Cent) that can be found in the *Capital Project Funds* section.

Additional information about Debt Service expenditures may be obtained by contacting Tammy Keaton, Finance Director, at 336.593.1665 or tkeaton@co.stokes.nc.us

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Principal	1,381,900	2,332,592	1,688,622	-27.61%
Interest	71,267	705,485	598,059	-15.23%
Expenditures Total	$1,453,167	$3,038,077	$2,286,681	-24.73%

The first payments for both the Courthouse Expansion and Renovation Project and Capital Equipment Financing (2024) were due in 2026. The chart below indicates the total debt service payments due under the terms of the County's financing agreements over the next five-year period:

Description	Fiscal Year				
	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Debt Service Payments					
Jail Expansion (2019)	261,919	261,919	261,919	261,919	261,919
EMS Station/Maintenance Facility (2020)	135,950	133,850	131,750	129,650	127,550
Equipment/Repaving of Autumn Square	413,307	-	-	-	-
Courthouse Expansion and Renovation	1,115,473	1,087,167	1,058,860	1,030,553	1,002,246
Capital Equipment (2024)	246,604	246,604	246,605	-	-
DSS - Add 3rd Floor or build new structure	-	-	225,000	217,500	210,000
GASB – 96	113,429	113,429	113,429	113,429	113,429
Total Debt Service	$2,286,682	$1,842,969	$2,037,563	$1,753,051	$1,715,144

Stokes County Schools Current Expense Profile

Part of the funding that the County provides to Stokes County Schools comes from the general fund as a current expense appropriation. Funding is provided for instructional, support, and other operating expenditures on top of what the State funds the school system. A large portion of the County's budget goes towards current expense funding for the Schools.

Additional information about the Stokes County Schools Current Expense section may be obtained by contacting Tammy Keaton, Finance Director, at 336.593.1665 or tkeaton@co.stokes.nc.us. If you have questions about Stokes County Schools in general, please reach out to 336.593.8146 for more information.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Schools – Current Expense	15,638,669	16,327,445	16,768,286	2.7%
Expenditures Total	15,638,669	16,327,445	16,768,286	2.7%

Special Appropriations Profile

The **Special Appropriations** section of the general fund includes expenditures for necessary county functions that are supported by the governing body but that otherwise do not fall under a specific department. From planning organizations with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council to specific programs under the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC), these appropriations are key to supporting the County's mission.

Additional information about the Special Appropriations section may be obtained by contacting Tammy Keaton, Finance Director, at 336.593.1665 or tkeaton@co.stokes.nc.us.

Budget Summary

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
YMCA	-	-	120,295	100%
Northwest Piedmont MPO	2,422	8,878	3,700	-58.3%
King Senior Center	7,262	7,262	7,262	0.0%
Northwest Piedmont RPO	-	3,750	3,750	0.0%
Stokes Co. Fire and Rescue Association	83,400	90,700	90,700	0.0%
King American Legion Post 290 (County Fair)	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0%
Stokes Friends of Youth	68,405	68,405	68,405	0.0%
Insight Human Services	26,000	26,000	26,000	0.0%
Juvenile Services – Why Try	14,379	14,409	14,409	0.0%
Parenting Path	44,200	44,200	44,200	0.0%
YVEDDI	255,225	248,619	241,054	-3.0%
N.C. Forestry Service	105,243	113,768	120,484	5.9%
Stokes Teen Court – Youth Justice Program	63,979	63,980	63,980	0.0%
Expenditures Total	667,831	696,971	811,539	16.4%


STOKES COUNTY
1789



Overview of Public School Funding in North Carolina

In North Carolina, the funding structure for public schools has evolved significantly over the years. Initially, the state was primarily responsible for operational costs, while counties handled capital expenses such as buildings and building maintenance. This division was established nearly nine decades ago but has changed over the years.

Current Funding Structure

Counties now contribute to fund school operational expenses for several reasons:

- **Increased Responsibility**: Over time, counties have taken on a larger role in funding instructional expenses. This shift has occurred as state funding has not always kept pace with the growing needs of schools.
- **Local Revenue Generation**: Counties raise revenue through property taxes and other local sources. This allows them to supplement state funding, especially in areas where state allocations may be insufficient and where counties want to impact the quality of educational services.
- **Differences in Organizational Structure**: The State of North Carolina funds county schools in accordance with established criteria related to efficient and effective county school organizational structures. Counties that deviate from these criteria are left to fund a greater percentage of the overall cost.

Breakdown of Funding Sources

The funding for public schools in North Carolina comes from three main sources.

Source of Funding	Percent of Total
Federal	About 20%
State of North Carolina	About 57%
Counties	About 23%

This table illustrates typical reliance on local funding to support educational expenses, highlighting the importance of county contributions in maintaining operational standards in schools.

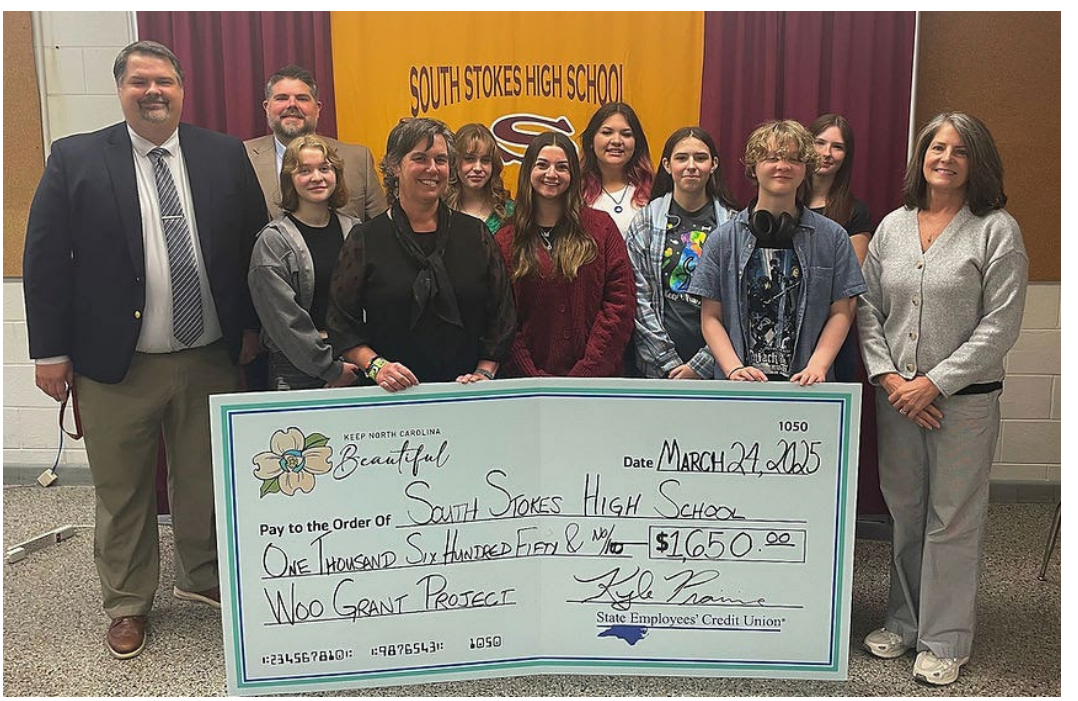
Overview of Stokes County Funding for Schools

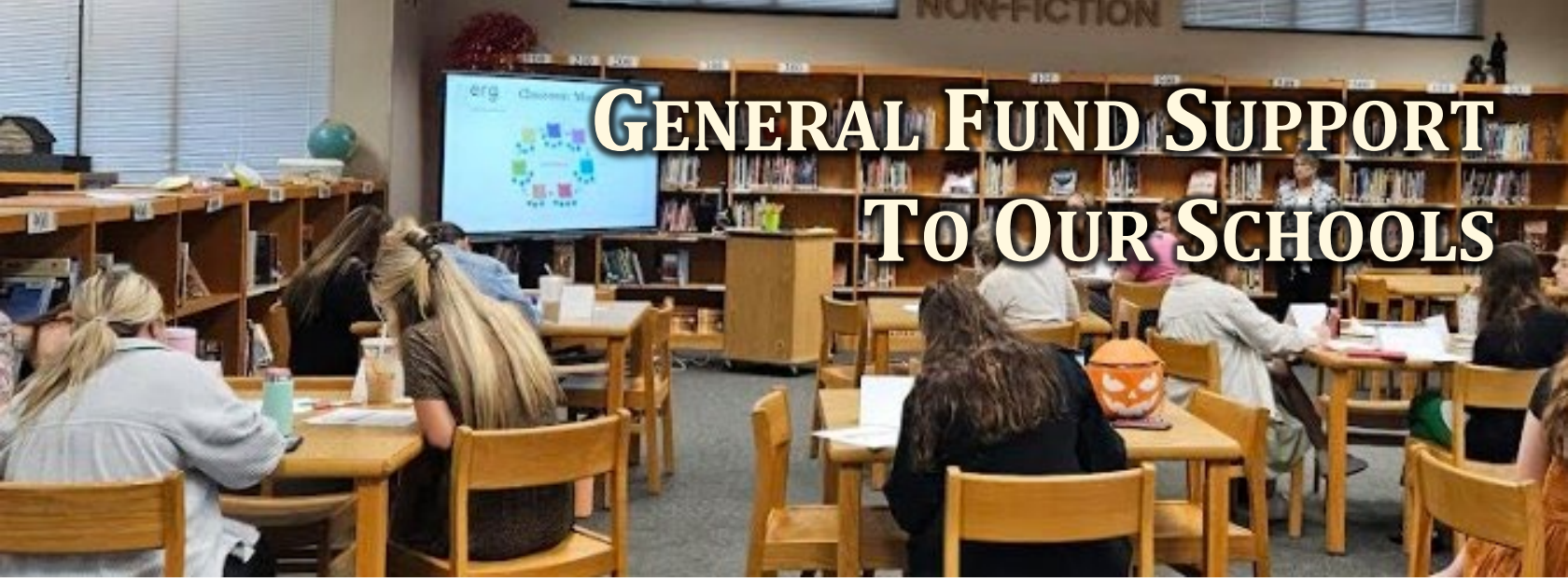
County funding for Stokes County Schools is addressed in three sections of this operating plan document:

- School current expense (operational) funding is included as a 'department' in the General Fund Summary section. This is the accounting mechanism that facilitates transfers to Stokes County Schools for operational expenses.
- The School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Dedicated Debt Fund is discussed as it relates to the planned construction of a new, replacement elementary school in FY 2029 in the Capital Improvement Plan section.
- School current expense funding is included in section 1 of the budget ordinance.
- The School Capital Outlay Fund is included as sections 4 and 5 of the budget ordinance.
- The School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Capital Fund is included as sections 8 and 9 of the budget ordinance.

Due to the importance of Stokes County's support for our county school system, all forms of that support are included in following pages in this section. The table below summarizes overall funding from Stokes County to support Stokes County Schools.

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Debt Service	$ 2,748,951	$ 3,600,315	$ 3,571,957	-0.08%
Other Operating	15,050,233	16,330,628	16,768,286	2.68%
Capital	2,675,000	2,728,500	3,000,000	9.95%
Total Revenues	$ 20,474,184	$ 22,659,443	$ 23,340,243	3.00%





General Fund Support To Our Schools

General Fund Support for School Expenses

$16,768,286 from the General Fund is dedicated to school system operating expenses for FY 2027. This is 2.62% higher than what was provided in FY 2026. This funding is used by Stokes County Schools for a variety of operational purposes. Notably, it funds teacher and staff positions that the State of North Carolina will not support based on the state's funding criteria. It is also used to address parts of their overall requirements for technology, travel expenses, supplies & materials, contracted services, staff development, marketing & recruiting, dues, insurance, communications, postage, utilities and fleet operating costs. Two special revenues streams help to address these funding needs. First, North Carolina General Statutes require us to use certain types of fines and forfeiture fees to provide funding for schools. In FY 2027, we expect that funding to be about $120,000. Second, when the School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Dedicated Debt Fund was established in 2012, part of that framework specifies that funding be provided from that fund to address Poplar Springs Elementary School operating costs. In FY 2027 $119,294 will be transferred from the Dedicated Debt Fund to the General Fund for this purpose.

$411,820 from the General Fund is dedicated to school system capital requirements in the form of a transfer to the School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Dedicated Debt Fund. This fund is used primarily to service debt associated with Stokes County construction of new school facilities.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Fines & Forfeitures	$ 120,393	$ 160,000	$ 120,000	-75.00%
Transfer from 4-cent fund	113,880	116,158	119,294	2.70%
Other General Fund Revenues	15,727,780	16,465,265	16,940,812	2.89%
Total Revenues	$ 15,962,053	$ 16,741,423	$ 17,180,106	2.62%

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Transfer to Schools for current expenses	$ 15,050,233	$ 16,330,628	$ 16,768,286	2.68%
Transfer to 4-cent fund for capital	911,820	411,820	411,820	0.00%
Total Expenses	$ 15,962,053	$ 16,741,423	$ 17,180,106	2.62%



School / Forsyth Tech (4 Cents) Fund

Description

School / Forsyth Tech Dedicated Debt Fund. This fund was established in 2012 and it's primary source of revenue is four cents of total property tax separately levied each year in Stokes County. Additionally, $911,820 in other funding sources (OFS) was added in 2019. Up until FY 2026, all of this $911,820 came from the General Fund. In order to meet increased operational funding demands (current expense funding) for our school system, the amount provided from the General Fund was reduced to $411,820 in FY 2026. The other $500,000 comes from excess fund balance in the school Capital Outlay Fund. Other sources of revenue in this fund include QSCAB & QZAB reimbursements from the IRS and State of North Carolina lottery money. Both QSCAB and QZAB are refunds on interest paid for specific past school construction project bonds. These federal QSCAB and QZAB programs are no longer available for new construction project funding. We are expecting those revenues to remain steady for FY 2027. In Other Financing Uses (OFUs) we incorporate a 2.7% increase to help pay expenses for Poplar Springs.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Property Tax Revenue	$ 2,061,580	$ 2,605,368	$ 2,683,784	3.01%
QSCAB / QZAB & Lottery		1,248,000	1,248,000	0.00%
Investment Income	124,194	-	104,474	0.00%
Other Financing Sources (OFS)	911,820	411,820	411,820	0.00%
Transfer from School Capital Outlay	-	500,000	500,000	0.00%
Total Revenues	$ 3,097,594	$ 4,765,188	$ 4,948,078	3.84%

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Debt Service	$ 2,748,951	$ 3,600,315	$ 3,571,957	-0.79%
Other Financing Uses (OFUs)	113,880	116,158	119,294	2.70%
Future Debt Reserve	-	1,048,715	1,256,827	19.84%
Total Operating	$ 2,862,831	$ 4,765,188	$ 4,948,078	3.84%

Fund Balance

Projected Ending Fund Balance for FY 2027 is $5,071,786, an increase of approximately 33%.

