

TENTATIVE AGENDA AND MEETING NOTICE

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5:30 PM



Watauga County Recreation Center,
Community Room

TIME	#	TOPIC	PRESENTER	PAGE
5:30	1	Call Regular Meeting to Order		
	2	Approval of Minutes - February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting - February 17, 2026, Closed Session		2
	3	Approval of the March 3, 2026, Agenda		10
5:35	4	Public Comment Limited to a maximum of one hour, with time adjusted based on the number of speakers.	Chairman Braxton Eggers	11
5:40	5	FY 2025 Audit Presentation	Ms. Cindy Randolph	12
5:45	6	Lucky Dog Vintage Market – Use of Human Services Lot	Mr. Trevor Shue	141
5:50	7	Requested Appointment of Home & Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) Advisory Community and Lead Agency	Ms. Angie Boitnotte	146
5:55	8	Emergency Service Matters	Mr. Will Holt	
	A.	Request to Purchase APX Consolettes		149
	B.	Request to Purchase Uninterrupted Power Supply		156
	C.	Request to Purchase PowerPro 2 Cot for Ambulance		163
6:00	9	2025 Carry-Forward Purchase Orders	Mr. Deron Geouque	167
6:05	10	Miscellaneous Administrative Matters	Mr. Deron Geouque	
	A.	Hardin Park School SUE (Level B) Survey		170
	B.	Field Lease with High Country Soccer Association		178
	C.	Announcements		191
6:10	11	Commissioners' Comments	Chairman Braxton Eggers	192
6:15	12	Break		192
6:20	13	Closed Session - Acquisition of Real Property per G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(5) - Attorney-Client Matters per G. S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) Including Case No. 5:25-cv-157, <i>Watauga County Voting Rights Task Force v. Watauga County Board of Elections</i>		192
6:25	14	Adjourn		

A G E N D A I T E M 2 :

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting
- February 17, 2026, Closed Session

MEETING MINUTES

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room located in the Watauga County Community Recreation Center in Boone, North Carolina.

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The following were present:

PRESENT: Braxton Eggers, Chairman
 Todd Castle, Vice-Chairman
 Emily Greene, Commissioner
 Tim Hodges, Commissioner
 Ronnie Marsh, Commissioner
 Nathan Miller, County Attorney
 Deron Geouque, County Manager

Commissioner Marsh offered the prayer and Commissioner Hodges led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Eggers presented the February 3, 2026, regular and closed session meeting minutes.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to approve the February 3, 2026, regular meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to approve the February 3, 2026, closed session minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Eggers called for additions or corrections to the February 17, 2026 agenda.

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to approve the February 17, 2026, agenda as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke during public comment:

1. Lornie Webster – spoke on redistricting lawsuit.
2. Diane Wilson – spoke on redistricting lawsuit.
3. Kinney Baughman – spoke on redistricting lawsuit.
4. Brian Juneau - spoke on redistricting lawsuit.
5. Mary Rose Carroll - spoke on redistricting lawsuit.
6. Stacey Rex - spoke on redistricting lawsuit.
7. Alana Baird - spoke on redistricting lawsuit.
8. Cathy Williamson - spoke on redistricting lawsuit.
9. Donna Lisenby - spoke on redistricting lawsuit.

5. WATAUGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Monica Caruso, County Librarian, presented the Watauga County Public Library Annual Report.

The report was for information only; therefore, no action was required.

6. CHANGE ORDER FOR BAKER GRADING CONTRACT FOR ANGLER PARK

Ms. Wendy Patoprsty, Middle Fork Greenway Director, presented a change order to the Baker Grading contract for Angler Park in the amount of \$225,000.00. The increase would cover the cut and removal of approximately 48 feet of guardrail in accordance with NCDOT standards, as well as repairing a washout area consistent with plans prepared by Solid Rock Engineering. Sufficient funding was available through the NC Land and Water Fund, the NC Division of Water Resources, and matching funds from Middle Fork Greenway private donations. No County match was required.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to approve the change order for Baker Grading in the amount of \$225,000.00.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

7. REQUESTING AWARD TO RETIRING OFFICER

N.C.G.S 17F-20 allows a governing body of a law enforcement agency to award a retiring member their badge and service side arm at a price determined by the governing body. Law enforcement

personnel may retire at age 55 with five (5) years of credible service as an officer with full retirement benefits.

Deputy Perry Scot Brown is retiring March 1, 2026. The Sheriff's Office requested that Scot's respective badge and side arm be awarded to him upon retirement and that the Board set the price of the badge and side arm at \$1.

Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to award Deputy Perry Scot Brown his badge and side arm in the amount of \$1.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

8. SANITATION TRUCK PURCHASE REQUEST

Mr. Chris Marriott, Operations Services Director, requested the Board approve the purchase from Parks Ford (NC Sheriff's Vehicle Procurement Contract) for a 2026 Ford Ranger 4x4 SuperCrew pickup truck in the amount of \$33,961.21 and taxes and tag in the amount of \$1,025.00. The new truck would be a replacement for a 2014 Ford F150 that has considerable rust and wear. Adequate funds have been budgeted to cover the requested purchase. Board action is requested to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford Ranger 4x4 SuperCrew pickup truck in the amount of \$33,961.21 along with taxes and tag in the amount of \$1,025.00.

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford Ranger 4x4 SuperCrew pickup truck in the amount of \$33,961.21 along with taxes and tag in the amount of \$1,025.00.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

9. TAX MATTERS

A. Monthly Collections Report

Mr. Tyler Rash, Tax Administrator, presented the Monthly Collections Report and was available for questions and discussion.

The report was for information only; therefore, no action was required.

B. Refunds and Releases

Mr. Tyler Rash, Tax Administrator, presented the Refunds and Releases Reports.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to approve the Refunds and Releases Reports, as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

10. MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Hardin Park School Boundary Survey

The Watauga County School System facility study inventoried all of the systems facilities. Hardin Park School has been identified for years as needing to be replaced. Discussions have determined the most cost-effective path forward would be to build on the existing site. In order to determine if the construction on the site is feasible; soil, boundary, and utility studies will need to be conducted.

As part of that process, a contract for boundary and topography services was included in the packet. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-64.32, the Board must exempt the project from the Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process, as the professional services fee is less than \$50,000.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to exempt the project from the Qualifications-Based Selection process pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-64.32.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to award the contract to JMT for boundary and topography survey services in an amount not to exceed \$47,150.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

B. Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex Bathroom Agreement

The County Attorney provided an agreement with High Country Soccer Association, Appalachian State University and Watauga County regarding the bathroom use during the months of November through April 1 at the Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to approve the agreement as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

C. Franchise Request from Appalachian Regional Healthcare System

Appalachian Regional Healthcare System (ARHS) was requesting a franchise agreement to allow for the transportation of patients. Watauga County Emergency Services would retain the first right of refusal for all interfacility transports, with the following exceptions:

- Transports originating outside of Watauga County
- Transports requiring critical-care–level support, such as ventilator support, IABP support, or other services meeting the NCOEMS definition of Specialty Care

These two exceptions would have no impact on the County system and would provide relief for EMS crews by limiting potentially long-duration transports, which reduce available units for 911 calls. Granting a franchise agreement would also provide an additional backup resource for the County’s system. The proposed term of the franchise was one year to evaluate its impacts on the County EMS system. Per the County’s Franchise Ordinance, a public hearing was held on January 13, 2026, to allow input on granting a one-year ambulance franchise to ARHS.

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to grant the franchise agreement to Appalachian Regional Healthcare System for a period of one year.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

D. Boards and Commissions

Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Advisory Board

The Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Advisory Board recommended the reappointment of Mr. Andrew Ellis, Ms. Kristy Hackler, and Ms. Jennifer Miller. Each were willing to continue to serve if so reappointed.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to waive the first reading requirement and appoint Mr. Andrew Ellis, Ms. Kristy Hackler, and Ms. Jennifer Miller to the Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Advisory Board

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

Tourism Development Authority (TDA)

The following Watauga County TDA Board members terms expired at the end of February:

- Tina Houston of Reid’s Café & Catering and The Beacon Event facility
- Matt Vincent of VPC Builders (Current TDA Board Chair)
- Lisa Cooper of Mast General Store

All three were willing and eligible to be re-appointed to 3-year terms and the TDA Board supported the re-nomination of each of them. The TDA Board Chair was appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Matt Vincent was eligible to continue in that role.

Chairman Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to waive the first reading and re-appoint Tina Houston, Matt Vincent, Lisa Cooper, and re-appoint Matt Vincent as Chair to the Watauga County TDA Board.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

E. Announcements

The Annual Pre-Budget Retreat was scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, beginning at 12:00 P.M. and Friday, February 27, 2026, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Budget Work Sessions are scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2026, beginning at 12:00 noon and Friday, May 8, 2026, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Greene congratulated the Watauga Lady Pioneers for winning the 6A State Indoor Championship.

12. BREAK

13. CLOSED SESSION

At 6:34 PM, Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to enter Closed Session pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) to discuss matters protected by attorney–client privilege, including Case No. 5:25-cv-157; and pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(5) to consider matters related to the acquisition of real property and pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) personnel matters.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

At 8:27 PM, Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to resume the open meeting.

14. ADJOURN

At 8:28 PM, Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – 0

Braxton Eggers, Chairman

ATTEST: Deron Geouque, County Manager

A G E N D A I T E M 3 :

APPROVAL OF MARCH 3, 2026, AGENDA

A G E N D A I T E M 4 :

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manager's Comments:

Public Comment is limited to a maximum of one hour, with time adjusted based on the number of speakers.

A G E N D A I T E M 5 :

FY 2025 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Manager's Comments:

Ms. Cindy Randolph with C. Randolph, CPA, PLLC will present the Fiscal Year 2025 County audit. The County's financial position remains strong due to direction provided by the Commissioners and through execution of that direction by County staff. Below are some of the financial highlights:

The total assets of the County exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$290,331,310, primarily due to an increase in investment earnings.

The County's unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$57,511,262 at the end of the year, representing 59% of total General Fund expenditures. This is an increase of \$2,220,989 in the unassigned fund balance from the previous year.

The current year collection rate for property taxes was 98.57% a slight decrease from last year's 98.83%.

Outstanding debt principal decreased by \$6,570,000. Total outstanding debt principal at June 30, 2025 is \$48,820,000. Watauga County's legal debt limit is \$1,122,575,787 so the County continues to be well below the state limits.

The audit is presented for information only; and therefore, no action is required. However, due to strong fiscal management and the increase in the unassigned fund balance, staff is recommending the Board commit the \$2,220,989 to offset the expenses related to the transition of ambulance service from Watauga Medics to the County.

Board action is required to commit the \$2,220,989 to offset the expenses related to the transition of ambulance service from Watauga Medics to the County.



WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Braxton Eggers, Chair

Todd Castle, Vice Chair

Emily Greene

Tim Hodges

Ronnie Marsh

COUNTY OFFICIALS

Deron T. Geouque

County Manager

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Watauga County, North Carolina

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C. Randolph CPA, PLLC
Certified Public Accountant
560 Beaver Creek School Rd.
West Jefferson, North Carolina 28694
Phone: (336) 846-3211
Fax: (336) 846-1142

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Commissioners
Watauga County, North Carolina

Report on the Audit of Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Watauga County, North Carolina as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Watauga County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based upon our audit and the report of the other auditors, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Watauga County as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, and cash flows, where applicable, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of AppalCART, which represent 54 percent, 53 percent, and 55 percent of the assets, net position, and revenues, respectively, of the aggregate discretely presented component units as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended. Those statements were audited by other auditors whose report thereon has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for AppalCART, is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Watauga County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions. The financial statements of Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority were not audited in accordance with *Governmental Auditing Standards*.

Responsibilities of Management for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raises substantial doubt about Watauga County's ability to continue as a going concern for the twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Governmental Auditing Standards* will always detect a material statement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Governmental Auditing Standards* we:

- exercised professional judgement and maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Watauga County's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Watauga County's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages 4 through 11, the Local Government Employees' Retirement System Schedules of the County's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability and County Contributions on pages 70 through 71, the Local Government Employees' Retirement System Schedules of the Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability and County Authority's Contributions on pages 74 through 75, and the Register of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund schedules of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset and County Contributions on pages 72 through 73, the Law Enforcement Officers' Separation Allowance schedules of the Changes in Total Pension Liability and Total Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll on pages 64 through 66, the Other Postemployment Benefits schedules of Changes in the Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios, County Contributions, and Investment Returns on pages 67 through 69, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of the financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We and the other auditors have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consist of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Watauga County's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements, budgetary schedules, other schedules, and component unit schedules, as well as the accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards as required by Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* and the State Single Audit Implementation Act are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America by us and other auditors. In our opinion, based on our audit, the procedures performed as described above, and the report of other auditors the combining and individual fund financial statements, budgetary schedules, other schedules, component unit schedules, and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 30, 2026, on our consideration of Watauga County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Watauga County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Watauga County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

C. Randolph CPA, PLLC

West Jefferson, North Carolina

January 30, 2026

Watauga County

Year Ended June 30, 2025

As management of Watauga County, we offer readers of Watauga County's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the County for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. We encourage users to read the information presented here in conjunction with additional information we have furnished in the County's financial statements and notes which follow this narrative.

Financial Highlights

- The assets and deferred outflows of the County exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows at the close of the fiscal year by \$290,331,310.
- The County's total net position increased by \$13,803,412 primarily due to an increase in revenues, particularly property tax, exceeding budget coupled with operating expenditures below expected levels.
- The County's unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$57,511,262 at the end of the year, representing 59% of total General Fund expenditures. This is an increase of \$2,220,989 in unassigned fund balance over the previous year.
- Total principal payments for the fiscal year totaled \$6,570,000 decreased outstanding debt.
- The County:
 - Continued construction of a new Valle Crucis school
 - Continued a Tower project to enhance emergency communications
 - Finished construction of a new parking deck
 - Continued construction of a new 911 emergency facility
- S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed the County's credit rating at AA and the County's financial stability.
- For the eighth year, the County was able to allocate funds to the Capital Projects Fund as part of the original budget ordinance denoting a continued rebound from the recession.

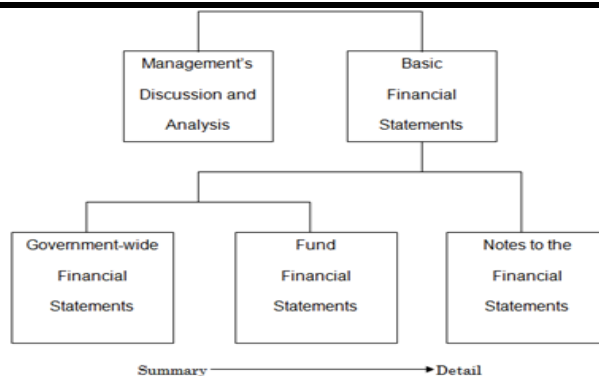
Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to Watauga County's basic financial statements. The County's basic financial statements consist of three components, 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements.

The basic financial statements present two different views of the County's finances through the use of government-wide statements and fund financial statements. In addition to the basic financial statements, this report contains other supplemental information that will enhance the reader's understanding of the financial condition of Watauga County.

Required Components of Annual Financial Report

Figure 1



Basic Financial Statements

The first two statements (Exhibits A and B) in the basic financial statements are the **Government-wide Financial Statements**. They provide both short and long-term information about the County's financial status.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The next statements (Exhibits C through J) are **Fund Financial Statements**. These statements focus on the activities of the individual parts of the County's government. These statements provide more detail than the government-wide statements. There are four parts to the fund financial statements: 1) the governmental fund statements, 2) the budgetary comparison statements 3) the proprietary fund statements and 4) the fiduciary fund statements.

The next sections of the basic financial statements are the **notes**. The notes to the financial statements explain in detail some of the data contained in those statements. Directly following the notes is the **supplemental information**. This section first contains **required supplemental information** about the County's pension plans and the other postemployment benefits plan, followed by additional **supplemental information**. This **supplemental information** is provided to show details about the County's individual funds. Budgetary information required by the General Statutes also can be found in this part of the statements.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide the reader with a broad overview of the County's finances, similar in format to a financial statement of a private-sector business. The government-wide statements provide short and long-term information about the County's financial status as a whole.

The two government-wide statements report the County's net position and how the net position has changed. Net position is the difference between the County's total assets and deferred outflows of resources and total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Measuring net position is one way to gauge the County's financial condition.

Government-wide financial statements may be divided into as many as three categories: 1) governmental activities, 2) business-type activities, and 3) component units. The governmental activities include most of the County's basic services such as public safety, parks and recreation, and general administration. Property taxes and state and federal grant funds finance most of these activities. The business-type activities are those that the County charges customers to provide. This includes solid waste services offered by Watauga County. The final category is the component units. AppalCART is a separate governmental entity, which operates a transportation authority in Watauga County. Watauga County Board of Commissioners appoints the eight member governing body. Watauga County provides some financial support and AppalCART is financially accountable to the County. The Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority (TDA) is a separate governmental entity created to administer occupancy tax funds collected to promote tourism in the County. The seven voting members of the Authority Board are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide a more detailed look at the County's most significant activities. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Watauga County, like all governmental entities in North Carolina, uses fund accounting to ensure and reflect compliance (or non-compliance) with finance-related legal requirements, such as the General Statutes or the County's budget ordinance. All County funds can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

Governmental Funds – Governmental funds are used to account for those functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. Most of the County's activities are accounted for in governmental funds. These funds focus on how assets can readily be converted into cash flow in and out, and what monies are left at year-end that will be available for spending in the next year. Governmental funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting which focuses on current financial resources. As a result, the governmental fund financial statements give the reader a detailed short-term view that helps him or her determine if there are more or less financial resources available to finance the County's programs. The relationship between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds is described in a reconciliation that is a part of the fund financial statements.

The County adopts an annual budget for its General Fund, as required by the General Statutes. The budget is a legally adopted document that incorporates input from the citizens of the County, the management of the County, and the decisions of the Board about which services to provide and how to pay for them. It also authorizes the County to obtain funds from identified sources to finance these current period activities. The budgetary statement provided for the General Fund demonstrates how well the County complied with the budget ordinance and whether or not the County succeeded in providing the services as planned when the budget was adopted. The budgetary comparison statement uses the budgetary basis of accounting and is presented using the same format, language, and classifications as the legal budget document. The statement shows three columns: 1) the final budget as amended by the board, 2) the actual resources, charges to appropriations, and ending balances in the General Fund,

and 3) the difference or variance between the final budget and the actual resources and charges. To account for the difference between the budgetary basis of accounting and the modified accrual basis, a reconciliation showing the differences in the reported activities is shown at the end of the budgetary statement.

Proprietary Funds - Watauga County has one proprietary fund, the Solid Waste Fund. Enterprise funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-like activities in the government-wide financial statements. Watauga County uses enterprise funds to account for its solid waste operations. This fund is the same as those separate activities shown in the business-type activities in the Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities.

Fiduciary Funds - Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside of the government. Watauga County has eight fiduciary funds, two of which are pension trust funds and the other six are agency funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements – The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements start on page 23 of this report.

Other Information – In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report includes certain required supplementary information concerning Watauga County's progress in funding its obligation to provide pension benefits to its employees and other postemployment benefits. Required supplementary information can be found beginning on page 64 of this report.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

Watauga County's Net Position

Figure 2

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Assets:						
Current and other assets	\$ 155,175,152	\$ 162,817,310	\$ 8,069,913	\$ 9,018,309	\$ 163,245,065	\$ 171,835,619
Capital assets, net	197,628,227	175,261,964	8,079,157	6,705,248	205,707,384	181,967,212
Total Assets	352,803,379	338,079,274	16,149,070	15,723,557	368,952,449	353,802,831
Total Deferred Outflows	6,507,819	7,495,753	562,687	670,191	7,070,506	8,165,944
Liabilities:						
Current liabilities	18,680,625	14,943,005	490,235	628,619	19,170,860	15,571,624
Other liabilities	62,351,999	66,110,332	1,989,717	1,812,096	64,341,716	67,922,428
Total Liabilities	81,032,624	81,053,337	2,479,952	2,440,715	83,512,576	83,494,052
Total Deferred Inflows	2,061,221	1,480,447	117,848	75,197	2,179,069	1,555,644
Net Position:						
Net investments in capital assets	144,912,377	129,353,105	7,980,233	6,699,540	152,892,610	136,052,645
Restricted	41,378,375	45,949,218	-	-	41,378,375	45,949,218
Unrestricted	89,926,601	87,738,920	6,133,724	7,178,296	96,060,325	94,917,216
Total Net Position	\$ 276,217,353	\$ 263,041,243	\$ 14,113,957	\$ 13,877,836	\$ 290,331,310	\$ 276,919,079

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as one useful indicator of a government's financial condition. The assets of the County exceeded liabilities by \$290,331,310 at June 30, 2025. The County's net position increased by a total of \$13,803,412 for the fiscal year. Net position is reported in three categories: Net investment in capital assets of \$152,892,610 restricted net position of \$41,378,375; and unrestricted net position of \$96,060,325.

The net investment in capital assets is defined as the County's investment in County owned capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, automotive equipment, office and other equipment), less any related debt still outstanding that was issued to acquire those items. The County uses these assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the County's investment in its capital assets is reported net of the outstanding debt, the resources needed to repay that debt must be provided by other sources, since the capital assets cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities. At June 30, 2025, the increase in this category of net position correlates to reduced outstanding debt along with increased capital assets.

Another category of net position is restricted net position. This represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The County has restricted assets due to statutory requirements for Register of Deeds Automation Enhancement Funds, Health Services, Public Safety, Education, General Government, Register of Deeds Pension Plan, and Stabilization by State Statutes. Special revenues funds and Register of Deeds pension assets account for the balance of the restricted net position.

The final category of net position is unrestricted net position. This balance may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. Several particular aspects of the County's financial operations affected the reporting of total unrestricted net position:

- Close monitoring of expenditures
- High property tax collection rate

Watauga County Changes in Net Position
Figure 3

	Governmental		Business-Type		Total	
	Activities		Activities			
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Revenues:						
Program Revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 5,280,674	\$ 5,452,228	\$ 7,776,306	\$ 6,942,329	\$ 13,056,980	\$ 12,394,557
Operating grants and contributions	8,950,473	5,554,490	164,477	171,327	9,114,950	5,725,817
Capital grants and contributions	1,216,344	5,205,304	-	-	1,216,344	5,205,304
General Revenues:						
Property taxes	51,920,314	50,440,018	-	-	51,920,314	50,440,018
Other taxes	25,903,923	26,574,296	-	-	25,903,923	26,574,296
Grants and contributions not restricted	6,522,949	6,543,765	-	-	6,522,949	6,543,765
Miscellaneous	482,064	631,723	75,723	112,055	557,787	743,778
Investment earnings	6,051,418	7,320,606	331,440	358,982	6,051,418	7,679,588
Total Revenues	106,328,159	107,722,430	8,347,946	7,584,693	114,676,105	115,307,123
Expenses:						
General government	24,966,277	15,775,079	-	-	24,966,277	15,775,079
Public safety	23,740,835	22,741,912	-	-	23,740,835	22,741,912
Transportation	265,221	272,481	-	-	265,221	272,481
Economic and physical development	4,321,990	5,151,083	-	-	4,321,990	5,151,083
Environmental protection	560,932	620,372	-	-	560,932	620,372
Human services	10,251,688	9,444,808	-	-	10,251,688	9,444,808
Cultural and recreation	4,204,435	4,017,770	-	-	4,204,435	4,017,770
Education	22,203,312	17,549,001	-	-	22,203,312	17,549,001
Interest on long-term debt	2,272,950	2,490,596	-	-	2,272,950	2,490,596
Solid waste	-	-	8,085,053	6,843,037	8,085,053	6,843,037
Total Expenses	92,787,640	78,063,102	8,085,053	6,843,037	100,872,693	84,906,139
Increase in net position	13,540,519	29,659,328	262,893	741,656	13,803,412	30,400,984
Net position, beginning	263,041,243	229,470,969	13,877,836	13,136,180	276,919,079	242,607,149
Prior period adjustment - change in accounting principle	(364,409)	3,910,946	(26,772)	-	(391,181)	-
Net Position, beginning, restated	262,676,834	233,381,915	13,851,064	13,136,180	276,527,898	246,518,095
Net position, ending	\$ 276,217,353	\$ 263,041,243	\$ 14,113,957	\$ 13,877,836	\$ 290,331,310	\$ 276,919,079

Governmental activities: Governmental activities increased the County's net position by \$13,540,519, thereby accounting for 98% of the total growth in the net position of Watauga County. Key elements of this increase are as follows:

- Sales tax remaining stable due to the improved economic factors particularly in the tourism industry, resulted in revenues above projection;
- Continued high property tax collections at a rate of 98.57% for the current fiscal year;
- Close monitoring of expenditures throughout the year with actual expenditures below budget.

Business-type activities: Business-type activities increased Watauga County's net position by \$262,893, 2%. Key elements of this increase are as follows:

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

- Revenues for tipping fees were above projections due to a strong market;
- Close monitoring of expenditures throughout the year with actual expenditures below budget.

Financial Analysis of the County's Funds

Watauga County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and accounting requirements.

Governmental Funds – The focus of Watauga County's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of usable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the County's financing requirements. Specifically, fund balance available for appropriation can be a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the County. At the end of the current fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund increased to \$57,511,262 while total fund balance increased to \$79,024,854. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents 59.2 percent of total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 81.3 percent of that same amount.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights - During the fiscal year, the County revised the budget on several occasions. Generally, budget amendments fall into one of three categories: 1) amendments made to adjust the estimates that are used to prepare the original budget ordinance once more exact information is available; 2) amendments made to recognize new funding amounts from external sources, such as Federal and State grants; and 3) increases in appropriations that become necessary to maintain services.

The actual operating revenues for the General Fund were \$3,106,657 more than the budgeted amount. Actual operating expenses were less than budgeted by \$19,283,870. A significant driving factor in expenditures being below budget is due to the ongoing capital projects, including Emergency Management expansion.

Proprietary Funds - Watauga County's proprietary fund is used to provide information on the solid waste enterprise. Unrestricted net position of the Solid Waste Fund at the end of the fiscal year amounted to \$6,133,724. The total increase in proprietary net position was \$262,893.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital Assets: Watauga County's investment in capital assets for its governmental and business type activities as of June 30, 2025, totals \$205,615,188 (net of depreciation). These assets include construction in progress, buildings, land, equipment, improvements, and vehicles. Major capital asset transactions during the year include:

- Purchased new vehicles and numerous pieces of equipment for County governmental departments;
- Continued construction of new Valle Crucis school;
- Continued a Tower project to enhance emergency communications;
- Finished construction of a parking deck
- Continued construction of a new 911 Emergency Building

Watauga County's Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation

Figure 4

	Governmental		Business-Type		Total	
	Activities		Activities			
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Land	\$ 27,407,833	\$ 27,400,033	\$ 1,100,815	\$ 1,100,815	\$ 28,508,648	\$ 28,500,848
Buildings	103,777,641	101,082,772	4,596,780	2,607,536	108,374,421	103,690,308
Other improvements	3,082,902	2,953,471	692,600	777,967	3,775,502	3,731,438
Leasehold improvements	4,473,563	4,722,577	4,563	4,811	4,478,126	4,727,388
Equipment	1,586,629	1,800,893	847,356	675,197	2,433,985	2,476,090
Vehicles	1,125,779	983,106	738,298	334,558	1,864,077	1,317,664
Construction in progress	56,121,050	36,266,282	6,549	1,204,364	56,127,599	37,470,646
Intangible assets	52,830	52,830	-	-	52,830	52,830
Total	\$ 197,628,227	\$ 175,261,964	\$ 7,986,961	\$ 6,705,248	\$ 205,615,188	\$ 181,967,212

Additional information on the County's capital assets can be found in note 3.A.6 of this report.

Long-term Debt. As of June 30, 2025, Watauga County had no bonded debt outstanding or authorized.

Watauga County's Outstanding Debt

Figure 5

	Governmental		Business-Type		Total	
	Activities		Activities			
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Net pension liability (LGERS)	\$ 9,781,529	\$ 9,887,070	\$ 932,084	\$ 942,141	\$ 10,713,613	\$ 10,829,211
Total pension liability (LEOSSA)	862,049	447,537	-	-	862,049	447,537
Total OPEB liability (RIAP)	3,529,806	1,951,766	336,356	185,984	3,866,162	2,137,750
Compensated absences	1,701,471	1,627,126	176,320	142,221	1,877,791	1,769,347
Accrued landfill closure and post closure costs	-	-	495,461	495,461	495,461	495,461
Leases	-	-	98,924	122,498	98,924	122,498
Premium on loans	3,466,535	3,731,270	-	-	3,466,535	3,731,270
Premium on direct refunding	429,315	572,420	-	-	429,315	572,420
Direct placement installment	49,715,478	55,390,000	-	-	49,715,478	55,390,000
Total	\$ 69,486,183	\$ 73,607,189	\$ 2,039,145	\$ 1,888,305	\$ 71,525,328	\$ 75,495,494

Watauga County's General Fund direct installment notes decreased by \$6,570,000 during the past fiscal year due to scheduled debt service payments and increased \$895,478 for a cash flow loan related to Hurricane Helene. There is no installment note

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

debt associated with the business activities. The State of North Carolina limits the amount of debt that a unit of government can issue to 8 percent of the total assessed value of taxable property located within that government's boundaries less outstanding debt principal. The legal debt margin for Watauga County as of June 30, 2025 is \$1,122,575,787. Additional information regarding Watauga County's long-term debt can be found in Note 3.B.6.b of this report.

Economic Factors

The following key economic factors reflect the fiscal environment the County is working in:

- The County's unemployment rate has remained flat at 3.7 percent at the end of June 2024 to June 2025;
- Appalachian State University provides continued stability to the local economy as a major employer and source of overall positive economic impact from the student population;
- Investment earnings provided a strong rate of return for the County.

Budget Highlights for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

Governmental activities – The County's property tax rate has been set at 31.8 cents per \$100 in property valuation. Sales tax revenue is projected to remain in line with fiscal year 2025 budget based on actual results in the previous fiscal year.

Budgeted expenditures in the General Fund have increased 7 percent. Capital purchases are allocated mainly for vehicles, a new Valle Crucis School, 911 Emergency Building and continued expansion of emergency service tower operations with other projects still limited to primarily repairs and maintenance. Funds are allocated to be set aside this year for future capital school projects of \$5,179,550 and \$3,872,500 for county projects-mainly funding \$1,800,000 for emergency communications, \$500,000 for future maintenance and repairs, \$50,000 for economic development, \$100,000 for community recreation facilities, \$22,500 for potential flood mitigation, \$1,200,000 for future county facilities, \$100,000 for law enforcement expansion, \$50,000 for library expansion, and \$50,000 to Caldwell Community College.

Businesses-type activities – Budgeted revenues for solid waste service revenues are projected an increase in solid waste and tipping fees.

Requests for Information

This report is designed to provide an overview of the County's finances for those with an interest in this area. Questions concerning any of the information found in this report or requests for additional information should be directed to the Watauga County Finance Director, 814 West King Street, Suite 216, Boone, NC 28607. The report can also be found on our website www.wataugacounty.org/main/App_Pages/Dept/Finance/countyAudits.aspx.

Watauga County, North Carolina
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2025

	Primary Government			Component Units	
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total	AppalCART	Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority
ASSETS					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 114,686,037	\$ 7,227,913	\$ 121,913,950	\$ 4,053,941	\$ 12,873,184
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	12,635,963	132,890	12,768,853	-	-
Receivables (net)	5,173,953	620,348	5,794,301	34,672	-
Due from other governments	9,542,162	42,037	9,584,199	1,177,759	646,146
Lease receivable - current	258,908	-	258,908	-	-
Notes receivable - current	835,512	-	835,512	-	-
Prepaid expenses	-	46,725	46,725	56,759	-
Inventory	-	-	-	289,463	-
Total current assets	<u>143,132,535</u>	<u>8,069,913</u>	<u>151,202,448</u>	<u>5,612,594</u>	<u>13,519,330</u>
Non-current assets					
Net pension asset - ROD	70,400	-	70,400	-	-
Lease receivable - noncurrent	592,200	-	592,200	-	-
Notes receivable	11,380,017	-	11,380,017	-	-
Right to use leased asset, net of amortization	-	92,196	92,196	192,438	-
Capital assets:					
Land, intangible, and construction in progress	83,581,713	1,107,364	84,689,077	1,223,792	697,983
Other capital assets, net of depreciation	114,046,514	6,879,597	120,926,111	11,642,781	1,308,242
Total capital assets	<u>197,628,227</u>	<u>7,986,961</u>	<u>205,615,188</u>	<u>12,866,573</u>	<u>2,006,225</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>209,670,844</u>	<u>8,079,157</u>	<u>217,750,001</u>	<u>13,059,011</u>	<u>2,006,225</u>
Total assets	<u>352,803,379</u>	<u>16,149,070</u>	<u>368,952,449</u>	<u>18,671,605</u>	<u>15,525,555</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Pension deferrals	5,948,321	509,372	6,457,693	-	91,746
OPEB deferrals	559,498	53,315	612,813	-	-
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>6,507,819</u>	<u>562,687</u>	<u>7,070,506</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,746</u>
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	8,443,760	407,131	8,850,891	1,472,330	528,135
Accrued interest payable	178,168	-	178,168	2,157	-
Due to other governments	1,668,648	33,676	1,702,324	-	-
Unearned revenue	1,255,865	-	1,255,865	-	-
Debt service due within one year	7,134,184	49,428	7,183,612	179,161	127,789
Total current liabilities	<u>18,680,625</u>	<u>490,235</u>	<u>19,170,860</u>	<u>1,653,648</u>	<u>655,924</u>
Long-term liabilities					
Due in more than one year	62,351,999	1,989,717	64,341,716	179,793	159,840
Total liabilities	<u>81,032,624</u>	<u>2,479,952</u>	<u>83,512,576</u>	<u>1,833,441</u>	<u>815,764</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Pension deferrals	141,246	13,295	154,541	-	847
OPEB deferrals	1,097,207	104,553	1,201,760	-	-
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	3,600	-
Leases	817,602	-	817,602	-	-
Prepaid taxes	5,166	-	5,166	-	-
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>2,061,221</u>	<u>117,848</u>	<u>2,179,069</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>847</u>
NET POSITION					
Net investment in capital assets	144,912,377	7,980,233	152,892,610	12,874,630	2,006,225
Restricted for:					
Stabilization by State Statute	21,134,893	-	21,134,893	-	646,146
Register of Deeds' pension plan	111,563	-	111,563	-	-
Education	9,650,519	-	9,650,519	-	-
General government	13,805	-	13,805	-	-
Public safety	9,663,045	-	9,663,045	-	-
Health services	678,833	-	678,833	-	-
Register of Deeds Automation/Enhancement	125,717	-	125,717	-	-
Unrestricted	89,926,601	6,133,724	96,060,325	3,959,934	12,148,319
Total net position	<u>\$ 276,217,353</u>	<u>\$ 14,113,957</u>	<u>\$ 290,331,310</u>	<u>\$ 16,834,564</u>	<u>\$ 14,800,690</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Functions/Programs	Program Revenues				Net (Expense) Revenues and Changes in Net Position				Component Units	
	Primary Government				Primary Government				Watauga County District U	
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total	AppalCART	Tourism	Development Authority
Primary government:										
General government:										
Public safety	\$ 24,966,277	\$ 1,426,753	\$ 3,617,955	\$ 849,689	\$ (19,071,880)	\$ -	\$ (19,071,880)			
Transportation	23,740,835	1,808,574	336,929	49,985	(21,545,347)	-	(21,545,347)			
Economic and physical development	265,221	-	185,398	-	(79,823)	-	(79,823)			
Environmental protection	4,321,990	-	169,945	-	(4,152,045)	-	(4,152,045)			
Human services	560,932	-	112,417	-	(448,515)	-	(448,515)			
Cultural and recreational	10,251,688	35,447	4,527,772	-	(5,688,469)	-	(5,688,469)			
Education	4,204,435	2,009,900	-	-	(2,194,535)	-	(2,194,535)			
Interest and fees on long-term debt	22,203,312	-	57	316,670	(21,886,585)	-	(21,886,585)			
Loss on sale of fixed assets	2,272,950	-	-	-	(2,272,950)	-	(2,272,950)			
Total governmental activities	74,883	-	-	-	(74,883)	-	(74,883)			
	<u>92,862,523</u>	<u>5,280,674</u>	<u>8,950,473</u>	<u>1,216,344</u>	<u>(77,415,032)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(77,415,032)</u>			
Business-type activities:										
Solid waste	8,085,053	7,776,306	164,477	-	-	(144,270)	(144,270)			
Total	<u>\$ 100,947,576</u>	<u>\$ 13,056,980</u>	<u>\$ 9,114,950</u>	<u>\$ 1,216,344</u>	<u>(77,415,032)</u>	<u>(144,270)</u>	<u>(77,559,302)</u>			
Component units:								\$ (515,708)		\$ (2,236,563)
AppalCART	6,926,264	2,860,880	2,380,000	1,169,676						
Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority	<u>\$ 2,236,563</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>						
General revenues:										
Taxes:										
Property taxes, levied for general purpose					51,920,314	-	51,920,314	-		-
Local option sales tax					20,860,594	-	20,860,594	-		-
Other taxes and licenses					5,043,329	-	5,043,329	-		3,524,408
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					6,522,949	-	6,522,949	-		-
Investment earnings, unrestricted					6,051,418	331,440	6,382,858	102,522		382,192
Loss due to impairment of assets					(20,603)	71,651	51,048	25,190		-
Miscellaneous, unrestricted					577,550	4,072	581,622	-		437,270
Total general revenues					90,955,551	407,163	91,362,714	127,712	4,343,870	
Change in net position					13,540,519	262,893	13,803,412	(387,996)		2,107,307
Total net position, beginning					263,041,243	13,877,836	276,919,079	17,275,565		12,811,031
Prior period adjustment					(364,409)	(26,772)	(391,181)	(53,005)		(117,648)
Total net position, beginning, as restated					262,676,834	13,851,064	276,527,898	17,222,560		12,693,383
Net position, ending					<u>\$ 276,217,353</u>	<u>\$ 14,113,957</u>	<u>\$ 290,331,310</u>	<u>\$ 16,834,564</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 14,800,690</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina

