

October 6, 2025

MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025**

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street, Hendersonville.

Present were: Chairman William Lapsley, Vice-Chair J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Commissioner Sheila Franklin, Commissioner Jay Egolf, County Manager John Mitchell, Assistant County Manager Chris Todd, Public Safety Director Jimmy Brissie, Financial Services Director Samantha Reynolds, County Attorney Russ Burrell, and Clerk to the Board Denisa Lauffer.

Also present were: Budget Manager/Internal Auditor Sonya Flynn, Chief Communications Officer Mike Morgan, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, Code A/V Technician Oscar Guerrero, Deputy DSS Director Debbie Dunn, Local Public Health Administrator Camden Stewart, Director of Public Health David Jenkins, Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Gilliam, Tax Collector Luke Small, Human Resources Director Karen Ensley, Tax Assessor Kevin Hensley, Strategic Behavioral Health Director Jodi Grabowski, Social Media Coordinator Tiffany Lucey, VSO Brent Embry, VSO Whitney Gray, Finance Director Randal Cox, Rebecca Smith and NC Lead Fellow Abby Buxton. Deputies Matt Covil and Benson Lawter provided security.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Commissioner Lapsley called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

INVOCATION

John Mitchell provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Emma and Kinzi Dawson, with the Lab Rats 4-H Club, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

2025.163 Resolution of Appreciation – Henderson County Sheriff's Volunteers in Partnership Program

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners was requested to adopt a Resolution of Appreciation for the Henderson County Sheriff's Volunteers in Partnership (VIP) program to recognize 30 years of service. The VIP program has been a reliable and dedicated source of support to the citizens of Henderson County, working diligently to assist with the daily tasks of supporting the Henderson County Sheriff's Office.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Henderson County Sheriff's Volunteers in Partnership Program

WHEREAS, the Volunteers in Partnership (VIP) program began on February 14, 1995, with Founding Director Bob Noble asserting that volunteers could best help the community by freeing the law enforcement officers from regular, but important, routine duties so that they could focus on the safety of our community; and

WHEREAS, the tasks that Henderson County Sheriff's Volunteers in Partnership perform
Approved:

include animal control administration, Historic Courthouse reception duties, Grove Street Courthouse security, funeral escorts, Meals on Wheels, car patrol, fingerprinting, warrants administration, corrections and community service administration, Chaplain support, foot patrol, ATV and mounted patrol, Detention Center reception duties, attendance screenings for the regular Board of Commissioners meetings, and many other routine duties that law enforcement would be asked to perform; and

WHEREAS, more than 350 men and women have participated as Volunteers in Partnership, contributing over 550,000 hours; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Henderson County Sheriff's Volunteers in Partnership program celebrates 30 years of dedicated service to Henderson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners do hereby express their gratitude and appreciation for the men and women who have served and continue to serve with the Henderson County Sheriff's Volunteers in Partnership program.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Henderson to be affixed.

Adopted this, the 6th day of October 2025.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to adopt the Resolution of Appreciation for the Henderson County Sheriff's Volunteers in Partnership program. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS

2025.164 Proclamation – National 4-H Week

The Board was requested to adopt a proclamation designating October 5, 2025, to October 11, 2025, as National 4-H week in Henderson County.

PROCLAMATION ACKNOWLEDGING OCTOBER 5-11, 2025, AS NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

WHEREAS, this year's National 4-H Week theme, "Beyond Ready," reminds us that 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change and equips young people with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, supporting six million youth across the country; and

WHEREAS, 4-H programs are delivered by the Cooperative Extension System – a community of more than 100 public land-grant colleges and universities across the Nation – that provides experiences for young people to learn by doing; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is in every city and county in the United States and helps 6 million youth become engaged, successful, and independent; and

WHEREAS, 4-H connects young people and adults to their communities, preparing them for work and life through experiential and inquiry-based learning while providing emerging research for positive youth development; and

Approved:

WHEREAS, expanding from its strong agricultural roots, 4-H helps young people explore the world around them and grow into productive adults; and

WHEREAS, supporting future leaders in science, agriculture, and community leadership is an important imperative for the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture 4-H program.

NOW, THEREFORE, Commissioners of Henderson County of the state of North Carolina do hereby proclaim October 5 –11, 2025, as NATIONAL 4-H WEEK throughout Henderson County, NC, and encourage all our citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact it has made and continues to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

Adopted this 6th day of October 2025.

Commissioner McCall made the motion to adopt the Proclamation designating October 5, 2025, to October 11, 2025, as National 4-H week in Henderson County. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Middlefork resident, **Ben Klumpp**, thanked the Board for their assistance in the Hickory Nut Gorge Community's recovery from Hurricane Helene. He also expressed appreciation for the dumpsters provided and requested increased law enforcement presence to limit non-resident access to the Middlefork, Bat Cave, and Gerton areas.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Chairman Lapsley added the following item to the agenda:

- Consent Item T – Temporary Project Position – Building Services

Chairman Lapsley made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to approve the consent agenda with the addition of Item T – Temporary Project Position – Building Services. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes were presented for Board review and approval for the following meeting:

September 17, 2025

Motion: I move the Board approve the minutes from September 17, 2025.

Tax Collector's Report

The following report from the office of the Tax Collector was provided for the Board's

Approved:

information.

Please find outlined below collections information through September 24, 2025 for 2025 real and personal property bills mailed on July 31, 2025. Vehicles taxes are billed monthly by NC DMV.

Henderson County Annual Bills (Real and Personal Property):

2025 Beginning Charge:	\$103,834,775.89
Discoveries & Imm.	\$162,782.12
Releases & Refunds:	(\$23,225.46)
Net Charge:	\$103,974,332.55
Unpaid Taxes:	\$81,012,672.98
Amount Collected:	\$22,961,659.57



Henderson County Registered Motor Vehicles (As Collected by NC DMV):

Net Charge:	\$1,939,229.56
Unpaid Taxes:	\$8,017.23
Amount Collected:	\$1,931,212.33

99.59%

Henderson County FY25 Budget Analysis:

	<u>Budget Ordinance</u>		<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Ad Valorem:	\$106,227,288.00	Ad Valorem:	\$24,892,871.90
Prior Years:	\$1,030,500.00	Prior Years:	\$254,217.41
Budget Total:	\$107,257,788.00	YTD Revenue:	\$25,147,089.31



2025.165 Pending Releases and Refunds

The Assessor reviewed the pending releases and refunds. As a result of that review, it is the opinion of the Assessor that these findings are in order. Supporting documentation is on file in the County Assessor's Office.

These pending release and refund requests were submitted to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners for approval.