School/Forsyth Tech Dedicated Debt Fund Five-Year Forecast

Table 1 - Five-Year Financial Forecast FY 2026-2031

	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed	Forecast			
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Population	46,036	46,353	46,659	45,825	45,992	46,160	46,328	46,699
Property Tax Rate	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040
Operating Revenues								
Property Tax Revenue	$ 1,993,763	$ 2,061,580	$ 2,605,368	$ 2,683,785	$ 2,790,933	$ 2,902,313	$ 3,025,994	$ 3,154,555
IRS Interest Refund-QSCAB/QZAB & Lottery	-	-	1,248,000	1,248,000	1,248,000	1,248,000	450,000	450,000
Permits & Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sales & Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Operating Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest Income	137,138	124,194	101,185	104,474	107,869	111,105	114,438	117,871
Other Taxes & Licenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Revenues	2,130,901	2,185,774	3,954,553	4,036,258	4,146,802	4,261,418	3,590,432	3,722,427
Other Financing Sources (OFS)	911,820	911,820	911,820	911,820	911,820	911,820	911,820	911,820
Total Dedicated Debt Revenues & OFS	$ 3,042,721	$ 3,097,594	$ 4,866,373	$ 4,948,078	$ 5,058,622	$ 5,173,238	$ 4,502,252	$ 4,634,247
Operating Expenditures								
Debt Service	-	2,748,951	3,600,315	3,571,957	3,543,598	6,687,698	6,180,970	4,750,000
Operating Expenditures	-	2,748,951	3,600,315	3,571,957	3,543,598	6,687,698	6,180,970	4,750,000
Other Financing Uses (OFU)	2,911,800	113,880	117,183	119,526	121,917	124,355	126,842	129,379
Total Dedicated Debt Expenditures & OFU	2,911,800	2,862,831	3,717,497	3,691,483	3,665,515	6,812,053	6,307,812	4,879,379
Revenues Over (Under) Exp	$ 130,921	$ 234,763	$ 1,148,876	$ 1,256,595	$ 1,393,107	$ (1,638,815)	$ (1,805,560)	$ (245,132)
Projected Impact on Fund Balance in the Dedicated Debt Fund:								
Beginning Fund Balance	$ 2,300,419	$ 2,431,320	$ 2,666,083	$ 3,814,959	$ 5,071,554	$ 6,464,661	$ 4,825,845	$ 3,020,286
Budgeted Revenues Over (Under) Exp	130,921	234,763	1,148,876	1,256,595	1,393,107	(1,638,815)	(1,805,560)	(245,132)
Budget to Actual Variance [1]								
Projected Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	130,921	234,763	1,148,876	1,256,595	1,393,107	(1,638,815)	(1,805,560)	(245,132)
Projected Ending Dedicated Debt Bal	$ 2,431,320	$ 2,666,083	$ 3,814,959	$ 5,071,554	$ 6,464,661	$ 4,825,845	$ 3,020,286	$ 2,775,153
% of Total Budget	83.5%	93.1%	102.6%	137.4%	176.4%	70.8%	47.9%	56.9%

School/Forsyth Tech Dedicated Debt Fund Five-Year Forecast

Stokes County conducts five-year forecasting on the School/Forsyth Tech Dedicated Debt Fund to ensure revenue streams are sufficient to address debt service obligations and to understand how our capacity to take on debt for new school facility projects changes over time. After doing this for the first time during FY 2026 budget development, we determined that due to upcoming payoff of debt associated with Poplar Springs Elementary and Southeastern Middle in FY 2028 this fund will have capacity to take on debt associated with construction of a yet-to-be identified replacement elementary school starting in FY 2029. This new school is intended to address two needs: 1) begin replacement of aging school facilities that are no longer viable to maintain in cost effective ways and 2) continue consolidation of elementary schools that cause inefficiency and greater operating costs. $50,000,000 is projected for this project in FY 2029 to be funded with debt, and we expect design work to be commence in FY 2028.



School Capital Outlay Fund

Description

School Capital Outlay Funds are set aside for long-term school capital needs through a BOE ½ cent Sales Tax – Article 40 and BOE ½ cent Sales Tax – Article 42. Added together, one cent in sales tax that Stokes County receives is statutorily required to fund county school system capital outlay and reserve funding. FY 2026, Stokes County began transferring $500,000 from excess fund balance in this fund to the School/Forsyth Tech Dedicated Debt Fund.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Sales Tax Article 40	$ 1,434,846	$ 1,300,500	$ 1,400,000	7.65%
Sales Tax Article 42	1,643,644	1,428,000	1,600,000	12.04%
Investment Income (actuals)	3,096	-	-	0.00%
Fund Balance Appropriation	-	500,000	500,000	0.00%
Total Revenues	$ 3,081,586	$ 3,228,500	$ 3,500,000	8.41%

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
School Capital Outlay	$ 2,675,000	$ 2,728,500	$ 3,000,000	9.95%
Transfer to Dedicated Debt Service	-	500,000	500,000	0.00%
Total Operating	$ 2,675,000	$ 3,228,500	$ 3,500,000	8.41%




STOKES COUNTY
1789



Special Revenue Funds Summary

Description

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The following funds are included as Special Revenue Funds:

- Opioid Settlement Fund
- Tourism Development Authority (TDA)
- Stokes County Fire Service District
- King Fire District
- Rural Hall Fire District
- Walnut Cove Fire District
- E-911 Fund

Opioid Settlement Funds

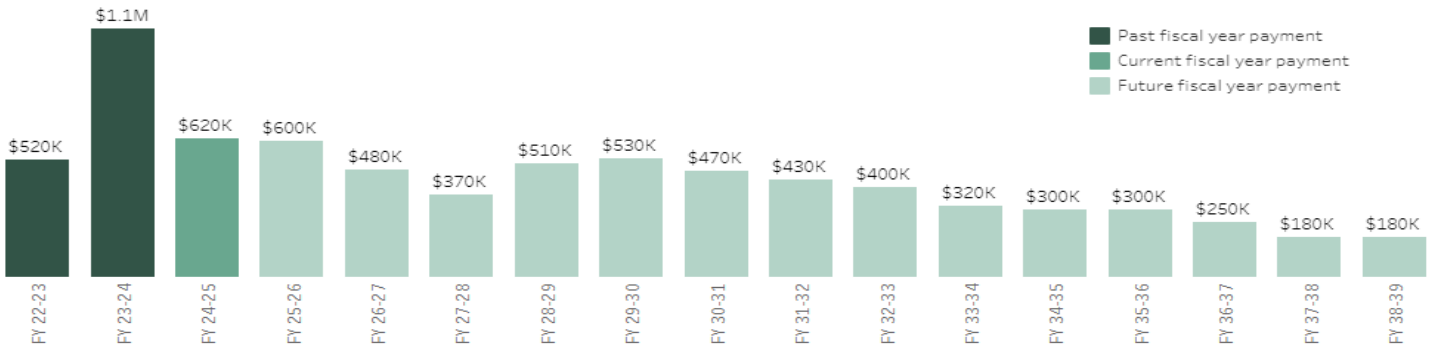
Occupancy Tax

Fire Tax

E-911

Opioid Settlement Fund

The Opioid Settlement Fund was set up in FY 2022-2023 after Stokes County was awarded settlement monies through litigation between a consortium of local governments and several large pharmaceutical and drug companies. The County was awarded $7,533,752 in opioid settlement monies with the funds being dispersed over an 18-year period through 2038. FY 2026 reflects the fourth year of opioid settlement fund revenues with Stokes' payment projected at $600,000. Opioid Settlement Fund monies are governed by the North Carolina Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which is managed by the NC Department of Justice. The MOA dictates how local governments in North Carolina can spend funds and on which strategies funds can be used to target the problem.



Payment Schedule

The Opioid Settlement Fund priorities are directed by the Governing Body but are managed under the Health Department through a program called Stokes County Opioid Prevention Effort (SCOPE). The SCOPE Program is led by the Opioid Prevention Coordinator along with a community paramedic, and a peer support specialist.

SCOPE Budget

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Opioid Settlement	$ 616,718	$ 441,203	$ 376,640	-14.63%
Interest Income	40,109	-	-	0.00%
Total Opioid Settlement & Interest	$ 656,827	$ 41,203	$ 76,640	-14.63%

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries & Benefits	$ 08,272	$ 316,190	$ 269,467	-14.78%
Operating	48,211	125,013	107,173	-14.27%
Total Expense	$ 56,483	$ 441,203	$ 76,640	-14.63%

The below chart reflects a multi-year forecast of the SCOPE budget on the current trend that it is following utilizing the settlement funding as revenue.

	Budget	Proposed	Forecast			
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	$ 600,000	$ 480,000	$ 370,000	$ 510,000	$ 530,000	$ 470,000
Interest Income	78,172	81,681	81,548	85,148	88,975	90,616
Total Revenues	678,172	561,681	451,548	595,148	618,975	560,616
Expenditures						
Operating Expenditures	441,203	456,097	471,544	487,596	504,285	521,640
Total Expenditures	441,203	456,097	471,544	487,596	504,285	521,640
Revenues Over (Under) Exp	$ 236,969	$ 105,584	$ (19,995)	$ 107,552	$ 114,690	$ 38,976
Projected Impact on Fund Balance in the Opioid Settlement Fund:						
Beginning Fund Balance	$ 2,005,723	$ 2,242,691	$ 2,348,276	$ 2,328,280	$ 2,435,832	$ 2,550,522
Projected Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	236,969	105,584	(19,995)	107,552	114,690	38,976
Projected Ending Opioid Fund Bal	$ 2,242,691	$ 2,348,276	$ 2,328,280	$ 2,435,832	$ 2,550,522	$ 2,589,498
% of Total Budget	**508.3%**	**514.9%**	**493.8%**	**499.6%**	**505.8%**	**496.4%**

Payment Schedule

Additional information about SCOPE or the settlement funding may be obtained by contacting Savannah Hayes, Opioid Prevention Coordinator, at 336.593.2400 ext. 1207 or shayes@co.stokes.nc.us.

Tourism Development Authority (TDA)

The Tourism Development Authority was established in 2024 after Stokes County was granted the authority by the NC General Assembly under SB 154, Session Law 2023-144 to levy an occupancy tax. The Stokes County Board of Commissioners established an occupancy tax of six percent (6%) which applies to gross receipts derived from the rental of any room, lodging, or accommodations furnished by hotel, motel, bed and breakfast, vacation rentals, glamping site or similar place within the county that is subject to sales tax as imposed by the State under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(3). The governing body established the tax to support the local tourism industry through promotion of public exposure and resources. Funding from this tax can only be spent towards promotion of travel and tourism and on tourism-related expenditures.

Through the establishment of the occupancy tax, the Board created the Stokes County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) to administer and expend the local occupancy tax proceeds for tourism promotion. The TDA is composed of seven voting members and three ex-officio, non-voting members who are all appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

The occupancy tax revenues and budgeted expenditures for the TDA Budget are shown below: FY 2025 Actual, FY 2026 Budget, and FY 2027 Budgeted.

TDA Budget

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Occupancy Tax	$ 111,205	$ 100,000	$ 125,000	25.0%
Interest on Investments	26	-	-	0.0%
Total Occupancy Tax	$ 111,231	$ 100,000	$ 125,000	25.0%

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Operating	$ 0,489	$ 100,000	$ 125,000	25.0%
Total Expenditures	$ 40,489	$ 100,000	$ 125,000	25.0%

Stokes County Fire Service District

The Stokes County Fire Service District was established in 1986 to support rural areas of the county with fire suppression and rescue services. A fire tax is levied for the district, and funds are used to provide these services through contracts with service district agencies that operate within the boundaries of Stokes County. Volunteer fire or rescue agencies that are contracted with the County serve as the service district agencies and receive funds. Funds are directed to be spent on costs directly related to operating expenses incurred by these agencies in their provision of contracted services. These costs typically include apparatus or equipment purchases, supplies like fuel or medical materials, insurance and bonds, maintenance and operation of equipment and apparatuses, buildings and grounds expenses, debt service payments, and personnel related costs for fire response and protection.

The Stokes County Fire Commission was established by the Board of Commissioners for the oversight of revenue generated by the Service District Tax and serves as an advisory group for the governing body on service district related matters. The Fire Commission is composed of eight members, each affiliated with different service district agencies.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Fire District Tax	$ 2,645,476	$ 3,034,049	$ 3,187,438	5.06%
State Collected DMV Tax	308,539	270,617	314,901	16.36%
1 & ½ Cent Sales Tax	458,283	372,300	293,952	-21.04%
Interest Income	1,330	-	-	0.0%
Fund Balance Appropriated	-	-	123,268	100.00%
Total Tax & Other Income	$ 3,455,232	$ 3,706,966	$ 3,919,559	4.48%

The chart above reflects the revenues by type for fiscal year 2025 through what is budgeted for fiscal year 2027. After revaluation last year, the current tax rate for the Service District is $0.09 a decrease from the prior year which was set at $0.10. The proposed rate for the Service District for FY 2027 is $0.09 per one hundred ($100) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027.

Below is a breakdown of all the service district agencies that receive funds and are contracted to provide fire response and protection services. The chart reflects their expenditures for FY 2025 and FY 2026 what is budgeted for FY 2027. The current funding plan for FY 2027 accommodates the hiring of paid staff at each Stokes County Fire Service District fire department to address daytime responsiveness shortfalls.