Governmental Funds

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2025

	Major Funds					Non-Major Funds	Total
	General	Capital Projects Fund	Valle Crucis Project Fund	Opioid Settlement Fund	Hurricane Helene Disaster Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Governmental Funds
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 72,841,097	\$ 31,682,812	\$ 11,443,614	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 115,967,523
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	125,717	-	-	588,269	-	11,921,977	12,635,963
Taxes receivable, net	1,145,182	-	-	-	-	460,565	1,605,747
Lease receivable	851,108	-	-	-	-	-	851,108
Due from other governments	8,899,915	-	273,945	-	263,229	105,073	9,542,162
Accounts receivable, net	227,435	-	-	3,227,416	-	21,541	3,476,392
Notes receivable	12,215,529	-	-	-	-	-	12,215,529
Total assets	<u>\$ 96,305,983</u>	<u>\$ 31,682,812</u>	<u>\$ 11,717,559</u>	<u>\$ 3,815,685</u>	<u>\$ 263,229</u>	<u>\$ 12,509,156</u>	<u>\$ 156,294,424</u>
LIABILITIES							
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,766,095	\$ -	\$ 1,950,316	-	4,929,652	\$ 1,079,168	\$ 9,725,231
Due to other governments	1,075,690	-	-	-	-	592,958	1,668,648
Unearned revenue	255,865	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	1,255,865
Total liabilities	<u>3,097,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,950,316</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,929,652</u>	<u>2,672,126</u>	<u>12,649,744</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Taxes receivable	1,145,182	-	-	-	-	148,315	1,293,497
Prepaid taxes	5,166	-	-	-	-	-	5,166
FEMA disaster recovery	-	-	-	-	58,777	-	58,777
Opioid Settlement	-	-	-	3,187,416	-	-	3,187,416
Lease receivable	817,602	-	-	-	-	-	817,602
Notes receivable	12,215,529	-	-	-	-	-	12,215,529
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>14,183,479</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,187,416</u>	<u>58,777</u>	<u>148,315</u>	<u>17,577,987</u>
FUND BALANCES							
Restricted for:							
Stabilization by State Statute	21,056,868	-	-	-	-	78,025	21,134,893
Public safety	-	-	-	-	-	9,663,045	9,663,045
Register of Deeds	125,717	-	-	-	-	-	125,717
General government	-	-	-	-	-	13,805	13,805
Education	-	-	9,767,243	-	-	(116,724)	9,650,519
Health services	-	-	-	628,269	-	50,564	678,833
Committed for:							
Capital projects	-	31,682,812	-	-	-	-	31,682,812
Assigned for:							
Future years' appropriation	297,501	-	-	-	-	-	297,501
Nonspendable for:							
Leases	33,506	-	-	-	-	-	33,506
Unassigned	57,511,262	-	-	-	(4,725,200)	-	52,786,062
Total fund balances	<u>79,024,854</u>	<u>31,682,812</u>	<u>9,767,243</u>	<u>628,269</u>	<u>(4,725,200)</u>	<u>9,688,715</u>	<u>126,066,693</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	<u>\$ 96,305,983</u>	<u>\$ 31,682,812</u>	<u>\$ 11,717,559</u>	<u>\$ 3,815,685</u>	<u>\$ 263,229</u>	<u>\$ 12,509,156</u>	<u>\$ 156,294,424</u>

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position (Exhibit A) are different because:

Total Fund Balance, Governmental Funds	\$ 126,066,693
Net pension asset - ROD	70,400
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	197,628,227
Other assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and therefore are unavailable in the funds - accrued interest taxes receivable	91,799
Deferred inflows for notes receivable	12,215,529
Deferred inflows for opioid settlement funds	3,187,416
Deferred inflows for FEMA disaster recovery	58,777
Deferred inflows of resources for taxes receivable	1,293,497
Contributions to the pension plans in the current fiscal year are deferred outflows of resources on the Statement of Net Position	2,709,249
Contributions and administration costs for OPEB are deferred outflows of resources on the Statement of Net Position	100,704
OPEB related deferrals, net	(638,413)
Pension related deferrals-all plans, net	3,097,826
Net OPEB liability	(3,529,806)
Net pension liability - LEOSSA	(862,049)
Net pension liability - LGERS	(9,781,529)
Some liabilities, including net pension liabilities, debt related payables and other postemployment benefits, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(55,490,967)
Net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 276,217,353</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Major Funds					Non-Major Funds	Total
	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Valle Crucis Project Fund	Opioid Settlement Funds	Hurricane Helene Disaster Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Governmental Funds
REVENUES							
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 46,640,180	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,203,135	\$ 51,843,315
Other taxes and licenses	22,139,896	-	-	-	-	3,764,027	25,903,923
Unrestricted intergovernmental	6,522,949	-	-	-	-	-	6,522,949
Restricted intergovernmental	5,374,273	-	-	464,229	3,520,352	525,484	9,884,338
Permits and fees	848,928	-	-	-	-	44,324	893,252
Sales and services	3,544,077	-	-	-	-	189,283	3,733,360
Investment earnings	3,382,748	1,539,212	876,586	-	-	252,872	6,051,418
Donations	564,138	-	-	-	-	-	564,138
Miscellaneous	3,151,499	-	-	-	-	21,541	3,173,040
Total revenues	<u>92,168,688</u>	<u>1,539,212</u>	<u>876,586</u>	<u>464,229</u>	<u>3,520,352</u>	<u>10,000,666</u>	<u>108,569,733</u>
EXPENDITURES							
Current:							
General government	13,045,213	-	-	-	9,141,030	438,014	22,624,257
Public safety	20,897,721	-	-	-	-	8,233,161	29,130,882
Transportation	265,221	-	-	-	-	-	265,221
Economic and physical development	746,745	-	-	-	-	3,570,109	4,316,854
Environmental protection	717,986	-	-	-	-	-	717,986
Human services	8,955,929	-	-	646,139	-	190,892	9,792,960
Cultural and recreational	2,947,131	-	-	-	-	-	2,947,131
Education	22,203,312	-	17,997,604	-	-	-	40,200,916
Debt service:							
Principal	6,570,000	-	-	-	-	-	6,570,000
Interest	2,400,112	-	-	-	-	-	2,400,112
Total expenditures	<u>78,749,370</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,997,604</u>	<u>646,139</u>	<u>9,141,030</u>	<u>12,432,176</u>	<u>118,966,319</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>13,419,318</u>	<u>1,539,212</u>	<u>(17,121,018)</u>	<u>(181,910)</u>	<u>(5,620,678)</u>	<u>(2,431,510)</u>	<u>(10,396,586)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)							
Sale of capital assets	56,058	-	-	-	-	-	56,058
Proceeds from State Cash Flow Loan	-	-	-	-	895,478	-	895,478
Transfers from other funds	10,594,939	18,658,756	-	-	-	12,337,307	41,591,002
Transfers to other funds	(18,416,719)	(22,932,246)	-	-	-	(242,037)	(41,591,002)
Total other financing sources and uses	<u>(7,765,722)</u>	<u>(4,273,490)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>895,478</u>	<u>12,095,270</u>	<u>951,536</u>
Net change in fund balance	5,653,596	(2,734,278)	(17,121,018)	(181,910)	(4,725,200)	9,663,760	(9,445,050)
Fund balance, beginning of year	73,371,258	34,417,090	26,888,261	810,179	-	125,718	135,612,506
Prior period adjustment/Restatement	-	-	-	-	-	(100,763)	(100,763)
Fund balance, beginning, restated	<u>73,371,258</u>	<u>34,417,090</u>	<u>26,888,261</u>	<u>810,179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,955</u>	<u>135,511,743</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 79,024,854</u>	<u>\$ 31,682,812</u>	<u>\$ 9,767,243</u>	<u>\$ 628,269</u>	<u>\$ (4,725,200)</u>	<u>\$ 9,688,715</u>	<u>\$ 126,066,693</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues,
Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance of Governmental Funds
To the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds	\$	(9,445,050)
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Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current period.

Capital outlay expenditures which were capitalized	\$ 26,820,310	
Sale of assets not fully depreciated	(5,474)	
Capital projects terminated CIP	125,918	
Impairment of assets	(20,603)	
Depreciation expense for governmental assets	<u>(4,427,970)</u>	
		22,492,181

Contributions to the pension plans in the current fiscal year are not included on the Statement of Activities.		2,514,899
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OPEB benefit payments and administrative costs made in the current fiscal year are not included on the Statement of Activities.		100,704
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Benefit payments paid and administrative expense for the LEOSSA in the current fiscal year are not included on the Statement of Activities.		194,350
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Expenses reported on fund statements that are capitalized on government-wide statements - refunding costs		(277,620)
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Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not recorded as revenues in the funds	(1,910,512)	(1,910,512)
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Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.

Change in unavailable revenue for opioid settlement funds	(371,383)	
FEMA disaster recovery	(58,777)	
Change in unavailable revenue for tax revenues	<u>68,666</u>	
		(361,494)

Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

OPEB plan expense	(2,375,226)	
Pension expense-LGERS and ROD	(3,300,805)	
Compensated absences	(74,345)	
Pension expense-LEOSSA	(127,433)	
Amortization of bond premiums	<u>407,840</u>	
Combined adjustment		(5,469,969)

The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction has any effect on net position. This amount is the net effect of these differences in the treatment of long-term debt and related items.

Principal payments on long term debt	6,570,000	
Issuance of long-term debt	(895,478)	
Change in accrued interest payable	<u>28,508</u>	
		<u>5,703,030</u>

Total changes in net position of governmental activities	\$	<u>13,540,519</u>
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Watauga County, North Carolina

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance -
 Budget and Actual - General Fund
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

General Fund				
	Budget		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget-
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 45,368,982	\$ 45,407,982	\$ 46,640,180	\$ 1,232,198
Other taxes and licenses	22,170,300	22,172,800	22,139,896	(32,904)
Unrestricted intergovernmental	4,843,529	5,679,229	6,522,949	843,720
Restricted intergovernmental	4,960,882	7,507,954	5,374,273	(2,133,681)
Permits and fees	796,439	796,439	848,928	52,489
Sales and services	3,203,926	3,203,926	3,544,077	340,151
Investment earnings	151,000	151,000	3,382,748	3,231,748
Donations	30,500	30,500	564,138	533,638
Miscellaneous	1,432,497	4,112,201	3,151,499	(960,702)
Total revenues	<u>82,958,055</u>	<u>89,062,031</u>	<u>92,168,688</u>	<u>3,106,657</u>
Expenditures:				
General government	11,824,526	17,828,686	13,045,213	4,783,473
Public safety	20,722,173	31,112,820	20,897,721	10,215,099
Transportation	79,820	265,221	265,221	-
Economic and physical development	739,395	938,759	746,745	192,014
Environmental protection	549,183	1,585,907	717,986	867,921
Human services	10,245,765	10,699,950	8,955,929	1,744,021
Cultural and recreation	3,218,937	3,329,838	2,947,131	382,707
Education	17,944,947	23,299,947	22,203,312	1,096,635
Debt service:	-	-	-	-
Principal retirement	6,572,000	6,572,000	6,570,000	2,000
Interest and other charges	2,400,112	2,400,112	2,400,112	-
Total expenditures	<u>74,296,858</u>	<u>98,033,240</u>	<u>78,749,370</u>	<u>19,283,870</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>8,661,197</u>	<u>(8,971,209)</u>	<u>13,419,318</u>	<u>22,390,527</u>
Other financing sources (uses):				
Sale of capital assets	10,000	10,000	56,058	46,058
Transfers from other funds	3,119,939	10,594,939	10,594,939	-
Transfers to other funds	(11,841,136)	(18,416,719)	(18,416,719)	-
Fund balance appropriated	50,000	16,782,989	-	(16,782,989)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(8,661,197)</u>	<u>8,971,209</u>	<u>(7,765,722)</u>	<u>(16,736,931)</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ 5,653,596	\$ <u>5,653,596</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year			73,371,258	
Fund balance, end of year			\$ <u>79,024,854</u>	

Watauga County, North Carolina
Statement of Net Position
Proprietary Fund
June 30, 2025

Enterprise Fund**Solid Waste
Fund****ASSETS**

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,227,913
Restricted cash	132,890
Receivables, net	620,348
Prepaid expense	46,725
Due from other governments	42,037
Total current assets	<u>8,069,913</u>

Non-current assets:

Capital assets:

Land and construction in progress	1,107,364
Other capital assets, net of depreciation	6,879,597
Total capital assets	<u>7,986,961</u>
Right to use leased asset, net of amortization	92,196
Total assets	<u>16,149,070</u>

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

OPEB deferrals	53,315
Pension deferrals	509,372
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>562,687</u>

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	407,131
Accrued compensated absences - current	36,990
Due to other governments	33,676
Leases - current	12,438
Total current liabilities	<u>490,235</u>

Non-current liabilities:

Net pension liability	932,084
Net OPEB liability	336,356
Accrued landfill post closure and closure costs - noncurrent	495,461
Leases	86,486
Accrued compensated absences	139,330
Total non-current liabilities	<u>1,989,717</u>
Total liabilities	<u>2,479,952</u>

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

OPEB deferrals	104,553
Pension deferrals	13,295
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>117,848</u>

NET POSITION

Net investment in capital assets	7,980,233
Unrestricted	6,133,724
Total net position	<u>\$ 14,113,957</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position
Proprietary Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Enterprise Fund</u>
	<u>Solid Waste Fund</u>
OPERATING REVENUES:	
Charges for services	\$ 7,429,966
Sale of recycled materials	346,340
	<u>7,776,306</u>
Total operating revenues	
OPERATING EXPENSES:	
Landfill operations	7,490,799
Recycling operations	122,619
Depreciation and amortization	471,635
	<u>8,085,053</u>
Total operating expenses	
Operating income	<u>(308,747)</u>
NONOPERATING REVENUES:	
Interest and investment revenue	331,440
Insurance proceeds	747
Miscellaneous revenues	3,325
Gain on disposal of assets	71,651
Restricted intergovernmental revenues	164,477
	<u>571,640</u>
Total nonoperating revenues	
Change in net position	<u>262,893</u>
Total net position, beginning	13,877,836
Prior period adjustment	(26,772)
Total net position, beginning, as restated	<u>13,851,064</u>
Total net position, ending	<u><u>\$ 14,113,957</u></u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
Statement of Cash Flows
Proprietary Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Enterprise Fund</u>
	<u>Solid Waste Fund</u>
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Cash received from customers	\$ 7,739,468
Cash paid for goods and services	(5,406,690)
Cash paid to employees for services	(2,032,383)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>300,395</u>
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:	
Restricted intergovernmental revenues	163,288
Principal paid on long-term debt	(12,025)
Miscellaneous revenues	3,325
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	<u>154,588</u>
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:	
Proceeds received from sale of fixed assets	71,651
Insurance proceeds	747
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(1,740,003)
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities	<u>(1,667,605)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Interest on investments	331,440
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>331,440</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(881,182)
Cash and cash equivalents, July 1	<u>8,241,985</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, June 30	<u>\$ 7,360,803</u>
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Operating income	\$ <u>(308,747)</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation and amortization	471,635
Changes in assets, liabilities, deferred outflows and inflows of resources:	
Change in deferred outflow of resources - pensions	77,567
Change in deferred inflow of resources - OPEB	36,431
Change in deferred outflows of resources - OPEB	29,937
Change in net pension liability	(10,057)
Change in net OPEB liability	150,372
Change in deferred inflow of resources - pensions	6,220
Change in accounts receivable	(36,838)
Increase in accrued interest	6
Change in accounts payable	(150,230)
Change in accrued compensated absences	34,099
Total adjustments	<u>609,142</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 300,395</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Funds
June 30, 2025

	Irrevocable Trust Funds	Custodial Funds
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,452,287	\$ 395
Accounts receivable	-	-
	<u>5,452,287</u>	<u>395</u>
Liabilities and Net Position		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net position:		
Assets held in trust for postemployment benefits other than pensions	4,175,615	-
Assets held in trust for law enforcement officers' special separation allowance benefits	1,276,672	-
Individuals, organizations and other governments	-	395
Total fiduciary net position	<u>\$ 5,452,287</u>	<u>\$ 395</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Irrevocable Trust Funds	Custodial Funds
Additions:		
Employer contributions	\$ 807,163	\$ -
Interest earned	207,369	-
Ad valorem taxes collected for other governments	-	10,449,397
Collections on behalf of inmates	-	147,590
Total additions	1,014,532	10,596,987
Deductions:		
Benefits	143,169	-
Administrative expense	26,000	-
Tax distributions to other governments	-	10,486,746
Payment on behalf of inmates	-	144,479
Total deductions	169,169	10,631,225
Net increase (decrease) in fiduciary net position	845,363	(34,238)
Net position - beginning	4,606,924	34,633
Net position - ending	\$ <u>5,452,287</u>	\$ <u>395</u>

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

The accounting policies of Watauga County and its component units conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of the more significant accounting policies:

A. Reporting Entity:

The County, which is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners, is one of the 100 counties established in North Carolina under North Carolina General Statue 153A-10. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, these financial statements present the County and its component units, legally-separate entities for which the County is financially accountable. The discretely presented component units presented below are reported in separate columns in the County's combined financial statements in order to emphasize that they are legally separate from the County.

AppalCART

AppalCART operates mainly in Watauga County in the northwest part of North Carolina, providing transportation services to the various areas and residents within Watauga County. Watauga County's Board of Commissioners appoints the eight member governing board of AppalCART and AppalCART operates within the County's boundaries for the benefit of the County's residents. The County provides some financial support to AppalCART, but it is not responsible for the debts of AppalCART except when such are expressly granted by statute or by the consent of the Board of Commissioners of Watauga County. The Board of Commissioners of Watauga County has the authority to terminate the existence of AppalCART at any time, provided a 60-day written notice is given to AppalCART, and all property and assets of AppalCART shall automatically become the property of Watauga County and the County shall succeed to all rights, obligations and liabilities of AppalCART. AppalCART designates its own management, approves its own budget, and maintains its own accounting system; however, AppalCART is fiscally accountable to Watauga County and the County has the authority to examine all records and accounts at any time. AppalCART, which has a June 30 year-end, is presented as if it were a proprietary fund. Complete financial statements may be obtained from the entity's administrative offices at AppalCART, 305 Hwy 105 Bypass, Boone, NC 28607.

Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority

The North Carolina General Legislation enacted a law which authorized Watauga County to levy a room occupancy tax; and the Watauga County Commissioners adopted a resolution levying this tax and created the Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority. The Authority operates within Watauga County's boundaries for the promotion and development of tourism, and the County provides room occupancy tax proceeds as their main source of revenue to the Authority, but the County is not responsible for the debts and is not entitled to the surpluses of the Authority. The Watauga County's Board of Commissioners appoints the seven voting members of the Authority. The Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority has a June 30 year end and is presented as if it is a governmental fund. Complete financial statements may be obtained from the entity's administrative offices at Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority, 171 Grand Blvd, Boone, NC 28607.

B. Basis of Presentation – Basis of Accounting

Basis of Presentation, Measurement Focus – Basis of Accounting

Government-wide Statements: The Statements of Net Position and the Statements of Activities display information about the primary government (the County) and its component units. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. These statements distinguish between the *governmental and business-type activities* of the County. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for the different business-type activities of the County and for each function of the County's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Indirect expense allocations that have been made in the funds have been reversed for the statement of activities. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients of goods and services offered by the programs and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements: The fund financial statements provide information about the County's funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category – *governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary* – are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental and enterprise funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental and enterprise funds are aggregated and reported as non-major funds.

Proprietary fund operating revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the fund. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Non-operating revenues, such as subsidies and investment earnings, result from non-exchange transactions or ancillary activities.

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund – This is the County's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Capital Projects Fund – This is a capital projects fund. It accounts for the County's reserves set aside for future capital needs.

Valle Crucis School Project Fund – This is a project fund to account for the new Valle Crucis School project.

Opioid Settlement Fund – This fund reports revenues for amounts paid by a number of corporations to settle various opioid lawsuits. These amounts are restricted to be spent for certain opioid abatement and remediation activities.

Hurricane Helene Disaster Fund – This is a project fund to account for the revenues and expenditures related to Hurricane Helene.

The County reports the following major enterprise fund:

Solid Waste Fund – This fund accounts for the operation, maintenance, and development of the County's transfer and disposal sites.

The County reports the following other fund types:

Pension Trust Funds – The County maintains two pension trust funds – the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund and the Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance Fund. Pension trust funds are used to report resources that are required to be held in trust for members and beneficiaries of defined benefit pension plans, defined contribution plans, or other postemployment benefit plans. The Other Postemployment Benefit (OPEB) Irrevocable Trust Fund accounts for the County's contributions for healthcare coverage provided to qualified retirees. The LEO Special Separation Allowance (LEOSSA) Irrevocable Trust Fund accounts for the Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance, a single-employer, public employee retirement system. The resources in the LEO Special Separation Allowance Fund have been set aside to pay future obligations of the LEO Special Separation Allowance.

Custodial Funds – Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reporting in pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, investment trust funds, or private-

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

purpose trust funds. Custodial funds are used to account for assets the County holds on behalf of others that meet certain criteria. The County maintains the following custodial funds: the Municipal Tax Fund, which accounts for ad valorem and vehicle property taxes that are billed and collected by the County, and the Jail Inmate Commissary Fund, which holds cash collections for the benefit of inmates from their friends and families.

Non-major Funds – The County maintains fourteen legally budgeted non-major funds. The Federal Equitable Sharing Fund, the State Substance Abuse Tax Fund, the Emergency Telephone System Fund, the Fire Districts Funds, the Occupancy Tax Fund, Emergency 911 Building Project Fund, the Representative Payee Fund, the Fines and Forfeitures Fund, the Processing Plant Project fund, American Rescue Plan Grant Fund, the Deed of Trust Fund, the Opioid McKinney Settlement Fund, the Solid Waste Reserve Fund and the SCIF Project Fund are all reported as non-major special revenue funds.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

In accordance with North Carolina General Statutes, all funds of the County are maintained during the year using the modified accrual basis of accounting.

Government-wide, Proprietary, and Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements – The government-wide, proprietary, and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus, except for the agency funds which have no measurement focus. The government-wide, proprietary fund and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Non-exchange transactions, in which the County gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include property taxes, grants, entitlements, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations are recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

Amounts reported as program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from provided services and producing and delivering goods in connecting with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the County enterprise funds are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements – Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims and judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent that they have matured. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

The County considers all revenues available if they are collected within 90 days after year-end, except for property taxes. Ad valorem property taxes are not accrued as revenue because the amount is not susceptible to accrual. At June 30, taxes receivable for property other than motor vehicles are materially past due and are not considered to be an available resource to finance the operations of the current year. As of September 1, 2013, State law altered the procedures for the assessment and collection of property taxes on registered motor vehicles in North Carolina. Effective

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

with this change in the law, the State of North Carolina is responsible for billing and collecting the property taxes on registered motor vehicles on behalf of all municipalities and special tax districts. Property taxes are due when vehicles are registered. The billed taxes are applicable to the fiscal year in which they are received. Uncollected taxes that were billed in periods prior to September 1, 2013 and for limited registration plates are shown as a receivable in these financial statements and are offset by deferred inflows of resources.

Sales taxes and certain intergovernmental revenues, such as utilities franchise tax, collected and held by the State at year-end on behalf of the County are recognized as revenue. Intergovernmental revenues, and sales and services are not susceptible to accrual because generally they are not measurable until received in cash. All taxes, including those dedicated for specific purposes, are reported as general revenues rather than program revenues. Expenditure driven grants are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and all other grant requirements have been satisfied.

Under the terms of grant agreements, the County funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants, categorical block grants, and general revenues. Thus, when program expenses are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted net positions available to finance the program. It is the County's policy to first apply cost-reimbursement grant resources to such programs, followed by categorical block grants, and then by general revenues.

C. Budgetary Data

The County's budgets are adopted as required by the North Carolina General Statutes. An annual budget is adopted for the General Fund, the Capital Project Fund, the Federal Equitable Sharing, the State Substance Abuse Tax, the Emergency Telephone System, Fire Districts, Occupancy Tax, Representative Payee, Fines, Opioid Funds and Forfeitures and Deed of Trust Special Revenue Funds, and Enterprise Funds. All annual appropriations lapse at the fiscal year-end. Project ordinances are adopted for the 911 Emergency Building Project fund, the Processing Plant Project Fund, the Valle Crucis School Project, the SCIF Project fund and the ARP Project fund. All budgets are prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations at the functional level for all annually budgeted funds and at the object level for the multi-year funds. The budget officer is authorized by the budget ordinance to transfer appropriation within a fund not to exceed 10% of the total departmental appropriation of the department whose allocation is reduced; however, any revisions that alter the total expenditures of any fund must be approved by the governing board. During the year, several amendments to the original budget were necessary. The budget ordinance must be adopted by July 1 of the fiscal year or the governing board must adopt an interim budget that covers that time until the annual ordinance can be adopted.

D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Outflows of Resources, and Fund Equity

1. Deposits and Investments

All deposits of the County, AppalCART and the Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority are made in board-designated official depositories and are secured as required by G.S. 159-31. The County, AppalCART and the Authority may designate, as an official depository, any bank or savings association whose principal office is located in North Carolina. Also, the County, AppalCART and the Authority may establish time deposit accounts such as NOW and SuperNOW accounts, money market accounts, and certificates of deposit.

State law [G.S. 159-30 (c)] authorizes the County, AppalCART and the Authority to invest in obligations of the United States of obligations fully guaranteed both as to principal and interest by the United States; obligations of the State of North Carolina; bonds and notes of any North Carolina local government or public authority; obligations of certain non-guaranteed federal agencies; certain high quality issues of commercial paper and bankers' acceptances; and the North Carolina Capital Management Trust (NCCMT).

The County, AppalCART and the Authority's investments are carried at fair value as determined by quoted market prices. The North Carolina Capital Management Trust (NCCMT), which consists of two SEC-registered funds, is authorized by G.S. 159-30(c)(8). One of these funds, the Government

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Portfolio, is a 2a-7 fund which invests in treasuries and government agencies and is rated AAAM by S&P and AAmf by Moody Investor Services. The Government Portfolio is reported at fair value.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The County pools money from several funds, except the OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund, the LEOSSA Irrevocable Trust Fund, the DSS Trust Fund, and the Inmate Commissary Fund, to facilitate disbursement and investment and to maximize investment income. Therefore, all cash and investments are essentially demand deposits and are considered cash and cash equivalents. The County, AppalCART and the Authority consider demand deposits and investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less, which are not limited as to use, to be cash or cash equivalents.

2. Restricted Cash

Money for the Register of Deeds Automation Enhancement Fund is restricted by NC General Statute 161-50 to pay for computer equipment and technology needs for the Register of Deeds' office. Federal regulations require equitable sharing funds be used for approved law enforcement needs. State substance abuse tax receipts are restricted to law enforcement needs. Emergency Telephone Systems funds are restricted per NC General Statute 62A-46. Occupancy tax revenues are restricted for disbursement to the Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority. Taxes collected on behalf of the fire districts are restricted as payable to the districts. The SCIF Project Fund is restricted to eligible projects. Opioid Settlement Funds are restricted to approved eligible expenditures.

Watauga County Restricted Cash

General Fund	Register of Deeds	\$ 125,717
Federal Equitable Sharing Fund	Law enforcement	127,835
State Substance Abuse Tax Fund	Law enforcement	39,342
Emergency Telephone Fund	911 eligible expenditures	144,864
Occupancy Tax Fund	Tourism	261,561
Representative payee	Human services	27,007
Deed of trust	General government	12,235
Fines and forfeitures	School board	6,912
911 Emergency Project fund	911 building	10,369,536
SCIF Project Fund	Maintenance of buildings and parking decks/lots	13,930
Processing plant	Environmental protection	890,999
Opioid Settlement Fund	Opioid eligible expenses	588,269
Opioid McKinney Settlement Fund	Opioid eligible expenses	27,756
Total Governmental Activities		<u>\$ 12,635,963</u>
Enterprise Fund		
Capital Reserve	Required by NCDEQ	<u>\$ 132,890</u>

Ad Valorem Taxes Receivable

In accordance with State Law [G.S. 105-347 and G.S. 159-13(a)], the County levies ad valorem taxes on property other than motor vehicles on July 1, the beginning of the fiscal year. The taxes are due on September 1 (lien date); however, penalties and interest do not accrue until the following January 6. These taxes are based on the assessed values as of January 1, 2024.

3. Allowances for Doubtful Accounts

All receivables that historically experience uncollectible accounts are shown net of an allowance for doubtful accounts. This amount is estimated by analyzing the percentage of receivables that were written off in prior years.

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**4. Lease Receivable**

The County's lease receivable is measured at the present value of lease payments expected to be received during the lease term. There are no variable components under the lease agreement. A deferred inflow of resources is recorded for the lease. The deferred inflow of resources is recorded at the initiation of the lease in an amount equal to the initial recording of the lease receivable. The deferred inflow of resources is amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

5. Inventory

The inventories of AppalCART are maintained for fuel oil, tires, and vehicle parts; valuation is at last in first out (LIFO) basis. The cost of the inventory of AppalCART is recorded as an expense when consumed.

6. Capital Assets

Purchased or constructed capital assets are reported at cost or estimated historical cost. Donated capital assets received prior to July 1, 2015, are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. Donated capital assets received July 1, 2015, are recorded at their acquisition value. Minimum capitalization is \$5,000 for all governmental fund assets. On July 1, 1989, the County established the Solid Waste Fund to account for the operations of the landfill. At this time, all landfill assets were transferred to this fund at original cost less accumulated depreciation from date of purchase. Property, plant, and equipment acquired after July 1, 1989, are recorded at original cost at time of acquisition. After July 1, 2002, the Fund's minimum capitalization cost is \$5,000. Prior to July 1, 2002, the Fund did not have a minimum capitalization cost. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the assets or materially extend assets' lives are not capitalized.

The County holds title to a Watauga County Board of Education property that has not been included in capital assets. The property has been deeded to the County to permit installment purchase financing. Lease agreements between the County and the Board of Education give the Board of Education full use of Mabel School, full responsibility for maintenance of the facility, and stipulate the County will convey title back to the Board of Education once all restrictions of the financing agreements have been met. The property is reflected as a capital asset in the financial statements of the Watauga County Board of Education.

Capital assets of the County are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

	<u>Years</u>
Buildings	10 to 50
Leasehold improvements	10 to 50
Other improvements	8 to 99
Furniture and equipment	5 to 20

Vehicles and motorized equipment	5
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Capital assets of the AppalCART are depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

	<u>Years</u>
Furniture and equipment	5 to 12
Communications equipment	6
Security and surveillance equipment	7
Maintenance equipment and fixtures	12
Vehicles	8 to 14
Land improvements	10
Buildings	40-50

Capital assets of the Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority are depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

	<u>Years</u>
Building and improvements	10-50

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

7. Right to use assets

The County has recorded right to use lease assets as a result of implementing GASB 87. The right to use assets are initially measured at an amount equal to the initial measurement of the related lease liability plus any lease payments made prior to the lease term, less lease incentives, and plus ancillary charges necessary to place the lease into service. The right to use assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the life of the related lease.

AppalCART's capital assets also include certain right-to-use assets. These right-to-use assets arise in association with agreements where AppalCART reports a lease (only applies when AppalCART is the lessee) and agreements where AppalCART reports an Information Technology (IT) subscription in accordance with the requirements of GASB 87 and GASB 96, respectively.

AppalCART's right-to-use lease assets are initially measured at an amount equal to the initial measurement of the related lease liability plus any lease payments made at or prior to the start of the lease term, less lease incentives received from the lessor at or prior to the start of the lease term, plus ancillary charges necessary to place the lease asset into service. The right-to-use lease assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the life of the related lease.

AppalCART's right-to-use IT subscription assets are initially measured at an amount equal to the initial measurement of the subscription liability plus any subscription payments made at the start of the lease subscription term, if applicable, plus capitalizable initial implementation costs at the start of the subscription term, less any incentives received from the IT subscription vendor at the start of the subscription term. Subscription payments, as well as payments for capitalizable implementation costs made before the start of the subscription term should be reported as a prepayment (asset). Such prepayments should be reduced by any incentives received from the same vendor before the start of the subscription term if a right of offset exists. The net amount of the prepayments and incentives should be reported as an asset or liability, as appropriate, before the start of the subscription term at which time the amount should be included in the initial measurement of the 18 subscription asset. The right-to-use subscription assets should be amortized on a straight-line basis over the subscription term.

8. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, Deferred Outflows of Resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an expense or expenditure until then. The County has the following items that meet this criterion – pension related deferrals and OPEB deferrals. In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position can also report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, Deferred Inflows of Resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as revenue until then. The County has the following items that meet the criterion for this category – prepaid taxes, FEMA disaster recovery, taxes receivable, notes receivable, leases, OPEB deferrals and pension related deferrals.

9. Long-term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and in the proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities on the Statement of Net Position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method that approximates the effective interest method. Bond issuance costs are expensed in the reporting period in which they are incurred. In fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs whether withheld from the actual debt proceeds received or not, are reported as debt service expenditures.

10. Compensated Absences

The vacation policies of the County and AppalCART provide for the accumulation of up to thirty day earned vacation leave with such leave being fully vested when earned. An expense and a liability for compensated absences and the salary-related payments are recorded as the leave is earned in the County's government-wide, proprietary fund and AppalCART statements. The vacation policy of the Authority provides for the accumulation of up to fifteen days earned vacation leave with such leave being fully vested when earned. On the Authority's government-wide statement, an expense and liability for compensated absences and salary-related payments are recorded as the leave is earned.

The sick leave policies of the County, the Authority, and AppalCART provide for an unlimited accumulation of earned sick leave. Sick leave does not vest, but any unused sick leave accumulated at the time of retirement with the County and the Authority may be used in the determination of length of service for retirement benefit purposes. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 101 for the County, Authority and AppalCART's government-wide funds, an expense and liability for sick leave is recognized using the "practical expedient approach" allowed by the Standard for the portion of sick leave expected to be used and paid by the County.

11. Subscriptions

For the year ended June 30, 2025, AppalCART implemented the requirements of GASB Statement No. 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (Subscriptions). The Statement provides a definition of Subscriptions and provides uniform guidance for accounting and financial reporting for such transactions. The guidance will decrease diversity in the accounting and financial reporting for these transactions, thereby, increasing comparability in financial reporting among governments. Further, the reporting of a subscription asset (a right-to-use intangible capital asset) and a subscription liability will enhance the relevance and reliability of the financial statements.

During the current year AppalCART entered into a new subscription for accounting software. The term of the agreement is five years. The Subscription does not have a stated interest rate. Accordingly, AppalCART's estimated incremental borrowing rate of 4.90% was used to discount the subscription payments. The initial liability for the subscription was \$68,350. The liability balance remaining at June 30, 2025 was \$27,943.

During the current year AppalCART entered into a new subscription for transit software that aids in real time passenger information and route planning. The term of the agreement is five years. The Subscription does not have a stated interest rate. Accordingly, AppalCART's estimated incremental borrowing rate of 4.90% was used to discount the subscription payments. The initial liability for the subscription was \$251,711. The liability balance remaining at June 30, 2025 was \$150,798.

During the current year AppalCART entered into a new subscription for a human resources software. The term of the agreement is three years. The Subscription does not have a stated interest rate. Accordingly, AppalCART's estimated incremental borrowing rate of 4.87% was used to discount the subscription payments. The initial liability for the subscription was \$14,859. The liability balance remaining at June 30, 2025 was \$5,640.

Accrued interest related to all IT subscription-based agreements was \$2,157 at June 30, 2025.

The future minimum subscription obligations and the net present value of the minimum payments at June 30, 2025, were as follows:

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

The future minimum lease obligations and the net present value of these minimum

<u>Years Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026	\$ 66,731	\$ 8,864	\$ 75,595
2027	64,976	5,710	70,686
2028	52,674	2,565	55,239
2029	-	-	-
2030	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 184,381</u>	<u>\$ 17,139</u>	<u>\$ 201,520</u>

12. Opioid Settlement Funds

In April 2022, drug manufacturer Johnson & Johnson, and three drug distributors, McKesson, AmerisourceBergen, and Cardinal Health, finalized a \$26 billion-dollar nationwide settlement related to multiple opioid lawsuits. These funds will be disbursed to each participating state over an 18-year period according to an allocation agreement reached with all participating states. The majority of these funds are intended for opioid abatement and the distribution of the funds will be front loaded. North Carolina's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the state and local governments for the settlement funds allocates the funds as follows: • 15% directly to the State ("State Abatement Fund") • 80% to abatement funds established by Local Governments ("Local Abatement Funds") • 5% to a County Incentive Fund. The County received \$464,229 as part of this settlement in Fiscal Year 2025. Per the terms of the MOA, the County created a special revenue fund, the Opioid Settlement Fund, to account for these funds. All funds are to be used for opioid abatement and remediation activities. Funds are restricted until expended. \$1,058,434 in funds have been expended as of June 30th, 2025. The MOA offered the County two options of expending the funds. The County opted for Option A, which allows the County to fund one or more high-impact strategies from a list of evidence-based strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.

13. Reimbursements for Pandemic-related Expenditures

In FY 2020/21, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support urgent COVID-19 response efforts and replace lost revenue for the eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments. The County was allocated \$10,911,724 of fiscal recovery funds to be paid in two equal installments. The first installment of \$5,455,862 was received in July 2021. The second installment will be received in July 2022. County staff and the Board of Commissioners elected to use \$7,750,000 for Broadband and \$3,125,179 for revenue replacement. Revenue replacement funds were transferred to the General Fund. The funds were fully expended as of June 30, 2025.

