

Clarence Grier, County Manager  
*May 22, 2025*



Fiscal Year 2026

# Recommended Budget

# FY2026

## Budget Development Objectives

- Funding in accordance with the Board's new priorities and strategic plan
- General Fund revenue-neutral tax rate
- Efficient fee changes
- Balanced budget by staying within our operating means
- Current and future economic conditions

# 3- Year Strategic Priority Areas



Enhancing Health  
& Wellness



Ensuring a Safe  
Community for  
All Residents



Fostering Economic  
Prosperity



Encouraging Quality  
Development and  
Smart Growth



Championing Responsive,  
Transparent Government



Providing Culture  
and Recreation  
Opportunities



Supporting a  
High-Performing  
Education System

# Revaluation

**55.93 cents**

Revenue-Neutral Rate

**\$37,804,384,000**

2025-26 Estimated Valuation

**\$211,429,559**

Estimated Tax Levy

**1.77%**

Average Growth %

**\$4,930,463**

Increase In Revenue

# Surrounding County FY25 Tax Rates

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**Bladen 78.50**

**Robeson 75.00**

**Harnett 59.10**

**Sampson 62.50**

**Hoke 73.00**

**Wake 51.35**

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**Cumberland County Recommended Rate**  
**55.93 cents**

# Overview - All Funds

**\$608,853,794**

Total expenditures across all funds

**\$404,639,839**

General Fund Total

**55.93 cents**

Recommended tax rate per \$100 valuation  
(revenue-neutral rate)