Type:

Amount:

Total Taxes Released from the Charge

\$33,130.09

Total Refunds as a Result of the Above Releases

\$ 785.48

Motion: I move the Board approve the Combined Release/Refund Report as presented.

County Financial Report/Cash Balance Report – August 2025

The August 2025 County Financial Report and Cash Balance Report were presented for the Board's review and Approval.

The following were explanations for departments/programs with higher budgets to actual percentages for August:

- Dues /Non-Profit Contributions – timing of 1st quarter board-approved appropriations.
- Administrative Services – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Human Resources - timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- County Assessor - timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Tax Collector – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Legal – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Facility Services – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Information Technology - timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Sheriff Department – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Emergency Management - timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.

Approved:

- Building Services – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Wellness Clinic – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Emergency Medical Services – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Animal Services – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Rescue Squad – timing of 1st quarter board approved appropriation.
- Planning – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Site Development – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Heritage Museum – timing of 1st quarter board approved appropriation.
- Project Management – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Mental Health Services - timing of 1st quarter board approved appropriation.
- Social Services – timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Library - timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Recreation - timing of payment of board-approved expenditures.
- Public Education – payment of 2 of 10 annual appropriations made to the public school system.

Year-to-Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Emergency Telephone System Fund are due to the timing of receipts and disbursements of approved expenditures in FY26.

Year-to-Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Public Transit Fund are due to the timing of receipts and disbursements of approved expenditures in FY26.

The year-to-date net revenues under Expenditures for the Opioid Fund are due to the timing of receipts and disbursements of approved expenditures in FY26.

The year-to-date net revenues under Expenditures for the Hurricane Helene Fund are due to the timing of expenditures and receipt of FEMA reimbursements in FY26.

The year-to-date net revenues under Expenditures for the Etowah Community Sewer Fund are due to the timing of collection receipts and disbursements of approved expenditures in FY26.

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Approved:

HENDERSON COUNTY
FINANCIAL REPORT
AUGUST 2025

GENERAL FUND REVENUES						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
General Fund	221,271,524.00	20,882,403.55	24,475,705.09	11.1%	-	24,475,705.09
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
Governing Body	713,432.00	49,231.14	107,822.20	15.11%	-	107,822.20
Dues/Non Profit Contributions	1,327,594.00	66,342.56	348,330.12	26.24%	930,964.44	1,279,294.56
County Manager	412,944.00	36,687.41	62,005.02	15.02%	-	62,005.02
Administrative Services	822,564.00	118,542.32	199,033.23	24.20%	-	199,033.23
Human Resources	1,602,266.00	153,413.78	273,501.89	17.07%	22,519.92	296,021.81
Elections	1,502,192.00	54,996.20	114,353.74	7.61%	115,607.84	229,961.58
Finance	1,459,519.00	130,370.45	241,795.93	16.57%	-	241,795.93
County Assessor	2,224,436.00	193,102.81	397,259.12	17.86%	47,231.28	444,490.40
Tax Collector	621,523.00	60,121.33	107,957.24	17.37%	-	107,957.24
Legal	1,153,432.00	171,046.50	263,065.57	22.81%	-	263,065.57
Register of Deeds	804,235.00	81,653.01	131,547.32	16.36%	24,296.00	155,843.32
Facility Services	6,338,247.00	769,050.15	1,090,820.92	17.21%	324,845.35	1,415,666.27
Garage	465,069.00	55,280.70	69,278.76	14.90%	-	69,278.76
Court Facilities	153,000.00	10,612.03	13,453.46	8.79%	-	13,453.46
Information Technology	6,634,986.00	583,197.77	1,507,764.71	22.72%	323,759.15	1,831,523.86
Sheriff Department	26,183,291.00	2,568,665.16	4,624,751.20	17.66%	163,169.96	4,787,921.16
Detention Facility	7,255,267.00	651,813.77	1,142,762.06	15.75%	481,224.58	1,623,986.64
Emergency Management	2,589,992.00	176,254.78	439,505.88	16.97%	78,417.38	517,923.26
Fire Services	1,271,246.00	106,765.31	163,888.96	12.89%	102,657.19	266,546.15
Building Services	1,933,820.00	192,039.93	340,836.59	17.63%	-	340,836.59
Wellness Clinic	1,551,790.00	157,584.82	269,024.21	17.34%	120,116.04	389,140.25
Emergency Medical Services	14,906,523.00	1,517,221.47	2,574,843.82	17.27%	127,031.42	2,701,875.24
Animal Services	1,006,894.00	100,353.24	170,556.80	16.94%	78,618.85	249,175.65
Rescue Squad	821,888.00	(47.35)	205,300.27	24.98%	616,416.00	821,716.27
Forestry Services	131,219.00	-	-	0.00%	-	-
Soil & Water	635,007.00	60,896.31	100,053.88	15.76%	12,850.00	112,903.88
Planning	1,334,114.00	132,332.12	227,362.84	17.04%	111,904.20	339,267.04
Code Enforcement	368,640.00	34,386.79	58,509.80	15.87%	-	58,509.80
Site Development	247,581.00	24,645.03	44,063.64	17.80%	-	44,063.64
Heritage Museum	100,000.00	-	25,000.00	25.00%	75,000.00	100,000.00
Cooperative Extension	794,654.00	55,227.59	125,045.59	15.74%	5,250.00	130,295.59
Project Management	412,211.00	40,453.20	70,099.68	17.01%	-	70,099.68
Economic Development	2,152,642.00	-	108,500.00	5.04%	325,500.00	434,000.00
Public Health	12,994,232.00	1,229,067.06	2,160,522.60	16.63%	1,593,030.68	3,753,553.28
Environmental Health	2,051,804.00	204,375.14	354,566.78	0.00%	8.63	-
H&CC Block Grant	863,502.00	80,411.50	80,411.50	9.31%	-	80,411.50
Medical Services - Autopsies	95,000.00	-	-	0.00%	-	-
Strategic Behavioral Health	551,365.00	39,226.30	64,258.20	11.65%	-	64,258.20
Mental Health Services	528,612.00	-	132,153.00	25.00%	-	132,153.00
Rural Transportation Assist Program	201,384.00	-	-	0.00%	-	-
Social Services	24,783,501.00	2,397,629.23	4,248,781.03	17.14%	13,549.25	4,262,330.28
Juvenile Justice Programs	346,020.00	35,946.00	40,120.00	11.59%	-	40,120.00
Veterans Services	343,766.00	27,282.98	46,918.01	13.65%	11,250.00	58,168.01
Library	4,451,515.00	507,028.23	918,761.65	20.64%	366,452.51	1,285,214.16
Recreation	3,771,930.00	347,242.76	723,748.90	19.19%	175,630.77	899,379.67
Public Education	43,641,463.00	4,243,312.97	8,549,125.94	19.59%	-	8,549,125.94
Debt Service	24,307,066.00	516,800.00	516,800.00	2.13%	-	516,800.00
Non-Departmental	5,086,736.00	343,110.25	343,110.25	6.75%	-	343,110.25
Interfund Transfers	7,321,410.00	592,104.17	1,184,208.34	16.17%	-	1,184,208.34
TOTAL	221,271,524.00	18,915,776.92	34,981,580.65	15.81%	6,247,301.44	40,874,306.68
Net Revenues over (under) Exp.	-	1,966,626.63	(10,505,875.56)			(16,398,601.59)