14. Net Positions/Fund Balances**Net Position**

Net position in government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements is classified as net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted. Restricted net position represents constraints on resources that are either a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or b) imposed by law through State statutes.

Fund Balances

In the governmental fund financial statements, fund balance is composed of five classifications designed to disclose the hierarchy of constraints placed on how fund balance can be spent.

The governmental fund types classify fund balances as follows:

Nonspendable Fund Balance – This classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Leases – portion of fund balance that is not an available resource because it represents the year-end balance of the lease receivable in excess of the deferred inflow of resources for the lease receivable, which is not a spendable resource.

Restricted Fund Balance – This classification includes revenue sources that are restricted to specific purposes externally imposed or imposed by law. The County has the following restricted items:

Restricted for Stabilization by State Statute – North Carolina G.S. 159-8 prohibits units of government from budgeting or spending a portion of their fund balance. This is one of several statutes enacted by the North Carolina State Legislature in the 1930's that were designed to improve and maintain the fiscal health of local government units. Restricted by State statute (RSS), is calculated at the end of each fiscal year for all annually budgeted funds. The calculation in G.S. 159-8(a) provides a formula for determining what portion of fund balance is available for appropriation. The amount of fund balance not available for appropriation is what is known as "restricted by State statute". *Appropriated fund balance in any fund shall not exceed the sum of cash and investments minus the sum of liabilities, encumbrances, and deferred revenues arising from cash receipts, as those figures stand at the close of the fiscal year next preceding the budget.* Per GASB guidance, RSS is considered a resource upon which a restriction is "imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation." RSS is reduced by inventories and prepaids as they are classified as nonspendable. Outstanding Encumbrances are included within RSS. RSS is included as a component of Restricted Net position and Restricted fund balance on the face of the balance sheet.

Restricted for Register of Deeds – portion of fund balance restricted by revenue source for automation and technology enhancements in the Register of Deeds' office [G.S. 161-11.3].

Restricted for Public Safety – portion of fund balance representing the aggregate of net positions for three special revenue funds: the Emergency Telephone System Fund, the State Substance Abuse Tax Fund, and the Federal Equitable Sharing Fund.

Restricted for Health Services – portion of fund balance that can only be used to benefit beneficiaries under the Social Security's Representative Payee Program and the Opioid Settlement Fund.

Restricted for Education – portion of fund balance that is restricted for the Watauga County Board of Education.

Restricted for Register of Deeds – portion of fund balance that is restricted for the Register of Deeds pension plan.

Restricted for General Government – portion of fund balance that is restricted for expenditures for building improvements through the SCIF grant.

Committed Fund Balance – portion of fund balance which can only be used for a specific purpose by a majority vote of Watauga County's governing board (highest body of decision making authority). Any change or removal of specific purpose requires majority action by the governing board.

Committed for Capital Projects – portion of fund balance set aside for future capital project expenditures.

Assigned Fund Balance – portion of fund balance the governing board decides to use for a specific purpose.

Subsequent year's expenditures - portion of fund balance that is appropriated in the next year's budget that is not already classified in restricted or committed. The governing body approves the appropriation.

Unassigned Fund Balance – portion of the total fund balance that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes or other funds at year-end.

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Watauga County has a revenue spending policy that provides policy for programs with multiple revenue sources. The Finance Officer will use resources in the following hierarchy: bond proceeds, federal funds, State funds, local non-county funds, and county funds. For the purposes of fund balance classification expenditures are to be spent from restricted fund balance first, followed in order by committed fund balance, assigned fund balance and lastly unassigned fund balance. The Finance Officer has the authority to deviate from this policy if it is in the best interest of the County.

15. Defined Benefit Pension and OPEB Plans

The County participates in two cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plans that are administered by the State: the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS) and the Registers of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund (RODSPF) (collectively, the "state administered defined benefit pension plans"). For the purposes of measuring the net pension asset or liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net positions of the state-administered defined benefit pension plans and additions to/deductions from the state-administered defined pension plans' fiduciary net positions have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the state-administered defined benefit pension plans. For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the HCB and additions to/deductions from the HCB's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the HCB. For this purpose, the HCB recognizes benefit payments when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments for all plans are reported at fair value. For this purpose, plan member contributions recognized in the period in which the contributions are due. The County's employer contributions are recognized when due and the County has a legal requirement to provide the contributions. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the state-administered defined benefit pension plans. Investments are reported at fair value.

Note 2 -

Detail Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits

All of the County's, AppalCART's, and the Authority's deposits are either insured or collateralized by using one of two methods. Under the Dedicated Method, all deposits exceeding the federal depository insurance coverage level are collateralized with securities held by the County's, AppalCART's, and the Authority's agents in these units' names. Under the Pooling Method, which is a collateral pool, all uninsured deposits are collateralized with securities held by the State Treasurer's agent in the name of the State Treasurer. Since the State Treasurer is acting in a fiduciary capacity for the County, AppalCART, and the Authority, these deposits are considered to be held by their agents in the entities' names. The amount of the pledged collateral is based on an approved averaging method for non-interest bearing deposits and the actual current balance for interest-bearing deposits. Depositories using the Pooling Method report to the State Treasurer the adequacy of their pooled collateral covering uninsured deposits. The State Treasurer does not confirm this information with the County, AppalCART, or the Authority. Because of the inability to measure the exact amount of collateral pledged for the County, AppalCART, or the Authority, the potential exists for under-collateralization, and this risk may increase in periods of high cash flows. However, the State Treasurer of North Carolina enforces strict standards of financial stability for each depository that collateralizes public deposits under the Pooling Method.

The State Treasurer enforces standards of minimum capitalization for all pooling method financial institutions. The County, AppalCART, and the Authority rely on the State Treasurer to monitor those financial institutions. The County analyzes the financial soundness of any financial institution used by the County. The County complies with the provisions of G.S. 159-31 when designating official depositories and verifying that deposits are properly secured. The County, AppalCART, and the Authority have no formal policy regarding custodial credit risk for deposits.

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

At June 30, 2025, the County's deposits had a carrying amount of \$40,255,900 and a bank balance of \$42,571,484. Of the bank balance, \$1,000,000 was covered by federal depository insurance and the remainder is covered by collateral held under the Pooling Method. At June 30, 2025, Watauga County had \$3,650 cash on hand.

At June 30, 2025, AppalCART's deposits had a carrying amount of \$1,752,645 and a bank balance of \$1,752,570. Of the bank balance, \$250,000 was covered by federal depository insurance, and \$1,502,570 in interest bearing deposits were covered by collateral held under the Pooling Method.

At June 30, 2025, the Authority's deposits had a carrying amount of \$12,748,470 and a bank balance of \$12,857,882. Of the balance, \$250,000 was covered by federal depository insurance and the remainder was covered by collateral held under the Pooling Method. The Authority had no cash on hand.

2. Investments

As of June 30, 2025, the County had the following investments and maturities:

Investments by Type	Valuation Measurement Method	Fair Value	Less Than 6 Months	6-12 Months	1-5 Years
Commercial Paper	Fair Value Level 2	\$34,446,831	\$30,554,669	\$3,892,162	-
Certificate of Deposit	Fair Value Level 2	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-
Government Agencies	Fair Value Level 2	10,933,556	1,530,542	1,097,952	8,305,062
NC Capital Management Trust – Government Portfolio	Fair Value Level 1	49,495,548	49,495,548	N/A	N/A
Total:		<u>\$99,875,935</u>	<u>\$86,580,759</u>	<u>\$4,990,114</u>	<u>\$8,305,062</u>

Because the NCCMT Government Portfolio has a weighted average maturity of less than 90 days, they are presented as an investment with a maturity of less than 6 months. The NCCMT Government Portfolio has an AAAm rating from S&P and AAA-mf by Moody's Investor Service.

All investments are measured using the market approach: using prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets or a group of assets. Ratings are from Standard and Poor's scale.

Level of fair value hierarchy: Level 1: Debt securities are valued using directly observable, quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets. Level 2: Debt securities are valued using a matrix pricing technique. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities relationship to benchmark quoted prices.

Interest Rate Risk. The County has no formal investment policy regarding interest rate risk. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates, the County's internal investment procedure limits at least half of the County's investment portfolio to maturities of less than 12 months. Also, the County's internal management policy recommends purchases of securities to be laddered with staggered maturity dates and limits all securities to a final maturity of no more than five years.

Credit Risk. The County has no formal policy regarding credit risk, but has internal management procedures that limits the County's investments to the provisions of G.S. 159-30 and restricts the

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

purchase of securities to the highest possible ratings whenever particular types of securities are rated. State law limits investments in commercial paper to the top rating issued by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSROs). As of June 30, 2023, the County's investments in commercial paper were rated P1 by Standard & Poor's, F1 by Fitch Ratings, and A1 by Moody's Investors Service. The County's investment in the NC Capital Management Trust Government Portfolio carried a credit rating of AAAm by Standard & Poor's and AAAm-mf by Moody's Investors Services as of June 30, 2025. The County's investments in US Agencies with Federal Home Loan Bank is rated AAA by Standard & Poor's and Aaa by Moody's Investors Service. The County does have an elevated credit risk due to safekeeping held in a third-party arrangement.

At June 30, 2025, AppalCART's investment stated at fair value, consisted of \$2,301,296 in the North Carolina Capital Management Trust's Government Portfolio which carried a credit rating of AAAm by Standard and Poor's and AAAm-mf by Moody's Investors Services. AppalCART has no formal policy on interest rate risk or credit risk on its investments.

At June 30, 2025, the Authority's investments consisted of the following:

Investment Type	Fair Value	Maturity	Rating
NC Capital Management Trust – Government Portfolio	\$ 124,714	N/A	AAAm
	\$ 124,714		

Interest Rate Risk. The Authority has no formal investment policy regarding interest rate risk. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates, the Authority's internal investment policy limits at least half of the Authority's investment portfolio to maturities of less than 12 months. Also, the Authority's internal management policy requires purchases of securities to be laddered with staggered maturity dates and limits all securities to a final maturity of no more than two years.

Credit risk. The Authority has no formal policy regarding credit risk, but has internal management procedures that limits the Authority's investments to the provisions of G.S. 159-30 and restricts the purchase of securities to the highest possible ratings whenever particular types of securities are rated. The Authority's investment in the NC Capital Management Trust Government Portfolio carried a credit rating of AAAm by Standard & Poor's and AAAm-mf by Moody's Investors Services as of June 30, 2025.

3. Property Tax – Use – Value Assessment on Certain Lands

In accordance with the general statutes, agriculture, horticulture, and forestland may be taxed by the County at the present-use value as opposed to market value. When the property loses its eligibility for use-value taxation, the property tax is recomputed at market value for the current year and the three preceding fiscal years, along with the accrued interest from the original due date. This tax is immediately due and payable. The following are property taxes that could become due if present use-value eligibility is lost. These amounts have not been recorded in the financial statements.

Tax Year Levied	Tax	Interest	Total
2021	\$854,116	\$241,288	\$1,095,404
2022	906,826	174,564	1,081,390
2023	871,082	89,286	960,368
2024	892,379	-	892,379
Total	\$3,524,403	\$505,138	\$4,029,541

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

4. Receivables

Receivables at the government-wide level at June 30, 2025, were as follows:

	Other		Taxes	Interest	Lease	
	Accounts	Receivable	Receivable	Receivable	Receivable	Total
		Opioid				
Governmental Activities:						
General	\$ 227,435	\$ -	\$ 1,281,932	\$ 91,814	\$ 851,108	\$ 2,452,289
Other Governmental	21,541	4,024,270	472,110	-	-	4,517,921
Total receivables	248,976	4,024,270	1,754,042	91,814	851,108	6,970,210
Allowance for doubtful accounts	-	(796,854)	(148,295)	-	-	(945,149)
Total-governmental activities	\$ 248,976	\$ 3,227,416	\$ 1,605,747	\$ 91,814	\$ 851,108	\$ 6,025,061
Business-type Activities						
Solid Waste	\$ 646,006	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 646,006
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(25,658)	-	-	-	-	(25,658)
Total-business-type activities	\$ 620,348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 620,348

The due from other governments that is owed to the County consists of the following:

Governmental activities:

NC DOR	\$ 6,603,806
Town of Blowing Rock	252,772
Town of Beech Mountain	399,056
Town of Seven Devils	33,451
Watauga County Clerk of Court	15,321
Caldwell Community College and Tech Inst.	24,145
NC Dept of Public Safety	265,619
Avery County	611
Appalachian State University	429
Town of Boone	1,400
NC State Treasurer	288,820
NCDOT	309,794
NCDIT	18,844
NC Board of Elections	16,482
NC DHHS	709,691
NC Adult Corrections	600
Appalcart	8,868
Watauga County TDA	255,218
NC Dept of Cultural and Natural Resources	325,898
Council of Government	11,337
Total-governmental activities	\$ 9,542,162

Business-type activities:

NCDOR	\$ 42,037
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WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**5. Lease Receivable**

On July 1, 2021, the County entered into a 240-month lease as Lessor for the use of land. An initial lease receivable was recorded in the amount of \$1,044,692. As of June 30, 2025, the value of the lease is \$519,113. The lessee is required to make annual monthly payments of \$13,125. The lease has an interest rate of 3.40%. The value of the deferred inflow of resources as of June 30, 2025, was \$487,524, and the County recognized lease revenue of \$132,794 during the fiscal year.

On March 1, 2025, the County entered into a thirty-six month lease as Lessor for the use of office space. An initial lease receivable was recorded in the amount of \$371,338. As of June 30, 2025, the value of the lease is \$331,995. The lessee is required to make annual monthly payments of \$11,479. The lease has an interest rate of 7.5%. The value of the deferred inflow of resources as of June 30, 2025, was \$330,078, and the County recognized lease revenue of \$41,260 during the fiscal year.

Years ending June 30,	Governmental-Type Activities		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 258,908	\$ 36,342	\$ 157,500
2027	272,869	22,381	157,500
2028	241,353	7,980	157,500
2029	77,978	772	157,500
2030	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 851,108</u>	<u>\$ 52,270</u>	<u>\$ 708,750</u>

6. Capital Assets**Primary Government:**

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2025, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Impairment	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities:					
Non-Depreciable Assets:					
Land	\$ 27,400,033	\$ 7,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,407,833
Intangible	52,830	-	-	-	52,830
Construction in Progress	36,266,282	26,422,834	6,568,066	-	56,121,050
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>63,719,145</u>	<u>26,430,634</u>	<u>6,568,066</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,581,713</u>
Depreciable Assets:					
Buildings	139,234,551	5,589,494	-	-	144,824,045
Other improvements	8,872,817	449,179	-	10,490	9,311,506
Leasehold improvements	7,893,112	-	-	-	7,893,112
Equipment	8,679,254	396,812	135,558	47,949	8,892,559
Vehicles and motorized equipment	3,619,361	522,257	562,388	-	3,579,230
Total depreciable assets	<u>168,299,095</u>	<u>6,957,742</u>	<u>697,946</u>	<u>58,439</u>	<u>174,500,452</u>

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Less Accumulated Depreciation:

Buildings	38,151,779	2,874,022	-	20,603	41,046,404
Other improvements	5,919,346	319,748	-	10,490	6,228,604
Leasehold improvements	3,170,535	249,014	-	-	3,419,549
Equipment	6,878,361	597,891	122,373	47,949	7,305,930
Vehicles and motorized equipment	2,636,255	387,295	570,099	-	2,453,451
Total accumulated depreciation	56,756,276	4,427,970	692,472	79,042	60,453,938
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 175,261,964</u>	<u>\$ 2,537,572</u>	<u>\$ 5,474</u>	<u>\$ (20,603)</u>	<u>\$ 197,628,227</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental Activities:

General government	\$ 1,973,854
Public safety	863,288
Economic development	5,136
Environmental protection	380
Human services	245,080
Cultural and recreational	1,340,232
Total	<u>\$ 4,427,970</u>

Construction commitments

All construction projects are reported in multi-year project authorizations. See fund-level statements.

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
Business-type activities:				
Non-Depreciable Assets:				
Land	\$ 1,100,815	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,100,815
Construction in progress	1,204,364	718,611	1,916,426	6,549
Total non-depreciable assets	2,305,179	718,611	1,916,426	1,107,364
Depreciable and Amortizable Assets:				
Improvements	1,297,757	-	-	1,297,757
Leasehold improvements	319,959	-	-	319,959
Buildings	4,417,101	2,123,399	-	6,540,500
Equipment	2,284,616	291,847	-	2,576,463
Vehicles	2,069,802	522,572	289,369	2,303,005
Total depreciable and amortizable assets	10,389,235	2,937,818	289,369	13,037,684
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Improvements	519,790	85,367	-	605,157
Leasehold improvements	315,148	248	-	315,396
Buildings	1,809,565	134,155	-	1,943,720
Equipment	1,609,419	119,688	-	1,729,107
Vehicles	1,735,244	118,832	289,369	1,564,707
Total accumulated depreciation	5,989,166	458,290	289,369	6,158,087
Total capital assets being depreciated, net				
Business-type capital assets, \$	<u>6,705,248</u>	<u>\$ 3,198,139</u>	<u>\$ 1,916,426</u>	<u>\$ 7,986,961</u>

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Discretely presented component units

Capital asset activity for the Authority for the year ended June 30, 2025, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities:				
Non-Depreciable Assets:				
Land	\$ 697,983	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 697,983
Construction in progress	161,824	-	161,824	-
Total non-depreciable assets	859,807	-	161,824	697,983
Depreciable and Amortizable Assets:				
Buildings	853,090	491,150	-	1,344,240
Total depreciable and amortizable assets	853,090	491,150	-	1,344,240
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Buildings	12,796	23,201	-	35,997
Total accumulated depreciation	12,796	23,201	-	35,997
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	840,294	\$ 467,949	\$ -	1,308,243
Governmental Activities capital assets,	\$ 1,700,101			\$ 2,006,226

Capital asset activity for the AppalCART for the year ended June 30, 2025, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
Business-type activities:				
Non-Depreciable Assets:				
Land	\$ 1,114,242	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,114,242
Construction in progress	116,400	-	6,850	109,550
Total non-depreciable assets	1,230,642	-	6,850	1,223,792
Depreciable and Amortizable Assets:				
Land Improvements	16,519	-	-	16,519
Furniture and equipment	700,334	6,850	13,294	693,890
Shop equipment	403,859	3,870	-	407,729
Buildings	6,711,170	-	-	6,711,170
Vehicles	14,066,991	1,129,121	107,512	15,088,600
Total depreciable and amortizable assets	21,898,873	1,139,841	120,806	22,917,908
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Land Improvements	13,836	536	-	14,372
Furniture and equipment	576,586	58,267	13,294	621,559
Shop equipment	304,076	16,187	-	320,263
Buildings	1,494,491	135,813	-	1,630,304
Vehicles	7,710,231	1,085,910	107,512	8,688,629
Total accumulated depreciation	10,099,220	1,296,713	120,806	11,275,127
Total capital assets being depreciated, net				
Business-type capital assets, net	\$ 13,030,295	\$ (156,872)	\$ 6,850	\$ 12,866,573

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**7. Right to Use Leased Assets**

The County has recorded right to use leased assets. The assets are right to use assets for leased land. The related leases are discussed in the Leases subsection of the Long-term obligations section of this note. The right to use lease assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the terms of the related leases.

Right to use asset activity for the for the County for the year ended June 30, 2025, was as follows:

Enterprise Fund	Beginning Balance	Additions	Decreases	Ending Balance
Right to use assets				
Leased land	\$ 144,380	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 144,380
Total right to use assets	144,380	-	-	144,380
Less accumulated amortization for:				
Leased land	39,139	13,045	-	52,184
Total accumulated amortization	39,139	13,045	-	52,184
Right to use assets, net	105,241	(13,045)	-	92,196

AppalCART has recorded right to use leased assets. The assets are right to use assets for leased land. The related leases are discussed in the Leases subsection of the Long-term obligations section of this note. The right to use lease assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the terms of the related leases.

Right to use asset activity for the for AppalCART for the year ended June 30, 2025, was as follows:

AppalCART	Beginning Balance	Additions	Decreases	Ending Balance
Right to use assets				
IT subscriptions	\$ 357,195	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 357,195
Total right to use assets	357,195	-	-	357,195
Less accumulated amortization for:				
Leased land	90,634	74,123	-	164,757
Total accumulated amortization	90,634	74,123	-	164,757
Right to use assets, net	266,561	(74,123)	-	192,438

B. Liabilities**1. Payables**

Payables at the government-wide level at June 30, 2025, were as follows:

	Vendors	Salaries and benefits	Due to other governments	Negative cash to tie to Exhibit A	Total
Governmental activities:					
General	\$ 1,215,951	\$ 550,144	\$ 1,075,690	\$ -	\$ 2,841,785
Valle Crucis Project	1,950,316	-	-	-	1,950,316
Hurricane Helene Disaster	4,929,652	-	-	(1,252,195)	3,677,457
Other governmental funds	1,079,168	-	592,958	(29,276)	1,642,850
Total-governmental activities	\$ 9,175,087	\$ 550,144	\$ 1,668,648	\$ (1,281,471)	\$ 10,112,408
Business-type activities:					
Solid Waste	\$ 358,125	\$ 49,006	\$ 33,676	\$ -	\$ 440,807

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Pension Plan Obligations

a. Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System

Plan Description. The County is a participating employer in the statewide Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of North Carolina. LGERS membership is comprised of general employees and local law enforcement officers (LEOs) of participating local government entities. Article 3 of G.S. Chapter 128 assigns the County to establish and amend benefit provisions to the North Carolina General Assembly. Management of the plan is vested in the LGERS Board of Trustees, which consists of 13 members – nine appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the State Senate, one appointed by the State House of Representatives, and the State Treasurer and State Superintendent, who serve as ex-officio members. The Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System is included in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the State of North Carolina. The State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report includes financial statements and required supplementary information for LGERS. That report may be obtained by writing to the Office of the State Controller, 1410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1410, by calling (919) 981-5454, or at www.osc.nc.org.

Benefits Provided. LGERS provides retirement and survivor benefits. Retirement benefits are determined as 1.85% of the member's average final compensation times the member's years of creditable service. A member's average final compensation is calculated as the average of a member's four highest consecutive years of compensation. Plan members are eligible to retire with full retirement benefits at age 65 with five years of creditable service, at age 60 with 25 years of creditable service, or at any age with 30 years of creditable service. Plan members are eligible to retire with partial retirement benefits at age 50 with 20 years of creditable service or at age 60 with five years of creditable service (age 55 for firefighters). Survivor benefits are available to eligible beneficiaries of members who die while in active service or within 180 days of their last day of service and who have either completed 20 years of creditable service regardless of age (15 years of creditable service for firefighters and rescue squad members who are killed in the line of duty) or have completed five years of service and have reached age 60. Eligible beneficiaries may elect to receive a monthly Survivor's Alternate Benefit for life or a return of the member's contributions. The plan does not provide for automatic post-retirement benefit increases. Increases are contingent upon actuarial gains of the plan.

LGERS plan members who are LEOs are eligible to retire with full retirement benefits at age 55 with five years creditable service as an officer, or at any age with 30 years of creditable service. LEO plan members are eligible to retire with partial retirement benefits at age 50 with 15 years of creditable service as an officer. Survivor benefits are available to eligible beneficiaries of LEO members who die while in active service or within 180 days of their last day of service and who also have either completed 20 years of creditable service regardless of age, or have completed 15 years of service as a LEO and have reached age 50, or have completed five years of creditable service as a LEO and have reached age 55, or have completed 15 years of creditable service as a LEO if killed in the line of duty. Eligible beneficiaries may elect to receive a monthly Survivor's Alternate Benefit for life or a return of the member's contributions.

Contributions. Contribution provisions are established by General Statue 128-30 and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly. County employees are required to contribute 6% of their compensation. Employer contributions are actuarially determined and set annually by the LGERS Board of Trustees. The County's contractually required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2025, was 15.04% of compensation for law enforcement officers and 13.68% for general employees and firefighters, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with employees contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year. Contributions to the pension plan from the County were \$2,406,476 for the year ended June 30, 2025.

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Refunds of Contributions. County employees, who have terminated service as a contributing member of LGERS, may file an application for a refund of their contributions. By state law, refunds to members with at least five years of service include 4% interest. State law requires a 60 day waiting period after service termination before the refund may be paid. The acceptance of a refund payment cancels the individual's right to employer contributions or any other benefit provided by LGERS.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At June 30, 2025, the County reported a liability of \$10,713,613 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2023. The total pension liability was then rolled forward to the measurement date of June 30, 2024 utilizing update procedures incorporating the actuarial assumptions. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the County's long-term share of future payroll covered by the pension plan, relative to the projected future payroll covered by the pension plan of all participating LGERS employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2025, the County's proportion was 0.15892% (measured as of June 30, 2024), which was a decrease of 0.00459% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2023.

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the County recognized pension expense of \$3,253,936. At June 30, 2025, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,877,431	\$ 12,623
Changes of assumptions	-	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	1,456,509	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Town contributions and proportionate share of contributions	114,440	140,194
Town contributions subsequent to the measurement date	2,406,476	-
Total	<u>\$ 5,854,856</u>	<u>\$ 152,817</u>

\$2,406,476 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a decrease of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2026. Other amounts reported as deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Years Ending June 30,

2026	\$ 1,044,711
2027	2,080,272
2028	335,270
2029	(164,690)
Total	<u>\$ 3,295,563</u>

At June 30, 2025, the Authority reported a liability of \$159,840 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2024. The total pension liability was then rolled forward to the measurement date of June 30, 2024 utilizing update procedures incorporating the actuarial assumptions. The Authority's

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proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Authority's long-term share of future payroll covered by the pension plan, relative to the projected future payroll covered by the pension plan of all participating LGERS employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2025, the Authority's proportion was 0.00237% (measured as of June 30, 2024), which was a decrease of 0.00001% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2023.

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the Authority recognized pension expense of \$51,992. At June 30, 2025, the Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 28,010	\$ 188
Changes of assumptions	-	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	21,730	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Authority contributions and proportionate share of contributions	3,714	659
Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date	38,292	-
Total	\$ <u>91,746</u>	\$ <u>847</u>

\$38,292 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a decrease of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2026. Other amounts reported as deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:	
2026	\$ 17,285
2027	31,947
2028	5,832
2029	(2,457)
2030	-
Thereafter	-
Total	\$ <u>52,607</u>

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability in the December 31, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.5 percent
Salary increases	3.25 to 8.25%
Investment rate of return	6.5 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

The plan currently uses mortality tables that vary by age, gender, employee group (i.e. general, law enforcement officer) and health status (i.e. disabled and healthy). The current mortality rates are based on published tables and based on studies that cover significant portions of the U.S. population. The healthy mortality rates also contain a provision to reflect future mortality improvements.

The actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2023 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study as of December 31, 2019 and adopted by the Board of Trustees on January 28, 2021.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Future ad hoc COLA amounts are not considered to be substantively automatic and are therefore not included in the measurement.

The projected long-term investment returns and inflation assumptions are developed through review of current and historical capital markets data, sell-side investment research, consultant whitepapers, and historical performance of investment strategies. Fixed income return projections reflect current yields across the U.S. Treasury yield curve and market expectations of forward yields projected and interpolated for multiple tenors and over multiple year horizons. Global public equity projections are established through analysis of the equity risk premium and the fixed income return projections. Other asset categories and strategies' return projections reflect the foregoing and historical data analysis. These projections are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

The target allocation and best estimates or arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class as of June 30, 2025 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Fixed Income	33.0%	2.4%
Global Equity	38.0%	6.9%
Real Estate	8.0%	6.0%
Alternatives	8.0%	8.6%
Opportunistic Fixed Income	7.0%	5.3%
Inflation Sensitive	6.0%	4.3%
Total	100%	

The information above is based on 30 year expectations developed with the consulting actuary for the 2024 asset liability and investment policy study for the North Carolina Retirement Systems, including LGERS. The long-term nominal rates of return underlying the real rates of return are arithmetic annualized figures. The real rates of return are calculated from nominal rates by multiplicatively subtracting a long-term inflation assumption of 2.38%. All rates of return and inflation are annualized.

Discount rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.5%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rate and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based on these assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of the current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the proportionate share of the net pension asset to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the proportionate share of the net pension asset calculated using the discount rate of 6.5 percent, as well as what the proportionate share of the net pension asset or net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (5.5 percent) or one percentage point higher (7.5 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (5.5%)	Discount Rate (6.5%)	1% Increase (7.5%)
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 18,984,836	\$ 10,713,613	\$ 3,909,395

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	1% Decrease (5.5%)	Discount Rate (6.5%)	1% Increase (7.5%)
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 283,241	\$ 159,840	\$ 58,326

Pension plan fiduciary net position. Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the State of North Carolina.

b. Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance**1. Plan Description**

Watauga County administers a single-employer defined benefit pension plan that provides retirement benefits to the County's qualified sworn law enforcement officers. In June of 2016, the County established an irrevocable trust, the Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance (LEOSSA) Irrevocable Trust Fund, to account for the assets set aside for this purpose. For reporting purposes, the LEOSSA is presented as a pension trust fund as it meets the criteria for trust funds outlined in GASB Statement 68.

Benefits Provided. The Separation Allowance is equal to .85 percent of the annual equivalent of the base rate of compensation most recently applicable to the officer for each year of creditable service. The retirement benefits are not subject to any increases in salary or retirement allowances that may be authorized by the General Assembly. Article 12D of G.S. Chapter 143 assigns the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions to the North Carolina General Assembly.

The data required regarding the membership of the Watauga County Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Plan was furnished by the County and the NC Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System. The following table summarizes the membership of the Plan as of June 30, 2024, the valuation date:

Retirees receiving benefits	2
Inactive members entitled to but not receiving benefits	0
Active plan members	47
Total	<u>49</u>

Contributions. The County is required by Article 12D of G.S. Chapter 143 to provide these retirement benefits and has chosen to fund the amounts necessary to cover the benefits earned by making contributions based on actuarial valuations. For the year ended June 30, 2025, the County contributed \$194,350, or 6.49% of covered payroll. There were no contributions made by employees. The County's obligation to contribute to this plan is established and may be amended by the North Carolina General Assembly. Administration costs of the Separation Allowance are financed through investment earnings.

Refunds of Contributions. Because all funds are contributed by the County, no refunds are available to members of the plan.

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability (TPL) in the June 30, 2024 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.5 percent
Salary increases	Based on service, ranging from 3.25 to 7.75 percent, including inflation
Investment rate of return	3.93 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

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Mortality

Pre-retirement mortality rates bases on the Pub-2010 Safety Employees tables, project forward generationally using Scale MP-2019

Post-retirement rate based on the Pub-2010 Safety Retirees tables, set forward one year and multiplied by .97, then projected generationally using Scale MP-2019

Discount rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 3.93%. Since the assets are held in short term investments, a discount rate equal to the 20-year tax-exempt municipal bond (rating AA/Aa or higher) rate was used. The index used for this purpose is the Bond Buyer 20-Bond GO Index rate published closest to, but not later than, the measurement date of June 30, 2024.

Projected cash flows. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that the employer would contribute the actuarially determined contribution in the future.

Long term rate of return. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments is assumed to be 3.93% annually. Since the Separation Allowance assets are held in short term investments a discount rate equal to the 20-year tax-exempt municipal bond (rating AA/Aa or higher) rate was used. The index used for this purpose is the Bond Buyer 20-Bond GO Index rate published closest to, but not later than, the measurement date of June 30, 2024.

Sensitivity of the net pension asset to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 3.93 percent, as well as what the net pension asset or net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (2.93 percent) or one percentage point higher (4.93 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (2.93%)	Discount Rate (3.93%)	1% Increase (4.93%)
Net pension liability	\$1,031,781	\$862,049	\$707,408

Pension plan fiduciary net position. Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the chart below:

	Total Pension Liability (a)	Plan Net Position (b)	Net Pension Liability (a) – (b)
Balance as of June 30, 2023; measurement date	\$1,308,515	\$860,978	\$447,537
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	96,447	-	96,447
Interest	50,278	-	50,278
Benefit changes	-	-	-
Difference between expected and actual experience	603,230	-	603,230
Changes of assumptions or other inputs	(45,962)	-	(45,962)
Contributions – employer	-	264,958	(264,958)
Contributions – employee	-	-	-
Net investment income	-	35,523	(35,523)
Benefits paid	(54,958)	(54,958)	-
Plan administrative expenses	-	(11,000)	11,000
Net changes	649,035	234,523	414,512
Balance as of June 30, 2024; measurement date	\$1,957,550	\$1,095,501	862,049

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Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to the LEOSSA Pension Plan

The assumed rate of return was decreased from 3.65% to 3.93% to reflect the change in the Municipal Bond Rate. There were no changes between the measurement date of the net pension liability and the County's reporting date that are expected to have a significant effect on the net pension liability.

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the County recognized pension expense of \$184,733. Since certain expense items are amortized over closed periods each year, the deferred portion of these items must be tracked annually. If the amounts serve to reduce pension expense, they are labeled deferred inflows. If they will increase pension expense they are labeled deferred outflows. The amortization of these amounts is accomplished on a level dollar basis, with no interest included in the deferred amounts. Experience gains/losses and the impact of changes in actuarial assumptions, if any, are amortized over the average remaining service life of the active and inactive plan members at the beginning of the fiscal year. Investment gains and losses are amortized over a fixed five year period.

At June 30, 2025 the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources as of the June 30, 2024 measurement date:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	501,151	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	15,085	-
Changes of assumptions and other inputs	2,064	-
Benefit payments and administrative expenses subsequent to the measurement date	41,650	-
Total	<u>559,950</u>	<u>-</u>

The County paid \$41,650 in benefit payments and \$0 in admin expenditures subsequent to the measurement date that are reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2026. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Years Ending June 30,

2026	\$ 60,533
2027	57,435
2028	54,104
2029	60,387
2030	68,545
Thereafter	217,296
Total	<u>\$ 518,300</u>

c. Supplemental Retirement Income Plan for Law Enforcement Officers

Plan Description. The County contributes to the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan (Plan), a defined contribution pension plan administered by the Department of State Treasurer and a Board of Trustees. The Plan provides retirement benefits to law enforcement officers employed by the County. Article 5 of G.S. Chapter 135 assigns the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions to the North Carolina General Assembly. The Supplemental Retirement Income Plan for Law Enforcement

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Officers is included in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the State of North Carolina. The State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report includes the pension trust fund financial statements for the Internal Revenue Code Section 401(k) plan that includes the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan for Law Enforcement Officers. That report may be obtained by writing to the Office of the State Controller, 1410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1410, or by calling (919) 981-5454.

Funding Policy. Article 12E of G.S. Chapter 143 required the County to contribute each month an amount equal to five percent of each officer's salary, and all amounts contributed are vested immediately. Also, the law enforcement officers may make voluntary contributions to the plan.

Contributions for the year ended June 30, 2025 were \$243,794, which consisted of \$168,627 from the County and \$75,167 from the law enforcement officers. No amounts were forfeited.

d. Supplemental Retirement Income Plans for General Employees

Employees, other than law enforcement, have the choice of participating in a 401(k) plan or a 457 deferred compensation plan. The County contributes five percent of each employee's salary to the plan of their choice. Employees may make elective deferrals to each plan. Contributions for the year ended June 30, 2025 to these plans were \$1,073,661 which consisted of \$668,793 from the County and \$404,868 from employees. No amounts were forfeited.

e. Register of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund

Plan Description. Watauga County also contributes to the Registers of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund (RODSPF), a noncontributory, defined benefit plan administered by the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer. RODSPF provides supplemental pension benefits to any eligible county register of deeds who is retired under the Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LGERS) or an equivalent locally sponsored plan. Article 3 of G.S. Chapter 161 assigns the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions to the North Carolina General Assembly. Management of the plan is vested in the LGERS Board of Trustees, which consists of 13 members – nine appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the state Senate, one appointed by the state House of Representatives, and the State Treasurer and State Superintendent, who serve as ex-officio members. The Registers of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund is included in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the State of North Carolina. The State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the Registers of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund. That report may be obtained by writing to the Office of the State Controller, 1410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 28699-1410, by calling (919) 981-5454, or at www.osc.nc.gov.

Benefits Provided. An individual's benefits for the year are calculated as a share of accumulated contributions available for benefits for that year, subject to certain statutory limits. An individual's eligibility is based on at least 10 years of service as a register of deeds with the individual's share increasing with years of service. Because of the statutory limits noted above, not all contributions available for benefits are distributed.

Contributions. Benefits and administrative expenses are funded by investment income and 1.5% of the receipts collected by each County Commission under Article 1 of Chapter 161 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The statutory contribution currently has no relationship to the actuary's required contribution. The actuarially determined contribution this year, and for the foreseeable future, is zero. Registers of Deeds do not contribute. Contribution provisions are established by General Statute 161-50 and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly. Contributions to the pension plan from the County were \$11,692 for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pension

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At June 30, 2025, the County reported an asset of \$70,400 for its proportionate share of the net pension asset. The net pension asset was measured as of June 30, 2024. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2023. The total pension liability was then rolled forward to the measurement date of June 30, 2023 utilizing update procedures incorporating the actuarial assumptions. The County's proportion of the net pension asset was based on the County's share of contributions to the pension plan, relative to contributions to the pension plan of all participating RODSPF employers. At June 30, 2025, the County's proportion was .61095%, which was a decrease of .021% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2024.