1 penny on tax rate equals

**\$3,780,438**

in revenue



# Recommended Fire Tax District Rate

**15 cents**

Per \$100 of property valuation  
Current and recommended rate

**\$6,505,423**

Increase in revenue  
from revaluation

**9.46 cents**

Revenue-Neutral Rate

# Recommended County Recreation Tax

**5 cents**

Per \$100 of property valuation  
Current and recommended rate

**\$1,610,618**

Increase in revenue  
from revaluation

**2.93 cents**

Revenue-Neutral Rate

# Economic Outlook



Inflation



Federal Policy  
Shifts



Tariffs



Slow Economic  
Growth



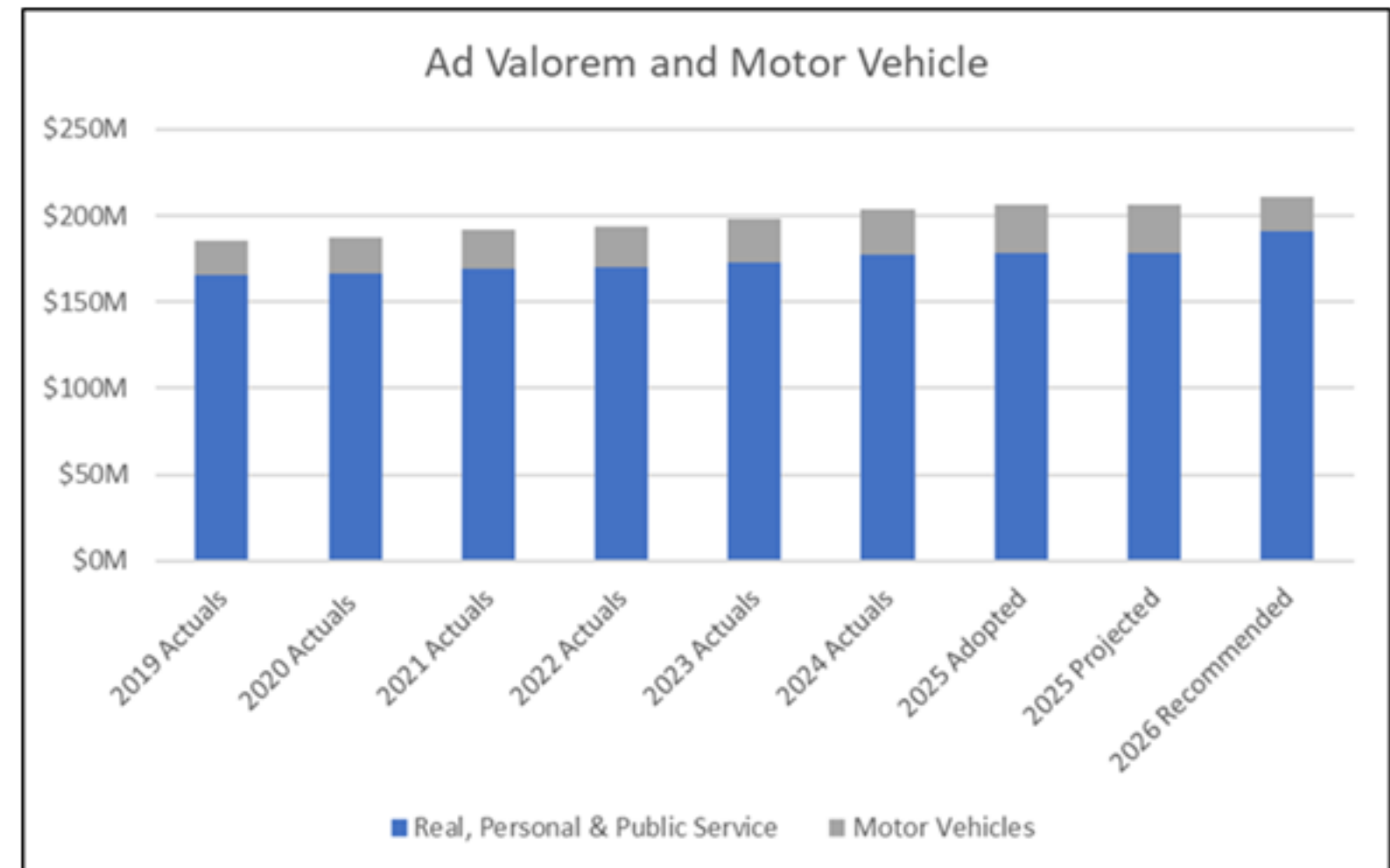
Slow Sales Tax



# General Fund Revenues

## Ad Valorem Taxes

- Budgeted at \$191,307,821
- Motor vehicle collections budgeted at \$19,853,000

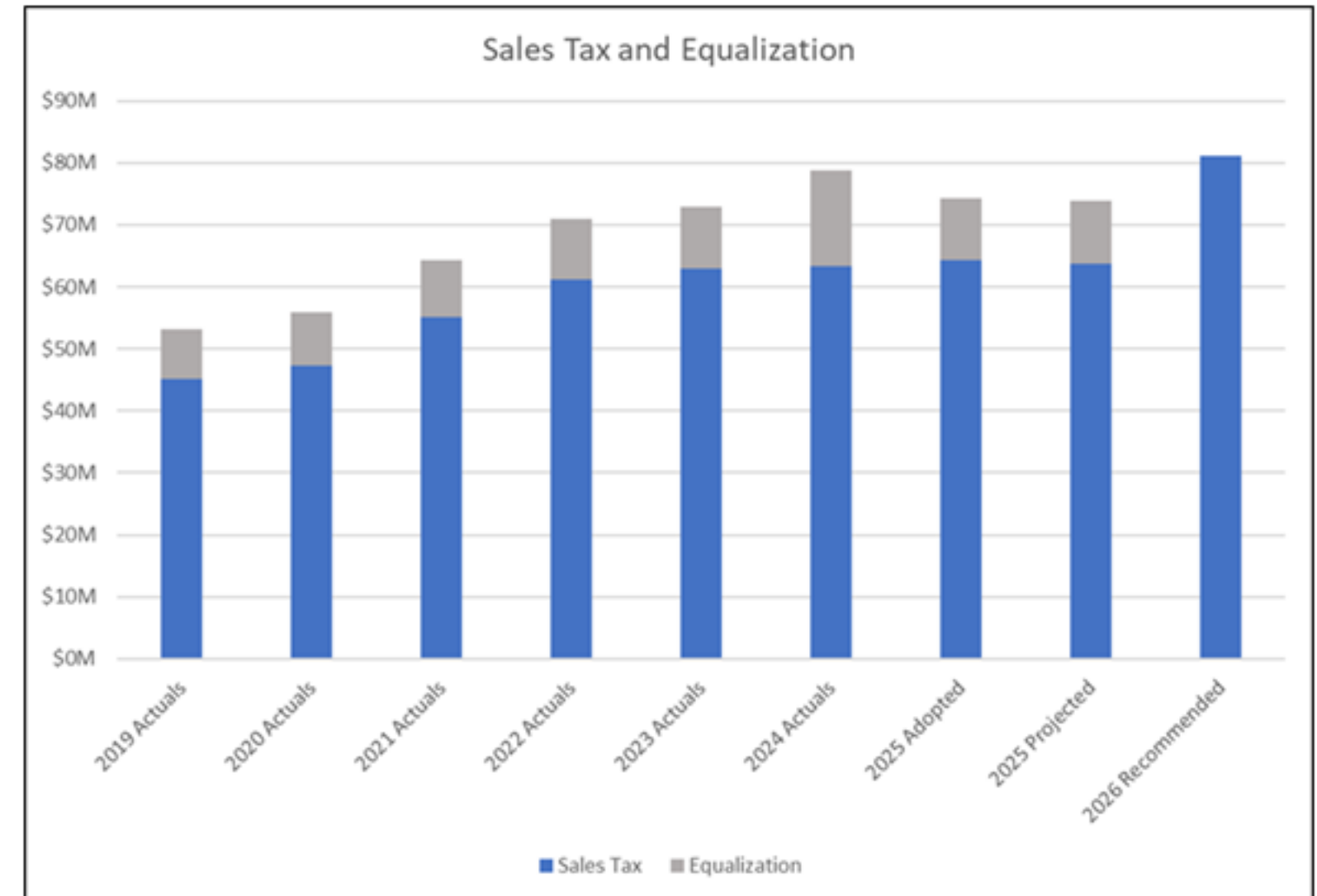


# General Fund Revenues

## Sales Taxes

### *Shift in Methodology*

- In April 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution transitioning from a per capita distribution model to an ad valorem approach