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
South Stokes Fire Department	228,861	412,209	599,710	39.29%
Danbury Fire Department	174,120	220,080	269,250	26.19%
Sauratown Fire Department	225,690	414,245	444,973	5.10%
Stokes Rockingham Fire Department	255,120	205,830	277,481	38.51%
Northeast Stokes Fire Department	246,110	412,906	563,510	31.19%
Franscisco Fire Department	248,113	481,386	545,174	9.11%
Lawsonville Fire Department	174,120	308,713	357,216	15.52%
Pinnacle Fire Department	200,606	256,026	367,522	42.91%
Westfield Fire Department	63,750	96,500	121,622	13.07%
Double Creek Fire Department	148,120	215,968	339,674	57.84%
Pilot Mtn. Rescue Squad	10,993	25,000	33,397	19.84%
Reserved for Future Appropriation	-	658,103	-	-100.00%
Capital Equipment	734,054	-	-	0.00%
Equipment Non-Capitalized	9,389	-	-	0.00%
Total Operating Expense	2,719,046	3,706,966	3,919,559	3.64%

Additional information about the Stokes County Fire Service District may be obtained by contacting Scott Aaron, Stokes County Fire Marshal, at 336.593.2484 or saaron@co.stokes.nc.us.

King Fire District

The King Fire District was established to support the county portion around the King metropolitan area with fire suppression and rescue services. A fire tax is levied for the district, and funds are used to provide these services through a contract with the City of King Fire Department. Funds are directed to be spent on costs directly related to operating expenses incurred by the fire department in its provision of contracted services. These costs typically include apparatus or equipment purchases, supplies like fuel or medical materials, insurance and bonds, maintenance and operation of equipment and apparatuses, buildings and grounds expenses, debt service payments, and personnel related costs for fire response and protection.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Fire District Tax	$ 520,965	$ 662,623	$ 673,426	1.63%
Prior Year Tax	6,826	5,600	5,000	-10.71%
State Collected DMV Tax	94,380	83,629	98,658	17.97%
1 & ½ Cent Sales Tax	144,626	109,650	100,000	-8.80%
Interest Income	355	0	0	0.00%
Fund Balance Appropriated	18,847	0	73,256	100.00%
Total Tax & Other Income	$ 785,999	$ 861,502	$ 950,340	10.31%

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
King Fire Department	$ 785,999	$ 861,502	$ 950,340	10.31%
Total Expense	$ 785,999	$ 861,502	$ 950,340	10.31%

The chart above reflects the revenues by type for fiscal year 2025 through what is budgeted for fiscal year 2027. After revaluation last year, the current tax rate for the King Fire District is $0.09 a decrease from the prior year which was set at $0.10. The proposed rate for the Service District for FY 2027 is $0.09 per one hundred ($100) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027.

Rural Hall Fire District

The Rural Hall Fire District was established to support the county portion around the Rural Hall municipal area with fire suppression and rescue services. A fire tax is levied for the district, and funds are used to provide these services through a contract with the Town of Rural Hall Fire Department. Funds are directed to be spent on costs directly related to operating expenses incurred by the fire department in its provision of contracted services. These costs typically include apparatus or equipment purchases, supplies like fuel or medical materials, insurance and bonds, maintenance and operation of equipment and apparatuses, buildings and grounds expenses, debt service payments, and personnel related costs for fire response and protection.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Fire District Tax	$ 79,092	$ 124,452	$ 125,688	0.99%
Prior Year Tax	1,693	1,000	1,000	0.00%
State Collected DMV Tax	13,438	14,399	16,810	16.74%
1 & ½ Cent Sales Tax	22,598	20,502	20,000	-2.45%
Interest Income	83	0	0	0.00%
Fund Balance Appropriated	0	0	39,581	100.00%
Total Tax & Other Income	$ 116,904	$ 160,353	$ 203,079	26.64%

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Rural Hall Fire Department	$ 112,338	$ 160,353	$ 203,079	26.64%
Total Expense:	$ 112,338	$ 160,353	$ 203,079	26.64%

The chart above reflects the revenues by type for fiscal year 2025 through what is budgeted for fiscal year 2027. After revaluation last year, the current tax rate for the Rural Hall Fire District is $0.09 a decrease from the prior year which was set at $0.10. The proposed rate for the Service District for FY 2027 is $0.09 per one hundred ($100) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027.

Walnut Cove Fire District

The Walnut Cove Fire District was established to support the county portion around the Walnut Cove municipal area with fire suppression and rescue services. A fire tax is levied for the district and funds are used to provide these services through a contract with the Town of Walnut Cove Fire Department. Funds are directed to be spent on costs directly related to operating expenses incurred by the fire department in its provision of contracted services. These costs typically include apparatus or equipment purchases, supplies like fuel or medical materials, insurance and bonds, maintenance and operation of equipment and apparatuses, buildings and grounds expenses, debt service payments, and personnel related costs for fire response and protection.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Fire District Tax	$ 360,841	$ 443,761	$ 457,920	3.19%
Prior Year Tax	8,354	7,000	8,000	14.29%
State Collected DMV Tax	55,967	50,420	55,874	10.82%
1 & ½ Cent Sales Tax	103,046	78,030	78,030	0.00%
Interest Income	281	-	-	0.00%
Fund Balance Appropriated	26,036	-	38,131	100.00%
Total Tax & Other Income	554,525	579,211	637,955	10.14%

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Walnut Cove Fire Department	554,525	579,211	637,955	10.14%
Total Expense:	554,525	579,211	637,955	10.14%

The chart above reflects the revenues by type for fiscal year 2025 through what is budgeted for fiscal year 2027. After revaluation last year, the current tax rate for the Walnut Cove Fire District is $0.09 a decrease from the prior year which was set at $0.10. The proposed rate for the Service District for FY 2027 is $0.09 per one hundred ($100) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027.

	FY 2026 Rate	Revenue Neutral Rate	CPI Adjusted RN Rate	Proposed FY 2027 Rate	Total 2027 Revenue
Walnut Cove Fire District Tax	$0.09	$0.0798	$0.0906	$0.09	$637,955

E-911 Fund (Emergency Telephone Service)

The North Carolina 911 Fund supports county and local public safety answering points (PSAP) by consolidating all statewide 911 service charges into a single fund managed by the N.C. 911 Board. The service charge is applied across all active devices capable of dialing 911 with different collection methods depending on the type of phone.

N.C.G.S. 143B-1406 places strict boundaries on how county governments can use their distributed Emergency Telephone System Funds (ETSF). Some eligible 911 Fee Expenditures include: Phone Systems, Furniture, Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Ancillary Software and Hardware, Training, and Hosted (Shared) Services. Other expenditures such as personnel pay, infrastructure, real estate and vehicles are paid via County General Funds.

E-911 Fund

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
E-911 Fund	$ 305,838	$ 413,000	$ 370,000	-10.41%
Total Revenues	$ 305,838	$ 413,000	$ 370,000	-10.41%

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Operating	$ 305,838	$ 413,000	$ 370,000	-10.41%
Total Expenditures	$ 305,838	$ 413,000	$ 370,000	-10.41%

Additional information about Stokes County E-911 may be obtained by contacting Nichole Durham, Stokes County Emergency Communications Director, at 336.593.2494




STOKES COUNTY
1789



Enterprise Funds Summary

Description

Stokes County Enterprise Funds are comprised of Stokes County Water Sewer Authority, Danbury Water and Regional Sewer.

The Stokes County Water Sewer Authority (SCWSA) provides locally sourced water to the Germanton and Walnut Cove areas. There are approximately 200 customers that are serviced through this fund.

The Regional Sewer Fund services a very limited population in the Town of Danbury. The customer base consists of 82 total billable sewer customers including county government, hospital, Family Dollar, Residential, NCDOT and the library. In addition, there are 15 available taps for sewer service.

The Danbury Water Fund services a limited population in the Town of Danbury. Danbury Water has 103 customers consisting of 85 residential customers and 18 industrial customers. In addition, there are 13 available taps for water service. County government facilities and the local hospital are currently the largest customers.



Description of Revenue Source

Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority generates revenues from water fees and tap fees for new connections in the Germanton and Walnut Cove area.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Water Fees	278,474	300,000	315,000	5.0%
Tap Fees	278	7,500	7,500	0.0%
Interest Income	873	0	0	0.0%
Capital Contribution	207,655	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance Appropriated	31,013	31,136	14,448	-53.60%
Total Water Fees & OFS	518,293	338.636	336,948	-0.50%

Revenue Assumptions

- For FY 2027, $14,448 of the SCWSA fund balance has been appropriated as a revenue source. This represents a significant decrease from FY 2026 budgeted amount. FY 2027 includes a 2.7% cost of living allowance along with an average 2% shared merit increase.

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries and Benefits	80,871	87,936	89,826	2.15%
Operating Expenses	229,767	242,700	247,122	1.82%
Capital	0	8,000	0	-100.0%
Total Operating	310,638	338,636	336,948	-.50%

** Historically Capital was included with operating expenses.*

Stokes Regional Sewer

Description of Revenue Source

Stokes Regional Sewer generates revenues from sewer fees and tap fees for new connections in the Town of Danbury to a limited population base. There are 82 billable sewer customers and an additional 15 sewer connections that are available to customers and are not currently billable. For FY 2027, Stokes Regional Sewer is anticipating no transfers from the General Fund due primarily from adjustments in the fee schedule.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Sewer Fees	146,971	130,000	194,262	49.43%
Interest Income	8,113	0	0	0.00%
Transfer from General Fund	50,108	59,906	0	-100.0%
Total Revenues	205,192	189,906	194,262	2.29%

Description of Expenditures

For FY 2027, Stokes Regional Sewer is anticipating no transfers from the General Fund due primarily from adjustments in the fee schedules. FY 2027 includes a 2.7% cost of living allowance along with an average 2% shared merit increase.

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries and Benefits	66,667	71,806	77,162	7.46%
Operating Expenses	111,574	118,100	117,100	-0.85%
Total Operating	178,241	189,906	194,262	2.29%

Danbury Water

Description of Revenue Source

Danbury Water generates revenues from water fees in the Town of Danbury. Danbury has a limited population base. There are 103 total customers which are broken down by residential and industrial. There are 85 residential customers. The largest water revenue comes from the industrial base with 18 customers to include County Government Facilities and the local hospital.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Water Fees	173,463	160,000	182,812	14.26%
Interest Income	517	0	0	0.00%
Transfer from General Fund	21,506	28,937	0	-100.0%
Total Revenues	195,486	188,937	182,812	-3.24%

Revenue Assumptions

FY 2027, Danbury Water is anticipating no transfers from the General Fund due primarily from adjustments in the fee schedule. FY 2027 includes a 2.7% cost of living allowance along with an average 2% shared merit increase.

Description of Expenditures

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries and Benefits	65,357	72,537	77,789	7.2%
Operating Expenses	64,713	116,400	105,023	-9.8%
Total Operating	130,070	188,937	182,812	-3.2%


STOKES COUNTY
1789



Enterprise Funds Summary

Description

Stokes County Enterprise Funds are comprised of Stokes County Water Sewer Authority, Danbury Water and Regional Sewer.

The Stokes County Water Sewer Authority (SCWSA) provides locally sourced water to the Germanton and Walnut Cove areas. There are approximately 200 customers that are serviced through this fund.

The Regional Sewer Fund services a very limited population in the Town of Danbury. The customer base consists of 82 total billable sewer customers including county government, hospital, Family Dollar, Residential, NCDOT and the library. In addition, there are 15 available taps for sewer service.

The Danbury Water Fund services a limited population in the Town of Danbury. Danbury Water has 103 customers consisting of 85 residential customers and 18 industrial customers. In addition, there are 13 available taps for water service. County government facilities and the local hospital are currently the largest customers.



Description of Revenue Source

Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority generates revenues from water fees and tap fees for new connections in the Germanton and Walnut Cove area.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Water Fees	278,474	300,000	315,000	5.0%
Tap Fees	278	7,500	7,500	0.0%
Interest Income	873	0	0	0.0%
Capital Contribution	207,655	0	0	0.0%
Fund Balance Appropriated	31,013	31,136	14,448	-53.60%
Total Water Fees & OFS	518,293	338.636	336,948	-0.50%

Revenue Assumptions

- For FY 2027, $14,448 of the SCWSA fund balance has been appropriated as a revenue source. This represents a significant decrease from FY 2026 budgeted amount. FY 2027 includes a 2.7% cost of living allowance along with an average 2% shared merit increase.

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries and Benefits	80,871	87,936	89,826	2.15%
Operating Expenses	229,767	242,700	247,122	1.82%
Capital	0	8,000	0	-100.0%
Total Operating	310,638	338,636	336,948	-.50%

** Historically Capital was included with operating expenses.*

Stokes Regional Sewer

Description of Revenue Source

Stokes Regional Sewer generates revenues from sewer fees and tap fees for new connections in the Town of Danbury to a limited population base. There are 82 billable sewer customers and an additional 15 sewer connections that are available to customers and are not currently billable. For FY 2027, Stokes Regional Sewer is anticipating no transfers from the General Fund due primarily from adjustments in the fee schedule.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Sewer Fees	146,971	130,000	194,262	49.43%
Interest Income	8,113	0	0	0.00%
Transfer from General Fund	50,108	59,906	0	-100.0%
Total Revenues	205,192	189,906	194,262	2.29%

Description of Expenditures

For FY 2027, Stokes Regional Sewer is anticipating no transfers from the General Fund due primarily from adjustments in the fee schedules. FY 2027 includes a 2.7% cost of living allowance along with an average 2% shared merit increase.

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries and Benefits	66,667	71,806	77,162	7.46%
Operating Expenses	111,574	118,100	117,100	-0.85%
Total Operating	178,241	189,906	194,262	2.29%

Danbury Water

Description of Revenue Source

Danbury Water generates revenues from water fees in the Town of Danbury. Danbury has a limited population base. There are 103 total customers which are broken down by residential and industrial. There are 85 residential customers. The largest water revenue comes from the industrial base with 18 customers to include County Government Facilities and the local hospital.

Revenues by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Water Fees	173,463	160,000	182,812	14.26%
Interest Income	517	0	0	0.00%
Transfer from General Fund	21,506	28,937	0	-100.0%
Total Revenues	195,486	188,937	182,812	-3.24%

Revenue Assumptions

FY 2027, Danbury Water is anticipating no transfers from the General Fund due primarily from adjustments in the fee schedule. FY 2027 includes a 2.7% cost of living allowance along with an average 2% shared merit increase.

Description of Expenditures

Expenditures by Type	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	Percent Change
Salaries and Benefits	65,357	72,537	77,789	7.2%
Operating Expenses	64,713	116,400	105,023	-9.8%
Total Operating	130,070	188,937	182,812	-3.2%


STOKES COUNTY
1789



Capital Project Funds

Description

Capital project funds are used to account for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities other than those financed by proprietary funds and trust funds. Capital projects are approved through a separate Capital Project Ordinance as they usually span over more than one fiscal year. This section provides information regarding the major on-going or upcoming capital projects for Stokes County, the revenues to date, the expenditures to date, a brief description of the project, as well as the anticipated impact of the project on the operating budget.