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the County recognized pension expense of \$28,365. At June 30, 2025, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,546	\$ 1,259
Changes of assumptions	-	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	27,187	-
Changes in proportion and differences between County contributions and proportionate share of contributions	2,462	465
County contributions subsequent to the measurement date	11,692	-
Total	<u>\$ 42,887</u>	<u>\$ 1,724</u>

\$11,692 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as an increase of the net pension asset in the year ended June 30, 2026. Other amounts reported as deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:		
2026	\$	13,962
2027		12,943
2028		2,468
2029		98
2030		-
Total	<u>\$</u>	<u>29,471</u>

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability in the December 31, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.5 percent
Salary increases	3.25
Investment rate of return	3.0 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

The plan currently uses mortality tables that vary by age, gender, employee group (i.e. general, law enforcement officer) and health status (i.e. disabled and healthy). The current mortality rates are based on published tables and based on studies that cover significant portions of the U.S. population. The healthy mortality rates also contain a provision to reflect future mortality improvements.

The actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2023 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience review for LGERS for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019.

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Future ad hoc COLA amounts are not considered to be substantively automatic and are therefore not included in the measurement.

The projected long-term investment returns and inflation assumptions are developed through review of current and historical capital markets data, sell-side investment research, consultant whitepapers, and historical performance of investment strategies. Fixed income return projections reflect current yields across the U.S. Treasury yield curve and market expectations of forward yields projected and interpolated for multiple tenors and over multiple-year horizons. Global public equity return projections are established through analysis of the equity risk premium and the fixed income return projections. Other asset categories and strategies' return projections reflect the foregoing and historical data analysis. These projections are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

The information above is based on 30-year expectations developed with an investment consulting firm as part of a study that was completed in early 2022, and is part of the asset liability and investment policy of the North Carolina Retirement Systems. The long-term nominal rates of return underlying the real rates of return are arithmetic annualized figures. The real rates of return are calculated from nominal rates by multiplicatively subtracting a long-term inflation assumption of 2.38%. Return projections do not include any excess return expectations over benchmark averages. All rates of return and inflation are annualized. The adopted asset allocation policy for the RODSPF is 100% in the fixed income asset class and is 100% invested in the Bond Index External Investment Pool. The long term expected real rate of return for the Bond Index Investment Pool as of June 30, 2024 is 2.76%.

Discount rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension asset was 3.0%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates. Based on these assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of the current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the County's proportionate share of the net pension asset to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the County's proportionate share of the net pension asset calculated using the discount rate of 3.0 percent, as well as what the County's proportionate share of the net pension asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.0 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.0 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (2.0%)	Discount Rate (3.0%)	1% Increase (4.0%)
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	(\$46,646)	(\$70,400)	(90,408)

Pension plan fiduciary net position. Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the State of North Carolina.

f. Pension Liabilities (Assets), Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

The net pension liability (asset) for LGERS and ROD was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2023. The net pension liability (asset) for LEOSA was measured as of June 30, 2024, with an actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2024. The County's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) was based on the County's share of contributions to the pension plan relative

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to the contribution of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	<u>LGERS</u>	<u>ROD</u>	<u>LEOSSA</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ 10,713,613	\$ (70,400)	\$ -	\$ 10,643,213
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	0.15892%	0.61095%	n/a	n/a
Net Pension Liability	-	-	\$ 862,049	\$ 862,049
Pension Expense	\$ 3,253,936	\$ 23,865	\$ 184,733	\$ 3,462,534

At June 30, 2025, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>LGERS</u>	<u>ROD</u>	<u>LEOSSA</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>				
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,877,431	\$ 1,546	\$ 501,151	\$ 2,380,128
Changes of assumptions	-	-	2,064	2,064
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	1,456,509	27,187	15,085	1,498,781
Changes in proportion and differences between County contributions and proportionate share of contributions	114,440	2,462	-	116,902
County contributions (LGERS, ROD)/benefit payments and administration costs (LEOSSA) subsequent to the measurement date	2,406,476	11,692	41,650	2,459,818
Total	<u>\$ 5,854,856</u>	<u>\$ 42,887</u>	<u>\$ 559,950</u>	<u>\$ 6,457,693</u>
<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>				
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 12,623	\$ 1,259	\$ -	\$ 13,882
Changes of assumptions	-	-	-	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	-	-	-
Changes in proportion and differences between County contributions and proportionate share of contributions	140,194	465	-	140,659
Total	<u>\$ 152,817</u>	<u>\$ 1,724</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 154,541</u>

g. Other Postemployment Benefit for Health Insurance**Plan Description**

Plan Administration. Under a County resolution as of September 1, 2001, Watauga County administers the Healthcare Benefits Plan (HCB Plan) as a single-employer defined benefit plan that is

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used to provide postemployment benefits other than pensions (OPEB) for all retirees of the County who participate in the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System and have at least five years of creditable service with the County. The County has elected to partially pay the future overall cost of coverage for these benefits. The HCB Plan is available to qualified retirees at up to 75% of the monthly premium, until the age of 65 or until Medicare eligible, whichever is sooner based on years of creditable service with the County. The Board of Commissioners may amend the benefit provisions. The HCB Plan is in the County's report as a pension trust fund with funds held in an irrevocable trust. A separate report was not issued for the Plan.

Management of the HCB Plan is vested in the Watauga County Board of Commissioners.

Plan Membership. At June 30, 2024, the HCB Plan membership consisted of the following:

Inactive plan members or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	20
Inactive plan members entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	-
Active plan members	<u>238</u>
Total	<u>258</u>

Benefits Provided. The HCB plan provides healthcare benefits for retirees. The County pays a percentage of the cost of coverage for employees' benefits through private insurers.

Contributions. The Board of Commissioners established the contribution requirements of plan members and these requirements may be amended by the Board. The Board establishes rates based on an actuarially determined rate. Per a County resolution, the County is required to contribute the projected pay-as-you-go financing requirements, with an additional amount to prefund benefits as determined annually by the Board. The County's contribution is dependent on the employee's number of years of creditable service with the County. Retirees pay the difference in the premium less their subsidy based on years of service in the chart below. For the current year, the County contributed \$612,813.

County contributions to HCB Plan based on creditable years of service

10 years in LGERS with last 5 years with Watauga County	\$0 - 100% retiree responsibility
20 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	50% supplement
21 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	52.5% supplement
22 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	55% supplement
23 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	57.5% supplement
24 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	60% supplement
25 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	62.5% supplement
26 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	65% supplement
27 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	67.5% supplement
28 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	70% supplement
29 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	72.5% supplement
30 years in LGERS with last 10 years with Watauga County	75% supplement

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Investments

Investment policy. The HCB Plan's policy in regards to the allocation of invested assets is established by the County Financial Policy used by management. It is the policy of the County to pursue an investment strategy that reduces risk through the prudent diversification of the portfolio and staggered maturities. Investments are valued at fair value. The current asset allocation policy is in 100% fixed income investments with an expected long term rate of return of 3.93 percent.

Rate of return. For the year ended June 30, 2025, the annual money weighted rate of return on investments, net of investment expense, was 3.93 percent.

Net OPEB Liability of the County

The components of the net OPEB liability of the County at June 30, 2025 were as follows:

Total OPEB Liability	\$	7,377,585
Plan fiduciary net position		3,511,423
County's net OPEB liability	\$	<u>3,866,162</u>

Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of Total OPEB Liability is 47.6%.

Actuarial assumptions. The total OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2024 using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary increases	Based on service, ranging from 7.75 percent for Uniformed Employees grading down to 3.25 percent over 40 years, and 8.25% for General Employees grading down to 3.25 percent over 35 years, including inflation
Discount rate	3.93 percent
Healthcare cost trend rates	6.5 percent, then 7.25 percent decreasing by .25 percent per year, 4.50 percent ultimate rate
Healthy mortality rates	
Pre-retirement	(General) Pub-2010 General Employees table, projected generationally using Scale: MP-2019 (Uniformed) Pub-2010 Safety Employees table, projected generationally using Scale: MP-2019.
Post-retirement	(General): Pub-2010 General Retiree table, set forward two years and multiplied by 96% for males, unadjusted for females, projected generationally using Scale MP-2019. (Uniformed): Pub-2010 Safety Retiree table, set forward one year and multiplied by 97%, projected generationally using Scale MP-2019.

Total OPEB liabilities were rolled forward to June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023 for the employer and the plan, respectively, utilizing updated procedures incorporating the actuarial assumptions.

The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These returns are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighing the expected future real rates

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

of return by the major target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation and subtracting expected investment expenses and a risk margin.

Discount rate. The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 3.93 percent. The discount rate incorporates a municipal bond rate which is 3.93 percent as reported in the Bond Buyer for the 20 Year general obligation bonds as of June 30, 2024.

Sensitivity of the net OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the net OPEB liability of the County, as well as what the County's net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.93 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.93 percent) than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease (2.93 percent)	Discount Rate (3.93 percent)	1% Increase (4.93 percent)
Net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ 4,598,483	\$ 3,866,162	\$ 3,212,491

Sensitivity of the net OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare trend rate. The following presents the net OPEB liability of the County, as well as what the County's net OPEB liability would be if it were to calculate healthcare trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare trend rate:

	1% Decrease in Trend Rates	Healthcare Cost Trend Rate	1% Increase in Trend Rates
Net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ 3,100,005	\$ 3,866,162	\$ 4,767,631

Changes in Net OPEB Liability, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB. At June 30, 2025, the County reported a net OPEB liability of \$3,866,162. The total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was measured by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2024.

At June 30, 2025, the components of the net OPEB liability of the County, as measured at June 30, 2024, were as follows:

Changes of assumptions. Changes of assumptions and other inputs reflect a change in the discount rate from 3.65 percent in 2023 to 3.93 percent in 2024.

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the County recognized OPEB expense of \$3,104,075. At June 30, 2025, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 627,261
Changes of assumptions	-	559,744
Net Difference between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	-	14,755
County contributions subsequent to the measurement date	612,813	-
Total	<u>\$ 612,813</u>	<u>\$ 1,201,760</u>

\$612,813 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a decrease in the net OPEB

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

liability in the year ended June 30, 2026. Other amounts reported as deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

2026	\$	(155,612)
2027		(190,461)
2028		(201,349)
2029		(244,847)
2030		(222,113)
Thereafter		(187,378)
	\$	<u>(1,201,760)</u>

h. Other Employment Benefits**Death Benefits**

The County has elected to provide death benefits to all eligible employees through the Death Benefit Plan for members of the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (Death Benefit Plan). A multiple-employer, State administered, cost sharing plan funded on a one-year term cost basis. The beneficiaries of those employees who die in active service after one year of contributing membership in the System, or who die within 180 days after retirement or termination of service have at least one year of contributing membership service in the System at the time of death are eligible for death benefits. Lump sum death benefit payments to beneficiaries are equal to the employee's 12 highest months' salary in a row during the 24 months prior to the employee's death, but the benefit will be a minimum of \$25,000 and will not exceed \$50,000. Because all death benefit payments are made from the Death Benefit Plan and not by the County, the County does not determine the number of eligible participants. The County has no liability beyond the payment of monthly contributions. The contributions to the Death Benefit Plan cannot be separated between the post-employment benefit amount and the other benefit amount. Contributions are determined as a percentage of monthly payroll based upon rates established annually by the State. Separate rates are set for employees not engaged in law enforcement and for law enforcement officers. The County considers the contributions to be immaterial.

The County has elected to provide additional death benefits for all eligible employees through a commercial insurance carrier in the amounts equal to an employee's salary rounded up to the next \$1,000. Coverage is provided at a maximum of \$80,000 with no minimum value. Benefits in excess of \$50,000 are considered taxable to the employee as a fringe benefit.

i. Retirement Plan - AppalCART

Please see the separately issued financial report of AppalCART for a complete description of their single employer pension plan.

3. Closure and Postclosure Care Costs – Solid Waste Landfill and the Land Clearing Inert Debris (LCID)

Solid Waste Landfill - On April 8, 1994, the County stopped accepting municipal solid waste at the County's landfill, and closure procedures were initiated. State and federal laws and regulations required the County to place a final cover on its landfill facility and to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for thirty years after closure. Groundwater testing continues, as required by NCDENR. Due to a NCDENR directive, in fiscal year 2004-2005, a methane collection system was installed to prevent the potential for offsite migration. Further remedial actions are not anticipated unless groundwater conditions change. The County has recognized all post-closure costs as of June 30, 2025.

(LCID) - State and federal laws and regulations require the County to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for thirty years after closure. Although closure and postclosure care costs will be paid only near or after the date that the landfill stops accepting debris, the County

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

reports a portion of these closure and postclosure care costs as an operating expense in each period based on landfill capacity used as each balance sheet date. The \$495,461 reported as landfill closure and postclosure care liability at June 30, 2025 represents a cumulative amount reported to date based on the use of 23% of the total estimated capacity of the landfill. The County will recognize the remaining estimated cost of closure and postclosure care as the remaining capacity is filled. These amounts are based on what it would cost to perform all closure and postclosure care in 2025.

4. Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources

Deferred outflows and inflows of resources as of June 30, 2025 are as follows:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources Statement of Net Position	Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
Deferred Outflows of Resources:			
Changes in assumptions, pension and OPEB	\$ 2,064	\$ 511,046	\$ -
Pensions and OPEB - difference between expected and actual experience	2,216,792	585,473	-
Pensions and OPEB - difference between projected and actual investment earnings	1,372,065	13,471	-
Pensions and OPEB - change in proportion and difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	106,946	128,462	-
Contributions to pension and OPEB plans in the current year	2,809,953	-	-
FEMA disaster discovery	-	-	58,777
Note Receivable (General)	-	-	12,215,529
Prepaid taxes not yet earned (General)	-	5,166	5,166
Taxes receivable, net (General)	-	-	1,145,182
Opioid Settlement (Opioid Settlement)	-	-	3,187,416
Lease receivable (General)	-	817,602	817,602
Taxes receivable, net (Special Revenue)	-	-	148,315
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 6,507,819</u>	<u>\$ 2,061,221</u>	<u>\$ 17,577,987</u>

5. Risk Management

The County is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The County participates in two self-funded risk-financing pools administrated by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Through these pools, the County obtains property coverage equal to replacement cost values of owned property subject to a limit of \$135,429,542 for any one occurrence, general, auto, professional, and employment practices liability coverage of \$2,000,000 per occurrence, auto physical damage coverage for owned autos at actual cash value, crime coverage of \$250,000 per occurrence and workers' compensation coverage up to the statutory limits. The pools are audited annually by certified public accountants, and the audited financial statements are available to the County upon request. The pools are reinsured through a multi-state public entity captive for single occurrence losses in excess of \$250,000 up to a \$2 million limit for liability coverage, \$4,000,000 of aggregate annual losses in excess of \$5,000 per occurrence for property, \$1,000 per occurrence for auto physical damage, and crime coverage, and single occurrence losses of \$350,000 for workers'

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

compensation. The County provides employee health, dental and life insurance benefits through commercial carriers.

The County carries flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Plan (NFIP). Because the County is in an area of the State that has been mapped an "A" area (an area close to a river, lake or stream) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the County is eligible to purchase coverage of \$500,000 per structure through the NFIP. Under this program, the County has purchased commercial flood insurance for \$824,000 for certain flood-prone structures. The County carries flood insurance to avoid possible significant loss.

In accordance with G.S. 159-29, the County's employees that have access to \$100 or more at any given time of the County's funds are covered by a blanket bond for \$250,000. The Finance Officer is bonded for \$1,000,000. The Tax Administrator, Register of Deeds, and County Manager (as Deputy Finance Director) are each individually bonded for \$50,000 each. The Sheriff is bonded for \$25,000.

The County carries commercial coverage for all other risks of loss. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the previous year and settled claims have not exceeded coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

AppalCART is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. AppalCART is insured with the NC Association of County Commissioners Liability and Property and Worker's Compensation Pools that provides coverage for general liability in the amount of \$2,000,000 with an additional \$3,000,000 in vehicle liability purchased per NC DOT requirements and worker's comp insurance at the statutory limits. The County is a member of these same pools.

The Watauga County Tourism Development Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The Authority is insured with the NC Association of County Commissioners Liability and Property that provide coverage for general liability in the amount of \$2,000,000 and worker's comp coverage with a commercial firm at the statutory limits. The County is a member of the same Liability and Property pool.

6. Long-term Obligations

a. **Leases**

Serviced by the Enterprise Fund:

The County has entered into agreements to lease certain parcels of land. The lease agreements qualify as other than short-term leases under GASB 87 and, therefore, have been recorded at the present value of future minimum payments as of the date of their inception.

The first agreement was executed in September 2013 to lease land and requires 240 monthly payments varying between \$300 to \$375. There are no variable payment components of the lease. The lease liability is measured at a discount rate of 3.39%, which is the stated rate in the lease agreement. As a result of the lease, the County has recorded a right to use asset with a net book value of \$28,693 at June 30, 2025. The right to use asset is discussed in more detail in the right to use asset section of this note.

\$ 31,424

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

The second agreement was executed in September 2006 to lease land and requires 240 monthly payments varying between \$175 to \$250. There are no variable payment components of the lease. The lease liability is measured at a discount rate of 3.39%, which is the stated rate in the lease agreement. As a result of the lease, the County has recorded a right to use asset with a net book value of \$3,203 at June 30, 2025. The right to use asset is discussed in more detail in the right to use asset section of this note.

3,427

The third agreement was executed in May 2013 to lease land and requires 240 monthly payments of \$100. There are no variable payment components of the lease. The lease liability is measured at a discount rate of 3.39%, which is the stated rate in the lease agreement. As a result of the lease, the County has recorded a right to use asset with a net book value of \$7,828 at June 30, 2025. The right to use asset is discussed in more detail in the right to use asset section of this note.

8,323

The fourth agreement was executed in February 2015 to lease land and requires 240 monthly payments of \$300. There are no variable payment components of the lease. The lease liability is measured at a discount rate of 3.39%, which is the stated rate in the lease agreement. As a result of the lease, the County has recorded a right to use asset with a net book value of \$27,698 at June 30, 2025. The right to use asset is discussed in more detail in the right to use asset section of this note.

29,421

The fifth agreement was executed in November 2013 to lease land and requires 240 monthly payments varying between \$300 to \$399. There are no variable payment components of the lease. The lease liability is measured at a discount rate of 3.39%, which is the stated rate in the lease agreement. As a result of the lease, the County has recorded a right to use asset with a net book value of \$24,774 at June 30, 2025. The right to use asset is discussed in more detail in the right to use asset section of this note.

26,329

Total Enterprise Fund leases

\$ 98,924**Leases**

The future minimum lease obligations and the net present value of these minimum lease payments as of June 30, 2025, were as follows:

<u>Years Ending June 30.</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026	12,438	3,038	\$ 15,476
2027	10,335	2,636	12,971
2028	10,177	2,292	12,469
2029	10,754	1,935	12,689
2030	11,201	1,558	12,759
2031-2035	44,019	2,361	46,380
Total	<u>\$ 98,924</u>	<u>\$ 13,820</u>	<u>\$ 112,744</u>

b. Installment Purchase

As authorized by State law [G.S. 160A-20 and 153A-158.1], the County financed various transactions during previous years by direct placement installment purchase. The installment purchases were issued pursuant to security agreements that require that legal title remain with the County as long as the debt is outstanding because the property is pledged as collateral for the debt. The County has four installment purchases serviced by the general fund.

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

The first and second installment direct placement purchase agreements were executed on June 28, 2012 to refinance the construction of the new high school. These installment purchases were refinanced June 28, 2012 into limited obligation bonds. The limited obligations bonds were issued in two series, A and B. Series A is for a principal amount of \$45,045,000 with terms ranging from 2016 to 2028. The Series A bonds were partially refunded on October 2, 2019. The refunded portion totaled \$17,390,000 with a new principal balance of \$19,240,000. The refunding was undertaken to reduce total debt service payments by \$677,245 over the remaining life of the purchase agreements. The Series A bonds have an outstanding balance at June 30, 2025 of \$10,670,000. Series B was for \$10 million with a term of three years and a set rate of 1.81 percent and this series paid out in fiscal year 2014-15.

The third direct placement installment purchase agreement was for limited obligations bonds and was executed in the amount \$18,490,000 for the construction of the community recreation center on October 25, 2018. The installment purchase calls for annual payments of principal and semi-annual payments of interest for a period of 15 years. The annual principal payments range from \$1,320,000 to \$1,325,000. The outstanding balance as of June 30, 2025 is \$10,565,000. Proceeds from the LOBs included a premium of \$1,723,277 which will be amortized and expensed in interest over the life of the installment purchase agreement.

The fourth direct placement installment purchase agreement was for limited obligations bonds and was executed in the amount \$31,800,000 for the construction of the Valle Crucis School on October 27, 2022. The installment purchase calls for annual payments of principal and semi-annual payments of interest for a period of 20 years. The annual principal payments range from \$965,000 to \$1,625,000. The outstanding balance as of June 30, 2025 is \$27,585,000. Proceeds from the LOBs included a premium of \$2,997,003 which will be amortized and expensed in interest over the life of the installment purchase agreement.

The County obtained a \$895,478 Hurricane Helene Cash Flow note issued March 3, 2025 0% interest, payable in annual installments with the final payment June 30, 2030. The annual principal payments range from \$1 to \$358,190. The County's outstanding note from direct borrowings related to governmental activities of \$895,478 is not secured by a pledge of the faith and credit of the state of North Carolina or of the County but is payable solely from the revenues of the project or benefited systems, or other available funds. The note contains provisions that an event of default would result in (1) any other monies due to the County from the state may be withheld by the state and applied to the payment of the outstanding note. The outstanding balance as of June 30, 2025 is \$895,478.

For Watauga County, the future minimum payments as of June 30, 2025, including \$15,237,505 of interest, are:

<u>Years Ending June 30,</u>	Governmental Activities		
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026	\$ 6,545,001	\$ 2,138,015	\$ 8,683,016
2027	6,589,548	1,899,685	8,489,233
2028	6,644,096	1,660,005	8,304,101
2029	3,208,643	1,444,100	4,652,743
2030	3,303,190	1,297,100	4,600,290
2031-2035	12,070,000	4,440,000	16,510,000
2036-2040	8,115,000	2,103,450	10,218,450
2041-2042	3,240,000	255,150	3,495,150
Total	<u>\$49,715,478</u>	<u>\$ 15,237,505</u>	<u>\$64,952,983</u>

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINANotes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**b. General Obligation Indebtedness**

The County has no general obligation debt outstanding or authorized as of June 30, 2025. At June 30, 2025, Watauga County had a legal debt margin of \$1,122,575,787.

c. Advance Refunding

In June 2012, the County issued \$55,045,000 in limited obligation bonds to refinance the installment purchase loans for the land and construction of the 2010 high school. These funds refinanced the original debt remaining of \$61,000,000 plus interest and expenses. This resulted in premiums totaling \$5,206,201 to be amortized over the remaining eight-year life of the new debt. On October 2, 2019, the County issued \$19,240,000 of limited obligation refunding bonds to provide resources to purchase U.S. government securities that were placed in a refunded escrow held by US Bank. As a result, the refunded bonds are decreased and the liability has been removed from the governmental activities column of the statement of net position. Due to the refunding of the Series A limited obligation bonds the premium on advance refunding liability was reduced by \$1,639,207. A liability for the balance of the premium of \$429,315 and the annual amortization of interest expense is in the government-wide statements.

d. Long-Term Obligation Activity

The following is a summary of changes in the County's long-term obligations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025:

	Beginning Balance, Restated	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance	Current Portion of Balance
Governmental Activities:					
Direct placement installment purchases	\$ 55,390,000	-	\$ 6,570,000	\$48,820,000	\$ 6,545,000
Cash Flow Disaster Response Loan	-	895,478	-	895,478	1
Net pension liability (LGERS)	9,887,070	-	105,541	9,781,529	-
Total pension liability (LEOSSA)	447,537	414,512	-	862,049	-
Net OPEB liability	1,951,766	1,578,040	-	3,529,806	-
Premium on LOBS	3,731,270	-	264,735	3,466,535	264,735
Premium on advance refunding	572,420	-	143,105	429,315	143,105
Compensated absences	1,627,126	74,345	-	1,701,471	181,343
Total	<u>\$ 73,607,189</u>	<u>\$ 2,962,375</u>	<u>\$ 7,083,381</u>	<u>\$69,486,183</u>	<u>7,134,184</u>
Business-Type Activities:					
Net pension liability (LGERS)	\$ 942,141	-	\$ 10,057	\$ 932,084	\$ -
Net OPEB liability	185,984	150,372	-	336,356	-
Accrued landfill closure and post closure costs	495,461	-	-	495,461	-
Leases	110,949	-	12,025	98,924	12,438
Compensated absences	142,221	34,099	-	176,320	36,990
Total	<u>\$ 1,876,756</u>	<u>\$ 184,471</u>	<u>\$ 22,082</u>	<u>\$ 2,039,145</u>	<u>\$ 49,428</u>
Discretely presented component units:					
AppalCART					
Lease liabilities	\$ 248,008	\$ -	\$ 63,627	\$ 184,381	\$ 66,731
Compensated absences	118,338	168,665	112,430	174,573	112,430
Total	<u>\$ 366,346</u>	<u>\$ 168,665</u>	<u>\$ 176,057</u>	<u>\$ 358,954</u>	<u>\$ 179,161</u>

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Watauga County TDA

Net pension liability (LGERS)	\$ 157,365	\$ 2,475	\$ -	\$ 159,840	\$ -
Compensated absences	92,297	35,492	-	127,789	127,789
Total	<u>\$ 249,662</u>	<u>\$ 37,967</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 287,629</u>	<u>\$ 127,789</u>

For Watauga County and the Authority, compensated absences for governmental activities are liquidated in the general fund and are accounted for on a LIFO basis, assuming that employees are taking leave time as it is earned.

For AppalCART, compensated absences are accounted for on the FIFO basis, assuming that employees are taking time that has been previously earned.

C. Interfund Balances and Activity

Transfers to/from other funds at June 30, 2025, consist of the following:

From the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to accumulate resources for future capital acquisitions	\$18,416,719
From the ARPA Project Fund to the Capital Projects Fund	242,037
From the Capital Projects Fund to the 911 Building Capital Project Fund	12,337,307
From the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund	10,594,939
Total	<u>\$ 41,591,002</u>

D. Net Investment in Capital Assets

	Governmental	Business-type
Capital assets	\$197,628,227	\$ 8,079,157
Less long-term debt	48,820,000	98,924
Less LOBs premium	3,466,535	-
Less Advance refunding premium	429,315	-
Net investment in capital assets	<u>\$144,912,377</u>	<u>\$ 7,980,233</u>

E. Fund Balance

Watauga County has a revenue spending policy that provides policy for programs with multiple revenue sources. The Finance Officer will use resources in the following hierarchy: bond proceeds, federal funds, state funds, local non-county funds, county funds. For the purposes fund balance classification expenditures are to be spent from restricted fund balance first, followed in order by committed fund balance, assigned fund balance and lastly unassigned fund balance. The Finance Officer has the authority to deviate from this policy if it is in the best interest of the County.

The following schedule provides management and citizens with information on the portion of General fund balance available for appropriation:

Total fund balance – General Fund	\$79,024,854
Less:	
Stabilization by State Statute	21,056,868
Leases	33,506
Appropriated in future years'	297,501
Register of Deeds Automation/Enhancement	125,717
Remaining fund balance	<u>\$57,511,262</u>

The outstanding encumbrances are amounts needed to pay any commitment related to purchase orders and contracts that remain unperformed at year-end.

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Encumbrances: General Fund - \$11,929,518
Enterprise Fund - \$61,413

Note 3 -

Joint Ventures

The County participates in a joint venture to operate Appalachian Regional Library with two other local governments. Each participating government appoints four board members to the twelve-member Board of the Library. The County has an ongoing financial responsibility for the joint venture because of the Library's continued existence depends on the participating governments' continued funding. None of the participating governments have any equity interest in the Library, so no equity interest has been reflected in the financial statements at June 30, 2025. In accordance with the intergovernmental agreement between the participating governments, the County appropriated \$818,990 to the Library to supplement its activities. Complete financial statements for the Library can be obtained from their offices at 148 Library Drive, West Jefferson, NC 28694.

The County, in conjunction with Ashe and Alleghany Counties, participates in a joint venture to operate the Appalachian District Health Department. Each participating government appoints one board member to the Governing Board and they in turn appoint the other members of the Governing Board. None of the participating governments have any equity interest in the Health Department, so no equity interest has been reflected in the financial statements at June 30, 2025. In accordance with the intergovernmental agreement between the participating governments, the County appropriated \$1,030,000 to the Health Department to supplement its activities. Complete financial statements for the Health Department can be obtained from the Health Department's offices at 126 Poplar Grove Connector Road, Boone, NC 28607.

Note 4 -

Jointly Governed Organization

The County communally governs Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute with one other government and the community college system of the State of North Carolina. The County appoints two members of its fourteen members Board of Trustees. In accordance with the intergovernmental agreement between the participating governments, the County appropriated \$1,129,350 to Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute to supplement its activities. Complete financial statements for the College can be obtained at 2855 Hickory Boulevard, Hudson, NC 28638.

The County, in conjunction with seven other counties and nineteen municipalities, established the High Country Council of Governments (Council). The participating governments established the Council to coordinate various funding received from Federal and State agencies. Each participating government appoints one member to the Council's governing board. The County paid membership fees of \$48,633 and purchased services in the amount of \$25,790 with the Council during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The County was the sub recipient of three grants totaling \$355,602. The first grant is for \$320,784 in Home and Community Care Block Grant funds and the second is for \$19,964 in Nutrition Programs for the Elderly funds. Both are from the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Division of Aging of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services that was passed through the Council. The third grant is for \$14,854 from the Division of Aging of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services that was passed through the Council. Complete financial statements for the Council can be obtained at 468 New Market Blvd., Boone, NC 28607.

Note 5 -

Summary Disclosure of Significant Commitments and Contingencies

Federal and State Assisted Programs

The County has received proceeds from several Federal and State grants. Periodic audits of these grants are required and certain costs may be questioned as not being appropriate expenditures under the grant agreements. Such audits could result in the refund of grant moneys to the grantor agencies. Management believes that any required refunds will be immaterial. No

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

provision has been made in the accompanying financial statements for the refund of grant moneys.

Note 6 - Prior Period Adjustment/Correction of Error

The County implemented Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, Compensated Absences, July 1, 2024. The objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. As a result, the County recognized an additional \$290,418 in compensated absences for sick leave as of June 30, 2025, resulting in a decrease in beginning net position of the same amount. The County also had a restatement due to the Processing Plant not being feasible and therefore eliminated resulting in a reduction in fund balance of \$100,763 for receivables that were previously recognized. The prior period adjustment is reflected in the nonmajor special revenue fund, Processing Plant, and the General Fund.

Note 7 - Subsequent Events

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the County has evaluated subsequent events for potential recognition and disclosure through January 30, 2026 – the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

The County is currently awaiting reimbursement from FEMA and the State of North Carolina for various projects related to Hurricane Helene.

The County has received two additional cash flow loans in fiscal year 2026 for \$590,884 and \$3,268,632.

Watauga County, North Carolina
Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance Irrevocable Trust

Schedule of the Changes in the Net Pension Liability (Asset)
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2025**	2024**	2023**	2022**	2021**	2020**	2019**	2018**	2017**	2016*
Total pension liability										
Service cost	\$ 96,447	\$ 95,201	\$ 103,956	\$ 100,463	\$ 65,966	\$ 59,759	\$ 57,398	\$ 57,127	\$ 24,305	\$ 49,129
Interest	50,278	45,864	29,684	28,211	30,823	30,735	26,308	25,578	14,474	26,460
Benefit changes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difference between expected and actual experience	603,230	-	(11,373)	-	37,151	-	25,317	(173,460)	(33,229)	-
Changes of assumptions and other inputs	(45,962)	(12,518)	(156,813)	2,166	271,350	29,530	(21,390)	(50,285)	60,466	11,037
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(54,958)	(40,873)	(29,790)	(43,436)	(44,433)	(35,091)	(26,244)	(17,399)	(7,101)	(23,302)
Net change in total pension liability	649,035	87,674	(64,336)	87,404	360,857	84,933	61,389	(158,439)	58,915	63,324
Total pension liability-beginning	1,308,515	1,220,841	1,285,177	1,197,773	836,916	751,983	690,594	849,033	790,118	726,794
Total pension liability-ending (a)	\$ 1,957,550	\$ 1,308,515	\$ 1,220,841	\$ 1,285,177	\$ 1,197,773	\$ 836,916	\$ 751,983	\$ 690,594	\$ 849,033	\$ 790,118
Plan net position										
Contributions-employer	\$ 264,958	\$ 40,873	\$ 129,790	\$ 137,936	\$ 139,433	\$ 130,091	\$ 109,744	\$ 143,399	\$ 7,101	\$ 71,302
Contributions-member	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net investment income	35,523	20,265	525	163	13,682	11,387	5,867	752	428	706
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(54,958)	(40,873)	(29,790)	(43,436)	(44,433)	(35,091)	(26,244)	(17,399)	(7,101)	(23,302)
Administrative expense	(11,000)	-	(10,500)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(9,519)	(18,500)	(457)	-	(236)
Refund of contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net change in plan net position	234,523	20,265	90,025	84,663	98,682	96,868	70,867	126,295	428	48,470
Plan net position-beginning	860,978	840,713	750,688	666,025	567,343	470,475	399,608	273,313	272,885	224,415
Plan net position-ending (b)	\$ 1,095,501	\$ 860,978	\$ 840,713	\$ 750,688	\$ 666,025	\$ 567,343	\$ 470,475	\$ 399,608	\$ 273,313	\$ 272,885
Net pension liability-ending (a) - (b)	\$ 862,049	\$ 447,537	\$ 380,128	\$ 534,499	\$ 531,748	\$ 269,573	\$ 281,508	\$ 290,986	\$ 575,720	\$ 517,233

*Information is as of the Measurement date of June 30, 2024

**Information is presented as of the measurement date of June 30 one year prior to the reporting year noted.

Notes to schedule:

Benefit changes None

Assumption changes The assumed rate of return was increased from 3.65% to 3.93% based on the change in the 20-year exempt municipal bond index rate.

There were no changes between the measurement date and the County's reporting date that are expected to have a significant effect on the net pension liability.

Watauga County, North Carolina
Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance Irrevocable Trust

Schedule of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2025**	2024**	2023**	2022**	2021**	2020**	2019**	2018**	2017**	2016*
Total pension liability (TPL)	\$ 1,957,550	\$ 1,308,515	\$ 1,220,841	\$ 1,285,177	\$ 1,197,773	\$ 836,916	\$ 751,983	\$ 690,594	\$ 849,033	\$ 790,118
Plan net position	1,095,501	860,978	840,713	750,688	666,025	567,343	470,475	399,608	273,313	272,885
Net pension liability	\$ 862,049	\$ 447,537	\$ 380,128	\$ 534,489	\$ 531,748	\$ 269,573	\$ 281,508	\$ 290,986	\$ 575,720	\$ 517,233
Ratio of plan net position to total pension liability	55.96%	65.80%	68.86%	58.41%	55.61%	67.79%	62.56%	57.86%	32.19%	34.54%
Covered payroll	2,993,492	2,811,225	2,722,736	2,307,552	2,307,552	2,005,514	2,005,514	1,837,013	1,883,580	1,837,735
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	28.80%	15.92%	13.96%	23.16%	23.04%	13.44%	14.04%	15.84%	30.57%	28.15%

*Information is as of the Measurement date of June 30, 2024

**Information is as of the Measurement date of June 30 of the prior fiscal year.

Notes to schedule:

The TPL was measured based on data as of June 30, 2024, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	Based on service, ranging from 3.25 - 7.75%, including inflation
Investment Rate of Return	3.25%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

Mortality

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Safety Employees tables, projected forward generationally using Scale MP-2019.
Post-retirement: mortality rates for the period after retirement based on Pub-2010 Safety Retirees tables, set forward one year and multiplied by .97, then projected generationally using Scale MP-2019.

Watauga County, North Carolina
Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance Irrevocable Trust

Schedule 3

Schedule of County Contributions
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Actuarially determined employer contribution	\$ 197,766	\$ 165,181	\$ 182,840	\$ 172,076	\$ 109,031	\$ 103,230	\$ 88,544	\$ 109,308	\$ 95,479	\$ 60,285
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	194,350	264,958	40,873	129,790	137,936	139,433	130,091	109,744	143,399	39,727
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ 3,416</u>	<u>\$ (99,777)</u>	<u>\$ 141,967</u>	<u>\$ 42,286</u>	<u>\$ (28,905)</u>	<u>\$ (36,203)</u>	<u>\$ (41,547)</u>	<u>\$ (436)</u>	<u>\$ (47,920)</u>	<u>\$ 20,558</u>
County's covered payroll	\$ 2,993,492	\$ 2,811,225	\$ 2,722,736	\$ 2,307,552	\$ 2,307,552	\$ 2,005,514	\$ 2,005,514	\$ 1,837,013	\$ 1,823,288	\$ 1,883,580
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	6.49%	9.43%	1.50%	5.62%	5.98%	6.95%	6.49%	5.97%	7.86%	2.11%

Notes to schedule:

Valuation date:

Actuarially determined contribution rates are calculated as of June 30, two years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported

Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates for the year ended June 30, 2024:

Actuarial cost method	Entry Age
Amortization method	Level dollar, closed
Remaining amortization period	7.5 years remaining as of June 30, 2023, measurement date
Asset valuation method	Market value of assets
Investment Rate of Return	3.93%, including inflation, net of pension plan investment expense
Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	Based on service ranging from 3.25 to 7.75%, including inflation and productivity.
Mortality	Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Safety Employees tables, projected forward generationally using Scale MP-2019. Post-retirement: mortality rates for the period after retirement based on Pub-2010 Safety Retirees tables, set forward one year and multiplied by .97, then projected generationally using Scale MP-2019.