- Budgeted at \$81,173,461



# General Fund **Revenues**

## **Fund Balance - Appropriated Within Policy**

- \$594,028 – Health Department fund balance is utilized for mandated programs
- No additional fund balance was allocated from other sources

# General Fund Overview

FY 2026 Requests	\$ 429,751,176
FY 2025 Adopted Budget	\$ 392,827,964
Total of Increased Requests	\$ 36,923,212
FY 2026 Requests	\$ 429,751,176
Manager's Reduction to Requested	\$ 25,111,337
FY 2026 Recommended Budget	\$ 404,639,839
FY 2025 Adopted Budget	\$ 392,827,964
Recommended Increase	\$ 11,811,875
FY 2026 Recommended Budget	\$ 404,639,839

# General Fund **Positions**

- 15 requested at \$1,194,443
- 4 positions recommended
- Vacancies
- 4 abolished at \$85,768

## **Recommended Positions**

### **Innovation and Technology Services**

- ITS Application Programmer I
- ITS Application Programmer II
- ITS ERP Specialist I

### **Pregnancy Care Management**

- Social Worker II

# General Fund Vehicles

- **FY2026 - 109 Requested - \$9,809,778**
- **FY2026 - 23 Recommendation \$1,371,050 (net cost \$1,082,688)**
  - Detention Center (1), Public Library (1), Sheriff's Office (7), and Social Services (14)
- **One-Time Cost**



# General Fund Capital Outlay

- FY2026 Requested **\$618,253**
- FY2026 Recommendation net cost **\$453,127**

## Public Information

- Tabber - \$8,500
- Black Magic Mini Pro camera - \$6,000

## Court Facilities

- Courthouse Improvements - \$37,000

## Facilities Maintenance

- Equipment Replacement - \$80,000
- Building Improvements - \$70,000

## Fleet Management

- Two 500-gallon tanks - \$27,477
- Ford VCM III Diagnostic Tool - \$6,150

## Sheriff's Office

- Tasers - \$218,000

## Sheriff Grants

- Robot - \$62,000
- Unidentified Equipment - \$103,126

# General Fund Mandates

- Increased contribution rate to retirement system – 14.39% for non-LEO employees and 16.08% for LEO employees
- ADA Web Content Accessibility Guidelines mandate