Stokes County has previously adopted three capital project funds:

- Courthouse Expansion and Renovations ($13 million)
- Animal Shelter Expansion and Renovations ($1.9 million)
- Meadows Community Water Project ($5.9 million)

Summary

Stokes County Courthouse expansion and renovation project purpose was to accommodate current needs and allow some room for future growth began in August 2024. The expansion includes additional courtroom, jury pool room, grand jury room, involuntary commitment courtroom, new law library, and judicial offices. The project also calls for renovation to Courtrooms A & B, judicial offices, and bathroom remodel. This project is ongoing with approximately $13 million in total projected funding with $2 million in State Capital Infrastructure Fund (SCIF) grant funding.

Stokes County Animal Shelter expansion and renovation will begin in FY 2026 with expected completion in FY 2027. County Commissioners made it a priority to move forward on the project and has initiated next steps in the planning and designing of the new Animal Shelter. This project includes design and renovation of the old Meadows jail facility to become the new Stokes County Animal Shelter. The project is based on longstanding capacity challenges at the existing shelter as well as building layout and design challenges that complicate adherence to established North Carolina animal control standards. Funding in the amount of $1,900,000 was moved from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for this project. After a contractor was selected, there was an additional $951,050 to bridge the gap between the original estimate and the actual contract. As such, it has no impact on General Fund expenditures over the five-year planning horizon.

Meadows Area Interconnect Project (often called Meadows Community Water Project) is a multi-million-dollar public infrastructure initiative designed to resolve critical water quality and supply issues. The project is managed by the Stokes County Water and Sewer Authority, focusing on the Meadows and Danbury service areas with the installation of over 24,000 linear feet of new 6-inch, 8-inch, and 12-inch water mains to link the Meadows area to the Danbury Water System. It addresses storage capacity with the construction of a new 100,000-gallon elevated water tank to stabilize pressure and maintain emergency reserves. Also, the project includes an addition of a new booster pump station and supply well improvements to guarantee steady distribution throughout the regional pipeline.

Courthouse Project Budget Highlights

The Stokes County Courthouse Expansion and Renovation project is on track with the expected timeline with completion expected in mid to late 2026.

Expenditures by Type	Projected Budget	Amount Spent to Date	Remaining Balance
Design/Construction Costs	$ 13,083,315	$ 8,286,436	$ 4,796,879
Total Expenditures	$ 13,083,315	$ 8,286,436	$ 4,796,879

Revenues by Type	Projected Budget	Amount Received to Date	Balance Remaining
SCIF Grant	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ -
JP Morgan - Financing	11,000,000	11,000,000	
Investment Income	83,315	1,056,344	973,029
Total Revenues	$ 13,083,315	$ 14,056,344	$ 973,029

Courthouse Project Impact on Operating Budget

There is no impact on the General Fund operating budget for FY 2027 for the County Courthouse Expansion and Renovations Project. This is a multi-year project with budgets that will roll forward for the life of the project.

Animal Shelter Budget Highlights

The Stokes County Animal Shelter project is still in the early stages with less than 1% of funds expensed for design and engineering. We have the land and we have secured architects for the project. The project has been awarded, and work will commence before the end of FY 2026.

Expenditures by Type	Projected Budget	Amount Spent to Date	Remaining Balance
Design/Engineering Costs	$ 2,851,050	$ 122,974	$ 2,728,076
Construction Costs	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	$ 2,851,050	$ 122,974	$ 2,728,076

Revenues by Type	Projected Budget	Amount Received to Date	Balance Remaining
Transfer from General Fund	$ 2,851,050	$ 9,800	$ 2,728,076
Total Revenues	$ 2,851,050	$ 9,800	$ 2,728,076

Animal Shelter Impact on Operating Budget

The Stokes County Animal Shelter Project will be adding one (1) part time custodial staff position at a cost of $20,000 per year. This is a multi-year project with budgets that will roll forward for the life of the project.

Meadows Area Interconnect Project Highlights

The Meadows Area Interconnect Project is actively moving forward with key infrastructure components including roughly 25.5 linear feet of water mains and a new elevated storage tank nearing their construction phases. The interconnection mains will provide water service access for approximately 75 residences and 10 businesses.

Expenditures by Type	Projected Budget	Amount Spent 6/30/2025	Remaining Balance
Construction Costs	$ 5,912,800	$ 3,812,891	$ 2,099,909
Total Expenditures	$ 5,912,800	$ 3,812,891	$ 2,099,909

Revenues by Type	Projected Budget	Amount Received 6/30/2025	Balance Remaining
State Revolving Loan - Forgiveness	$ 5,208,600	$ 3,604,938	$ 1,603,662
ARC Grant, County Match, and Transfers	704,200	104,172	600,028
Total Revenues	$ 5,912,800	$ 3,709,110	$ 2,203,690

Meadows Area Interconnect Project Impact on Operating Budget

The Meadows Area Interconnect Project is a multi-year project with budgets that will roll forward for the life of the project.


STOKES COUNTY
1789



Five-Year Financial Forecast FY 2027-2031

Introduction

Purpose

Stokes County aspires to be a high performing, results-oriented organization focused on fulfilling our mission and achieving the short-term and long-term performance goals indicated on our Balanced Scorecard (BSC). A reliable long-term financial forecast is an important part of ensuring that adequate resources are available to meet future financial obligations. It also assists us in meeting the Board of County Commissioners' strategic goal to "Maintain a Healthy Financial Condition" and achieving long-term financial targets.

Beginning in FY 2026, the Finance Department prepared five-year financial forecasts to ensure the County can achieve long-term performance target levels that will be included in future-year County's BSCs and department level scorecards while maintaining a healthy and sustainable financial position.

The County has budgetary and financial policies that set forth basic guidance for the financial management of the County. These policies, identified in the *Operating Plan Guide* section of this document, are based upon long-standing principles of public stewardship. The forecast serves to inform decision makers of the mid-term financial implications of the decisions they are making today.

Methodology

The forecast includes five-year projections of revenues, operating expenditures, anticipated debt service for financed capital, and planned capital expenditures. It is inclusive of all action plans in the forecasted period and the impact those initiatives are projected to have on revenue, capital expenditures and ongoing operating costs.

Sound and conservative financial principles are utilized when preparing the plan. Much effort is taken to ensure that all revenue and costs associated with a project, capital addition, or program are included in the plan. This is done to ensure the plan is as complete and accurate as possible in predicting financial outcomes and to ensure that adequate resources are available to meet future obligations.

After the issuance of the County's audit report each winter, Financial Services staff begin compiling the data needed to update the forecast. Files containing historical financial information are updated to include the current year's audited data. This annual update ensures that the plan is based upon the most relevant data available.

Revenue Forecasting

The County's significant revenue sources are forecast on a line-by-line basis. They are generally projected based on historical trends and other available information. For instance, property tax revenue is dependent on historical, year-over-year changes and property revaluations. All of these factors are taken into account to forecast property tax revenue. Some revenue sources, like sales taxes, are directly linked to the overall economy. This makes them more difficult to predict on a long-term basis.

Department heads and financial staff also review internal data on programs and activities to accurately forecast fees and charges revenue over the five-year planning horizon.

Operating Expenditure Forecasting

Salaries and benefits make up approximately half of the County's budgeted expenditures each year, so forecasting them accurately is critical to producing a reliable plan. Staff begins by developing the current year personnel budget. Each department head also projects staffing needs over the five-year period and completes a staffing request for the staffing forecast. The Strategic Planning Team reviews these requests and recommends to the Board of County Commissioners which positions should be included in the final plan. All positions included in the staffing forecast are incorporated into the five-year forecast. Part-time staffing requirements and overtime are also estimated and included.

Merit raise ranges are estimated for the five-year period in consultation with the County Manager and the Human Resources Director. For the budgeted year, cost of living adjustments (COLA) are based on the annual average consumer price index percentage change for the prior calendar year. For the out-years, COLA adjustments are forecasted based on analysis of economic trends. Other benefit costs are estimated at their individual growth rates based upon information from the North Carolina Retirement System, our insurance providers, and our benefit consultants.

The current year forecast is then used to project the remaining four years of the plan using key assumptions set by the Financial Services Director, in consultation with the County Managers.

Each year, departments, management and the Board of County Commissioners develop Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) that are designed to improve performance and service levels indicated on the County's BSC. These initiatives may include operating and/or capital expenditures. Each OFI has its own five-year financial plan that indicates the operating and capital expenditures as well as any revenue or cost savings impact related to the initiative by year. Financial Services staff analyze the OFIs and incorporate the financial data contained in their plans into the five- year forecast.

The forecast for other operating expenditures is based on the current year's operating expenditures budget. The forecast takes current operating expenditures, which are not related to personnel or specific projects, and forecasts them based on an inflation factor. To ensure the accuracy of the plan, a listing of adjustments by year is maintained to adjust for known additions or deductions from the plan.



For instance, if the County has a significant expenditure in the first year that will not be in the second year of the plan, the item is removed from the plan in the second year. The forecast will not contain these costs in the second year and going forward. The financial plans for all OFIs are reviewed carefully to ensure that new operating costs or reductions in operating costs that begin after the first year of the plan are included. Also, operating expenditures and revenue related to major capital additions are manually added to the forecast in the same manner.

Capital Expenditure Forecasting

The County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a detailed plan of capital additions and replacements in the five-year period. The CIP is used to plan for the acquisition of vehicles, equipment, infrastructure, new facilities, and other capital assets valued at over $5,000 per unit.

Adequate resources must be made available for timely replacement of the County's capital assets. The forecast allows decision makers to monitor planned capital investment levels to ensure that a balance between operating needs and capital needs is maintained across the planning horizon.

More details on how the capital forecast is developed is contained in the *Capital Improvement Plan* section of this document.

FY 2027-2031 Five-Year Financial Forecasts

Revenue Forecast and Significant Assumptions

The FY 2027-2031 forecast projects General Fund operating revenue from $71,484,343 to $80,154,039 over the next five years. The property tax rate is planned to remain unchanged at $0.585 per $100 valuation for FY 2027 and increasing to $0.590 for the remaining years in this plan However, the County's next revaluation will occur during FY 2029 and will impact tax rates beginning in FY 2030. Real property values are generally estimated to grow at 3.1% over the planning period based on historical trends. The impact of expected, non-typical large development projects are included in addition to this 3.1% appreciation. Local option sales taxes are projected to increase by 2% annually in future years in anticipation of a softening inflation numbers compared to recent history. This estimate is also consistent with projections performed by the Congressional Budget Office.

Other Financing Sources Forecast

Other financing sources typically represent non-revenue items such as proceeds from loans, operating transfers to the General Fund from other funds or lease liabilities issued. There are two primary sources of General Fund Revenue falling into this category over the five-year planning horizon. The first is an annual deposit of funds from the $0.04 School/Forsyth Tech Fund that has historically been sent from the General Fund to Stokes County Schools to address operation expenses at the Poplar Springs school. The second is lease liabilities issued as a result of new or renewed leases for vehicles and other equipment.

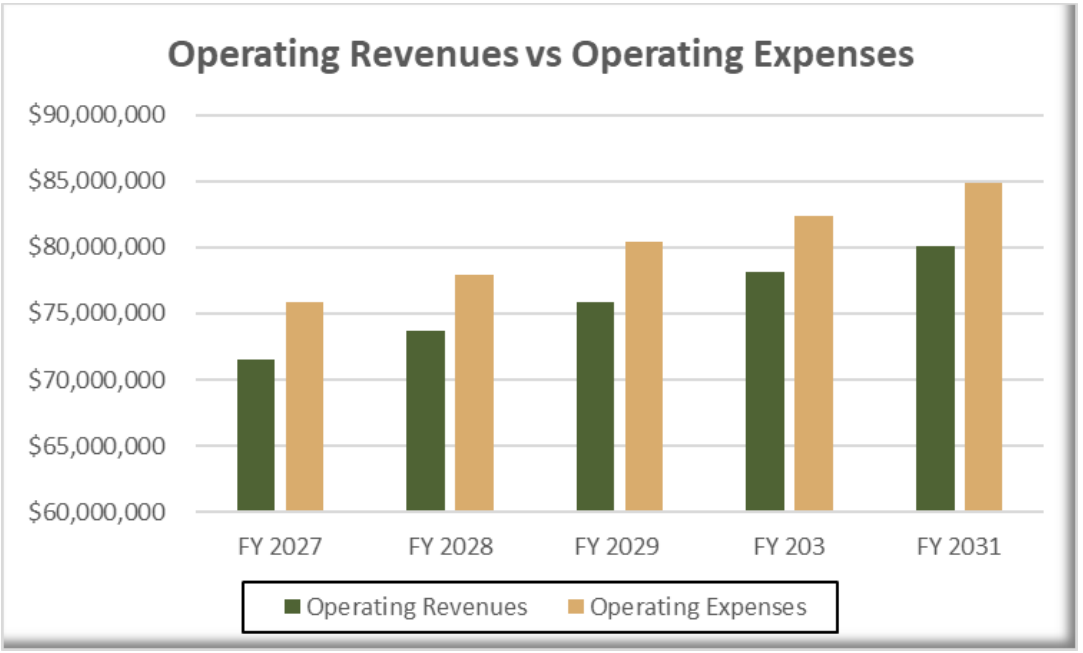
Operating Expenditure Forecast and Significant Assumptions

Salaries and benefits are forecast to increase by approximately 4.5% per year on average across the planning period plus the impact of staffing changes. Merit pay raises of 2.0% and cost of living adjustments of 2.7% in FY 2026, and 2.0% in FYs 2028-2031 account for the majority of this increase. Increased required retirement contribution and projected continued increases in health insurance premiums are also contributing factors. There are twelve planned changes to paid staff in this five-year plan:

OFI #	Title/Description	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
25-S6	Animal Shelter Custodian (part time)	$20K	→	→	→	→
25-S9	Planner I (Planning & Zoning)	$69K	→	→	→	→
26-S3	IT Security & Helpdesk Specialist	$69K	→	→	→	→
26-S4	Emergency Telecommunicator x 2 (Emergency Communications)					$127K
26-S5	Training/Quality Assurance Officer (Emergency Communications)	$66K	→	→	→	→
26-S6	Social Worker III (Foster Care) x 2 (DSS)	$70K	→	→	→	→
26-S7	Social Worker III (Investigative Assessments & Treatment) x2 (DSS)				$75K	→
26-S8	Quality Assurance Specialist x 2 (DSS)			$68K	→	→
26-S9	Community Support Supervisor (DSS)		$31K	→	→	→
26-S10	Reclassify Community Social Services Assistants x 4 (DSS)	$19K	→	→	→	→
26-S11	Sewer & Water Office Assistant (Public Works) 50% funded by SCWSA	$9K	→	→	→	→
26-S12	Parks and Recreation Coordinator (79% County Funded)	$51K	→	→	→	→