Approved:

APPROPRIATIONS DETAIL						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
SOCIAL SERVICES						
Staff Operations	20,868,566.00	2,135,161.81	3,755,266.07	18.0%	13,549.25	3,768,815.32
Federal & State Programs	3,814,935.00	259,218.21	487,758.57	12.8%	-	487,758.57
General Assistance	100,000.00	3,249.21	5,756.39	5.8%	-	5,756.39
TOTAL	24,783,501.00	2,397,629.23	4,248,781.03		13,549.25	4,262,330.28
EDUCATION						
Schools Current/Capital Expense	37,891,463.00	3,764,146.30	7,590,792.60	20.0%	-	7,590,792.60
Blue Ridge Community College	5,750,000.00	479,166.67	958,333.34	16.7%	-	958,333.34
TOTAL	43,641,463.00	4,243,312.97	8,549,125.94		-	8,549,125.94
DEBT SERVICE						
Public Schools	9,440,800.00	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Blue Ridge Community College	3,137,704.00	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Henderson County	11,728,562.00	516,800.00	516,800.00	4.4%	-	516,800.00
TOTAL	24,307,066.00	516,800.00	516,800.00		-	516,800.00
INTERFUND TRANSFERS						
Capital Projects Fund	200,000.00	16,666.67	33,333.34	16.7%	-	33,333.34
HCPS MRTS	4,603,500.00	383,625.00	767,250.00	16.7%	-	767,250.00
BRCC MRTS	2,301,750.00	191,812.50	383,625.00	16.7%	-	383,625.00
Solid Waste	216,160.00	-	-	0.0%	-	-
TOTAL	7,321,410.00	592,104.17	1,184,208.34		-	1,184,208.34
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
FIRE DISTRICTS FUND						
Revenues:	17,225,114.00	2,655,695.22	2,726,086.62	15.8%	-	2,726,086.62
Expenditures:	17,225,114.00	129,181.28	129,181.28	0.7%	-	129,181.28
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	2,526,513.94	2,596,905.34		-	2,596,905.34
REVALUATION RESERVE FUND						
Revenues:	1,477,379.00	132,499.66	272,907.53	18.5%	-	272,907.53
Expenditures:	1,477,379.00	121,768.02	257,414.70	17.4%	7,354.37	264,769.07
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	10,731.64	15,492.83		7,354.37	8,138.46
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (911) FUND						
Revenues:	302,500.00	25,058.80	28,293.90	9.4%	-	28,293.90
Expenditures:	302,500.00	17,894.25	90,056.36	29.8%	40,765.90	130,822.26
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	7,164.55	(61,762.46)		40,765.90	(102,528.36)
PUBLIC TRANSIT FUND						
Revenues:	1,758,861.00	31,405.90	41,975.43	2.4%	-	41,975.43
Expenditures:	1,758,861.00	79,239.88	79,239.88	4.5%	70,141.07	149,380.95
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(47,833.98)	(37,264.45)		70,141.07	(107,405.52)
MISC. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES						
Revenues:	954,000.00	66,034.21	97,676.72	10.2%	-	97,676.72
Expenditures:	954,000.00	71,696.96	92,532.46	9.7%	-	92,532.46
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(5,662.75)	5,144.26		-	5,144.26
ARPA FUND						
Revenues:	-	45,944.15	149,677.69	0.0%	-	149,677.69
Expenditures:	-	-	-	0.0%	50,000.00	50,000.00
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	45,944.15	149,677.69		50,000.00	99,677.69
OPIOID FUND						
Revenues:	1,047,190.00	15,728.91	46,088.77	4.4%	-	46,088.77
Expenditures:	1,047,190.00	44,453.15	74,044.19	7.1%	105,000.00	179,044.19
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(28,724.24)	(27,955.42)		105,000.00	(132,955.42)
HURRICANE HELENE						
Revenues:	78,003,088.00	-	24,056,436.32	30.8%	-	24,056,436.32
Expenditures:	78,003,088.00	28,687.63	52,004,730.57	66.7%	24,359,995.36	76,364,725.93
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(28,687.63)	(27,948,294.25)		24,359,995.36	(52,308,289.61)
CAPITAL PROJECTS						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	PROJECT TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
JUDICIAL CENTER PROJECT (2064)						
Revenues:	12,794,251.00	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Expenditures:	12,794,251.00	10,273.26	7,549,037.54	59.0%	5,222,933.47	12,771,971.01
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(10,273.26)	(7,549,037.54)		5,222,933.47	(12,771,971.01)
MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING PROJECT - SPARTANBURG HWY (2074)						
Revenues:	1,535,432.00	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Expenditures:	1,535,432.00	-	1,385,425.75	90.2%	151,505.79	1,536,931.54
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	-	(1,385,425.75)		151,505.79	(1,536,931.54)

Approved:

ENTERPRISE FUNDS						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
SOLID WASTE LANDFILL FUND						
Revenues:	11,339,199.00	983,731.38	1,916,788.31	16.9%	-	1,916,788.31
Expenditures:	11,339,199.00	967,385.67	1,158,424.03	10.2%	6,627,403.87	7,785,827.90
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	16,345.71	758,364.28		6,627,403.87	(5,869,039.59)
JUSTICE ACADEMY SEWER FUND						
Revenues:	72,091.00	6,274.38	14,898.04	20.7%	-	14,898.04
Expenditures:	72,091.00	3,086.68	3,324.00	4.6%	-	3,324.00
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	3,187.70	11,574.04		-	11,574.04
ETOWAH COMMUNITY SEWER FUND						
Revenues:	403,480.00	16,276.95	16,276.95	4.0%	-	16,276.95
Expenditures:	403,480.00	15,173.77	18,106.68	4.5%	-	18,106.68
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	1,103.18	(1,829.73)		-	(1,829.73)