Watauga County, North Carolina
Other Post Employment Benefits Irrevocable Trust

Schedule of the Changes in the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) and Related Ratios*
Last Nine Fiscal Years

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total OPEB liability									
Service cost	\$ 279,001	\$ 279,611	\$ 350,496	\$ 336,542	\$ 273,893	\$ 248,114	\$ 204,963	\$ 245,616	\$ 196,127
Interest	180,320	172,564	118,227	116,375	157,322	162,144	133,400	104,379	128,565
Benefit changes	2,925,057	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difference between expected and actual experience	(502,463)	(166,887)	116,866	(164,860)	(299,908)	(114,921)	705,179	(166,570)	-
Changes of assumptions and other inputs	(109,442)	(108,328)	(1,006,651)	20,845	710,395	124,063	(491,388)	(209,201)	264,995
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(111,300)	(110,300)	(103,800)	(126,500)	(139,800)	(141,500)	(122,100)	(107,800)	(120,700)
Net change in total OPEB liability	2,661,173	66,660	(524,862)	182,402	701,902	277,900	430,054	(133,576)	468,987
Total OPEB liability-beginning	4,716,412	4,649,752	5,174,614	4,992,212	4,290,310	4,012,410	3,582,356	3,715,932	3,246,945
Total OPEB liability-ending (a)	7,377,585	4,716,412	4,649,752	5,174,614	4,992,212	4,290,310	4,012,410	3,582,356	3,715,932
Plan fiduciary net position									
Contributions-employer	\$ 937,400	\$ 110,300	\$ 349,000	\$ 293,500	\$ 257,800	\$ 264,000	\$ 264,800	\$ 872,800	\$ 207,436
Contributions-member	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net investment income	120,661	125,887	1,714	6,607	42,295	32,752	22,310	10,714	7,889
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(111,300)	(110,300)	(103,800)	(126,500)	(139,800)	(141,500)	(122,100)	(107,800)	(120,700)
Administrative expense	(14,000)	-	(13,500)	(13,000)	(13,000)	(12,538)	(25,000)	-	(4,800)
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	932,761	125,887	233,414	160,607	147,295	142,714	140,010	775,714	89,825
Plan fiduciary net position-beginning	2,578,662	2,452,775	2,219,361	2,058,754	1,911,459	1,768,745	1,628,735	853,021	763,196
Plan fiduciary net position-ending (b)	3,511,423	2,578,662	2,452,775	2,219,361	2,058,754	1,911,459	1,768,745	1,628,735	853,021
Net OPEB liability-ending (a) - (b)	\$ 3,866,162	\$ 2,137,750	\$ 2,196,977	\$ 2,955,253	\$ 2,933,458	\$ 2,378,851	\$ 2,243,665	\$ 1,953,621	\$ 2,862,911
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	47.60%	54.67%	52.75%	42.89%	41.24%	44.55%	44.08%	45.47%	22.96%
Covered employee payroll	\$ 17,996,541	\$ 15,860,793	\$ 15,361,543	\$ 14,077,047	\$ 11,825,259	\$ 11,825,259	\$ 11,480,834	\$ 10,715,512	\$ 10,160,128
Plan Net OPEB Liability as percentage of covered employee payroll	21.48%	13.48%	14.30%	20.99%	24.81%	20.12%	19.54%	18.23%	28.18%

*Information is presented as of the measurement date of June 30 one year prior to the reporting year noted.

Notes to Schedule

Benefit changes None

Changes of assumptions For 2024 the discount rate changed from 3.65% to 3.93%

Watauga County, North Carolina
Other Post Employment Benefits Irrevocable Trust

Schedule of County Contributions
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 441,608	\$ 414,785	\$ 474,735	\$ 468,418	\$ 282,753	\$ 272,198	\$ 227,672	\$ 253,925	\$ 179,656	\$ 171,685
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	612,813	937,400	110,300	349,000	293,500	257,800	264,000	256,000	872,800	207,436
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ (171,205)</u>	<u>\$ (522,615)</u>	<u>\$ 364,435</u>	<u>\$ 119,418</u>	<u>\$ (10,747)</u>	<u>\$ 14,398</u>	<u>\$ (36,328)</u>	<u>\$ (2,075)</u>	<u>\$ (693,144)</u>	<u>\$ (35,751)</u>
Covered payroll	\$ 17,996,541	\$ 15,860,793	\$ 15,361,543	\$ 14,077,047	\$ 13,633,944	\$ 11,825,259	\$ 11,480,834	\$ 10,745,512	\$ 10,160,128	\$ 10,512,790
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	3.41%	5.91%	0.72%	2.48%	2.15%	2.18%	2.30%	2.38%	8.59%	1.97%

Notes to Schedule

Methods and assumptions used to establish "actuarially determined contribution" rates:

Valuation date: Actuarially determined contribution rates are calculated biannually as of June 30, one year prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported.

Measurement date: June 30, 2024

Discount rate

3.65% as of June 30, 2023 and 3.93% as of June 30, 2024 measurement

Actuarial cost method

Entry age actuarial cost method

Amortization method

Closed 30 year level dollar as of June 30, 2020

Remaining amortization period

26-years from June 30, 2024

Asset valuation method

Market Value

Inflation rate

2.50%

Based on service, 7.75% for Uniformed Employees grading down to 3.25% over 40 years, and 8.25% for General Employees grading down to 3.25% over 35 years, including inflation and productivity

Salary increases

3.25% for fiscal year 2025

Investment rate of return

Pre-Retirement (General): Pub-2010 General employees table, projected generationally using Scale: MP-2019. Healthy (General): Pub-2010 General retirees table, set forward two years and multiplied by 96% for males, unadjusted for females, projected generationally using Scale MP-2019. Disabled (General): Pub-2010 General disabled retirees table, set forward three years for males, set back one year for females, projected generationally using Scale MP-2019.

Mortality

Pre-Retirement (Uniformed): Pub-2010 Safety employees table, projected generationally using Scale: MP-2019. Healthy (Uniformed): Pub-2010 Safety retirees table, set forward one year and multiplied by 97%, projected generationally using Scale MP-2019. Disabled (Uniformed): Pub-2010 General disabled retirees table, set back three years, projected generationally using Scale MP-2019.

Healthcare trend costs

6.5% for 2025 decreasing to 4.50 for 2037 and later.

Watauga County, North Carolina
Other Post Employment Benefits Irrevocable Trust

Schedule 6

Schedule of Investment Returns
Last Nine Fiscal Years

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	4.04%	5.13%	0.07%	0.31%	2.15%	1.80%	1.32%	0.87%	0.98%

Watauga County, North Carolina
Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)

Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LGERS)
 Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
County's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) %	0.15892%	0.16351%	0.17077%	0.16648%	0.16311%	0.16478%	0.16559%	0.16785%	0.17390%	0.17404%
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) \$	\$ 10,713,613	\$ 10,829,211	\$ 9,633,867	\$ 2,553,131	\$ 5,828,615	\$ 4,500,013	\$ 3,928,361	\$ 2,564,283	\$ 3,690,741	\$ 781,083
County's covered employee payroll	\$ 15,710,261	\$ 15,121,526	\$ 13,638,044	\$ 12,397,522	\$ 12,134,733	\$ 11,777,037	\$ 11,330,399	\$ 10,813,081	\$ 10,682,801	\$ 10,536,590
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	68.20%	71.61%	70.64%	20.59%	48.03%	38.21%	34.67%	23.71%	34.55%	7.41%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability **	83.30%	82.49%	90.70%	95.51%	88.61%	90.86%	91.63%	94.18%	91.47%	98.09%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the prior fiscal year ending June 30.

** This will be the same percentage for all participant employees in the LGERS plan.

**Watauga County, North Carolina
County's Contributions**

Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System

Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Contractually required contribution	\$ 2,406,476	2,065,633	1,865,907	1,575,748	1,284,035	1,113,164	937,359	861,878	798,115	732,167
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	2,406,476	2,065,633	1,865,907	1,575,748	1,284,035	1,113,164	937,359	861,878	798,115	732,167
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
County's covered payroll	17,245,294	15,710,261	15,121,526	13,638,044	12,397,522	12,134,733	11,777,037	11,330,399	10,813,081	10,682,801
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	13.95%	13.15%	12.34%	11.55%	10.36%	9.17%	7.96%	7.61%	7.38%	6.85%

Watauga County, North Carolina
Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)

Register of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund (RODSPF)

Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
County's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) %	(0.61095)	(0.63195)	(0.62472)	(0.67590)	(0.62201)	(0.56359)	(0.61613)	(0.65062)	(0.66734)	(0.65929)
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) \$	\$ (70,400)	\$ (75,941)	\$ (82,713)	\$ (129,861)	\$ (142,552)	\$ (111,264)	\$ (102,050)	\$ (111,054)	\$ (124,766)	\$ (152,800)
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability **	133.61%	135.74%	139.04%	156.53%	173.62%	164.44%	153.31%	153.77%	160.17%	197.29%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the prior fiscal year ending June 30.

** This will be the same percentage for all participant employees in the LGERS plan.

**Watauga County, North Carolina
County's Contributions**

Register of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund (RODSPF)

Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Contractually required contribution	\$ 11,692	\$ 10,014	\$ 9,141	\$ 7,891	\$ 8,112	\$ 5,956	\$ 5,357	\$ 5,273	\$ 5,653	\$ 5,452
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	11,692	10,014	9,141	7,891	8,112	5,956	5,357	5,273	5,653	5,452
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

WATAUGA COUNTY DISTRICT U TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(A COMPONENT UNIT OF WATAUGA COUNTY)
SCHEDULE OF THE AUTHORITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY (ASSET)

		Required Supplementary Information									
		Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System									
		Last Ten Fiscal Years*									
		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Authority's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) %		0.00237%	0.00238%	0.00242%	0.00217%	0.00207%	0.00252%	0.00262%	0.00276%	0.00289%	0.00287%
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) \$		\$ 159,840	\$ 157,365	\$ 136,523	\$ 33,279	\$ 73,970	\$ 68,819	\$ 62,155	\$ 42,165	\$ 61,334	\$ 12,880
Authority's covered payroll		\$ 246,007	\$ 213,162	\$ 194,005	\$ 175,870	\$ 173,791	\$ 175,557	\$ 155,123	\$ 153,328	\$ 142,786	\$ 125,271
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll		64.97%	73.82%	70.37%	18.92%	42.56%	39.20%	40.07%	27.50%	42.96%	10.28%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability**		83.30%	82.49%	84.14%	92.00%	92.00%	94.18%	91.47%	98.09%	98.79%	102.64%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the prior fiscal year ending June 30.

** This will be the same percentage for all participant employers in the LGERS plan.

Schedule 12

**WATAUGA COUNTY DISTRICT U TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(A COMPONENT UNIT OF WATAUGA COUNTY)
WATAUGA COUNTY DISTRICT U TDA'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Required Supplementary Information
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

Local Government Employees' Retirement System

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Contractually required contribution	\$ 38,292	\$ 32,756	\$ 25,610	\$ 21,226	\$ 17,897	\$ 15,619	\$ 13,761	\$ 12,227	\$ 11,247	\$ 10,241
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	38,292	32,756	25,610	21,226	17,897	15,619	13,761	12,227	11,247	10,241
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Authority's covered payroll	\$ 281,560	\$ 246,007	\$ 213,162	\$ 194,005	\$ 175,870	\$ 173,791	\$ 175,557	\$ 155,123	\$ 153,328	\$ 142,786
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	13.60%	13.32%	12.01%	10.94%	10.18%	8.99%	7.84%	7.88%	7.34%	7.17%

Watauga County, North Carolina

General Fund

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:			
Taxes - ad valorem:			
Current year		\$ 45,960,736	
Prior years		500,191	
Advertising and interest		179,253	
Total Taxes - ad valorem	\$ 45,407,982	46,640,180	\$ 1,232,198
Taxes - other:			
Local option sales taxes		20,860,594	
Real estate transfer tax		960,735	
ABC Bottle tax		24,755	
Heavy equipment rental tax		14,990	
Gross receipts tax		75,722	
Video programming tax		203,100	
Total Taxes - other	22,172,800	22,139,896	(32,904)
Unrestricted Intergovernmental:			
Miscellaneous revenues from Towns		3,364,279	
Medicaid hold harmless		2,885,092	
Tax collection fees		192,648	
Occupancy tax administrative fee		45,701	
Payments in lieu of taxes		35,229	
Total Unrestricted Intergovernmental	5,679,229	6,522,949	843,720
Restricted Intergovernmental:			
Grants-Federal and State		4,991,989	
Public School Building Capital Fund - Lottery		316,670	
Court facilities fees		65,614	
Total Restricted Intergovernmental	7,507,954	5,374,273	(2,133,681)
Permits and Fees:			
Sheriff's office permits and fees		106,540	
Planning and inspection fees		400,885	
Register of deeds fees		282,031	
Fire inspection fees		31,918	
Child Support fees		27,554	
Total Permits and Fees	796,439	848,928	52,489
Sales and Services:			
POA services		7,893	
TDA Financial and other services		24,000	
Recreation fees		2,009,900	
Reimbursement for Inmates		8,612	
Rent		215,683	
Lease revenue		180,552	
DMV notary/passport processing fees		225,867	
Town of Boone consolidated 911		436,737	
Town of Beech Mountain medic services		434,828	
Election revenues		5	
Total Sales and Service	3,203,926	3,544,077	340,151
Investment earnings:	151,000	3,382,748	3,231,748
Miscellaneous:			
Other		3,151,499	
Donations		564,138	
Total Miscellaneous	4,142,701	3,715,637	(427,064)
TOTAL REVENUES	89,062,031	92,168,688	3,106,657

Watauga County, North Carolina

General Fund

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
EXPENDITURES:			
General Government			
Governing Body:			
Salaries and benefits		\$ 63,200	
Operating expenses		8,196	
Total Governing Body	\$ 71,452	71,396	\$ 56
Administration:			
Salaries and benefits		659,315	
Operating expenses		13,531	
Total Administration	681,100	672,846	8,254
Finance:			
Salaries and benefits		355,861	
Operating expenses		122,726	
Total Finance	637,252	478,587	158,665
Tax Administration:			
Salaries and benefits		886,217	
Operating expenses		385,901	
Total Tax Administration	1,356,421	1,272,118	84,303
Tax Revaluation:			
Operating expenses		243,361	
Total Tax Revaluation	554,618	243,361	311,257
Tag Office:			
Salaries and benefits		289,140	
Operating expenses		3,892	
Total Tag Office	316,106	293,032	23,074
Legal Services:			
Operating expenses	116,000	82,307	33,693
Court facilities:			
Operating expenses	2,000	864	1,136
Board of Elections:			
Salaries and benefits		423,900	
Operating expenses		148,664	
Total Board of Elections	578,105	572,564	5,541
Register of Deeds:			
Salaries and benefits		611,595	
Operating expenses		73,284	
Capital outlay		8,817	
Total Register of Deeds	724,442	693,696	30,746
General Administration:			
Operating expenses		1,181,586	
Total General Administration	2,078,050	1,181,586	896,464
Information Technologies:			
Salaries and benefits		614,197	
Operating expenses		637,462	
Capital outlay		135,972	
Total Information Technologies	1,429,885	1,387,631	42,254

Watauga County, North Carolina

General Fund

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
Maintenance:			
Salaries and benefits		\$ 1,927,019	
Operating expenses		38,130	
Capital outlay		11,787	
Total Maintenance	\$ 2,026,928	1,976,936	\$ 49,992
Public Buildings:			
Operating expenses		2,483,013	
Capital outlay		1,635,276	
Total Public Buildings	7,256,327	4,118,289	3,138,038
Total General Government	17,828,686	13,045,213	4,783,473
Public Safety			
Sheriff's Office:			
Salaries and benefits		5,448,082	
Operating expenses		593,398	
Capital outlay		526,490	
Total Sheriff's Office	7,035,238	6,567,970	467,268
Detention Center:			
Salaries and benefits		2,265,242	
Operating expenses		730,742	
Capital outlay		4,995	
Total Detention Center	3,315,262	3,000,979	314,283
Emergency Services:			
Salaries and benefits		1,608,966	
Operating expenses		72,891	
Capital outlay		3,183,507	
Total Emergency Services	14,069,834	4,865,364	9,204,470
Emergency Management:			
Salaries and benefits		442,136	
Operating expenses		2,206,431	
Capital outlay		71,115	
Total Emergency Management	2,779,492	2,719,682	59,810
Planning and Inspections:			
Salaries and benefits		808,132	
Operating expenses		53,763	
Total Planning and Inspections	861,941	861,895	46
Other Emergency Services:	2,810,383	2,641,254	169,129
Animal Control:			
Salaries and benefits		231,399	
Operating expenses		9,178	
Total Animal Control	240,670	240,577	93
Total Public Safety	31,112,820	20,897,721	10,215,099
Transportation			
Transportation:	265,221	265,221	-
Economic and Physical Development			
Special Appropriations:	744,914	645,919	98,995
Economic Development:	193,845	100,826	93,019
Total Economic and Physical Development	938,759	746,745	192,014

Watauga County, North Carolina

General Fund

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
Environmental Protection			
Cooperative Extension:			
Salaries and benefits		\$ 336,683	
Operating expenses		19,565	
Capital outlay		25,627	
Total Cooperative Extension	\$ 438,214	381,875	\$ 56,339
Soil and Water Conservation:			
Salaries and benefits		160,341	
Operating expenses		12,454	
Capital outlay		163,316	
Total Soil and Water Conservation	1,147,693	336,111	811,582
Total Environmental Protection	1,585,907	717,986	867,921
Human Services			
Public Health:	1,030,000	1,030,000	-
Mental Health:	171,794	171,794	-
Social Services:			
Salaries and benefits		4,419,597	
Operating expenses		311,243	
Capital outlay		73,399	
Beneficiary payments		1,251,367	
Total Social Services	7,404,481	6,055,606	1,348,875
Project on Aging:			
Salaries and benefits		1,325,001	
Operating expenses		208,416	
Total Project on Aging	1,924,202	1,533,417	390,785
Veterans Services:			
Salaries and benefits		162,339	
Operating expenses		2,773	
Total Veterans Services	169,473	165,112	4,361
Total Human Services	10,699,950	8,955,929	1,744,021
Education			
Public Schools - current		17,580,079	
Public Schools - capital outlay		3,493,883	
Community College - current		1,079,350	
Community College - capital outlay		50,000	
Total Education	23,299,947	22,203,312	1,096,635
Cultural and Recreational			
Library:	818,990	818,990	-
Recreation:			
Salaries and benefits		1,817,529	
Operating expenses		245,640	
Capital outlay		64,972	
Total Recreation	2,510,848	2,128,141	382,707
Total Cultural and Recreational	3,329,838	2,947,131	382,707
Debt Service			
Principal retirement		6,570,000	
Interest and fees		2,400,112	
Total Debt Service	8,972,112	8,970,112	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	98,033,240	78,749,370	19,283,870
Revenues over (under) expenditures	(8,971,209)	13,419,318	22,390,527

Watauga County, North Carolina
General Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
Sale of capital assets	\$ 10,000	\$ 56,058	\$ 46,058
Transfers to Capital Projects Fund	(18,416,719)	(18,416,719)	-
Transfers from Capital Projects Fund	10,594,939	10,594,939	-
Fund balance appropriated	<u>16,782,989</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,782,989)</u>
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>8,971,209</u>	<u>(7,765,722)</u>	<u>(16,736,931)</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u>-</u>	5,653,596	\$ <u>5,653,596</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		73,371,258	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u>79,024,854</u>	

Watauga County, North Carolina
Capital Projects Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Investment earnings	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>1,539,212</u>	\$ <u>1,539,212</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,539,212</u>	<u>1,539,212</u>
Expenditures:			
General government	<u>18,658,756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,658,756</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(18,658,756)</u>	<u>1,539,212</u>	<u>20,197,968</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Transfer from other funds	18,658,756	18,658,756	-
Transfer to other funds	(22,932,246)	(22,932,246)	-
Appropriated fund balance	<u>22,932,246</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(22,932,246)</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>18,658,756</u>	<u>(4,273,490)</u>	<u>(22,932,246)</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	(2,734,278)	\$ <u><u>(2,734,278)</u></u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>34,417,090</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u><u>31,682,812</u></u>	

Watauga County, North Carolina
Valle Crucis School Project Fund
Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Budget	Prior Years	Actual Current Year	Total-to Date	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:					
Restricted intergovernmental					
Donation of land - Watauga County Schools	\$ 1,105,000	\$ 1,105,000	\$ -	\$ 1,105,000	\$ -
Donations	115,000	115,000	-	115,000	-
Total intergovernmental	<u>1,220,000</u>	<u>1,220,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,220,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Investment earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>2,847,047</u>	<u>876,586</u>	<u>3,723,633</u>	<u>3,723,633</u>
Total revenues	<u>1,220,000</u>	<u>4,067,047</u>	<u>876,586</u>	<u>4,943,633</u>	<u>3,723,633</u>
Expenditures:					
Capital outlay - land	1,305,000	1,286,142	1,285	1,287,427	17,573
Building and improvements	50,932,964	26,812,826	17,518,871	44,331,697	6,601,267
Professional services	<u>3,094,000</u>	<u>3,191,782</u>	<u>477,448</u>	<u>3,669,230</u>	<u>(575,230)</u>
Total expenditures	<u>55,331,964</u>	<u>31,290,750</u>	<u>17,997,604</u>	<u>49,288,354</u>	<u>(6,043,610)</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(54,111,964)</u>	<u>(27,223,703)</u>	<u>(17,121,018)</u>	<u>(44,344,721)</u>	<u>9,767,243</u>
Other financing sources:					
Proceeds from installment obligations issued	31,800,000	31,800,000	-	31,800,000	-
Premium on installment obligations	2,997,002	2,997,002	-	2,997,002	-
Transfer from other Funds	<u>19,314,962</u>	<u>19,314,962</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,314,962</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other financing sources	<u>54,111,964</u>	<u>54,111,964</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,111,964</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>26,888,261</u>	<u>(17,121,018)</u>	<u>\$ 9,767,243</u>	<u>\$ 9,767,243</u>
Fund balance at beginning of year			<u>26,888,261</u>		
Fund balance at end of year			<u>\$ 9,767,243</u>		

Schedule 4

Watauga County, North Carolina
Opioid Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Restricted intergovernmental Opioid settlement funds	\$ <u>686,140</u>	\$ <u>464,229</u>	\$ <u>(221,911)</u>
Total revenues	<u>686,140</u>	<u>464,229</u>	<u>(221,911)</u>
Expenditures:			
Human services	<u>686,140</u>	<u>646,139</u>	<u>40,001</u>
Total expenditures	<u>686,140</u>	<u>646,139</u>	<u>40,001</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	(181,910)	\$ <u><u>(181,910)</u></u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>810,179</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u><u>628,269</u></u>	

Schedule 5

Watauga County, North Carolina
Hurricane Helene Disaster Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Restricted intergovernmental			
FEMA reimbursement	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 3,520,352	\$ (6,479,648)
Total revenues	<u>10,000,000</u>	<u>3,520,352</u>	<u>(6,479,648)</u>
Expenditures:			
General government	<u>10,895,478</u>	<u>9,141,030</u>	<u>1,754,448</u>
Total expenditures	<u>10,895,478</u>	<u>9,141,030</u>	<u>1,754,448</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(895,478)</u>	<u>(5,620,678)</u>	<u>(8,234,096)</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Proceeds from State Cash Flow loan	<u>895,478</u>	<u>895,478</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>895,478</u>	<u>895,478</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u>-</u>	(4,725,200)	\$ <u>(8,234,096)</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>-</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u>(4,725,200)</u>	

Schedule 6

Watauga County, North Carolina
Combining Balance Sheet
Nonmajor Governmental Funds
June 30, 2025

	Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds								Capital Project Funds				
	Federal Equitable Sharing Fund	State Substance Abuse Tax Fund	Emergency Telephone System Fund	Fire Districts Funds	Occupancy Tax Fund	Representative Payee Fund	Deed of Trust Fund	Fines and Forfeitures Fund	SCIF Project Fund	Processing Plant Project Fund	Emergency 911 Building Project Fund	Opioid McKinsey Settlement Fund	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS:													
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	\$ 127,835	\$ 39,342	\$ 144,864	\$ -	\$ 261,561	\$ 27,007	\$ 12,235	\$ 6,912	\$ 13,930	\$ 890,999	\$ 10,369,536	\$ 27,756	\$ 11,921,977
Due from other governments	-	-	18,844	27,048	-	-	-	-	-	-	59,181	-	105,073
Accounts receivable	21,541	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,541
Taxes receivable, net	-	-	-	148,315	312,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	460,565
Total assets	\$ 149,376	\$ 39,342	\$ 163,708	\$ 175,363	\$ 573,811	\$ 27,007	\$ 12,235	\$ 6,912	\$ 13,930	\$ 890,999	\$ 10,428,717	\$ 27,756	\$ 12,509,156
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES:													
Liabilities:													
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	-	314	1,670	27,048	-	4,199	-	-	125	7,723	1,038,089	-	1,079,168
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000
Due to other governments	-	-	-	-	573,811	-	12,235	6,912	-	-	-	-	592,968
Total Liabilities	-	314	1,670	27,048	573,811	4,199	12,235	6,912	125	1,007,723	1,038,089	-	2,872,126
Deferred Inflows of Resources:													
Taxes receivable	-	-	-	148,315	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	148,315
Total deferred inflows of resources	-	-	-	148,315	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	148,315
Fund Balances:													
Restricted for:													
Stabilization by State Statute	-	-	18,844	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59,181	-	78,025
General government	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,805
Health services	-	-	-	-	-	22,808	-	-	-	-	-	27,756	50,564
Unassigned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(116,724)	-	-	(116,724)
Public Safety	149,376	39,028	143,194	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,331,447	-	9,663,045
Total fund balances	149,376	39,028	162,038	-	-	22,808	-	-	13,805	(116,724)	9,390,628	27,756	9,688,715
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	\$ 149,376	\$ 39,342	\$ 163,708	\$ 175,363	\$ 573,811	\$ 27,007	\$ 12,235	\$ 6,912	\$ 13,930	\$ 890,999	\$ 10,428,717	\$ 27,756	\$ 12,509,156

Watauga County, North Carolina
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Nonmajor Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds										Capital Project Funds				
	Federal Equitable Sharing Fund	State Substance Abuse Tax Fund	Emergency Telephone System Fund	Fire Districts Fund	Occupancy Tax Fund	Representative Payee Fund	Deed of Trust Fund	Fines and Forfeitures Fund	SCIF Project Fund	Processing Plant Project Fund	Emergency 911 Building Project Fund	ARP Project Fund	Opioid McKinsey Settlement Fund	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds	
REVENUES															
Ad valorem taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,203,135	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	5,203,135	
Other taxes and licenses	-	-	-	-	3,570,109	193,918	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,764,027	
Permits and fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,324	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,324	
Sales and services	-	29,401	276,118	-	-	-	-	189,283	-	-	-	-	-	189,283	
Restricted intergovernmental	21,541	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	192,209	-	-	-	27,756	525,484	
Other miscellaneous revenues	5,170	1,679	3,751	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,541	
Investment earnings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	232,516	9,726	-	252,872	
Total revenues	26,711	31,080	279,869	5,203,135	3,570,109	193,918	44,324	189,283	192,239	-	232,516	9,726	27,756	10,000,666	
EXPENDITURES															
General government	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,324	189,283	188,446	15,961	-	-	-	438,014	
Economic development	-	-	-	-	3,570,109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,570,109	
Public safety	-	20,087	234,266	5,203,135	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,775,673	-	-	8,233,161	
Human services	-	-	-	-	-	190,892	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190,892	
Total expenditures	-	20,087	234,266	5,203,135	3,570,109	190,892	44,324	189,283	188,446	15,961	2,775,673	-	-	12,432,176	
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	26,711	10,993	45,603	-	-	3,026	-	-	3,793	(15,961)	(2,543,157)	9,726	27,756	(2,431,510)	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)															
Transfer to other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(242,037)	-	(242,037)	
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,337,307	-	-	12,337,307	
Total other financing sources and uses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,337,307	(242,037)	-	12,095,270	
Net change in fund balances	26,711	10,993	45,603	-	-	3,026	-	-	3,793	(15,961)	9,794,150	(232,311)	27,756	9,663,760	
Fund balances, beginning of year	122,665	28,035	116,435	-	-	19,782	-	-	10,012	-	(403,522)	232,311	-	125,718	
Prior period adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(100,763)	-	-	-	(100,763)	
Fund balance, beginning of year, restated	122,665	28,035	116,435	-	-	19,782	-	-	3,793	(100,763)	(403,522)	232,311	-	24,955	
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 149,376	\$ 39,028	\$ 162,038	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,808	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,805	\$ (116,724)	\$ 9,390,628	\$ -	\$ 27,756	\$ 9,688,715	

Watauga County, North Carolina
Federal Equitable Sharing Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:			
Restricted intergovernmental - Federal	\$ 23,000	\$ -	\$ (23,000)
Other income	-	21,541	21,541
Investment earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>5,170</u>	<u>5,170</u>
Total revenues	<u>23,000</u>	<u>26,711</u>	<u>3,711</u>
Expenditures:			
Public safety	<u>23,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,000</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>26,711</u>	<u>26,711</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Appropriated fund balance	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ -</u>	26,711	<u>\$ 26,711</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>122,665</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		<u>\$ 149,376</u>	

Watauga County, North Carolina
State Substance Abuse Tax Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:			
Restricted intergovernmental - State	\$ 28,239	\$ 29,401	\$ 1,162
Investment earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>1,679</u>	<u>1,679</u>
Total revenues	<u>28,239</u>	<u>31,080</u>	<u>2,841</u>
Expenditures:			
Public safety	<u>28,239</u>	<u>20,087</u>	<u>8,152</u>
Total expenditures	<u>28,239</u>	<u>20,087</u>	<u>8,152</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>10,993</u>	<u>10,993</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Appropriated fund balance	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>10,993</u>	<u>\$ 10,993</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>28,035</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		<u>\$ 39,028</u>	

Watauga County, North Carolina
Emergency Telephone System Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Restricted intergovernmental:			
Emergency Telephone Surcharge funds	226,133	\$ 226,133	\$ -
911 Radio Grant	49,985	49,985	-
Investment earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>3,751</u>	<u>3,751</u>
Total revenues	<u>276,118</u>	<u>279,869</u>	<u>3,751</u>
Expenditures:			
Public safety:			
Implementation services	5,000	220	4,780
Software	43,715	43,715	-
Training	14,884	9,221	5,663
Telephones	46,534	56,362	(9,828)
Hardware	300,655	123,063	177,592
Furniture	<u>178,800</u>	<u>1,685</u>	<u>177,115</u>
Total expenditures	<u>589,588</u>	<u>234,266</u>	<u>355,322</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Appropriated fund balance	<u>313,470</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(313,470)</u>
Total Other Financing sources (uses):	<u>313,470</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(313,470)</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u><u>-</u></u>	45,603	\$ <u><u>45,603</u></u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>116,435</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u><u>162,038</u></u>	

Watauga County, North Carolina
 Fire Districts Funds
 Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
 Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 5,439,708	\$ 5,203,135	\$ (236,573)
Total revenues	<u>5,439,708</u>	<u>5,203,135</u>	<u>(236,573)</u>
Expenditures:			
Public safety:			
Beaver Dam Fire Department	170,750	159,604	
Beech Mountain Fire Department	3,042	2,826	
Blowing Rock Fire Department	819,129	751,665	
Boone Fire Department	1,464,620	1,458,866	
Cove Creek Fire Department	385,406	388,008	
Creston Fire Department	9,432	7,517	
Deep Gap Fire Department	327,421	307,461	
Fall Creek Fire Department	15,669	14,249	
Foscoe Fire Department	870,774	842,517	
Meat Camp Fire Department	378,944	359,481	
Shawneehaw Fire Department	201,837	185,111	
Stewart Simmons Fire Department	511,358	462,118	
Todd Fire Department	89,236	85,729	
Zionville Fire Department	<u>192,090</u>	<u>177,983</u>	
Total expenditures	<u>5,439,708</u>	<u>5,203,135</u>	<u>236,573</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u>-</u>	-	\$ <u>-</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>-</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u>-</u>	

Watauga County, North Carolina
Occupancy Tax Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Occupancy tax	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 3,570,109	\$ (1,429,891)
Total revenues	<u>5,000,000</u>	<u>3,570,109</u>	<u>(1,429,891)</u>
Expenditures:			
Tourism development	4,950,000	3,524,408	1,425,592
Administrative fee	<u>50,000</u>	<u>45,701</u>	<u>4,299</u>
Total expenditures	<u>5,000,000</u>	<u>3,570,109</u>	<u>1,429,891</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	-	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>-</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	

Schedule 13

Watauga County, North Carolina
 Representative Payee Fund
 Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
 Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Restricted intergovernmental	\$ <u>246,936</u>	\$ <u>193,918</u>	\$ <u>(53,018)</u>
Total revenues	<u>246,936</u>	<u>193,918</u>	<u>(53,018)</u>
Expenditures:			
Human services			
Payments made for the benefit of beneficiaries	<u>246,936</u>	<u>190,892</u>	<u>56,044</u>
Total expenditures	<u>246,936</u>	<u>190,892</u>	<u>56,044</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	3,026	\$ <u><u>3,026</u></u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>19,782</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u><u>22,808</u></u>	

Schedule 14

Watauga County, North Carolina
Deed of Trust Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Permits and fees			
Register of deeds	\$ <u>75,000</u>	\$ <u>44,324</u>	\$ <u>(30,676)</u>
Total revenues	<u>75,000</u>	<u>44,324</u>	<u>(30,676)</u>
Expenditures:			
General government			
Payments of fees collected to the State of N.C.	<u>75,000</u>	<u>44,324</u>	<u>30,676</u>
Total expenditures	<u>75,000</u>	<u>44,324</u>	<u>30,676</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	-	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>
Fund balance, beginning of year, restated		<u>-</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	

Schedule 15

Watauga County, North Carolina
Fines and Forfeitures Fund
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Permits and fees			
Register of deeds	\$ 240,000	\$ 189,283	\$ (50,717)
Total revenues	<u>240,000</u>	<u>189,283</u>	<u>(50,717)</u>
Expenditures:			
General government			
Payments of penalties, fines and forfeitures to the Watauga County Board of Education	<u>240,000</u>	<u>189,283</u>	<u>50,717</u>
Total expenditures	<u>240,000</u>	<u>189,283</u>	<u>50,717</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	-	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>-</u>	
Prior period restatement - change in accounting principle		-	
Fund balance, beginning of year, restated		<u>-</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	

Schedule 16

Watauga County, North Carolina
American Rescue Plan Funds
Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Prior Years</u>	<u>Actual Current Year</u>	<u>Total-to Date</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:					
Restricted intergovernmental:					
ARP Funds	\$ 10,911,724	\$ 10,911,724	\$ -	\$ 10,911,724	\$ -
Investment earnings	<u>242,037</u>	<u>232,311</u>	<u>9,726</u>	<u>242,037</u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenues	<u>11,153,761</u>	<u>11,144,035</u>	<u>9,726</u>	<u>11,153,761</u>	<u>-</u>
Expenditures:					
ARP Expenditures	<u>7,750,000</u>	<u>7,750,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,750,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenditures	<u>7,750,000</u>	<u>7,750,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,750,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>3,403,761</u>	<u>3,394,035</u>	<u>9,726</u>	<u>3,403,761</u>	<u>-</u>
Other financing sources:					
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	242,037	-	242,037	242,037	-
Transfers to General Fund	<u>3,161,724</u>	<u>3,161,724</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,161,724</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other financing sources	<u>3,403,761</u>	<u>3,161,724</u>	<u>242,037</u>	<u>3,403,761</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>232,311</u>	(232,311)	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>-</u>
Fund balance at beginning of year			<u>232,311</u>		
Fund balance at end of year			\$ <u>-</u>		

Schedule 17

Watauga County, North Carolina
SCIF Project Fund
 Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in
 Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Prior Years</u>	<u>Actual Current Year</u>	<u>Total-to Date</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:					
Restricted intergovernmental:					
OSBM SCIF funds	\$ 662,500	\$ 470,291	\$ 192,209	\$ 662,500	\$ -
Other miscellaneous revenues	349,650	349,650	-	349,650	-
Investment earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>140</u>
Total revenues	<u>1,012,150</u>	<u>820,051</u>	<u>192,239</u>	<u>1,012,290</u>	<u>140</u>
Expenditures:					
Hannah building roof	449,650	429,825	-	429,825	19,825
County parking deck	362,500	362,500	-	362,500	-
Hannah building road	<u>200,000</u>	<u>17,714</u>	<u>188,446</u>	<u>206,160</u>	<u>(6,160)</u>
Total expenditures	<u>1,012,150</u>	<u>810,039</u>	<u>188,446</u>	<u>998,485</u>	<u>(13,665)</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>10,012</u></u>	3,793	\$ <u><u>13,805</u></u>	\$ <u><u>13,805</u></u>
Fund balance at beginning of year			<u>10,012</u>		
Fund balance at end of year			\$ <u><u>13,805</u></u>		

Schedule 18

Watauga County, North Carolina
Processing Plant Project Fund
Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Budget	Prior Years	Actual Current Year	Total-to Date	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:					
Restricted intergovernmental:					
OSBM grant	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,000,000)
ADTF grant	474,450	-	-	-	(474,450)
Tobacco trust	220,236	-	-	-	(220,236)
ARC construction grant	500,000	-	-	-	(500,000)
ARC equipment grant	100,000	-	-	-	(100,000)
EDA infrastructure	817,000	-	-	-	(817,000)
Golden Leaf grant	1,000,000	-	-	-	(1,000,000)
Total revenues	<u>4,111,686</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,111,686)</u>
Expenditures:					
Equipment	521,819	-	-	-	521,819
Building improvements	3,861,703	-	-	-	3,861,703
Professional services	127,050	100,763	15,961	116,724	10,326
Contingency	101,114	-	-	-	101,114
Total expenditures	<u>4,611,686</u>	<u>100,763</u>	<u>15,961</u>	<u>116,724</u>	<u>(4,494,962)</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(500,000)</u>	<u>(100,763)</u>	<u>(15,961)</u>	<u>(116,724)</u>	<u>383,276</u>
Other financing sources (uses):					
Transfer from other funds	500,000	-	-	-	(500,000)
Total other financing sources	<u>500,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(500,000)</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (100,763)</u>	<u>(15,961)</u>	<u>\$ (116,724)</u>	<u>\$ (116,724)</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year			-		
Prior period adjustment			<u>(100,763)</u>		
Fund balance, beginning, restated			<u>(100,763)</u>		
Fund balance at end of year			<u>\$ (116,724)</u>		