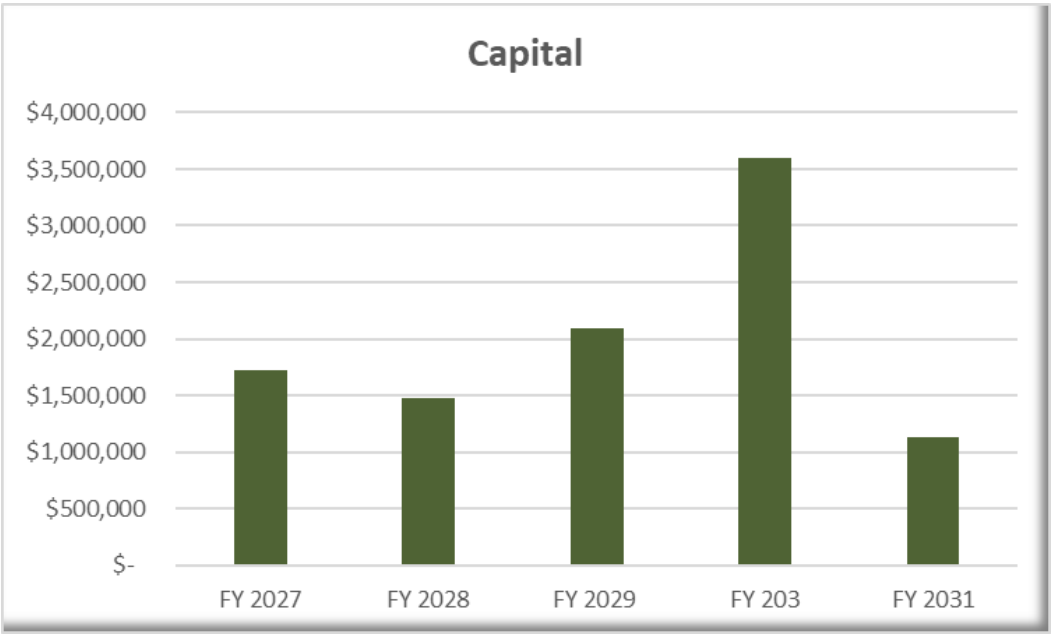
Based on economists' predictions of inflation, other operating expenditures are based on a 2.0% projected inflation rate during FY 2028 – FY 2031. We believe these are reasonable and conservative estimates. Some operating expenditures are more volatile than others, and the plan must account for the possibility that actual costs could be slightly higher than the baseline consumer price index.

Debt service expenditures are projected using known amortization schedule payments for existing debts and estimated interest rates if new debt is projected to be issued in the five-year period. The County's debt service requirement grew significantly in FY 2026 due to the mandated courthouse expansion project. Even with this new debt, the County's overall debt service requirement is quite low: 2.93% of budgeted expenditures for FY 2027.



Capital Forecast

The forecast incorporates capital investments with an estimated cost of $12,798,000 over the next five years. These capital investments represent 1.30% - 4.17% of total expenditures across the plan. Details on planned capital investments are provided in the *Capital Improvement Plan* section of this document.



Other Financing Uses Forecast

Other financing uses represent transfers out of the General Fund to other funds. The forecast includes total annual transfers of $500,663 from the General Fund to the $0.04 School/Forsyth Tech Fund to support long-term school capital project requirements.

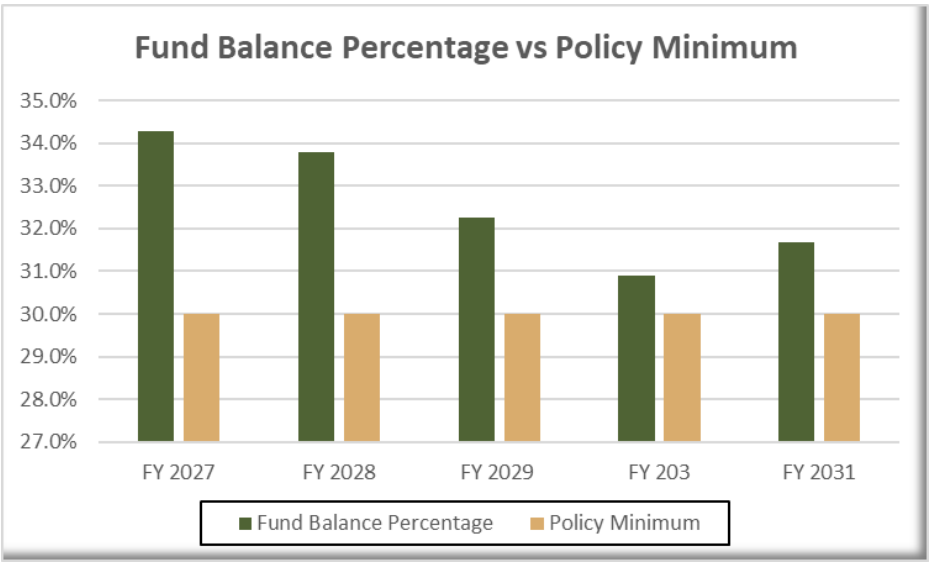
Forecast Summary

Table 1, at the end of this section, summarizes the key information of the five-year financial forecast for the Stokes County General Fund. Management relies heavily on this data to make decisions on which programs, initiatives, and capital can be afforded within available revenues.

Two key financial management concepts guide management in these decisions. The first is projected, end-of-year fund balance ratio. The Board of County Commissioners has adopted a Fund Balance Policy that requires management to develop budgets that maintain projected, end of year, total fund balance of at least 30% of budgeted expenditures. Details on this policy are provided in the *Budget and Operating Plan Guide* section of this document. In the current plan, fund balance levels begin at 34.3% in FY 2027, decrease to approximately 30.9% in FY 2030, then rebound slightly to 31.7% in FY 2031. These ratios in all years comply with the Board's adopted minimum and positions the County well for the future. A tax rate increase to $0.59 is built into this five-year plan starting in FY 2028 to allow for fund balance percentages to stay above the policy minimum.

The second concept is that the County does not wish to be too heavily leveraged. The Board of County Commissioners adopted policy is to keep debt service below 10% of budgeted expenditures. This plan projects debt service levels ranging from 1.98% to 2.93% over the five-year period.

In future years, operating margin will be added as a third key concept uses in analyzing the appropriateness of the five-year plan. This measure is a ratio of operating expenses to operating revenues that is corrected for school operating expenses. The intent of this metric will be to ensure that the plan accommodates capacity for adequate investment in capital requirements.



Historically, operating revenues come in at 101% of budget, while operating expenditures typically fall 9% below budget. This concept, known as the Budget to Actual Variance, is incorporated in each year of the forecast to more accurately predict ending fund balance.

Overall, management believes that the five-year financial plan provides a clear path forward for the County to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in the FY 2027 Stokes County Operating Plan. The forecast was developed based on sound financial management principles and will guide the County well throughout the planning period.



Table 1 - Five-Year Financial Forecast FY 2027-2031

	Actual	Budget	Proposed	Forecast			
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Population	**46,353**	**45,659**	**45,825**	**45,992**	**46,160**	**46,328**	**46,699**
Property Tax Rate	0.670	0.585	0.585	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.590
Operating Revenues							
Property Tax Revenue	$34,489,458	$38,653,505	$40,064,874	$41,996,382	$43,653,241	$45,492,251	$46,941,315
Intergovernmental Revenues - (Restricted & Unrestricted)	14,660,918	10,738,006	10,961,972	11,096,488	11,281,124	11,469,453	11,661,548
Permits & Fees	776,511	598,004	807,953	807,953	807,953	807,953	807,953
Sales & Services	4,932,266	5,421,651	5,836,022	5,836,022	5,858,872	5,879,222	5,879,222
Other Operating Revenues	496,467	1,115,419	1,147,899	1,179,065	1,211,191	1,244,308	1,278,445
Interest Income	1,450,510	989,840	945,368	850,542	837,023	813,111	810,504
Other Taxes & Licenses	11,646,538	10,461,500	11,720,254	11,946,880	12,178,037	12,413,818	12,654,314
Operating Revenues	68,452,668	67,977,925	71,484,343	73,713,331	75,827,441	78,120,114	80,033,300
Other Financing Sources (OFS)	7,860,966	116,158	170,481	340,850	712,267	1,731,733	430,998
Total GF Revenues & OFS	76,313,634	68,094,082	71,654,824	74,054,181	76,539,708	79,851,847	$80,464,298
Operating Expenditures							
Personnel in FTEs	362.0	386.0	392.0	393.0	395.0	397.0	399.0
Salaries and Benefits	$ 26,300,517	$ 32,350,892	$ 34,396,791	$ 35,787,140	$ 37,343,630	$ 38,913,133	$ 40,641,682
Operating	24,950,710	21,321,145	22,045,207	22,844,438	23,239,516	23,456,033	23,929,330
Stokes County Public Schools	15,638,669	16,327,445	16,768,286	17,103,652	17,445,725	17,794,639	18,150,532
Debt Service	6,212,638	3,038,077	2,286,681	1,842,968	2,037,562	1,753,051	1,715,144
Contingency	-	350,000	375,000	382,500	390,150	397,953	405,912
Operating Expenditures	73,102,534	73,387,560	75,871,965	77,960,697	80,456,582	82,314,809	84,842,601
Other Financing Uses (OFU)	2,893,177	500,663	411,820	411,820	411,820	411,820	411,820
Capital Expenditures		2,035,550	1,724,718	1,476,000	2,091,000	3,602,500	1,127,750
Total GF Expenditures & OFU	75,995,711	75,923,773	78,008,503	79,848,517	82,959,402	86,329,129	86,382,171
Revenues Over (Under) Exp	$ 317,923	$ (7,829,690)	$ (6,353,679)	$ (5,794,337)	$ (6,419,695)	$ (6,477,282)	$ (5,917,873)

Capital As a Percent of Total Expenditures:

	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Total Expenditures		$ 75,923,773	$ 78,008,503	$ 79,848,517	$ 82,959,402	$ 86,329,129	$ 86,382,171
Total Capital Expenditures		$ 2,035,550	$ 1,724,718	$ 1,476,000	$ 2,091,000	$ 3,602,500	$ 1,127,750
% of Total Expenditures		2.68%	2.21%	1.85%	2.52%	4.17%	1.31%

Projected Impact on Fund Balance in the General Fund:

	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Beginning Fund Balance	$25,804,697	$25,642,311	$27,306,329	$26,747,273	$26,966,912	$26,757,975	$26,675,119
Budgeted Revenues Over (Under) Exp	317,923	(7,829,690)	(6,353,679)	(5,794,337)	(6,419,695)	(6,477,282)	(5,917,873)
Budget to Actual Variance [1]	(480,310)	6,993,710	5,794,623	6,013,975	6,210,757	6,394,426	6,611,724
Projected Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(162,387)	(835,981)	(559,056)	219,639	(208,937)	(82,856)	693,851
Projected Ending GF Bal	$ 25,642,311	$ 27,306,329	$ 26,747,273	$ 26,966,912	$ 26,757,975	$ 26,675,119	$ 27,368,970
% of Total Budget	**33.7%**	**36.0%**	**34.3%**	**33.8%**	**32.3%**	**30.9%**	**31.7%**

[1] *Assumes actual operating revenues of 101% of budget and actual operating and salary expenditures of 91% of budget*

Revenue per Penny of Property Tax Rate	517,176.80	663,319.18	687,782.17	715,274.44	743,854.23	775,580.18	800,559.72
Tax Rate Needed to Balance Forecast		1.26	0.81	(0.31)	0.28	0.11	(0.87)
Operating Revenues	$ 76,313,634	$ 68,094,082	$ 71,654,824	$ 74,054,181	$ 76,539,708	$ 79,851,847	$ 80,464,298
Operating Expenditures	75,995,711	75,923,773	78,008,503	79,848,517	82,959,402	86,329,129	86,382,171
Operating Margin	97%	90%	89%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Debt Service as % of total exp	8.17%	4.00%	2.93%	2.31%	2.46%	2.03%	1.99%
Policy Minimum for FB graph	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%


STOKES COUNTY
1789



Capital Improvement Plan

FY 2027-2031

The Stokes County five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is an integral part of the County's Operational Planning Process, which is described in detail in the *Operational Priorities Development* section of this document. The CIP process is used to plan for budgeting and financing of routine replacement of vehicles and equipment, significant infrastructure improvements, new facility construction, and other capital asset additions valued at greater than $5,000 per unit. The County uses this process to ensure that high-dollar, long-lived projects are aligned with the County's strategic direction and that capital investments are financially sustainable. The CIP is developed in conjunction with the County's Five-Year Financial Forecast outlined in the previous section.

The FY 2027-2031 CIP represents a $27.4 million total plan to address various Board of Commissioners' strategic objectives spread across multiple strategic goals. Capital expenditures are driven by the types and levels of services provided to customers and the target performance levels established by the Board of Commissioners as well as the need to properly maintain County assets and replace existing capital assets in a financially responsible manner.

This CIP was developed under the assumption that the County will fund those items that are able to be included under the proposed, General Fund tax rate of $0.585 per $100 valuation and projected tax rates shown in the five-year financial forecast.

The Board of Commissioners updates the CIP annually as part of the Stokes County Operating Plan to ensure it is reflective of the Board's current priorities. In addition, it is expanded annually to add a year of programming to replace the year previously completed.

Adoption of the CIP by the Board of Commissioners does not constitute a commitment to fund a particular item. Rather, it signifies the Board's intention to fund capital expenditures at the indicated level during the five-year planning horizon. The capital investment shown in FY 2027 of the CIP, however, does represent the amount of capital spending appropriated in the FY 2027 Budget.