# Education

## Cumberland County Schools

**FY2026 Requested - \$103,734,839**

- FY2026 Recommendation - **\$91,739,472**  
(based on 43.47% methodology of projected ad valorem and motor vehicle revenue)
- FY2026 School Resource Officers and Crossing Guards and School Health Nurses - **\$3,659,126**

# Education

## Fayetteville Technical Community College

**FY2026 Requested - \$16,250,000**

- FY2026 Recommendation - **\$15,866,037**

**FY2025 Adopted Budget - \$15,468,600**

**FY2026 Requested Capital - \$11,500,000**

- FY2026 Recommendation Capital - **\$1,300,000**

# Community Agency Funding

**FY2026 Requested - \$3,622,539**

- FY2026 Recommendation - **\$396,288**

**FY2025 Adopted - \$254,693**

# Compensation

**2.5% COLA**

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Cost-of-Living Adjustment

**2% Increase**

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Employer Contribution to 401(k)  
for Non-Sworn Personnel

**\$3,000 Increase**

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Entry Level Sheriff Deputies  
and Detention Officers  
through Lieutenants

**\$1,500/\$2,500**

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Tuition Assistance



# Financial Impact – Change in Sales Tax Distribution Method

**\$8,951,093**

Est. Net Increase to County General Fund

**\$3,884,073**

Est. Increase to Fire Protection Service District

**\$1,400,813**

Est. Increase to County Recreation District

**\$782,996**

Est. Increase to Schools

# Estimated Total Increase to Districts

## Fire Service District

- \$6,505,423 – ad valorem
- \$3,884,073 – sales tax change

**TOTAL - \$10,389,496**

## County Parks District

- \$1,610,618 – ad valorem
- \$1,400,813 – sales tax change

**TOTAL - \$3,011,431**

# **Other Funds Funding Priorities**

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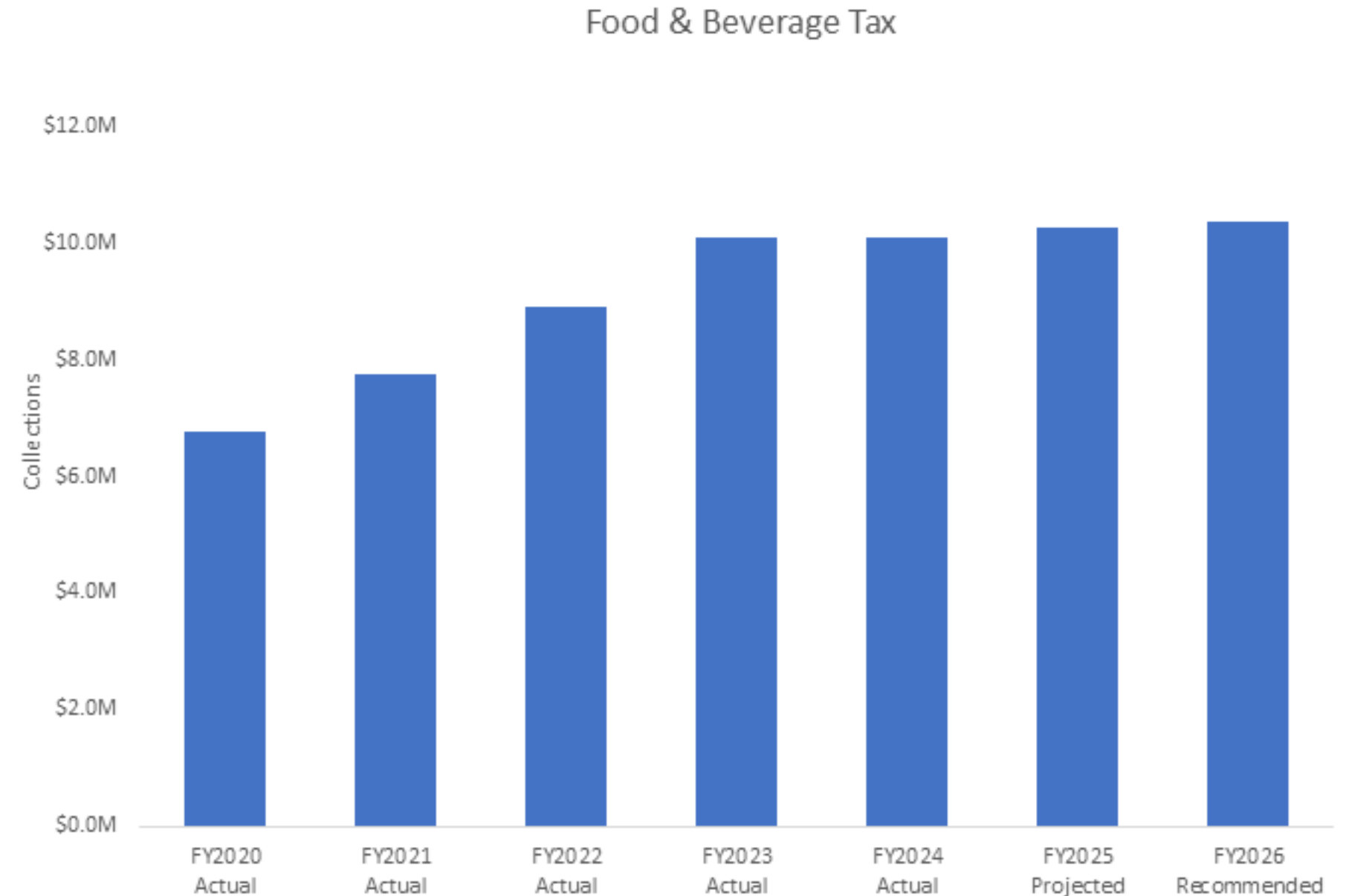
## Capital Investment Fund Expenditures