**HENDERSON COUNTY
CASH BALANCE REPORT
AUGUST 2025**

<u>Fund(s)</u>	<u>07/31/25 Beg. Cash Balance</u>	<u>Debits Revenues</u>	<u>(Credits) Expenditures</u>	<u>08/31/25 Ending Cash Balance</u>
General	\$ 86,323,321.43	\$ 29,164,889.80	\$ (22,883,547.70)	\$ 92,604,663.53
Special Revenue	40,889,717.78	3,806,647.95	(1,148,642.69)	\$ 43,547,723.04
Capital Projects	18,910,522.28	160,621.48	(2,937,573.89)	\$ 16,133,569.87
Enterprise	1,648,040.54	1,080,801.00	(1,278,065.41)	\$ 1,450,776.13
HCPS - Maint. and Repair	6,108,987.20	383,625.00	-	\$ 6,492,612.20
BRCC - Maint. and Repair	4,298,980.21	191,812.50	-	\$ 4,490,792.71
Custodial	545,784.30	3,382,380.49	(349,231.97)	\$ 3,578,932.82
Total	<u>\$ 158,725,353.74</u>	<u>\$ 38,170,778.22</u>	<u>\$ (28,597,061.66)</u>	
Total cash available as of	8/31/2025			<u>\$ 168,299,070.30</u>

Motion: I move that the Board approve the August 2025 County Financial Report and Cash Balance Report as presented.

Henderson County Public Schools Financial Reports – August 2025

The Henderson County Public Schools August 2025 Local Current Expense Fund / Other Restricted Funds Report was presented for the Board's information.

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Approved:

**HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE/OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS
as of August 31, 2025**

	LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND	OTHER RESTRICTED FUND		
REVENUES:	YTD Activity	YTD Activity	Combined Total	Prior YTD
3200 State Sources	\$ -	\$ 10,411	\$ 10,411	\$ 8,000
3700 Federal Sources-Restricted	-	6,119	6,119	37,011
3800 Other Federal-ROTC	-	-	-	-
4100 County Appropriation	7,228,293	-	7,228,293	7,075,600
4200 Local -Tuition/Fees	-	5,805	5,805	3,615
4400 Local-Unrestricted	83,979	17,013	100,992	73,040
4800 Local-Restricted	-	12,190	12,190	27,152
4900 Fund Balance Appropriated/Transfer From school	-	4,621	4,621	1,863
TOTAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 7,312,272	\$ 56,159	\$ 7,368,431	\$ 7,226,281
EXPENDITURES:	YTD Activity	YTD Activity	Combined Total	Prior YTD
Instructional Services:				
5100 Regular Instructional Services	\$ 707,706	\$ 54,052	\$ 761,758	\$ 766,689
5200 Special Populations Services	12,076	120,615	132,691	115,072
5300 Alternative Programs and Services	17,897	67,457	85,354	138,566
5400 School Leadership Services	462,463	10,839	473,302	414,984
5500 Co-Curricular Services	54,371	435	54,806	48,589
5800 School-Based Support Services	267,895	27,215	295,109	231,874
Total Instructional Services	\$ 1,522,407	\$ 280,613	\$ 1,803,020	\$ 1,715,774
System-Wide Support Services:				
6100 Support and Development Services	\$ 83,882	\$ 12,188	\$ 96,070	\$ 70,039
6200 Special Population Support	13,092	707	13,799	31,076
6300 Alternative Programs	19,874	431	20,305	19,870
6400 Technology Support Services	290,788	7,715	298,503	234,392
6500 Operational Support Services	1,628,877	31,732	1,660,609	1,345,620
6600 Financial and Human Resource Services	1,935,334	35,114	1,970,448	1,809,334
6700 Accountability Services	32,389	1,400	33,789	32,936
6800 System-Wide Pupil Support Services	62,911	538	63,450	74,593
6900 Policy, Leadership and Public Relations	136,257	13,220	149,476	144,771
Total System-Wide Support Services	\$ 4,203,404	\$ 103,044	\$ 4,306,448	\$ 3,762,630
Ancillary Services:				
7100 Community Services	\$ 581	\$ 28,778	\$ 29,359	\$ 29,176
7200 Nutrition Services	194	-	194	388
Total Ancillary Services	\$ 775	\$ 28,778	\$ 29,553	\$ 29,564
Non-Programmed Charges:				
8100 Payments to Other Governmental Units	\$ 282,211	\$ -	\$ 282,211	\$ -
8400 Interfund Transfers	-	3,075	3,075	300
8600 Educational Foundations	-	18,360	18,360	-
Total Non-Programmed Charges	\$ 282,211	\$ 21,435	\$ 303,646	\$ 300
TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 6,008,798	\$ 433,869	\$ 6,442,667	\$ 5,508,267

Motion: I move that the Board of Commissioners approve the Henderson County Public Schools August 2025 Financial Reports as presented.

Notification of Vacancies

The Notification of Vacancies was provided for the Board's information. They will appear on the next agenda under "Nominations."

1. Animal Services Committee – 1 vac.
Seat #1 – Veterinarian

Approved:

Hurricane Helene Update

The current information pertaining to Hurricane Helene in Henderson County was presented to the Board.

Revenues:

FEMA Funding Received	\$16,532,644.16
Cash Flow Loan Net Proceeds	\$ 8,046,192.57
Donations, Unassigned	\$ 104,628.30
Insurance Proceeds	\$ 538,876.21
Interest Earned	\$ 55,690.13
Grants	\$ 25,000.00
Reimbursements	\$ 5,384.00
	\$ 25,308,415.37

Expenditures:

Personnel	\$3,725,233.08
Debris Management/Monitoring	\$ 20,205,722.07
Debris Mgt/Monitoring (open invoices)	\$ 32,690,193.08
Other Disaster Response	\$2,780,524.92
	\$59,334,530.18

Net

\$-34,093,257.78

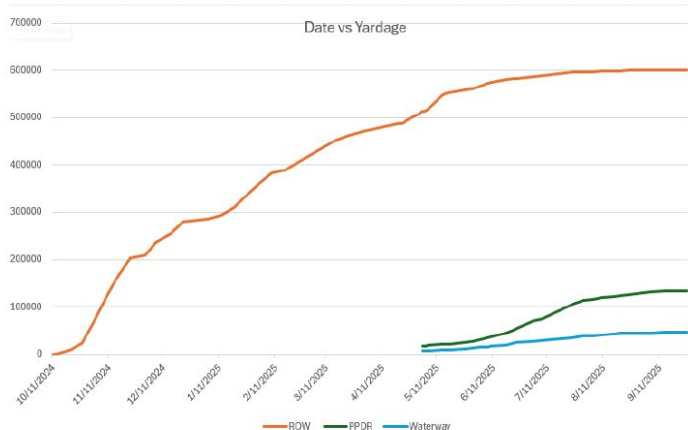
FEMA Projects Summary - Obligated

Title	Process Step	Total Cost
Expedited Funding	Obligated, Payment Received	\$15,224,300
United Way	Obligated, Payment Received	\$91,277
Private Property Debris Removal	Obligated, Payment Received	\$78,048.30

Total \$15,393,625.30

Debris Collection

- ▶ Debris removal operations continue under the NCEM SMART Agreement.
- ▶ Right of Way (ROW) operations are at the "punch-list" point completing target areas.
- ▶ HCEM and NCSMART continue to collaborate on open PPDR projects.
- ▶ Approximately 1,157 waterway debris sites have been identified by County staff and are awaiting FEMA approval.