Capital Improvement Program

Overview

The FY 2027-2031 CIP includes capital investments with a total estimated cost of $27,423,000 over the next five years. $12,798,000 of that total comes from the County's General Fund. These costs are divided into four major areas – Capital Projects, Fleet, Building Component Replacement, and Other Capital Additions. The following table indicates the breakdown of capital investments by area:

Capital Cost by Major Area: General Fund		
Major Area	**Total Cost**	**Percentage**
Capital Projects	$ 5,152,500	40%
Fleet	$ 2,876,000	22%
Building Component Replacement	$ 2,330,000	18%
Other Capital Additions	$ 2,440,000	19%

$14,625,000 of the total is to be funded by the Schools/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) cent fund and are planned for installment financing for a new elementary school to be constructed beginning in FY 2029.

Capital Projects

Specific criteria are used to determine whether a capital request is classified as a capital project. The criteria are: (1) the total cost is estimated to exceed $100,000, (2) substantial activity must occur over more than one fiscal year, and (3) the attributes of the project such as type, location, size, etc. must be specifically identified. Capital projects are typically for major facilities and may require the use of a separate capital project fund.

The County has four capital projects planned in the FY 2027-2031 CIP. One of those, a new elementary school, will be paid for using resources from the School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Fund. That project is projected to commence in FY 2029 at a cost of $50 million. In FY 2026, the County completed re-design of the new Animal Shelter. Renovation of this building will occur in FY 2027, with expected completion in FY 2028. In FY 2029, Stokes County plans a construction or renovation project to accommodate relocation of staff who will be impacted by planned demolition or sale of the old County courthouse and old Danbury school and expanded facilities for Social Services. In FY 2030, the County plans to construct a new Emergency Communications (911) facility and intends to resource this project using a combination of North Carolina State E911 funds and grant funding.



Fleet

In 2019, the County switched to a leased vehicle fleet management program for the majority of its passenger vehicle sized fleet. Larger vehicles remain County owned and replacement of these vehicles is planned for in the five-year CIP. Existing assets are considered for replacement on a life cycle replacement schedule. However, if the equipment is in good working condition at the end of its assumed life-cycle replacement is delayed, and available funds are diverted to other needs. The fleet and large equipment inventory can be expanded only if a new initiative is approved that is deemed to support the County's operating plan.

Building Component Replacement

The purchase, replacement, and maintenance of major components of County buildings are categorized as building component replacement. Examples include roofs, HVAC systems, boilers, chillers and elevators. During FY 2021 the County conducted a facilities study which helps to guide this replacement plan.

Other Capital Additions

The purchase, replacement, and maintenance of all other infrastructure and fixed assets are other capital additions. Examples include land, pedestrian facilities, and park development.

Funding Sources

Funding for capital expenditures may be obtained from the following sources:

- General Fund Cash – this is provided by appropriated revenues or fund balance and will generally be used for routine and lower-cost capital requirements.
- School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Fund Cash – this is provided by a combination of appropriated revenues other governmental revenues and will generally be used for school construction capital requirements.
- Installment Financing – this is provided by a banking institution and typically is collateralized by the asset being purchased. It is a contractual obligation specifying payment terms, including principal and interest to be paid over a period of time, generally 5 to 15 years, that does not exceed the expected life of the asset. Most installment financing agreements are amortized as fixed principal plus interest.
- Grant Funding – this refers to the County submitting a grant application and being awarded funds from an external organization, typically a state or federal government agency, for a specific purpose.
- General Obligation Bond – this funding source requires voter approval and may be used to finance major capital projects with an expected life of 30 to 40 years, or more.



The table below shows a summary of the revenues and funding sources for FY 2027-2031 projected capital investments impacting the General Fund:

CIP Funding Source Summary: General Fund	
Funding Source	Cost of Capital
General Fund Cash	$ 11,493,500
Installment Financing	$ 1,305,000
Total:	$ 12,798,500

Impact on General Fund

The table below illustrates the total General Fund impact of the CIP over the five-year plan.

General Fund Impact of CIP					
	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Capital Projects	$ -	$ -	$ 225,000	$ 4,717,500	$ 210,000
Fleet	$ 519,000	$ 833,000	$ 315,000	$ 789,000	$ 420,000
Building Component Replacement	$ 362,000	$ 423,000	$ 550,000	$ 790,000	$ 205,000
Other Capital Additions	$ 630,000	$ -	$ 210,000	$ 1,400,000	$ 200,000
Total Annual Cost of Capital	$ 1,511,000	$ 1,256,000	$ 1,300,000	$ 7,696,500	$ 1,035,000
$0.01 of the Tax Rate	$ 687,782	$ 715,274	$ 743,854	$ 775,580	$ 800,560
Tax Rate Equivalent of CIP (Pennies)	$ 0.02	$ 0.02	$ 0.02	$ 0.10	$ 0.01

Summary

In summary, the FY 2027-2031 CIP represents a $12.8 million General Fund investment in capital for fleet, building component replacements, and other capital additions and includes four capital projects in the five- year planning period.



The table below shows a summary of the revenues and funding sources for FY 2027-2031 projected capital investments impacting the School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Fund:

CIP Funding Sourcr Summary: School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Fund	
Funding Source	Cost of Capital
General Fund Cash	-
Installment Financing	$ 14,625,000
Total:	$ 14,625,000

Impact on School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Fund

The table below illustrates the total 4 cent Fund impact of the CIP over the five-year plan.

School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Fund Impact of CIP					
	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Capital Projects	$ -	$ -	$ 5,000,000	$ 4,875,000	$ 4,750,000
Fleet	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Building Component Replacement	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Other Capital Additions	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Annual Cost of Capital	$ -	$ -	$ 5,000,000	$ 4,875,000	$ 4,750,000
$0.01 of the Tax Rate	$ 687,782	$ 715,274	$ 743,854	$ 775,580	$ 800,560
Tax Rate Equivalent of CIP (Pennines)	$ -	$ -	$ 0.07	$ 0.06	$ 0.06

Capital Projects

This section contains detail on the capital projects included in the FY 2027-2031 CIP. Specific criteria are used to determine whether a capital request is classified as a capital project. The criteria are: (1) the total cost is estimated to exceed $100,000, (2) substantial activity must occur over more than one fiscal year, and (3) the attributes of the project such as type, location, size, etc. must be specifically identified. Capital projects are typically for major facilities and may require the use of a separate capital project fund.

New Animal Shelter – This capital project will renovate the old jail facility in the Meadows area to become home to the new Stokes County Animal Shelter.

Add 3rd Floor to DSS building or build new structure – This capital project will correct over-crowding of Department of Social Services Staff and accommodate staff from other departments and agencies that would be displaced by planned demolition or sale of the old County courthouse and old Danbury school. Those two facilities are no longer economically maintainable.

New Emergency Communications Facility – This capital project will construct a new Emergency Communications Facility to house the County's Emergency Communications (911) staff. Funding for this project is anticipated to come from a combination of North Carolina E911 funds and grant funding.

New Elementary School – This capital project will construct a yet-to-be specified elementary school that is intended to replace one or more existing facilities while facilitating consolidation. Consolidation is needed to improve educational performance and to reduce costs. Funding for this project will be provided by a combination of either installment funding or bond issuance and grant funding, with debt financing paid using the School/Forsyth Tech (4 cent) Fund.

Project Summaries:

New Animal Shelter

Function	Public Safety
Strategic Goal	Safeguard the County
Strategic Objective	Deliver effective animal control services

Project Description/ Justification

This project includes design and renovation of the old Meadows jail facility to become the new Stokes County Animal Shelter. The project is based on longstanding capacity challenges at the existing shelter as well as building layout and design challenges that complicate animal shelter operations. Initial design work was conducted in FY 2025 with renovation work scheduled for FY 2026 and FY 2027. During FY 2025, $1,900,000 was moved from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for this project. Construction bids received during FY 2026 exceeded the budgeted resources significantly. As a result, the design was updated to reduce overall project cost and an additional $951,050 was moved to the Capital Projects Fund. Project construction is now slated continue into FYs 2027 and 2028. Since this project was fully funded in the updated FY 2026 budget, remaining required funding will be rolled forward to FYs 2027 and 2028 as needed after 2027 budget adoption. As such, it has no financial impact on the initial FY 2027 budget or the five-year CIP.



Facilities for DSS, Soil & Water, Senior Services, NC Cooperative Extension and Forestry Service

Function Various

Strategic Goal Various

Strategic Objective Various

Project Description/ Justification

This project is a placeholder to ensure financial capacity to address future facilities shortfalls that will include three Stokes County Departments and two partner agencies for which Stokes County provides office space. Two of Stokes County's oldest facilities, the old courthouse and the old Danbury school, have reached the end of their service lives and are no longer economically maintainable. Staff and agencies within these two facilities include Senior Services, Soil & Water, NC Cooperative Extension and NC Forestry Services. Meanwhile, Department of Social Services staff are overcrowded in their main building and inefficiently spread to other, small, satellite facilities. To the extent that this project is for DSS requirements, we expect to be able to take advantage of matching funds from the State of North Carolina, thereby cutting the cost of the project by up to 50 percent. Anticipated cost to Stokes County for this project is $1.5 million. This project is scheduled to begin in FY 2029 and may take until FY 2030 to complete.

	Fiscal Year Ending					
	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Cash						$ -
Installment Financing			$ 225,000	$ 217,500	$ 210,000	$ 652,500
Total Appropriation			$ 225,000	$ 217,500	$ 210,000	$ 652,500



New Emergency Communications Facility

Function	Public Safety
Strategic Goal	Safeguard the County
Strategic Objective	Deliver effective emergency communications services

Project Description/ Justification

This project includes design and construction of a new emergency communications facility. Currently, emergency communications services are provided from space in the basement of the County courthouse. A new, stand-alone facility will be constructed at a location yet to be determined. It is anticipated that the project will cost approximately $4.5 million with construction commencing in FY 2030. This project is contingent on receipt of adequate North Carolina E911 funding and/or grant funding to cover the total cost of the project.

	Fiscal Year Ending					
	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Cash				$ 4,500,000		$ 4,500,000
Installment Financing						
Total Appropriation			$ -	$ 4,500,000	$ -	$ 4,500,000



Example of a 911 communications facility

New, Replacement Elementary School

Function	Stokes County Public Schools
Strategic Goal	Promote Education and Workforce Skills Development
Strategic Objective	Effectively Resource K-12 Education

Project Description/ Justification

This project is a design and construct a replacement for one or more aging elementary schools. Stokes County's current portfolio of elementary schools exhibit two problems that need to be addressed. First, some of them are quite old, and are reaching the point where it is no longer cost effective to maintain them. Second, loss of student population over a period of several decades has created a situation where several of these aging schools are underutilized, thereby creating inefficiencies regarding administrative staffing, additional teachers, and annual operations and maintenance requirements. Each year, Stokes County levies a separate, four cent property tax intended to pay for debt service on our public schools. With some existing school debts scheduled to be paid off by FY 2029, we project this funds capacity to start paying debt on a new elementary school facility in that same year. The Stokes County School Board will identify the location of this new school and specify for the Board of County Commissioners what consolidation this new school will achieve.

	Fiscal Year Ending					
	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Cash						
Installment Financing			$ 5,000,000	$ 4,875,000	$ 4,750,000	
Total Appropriation			$ 5,000,000	$ 4,875,000	$ 4,750,000	$ 14,625,000

It is anticipated that design work will commence for this project in FY 2028, as well as application for the financing required for the project. Once financing is secured, the County, in coordination with Stokes County Schools, can put this project out for construction bid. Upon receipt of cash from the chosen financial institution, the County can enter into a construction contract. Initial debt service payments are anticipated to occur in FY 2029 and the project is expected to take two years to complete.

Fleet Purchase Plan

This section contains details on the purchase of new or replacement vehicles and wheeled equipment. Vehicles and equipment are primarily evaluated for replacement based on a life cycle replacement schedule.

					CIP				
	Description	Year	Life	Mileage	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
EMS									
	2015 CHEVY 2500 TRUCK	2015	15	103,506		$ 80,000.00			
	2017 HORTON MODEL #607 F-450	2017	8	335,130	$316,000.00				
	2019 F550 AMBULANCE	2019	8	307,345	$200,000.00				
	2019 F550 AMBULANCE	2019	8	247,692			$240,000.00		
	2019 FORD AMBULANCE	2019	8	244,991				$360,000.00	
	2019 FORD 550 4X4 AMBULANCE	2019	8	280,989		$330,000.00			
	2022 FORD TYPE 1 AEV AMBULANCE	2022	8	199,892					$380,000.00
FORSYTH TECH									
	2008 NISSAN TRUCK	2008	10	213,712			$ 30,000.00		
Information Technology									
	2007 FORD MP EDGE	2007	15	174,774					$ 30,000.00
Public Buildings									
	2007 FORD RANGER	2007	15	371,231			$ 25,000.00		
Solid Waste									
	2016 MACK MRU613 GARBAGE TRUCK	2016	12	243,065		$415,000.00			
	2020 PETERBILT ROLLOFF TRUCK	2020	15	186,368				$415,000.00	
	Total Fleet Purchase Plan				**$516,000.00**	**$825,000.00**	**$295,000.00**	**$775,000.00**	**$410,000.00**



Fleet Lease Plan

The majority of Stokes County's vehicles are leased through Enterprise Fleet Management with an initial term of five years. After five years, leases may be extended by Stokes County on a yearly basis and a significantly reduced monthly cost. The costs in this table represent the total cost of the vehicles which Stokes County expects to replace in the next five years under new lease agreements including upfront costs that will be paid in cash, such as taxes, tags, title fees, and half of the aftermarket upfit.

				CIP				
	Description	Year	Life	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
Sheriff								
	Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LD	2019	5			$ 47,000.00		
	GMC Acadia	2019	5			$ 33,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2020	5		$ 57,000.00			
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2020	5			$ 59,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2020	5					$ 62,550.00
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2020	5		$ 57,000.00			
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5	$ 54,000.00				
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5				$ 60,000.00	
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5			$ 59,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5			$ 59,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5		$ 57,000.00			
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5		$ 57,000.00			
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5					$ 62,550.00
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5				$ 60,000.00	
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5					$ 62,550.00
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2021	5			$ 59,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5			$ 59,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5				$ 60,000.00	
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5				$ 60,000.00	
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5					$ 62,550.00
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5			$ 59,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5				$ 60,000.00	
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5			$ 59,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5			$ 59,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5			$ 59,000.00		
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5				$ 60,000.00	
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5					$ 62,550.00
	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	2023	5				$ 60,000.00	
	Total Fleet Lease Plan			**$ 54,000.00**	**$ 228,000.00**	**$ 611,000.00**	**$ 420,000.00**	**$ 312,750.00**

The Fleet Lease Plan contains vehicle costs, which encompass upfront expenditures paid in cash such as taxes, tags and title fees. Since these expenditures are paid at the outset, they are not part of the lease financing but instead represent a direct cash payment. The table below starts with the cost of the Fleet Lease Plan and subtracts the portion financed through leasing (other financing source). This difference represents the cash payment for the upfront costs. To this cash payment, the total cost from the Fleet Purchase Plan is added, resulting in the total Fleet capital paid in cash for each year in the CIP.