Schedule 19

Watauga County, North Carolina
Emergency 911 Building Project Fund
Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Budget	Prior Years	Actual Current Year	Total-to Date	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:					
Restricted intergovernmental:					
911 Priority grant	\$ 2,797,013	\$ 691,659	\$ -	\$ 691,659	\$ (2,105,354)
Investment earnings	-	2,966	232,516	235,482	235,482
Total revenues	<u>2,797,013</u>	<u>694,625</u>	<u>232,516</u>	<u>927,141</u>	<u>(1,869,872)</u>
Expenditures:					
Equipment	2,797,013	689,725	-	689,725	2,107,288
Land and building	15,837,307	3,908,422	2,775,673	6,684,095	9,153,212
Total expenditures	<u>18,634,320</u>	<u>4,598,147</u>	<u>2,775,673</u>	<u>7,373,820</u>	<u>(11,260,500)</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	-	(3,903,522)	(2,543,157)	(6,446,679)	9,390,628
Other financing sources (uses):					
Transfer from other funds	15,837,307	3,500,000	12,337,307	15,837,307	-
Total other financing sources	<u>15,837,307</u>	<u>3,500,000</u>	<u>12,337,307</u>	<u>15,837,307</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>(403,522)</u>	9,794,150	\$ <u>9,390,628</u>	\$ <u>9,390,628</u>
Fund balance at beginning of year			<u>(403,522)</u>		
Fund balance at end of year			\$ <u>9,390,628</u>		

Schedule 20

Watauga County, North Carolina
Opioid Fund - McKinsey Settlement
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Restricted intergovernmental Opioid settlement funds	\$ <u>9,889</u>	\$ <u>27,756</u>	\$ <u>17,867</u>
Total revenues	<u>9,889</u>	<u>27,756</u>	<u>17,867</u>
Expenditures:			
Human services	<u>9,889</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,889</u>
Total expenditures	<u>9,889</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,889</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	27,756	\$ <u><u>27,756</u></u>
Fund balance, beginning of year		<u>-</u>	
Fund balance, end of year		\$ <u><u>27,756</u></u>	

Watauga County, North Carolina
Solid Waste Fund
Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures Budget and Actual (NON-GAAP)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:			
Operating revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 6,567,986	\$ 7,429,966	\$ 861,980
Sale of recycled materials	250,000	346,340	96,340
Total	<u>6,817,986</u>	<u>7,776,306</u>	<u>958,320</u>
Non-operating revenues:			
Miscellaneous revenue	6,800	3,325	(3,475)
Investment earnings	50,000	331,440	281,440
Insurance proceeds	-	747	747
Restricted intergovernmental revenues	155,000	164,477	9,477
Total	<u>211,800</u>	<u>499,989</u>	<u>288,189</u>
Total revenues	<u>7,029,786</u>	<u>8,276,295</u>	<u>1,246,509</u>
Expenditures:			
Landfill operations:			
Salaries and employee benefits		1,952,152	
Other operating expenditures		5,214,078	
Lease payments		12,025	
Total landfill operations	<u>7,412,316</u>	<u>7,178,255</u>	<u>234,061</u>
Recycling operations:			
Salaries and employee benefits		80,237	
Other operating expenses		42,382	
Total recycling operations	<u>138,474</u>	<u>122,619</u>	<u>15,855</u>
Capital outlay:			
Capital outlay		1,740,003	
Total capital outlay	<u>1,740,003</u>	<u>1,740,003</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenditures	<u>9,290,793</u>	<u>9,040,877</u>	<u>249,916</u>
Revenues under/(over) expenditures	<u>(2,261,007)</u>	<u>(764,582)</u>	<u>1,496,425</u>
Other financing sources:			
Sale of fixed assets	-	71,651	71,651
Transfer to reserve	(132,890)	(132,890)	-
Appropriated fund balance	2,393,897	-	(2,393,897)
Total other financing sources	<u>2,261,007</u>	<u>(61,239)</u>	<u>(2,322,246)</u>
Revenues over expenditures and other sources	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(825,821)</u>	<u>\$ (825,821)</u>

Reconciliation from budgetary basis (modified accrual) to full accrual:

Reconciling items:	
Change in deferred outflow of resources - pensions	(77,567)
Change in net pension liability	10,057
Change in deferred inflow of resources - pensions	(6,220)
Change in deferred outflow of resources - OPEB	(29,937)
Change in deferred inflow of resources - OPEB	(36,431)
Change in net OPEB liability	(150,372)
Capital outlay	1,740,003
Principal retirement	12,025
Transfer from solid waste reserve	132,890
Depreciation and amortization	(471,635)
Change in accrued compensated absences	(34,099)
Total reconciling items	<u>1,088,714</u>

Change in net position \$ 262,893

Schedule 22

Watauga County, North Carolina
Solid Waste Reserve Fund
Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Expenditures:			
Solid waste capital reserve	\$ 132,890	\$ -	\$ 132,890
Total expenditures	<u>132,890</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,890</u>
Revenue over(under) expenditures	<u>(132,890)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,890</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Transfer from solid waste fund	<u>132,890</u>	<u>132,890</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other financing sources	<u>132,890</u>	<u>132,890</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	\$ <u><u>132,890</u></u>	\$ <u><u>132,890</u></u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
Combining Schedule of Fiduciary Net Position
Irrevocable Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>LEO Special Separation Allowance</u>	<u>Other Post Employment Benefits</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,276,672	\$ 4,175,615	\$ 5,452,287
	<u>\$ 1,276,672</u>	<u>\$ 4,175,615</u>	<u>\$ 5,452,287</u>
Net position:			
Assets held in trust for retirement benefits	\$ 1,276,672	\$ 4,175,615	\$ 5,452,287
	<u>\$ 1,276,672</u>	<u>\$ 4,175,615</u>	<u>\$ 5,452,287</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
Combining Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Irrevocable Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	LEO Special Separation Allowance	Other Post Employment Benefits	Totals
Additions:			
Employer contributions	\$ 194,350	\$ 612,813	\$ 807,163
Interest	<u>39,971</u>	<u>167,398</u>	<u>207,369</u>
Total additions	<u>234,321</u>	<u>780,211</u>	<u>1,014,532</u>
Deductions:			
Benefits	41,650	101,519	143,169
Administrative expense	<u>11,500</u>	<u>14,500</u>	<u>26,000</u>
Total deductions	<u>53,150</u>	<u>116,019</u>	<u>169,169</u>
Change in net position	181,171	664,192	845,363
Net position, beginning	1,095,501	3,511,423	4,606,924
Net position, ending	<u>\$ 1,276,672</u>	<u>\$ 4,175,615</u>	<u>\$ 5,452,287</u>

Schedule 25

Watauga County, North Carolina
Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Custodial Funds
June 30, 2025

	<u>Municipal Tax Fund</u>	<u>Inmate Commissary Fund</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ (17,559)	\$ 17,954	\$ 395
Total assets	<u>\$ (17,559)</u>	<u>\$ 17,954</u>	<u>\$ 395</u>
Net position:			
Restricted for:			
Individuals, organizations and other governments	(17,559)	17,954	395
Total net position	<u>\$ (17,559)</u>	<u>\$ 17,954</u>	<u>\$ 395</u>

Schedule 26

Watauga County, North Carolina
Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Custodial Funds
June 30, 2025

	<u>Municipal Tax Fund</u>	<u>Inmate Commissary Fund</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Additions:			
Ad valorem taxes for other governments	\$ 10,449,397	\$ -	\$ 10,449,397
Collections on behalf of inmates	<u>-</u>	<u>147,590</u>	<u>147,590</u>
Total additions	<u>10,449,397</u>	<u>\$ 147,590</u>	<u>\$ 10,596,987</u>
Deductions:			
Tax distributions to other governments	10,486,746	-	10,486,746
Payments on behalf of inmates	<u>144,479</u>	<u>144,479</u>	<u>144,479</u>
Total deductions	<u>10,486,746</u>	<u>144,479</u>	<u>10,631,225</u>
Change in net position	(37,349)	3,111	(34,238)
Net position, beginning	19,790	14,843	34,633
Net position, ending	<u>\$ (17,559)</u>	<u>\$ 17,954</u>	<u>\$ 395</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
General Fund
Schedule of Ad Valorem Taxes Receivable
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

		Uncollected Balance June 30, 2024	Additions	Collections and Credits	Uncollected Balance June 30, 2025
<u>Fiscal year:</u>					
2024	- 2025	\$ -	\$ 46,619,718	\$ 45,955,034	\$ 664,683
2023	- 2024	529,439	-	282,839	246,600
2022	- 2023	195,444	-	75,719	119,725
2021	- 2022	118,436	-	45,579	72,857
2020	- 2021	87,949	-	30,686	57,263
2019	- 2020	68,425	-	18,502	49,923
2018	- 2019	34,649	-	9,965	24,684
2017	- 2018	40,457	-	11,054	29,403
2016	- 2017	20,907	-	4,876	16,031
2015	- 2016	20,625	-	19,861	764
2014	- 2015	13,743	-	13,743	-
		<u>\$ 1,130,074</u>	<u>\$ 46,619,718</u>	<u>\$ 46,467,859</u>	<u>1,281,932</u>
Less: Allowance for uncollectible accounts General Fund					<u>(136,750)</u>
Ad valorem taxes receivable - net General Fund					<u>\$ 1,145,182</u>

Reconcilement with revenues:

Ad valorem taxes - General Fund		\$ 46,640,180
Reconciling items:		
Advertising and interest collected	(179,253)	
Other adjustments	(6,180)	
Prior year releases and refunds	13,112	
Total reconciling items		<u>(172,321)</u>
Total collections and credits		<u>\$ 46,467,859</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
 Analysis of Current Tax Levy
 County-wide Levy
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Secondary Market Disclosures:

Assessed Valuation:	
Assessment Ratio	100%
Real Property	\$ 13,599,287,727
Personal Property	909,904,975
Public Service Companies	133,254,640
Total Assessed Valuation	\$ 14,642,447,341
 Tax Rate per \$100	 0.00318
 Net Levy (Includes penalties, discoveries, releases and abatements)	 \$ 46,619,718

In addition to the County-wide rate, the following table lists the levies by the County on behalf of fire protection districts for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024:

Fire Protection District	Tax Rate per \$100	Net Levy
Beech Mountain Rural	\$ 0.05	\$ 2,830
Blowing Rock	0.05	761,073
Boone Rural	0.06	1,452,850
Cove Creek	0.05	388,998
Cove Creek Rural	0.05	339
Deep Gap	0.05	311,166
Foscoe	0.05	729,253
Foscoe Rural	0.05	114,967
Meat Camp	0.05	364,582
Northwest Watauga	0.05	169,092
Shawneehaw	0.05	176,270
Shawneehaw Rural	0.05	8,769
Stewart Simmons	0.085	460,790
Todd	0.07	85,044
Zionville	0.05	176,964
 Total Net Fire Protection District Levies		 \$ 5,202,987

Watauga County, North Carolina
 Ten Largest Taxpayers
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Taxpayer	Type of Business	2024 Assessed Valuation	Percentage of Total Assessed Valuation	
Blue Ridge Electric Membership Coop	Electric Utility	\$ 95,207,610	0.65	%
Boone Owner LLC	Rental Properties	71,958,400	0.49	
850 Blowing Rock Road (NC) Owner LP	Rental Properties	63,342,030	0.43	
Residence at Peak of Boone LLC	Rental Properties	22,163,580	0.15	
MV of Boone LLC	Rental Properties	39,437,070	0.27	
Residence at Rivers Walk LLC	Rental Properties	30,044,615	0.21	
WSCR Meadowview Owner IX LP	Rental Properties	37,759,120	0.26	
Skyline Terrace Apartments LLC	Commercial Rental Properties	32,833,660	0.22	
BSL Property LLC	Rental Properties	30,645,440	0.21	
Shadowline Student Property LLC	Rental Properties	78,802,670	0.54	
		<u>\$ 502,194,195</u>	<u>3.44</u>	<u>%</u>

Watauga County, North Carolina
 Analysis of Current Tax Levy
 Fire Districts
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Northwest Watauga Fire District	Beech Mtn. Rural Fire Service District	Blowing Rock Rural Fire District	Boone Rural Fire District	Cove Creek Fire District
Tax rate per \$100	\$ <u>0.05</u>	\$ <u>0.05</u>	\$ <u>0.05</u>	\$ <u>0.06</u>	\$ <u>0.05</u>
Net levy	\$ 169,092	\$ 2,830	\$ 761,073	\$ 1,452,850	\$ 388,998
Uncollected taxes at June 30, 2025	<u>4,557</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11,158</u>	<u>19,008</u>	<u>5,922</u>
Current year's taxes collected	\$ <u>164,535</u>	\$ <u>2,821</u>	\$ <u>749,915</u>	\$ <u>1,433,842</u>	\$ <u>383,076</u>
Current levy collection percentage	<u>97.31%</u>	<u>99.68%</u>	<u>98.53%</u>	<u>98.69%</u>	<u>98.48%</u>

	Cove Creek Rural Fire Service District	Deep Gap Fire District	Foscoe Fire District	Foscoe Rural Fire Service District	Meat Camp Fire District
Tax rate per \$100	\$ <u>0.05</u>	\$ <u>0.05</u>	\$ <u>0.05</u>	\$ <u>0.05</u>	\$ <u>0.05</u>
Net levy	\$ 339	\$ 311,166	\$ 729,253	\$ 114,967	\$ 364,582
Uncollected taxes at June 30, 2025	<u>2</u>	<u>10,334</u>	<u>7,872</u>	<u>1,727</u>	<u>11,237</u>
Current year's taxes collected	\$ <u>337</u>	\$ <u>300,832</u>	\$ <u>721,381</u>	\$ <u>113,240</u>	\$ <u>353,345</u>
Current levy collection percentage	<u>99.41%</u>	<u>96.68%</u>	<u>98.92%</u>	<u>98.50%</u>	<u>96.92%</u>

	Shawnheehaw Fire District	Shawnheehaw Rural Fire Service District	Stewart Simmons Fire District	Todd Fire District	Zionville Fire District
Tax rate per \$100	\$ <u>0.05</u>	\$ <u>0.05</u>	\$ <u>0.085</u>	\$ <u>0.07</u>	\$ <u>0.05</u>
Net levy	\$ 176,270	\$ 8,769	\$ 460,790	\$ 85,044	\$ 176,964
Uncollected taxes at June 30, 2025	<u>2,482</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>3,753</u>	<u>1,042</u>	<u>4,383</u>
Current year's taxes collected	\$ <u>173,788</u>	\$ <u>8,516</u>	\$ <u>457,037</u>	\$ <u>84,002</u>	\$ <u>172,581</u>
Current levy collection percentage	<u>98.59%</u>	<u>97.11%</u>	<u>99.19%</u>	<u>98.77%</u>	<u>97.52%</u>

C. Randolph CPA, PLLC
Certified Public Accountant
560 Beaver Creek School Rd.
West Jefferson, North Carolina 28694
Phone: (336) 846-3211
Fax: (336) 846-1142

Independent Auditor's Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance and Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of County Commissioners
Watauga County, North Carolina

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Watauga County, North Carolina, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Watauga County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 30, 2026.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Watauga County's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Watauga County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Watauga County's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Watauga County's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

C. Randolph CPA, PLLC

West Jefferson, North Carolina

January 30, 2026

C. Randolph CPA, PLLC
Certified Public Accountant
560 Beaver Creek School Rd.
West Jefferson, North Carolina 28694
Phone: (336) 846-3211
Fax: (336) 846-1142

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and On Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of County Commissioners
Watauga County, North Carolina

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Watauga County, North Carolina, compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* and the *Audit Manual for Governmental Auditors in North Carolina*, issued by the Local Government Commission, that could have a direct and material effect on each of Watauga County's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025. Watauga County's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, Watauga County complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Watauga County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Watauga County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Watauga County's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Watauga County's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting

from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Watauga County's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Watauga County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of Watauga County's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Watauga County's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A deficiency *in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

C. Randolph CPA, PLLC

West Jefferson, North Carolina

January 30, 2026

C. Randolph CPA, PLLC
Certified Public Accountant
560 Beaver Creek School Rd.
West Jefferson, North Carolina 28694
Phone: (336) 846-3211
Fax: (336) 846-1142

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major State Program On Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of County Commissioners
Watauga County, North Carolina

Report on Compliance for Each Major State Program

Opinion on Each Major State Program

We have audited Watauga County, North Carolina, compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* and the *Audit Manual for Governmental Auditors in North Carolina*, issued by the Local Government Commission, that could have a direct and material effect on each of Watauga County's major State programs for the year ended June 30, 2025. Watauga County's major State programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, Watauga County complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major State programs for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major State Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Watauga County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major State program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Watauga County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Watauga County's State programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Watauga County's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and

therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Watauga County's compliance with the requirements of each major State program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Watauga County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of Watauga County's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Watauga County's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A deficiency *in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a State program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a State program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a State program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

C. Randolph CPA, PLLC

West Jefferson, North Carolina

January 30, 2026

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

I. Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of report the auditor issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance to GAAP: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? ☐yes ☒no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified ☐yes ☒none reported
- Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? ☐yes ☒no

Federal Awards

Internal control over major federal programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? ☐yes ☒no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses? ☐yes ☒none reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major federal programs: Unmodified.

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)? ☐yes ☒no

The following were audited as major federal program for Watauga County for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025:

<u>Program Name or Cluster</u>	<u>Assistance Listing No.</u>
Medicaid Cluster	93.778
Disaster Grants – Public Assistance	97.036

The threshold for determining Federal Type A programs for Watauga County is \$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? ☒yes ☐no

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

State Awards

Internal control over major state programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? ☐yes ☒no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not
considered to be material weaknesses? ☐yes ☒none reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major state programs: Unmodified.

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be
reported in accordance with the State Single
Audit Implementation Act ☐yes ☒no

Major State program for Watauga County for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, are:

State Program

Round 1 State Cashflow Loan for Disaster Response
Opioid Settlement

Federal Program – State Match

Medicaid Cluster
Disaster Grants – Public Assistance

II. Financial Statement Findings

None noted.

III. Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

None noted.

IV. State Award Findings and Questioned Costs

None noted.



WATAUGA COUNTY

FINANCE OFFICE

814 West King St., Suite 216 - Boone, NC 28607 - Phone (828) 265-8007
Fax (828) 265-8006

Corrective Action Plan For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

II. Financial Statement Findings

None noted.

III. Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

None noted.

IV. State Award Findings and Questioned Costs

None noted.

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

**Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

None noted.

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL AND STATE AWARDS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program/Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Grantor's Number	Federal (Direct & Pass- Through) Expenditures	State Expenditures	Passed-through to Subrecipients
Federal Awards:					
<u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>					
Passed-through the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services:					
<u>Division of Social Services:</u>					
<u>SNAP Cluster</u>					
Administration:					
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	10.561		396,555	54,137	54,137
Total SNAP Cluster			396,555	54,137	54,137
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			396,555	54,137	54,137
<u>U.S. Department of Homeland Security</u>					
Passed-through the N.C. Department of Public Safety:					
Emergency Management Performance Grant	97.042		20,625	-	-
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance	97.036		3,558,078	21,052	-
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			3,578,703	21,052	-
<u>U.S. Department of Health & Human Services</u>					
<u>Administration on Aging:</u>					
Passed-through High Country Council of Governments:					
<u>Aging Cluster:</u>					
Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)					
Special Programs for the Aging - Title III B - Access Services	93.044		333	5,667	-
Special Programs for the Aging - Title III C - Congregate Meals	93.045		47,062	2,768	-
Special Programs for the Aging - Title III C - Home Delivered Meals	93.045		114,466	6,733	-
Special Programs for the Aging - Title III C - In-Home Support Service	93.044		135,772	7,987	-
Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)	93.053		30,936	-	-
Total Aging Cluster			328,570	23,155	-
Passed-through N.C. Department of Insurance:					
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Research, Demonstrations and Evaluations	93.779		7,908	-	-
<u>Administration for Children and Families:</u>					
Passed-through the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services:					
<u>Division of Social Services:</u>					
Family Preservation	93.556		8,002	-	-
<u>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cluster:</u>					
Workfirst administrative	93.558		42,593	-	-
WorkFirst services	93.558		193,149	-	-
Total Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cluster			235,742	-	-
Child Support Enforcement	93.563		225,504	(140)	-
<u>Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant:</u>					
Administration	93.568		35,205	-	-
Crisis Intervention Payments	93.568		(288)	-	-
Permanency Planning	93.645		20,557	-	-
Social Services Block Grant	93.667		194,380	-	-
Total Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant:			249,854	-	-
Total Division of Social Services			719,102	(140)	-
<u>Medicaid Cluster:</u>					
Medical Assistance Program:					
Administration	93.778		1,374,571	114,990	-
Total Medical Assistance Program			1,374,571	114,990	-
Division of Social Services:					
Administration					
Health choice	93.767		148,483	47,606	-
Total N.C. Health Choice			148,483	47,606	-
Foster Care and Adoption Cluster (Note 3)					
Adoption Assistance	93.659		5,959	-	-
Title IV-E Foster Care	93.658		298,836	11,004	-
Foster Care - Direct Benefit Payments	96.658		157,404	49,532	-
Adoption/Foster Care Special Provision	93.658		(2,052)	-	-
Total Foster Care and Adoption Cluster (Note 3)			460,147	60,536	-
Subsidized Child Care (Note 3)					
Child Care Development Fund Cluster					
Division of Social Services					
Child Care Development Fund - Administration	93.596		81,385	-	-
Total Child Care Development Fund Cluster			81,385	-	-
Total Subsidized Child Care (Note 3)			81,385	-	-

Health Care Financing Administration

Passed-through the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services:
 Medical Assistance Program
 Chafee Foster Care Independence - Direct Benefit Payment
 Total Division of Medical Assistance

93,674

4,566	1,142	-
4,566	1,142	-

Total U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

3,124,732	247,289	-
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Total Federal Awards

7,099,990	322,478	54,137
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State Awards:N.C. Department of Health and Human Services:

Passed-through Region D Council of Governments:
 Senior center general purchases
 POA ARPA

24/25 AANCT3GP
 DAAS-735-ARPA

-	14,854	-
-	16,559	-

Division of Social Services

State Foster Care Benefits Program

State Foster Care 25

-	333,058	-
---	---------	---

Total N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

-	364,471	-
---	---------	---

N.C. Department of Public Safety:

Division of Administration, Community Programs
 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Programs

-	169,945	169,445
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Emergency Management Division:

Cybersecurity Grant

MOA 2280074

-	11,070	-
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Flood Mitigation Efforts

DRMG2309

-	28,474	-
---	--------	---

Total N.C. Department of Public Safety

-	209,489	169,445
---	---------	---------

N.C. Department of Information Technology

Priority One 911 Grant

G2022P1

-	49,985	-
---	--------	---

Total N.C. Department of Information Technology

-	49,985	-
---	--------	---

N.C. Department of Public Instruction:

NC Public School Building Capital-Lottery Proceeds
 Public School National Forest Service

-	316,670	316,670
-	57	57

Total N.C. Department of Public Instruction

-	316,727	316,727
---	---------	---------

N.C. Department of Transportation:

Employment Transportation Operating Assistance

-	14,667	-
---	--------	---

Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance

-	95,167	-
---	--------	---

Rural General Public Program

-	75,567	-
---	--------	---

Total N.C. Department of Transportation

-	185,401	-
---	---------	---

N.C. Department of Environmental Quality

Division of Water Resources:

UT to Dutch Creek Stream Restoration

CW34296

-	24,350	-
---	--------	---

Valle Crucis Watauga River Access

CW34061

-	57,579	-
---	--------	---

Total N.C. Department of Environmental Quality

-	81,929	-
---	--------	---

N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

Soil Conservation Assistance
 Soil Conservation Technician Cost Sharing

G40100296015SWC
 G40100296015SWC

-	3,600	-
-	26,888	-

Total N.C. Department of Agriculture

-	30,488	-
---	--------	---

N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources:

America 250 Grant

-	5,000	-
---	-------	---

Total N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

-	5,000	-
---	-------	---

N.C. Division of Military and Veteran's Affairs

NCDMVA Grant

Contract 2025-0080

Veteran's Service Program

143B-1211C4

-	18,289	-
-	2,273	-

Total N.C. Division of Veteran's Affairs

-	20,562	-
---	--------	---

N.C. Office of State and Budget Management

State Capital and Infrastructure Fund

-	192,209	-
---	---------	---

Total N.C. Office of State and Budget Management

-	192,209	-
---	---------	---

N.C. Department of State Treasurer

Round 1 State Cashflow Loan for Disaster Response

-	895,478	-
---	---------	---

Total N.C. Department of State Treasurer

-	895,478	-
---	---------	---

Total State Awards

-	2,283,465	486,172
---	-----------	---------

Other Financial Assistance:

Opioid Settlement (See Note 4)

-	810,179	-
---	---------	---

Total Federal and State Awards

\$ 7,099,990	\$ 3,416,122	\$ 540,309
--------------	--------------	------------

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Financial Awards:1. Basis of Presentation:

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards (SEFSA) includes the federal and State award activity of Watauga County under the programs of the federal government and the State of North Carolina for the year ended June 30, 2025. The information in this SEFSA is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 US Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of Watauga County, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position or cash flows of Watauga County.

2. Summary of Significant Account Policies:

Expenditures reported in the SEFSA are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Therefore, some amounts presented in this schedule may differ from amounts presented or used in the preparation of the basic financial statements. Benefit payments are paid directly to recipients and are not included in the County's basic financial statements. However, due to the County's involvement in determining eligibility, they are considered Federal awards to the County and are included in this schedule.

3. Indirect Cost Rate

The County has elected not to use the 10-percent minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

4. Opioid Settlement

The North Carolina Department of Justice does not consider Opioid Settlement Funds either Federal or State financial assistance since they are from a settlement with major drug companies. Since these funds are subject to the State Single Audit Implementation Act, they are reported as Other Financial Assistance on the SEFSA and considered State awards for State single audit requirements.

5. Cluster of Programs:

The following are clustered by the NC Department of Health and Human Services and are treated separately for state audit requirement purposes:

Subsidized Child Care
Foster Care and Adoption

5. Loan outstanding

Watauga County had the following loan balances outstanding as of June 30, 2025. The loans made during the year are included in the SEFSA in the state expenditures presented in the schedule. Balances and transactions during related to these programs are included in the County's basic financial statements.

Program Title	Grantor's Number	Amount Outstanding
Round 1 State Cashflow Loan for Disaster Response		\$ 895,478

A G E N D A I T E M 6 :**LUCKY DOG VINTAGE MARKET – USE OF HUMAN SERVICES LOT****Manager's Comments:**

Trevor Shue, organizer of the Lucky Dog Vintage Market, has submitted a request to use the grassy area and parking lot at the Human Services Center for market events on select dates from March 2026 through September 2026. The proposed dates do not conflict with the ASU football schedules and the Watauga County Farmers' Market. The rate to be charged is \$200; which is the same as last time.

Staff seeks direction from the Board.

Deidre.Earp

From: Deron.Geouque
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 12:03 PM
To: Board Packet
Subject: FW: Trevor Shue Lucky Dog Vintage Market, Next Board Meeting.

We are looking to schedule dates for the 2026 LDVM calendar at the Poplar Grove connector grassy area. I would like you to put me on the next schedule for the next board meeting. I also have the dates we are looking at for LDVM that don't interfere with the AppState football season or the King Street farmers market.

Saturday March 14th
Saturday April 11th
Saturday May 2nd
Saturday June 13th
Saturday August 15th
Saturday September 12th

Thank You
- Trevor Shue

Lucky Dog Vintage, LLC

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

LICENSE AGREEMENT

COUNTY OF WATAUGA

THIS LICENSE AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is made as of March 3, 2026, by and between Watauga County, a corporate body politic, being hereinafter referred to as the "Licensor," and Lucky Dog Vintage, being hereinafter referred to as "Licensee".

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Licensor is the owner of the parking lot and building of the Watauga County Human Services Center located at 132 Poplar Grove Connector, Boone NC 28607, hereinafter referred to as the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, Licensee wants to use the parking lot to host its clothing market on the dates listed in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, Licensor and Licensee hereto desire to enter into an agreement to set forth their respective rights and obligations regarding use and maintenance of the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

1. **Grant of License.** Licensor hereby grants to Licensee, subject to all of the terms and conditions hereof, a license to use the Property to host its clothing market on the dates listed in Exhibit A for itself, its clients, customers, patrons, other related invitees and the general public. However, Licensee does not have the rights granted herein to the exclusion of the rights of the Licensor to use the Property in any matter it wishes so long as it does not unreasonably impede the use of the Property by Licensee for the purpose stated herein.
2. **Personal License Only.** It is agreed between Licensor and Licensee that this license is personal to Licensee and shall not inure to the successors or assigns of Licensee.
3. **Licensee Has No Interest or Estate.** Licensee agrees that it does not and shall not claim at any time any interest or estate of any kind or extent whatsoever in the Property, or any portion thereof, by virtue of this license or Licensee's occupancy or use hereunder and Licensor conveys no interest in the Property to Licensee by this Agreement.
4. **Use of the Property.** The Licensor shall collect the garbage from the containers on the Property at 6:00 PM on the dates listed in Exhibit A, and this License shall automatically terminate at the conclusion of each date's use. The Licensee shall keep the Property in a good state of repair and in a safe condition during its use on each occasion. Any repairs or other changes made by Licensee shall require the prior consent of Licensor and shall be at the sole cost and expense of Licensee. The Licensee shall pay to Licensor a fee of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per date of use as outlined in Exhibit A for its use of the Property.

5. **Indemnification.** Licensee shall indemnify and hold Licensors, jointly and severally, its agents, servants, employees, invitees, representatives and their respective heirs, successors and assigns, harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, liabilities or expenses concerning bodily injury or death, damage to the Property resulting from, or in any way connected with, the condition or use of the Property by Licensee, its invitees, customers, guests and the general public during the use of the Property. Licensors shall not be liable to Licensee if for any reason whatever Licensee's occupation or use of the Property hereunder shall be hindered or disturbed. Licensee shall be responsible for maintaining a liability insurance policy, at its sole cost and expense, naming the Licensors as named insured, in form and amount mutually agreeable between Licensors and Licensee.
6. **Termination of License.** This License shall commence at 9:00 AM and automatically terminate at 6:00 PM on the dates listed in Exhibit A.
7. **Modification.** The terms, covenants, conditions and provisions of this License Agreement may be extended, abrogated, modified, rescinded or amended in whole or in part only with the consent of the Licensors and Licensee and only in writing.
8. **Applicable Law.** This Agreement shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of North Carolina.
9. **Notices.** Any notices or other communications to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given if delivered in person or mailed by United States certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the parties at the following address, or to such other address as shall be given in writing by one party to the other:

As to Licensors:

Deron Geouque, County Manager
 Watauga County
 814 West King Street, Room 205
 Boone, NC 28607

As to Licensee:

Trevor Shue
 Lucky Dog Vintage
 1167 West King Street
 Boone, NC 28607

10. **Recording.** This Agreement, or Memorandum thereof, shall not be recorded without Licensors' prior written consent, and if recorded Licensee hereby agrees to pay the cost and expense thereof.

11. **Waiver.** No waiver of any condition, covenant or restriction of this Agreement by either party shall be deemed to imply or constitute a further waiver of the same or any other condition or covenant of this Agreement.
12. **Captions.** The captions of the various paragraphs of this Agreement are for convenience only and are not a part of this Agreement and do not in any way limit or amplify the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement, all as of the day and year first above written.

Licensor:

Licensee:

Watauga County

Lucky Dog Vintage

By:

Deron Geouque
County Manager

By:

Trevor Shue

Attest:

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Exhibit A: Market Dates

- March 14, 2026
- April 11, 2026
- May 2, 2026
- June 13, 2026
- August 15, 2026
- September 12, 2026

A G E N D A I T E M 7 :**REQUESTING APPOINTMENT OF HOME & COMMUNITY CARE
BLOCK GRANT (H&CCBG) ADVISORY COMMUNITY AND LEAD
AGENCY****Manager's Comments:**

Each year the Board is required to appoint a lead agency and advisory committee to make recommendations on how to best expend the County's allocation from the Home and Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) funds. These funds were previously established by the Older American's Act and are administered by the North Carolina Division of Aging.

Board action is requested to approve the Watauga County Project on Aging as the Lead Agency and the list of nominations for the Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee for FY 2027. In that this is the first reading, you may delay action or waive your policy and appoint the members to the Advisory Board as presented.

Direction from the Board is requested.



Watauga County Project on Aging

132 Poplar Grove Connector, Suite A • Boone, North Carolina 28607

Website: www.wataugacounty.org/aging angie.boitnotte@watgov.org

Telephone 828-265-8090 Fax 828-264-2060 TTY 1-800-735-2962 Voice 1-800-735-8262 or 711

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deron Geouque, County Manager

FROM: Angie Boitnotte, Director

DATE: February 23, 2026

SUBJ: Appointment of the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Advisory Committee and Lead Agency

Each year the Board of County Commissioners is required to appoint a Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee and Lead Agency. The primary function of this committee is to assist the County in determining the best plan for the use of HCCBG funds.

Please accept the attached list as nominations for the Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee for FY27. I also recommend that the Watauga County Project on Aging be appointed as the Lead Agency.

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FY 2027

LEAD AGENCY

Angie Boitnotte, Director
132 Poplar Grove Connector, Suite A
Boone, NC 28607

Watauga County Project on Aging
265-8090
angie.boitnotte@watgov.org

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NAME

REPRESENTING

Braxton Eggers
814 W. King St., Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607

Watauga County Board of Commissioners
265-8000
Braxton.Eggers@watgov.org

Zack Green
Area Agency on Aging
468 New Market Blvd.
Boone, NC 28607

High Country Council of Governments
265-5434 ext. 122
zgreen@hccog.org

Christie Markham, Adult Services Supervisor
132 Poplar Grove Connector, Suite C
Boone, NC 28607

Watauga County Department of Social Services
265-8100
christie.markham@watgov.org

Karina Romero, Health Promotion Program Manager
126 Poplar Grove Connector
Boone, NC 28607

Appalachian District Health Department
264-4995
karina.romero@apphealth.com

Debbie Wellborn, Director
P. O. Box 605
Jefferson, NC 28640

Appalachian Senior Companion Program
(336)846-4898
wellbrnda@appstate.edu

Brooke Whitman, Watauga Center Director
132 Poplar Grove Connector, Suite B
Boone, NC 28607

Daymark Recovery Services
264-8759
brwhitman@daymarkrecovery.org

Kat Danner
280 Foster Circle
Boone, NC 28607

Senior Citizen
264-7985 or 773-0682
dannerk@charter.net

Joyce Donley
382 Foggy Lane
Boone, NC 28607

Senior Citizen
(828)773-1919
joyollis2002@yahoo.com

Mary Moretz
1419 Deerfield Rd.
Boone, NC 28607

Senior Citizen
(828)264-2281
maryemoretz@gmail.com

Updated: 2/20/26

A G E N D A I T E M 8 :

EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS

A. Request to Purchase APX Consolettes

Manager's Comments:

Mr. Will Holt, Emergency Services Director will request the Board approve the purchase of 2 Consolettes for the current 911 Center. Total cost is \$21,655 and is part of the 725G State contract for Motorola.

Board approval is required to formally approve the purchase of the APX Consolettes with Motorola in the amount of \$21,655.

February 24th, 2026

To: Board of Commissioners

CC: Deron Geouque, County Manager

Subject: APX Consolettes

Board of Commissioners,

Please consider my request for \$21,655 for replacement of two consolettes in the current 911 center. These consolettes are at their end of service life due and must be upgraded to remain compliant with VIPER requirements. This quote is priced as part of the 725G State contract for Motorola. This replacement has been considered as part of the overall infrastructure project upgrade and funds are available for this purchase.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Holt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Holt, MPA, CEM, NREMT-P
Emergency Services Director



WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

12/17/2025

12/17/2025

WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
184 HODGES GAP ROAD
BOONE, NC 28607

Dear Will Holt,

Motorola Solutions is pleased to present WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES with this quote for quality communications equipment and services. The development of this quote provided us the opportunity to evaluate your requirements and propose a solution to best fulfill your communications needs.

This information is provided to assist you in your evaluation process. Our goal is to provide WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES with the best products and services available in the communications industry. Please direct any questions to Stori McIntyre at storimcintyre@callmc.com.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide you with premier communications and look forward to your review and feedback regarding this quote.