Approved:

Addition to Vehicle Fleet – Department of Public Health

On February 18, 2025, the Board approved Hurricane Helene Essential Functions Support funds for \$1,064,970. The Department of Public Health requested to utilize a portion of these funds to purchase two vehicles. These vehicles will meet the need for public health emergency response functions and allow groups to attend training and meetings. The purchase of these vehicles will increase the Henderson County fleet.

Staff requested the Board approve the addition of two vehicles to the Henderson County fleet.

The vehicle purchase was approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at their August 18, 2025, meeting to be forwarded to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners for consideration and final approval.

Motion: I move that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners approve the addition of two vehicles to the Henderson County fleet

2025.166 Resolution Ratifying Execution of Opioid Settlement – Purdue Pharma LP and Sackler Family

In 2021, the North Carolina Attorney General's Office and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners negotiated a memorandum of agreement which governs how North Carolina would use the proceeds of any national settlement or bankruptcy resolution with the listed drug distributors.

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Third Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF-3) to provide for the equitable distribution of the proceeds of these settlements.

This resolution allows for the County Manager, or his designee, to execute all documents necessary to enter into the opioid settlement agreements with Purdue Pharma LP and members of the Sackler Family, to execute the SAAF-3, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation Administrator.

Motion: I move the Board adopt the Resolution as presented.

2025.166 Budget Amendment – Restricted Fund Balance Appropriated, Strategic Behavioral Health

At its June 2, 2025, meeting, the Board approved the FY2025-2026 Opioid Settlement Fund resolution, which included planned expenditures in support of the Henderson County Adult Recovery Court. At that time, the Board also approved an annual contract from the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, along with an Addendum, specifying services tailored to Henderson County's program.

Henderson County receives allocations from the McKinsey Opioid Settlement Fund, which are eligible to reimburse for services provided by the District Attorney's Office in support of the Adult Recovery Court. Funds received in FY2025 are currently in a restricted fund balance.

Motion: I move that the Board approve the budget amendment to appropriate fund balance for the use of McKinsey Opioid Settlement funds to reimburse the District Attorney's Office for

Approved:

services in support of the Adult Recovery Court as presented.

Public Records Disposal Request

Staff requested approval from the Board of Commissioners to destroy original records listed on the Public Disposal Requests and Destruction Logs – Four total pages included in accordance with the County’s Record Retention Policy and the provisions of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Records Retention and Disposition Schedule, a copy of said pages (attached to these minutes), as the period of these records have expired.

Motion: I move the Board approve the Public Records Disposal Request and Destruction Log as presented.

Chronic Nuisance Property – 230 Elson Avenue

This item was back before the Board on the matter of a chronic nuisance property, as that term is used in N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-104.2.

- The Board was reminded of its previous finding, on August 4, 2025, that the property located at 230 Elson Ave was, on that date, a chronic nuisance property, in that it had three times within the last year been cited as a nuisance property under the County’s nuisance ordinance, found in Chapter 52 of the Henderson County Code.
- Since the Board’s previous finding, the owner of the property was notified by certified mail and by posting on the property of the Board’s finding.
- After the notification of the owner, County staff again visited the property, and found no improvement, such that the property still constitutes a nuisance under Chapter 52 of the County Code.
- Staff have obtained estimates on the cost of removing the items that make up the nuisance on the property. The lowest estimate obtained is for a cost of \$1,250.
- The tax value of the property is \$49,200.

Motion: I move that the Board authorize staff to contract for the remediation of the nuisance on this property, obtain a lien on the property, and repayment for the cost of the remediation pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-104.2

Facility Use Policy Exemption – WNC Special Needs Sports

The County received an application from WNC Special Needs Sports to use the Historic Courthouse Courtyard on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for a special needs craft fair, which will include the sale of arts and crafts.

To allow for this use on County grounds, the Board was requested to grant a one-time exemption of rule #4 of the County Facility Use Policy, which prohibits solicitation on the grounds. This exemption, if granted, would cover the date and time specified on the application, and outlined above.

Motion: I move that the Board grant an exemption of the County Facility Use Policy for WNC Special Needs Sports, allowing for the sale of arts and crafts on the Historic Courthouse Courtyard, or within the Courthouse, if necessary, on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Approved:

2025.168 FY2025-2026 Fee Schedule Revision – Parks and Recreation

The Rail Trail Advisory Committee (RTAC) and the Recreation Advisory Board reviewed and approved the application guidelines for events on the Ecusta Trail. Both committees discussed and recommended the fee schedule amendment for event applications based on size. Applications and fees would only be required for gatherings of 50 or more participants that are publicly advertised or that require event registration to participate. Currently, this fee does not exist in the adopted fee schedule and requires the Board to approve an amendment to the schedule for this addition.

PARKS AND RECREATION	
Item	FY26 Fee
Ecusta Trail Event Applications	
50 - 499 Participants	\$50.00
500 - 1,000 Participants	\$100.00
Over 1,000 Participants	\$250.00

Motion: I move the Board approve the amendment to the FY2025-2026 Fee Schedule to include application fees for events on the Ecusta Trail.

2025.169 Budget Amendment – Restricted Fund Balance Appropriated, HCSO

The Sheriff's Office requested the Board approve a budget amendment that appropriates fund balance for unused restricted donations for Sheriff's Office special funds received in previous fiscal years. These funds are derived from restricted donations to be used for specific programs, including K-9, VIP, STAR, Honor Guard, Shop with a Hero, and Motor Unit.

The amounts reflected in the budget amendment represent the unspent portion of restricted donations from FY2025, which will be carried over and spent in FY2026.

Motion: I move the Board approve the budget amendment to appropriate the restricted fund balance for the special Sheriff's Office accounts as presented.