	CIP				
	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Total Fleet Lease Plan	$ 54,000	$ 228,000	$ 611,000	$ 420,000	$ 312,750
Less Lease Liabilities Issued	$ 51,000	$ 220,000	$ 591,000	$ 406,000	$ 302,750
Lease Upfront Costs Paid with Cash	$ 3,000	$ 8,000	$ 20,000	$ 14,000	$ 10,000
Plus Total Fleet Purchase Plan	$ 516,000	$ 825,000	$ 295,000	$ 775,000	$ 410,000
Total Fleet Cost	**$ 519,000**	**$ 833,000**	**$ 315,000**	**$ 789,000**	**$ 420,000**

Building Component Replacement Plan

This section contains details on the replacement of building components that have exceeded their useful life. These assets are primarily evaluated for replacement based on life cycle replacement schedules.

Description	Expected Life	Yr built/ replaced	CIP 2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
1012 N. Main St. Government Center		1982					
AHU 1	30	1982				$ 45,000	
AHU 2	30	1982					$ 45,000
Chiller 1	30	1982			$ 250,000		
1013 N. Main St., Stokes County Jail		1982/2018					
AHU 1	30	1982	$ 45,000				
AHU 2	30	1982		$ 45,000			
AHU 3	30	1982			$ 45,000		
AHU 4	30	1982				$ 45,000	
Roof 1	30	1982		$ 100,000			
Plumbing				$ 225,000	$ 225,000	450,000	
Grease Handling System			$ 245,000				
1014 N. Main St., Stokes Co. Admin Bldg.		2000					
Chiller 1	30	2000				$ 250,000	
104 Hartgrove Rd., Jameson Building (King Health)		2009					
HVAC 1	25	2009					$ 20,000
Roof 1	25	1985	$ 30,000				
1111 Hospice Dr., Sheriff's POD	30	2000					
HVAC 2	25	2000	$ 20,000				
1007 N. Main St., Danbury Public Library		1990					
HVAC 1	25	1990	$ 22,000				
HVAC 2	25	1990		$ 23,000			
304 N. Main St., Old Garage (records storage)		1980					
Renovation							$100,000
1165 Dodgetown Rd., Early College POD A		2009					
Flooring							$ 40,000
1020 Hospice Dr., Stokes YMCA							
HVAC 1	25			$ 15,000			
HVAC 2	25			$ 15,000			
HVAC 3	25				$ 15,000		
HVAC 4	25				$ 15,000		
Total			$ 362,000	$ 423,000	$ 550,000	$ 790,000	$205,000



Other Capital Additions Purchase Plan

This section contains details on the purchase, replacement, and maintenance of all other infrastructure and fixed assets are other capital additions. Examples include land, pedestrian facilities, and park development. Other capital additions are made on an as-needed basis.

Description	CIP				
	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Solid Waste					
Mountainview Greenbox Site Addition	530,000	-	-	-	-
Emergency Medical Services					
Ventilator Replacements	-	-	210,000	-	-
Lucas CPR Device Preplacements	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
Health					
Remodel King Health Facility	100,000	-	-	-	-
Emergency Communications Consoles - Replace				1,200,000	
Total:	**$ 630,000**	**$ -**	**$ 210,000**	**$ 1,400,000**	**$ 200,000**


STOKES COUNTY
1789



COUNTY OF STOKES
Budget Ordinance
Fiscal Year 2027

BE IT ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED by the Stokes Board of County Commissioner's of Danbury, North Carolina, in the Regular Meeting assembled this 8th day of June 2026 as follows:

SECTION 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation of Stokes County Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

EXPENDITURES:

Administration	$	659,783
Animal Control	$	1,032,980
Arts Council	$	240,999
Contingency	$	375,000
Cooperative Extension	$	344,384
Debt Service	$	2,286,681
District Resource Center	$	266,269
Economic Development	$	210,316
Elections	$	343,769
Emergency Communications	$	1,817,044
Emergency Management	$	184,551
Emergency Medical Services	$	7,605,647
Environmental Health	$	693,514
Finance	$	1,125,395
Fire Marshal	$	492,672
Forsyth Tech	$	440,860
Governing Body	$	346,433
Health Department	$	1,654,408

Human Resources	$	582,754
Information Systems	$	794,610
Insurance	$	1,789,720
Jail	$	3,535,734
Libraries	$	639,541
Mapping/GIS	$	359,778
Medical Examiner	$	27,000
Natural Resources	$	220,740
Parks & Recreation	$	247,040
Planning	$	967,163
Public Buildings	$	3,311,030
Purchasing	$	162,842
Register of Deeds	$	420,084
Revaluation	$	256,513
Senior Services	$	931,707
Sheriff's Department	$	7,994,388
Social Services	$	12,361,138
Solid Waste	$	2,013,986
Special Appropriation	$	811,539
Superior Court	$	162,580
Tax Administration	$	1,175,161
Transfer to Tourism & Development Authority	$	125,000
Vehicle Maintenance	$	294,924
Veteran Services	$	87,113
Transfer to Dedicated Debt Service	$	411,820
School Budget	$	16,768,286
Title XIX	$	1,056,787
Mental Health MOE	$	378,820
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$**	**78,008,503**

SECTION 2. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Ad Valorem Taxes	$	40,064,874
Other Taxes & Licenses	$	11,720,254
Unrestricted Intergovernmental Revenues	$	1,255,000
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	$	9,706,972
Permits and Fees	$	807,954
Sales and Services	$	5,836,022
Investments Income	$	945,368
Other General Revenues	$	1,147,899
Transfers & OFUs	$	170,481
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	6,353,679
TOTAL	**$**	**78,008,503**

SECTION 3. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of fifty-eight and a half cents ($0.585) per one hundred dollars ($100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027, for the purpose of raising revenue in the General Fund in Section 2 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a total valuation of property for the purposes of taxation of $6,877,821,716 and an estimated collection rate of 98.02% for real and personal property and 100.0% for motor vehicles.

SECTION 4. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the School Capital Outlay / Capital Reserve Fund to the Board of Education's Capital Outlay account for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

School Capital Outlay	$	3,000,000
Transfer to Dedicated Debt Service	$	500,000
TOTAL	**$**	**3,500,000**

SECTION 5. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the School Capital Outlay / Capital Reserve Fund to the Board of Education's Capital Outlay account for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Fund Balance Appropriated	$	500,000
BOE 1/2 cent Sales Tax-Article 40	$	1,400,000
BOE 1/2 cent Sales Tax-Article 42	$	1,600,000
TOTAL	**$**	**3,500,000**

SECTION 6. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Regional Sewer Fund for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Sewer Fees	$	194,262
TOTAL	**$**	**194,262**

SECTION 7. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Regional Sewer Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Salaries & Wages	$	52,689
On Call Pay	$	800
Social Security	$	3,267
Medicare Tax	$	764
Retirement	$	7,978
401K	$	527
Group Insurance	$	10,142
Dental Insurance	$	443
Unemployment Insurance	$	500
Term Life Insurance	$	52
Auto Fuel	$	2,100
Departmental Supplies	$	7,000
Telephone	$	1,000
Utilities	$	13,000
Maint. & Repairs Equipment	$	25,000
Maint. & Repairs Auto	$	500
Miscellaneous Contractual Services	$	66,000
Miscellaneous Expense	$	500
Dues & Subscriptions	$	1,500
Travel	$	500
TOTAL	**$**	**194,262**

SECTION 8. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Dedicated Debt Fund (4¢ Fund) for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Ad Valorem Tax	$	2,438,467
State Collected MV Taxes	$	245,317
Lottery & IRS Interest Refund (QSCAB / QZAB)	$	1,248,000
Interest Income	$	104,474
Transfer from General Fund	$	411,820
Transfer from School Capital	$	500,000
TOTAL	**$**	**4,948,078**

SECTION 9. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Dedicated Debt Fund (4¢ Fund) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

School Debt and Interest Payment	$	3,571,957
Transfer to General Fund - Current School Expense	$	119,294
Future Debt Reserve	$	1,256,827
TOTAL	**$**	**4,948,078**

SECTION 10. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of four cents ($.04) per one hundred ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2026 located within the Dedicated Debt Fund for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the Dedicated Debt Fund. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of property of $6,219,310,832 for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.02%). Motor Vehicle Tax rate is based on estimated valuation of $613,293,180 and a (100%) collection rate. This fund was established to accumulate funds for debt service payments and operating expenses for Dedicated Debt Fund projects

SECTION 11. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Enhanced 911 Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

E-911 Charges	$	211,920
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	158,080
TOTAL	**$**	**370,000**

SECTION 12. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Enhanced 911 Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Telephone	$	25,000
Maint. & Repairs to Equipment	$	125,000
Training	$	10,000
Misc. Contractual Services	$	80,000
Equipment	$	125,000
Equipment Non Capitalized	$	5,000
TOTAL	**$**	**370,000**

SECTION 13. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Danbury Water Fund for the operation and activities of the fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Salaries & Wages	$	51,922
On Call Pay	$	1,200
Social Security	$	3,220
Medicare Tax	$	753
Retirement	$	7,861
401K	$	520
Group Insurance	$	11,268
Dental Insurance	$	492
Unemployment Insurance	$	497
Term Life Insurance	$	56
Telephone	$	2,000
Postage	$	700
Utilities	$	13,000
Maint. & Repairs Equipment	$	45,000
Misc. Contractual Services	$	7,000
Auto Supplies	$	1,200
Departmental Supplies	$	25,000
Miscellaneous	$	500
Employee Training	$	1,200
Dues & Subscriptions	$	5,423
Improvements	$	4,000
TOTAL	**$**	**182,812**

SECTION 14. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Danbury Water Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Water Fees	$	182,812
TOTAL	**$**	**182,812**

SECTION 15. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the City of King Fire District for the operation and activities of the District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

City of King Fire District	$	950,340
TOTAL	**$**	**950,340**

SECTION 16. It is estimated that the following revenue will be available in the City of King Fire District Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

District Fire Tax	$	678,426
State Collected MV Taxes	$	98,658
1 & 1/2 Cent Sales Tax	$	100,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	73,256
TOTAL	**$**	**950,340**

SECTION 17. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of ($.09) per one hundred ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2026 located within the City of King Fire District for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the King Fire District. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of property of $762,899,909 for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.08%). Motor Vehicle Tax is based on estimated valuation of $109,620,390 and a (100%) collection rate.

SECTION 18. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Rural Hall Fire District Fund for the operation and activities of the District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Rural Hall Fire District	$	203,079
TOTAL	**$**	**203,079**

SECTION 19. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Rural Hall Fire District Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

District Fire Tax	$	126,688
State Collected MV Taxes	$	16,810
1 & 1/2 Cent Sales Tax	$	20,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	39,581
TOTAL	**$**	**203,079**

SECTION 20. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of nine cents ($.09) per one hundred dollars ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027 located within the Rural Hall Fire District for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the Rural Hall Fire District. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of $142,387,301 of property for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.08%). Motor Vehicle Tax rate is based on an estimated valuation of $18,677,284 and a (100%) collection rate.

SECTION 21. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Walnut Cove Fire District Fund for the operation and activities of the District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Walnut Cove Fire District	$	637,955
TOTAL	**$**	**637,955**

SECTION 22. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Walnut Cove Fire District Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

District Fire Tax	$	465,920
State Collected MV Taxes	$	55,874
1 & 1/2 Cent Sales Tax	$	78,030
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	38,131
TOTAL	**$**	**637,955**

SECTION 23. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of nine cents ($.09) per one hundred dollars ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027 located within the Walnut Cove Fire District for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the Walnut Cove Fire District. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of $518,760,288 of property for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.08%). Motor Vehicle Tax rate is based on an estimated valuation of $62,082,269 and a (100%) collection rate.

SECTION 24. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Stokes County Service District Fund for the operation and activities of the District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

South Stokes	$	599,710
Danbury	$	269,250
Sauratown	$	444,973
Stokes-Rockingham	$	277,481
Northeast Stokes	$	563,510
Francisco	$	545,174
Lawsonville	$	357,216
Pinnacle	$	367,552
Westfield	$	121,622
Pilot Mountain	$	33,397
Double Creek	$	339,674
TOTAL	**$**	**3,919,559**

SECTION 25. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Stokes County Service District Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Service District Fire Tax	$	3,187,438
State Collected MV Taxes	$	314,901
1 & 1/2 Cent Sales Tax	$	293,952
Fund Balance Appropriated	$	123,268
TOTAL	**$**	**3,919,559**

SECTION 26. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of nine cents ($.09) per one hundred dollars ($100.00) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027 located within the Stokes County Service District for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the Stokes County Service District. The rate is based on an estimated valuation of $3,576,942,730 of property for the purpose of taxation and an estimated collection rate of (98.08%). Motor Vehicle Tax rate is based on an estimated valuation of $349,889,745 and a (100%) collection rate.

SECTION 27. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the DSS Client Account Fund for the activities of the DSS Client Account Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Client Expense Accounts	**$**	**145,000**

SECTION 28. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the DSS Client Accounts Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Client Revenue Accounts	**$**	**145,000**

SECTION 29. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Tourism Development Authority Fund for the activities of the Tourism Development Authority Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Professional Services	$	18,000
Department Supplies	$	2,000
Training	$	4,500
Postage	$	1,000
Printing	$	20,000
Advertising/Marketing	$	41,000
Misc. Contractual Services	$	37,500
Dues & Subscriptions	$	1,000
TOTAL	**$**	**125,000**

SECTION 30. The It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the Tourism Development Authority Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Occupancy Tax/Gross Receipts	$	125,000
TOTAL	**$**	**125,000**

SECTION 31 The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Opioid Fund for the activities of the Opioid Settlement Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Salaries & Wages	$	167,500
Salaries & Wages Overtime	$	14,110
Social Security Tax	$	13,405
Medicare Tax	$	3,135
Retirement	$	32,730
401k County Match	$	2,162
Health Insurance	$	33,804
Dental Insurance	$	1,476
Unemployment Insurance	$	978
Term Life Insurance	$	167
Professional Services	$	84,500
Auto Supplies	$	438
Departmental Supplies	$	2,700
Training	$	6,000
Telephone	$	2,300
Postage	$	175
Printing	$	1,000
Maintenance & Repairs - Autos	$	500
Advertising	$	250
Dues & Subscriptions	$	2,710
Lease Payment	$	6,600
TOTAL	**$**	**376,640**

SECTION 32. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Opioid Settlement Fund in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Opioid Settlement Funds	$	376,640
TOTAL	**$**	**376,640**

SECTION 33. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of fifty-eight and a half cents ($0.585) per one hundred dollars ($100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2027, for the purpose of raising revenue in the General Fund in Section 2 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a total valuation of property for the purposes of taxation of $6,877,821,716 and an estimated collection rate of 98.08% for real and personal property and 100.00% for motor vehicles.