Sincerely,

Stori McIntyre

Motorola Solutions Manufacturer's Representative



QUOTE-3431564

Billing Address:
WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY
SERVICES
184 HODGES GAP ROAD
BOONE, NC 28607
US

Quote Date:12/17/2025
Expiration Date:02/15/2026
Quote Created By:
Stori McIntyre
storimcintyre@callmc.com

End Customer:
WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY
SERVICES
Will Holt

Contract: 19144 - 725G NORTH
CAROLINA, STATE OF (NON-ARIBA
BASED POS)

Line #	Item Number	Description	Qty	List Price	Sale Price	Ext. Sale Price
	APX™ Consolette					
1	L37TSS9PW1CN	ALL BAND CONSOLETTTE CN	2	\$11,053.00	\$8,289.75	\$16,579.50
1a	G90AC	ADD: NO MICROPHONE NEEDED APX	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1b	GA00580AA	ADD: TDMA OPERATION	2	\$530.00	\$397.50	\$795.00
1c	CA01598AB	ADD: AC LINE CORD US	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1d	G51AT	SOFTWARE LICENSE ENH:SMARTZONE	2	\$1,766.00	\$1,324.50	\$2,649.00
1e	GA05508AA	DEL: DELETE VHF BAND	2	-\$800.00	-\$800.00	-\$1,600.00
1f	G78AR	ADD: 3Y ESSENTIAL SERVICE	2	\$288.00	\$288.00	\$576.00
1g	GA05509AA	DEL: DELETE UHF BAND	2	-\$800.00	-\$800.00	-\$1,600.00
1h	L999AG	ADD: FULL FP W/E5/KEYPAD/ CLOCK/VU	2	\$929.00	\$696.75	\$1,393.50
1i	G843AH	ADD: AES ENCRYPTION AND ADP	2	\$560.00	\$420.00	\$840.00
1j	G806BL	SOFTWARE LICENSE ENH: ASTRO DIGITAL CAI OP APX	2	\$607.00	\$455.25	\$910.50
1k	QA09113AB	ADD: BASELINE RELEASE SW	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1l	W969BG	SOFTWARE LICENSE ENH: MULTIKEY OPERATION	2	\$388.00	\$291.00	\$582.00
1m	G361AH	SOFTWARE LICENSE ENH: P25 TRUNKING SOFTWARE APX	2	\$353.00	\$264.75	\$529.50



Any sales transaction following Motorola's quote is based on and subject to the terms and conditions of the valid and executed written contract between Customer and Motorola (the "Underlying Agreement") that authorizes Customer to purchase equipment and/or services or license software (collectively "Products"). If no Underlying Agreement exists between Motorola and Customer, then Motorola's Standard Terms of Use and Motorola's Standard Terms and Conditions of Sales and Supply shall govern the purchase of the Products.

Motorola Solutions, Inc.: 500 West Monroe, United States - 60661 ~ #: 36-1115800



QUOTE-3431564

Grand Total

\$21,655.00(USD)

Notes:

- Unless otherwise noted, this quote excludes sales tax or other applicable taxes (such as Goods and Services Tax, sales tax, Value Added Tax and other taxes of a similar nature). Any tax the customer is subject to will be added to invoices.



Any sales transaction following Motorola's quote is based on and subject to the terms and conditions of the valid and executed written contract between Customer and Motorola (the "Underlying Agreement") that authorizes Customer to purchase equipment and/or services or license software (collectively "Products"). If no Underlying Agreement exists between Motorola and Customer, then Motorola's Standard Terms of Use and Motorola's Standard Terms and Conditions of Sales and Supply shall govern the purchase of the Products.

Motorola Solutions, Inc.: 500 West Monroe, United States - 60661 ~ #: 36-1115800



Purchase Order Checklist NA OM

Marked as PO/ Contract/ Notice to Proceed on Company Letterhead
(PO will not be processed without this)

PO Number/ Contract Number

PO Date

Vendor = Motorola Solutions, Inc.

Payment (Billing) Terms/ State Contract Number

Bill-To Name on PO must be equal to the *Legal* Bill-To Name

Bill-To Address

Ship-To Address (If we are shipping to a MR location, it must be documented on PO)

Ultimate Address (If the Ship-To address is the MR location then the Ultimate Destination address must be documented on PO)

PO Amount must be equal to or greater than Order Total

Non-Editable Format (Word/ Excel templates cannot be accepted)

Tax Exemption Status

Signatures (As required)

NOTE: When an email order is submitted a confirmation is sent from Motorola AutoNotify referencing a **case number**.

Once checklist is complete, order still must go through **Order Validation/Credit Approval**

A G E N D A I T E M 8 :

EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS

B. Request to Purchase Uninterrupted Power Supply

Manager's Comments:

Mr. Holt will request the Board approve the purchase of an additional UPS for the current 911 Center in the amount of \$26,919.35. This UPS will provide uninterrupted power to the radio equipment rack which currently is served by generator only.

Board approval is required to formally approve the purchase of the Uninterrupted Power Supply in the amount of \$26,919.35.

February 24th, 2026

To: Board of Commissioners

CC: Deron Geouque, County Manager

Subject: Uninterrupted Power Supply

Board of Commissioners,

Please consider my request for \$26,919.35 for the purchase of an additional UPS in the current 911 center. This UPS will provide uninterrupted power to the radio equipment rack which currently is served by generator only. This quote is provided by Mobile Communications America who is responsible for maintaining this equipment and has been reviewed by our IT Department as well. This purchase has been considered as part of the overall infrastructure project upgrade and funds are available for this purchase.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Holt', followed by a stylized flourish or second signature.

William Holt, MPA, CEM, NREMT-P
Emergency Services Director



030326 BCC Meeting
MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA, INC.
4800 REAGAN DR
CHARLOTTE, NC 28206
Phone: 704-597-5220
Fax:

QUOTATION
341001422

Page 1

Bill To:

Watauga County NC Emergency Services
184 Hodges Gap Rd Suite D
Boone, NC 28607-8635

Ship To:

Watauga County NC Emergency Services
184 Hodges Gap Rd Suite D
Boone, NC 28607-8635

Contact:

Contact #:

Contact: WILL HOLT

Contact #: 828-265-5668

Date: 12/23/2025		Customer #: 108188		Terms: NET 30 DAYS	
Quantity	Description	U/M	Unit Price	Extended	
1	Eaton 2-Post Rack-Mount Installation Kit for Select Eaton 9PX UPS Systems	EA	166.60	166.60	
1	Eaton Tripp Lite Series 2-Post Rack-Mount Installation Kit of 2U and Larger	EA	233.83	233.83	
4	Eaton 9PX Lithium Batt CAB	EA	3,912.52	15,650.08	
1	Eaton 3000VA UPS RT LV NET Bundle	EA	6,471.68	6,471.68	
1	FIELD TECH LABOR ONLY	EA	2,220.00	2,220.00	
1	SHIPPING/HANDLING	EA	475.00	475.00	
1	Customer provided L5-30R Outlet will be required	EA	0.00	0.00	

Accepted By: _____ **Date:** _____

Please contact customer representative by phone or email with any questions:

Customer Rep: Stori McIntyre

Phone #:

Email: StoriMcIntyre@callmc.com

Subtotal : \$25,217.19

Tax : \$1,702.16

Total Quote : \$26,919.35

Quote Valid for 30 Days.

Effective August 1, 2018, all credit card payments are subject to a 2% convenience fee

All orders are subject to the MCA Terms and Conditions attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Order are also subject to partial shipment and partial invoice.

Tax calculations provided are estimates and are subject to change.



MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA, INC. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following Terms and Conditions ("T&Cs"), together with the terms of the relevant Quote, and any other documents incorporated herein by reference, constitute the sole and entire agreement ("Agreement") between Mobile Communications America, Inc. a Delaware corporation ("MCA") and the Buyer whose name appears on the signature page of the Quote ("Buyer"; MCA and Buyer are referred to collectively as the "Parties" and each, individually, a "Party") with respect to the equipment and/or parts ("Goods") and/or services ("Services"; collectively, the "Work") to be provided by MCA to Buyer in the Quote, and supersede all prior or contemporaneous understandings, agreements, negotiations, representations and warranties, and communications, both written and oral. The quantity, quality and description of the Goods shall be as specified in an applicable Quote and/or any applicable specification agreed to in writing by the Parties. With respect to Services, any Quote is expressly subject to MCA's inspection of the site where the Services will be performed and its suitability for the Services in MCA's sole and absolute discretion.

By accepting a Quote, Goods or Services from MCA, Buyer's consent to this Agreement will be conclusively established regardless of the manner of acceptance. Buyer acknowledges and agrees to this Agreement and no other terms and conditions issued on Buyer's PO or other work/order form are incorporated or will apply unless agreed upon by both Parties in writing and signed by the Parties. This Agreement will prevail over any of Buyer's general terms and conditions of purchase regardless of whether or when Buyer has submitted its purchase order or such terms. Fulfillment of Buyer's order does not constitute acceptance of any of Buyer's terms and does not serve to modify or amend this Agreement. In the event of any conflict between these T&Cs and the Quote, these T&Cs shall govern, unless the Quote expressly states that the terms and conditions of the Quote shall control.

1. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS.** Neither the transactions contemplated by the Agreement or any other document between the Parties are intended to constitute or create a joint venture, pooling arrangement, partnership, or formal business organization of any kind. The Parties shall act as independent contractors at all times and neither Party shall act as an agent for the other, and the employees of one Party shall not be deemed employees of the other Party.
2. **SHORTAGES AND DEFECTS OF GOODS:** Buyer will be deemed to have accepted the Goods unless MCA is notified in writing of the rejection of any unit of the Goods within three (3) days of receipt. Any claim of shortages or defects must be made within three (3) days of delivery to Buyer. Claims must be provided to MCA in writing and must detail for MCA the specific reason(s) for rejection. Buyer shall afford MCA prompt and reasonable opportunity to inspect all Goods against which any claim is made. Buyer shall not return any Goods to MCA without prior authorization. After MCA has reviewed the rejection notice and authorized the return, Buyer will return the rejected Goods to MCA (or MCA's designee) in the same condition as when it was received. All returns must be in the original container and packaging along with all accessories and instructions included must be shipped freight prepaid. Notwithstanding the foregoing, (a) in the event MCA reasonably determines that the basis for rejection relates to a matter covered by a Manufacturer Warranty, MCA shall have no liability under this Section other than to inform Buyer of such determination.
3. **PRICING AND PAYMENT:** Pricing for the Services or the Goods, or the manner or method by which such prices shall be set or finally determined, shall be set forth in the Quote. All quotations reflect U.S. Dollars. Buyer acknowledges that prices may fluctuate due to manufacturer costs, supply chain variances, tariffs or Force Majeure Events (hereinafter defined). As such, MCA reserves the right to adjust prices accordingly and/or cancel Quotes at any time. MCA will make reasonable effort to provide Buyer timely notice of such changes. The right to refuse to accept any Quotes for any reason is reserved by MCA even if a previous quotation has been made. All payments must be made in U.S. Dollars. Payment shall be due and payable no later than thirty (30) days from the date of invoice. If Buyer makes payment by check, the check must be drawn on a US bank. Payment shall not be deemed received by MCA for any purpose hereunder, including MCA's security interest in the Goods, until such time as MCA receives cleared available funds. Each Quote, assuming due fulfillment thereof, shall be considered a separate and independent transaction and payment therefor shall be made accordingly. Payment shall not be withheld on account of any claim by Buyer against MCA. Buyer shall not and acknowledges that it will have no right, under this Agreement or any other agreement, document, or law to withhold, offset or debit any amounts owed or due to MCA or any of its Affiliates against any other amount owed or due to MCA or any of its Affiliates under any other document or agreement. If Buyer disputes any portion of a MCA invoice, Buyer shall pay the undisputed portion when due and MCA and Buyer shall work in good faith to resolve the dispute as to the balance within thirty (30) days from notice of the disputed portion, at which point Buyer agrees to pay that portion whether an agreement has been reached or otherwise. Any invoiced amount which is not paid in accordance with this Agreement shall be considered overdue. Nonpayment or delay in payment by Buyer shall be considered a breach of the Agreement. If services, installation and/or shipments (as applicable to a particular Quote) are delayed by the Buyer, payments shall be due on the date when MCA is prepared to perform (or cause a third party to perform). Goods held for the Buyer shall be at the risk and expense of the Buyer. Goods shipped as exchanges will be invoiced for full value until the exchange is complete and Goods has been returned to MCA in good and working condition, at which point a credit for the full value will be given to Buyer. If the financial condition of the Buyer at any time does not, in MCA's sole and absolute discretion, justify continuance of performance or shipment on the terms of payment specified, MCA may require full or partial payment from the Buyer in advance. In the event of bankruptcy or insolvency of the Buyer, or in the event any proceedings are brought by or against the Buyer under any bankruptcy or insolvency laws, MCA shall be entitled to cancel any Quote then outstanding and shall receive reimbursement for any expenses incurred by it in connection with such cancellation and any applicable cancellation charges.
4. **STANDARD TERMS WITHOUT CREDIT:** If Buyer has not established preliminary credit with MCA, prepayment of the full amount of any invoice is required, unless such requirement is waived by MCA in its sole and absolute discretion.
5. **STANDARD TERMS WITH CREDIT:**
 - a. Up to \$50,000.00 – within Net thirty (30) days after date of invoice submitted by MCA.
 - b. Over \$50,000.00 may require the below milestone payments:
 - 40% down once a Quote is accepted by MCA
 - 50% once materials shipped for Buyer's use
 - 10% within thirty (30) days of the earlier of invoice or completion of installation, if applicable.
6. **NON-STANDARD CREDIT TERMS:** Negotiable prior to Quote acceptance.

7. **NON-STANDARD PAYMENT TERMS:** Non-standard payment terms which include cash payments and credit card payments by customers with credit terms with MCA, may be subject to convenience fees, in MCA's sole and absolute discretion.
8. **LATE FEES:** MCA shall be entitled, without prejudice to any of its other rights or remedies, after a seven (7) day grace period, to charge Buyer interest at the rate of 1.5% on any past due amount.
9. **TAXES:** The prices stated in any quote or Quote may not include any provision for sales, use, excise, or similar taxes. The amount of any and all such present or future taxes or other government charges applicable to the Services and, if applicable, the Goods will be added by MCA to the sales price and shall be paid by the Buyer, unless Buyer provides MCA with a tax-exemption certificate acceptable to the taxing authority. If MCA is required to pay or bear the burden of any excluded tax, the prices set forth herein shall be increased by the amount of such tax and any interest or penalty assessed, and Buyer shall pay to MCA the full payment of any such increase no later than ten (10) days after receipt of invoiced charges.
10. **SECURITY INTEREST.** Buyer grants to MCA a purchase money security interest in the Goods, including any software provided hereunder, and to the proceeds thereof until the full price and all other liabilities due to MCA are satisfied. Upon any default or breach by Buyer hereunder and to the extent applicable, MCA shall have all of the rights and remedies of a secured party under the Uniform Commercial Code or other applicable law, which rights shall be cumulative. Buyer hereby authorizes MCA to take any and all steps it determines are necessary to cause its security interest to be maintained and perfected, including, without limitation, the filing of any financing statements, and any amendments and/or renewals thereof. MCA shall have the right to enter Buyer's premises and repossess and remove any Goods if full payment has not been timely received by MCA.
11. **DELIVERY:** Unless otherwise specifically stated in an agreement signed by the Parties, delivery of all Goods shall be FOB MCA's shipping facility or at MCA's option, FOB point of manufacture. The Goods shall be delivered to the delivery address stated in the Quote. Shipping or delivery dates are best estimates only. In either case during the Buyer's usual business hours. MCA will arrange for ground shipment through a carrier of its choice unless a specific carrier has been mutually agreed upon in writing by both Buyer and MCA. All shipping charges will be prepaid by MCA and subsequently added to the Buyer's invoice. Title and risk of loss or damage shall pass to Buyer upon MCA's delivery of the goods to a common carrier or other delivery agency for shipment to Buyer. MCA assumes no liability in connection with shipment nor shall the carrier in any way be construed to be an agent of MCA. MCA shall not be liable for any damages or penalty for delay caused by transportation or failure to give notice of such delay. The Goods shall be marked in accordance with the Buyer's instructions and any applicable regulations or requirements of the carrier, if applicable, and properly packed and secured so as to reach their destination in an undamaged condition in the ordinary course. If MCA is unable to make deliveries as specified by Buyer, MCA shall notify Buyer immediately. Upon MCA's notification to the Buyer of delivery, or upon storing the Goods at the Buyer's request, the Buyer is deemed to have accepted the Goods, and thus, the ownership and all associated liabilities for the Goods. Upon delivery, any and all risks related to the possession, use, or maintenance of the Goods shall be borne solely by the Buyer. Insurance is the sole responsibility of the Buyer. MCA is not responsible for procuring insurance for the Goods, and the cost of any insurance coverage will not be included in the Product price unless explicitly requested by the Buyer at the time of Quote acceptance. Should the Buyer request MCA to insure the Goods, the associated costs will be added to Buyer's invoice. MCA reserves the right to make deliveries in installments and the contract shall be severable as to such installments. Delivery delay or default of any installment shall not relieve Buyer of its obligation to accept and pay for remaining deliveries.
12. **INSPECTION:** MCA shall take any steps necessary to comply with any reasonable request by the Buyer to inspect or test the Goods prior to installation. If as a result of inspection or testing the Buyer is not satisfied that such Goods will perform as anticipated per the written guidelines of the applicable manufacturer of any particular Goods (each, a "Manufacturer"), and if the Buyer so informs MCA within three (3) days of inspection or testing, MCA shall take commercially reasonable steps as are necessary to ensure compliance. Failure to so inform MCA within such three (3)-day period shall constitute Buyer's irrevocable waiver of its rights under this Section.
13. **CANCELLATION.** In the event of a cancellation by Buyer for any reason, Buyer will be responsible for payment to MCA for all Goods received, all non-cancelable goods on order with third-party suppliers, as well as Services provided up to the date of cancellation as follows:
 - a. **Goods:** Buyer will pay the full price for all Goods that have been delivered and received, or which are in transit, whether to the project site or as Offsite Stored Materials, through the date that notice of cancellation is received by MCA. These Goods will be invoiced at the previously agreed-upon rates and payment will be made within 30 days of the date of invoice.
 - b. **Goods on Order and Non-Cancelable:** Buyer will pay the full agreed upon price for all Goods that have been ordered specifically for the project and which cannot be canceled or returned for full reimbursement. This includes any custom-made items or materials that were procured for the project. These Goods will be invoiced at the previously agreed-upon rates and payment shall be made within 30 days of the date of invoice.
 - c. **Services Provided:** Buyer will pay for all Services rendered by MCA up to the date notice of project cancellation is received by MCA. The Services will be invoiced at the previously agreed-upon rates and payment will be made within thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice. Services provided include but are not limited to consultation, design, installation labor, project management, subcontracted services and any other services outlined in the Agreement.
 - d. **Returnable or Cancelable Goods:** May be returned at Buyer's expense and may be subject to restocking charges. Programmed Goods may be returned at MCA's discretion and will be subject to a reprogramming fee.
14. **WARRANTY:**
 - a. **MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTIES.** Manufacturers of the Goods provide warranties, including, a software warranty and a license warranty, of varying periods and coverage (collectively, "Manufacturer Warranties"). Written copies of Manufacturer Warranties are available upon request. Buyer acknowledges and agrees that MCA shall have no obligation whatsoever in respect of Manufacturer Warranties and makes no warranty with respect to any goods or supplies supplied by any third party.
 - b. **LIMITED SERVICES WARRANTY.** MCA warrants to Buyer that it shall perform the Services using personnel of required skill, experience, and qualifications and in a professional and workmanlike manner in accordance with generally recognized industry standards for similar services and shall devote adequate resources to meet its obligations under the Agreement ("Limited Services Warranty"). The Limited Services Warranty shall survive for a period of twelve (12) months following the date Services commences (the "Warranty Period"). The Limited Services Warranty is not assignable or transferrable to any third party (including any Affiliate of Buyer).
 - c. **WARRANTY DISCLAIMER.** EXCEPT FOR THE LIMITED SERVICES WARRANTY, MCA MAKES NO WARRANTY WHATSOEVER WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES AND/OR ANY GOODS, INCLUDING ANY (A) WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY; (B) WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE; (C) WARRANTY OF TITLE; (D) WARRANTY AGAINST INFRINGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF A THIRD PARTY; OR (E) OTHER WARRANTY WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED BY LAW, COURSE OF DEALING, COURSE OF PERFORMANCE, USAGE OF TRADE, OR OTHERWISE.

- d. **WARRANTY CONDITIONS.** MCA shall not be liable for a breach of the Limited Services Warranty unless: (A) Buyer gives written notice of breach thereof, reasonably described, to MCA within twenty (20) days of the time when Buyer discovers or ought to have discovered the breach and such notice is given during the Warranty Period and (B) MCA reasonably verifies Buyer's claim that the Services was defective. MCA shall not be liable for a breach of the Limited Services Warranty if (i) Buyer makes any further use of such Goods after giving such notice; (ii) the defect arises because Buyer failed to follow MCA's oral or written instructions as to the storage, installation, commissioning, use or maintenance of the Goods; or (iii) Buyer alters or repairs such Goods without the prior written consent of MCA.
- e. **EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES.** Subject to Buyer's compliance with the paragraph titled "Warranty Conditions" above, Buyer's sole and exclusive remedy for breach of the Limited Services Warranty shall be, in MCA's sole discretion, (i) to repair or re-perform the applicable Services or (ii) to credit or refund the price of such Services at the pro rata contract rate. SUCH REMEDY SHALL BE THE BUYER'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY AND MCA'S ENTIRE LIABILITY FOR ANY BREACH OF THE LIMITED SERVICES WARRANTY.
15. **AFFILIATES.** MCA reserves the right, without prior notice to Buyer, to provide any Goods through, or cause any of its obligations under this Agreement to be performed by any of its Affiliates. In such case, the work shall be treated as a separate agreement between the Buyer and Affiliate, governed by the Agreement with the Affiliate taking the place of MCA for all purposes herein. Buyer is to make payment directly to the Affiliate for such Quotes. For the purposes of this Agreement, "Affiliate" shall mean, with respect to a Party, any entity which owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, such Party. In addition, MCA may subcontract the Services to be provided to Buyer to a third party without Buyer's consent, provided that such subcontracting will not release MCA from any of its obligations under the Agreement.
16. **FORCE MAJEURE:** MCA shall not be responsible for any failure to perform due to causes beyond its reasonable control, such as, but not limited to, acts of God, flood, fire, earthquake, explosion, acts of the Buyer, acts of civil or military authority, war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest, embargoes or blockades, national or regional emergency, judicial action, pandemic, epidemic, default of subcontractors or vendors, labor disputes, accident, failure or delays on transportation, and inability to obtain necessary power, labor or materials (each, a "Force Majeure Event"). In the event of any delay due to such causes, or other difficulties, (whether or not similar in nature to any of those specified) the date of delivery shall be extended for a period equal to the time lost.
17. **GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS:** In the event that the Buyer's customer is the United States Government, the Services and, if applicable, Goods are purchased as Commercial Services or Commercial Goods, respectively, under the Federal Acquisition Regulation ("FAR"), and MCA will agree to comply with, if applicable, FAR 52.212-5 (Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders—Commercial Goods and Commercial Services). Any other Government flow downs shall be negotiated by the Parties and agreed upon between the Parties in writing prior to acceptance of a Quote by MCA.
18. **FCC AND OTHER GOVERNMENT MATTERS:** Although MCA may assist in the preparation of FCC License Applications as a courtesy, Buyer is solely responsible for obtaining any licenses dictated under the FCC's rules and regulations or required by any other Federal, State or Local government agency. Neither MCA nor any of its employees is an agent of the Buyer in FCC or other governmental matters.
19. **NON-SOLICITATION.** MCA expends considerable resources including money, time, training, etc. to properly train and educate its employees. MCA experiences considerable financial and other harm when its employees are recruited and hired by customers. Therefore, Buyer agrees to not recruit or solicit any MCA employee until and after such employee has terminated his employment with MCA for a period of at least one (1) year. In consideration of MCA performing its services under this Agreement, Buyer acknowledges MCA's damages in such event and agrees to pay as liquidated damages for breach of this Section a one-time payment equal to five hundred (500) times the then standard technician hourly billable rate, which is currently \$200/hour.
20. **PATENT, COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARKS:**
- COPYRIGHT AND MASK WORKS:** Laws in the United States and other countries preserve for manufacturers certain exclusive rights, in the manufacturer's software incorporated into any Goods ("Manufacturer's Software") or included in Services, mask works and other works of authorship furnished hereunder, including, without limitation, the exclusive rights to prepare work derived from same, reproduce copies in same and distribute copies of same. Such Manufacturer's Software, mask works and other works of authorship may be used in, and redistributed with, only the Goods which incorporate the same. No other use, including without limitation, the reproduction, modification, or disassembly of such Manufacturer's Software, mask works and other works of authorship or exclusive rights in same is permitted.
 - REVERSE ENGINEERING:** Buyer acknowledges manufacturer's claim that the Manufacturer's Software and Goods furnished hereunder contain valuable trade secrets of manufacturer and therefore agrees that it will not translate, reverse engineer, decompile, or disassemble, or make any other unauthorized use of such Manufacturer's Software and Goods. Since unauthorized use of such Manufacturer's Software and Goods will greatly diminish the value of such trade secrets.
 - LOGOS AND TRADEMARKS:** Buyer shall not have a right to use any trademarks, names, slogans, or designations of MCA or any manufacturer of Goods incorporated into or included in any Goods and/Services.
21. **MUTUAL WAIVER OF SUBROGATION.** Customer and MCA waive all rights against each other for damages caused by any loss, to the extent those losses are covered and paid by insurance, and except such rights as they have to proceeds of such insurance. This waiver of subrogation shall be effective as to a person or entity (1) even though that person or entity would otherwise have a duty of indemnification, contractual or otherwise, (2) even though that person or entity did not pay the insurance premium directly or indirectly, or (3) whether or not the person or entity had an insurable interest in the damaged property. Except for damages covered and paid by insurance (for which the Parties have waived rights of subrogation, as outlined elsewhere in this agreement), the Parties agree that MCA's aggregate liability for all claims, suits, actions and proceedings, howsoever arising, directly or indirectly, under or relating to this agreement or its subject matter, including (but not limited to) those based on breach or rescission of contract or tort, shall not exceed, in the aggregate: (i) the fees paid by the Customer to MCA under this Agreement.
22. **LIMITATIONS:**
- LIMITATIONS OF MCA LIABILITY.** IN NO EVENT SHALL MCA BE LIABLE TO BUYER OR ANY THIRD PARTY FOR ANY MATTER ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT IN RESPECT OF ANY LOSS OF USE, REVENUE OR PROFIT OR LOSS OF DATA OR DIMINUTION IN VALUE, OR FOR ANY CONSEQUENTIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES WHETHER ARISING OUT OF BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE), OR OTHERWISE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH DAMAGES WERE FORESEEABLE AND WHETHER OR NOT MCA HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE FAILURE OF ANY AGREED OR OTHER REMEDY OF ITS ESSENTIAL PURPOSE. NO ACTION SHALL BE BROUGHT FOR ANY BREACH OF THIS CONTRACT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR AFTER THE ACCRUAL OF SUCH CAUSE OF ACTION EXCEPT FOR MONEY DUE UPON AN OPEN ACCOUNT. Both Parties agree that this waiver of consequential damages is a material inducement to enter into this Agreement.
 - MAXIMUM LIABILITY.** IN NO EVENT SHALL MCA'S AGGREGATE LIABILITY ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT, WHETHER ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE), OR OTHERWISE, EXCEED THE PURCHASE

PRICE OF THE PARTICULAR GOODS SOLD AND/OR SERVICES RENDERED HEREUNDER WITH RESPECT TO WHICH LOSSES OR DAMAGES ARE CLAIMED.

- c. **EXCLUSIONS.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, the limitations of MCA's liability set forth herein shall not apply to (i) liability resulting from MCA's willful misconduct and (ii) death or bodily injury resulting exclusively from MCA's acts or omissions.
 - d. **INSURANCE:** It is further understood that MCA is not an insurer, and that Buyer shall obtain and maintain all necessary and appropriate policies of insurance in respect of its obligations under this Agreement. MCA does not represent or warrant, and MCA hereby expressly disclaims any responsibility for, that Goods will avert or prevent occurrences, or the consequences therefrom, which are monitored, detected, or controlled with the use of the Goods sold herein.
 - e. **NO REPRESENTATIONS.** MCA's representatives are only authorized to fill in the blanks on any agreement, sales Quote or quote form governed by this Agreement. The issuance of information, advice, approvals, instructions or cost projections by MCA sales or service personnel or other representatives shall be deemed expressions of personal opinion only and shall not affect MCA and Buyer's rights and obligations hereunder, unless that same is in writing and signed by an officer of MCA with the explicit statement that it constitutes an amendment to the Agreement.
23. **INDEMNITY.** MCA agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Customer, including its officers, directors, and employees, from and against all losses, damages, expenses, and claims, up to the amount of the Quote, but only to the extent caused solely by the grossly negligent acts or omissions of MCA in the performance of Services. Buyer agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless MCA, its officers, directors, and employees for any and all claims, including claims asserted by third parties, and against any and all liabilities, losses, damages, expenses, liens, claims, demands, actions, judgments, settlements, interest, awards, penalties, fines costs and expenses, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of collection, costs of recovering insurance, and costs of enforcing this indemnification provision for death, personal injury, or property damage arising out of any negligent act or omission of Buyer, except to the extent such claims are contributed to by (i) the negligence or willful misconduct of MCA. Any Party seeking indemnity hereunder agrees to (i) notify the other Party in writing of any claims as soon as reasonably practicable; (ii) allow the other Party to control the defense of any such claim and related settlement negotiations; and (iii) reasonably cooperate with the other Party in any defense actions.
 24. **GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE.** This Agreement is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of where the Project is located. In addition, the Parties hereto consent to the jurisdiction of any South Carolina state or federal court over any claims arising under or relating to this Agreement, or the relationship between them.
 25. **DISPUTES AND ATTORNEYS' FEES.** The Parties shall attempt in good faith to resolve any disputes, controversy, or claim arising out of this Agreement by negotiation between the representatives of each Party who have the authority to settle the dispute. As a precondition to commencing litigation of any dispute which cannot be so resolved (other than the collection of money due on unpaid invoices), the Parties agree to participate in mediation with a mediator to be chosen by mutual agreement. If mediation is unsuccessful, any litigation shall take place in Spartanburg County South Carolina, United States of America, which shall be the exclusive forum for resolving the dispute, controversy, or claim. Each Party irrevocably and unconditionally waives any right to a trial by jury in respect to any legal action arising from this Agreement or any other agreement between the Parties. Should any dispute arise between the Parties regarding the interpretation, application, effect or enforcement of this Agreement, the prevailing party in any legal or arbitration proceedings commenced to resolve the dispute shall be entitled to costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in said legal proceeding.
 26. **ASSIGNMENT.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of each Party and its respective heirs, successors, and assigns. The Buyer shall not assign in whole or in part these T&Cs or any interest therein or any rights hereunder without the written consent of MCA, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Any such assignment without consent shall be void. Notwithstanding the foregoing, MCA may assign this Agreement or any other agreement between the Parties, without consent in whole or in part, for the purposes of corporate reconstruction, reorganization, or analogous proceeding, or to (a) any Affiliate; or (b) a third party in the event of a merger, recapitalization, conversion, consolidation, other business combination or sale of all or substantially all of the assets of MCA to such third party.
 27. **NOTICES.** All notices or communications (other than normal business communications) required by this Agreement, or desired to be given hereunder, shall be in writing addressed indicated in the applicable signature block hereto, and given by electronic or USPS mail, with delivery confirmation, or an overnight mail service that confirms delivery and shall be deemed to be given when received.
 28. **NON-WAIVER:** The failure of MCA to insist, in any one or more instances, upon the performance of any such term, covenant or conditions of this Agreement or to exercise any right herein, shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of the future performance of any such term, covenant or condition or the future exercise of such right, but the obligation of the Buyer with respect to such future performance shall continue in full force and effect.
 29. **SEVERABILITY:** If any provision or part-provision of this Agreement is or becomes invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, it shall be deemed modified to the minimum extent necessary to make it valid, legal and enforceable. If such modification is not possible, the relevant provision or part-provision shall be deemed deleted. Any modification to or deletion of a provision or part-provision under this clause shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the rest of this Agreement.
 30. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement, together with the Quotes and any Exhibits attached thereto, from time to time, sets forth the entire agreement and understanding between the Parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, agreements and understandings with respect thereto. No representations, statements, or inducements, oral or written, not contained herein shall bind either Party. This Agreement may only be amended by a written document duly executed between the Parties. No waiver, alteration or modification of the Agreement shall be binding on MCA unless in writing and signed by an authorized signor of MCA.

A G E N D A I T E M 8 :**EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS*****C. Request to Purchase PowerPro 2 Cot for Ambulance*****Manager's Comments:**

Mr. Holt will request the Board approve the purchase for an additional PowerPro 2 Cot for the ambulance arriving from AEV/NWEV purchased last year. Total cost is \$45,018.32 including the ProCare which covers all equipment at 100% warranty; including parts, labor, technician travel, battery replacement, and annual preventative maintenance for the service life of the equipment.

Board approval is required to formally approve the purchase of the PowerPro 2 Cot in the amount of \$45,018.32.

February 24th, 2026

To: Board of Commissioners

CC: Deron Geouque, County Manager

Subject: PowerPro 2 Cot

Board of Commissioners,

Please consider my request for \$45,018.32 for the purchase of an additional PowerPro 2 Cot for the ambulance arriving from AEV/NWEV purchased last year. The other durable equipment (powerload, LUCAS device, cardiac monitor, etc.) has already been purchased in previous Board actions. Additionally, the ProCare purchase covers all equipment at 100% warranty, including parts, labor, technician travel, battery replacement, and annual preventative maintenance for the service life of the equipment and is consistent with the first purchase of cots. Funds have been budgeted for this purpose as part of this capital project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Holt", followed by a stylized flourish or second signature.

William Holt, MPA, CEM, NREMT-P
Emergency Services Director



PP2 Cot (1)

Quote Number:11261182

Version:1

Prepared For:WATAUGA COUNTY EMER SVCS

Attn:

Remit to:Stryker Sales, LLC

21343 NETWORK PLACE

CHICAGO IL 60673-1213

USA

Division:Medical

Rep:Ryan Jacobsma

Email:ryan.jacobsma@stryker.com

Phone Number:(912) 414-3571

Mobile:(912) 414-3571

Quote Date:02/17/2026

Expiration Date:05/18/2026

Contract Start:02/17/2026

Contract End:02/16/2027

Delivery Address		Sold To - Shipping		Bill To Account	
Name:	WATAUGA COUNTY EMER SVCS	Name:	WATAUGA COUNTY EMER SVCS	Name:	WATAUGA COUNTY EMER SVCS
Account #:	20299216	Account #:	20299216	Account #:	20299216
Address:	184 HODGES GAP RD STE D	Address:	184 HODGES GAP RD STE D	Address:	184 HODGES GAP RD STE D
	BOONE		BOONE		BOONE
	North Carolina 28607-8635		North Carolina 28607-8635		North Carolina 28607-8635

Equipment Products:

#	Product	Description	Qty	List Price	Sell Price	Total
1.0	650705550001	6507 POWER PRO 2, HIGH CONFIG	1	\$39,314.00	\$36,615.85	\$36,615.85
2.0	650707000002	KIT, ALVARIUM BATTERY, SERVICE	1	\$1,175.00	\$794.25	\$794.25
					Equipment List Price:	\$40,489.00
					Equipment Total:	\$37,410.10

ProCare Products:

#	Product	Description	Months	Qty	List Price	Sell Price	Total
3.1	POWERPRO-PROCARE	Power Pro 2 for 6507 POWER PRO 2, HIGH CONFIG	60	1	\$1,675.00	\$7,118.75	\$7,118.75
		02/18/2026 - 02/17/2031					
		√ Parts, Labor, Travel √ Preventative Maintenance √ Batteries Service					
					ProCare List Price:	\$8,375.00	
					ProCare Total:	\$7,118.75	



PP2 Cot (1)

Quote Number: 11261182

Version: 1

Prepared For: WATAUGA COUNTY EMER SVCS

Attn:

Quote Date: 02/17/2026

Expiration Date: 05/18/2026

Contract Start: 02/17/2026

Contract End: 02/16/2027

Remit to: Stryker Sales, LLC
21343 NETWORK PLACE
CHICAGO IL 60673-1213
USA

Division: Medical

Rep: Ryan Jacobsma

Email: ryan.jacobsma@stryker.com

Phone Number: (912) 414-3571

Mobile: (912) 414-3571

Price Totals:

Estimated Sales Tax (0.000%):	\$0.00
Shipping and Handling:	\$489.47
Grand Total:	\$45,018.32

Prices: In effect for 30 days

Terms: Net 30 Days

Shipping & Handling Includes:
Standard freight, special packaging, semi rigging cranes, labor & delivery of equipment to final location, removal of all packaging, pre-delivery site check, education/training

Terms and Conditions:
Deal Consummation: This is a quote and not a commitment. This quote is subject to final credit, pricing, and documentation approval. Legal documentation must be signed before your equipment can be delivered. Documentation will be provided upon completion of our review process and your selection of a payment schedule. Confidentiality Notice: Recipient will not disclose to any third party the terms of this quote or any other information, including any pricing or discounts, offered to be provided by Stryker to Recipient in connection with this quote, without Stryker's prior written approval, except as may be requested by law or by lawful order of any applicable government agency. A copy of Stryker Medical's terms and conditions can be found at https://techweb.stryker.com/Terms_Conditions/index.html.

A G E N D A I T E M 9 :

2025 CARRY-FORWARD PURCHASE ORDERS

Manager's Comments:

Mr. Deron Geouque, County Manager/Finance Director, will present carry-forward purchase orders for 2025.

Board action is required to approve the carry-forward purchase orders as presented.