Transfer of Items – Department of Public Health

The NC Division of Public Health (DPH) administers the Healthy Communities Program through Consolidated Agreement Addendum (AA) 886. This program aims to enable county health departments to implement community-based interventions that address poor nutrition, physical inactivity, social isolation, tobacco use, violence, and unintentional injury. Within AA886, the Henderson County Department of Public Health (HCDPH) has been working on strategy 4d:

“Increase the number of new community venues and small retail venues providing access to healthy foods, and/or increase the number of existing community venues and small retail venues providing enhanced access to healthy foods. Community venues for this Agreement Addendum also include small food stores. Healthy foods are defined by the USDA as nutrient dense foods across and within all food groups, as mentioned in the USDA's Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025.”

HCDPH has been working with Campo Y Cocina (Field and Kitchen) to implement this strategy and has purchased three AA-approved items to transfer to them to support this work: a small ice maker, a food processor, and a Square Kiosk System with a total value of \$3,008.94. NC DPH has received approval for these items.

Approved:

Motion: I move the Board approve the transfer of a small ice machine, a food processor, and a Square Kiosk System to Field and Kitchen to support the implementation of Strategy 4d in the Healthy Communities Agreement Addendum 886.

2025.170 Tower Lease with Fletcher Academy, Inc.

Henderson County Emergency Services maintains several mountaintop transmitter sites for the installation of our emergency communications system. Each of these sites is located on property that the County leases for the installation of our towers, buildings, and equipment. During 2018, County Staff began evaluating options to add an additional site in the Fletcher area to enhance radio coverage in fringe areas in the northern part of Henderson County. After extensive evaluations, a location was identified off Naples Road on property owned by Fletcher Academy, Inc.

During the spring of 2024, the NC Legislature allocated additional funding for Henderson County for communications enhancements; this funding would allow for the construction of the tower in Naples. Staff have worked with the leadership and Board of Fletcher Academy, Inc. to finalize the lease presented for the tower site. This tower project is a partnership between Fletcher Academy, Inc., and Henderson County and will result in improved communication in the Fletcher area.

Motion: I move to approve the lease between Henderson County and Fletcher Academy, Inc., and authorize the County Manager to sign the lease on behalf of Henderson County.

2025.171 Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector

Nicole Brown has been recommended by Tax Collector Luke Small to be appointed to the currently vacant Deputy Tax Collector position, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-349(f).

Motion: I move that the Board appoint Nicole Brown as the Henderson County Deputy Tax Collector, effective immediately.

2025.172 Tower Lease with Verizon Wireless

During 2018, Henderson County began researching the feasibility of co-locating a commercial cellular carrier at the Forge Mountain communications tower. This co-location is intended to improve cellular service in the South Mills River area. For several years, staff have been working with the property owner and Verizon Wireless on the joint project.

Following the construction of the larger tower on the site, staff recommend approval of a lease with Verizon Wireless for the co-location of their new site on Forge Mountain.

Motion: I move to approve the attached lease between Henderson County and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and authorize the County Manager to sign the lease on behalf of Henderson County.

Vice-Chair Edney made a motion to adopt the consent agenda, with the additional item of a Temporary Project Position - Building Services. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION

Approved:

North Carolina Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditure (C-PACE) Program

NC Lead Fellow Abigail Buxton presented the following regarding the North Carolina Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditure (C-PACE) Program, which was established by the General Assembly in 2024. The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina administers the program and is intended to provide a long-term private financing option for renewable energy, energy efficiency, water conservation, and resiliency improvements to commercial property. Private financing is spread over the useful life of the improvement and can be up to 35% of the value of the property. The financing is secured by a voluntary senior lien on the property.

There is no financial or legal responsibility to Henderson County.



C-PACE
North Carolina Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditure

What is C-PACE?

The North Carolina Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditure (C-PACE) Program is a statewide program through EDPNC providing long-term private financing for certain improvements to commercial property.

- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Resiliency
- Water Conservation
- Safe Drinking Water Access

Unique Aspects of the Program



- Over the useful life of the improvement (20-30 years)
- Attached to the property so transferable when sold
- Can be up to 35% of the value of the property

What is the County's Role?

- Adopts a Resolution to join the program
- Records C-PACE lien with the office of the register of deeds once the statewide program approves a project

*The County would not have any financial or legal liability

What are the benefits?

- Higher property values generating higher property tax revenues
- Creating more resilient infrastructure and conserving resources
- Lower utility costs attracting and retaining businesses

Approved:



Strategic Behavioral Health Update

Strategic Health Director Jodi Grabowski provided an update on programs funded with opioid settlement funds.

Brief Review of the Opioid Settlement Funding

Henderson County will receive almost \$17 million 2022-2038

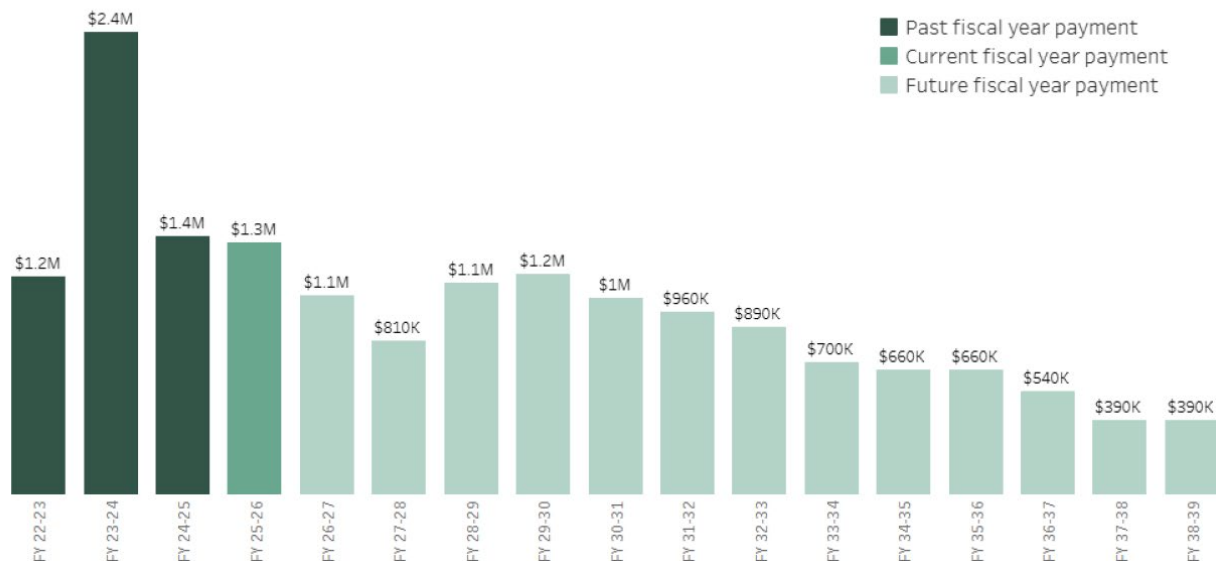
- these funds do not go away
- no need to spend a certain amount per year or even by 2038
- and it can accrue interest along the way

Use of funds must follow the NC Memorandum of Agreement

- all expenditures must be authorized by the Board of Commissioners before being spent
- funds that are authorized but not spent simply roll back into the fund balance
- all authorizations and reporting are on a public website at ncopioidsettlement.org



Henderson County is receiving \$16,681,693 in opioid settlement funds from 2022 through 2038.