# \$27.9 million

CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED BUDGET FY2026
Debt Service	\$8,506,973
FTCC Capital	1,300,000
Capital Improvement Plan	2,615,000
Preliminary Capital	12,959,000
Technology	1,560,192
Maintenance & Repairs	944,500
Transfers Out	92,233
<b>Total Capital Investment Fund</b>	<b>\$27,977,898</b>

# Food and Beverage Tax

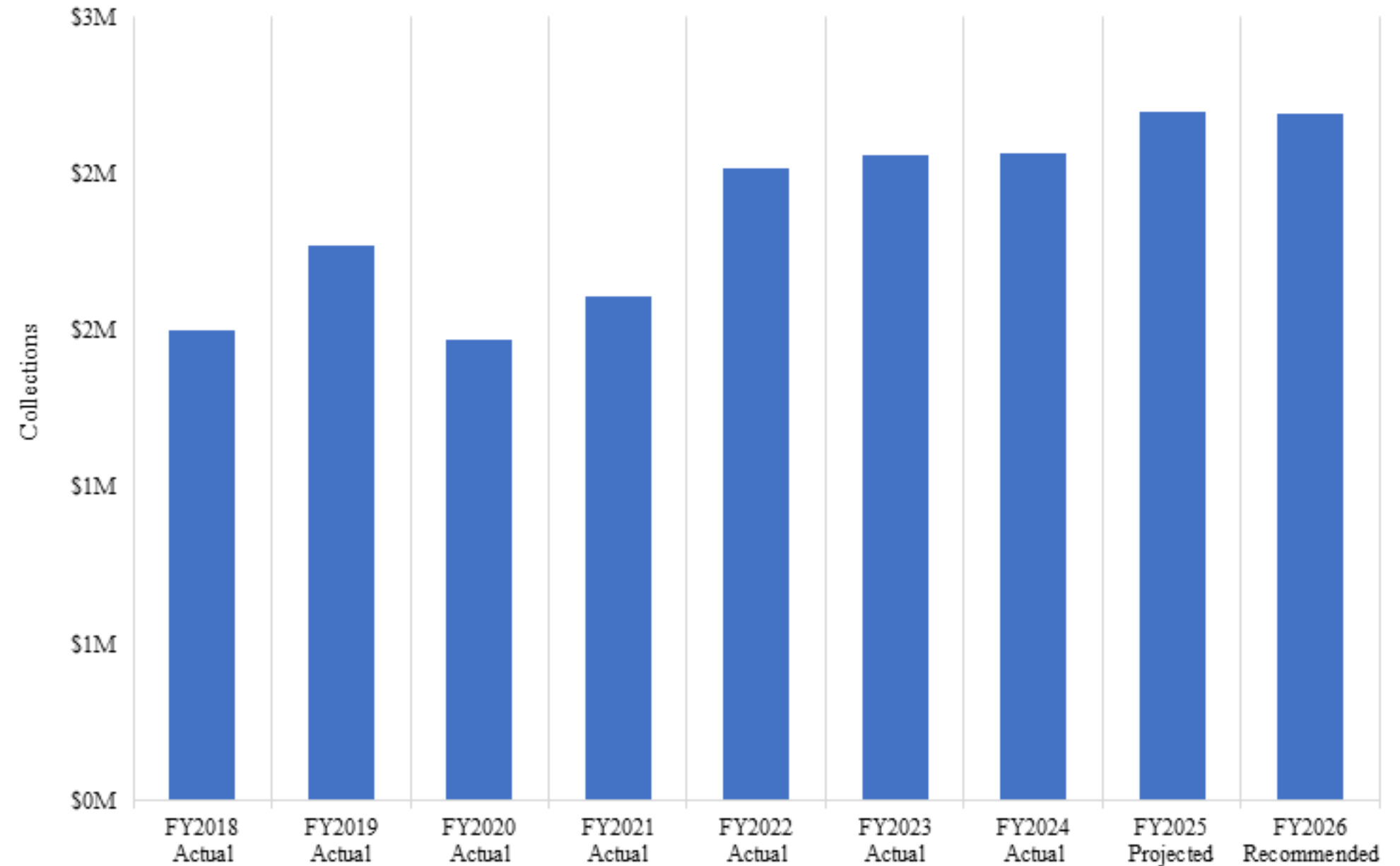
**FY2026  
Recommended  
\$10,356,415**



# Occupancy Tax

**FY2026  
Recommended  
\$2,193,971**

Occupancy Tax





# Other Funds

## Positions

- **4 requested at \$297,253**
  - 1 – Opioid Settlement Fund
  - 1 – Support Housing Program Grants
  - 1 – MPO Administration
  - 1 – Urbanized Transportation
- **1 position recommended**
  - 1 – Opioid Settlement Fund

## Capital Outlay Other Improvements

- **Requested – \$655,000**
- **Recommended – \$655,000**
  - Federal Drug Forfeiture – \$30,000
  - Inmate Canteen – \$125,000
  - Parks and Recreation – \$500,000

# Solid Waste Enterprise Fund

**FY2026 Recommended Annual Budget - \$24,554,151**

## Proposed Fee Increases

### Ann Street Landfill

- MSW Disposal Fee - \$40 per ton to \$46 per ton
- C&D Disposal Fee - \$38 per ton to \$46 per ton
- MSW-Mix Disposal Fee - \$42 per ton to \$44 per ton
- Credit Card Processing Fees - 3% interest fee on each transaction

# Solid Waste Enterprise Fund

## **FY2026 Recommended Annual Budget includes**

- Other Improvements - \$150,000
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - \$3,191,400

# Water and Sewer New Items

## **FY2026 Recommended Annual Budget includes**

- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - \$779,540
  - Kelly Hills - \$81,000
  - NORCRESS - \$665,440
  - Overhills - \$33,100

# Conclusion

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# Budget Meeting Schedule

Thursday, May 29, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Budget Work Session	Room 564
Thursday, June 5, 2025	7 p.m.	Budget Public Hearing & Optional Work Session	Room 118
Tuesday, June 10, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Budget Work Session	Room 564
Thursday, June 12, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Budget Work Session	Room 564
Thursday, June 19, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Budget Work Session	Room 564





# Fiscal Year 2026 Recommended Budget

*Available at*  
**[CumberlandCountyNC.gov/Budget](http://CumberlandCountyNC.gov/Budget)**