Account	Description	Purpose	Amount
104210-449900	WJ Office City	Receptionist area desk	3,679
104180-426000	Courthouse Computer Systems	Roller Shelving	3,546
104199-469103	Clark Nexsen	Facilities study	3,750
104141-469500	Vincent Valuations	Revaluation	314,773
104199-499100	Contingency	Contingency	832,900
104210-444000	IT	Ark Technology Consultants - professional services	450
104210-452000	IT	Camera system for Courthouse and Phones system for DSS	40,000
104210-452000	IT	Rubrik backup	80,000
104210-452000	IT	Latitude laptop	3,150
104210-452000	IT	9 Dell pro max towers	13,302
104210-452000	IT	4 Fujitsu Ricoh scanners	2,876
104210-452000	IT	Install emergency transportation	828
104130-469100	Finance	Audit for Cindy Randolph	25,000
104140-469507	Tax	Business audits	30,500
104150-469101	Legal services	Legal services	33,693
104261-435100	Courthouse repairs	Tile and floor replacement	20,000
104261-435100	Equipment	Chemical by-pass feeder	7,400
104261-435200	Courthouse repairs	Repair leak	3,865
XXXX-469500	Mowing contract	Mowing for various locations	8,594
104267-435101	Health department	Boiler/HVAC/expansion tank	119,000
104267-435100	Health department	Replace stair treads and patch gutter and downspouts	18,500
104274-435101	West Annex	Landscape improvements and paving	14,000
104275-435100	Human Services	Finish improvements	50,000
104275-435101	Human Services	Paving	73,769
104289-435200	Recreation center	Boiler repairs	12,950
104289-435200	Recreation center	Cooling dehumidification	13,406
104283-435103	Recreation fields	Improvements to Recreation Center	98,430
104262-435100	West Annex	Renovation to Medic Base 1	12,000
104265-435101	Medic base 1, 2 and 3 renovations	Medic base 1, 2 and 3 renovations	100,000
104269-435200	Library	Nor-well Co repairs	4,000
104275-435100	Medic base 1, 2 and 3 renovations	Medic base 1, 2 and 3 renovations	100,000
104277-435100	Law enforcement center	Tile repair	7,952
104283-435102	Recreation fields	Infield mix	3,830
104283-435103	Recreation fields	Infield mix	4,840
104284-435199	Old Cove Creek	Blue Ridge environmental - Hurricane Helene	178,063
104284-435199	Old Cove Creek	Hurricane Helene repairs	111,657
104285-435101	Brookshire	Paving	185,361
105890-463154	250 NC Grant	250 NC Grant	10,000
104310-444000	Fleet maintenance	Sheriff's office software	3,990
104310-454000	Sheriff vehicles	Upfitting police vehicles	10,100

104311-451000	Emergency management	Upgrades	24,100
104311-451000	Emergency management	Upgrades	3,043,193
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	5,152,890
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	3,500
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	2,650
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	2,650
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	617,410
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	4,500
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	4,500
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	7,850
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	10,000
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	21,421
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	12,151
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	9,630
104311-451008	Emergency management	EM Communications expansion	112,000
104320-451000	Jail	Upgrade for CCTV	47,428
106125-429802	Athletics	Little league supplies	3,832
104950-458000	Cooperative extension	Building improvements	41,752
104960-469853	Soil and Water	Edmisten	278
105550-412100	POA	SHIIP grants	5,274
105550-412101	POA	Senior center allocation	1,006
105550-432100	POA	Senior center allocation	3,774
105550-432100	POA	Senior center allocation	2,294
105550-517400	POA	ARPA funds	4,938
105911-470037	Watauga County School	Lottery for School	23,368
105911-470045	Watauga County School	Lottery for School	101
105911-470078	Watauga County School	Lottery for School	55,100
105911-470060	Watauga County School	Lottery for School	3,153
145310-449902	Foster Care discretionary funds	Foster Care discretionary funds	3,976
145310-449903	Adult Protective services	Adult Protective services	2,105
145410-440006	Adoption promotion grant	Adoption promotion grant	137,590
145310-449904	CPS discretionary funds	CPS discretionary funds	4,950
667420-435200	James River Equipment	tub for grinder	13,023
667420-457002	Civil Design Concepts	Solid waste	48,390

A G E N D A I T E M 1 0 :**MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS*****A. Hardin Park School SUE (Level B) Survey*****Manager's Comments:**

The Watauga County School System facility study inventoried all of the systems facilities. Hardin Park School has been identified for years as needing to be replaced. Discussions have determined the most cost-effective path forward would be to build on the existing site.

In order to determine if the construction on the site is feasible; soil, boundary, and utility studies will need to be conducted. As part of that process, a contract for a Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) Level B survey which is used to identify and map underground utilities before excavation or construction is attached.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-64.32, the Board must exempt the project from the Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process, as the professional services fee is less than \$50,000.

Should the Board wish to approve this request, the required actions would be:

- Exempt the project from the Qualifications-Based Selection process pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-64.32; and
- Award the contract to JMT for a SUE Level B survey in an amount not to exceed \$32,350.

Staff seeks direction.



January 23, 2026

Attn: Deron Geouque

Watauga County

Deron Geouque,

JMT appreciates the opportunity to provide a scope and fee proposal for a SUE (Level B) Survey of Hardin Park Elementary School in Boone, Watauga County, NC. Details emailed January 20, 2026.



Figure 1. Clark Nexsen



SCOPE OF WORK

1. Limits of Survey are outlined in red and shaded orange in figure 1 above. Approximately 26 acres.
2. JMT will survey project on NC State Plane (GRID). North American Datum 1983 (2011) and North American Vertical Datum (NAVD 88).
3. JMT will Locate, mark on ground, and survey any underground utility found using Geophysical locators and GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) Technology in project limits shown above to **Level B** standards. This does not include depths of non-gravity utilities. Utility location services will be provided in a manner consistent with standards of the subsurface utility mapping industry. A reasonable effort will be made to locate all systems of interest. However, it cannot be guaranteed that all existing utility systems can or will be detected. It may not be possible to detect utilities without prior knowledge, such as systems that are not depicted on records that are made available. Non-utility structures such as, but not limited to: foundations, irrigation systems, septic systems, wells, tunnels, concrete or metal structures, sizes and limits of subsurface utility vaults and manholes will not be located.
4. JMT will contact 811 to request and acquire records of the existing underground facilities in the project area. Utility record information will be used as an aid in the identification of the number, identity, size and material of utilities located in the field. Records will not be used as a substitute for actual geophysical location unless the system cannot be verified electronically using industry standard techniques for this level of investigation.
5. JMT assumes client will provide any available non-public documentation of utilities.
6. JMT will survey any above ground non-Gravity appurtenances i.e. Transformer pads, Telephone pedestals, overhead lines, water meters, etc.
7. This proposal does not include mapping utilities. JMT will map all found utilities under Survey Proposal cost and map in Combined Survey and SUE CADD file.

Deliverables

- Combined Survey and SUE AutoCAD DWG file.
- Signed and Sealed PDF of combined survey.

**Not Requested**

1. Separate SUE drawing
2. Wetlands Survey
3. Recording of survey
4. Subdivision of Property
5. Construction staking
6. Tree Survey
7. Level-A SUE/Test Hole Survey
 - a. If requested JMT can perform ASCE 38-02 "Quality Level A" vacuum excavation test holes along the project corridor as directed by Client. The "soft digs" will be used to obtain information on existing underground utilities such as location, depth, size, and material type of the pipe. Normal Test Hole size is approximately 2'x2'. Level A test hole standard rates are assumed to be in soil conditions and not in asphalt, concrete, or road locations. Test holes to be billed at a per hole price assuming 3 test holes per day. Mobilization fee will be charged due to distance from Asheville traveled by VAC truck.

SUE Fee**\$32,350**

Additional Services: JMT offers many other services not included in this Scope and Fee such as Boundary Surveys, Level A-D SUE and construction staking, to name a few. We would be happy to estimate the fee for these services. If you have any questions, please contact me at Office: (828)253-2796 or email at kssluder@jmt.com

Thank you,

JOHNSON, MIRMIRAN & THOMPSON, INC.

Karsten Sluder, PLS (NC,GA,KY,VA)

Project Manager, Survey/SUE

108 Asheville Commerce Parkway

Candler, NC 28715

kssluder@jmt.com

jmt.com



TERMS & CONDITIONS

A. General Provisions

JMT agrees that this proposal shall remain open for 60 days from the date of this proposal. Acceptance of the proposal after the end of the 60 day period is valid if JMT elects, in writing, to reaffirm the proposal and waive its right to re-evaluate and resubmit the proposal.

JMT reserves the right to renegotiate the contract which this proposal, if accepted, will comprise, on or after six (6) months from the date of this proposal, provided the Client is given 30 days of notice in writing, if salaries or operational costs increase in a sufficient amount. Our present quotation is based upon current salaries and operational costs.

It is understood and agreed that once work is started on this project by JMT, only the Client or its duly authorized representative has the authority to order the work stopped on his behalf and only upon giving JMT, 10 days of notice in writing, as to when the work shall stop. The Client further agrees to be liable and pay to JMT, for all labor done, work performed, materials furnished, and expenses incurred up to and including the day work is stopped in accordance with the notice.

JMT will provide the Client with data on electronic files; however, the Client acknowledges that data stored on electronic media can deteriorate undetected or be modified without the JMT's knowledge. Therefore, electronic files are provided without warranty or obligation on the part of JMT as to accuracy of information contained on the electronic files. All information on the electronic files must be independently verified by the Client and the Client agrees to indemnify and hold JMT harmless from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including but not limited to attorney's fees arising out of the use of the electronic files.

Client acknowledges and agrees that JMT may include or otherwise reference the Project in its general project portfolio, and shall be entitled to identify the Project and the services performed by JMT for the Client in its general marketing materials, and for purposes of demonstrating relevant qualifications and experience. JMT shall also have the right to access the Project site to document, photograph, video, and/or record by any media or means, the Project at each phase, during construction and upon completion, for its own use and for other legitimate business purposes, including but not limited to exhibitions, or award competitions, or publication in journals. Any publication of the Project by Client or any representative of the Client, shall include reference to JMT and proper attribution and credit for its role in the Project.

**B. Time of Payments and Litigation Expenses**

JMT will submit monthly certified invoices for services rendered during the preceding month. Payments are due and payable within 30 days from the date of invoice. If Client fails to pay the full amount due for services and expenses within 30 days after date of invoice, the amount due will include a charge at the rate of 1-1/2% per month of the outstanding balance from said 30th day. In addition, in the event any invoice has not been paid in full by its due date, JMT may, after giving three (3) days written notice to Client, suspend services under this Agreement until Client has paid in full amounts due JMT for services, expenses and interest.

In the event JMT deems it necessary to refer any unpaid invoices to its attorneys for the purposes of instituting collection or mechanic's liens proceedings, Client agrees to pay JMT's attorney's fees, court costs, and litigation expenses, including fees for expert witnesses, trial and deposition transcripts, cost of printing briefs, and travel expenses for witnesses, attorneys and employees.

In the event Client asserts a claim against JMT and/or JMT's subconsultants for any act arising out of performance of the services provided herein, whether by an original action, or by counterclaim set-off or other defense to any mechanic's lien or other claim asserted by JMT as a result of Client non-payment of fees and expenses for services rendered, and if Client fails to prevail in such action, counterclaim, set-off, or defense, Client agrees to pay all attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses (including fees for expert witnesses, trial transcripts and deposition transcripts) incurred by JMT and/or JMT's subconsultants in opposing any such action, counterclaim, set-off or defense.

JMT may withhold the delivery, signature or sealing plans and specifications, and may repossess all plans and specifications previously delivered to or otherwise made available to Client, their agents or assigns, without incurring any liability for direct and/or consequential damages to Client or anyone claiming through them or on their behalf whenever JMT deems it necessary to ensure payment for services rendered. Should any claim for such damages be made, Client agrees to hold JMT harmless from all litigation expenses incurred by JMT as defined herein.

C. Additional Services

In the event additional services beyond those identified in the Scope of Work are required by the Client or by circumstances beyond JMT's control, JMT will furnish such services upon written authorization of the Client. Payment for Additional Services will be charged at the following hourly rates which are inclusive of labor, overhead, payroll burden and profit.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
2-Person Survey/SUE Crew	\$185
CADD Tech	\$135
PLS/Project Manger	\$210



Any changes to the previously approved submittals will be considered a change in scope of services and JMT will be entitled to additional compensation at the rates herein specified.

D. Insurance

JMT maintains Professional Liability, General Liability and Workmen's Compensation Insurance. On request, JMT will furnish Client certification of insurance.

E. Termination

In the event of termination of this Agreement by Client, Client shall pay JMT for services (including additional services) rendered, performed, or procured through such phase, including Expenses, at the rates stated in the Agreement, plus all termination expenses. Termination expenses mean additional Reimbursable Expenses directly attributable to termination.

F. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

JMT shall hold harmless and indemnify the Client against injury, loss or damage arising out of its performance of the Services, but only to the extent caused by the negligent acts, errors or omissions of JMT. The Client agrees to limit JMT's liability hereunder to Client and to all Construction Contractors and Subcontractors on the project, due to such negligent acts, errors or omissions, such the total aggregate liability of JMT to all those named shall not exceed JMT's total fee for services rendered on this project.

G. Standard of Care

JMT will perform the services in a manner consistent with the degree of skill and care ordinarily exercised by members of the same profession currently practicing under the same conditions. JMT makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, with respect to its services.

H. Severability

If any provision of this Agreement, or application thereof, shall be held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of the Agreement which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this Agreement are declared to be severable.



WE HEREBY AUTHORIZE JOHNSON, MIRMIRAN & THOMPSON, INC. TO PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE PROPOSAL. IF ANY PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ARE ORDERED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CLIENT, FOR ITEMS LISTED ABOVE WITH A RETURNED ACCEPTANCE, THE PRICES AND TERMS OF THIS PROPOSAL SHALL BE IN EFFECT.

ORGANIZATION: _____

DATE: _____

BY: _____

TITLE _____

A G E N D A I T E M 1 0 :

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

B. Field Lease with High Country Soccer Association

Manager's Comments:

County Attorney Miller will present a field lease with High Country Soccer Association.

Board action is required to approve the lease.

Staff seeks direction from the Board.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**COUNTY OF WATAUGA****FIELD LEASE AGREEMENT**

THIS LEASE, effective the ____ day of _____, 2026, by and between WATAUGA COUNTY, a body politic. ("Landlord") whose address is: 814 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607 and High Country Soccer Association, Inc., a North Carolina Non-Profit Corporation ("Tenant") whose address is: c/o 207 Sunburst Lane, Boone, NC, 28607

WITNESSETH:**DEMISED PREMISES**

1. Landlord, for and in consideration of the rents, covenants, agreements, and stipulations hereinafter mentioned, provided for and agreed to be paid, kept, and performed by Tenant, leases and rents unto Tenant, and Tenant hereby leases and takes upon the terms and conditions which hereinafter appear, the following described property (hereinafter called the "Premises"), to wit:

Legal Description

The existing soccer field and the 20 feet in any direction immediately adjacent to the existing soccer field located on the 40.75 acres known as Tract 1 shown on the Plat recorded on Plat Book 17, Page 153, Watauga County Registry, including the use of the existing gravel road to access said soccer field. Also known as Tax Parcel # 2921-02-9838-000.



See attached Exhibit A for tax map, drawing of the leased Premises.

TERM

2. **The Tenant shall have and hold the Premises for a term of 363 days beginning on the ____ day of _____, 2026, and ending on the ____ day of _____, 2027, at midnight, unless sooner terminated as hereinafter provided.**

RENT

3. **Tenant agrees to pay Landlord or its Agent without demand, deduction or set off, a yearly rent of ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) per year for the first year in advance on the first day of lease unless such day is a weekend or a holiday and then it is due the first business day thereafter.**

LATE CHARGES:

4. If Landlord fails to receive any rent payment within 15 days after it becomes due, Tenant shall pay Landlord, as additional rent, a late charge equal to 10 percent (10 %) of the overdue amount or \$300.00, plus any actual bank fees incurred for returned or dishonored checks. The parties agree that such a late charge represents a fair and reasonable estimate of the cost Landlord will incur by reason of such late payment.

SECURITY DEPOSIT

5. The Tenant shall pay to Landlord no security deposit.

UTILITY BILLS

6. There are no utility bills on the Demised Premises.

USE OF PREMISES

7. **The Premises shall be used for practice, games and other events hosted by the Tenant. When not in use by the Tenant, the Landlord may utilize the soccer field and parking areas for Watauga County Parks and Recreation or any other county purpose.** The Premises shall not be used for any illegal purposes, nor in any manner to create any nuisance or trespass, nor in any manner to nullify the insurance or increase the rate of insurance on the Premises. In the event Tenant's use of the Premises results in an increase in the rate of insurance on the Premises, Tenant shall pay the amount of any such increases.

INDEMNITY; INSURANCE

8. Tenant agrees to and hereby does indemnify and save Landlord harmless against all claims for damages to persons or property by reason of Tenant's or Tenant's agent's or Tenant's guest's or licensee's use or occupancy of the Premises, and all expenses incurred or owed by Landlord therefrom, including attorney's fees and court costs. Supplementing the foregoing and in addition thereto, **Tenant shall during the term of this Lease and any extension or renewal thereof, and at Tenant's expense, maintain in full force and effect comprehensive general liability insurance with minimum coverage limits of \$1,000,000.00**, which insurance shall contain a special endorsement recognizing and insuring any liability accruing to Tenant under the first sentence of this paragraph, **and naming Landlord as additional insured**. Tenant shall provide evidence of such insurance to Landlord prior to the commencement of the term of each Lease year.

REPAIRS BY TENANT

9. Tenant agrees to keep in good repair the Leased Premises.

10. Tenant accepts the Premises in its present condition and as suited for the uses intended by Tenant. Tenant shall, throughout the initial term of this Lease, and any extension or renewal thereof, at its expense, maintain in good order and repair the Premises, except those repairs expressly required to be made by the Landlord hereunder, if any. Tenant, Tenant's employees, agents, contractors or subcontractors shall take no action which may void any manufacturers or installers warranty with relation to the Premises. Tenant shall indemnify and hold Landlord harmless from any liability, claim, or demand or cause of action arising on account of Tenant's breach of the provisions of this paragraph. The Parties have agreed that the Landlord shall install a new natural gas heat source and the associated duct work.

ALTERATIONS

11. Tenant shall not make any alterations, additions, or improvements to the Premises without the Landlord's prior written consent. Tenant shall promptly remove any alterations, additions, or improvements constructed in violation of this Paragraph upon written request. All approved alterations, additions, and improvements will be accomplished in a good and workmanlike manner, in conformity with all applicable laws and regulations, and by a contractor approved by Landlord, free of any liens or encumbrances. Landlord may require Tenant to remove any alterations, additions, or improvements (whether or not made with Landlord's consent) at the termination of the Lease and to restore the Premises to its prior condition, all at Tenant's expense. All alterations, additions, and improvements which Landlord has not required Tenant to remove shall become Landlord's property and shall be surrendered to Landlord upon the termination of this Lease, except that Tenant may remove any of Tenant's machinery or equipment which can be removed without material damage to the Premises. Tenant shall repair, at Tenant's expense, any damage to the Premises caused by the removal of any such machinery or equipment or alterations, additions, or improvements.

REMOVAL OF FIXTURES

12. Tenant may (if not in default hereunder) prior to the expiration of this Lease, or any extension or renewal thereof, remove all fixtures and equipment which he or his agent have placed in or on the Premises, provided Tenant repairs all damage to the Premises caused by the removal of any such improvements, machinery, or equipment.

DESTRUCTION OF OR DAMAGE TO PREMISES

13. If the Premises are totally destroyed by storm, fire, lightning, earthquake, or other casualty, this lease shall terminate as of the date of such destruction and rental shall be accounted for as between Landlord and Tenant as of that date. If the Premises are damaged but not wholly damaged by any such casualties, rental shall abate in such proportion as effective use of the Premises has been affected. In such event, however, Landlord has the option in its discretion to terminate the lease or restore the Premises to substantially the same condition as before damage as speedily as is practicable, whereupon full rental shall recommence.

GOVERNMENTAL ORDERS

14. Tenant agrees, at its own expense, to comply promptly with all requirements of any legally constituted public authority made necessary by reason of Tenant's occupancy of the Premises. Landlord agrees to comply promptly with any such requirement if not made necessary by reason of Tenant's occupancy. It is mutually agreed, however, between Landlord and Tenant, that if in order to comply with such requirements, the cost to Landlord or Tenant, as the case may be, shall exceed a sum equal to one year's rent, then Landlord or Tenant, whichever is obligated to comply with such requirements, may terminate this Lease by giving written notice of termination to the other party by registered mail, which termination shall become effective sixty (60) days after receipt of such notice and which notice shall eliminate the necessity of compliance with such requirements by giving such notice unless the party giving such notice of termination shall, before termination becomes effective, pay to the party giving notice all costs of compliance in excess of one year's rent, or secure payment of said sum in a manner satisfactory to the party giving notice.

CONDEMNATION

15. If the whole of the Premises, or such portion thereof as will make the Premises unusable for the purposes herein leased, is condemned by any legally constituted authority for any public use or purpose, then in either of said events the term hereby granted shall cease from the date when possession thereof is taken by public authorities, and rental shall be accounted for as between Landlord and Tenant as of said date. Such termination, however, shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Landlord to recover compensation and damage caused by condemnation from the condemnor. It is further understood and agreed that Tenant assigns all of its rights in condemnation proceeds, if any, to the Landlord, and Tenant shall not have any rights in or to any award for damage or for the "taking" made to Landlord by any condemnation authority.

ASSIGNMENT AND SUBLETTING

16. **Tenant shall not, without the prior written consent of Landlord, assign this Lease or any interest hereunder,** or sublet the Premises or any part thereof, or permit the use of the Premises by any party other than the Tenant. Consent to any assignment or sublease shall not impair this provision and all later assignments or subleases shall be made likewise only on the prior written consent of Landlord. The Assignee of Tenant, if any are approved by Landlord, at the option of Landlord, shall become directly liable to Landlord for all obligations of Tenant hereunder, but no sublease or assignment by Tenant shall relieve Tenant of any liability hereunder.

EVENTS OF DEFAULT

17. The happening of any one or more of the following events (hereinafter any one of which may be referred to as an “Event of Default”) during the term of this Lease, or any renewal or extension thereof, shall constitute a breach of this Lease on the part of the Tenant: (a) Tenant fails to pay the rental as provided for herein; (b) Tenant abandons or vacates the Premises; (c) Tenant fails to comply with or abide by and perform any other obligation imposed upon Tenant under this Lease; (d) Tenant is adjudicated bankrupt; (e) A permanent receiver is appointed for Tenant’s property and such receiver is not removed within sixty (60) days after written notice from Landlord to Tenant to obtain such removal; (f) Tenant, either voluntarily or involuntarily, takes advantage of any debt or relief proceeding under any present or future law, whereby the rent or any part thereof is, or is proposed to be reduced or payment thereof deferred; (g) Tenant makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors; or (h) Tenant’s effects are levied upon or attached under process against Tenant, which is not satisfied or dissolved within thirty (30) days after written notice from Landlord to Tenant to obtain satisfaction thereof.

REMEDIES UPON DEFAULT

18. Upon the occurrence of Event of Default, Landlord may pursue any one or more of the following remedies separately or concurrently, without prejudice to any other remedy herein provided or provided by law: (a) if the Event of Default involves nonpayment of rental and Tenant fails to cure such default within fifteen (15) days after receipt of written notice of default from Landlord, Landlord may terminate this Lease by giving written notice to Tenant and upon such termination shall be entitled to recover from Tenant damages as may be permitted under applicable law; or (b) if the Event of Default involves any matter other than those set forth in item (a) of this paragraph, Landlord may terminate this Lease by giving written notice to Tenant and, upon such termination, shall be entitled to recover from the Tenant damages in an amount equal to all rental which is due and all rental which would otherwise have become due throughout the remaining term of this Lease, or any renewal or extension thereof (as if this Lease had not been terminated); or (c) upon any Event of Default, Landlord, as Tenant’s agent, without terminating this Lease, may enter upon and rent the Premises, in whole or in part, at the best price obtainable by reasonable effort, without advertisement and by private negotiations and for any term Landlord deems proper, with Tenant being liable to Landlord for the deficiency, if any, between Tenant’s rent hereunder and the price obtained by Landlord on reletting, provided however, that Landlord shall not be considered to be under any duty by reason of this provision to take any action to mitigate damages by reason of Tenant’s default. In the event Landlord hires an attorney to enforce its right upon default, Tenant shall in addition be liable for reasonable attorney’s fees at a rate charged no greater than \$250.00/hour and all costs of collection.

EXTERIOR SIGNS

19. Tenant shall place no signs on the Premises, except with the express written consent of the Landlord. Any and all signs placed on the Premises shall be maintained in compliance with governmental rules and regulations governing such signs and Tenant shall be responsible to Landlord for any damage caused by installation, use or maintenance of said signs, and all damage incident to removal thereof.

LANDLORD'S ENTRY ON PREMISES

20. The Landlord and its representatives shall have the right to enter the leased property at all times in order to examine it, to show it to prospective purchaser or lessees, or to make such decorations, repairs, alterations, improvements, or additions as the Landlord may deem necessary or desirable. The Landlord shall be allowed to take all material into and upon the leased property that may be required thereof without the same constituting an eviction of the Tenant in whole or in part. The rent reserved shall not abate while decorations, repairs, alterations, improvements, or additions are being made by Landlord or Landlord's agents, whether by reason of loss or interruption of the business of the Tenant or otherwise. The Landlord's right of reentry shall not be deemed to impose upon the Landlord any obligation, responsibility, or liability for the care, supervision, or repair of the leased property other than as herein provided. The Landlord shall have the right to enter the leased Premises at any time, without effecting an actual or constructive eviction and without incurring any liability to the Tenant therefor.

EFFECT OF TERMINATION OF LEASE

21. No termination of this Lease prior to the normal ending thereof, by lapse of time or otherwise, shall affect Landlord's right to collect rent for the period prior to termination thereof.

MORTGAGEE'S RIGHTS

22. Tenant's rights shall be subject to any bona fide mortgage, deed of trust or other security interest which is now or may hereafter be placed upon the Premises by Landlord, if any. Tenant shall, if requested by Landlord, execute a separate agreement reflecting such subordination, and shall be obligated to execute such documentation as may facilitate Landlord's sale or refinancing of the Premises, including, but not limited to, estoppel certificates, subordination or attornment agreements.

QUIET ENJOYMENT

23. So long as Tenant observes and performs the covenants and agreements contained herein, it shall at all times during the Lease term peacefully and quietly have and enjoy possession of the Premises, but always subject to the terms hereof and the rights of adjoining Tenants and the entry rights of Landlord. Provided, however, that in the event Landlord shall sell or otherwise transfer its interest in the Premises, Tenant agrees to attorn to any new owner or interest holder and shall,

if requested by Landlord, execute a separate agreement reflecting such attornment, provided that said agreement requires the new owner or interest holder to recognize its obligations and Tenant's rights hereunder.

HOLDING OVER

24. If Tenant remains in possession of the Premises after expiration of the term hereof, with Landlord's acquiescence and without any express agreement of the parties, Tenant shall be a tenant at will at the rental rate which is in effect at end of this Lease and there shall be no renewal of this Lease by operation of law. If Tenant remains in possession of the Premises after expiration of the term hereof without Landlord's acquiescence, Tenant shall be a Tenant at sufferance and commencing on the date following the date of such lease expiration, the new monthly rental payable for each month, or fraction thereof during which Tenant so remains in possession of the Premises, shall be ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) per month.

ATTORNEY'S FEES

25. In the event that any action or proceeding is brought to enforce any term, covenant, or condition of this Lease on the part of a breach by the Tenant, the prevailing party in such litigation shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees.

WAIVER OF RIGHTS

26. No failure of Landlord to exercise any power given Landlord hereunder or to insist upon strict compliance by Tenant of its obligations hereunder and no custom or practice of the parties at variance with the terms hereof shall constitute a waiver of Landlord's right to demand exact compliance with the terms hereof.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

27. (a) Tenant shall not bring onto the Premises any Hazardous Materials (as defined below) without the prior written approval by Landlord. Any approval must be preceded by submission to Landlord of appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets (MSD Sheets). In the event of approval by Landlord, Tenant covenants that it will: (1) comply with all requirements of any constituted public authority and all federal, state, and local codes, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, and laws, whether now in force or hereafter adopted relating to Tenant's use of the Premises, or relating to the storage, use, disposal, processing, distribution, shipping or sales of any hazardous, flammable, toxic, or dangerous materials, waste or substance, the presence of which is regulated by a federal, state, or local law, ruling, rule or regulation (hereafter collectively referred to as "Hazardous Material"); (2) comply with any reasonable recommendations by the insurance carrier of either Landlord or Tenant relating to the use by Tenant on the Premises of such Hazardous Materials; (3) refrain from unlawfully disposing of or allowing the disposal of any Hazardous Materials upon, within, about or under the Premises; and (4) remove all Hazardous

Materials from the Premises, either after their use by Tenant or upon the expiration or earlier termination of this lease, in compliance with all applicable laws.

(b) Tenant shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits in connection with its use, storage, and disposal of Hazardous Materials, and shall develop and maintain, and where necessary file with appropriate authorities, all reports, receipts, manifests, filings, lists, and invoices covering those Hazardous Materials and Tenant shall provide Landlord with copies of all such items upon request. Tenant shall provide within five (5) days after receipt thereof, copies or all notices, orders, claims, or other correspondence from any federal, state, or local government or agency alleging any violation of any environmental law or regulation by Tenant, or related in any manner to Hazardous Materials. In addition, Tenant shall provide Landlord with copies of all responses to such correspondence at the time of the response.

(c) Tenant hereby indemnifies and holds harmless Landlord, its successors and assigns from and against any and all losses, liabilities, damages, injuries, penalties, fines, costs, expenses, and claims of any and every kind whatsoever (including attorney's fees and costs, expenses or claims asserted or arising under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, from time to time, and regulations promulgated thereunder, any so-called state or local "Superfund" or "Superlien" law, or any other federal, state, or local statute, law or ordinance, code, rule, regulation, order or decree regulating, relating to, or imposing liability or standards of conduct concerning any Hazardous Materials) paid, incurred or suffered by, or asserted against, Landlord as a result of any claim, demand or judicial or administrative action by any person or entity (including governmental or private entities) for, with respect to, or as a direct or indirect result of, the presence on or under or the escape, seepage, leakage, spillage, discharge, emission or release from the Premises on any Hazardous Materials caused by a fire or other casualty to the Premises if such Hazardous Materials were stored on the Premises by Tenant, its agents, employees, invitees, or successors in interest.

(d) If Tenant fails to comply with the Covenants to be performed hereunder with respect to Hazardous Materials, or if an environmental protection lien is filed against the Premises as a result of the actions of Tenant, its agents, employees or invitees, then the occurrence of any such events shall be considered a default hereunder.

(e) Tenant will give Landlord prompt notice of any release of Hazardous Materials, reportable or non-reportable, to federal, state, or local authorities, of any fire, or any damage occurring on or to the Premises.

(f) Tenant will use and occupy the Premises and conduct its business in such a manner that the Premises are neat, clean, and orderly at all times with all chemicals or Hazardous Materials marked for easy identification and stored according to all codes as outlined above.

(g) The warranties and indemnities contained in this Paragraph shall survive termination of this Lease.

TIME OF ESSENCE

28. Time is of the essence with respect to all dates in this Lease.

ABANDONMENT

29. Tenant shall not abandon the Premises at any time during the Lease term. If Tenant shall abandon the Premises or be dispossessed by process of law, any personal property, fixtures, equipment or improvements belonging to or installed by Tenant or by agents of Tenant and left on the Premises shall, at the option of Landlord, be deemed abandoned, and available to Landlord to use or sell or to offset any rent due or any expenses incurred by removing same and restoring the Premises.

DEFINITIONS

30. "Landlord" as used in this Lease shall include the undersigned, its agents, heirs, representatives, assigns, and successors in title to the Premises. "Tenant" shall include the undersigned and its representatives and successors, and if this lease shall be validly assigned or sublet, shall include also Tenant's assignees or sublessees as to the Premises covered by such assignment or sublease. "Landlord", "Tenant", and "Agent" include male and female, singular and plural, corporation, partnership, or individual, as may fit the particular parties.

NOTICE

31. All notices required or permitted under this Lease shall be in writing and shall be personally delivered or sent by U.S. Certified Mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid or by regular mail. Notices to Tenant shall be delivered or sent to the address shown at the beginning of this Lease. Notices to Landlord shall be delivered or sent to the address shown at the beginning of this Lease.

All notices to Tenant shall be effective upon mailing and notices to Landlord shall be effective upon receipt thereof. Any party may change its notice address upon written notice to the other parties, given as provided herein.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT

32. This Lease contains the entire agreement of the parties hereto, and no representations, inducements, promises, or agreements, oral or otherwise, between the parties, not embodied herein shall be of any force or effect. This Lease may not be modified except by a writing signed by all the parties hereto.

AUTHORIZED LEASE EXECUTION

33. Each individual executing this Lease as director, officer, partner, member, or agent of a corporation, limited liability company, or partnership represents and warrants that he is duly authorized to execute and deliver this Lease on behalf of such corporation, limited liability company, or partnership.

TRANSFER OF LANDLORD'S INTEREST

34. In the event of the sale, assignment or transfer by Landlord of its interest in the Premises or in this Lease (other than a collateral assignment to secure a debt of Landlord) to a successor in interest who expressly assumes the obligations of Landlord under this Lease, Landlord shall thereupon be released and discharged from all its covenants and obligations under the Lease, except those obligations that have accrued prior to such sale, assignment or transfer; and Tenant agrees to look solely to the successor in interest of Landlord for the performance of those covenants accruing after such sale, assignment or transfer. Landlord's assignment of this Lease, or of any or all of its rights in this Lease, shall not affect Tenant's obligations hereunder, and Tenant shall attorn and look to the assignee as Landlord, provided Tenant has first received written notice of the assignment of Landlord's interest.

SPECIAL STIPULATIONS

35. Any special stipulations are set forth in the attached Exhibit B. In so far as said Special Stipulations conflict with any of the foregoing provisions, said Special Stipulations shall control.

MEMORANDUM OF LEASE

36. Upon request by either Landlord or Tenant, the parties hereto shall execute a short form lease (Memorandum of Lease) in recordable form, setting forth such provisions hereof (other than the amount of rent and other sums due) as either party may wish to incorporate. The cost of recording such memorandum of lease shall be borne by the party requesting execution of the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, and expressly incorporating and agreeing to the contents of Exhibits A and B attached, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals, effective on the day, month, and year first above written.

LANDLORD:

Chairman Braxton Eggers

Attest: _____
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners

TENANT:
 (SEAL)

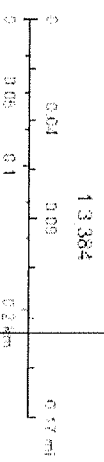
By: KEVIN L. NEEDHAM
Title: HCSA BOARD PRESIDENT

Watauga County Auditor



February 25, 2026

Exhibit A



A G E N D A I T E M 1 0 :

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

C. Announcements

Manager's Comments:

Budget Work Sessions are scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2026, beginning at 12:00 noon and Friday, May 8, 2026, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

A G E N D A I T E M 1 1 :

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A G E N D A I T E M 1 2 :

BREAK

A G E N D A I T E M 1 3 :

CLOSED SESSION

- Acquisition of Real Property per G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(5)
- Attorney-Client Matters per G. S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)
 - *Including Case No. 5:25-cv-157, Watauga County Voting Rights Task Force v. Watauga County Board of Elections*



SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

FROM BOARD MEETING



Watauga County
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-IN

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: March 3, 2026

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC COMMENT RULES

At the April 18, 2023, Watauga County Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board amended the policy for public comment before the Board as follows:

In accordance with North Carolina General Statutes 160A-81.1, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners establishes the following policy and rules regarding Public Comment.

- The Board does hereby establish a time period of up to sixty (60) minutes, for an open forum, at the beginning of each regular meeting to hear citizen comments.
- Persons who wish to speak must register on the sign-up sheet located on the information desk outside the meeting room. Sign-up sheets will be available one hour prior to the start of each meeting.
- Speakers shall provide their name and address at the start of their comments.
- Each speaker is allocated up to three (3) minutes to speak. No public comment period shall extend beyond one (1) hour. The Chair reserves the right to reduce the time limitation for individual speakers in order to meet the one (1) hour time limit and as necessary for efficient conduct of business.
- A speaker may not share or relinquish any remaining time they have not used to another speaker and shall only be allowed to speak once during the public comment period.
- Speaker substitutions at the meeting are not allowed.
- Comments are to be directed to the Board as a whole. The forum is intended to provide the Board of Commissioners an opportunity to hear citizens. It is not intended to subject the Board to answering impromptu questions. Citizens will be expected to be civil in their language and presentation and not to engage in slander or name-calling.
- Speakers shall refrain from personal attacks and/or threats directed towards County staff, elected Board members, or members of the public. Insults, profanity, use of vulgar language or gestures, or other inappropriate behavior are not allowed.
- Speakers shall limit their comments to matters that are germane to, or within the jurisdiction of the Watauga County Board of Commissioners.
- Speakers shall address the Board with any, and all public comments. Comments, questions, jeering, or other interruptions from the audience are not allowed. Speakers shall likewise not address or respond to members of the audience.
- The Chair, or presiding officer, has the authority to enforce the Rules of Decorum. Failure to obey these Rules may result in the forfeiture of the remaining speaking time and possible criminal charges. Individuals who engage in egregious or repeated violations may be asked to leave the meeting.
- During the open forum, speakers should not discuss any of the following:
 - a. Matters which concern the candidacy of any person seeking public office, including that of the person addressing the Board.
 - b. Matters in current or anticipated litigation.
 - c. Advertising or promoting the sale of products, services, or private enterprise.
 - d. Promoting any contest or lottery.

Please **clearly** print your name. By printing your name, you **acknowledge** that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the rules outlined above.

Please state your name before speaking.

SPEAKER LIST

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <u>Linda Byrd</u> | 6. <u>Jim Wilson</u> |
| 2. <u>David Henry</u> | 7. <u>Rick Wood</u> |
| 3. <u>Kate Cahoon</u> | 8. <u>DIANE NILAN</u> |
| 4. <u>Misty Mayfield</u> | 9. _____ |
| 5. <u>Alana Baird</u> | 10. _____ |

ADDITIONAL SIGN-UP SPACE AVAILABLE ON THE BACK.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 11. _____ | 31. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 32. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 33. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 36. _____ |
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| 18. _____ | 38. _____ |
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| 26. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 27. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 28. _____ | 48. _____ |
| 29. _____ | 49. _____ |
| 30. _____ | 50. _____ |