SECTION 34. Board Compensation – compensation and allowance for the members of the Board of County Commissioners shall be provided in the annual budget, the details of which are shown below:

Compensation: (1) Chairman at $17,493
(1) Vice Chairman at $15,435
(3) Commissioners at $15,435

In addition, cost of living increases as adopted in the annual budget.
FY 2027 rate is set at 2.7% of base pay.

Other Benefits: County Commissioners are offered the opportunity to participate in the County's Health and Dental Insurance Plans and Life Insurance Plans.

SECTION 35. The County Manager is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations as contained herein under the following conditions:

a. The County Manager may transfer amounts between line-item expenditures within a department without limitation and without a report being required.

b. The County Manager may transfer amounts between departments, including contingency appropriations, within the same fund to change an appropriation up to $25,000 in a single budget amendment. The County Manager must make an official report on such transfers at the next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. In the event a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor or designee, unlimited budget amendment authority within the same fund is granted for expenditures directly related to the emergency. He must make an official report on any such transfers authorized under a State of Emergency at the next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

c. The County Manager may not transfer any amounts between funds, except as approved by the Board of County Commissioners in the Budget Ordinance as amended.

SECTION 36. The County Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the necessary agreements within funds included in the Budget Ordinance for the following purposes:

a. Purchase of apparatus, supplies, and materials where formal bids are not required by law;

b. Leases of normal and routine business equipment;

c. Construction or repair work where formal bids are not required by law;

d. Consultant services, professional services, contracted services, or maintenance service agreements up to the amount of $150,000. In the event a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor or designee, unlimited contracting authority is granted for services directly related to the emergency. The County Manager must report to the Board of County Commissioners any executed contracts exceeding $150,000 during the State of Emergency declaration;

e. Agreements for acceptance of State and Federal grant funds; and

f. Grant agreements with public and non-profit agencies.

SECTION 37. The Stokes County Board of Education shall furnish the Stokes County Board of Commissioners a copy of the Board of Education's approved Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and any amendments thereto. The Stokes County Board of Education shall furnish the Stokes County Board of Commissioners quarterly financial statements for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Stokes County Board of Education's annual audit shall include a compliance section for the County funding and requirements.

SECTION 38. County of Stokes will adhere to the IRS mileage rate per the County's Travel Policy.

Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the County Clerk, County Manager, and Finance Director for their direction and implementation.

THIS ORDINANCE passed and adopted this 8th day of June, 2026.

_____

Wayne Barneycastle, Chairman

[SEAL]

_____

Olivia Jessup, Clerk to the Board


STOKES COUNTY
1789



Operating Plan Glossary

A	
Accrual Basis of Accounting	Method of accounting that recognizes the financial effect of transactions, events, and interfund activity when they occur, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.
Ad Valorem tax	A tax levied in proportion to the value of a property.
Amortization	Allocation of capital investment or cost over a period of years or time corresponding to the investment's terms or useful life, or allocation of debt over the debt's term.
Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)	A complete set of financial statements presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a firm of licensed certified public accountants.
Appropriation	An authorization made by the Board of County Commissioners that permits the County to incur obligations and to make expenditures of resources.
Assessed Valuation	The value established for real or personal property for use as a basis to levy property taxes.
Audit	An independent examination of the financial statements of an organization to ensure the records are fairly and accurately represented.
B	
Balanced Budget	A balanced budget as defined by the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act is when the sum of estimated net revenues and appropriated fund balance in each fund is equal to appropriations in that fund. In North Carolina, it is required that the recommended budget be balanced.
Balanced Scorecard (BSC)	An integrated framework for describing and translating strategy using linked performance measures, known as KPIs, in four balanced perspectives: Customer, Internal, Workforce, and Financial. The balanced scorecard acts as a measuring system, strategic management system, and a communication tool.
Basis of Accounting	A term used to refer to when revenues, expenditures, expenses, and transfers–and the related assets and liabilities–are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Stokes County uses the modified accrual basis of accounting for budget preparation, as required by the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.
Benchmark	Performance data from select comparable communities for similar services that are indicative of best practices. This data is obtained from individual community performance surveys or performance reports, state performance measurement projects, or industry standards.

Bond	A written promise to pay a sum of money on a specific date at a specified interest rate. The interest payments and the repayments of the principal are detailed in a bond ordinance. The most common types of bonds are general obligation and revenue bonds. These are most frequently used for construction of large capital projects, such as buildings, streets, and bridges.
Budget	A statement in dollar terms of the County's program of service delivery for the ensuing fiscal year.
Budget Amendment	A legal procedure utilized by County staff and the Board of County Commissioners to revise a budget appropriation.
Budget Document	The instrument used by the budget-making authority to present a comprehensive financial program to the board of County Commissioners.
Budget Message	The opening section of the budget that provides the Board of County Commissioners and the public with a general summary of the most important aspects of the budget, changes from the current and previous fiscal years, and the views and recommendations of the County Manager.
Budget Ordinance	The official enactment by the Board of County Commissioners to establish legal authority for County officials to obligate and expend resources.
Budgetary Control	The control or management of a governmental unit in accordance with an approved budget for the purpose of keeping expenditures within the limitations of available appropriations and available revenues.
C	
Capital Assets	Assets of long-term character which have an initial cost greater than $5,000 per unit and are intended to continue to be held or used by the County, including land, buildings, machinery, furniture, and other equipment.
Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)	A plan for capital expenditures which provides long-lasting physical improvements to be incurred over a fixed period of five future years.
Capital Outlay	Expenditures available for the acquisition of capital assets, including the cost of land, buildings, permanent improvements, machinery, large tools, rolling and stationary equipment. These items must have a useful life of more than one year and an original cost greater than $5,000 per unit.
Capital Project Fund	A fund used to account for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities.
Cash Management	The management of cash necessary to pay for governmental services, while investing temporary cash excesses in order to earn interest revenue. Cash Management refers to the activities of forecasting cash flows, improving cash availability for investment, and establishing and maintaining banking relationships.
Category	A consolidation of expenditures to measure personnel, operations, capital, contingency, special appropriations, debt services, and transfers.
Contingency	A budgetary reserve set aside for emergencies or unforeseen expenditures not otherwise budgeted.
D	
Debt Service	The County's obligation to pay the principal and interest of all debt instruments according to a pre-determined payment schedule.
Department	An organizational unit responsible for carrying out a major governmental function.
Depreciation	The process of estimating and recording the expired useful life, or diminution of service from a capital asset that cannot or will not be restored by repair and must be replaced. The cost of the capital asset's lost usefulness is the depreciation or the cost to the reserve to replace the item at the end of its useful life.

E	
Encumbrance	The commitment of appropriated funds to purchase an item or services. To encumber funds is to set aside or commit funds for future expenditures.
Estimated Revenue	The amount of projected revenue to be collected during the fiscal year.
ETJ	The acronym used for extraterritorial jurisdiction.
Expenditure	The outflow of funds for assets that are incurred or goods and services obtained regardless of when the expense is actually paid. This term applies to all funds.
F	
Financial Forecast	A five-year projection of budgeted revenues and expenditures, including operating and capital expenditures.
Fiscal Policy	The financial plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures of a governmental unit.
Fiscal Year (FY)	The time period designating the beginning and the ending period for recording financial transactions. Stokes County's fiscal year begins July 1st and ends June 30th.
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	A measure of the total workload of all employees with 1.0 equating to one full-time employee. For example, a part-time employee that works 20 hours per week would be 0.5 FTE based on a 40 hour work week for a full-time employee.
Function	A group of related programs crossing organizational (departmental) boundaries and aimed to accomplishing a broad goal, or a major service.
Fund	An accounting entity that possesses a set of self-balancing accounts and records all financial transactions for specific activities or government functions.
Fund Balance	Fund balance is the amount of assets in excess of the liabilities or appropriations for expenditures, and is therefore also known as surplus funds.
Fund Balance Appropriated	A budgetary amount representing the fund's equity to be used to offset expenditures. Fund balance appropriated cannot exceed the sum of cash and investments less the sum of liabilities, encumbrances, and deferred revenues arising from cash receipts, as those figures stand at the close of the fiscal year preceding the budget year.
G	
Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)	Uniform minimum standards of and guidelines for financial accounting and reporting. GAAP encompasses the conventions, rules and procedures necessary to define accepted accounting practices.
GS or NCGS	The acronym used for the General Statutes adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly.
General Fund	Stokes County's largest fund, the General Fund accounts for most of the financial resources of the government. General Fund revenues include property taxes, licenses and permits, local taxes, and other revenues. This fund includes basic governmental services, such as fire and police protection, finance, public services, general administration, planning and inspections, community development, and recreation.
General Ledger	A file that contains a listing of the various accounts necessary to reflect the financial position of the government.
GFOA	The acronym used for Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.
Goal	Future conditions or performance the Village intends or desires to attain; what the County intends to accomplish.

Governmental Fund	Funds generally used to account for tax-supported activities. There are five types of governmental funds: the general fund, special revenue funds, debt service funds, capital project funds, and permanent funds.
Grant	A contribution by a government or other organization to support a particular function. Grants may be classified as either categorical or block, depending upon the amount of discretion allowed by the grantee.
I	
Inflation-Adjusted Revenue Neutral Tax Rate	The tax rate calculation developed by Village staff that recognizes the cost of doing business has increased since the last revaluation period. The rate is calculated by modifying the traditional revenue neutral tax rate by inflation that has occurred since the last revaluation date.
Initiative Action Plan (IAP)	Specific activity undertaken to achieve a performance target related to a strategic objective.
Interfund Transfers	Amounts transferred from one fund to another.
Intergovernmental Revenue	Revenue received from another government for a specified purpose.
Investment Earnings	Revenue earned on investments with a third party. The County uses a pooled cash system, investing the total amount of cash regardless of boundaries. The interest earned is then allocated back to individual funds by average cash balance in the fund.
K	
Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	A measure of a program's output, workload, efficiency, or effectiveness that is used to track operational performance.
L	
Levy	To impose taxes, special assessments, or services charged for the support of County activities.
Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (LGBFCA)	This act governs all financial activities of local governments within the State of North Carolina.
Long Term Debt	Debt with a maturity of more than one year after the date of issuance.
M	
Maturities	The dates on which the principal or stated values of investments or debt obligations become due and/or may be reclaimed.
Modified Accrual Accounting	The accounting approach under which: 1) revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they become measurable and available to pay liabilities of the current period; 2) expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which a fund liability is incurred, and unmatured principal and interest on general long-term debt is recognized when due.
N	
NC	North Carolina
NCDOT	The acronym for North Carolina Department of Transportation.
Net Budget	The total amount of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and all special Revenue funds with the exceptions of the Capital Reserve Fund.

O	
Objectives	A simply stated, readily measurable statement of aim or expected accomplishment. An objective should imply a specific standard of performance for a given program.
Operating Expenses	The portion of the budget pertaining to the daily operations that provide basic governmental services. The operating budget contains appropriations for such expenditures as supplies, utilities, materials, and travel.
Operating Fund	A fund to account for operating activities that generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods. It includes all transactions and other events that are not identified as capital and related financing, noncapital financing, or investing activities.
Operating Transfer	Routine and/or recurring transfer of assets between funds.
Opportunities for Improvement and Innovation (OFIs)	Opportunities for Improvement and Innovation identified during the strategic planning process and classified as evaluations, projects, and Initiative Action Plans (IAPs).
P	
Project Fund	A multi-year fund used to account for the revenues and expenditures of a specified project that only exists until the project is completed.
Program	An organized set of related work activities that are directed toward accomplishing a common goal. Most County departments are usually responsible for a number of related service programs.
Property Taxes	Property taxes are levied on both real and personal property according to the property's valuation and tax rate.
R	
Reclassification	Change in a position title and/or the associated pay range based on changes in the job skills required for a given position.
Reserve	A portion of fund balance earmarked to indicate what is not available for expenditure, or is legally segregated for a specific future use.
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	Grants, entitlements, and shared revenues which are recorded in the appropriate fund and classified both by source and function for which the revenues are to be spent.
Resources	Assets that can be used to fund expenditures. These can be such things as property taxes, user fees, beginning fund balance, or working capital.
Revaluation	Assignment of value to all real properties, including land, homes, and commercial buildings by the Stokes County Tax Assessor's Office. Under State law, all property must be revalued no less frequently than once every eight years. Stokes County revalues its property every four years.
Revenue	Funds which the government receives as income, including tax payments, fees from specific services, receipts from other governments, fines, grants, shared revenues, and interest income.
Revenue Neutral	Is the revenue amount achieved after a property revaluation when the new property tax rate generates the same property tax revenue as the previous year, plus normal growth.
S	
Source of Revenue	Revenues that are classified according to their source or point of origin.
Special Assessment	A compulsory levy made against certain properties to defray part or all of the cost of a specific improvement or service, which are deemed to primarily benefit those properties.

Special Revenue Fund	A fund used to account for the revenues from specific sources that are to be used for legally specified expenditures.
Strategic Goal	Future condition the County strives to attain.
Strategic Objective	A readily measurable statement of aim or expected accomplishment; how the Village will accomplish a goal.
T	
Target	The desired achievement level of a particular performance measure.
Tax Base	The assessed valuation of all taxable real and personal property within the County
U	
Unencumbered Balance	The amount of an appropriation that is neither expended nor encumbered. It is essentially the amount of money still available for expenditures.


STOKES COUNTY
1789

Board of County Commissioners
June 8, 2026

Item number: XII.a

Rationales

Drafter: Olivia Jessup

Summary:
To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)