Approved:

Timeline: Planning to Reporting

2022: Substance Abuse Task Force re-convened by Commissioner Lapsley to establish priorities

2022: We received a \$300k grant from Dogwood Health Trust & contracted with two organizations:

- Hope Coalition to help start the Adult Recovery Court
- REAL Academy to help with Strategic Planning with the Community

2023: Jodi started workgroup for Substance Use Strategic Plan

- 18 workgroup meetings
- 5 BOC presentations & 2 Local Government presentations

2023: We “Unlocked Exhibit B”

- allowing us to move forward with all the Strategies prioritized through the Strategic Plan
- & become the 1st County in NC to fully fund a Recovery Court with Opioid Settlement Funds

FY24-25: We completed our first full year authorizing all the strategies

- Reporting was submitted (due 9/26/25)
- A PDF of the narrative section is in your packet

Our work since
receiving
Opioid
Settlement
Funds

Substance Use Action Team:

- 9 community meetings
- A large community event on 9/17/24 called “Beyond Labels” to address stigma

Created Strategic Behavioral Health Dept.

- Managing Opioid Settlement Funding, subrecipients, and all 12 Strategies
- Adult Recovery Court
- Reentry Services
- Peer Support Specialist (can also support DSS and Health Dept)
- Coordinating MOE fund planning for FY25-26
- Managing other grants as available

Resources

- Created webpage for Department with link to Resources
- Printed cards with QR code

Strategies from Exhibit A

From Option A

- A1 Collaborative Strategic Planning: dept, staff & expenses
- A2 Evidence Based Treatment: for people in our programs
- A3 Recovery Support Services: Peer Support Specialist
- A4 Recovery Housing: for people in our programs
- A6 Early Intervention: trainings for practitioners in community
- A7 Naloxone: for EMS and community
- A8 PORT: Co-response position, materials & vehicle
- A12 Reentry: staff & expenses



HOPE DEALER
Spreading Hope. Inspiring Change.

Approved:

Strategies from Exhibit B

From Option B**Criminal Diversion / Adult Recovery Court:**

B D3: ARC: program & expenses

Prevention & Intervention:

B G1: Media Campaign: One Pill Can Kill

B G9: Camp Glow & STAR Camp

HCPS Alternatives to Suspension Program

"Tall Cop Says Stop" event

B G12: Children & Family Resource Center Navigator

What's helping

Growing Recovery Community

Non-profits and Blue Ridge Health

Hospitals increasing behavioral health offerings

Better connecting people to help

Strategies getting results

Recovery Month, OD Awareness Day
& Safe September Events

We had the opportunity to join with our recovery partners to share resources and join together to fight stigma and support our neighbors.

8/31: Back on Track's Overdose Awareness Day event at Jackson Park

9/19: the First Annual WNC Recovery Rally in Asheville

9/21: "Tall Cop Says Stop" & Light the Night 828 at Hvl High School

9/25: Love & Respect's Save a Life Day event in Jackson Park

9/26: Hope Coalition's Week of Hope Youth commitment

9/26: The Free Clinics' Save a Life Day event at Grace Lutheran Church

❖ Community surveys indicate year over year increases of alcohol use since Covid: % of people who drink excessively:

2018: 9.9%

2021: 19.1%

2024: 22.0%

Future
Concerns

❖ Dangerous products getting ahead of policy: OTC products that aren't regulated...

Tall Cop Says Stop: <https://www.tallcopsaysstop.com/>

Approved:

Ongoing and still to come

Continue the Current Strategies for the Opioid Settlement Funds (see handout)

Work with EMS's Community Paramedic Program/ PORT to be embedded

Strategic Plan updated every 4 years, next one due 2027

Reentry work alongside Psych Nurse in detention center (MOE funded)

PSS work alongside DSS (perhaps START will happen) & Health Dept

RFQ's for Strategies that are cumbersome for the County, but doable for a non-profit

Continue to braid funding to extend life of Opioid Abatement funds

Continue to work with community partners!!

Hedrick Rhodes VFW Post 5206 Building Update

Veteran Services Officer Brent Embry provided an update on programs and services provided in the Hedrick-Rhodes Post 5206 Building.

A Brief Introduction

- The **Veterans Services office** advises local veterans and their dependents of their entitlement under various Federal and State laws, counsels them, and actively assists them in obtaining Federal and State veteran benefits.
- Henderson County Department of Veterans Services has been **steadily growing in numbers and scope** as our veteran population increases. There are now two Veterans Service Officers and one Veterans Service Technician.
- The department moved its operations to the **newly renovated former VFW building** in 2024.
- Veterans Service Officers assist veterans with a variety of programs including:
 - Disability Benefits
 - Access to VA Medical
 - Burial Benefits
 - Survivors Benefits
 - Transition & Vocational Benefits
 - Local Resources
 - NC State Benefits (tax, license plates, hunting & fishing, etc.)
 - And many more!

Achievements & Statistics

- Henderson County is an attractive destination for North Carolina veterans
- The veteran population of Henderson County is currently increasing at **over 1,000 veterans per year** (based on 8.8% of population being veterans)

2019: 7,812 veterans

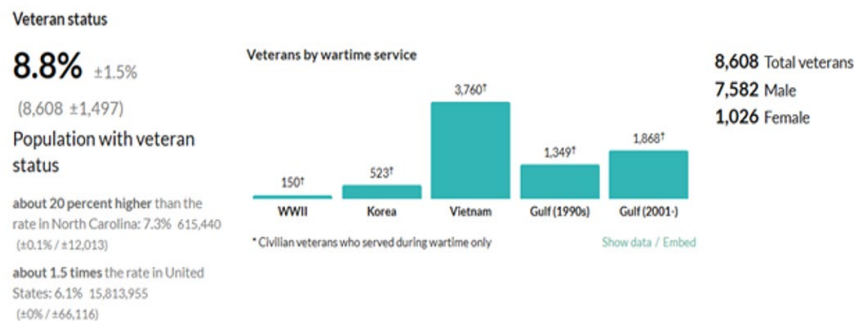
2023: 8,608 veterans

2025: 10,869 veterans (estimated)

- We currently have 20% more veterans per capita on average than other NC counties and appx. 1.5 times the average veteran population per capita of other United States counties

Approved:

- Our aging veteran population means that demand for county VSO services will continue to grow.
- Growing demand stems from the retirement and vastly increasing health care demands of the generations that fought previous wars, including the **Gulf War, Afghanistan, the Vietnam War and the Korean War**, as well as those Veterans with **Peacetime Service**.
- Along with **Veteran** care, we also service an increasing number of **surviving spouses**, connecting them with benefits to include **monthly compensation, insurance, tax relief, and assisting with burial benefits and reimbursement**.



