

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: August 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Updates to the Fire Prevention Ordinance

PRESENTER: Glen Gillette

ATTACHMENTS: (1) Proposed Changes

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The proposed revisions to the Henderson County Fire Prevention Ordinance are the result of a collaborative effort between the local fire departments and the Henderson County Fire Marshal's Office. Three changes are being recommended: first, the formal adoption of all appendices of the North Carolina Fire Code; second, the requirement for secure building access systems that allow responders to enter in the event of an emergency while minimizing property damage; and third, updated ordinance language that aligns permit terminology with the County's annual fee schedule.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to approve the proposed changes to the Fire Prevention Ordinance.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board authorize the adoption of the proposed changes to Chapter 78 Fire Prevention within the County Code of Ordinances.

Proposed Revision to Henderson County Ordinance- Chapter 78 Fire Prevention

The proposed revisions are the result of a collaborative effort with the local fire departments and Henderson County Fire Marshal's Office. There are three requested changes to the Fire Prevention Ordinance. The first provides for the official adoption of the appendices of the North Carolina Fire Code. The second provides secure access to buildings in the event of an emergency and limits property damage. The third aligns the language of the ordinance for permit fees with our annual fee schedule.

Ordinance language

78-5

- A. There is hereby adopted by reference and incorporated herein that certain code known as and entitled "North Carolina Fire Prevention Code." Copies of the Fire Prevention Ordinance of Henderson County and all technical codes and standards adopted by reference shall be filed with and available for public inspection in the offices of the Fire Marshal.
- B. Amendments to codes and standards adopted by reference herein which are adopted and published by the North Carolina State Building Code Council shall be effective in Henderson County at the time such amendments become a part of the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code.
- C. All appendices contained within the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code are adopted and enforceable.

78-11.1

Any newly constructed building for commercial use shall have an approved key box installed for fire department access per NC Fire Code Section 506.1. The same shall apply to any commercial use building that undergoes significant renovation.

"Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the code official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an accessible location. The key box shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys to gain access as required by the code official."

78-7 Permits

A. Fire Prevention Permits

6. Each mandatory permit or permit required by Chapter 1 of the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code shall be assessed a fee of ~~\$50~~ **as identified in the annual fee schedule**. Operational permits shall require annual renewal, and such renewal is subject to the permit fee of ~~\$50~~ **as identified in the annual fee schedule**.

Fire Services Section of FY 2026-2027 Fee Schedule

FIRE SERVICES	
Item	FY27 Fee
Permits (e.g. sprinkler systems and fire alarm systems)	\$100.00
Fire Inspection fees for Municipalities	\$100 per occupancy