Hover for margins of error and contextual data.

Source: Census Reporter, 2023, <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US37089-henderson-county-nc/>

- Annual numbers (05/01/24 - 05/01/25) for submissions of actual claims:
 - Mean claim uploads: 528 per VSO
 - Mean different claimants each: 323 per VSO
- A total of 1,173 prepared direct uploaded claim documents to Veteran Benefits Administration were processed.
- 61 applications for VA Health Care & Dependent Insurance applications
- 69 applications for Veteran License Plates
- 35 applications for Disabled Veterans property tax relief
- Please note that **the numbers above do not include** assistance with follow-ups, records orders, questions that don't result in a submission, VA health care applications, VA caregiver applications, hunting and fishing discount forms, education benefits, County Medicaid verifications, retiree payments, telephone and email inquiries, etc.

Approved:

Numbers and Impact

TABLE 1. DISABILITY CLAIMS SUCCESS RATES BY TYPE OF SUBMISSION ASSISTANCE, 2014-2020

	Local (CVSO and municipal)	National	None	Other	State	Total
2014	19.5	9.1	13.8	23.0	19.5	17.4
2015	19.6	18.4	8.2	22.0	19.4	17.3
2016	20.0	18.7	14.4	22.8	19.4	17.8
2017	20.4	19.3	15.3	22.7	19.7	18.4
2018	19.9	19.4	15.6	23.2	19.9	18.6
2019	18.0	19.5	16.1	23.3	17.6	18.9
2020	27.6	21.0	16.8	24.8	21.9	19.8

Source: CNAS, 2021, "The Role of County Veteran Service Officers"

- Every successful benefits claim brings funding to Henderson County, direct impacting our economy.
- Studies show that Local VSOs have a higher rate of successful claims than any other type of submission, to include State VSOs, attorneys, and personal submissions.

Personal Impact

- While it is difficult to measure the precise economic impact of our office, what follows are several recent successful disability claims that were processed by our office.
- Please note that in addition to the increased monthly amount of compensation, the following awarded claims may also result in eligibility for additional VA services that may include the VA Caregiver program (which pays a family member to provide care to a Veteran at home) and Home and Vehicle adaptability grants.
- This is just a small snapshot of the impact that we have had on our community:
- A Vietnam War Veteran sought the assistance of Henderson County Veterans Services in 2024.
- We submitted multiple VA service-connected claims for "VA presumptive conditions" due to the veteran's exposure to Agent Orange.
- Earlier this calendar year, the VA decided on the claims. The Veteran's VA Rating went from 10% (\$152.64 monthly) to 100% (\$4,638.12 monthly).
- In addition to the increased monthly income, the Veteran was awarded over \$115K in back pay.
- A Veteran came to Henderson County Veterans Services beginning in late 2023.
- We submitted multiple VA service-connected claims for health issues due to the veteran's exposure to multiple service-related toxins.
- In mid 2025 the Veteran's VA disability rating went from 0% (no monthly compensation) to 100% (\$4,044.91 monthly).
- In addition, the Veteran was awarded over \$95K in back pay.

Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Gilliam informed the Board that the use of the VFW Facility's internal conference room is used exclusively by Henderson County and the VFW Post. He reported that the upstairs gathering space has served as a hub for Disaster Recovery Relief since May 2025, averaging twelve rentals per month. The large multipurpose room (Room 201) is the most frequently used space, averaging 31 rentals a month.



Approved:

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Fletcher Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried over to the next meeting.

2. Hendersonville City Zoning Board of Adjustment – 2 vacs.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried over to the next meeting.

3. Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried over to the next meeting.

4. Laurel Park Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

5. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 13 vacs.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

Commissioner McCall shared that she had recently learned about the extensive training requirements for the Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee, which have discouraged individuals from volunteering. She noted that the requirements include eighteen hours of continuing education annually and stated she did not blame people for hesitating to serve. Commissioner McCall requested that the Board send a letter to state legislators asking them to review the current training requirements to determine whether any adjustments could be made.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Vice-Chair Edney and Commissioner Egolf did not have any updates to report.

Commissioner Franklin thanked county staff for their hard work and dedication to organizing recent special events.

Commissioner McCall reported that at the recent Farm/City Day event, Adam and Linda Pryor were recognized as the 2025 Farmers of the Year, and Commissioner Franklin won the corn-shucking competition.

She also shared that she had the honor of testifying at the Senate hearing that was recently held at the Historic Courthouse with Senator Ted Budd. Commissioner McCall noted that Senator Budd shared that testimony with colleagues in Washington in hopes of securing assistance regarding the County's challenges in receiving FEMA funds.

Chairman Lapsley reported that he had recently received a letter from the Hendersonville City Council indicating their interest in moving forward with some of the items outlined in the Interlocal Agreement signed jointly by the Board and City Council in June. He noted that the detailed letter had been distributed to all Board members and his colleagues to review it and be prepared to discuss the matter at the mid-month meeting.

Approved:

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

John Mitchell reported that the NC General Assembly remains in session, though members are not currently in Raleigh. Legislators are expected to return on October 21, at which time they will address additional unresolved items from the initial mini-budget, as well as additional issues related to advocacy efforts supported by this Board over the past year.

On the congressional front, Mitchell noted that the government shutdown continues, with a fifth vote in the US Senate failing to reach a resolution. He assured the Board that County Departments relying on federal funds – including the Health Department, Social Services, and Department of Agriculture remain financially stable at this time.

Mitchell added that staff had been meeting regularly to ensure the County is prepared to respond quickly should the Board need to make funding decisions for the remainder of the fiscal year.

He concluded by expressing appreciation to staff – particularly the Communications Team and Marcus Jones – for their efforts in organizing the Helene Remembrance, and to all employees who took time that day to honor those who were lost.

Motion: Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6). All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board

William G. Lapsley, Chairman

Approved: