

Item Title: Adopt Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budgets, Capital Improvement Projects, Special Revenue Projects, and Position Authorization Ordinances

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners adopts the following FY 2026 budget-related ordinances:

Operating Budgets Funds Ordinances

- General Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Debt Service Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Fire Tax District Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Major Facilities Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Solid Waste Operating Fund Annual Operating Budget
- South Wake Landfill Partnership Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Corporate Fleet Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Health and Dental Fund Operating Budget
- Wake County Public School System Fines and Forfeitures Fund Operating Budget
- Human Services Client Trust Fund Annual Operating Budget

Capital Improvement Projects Funds Ordinance, inclusive of:

- County Capital Projects Fund
- Fire Tax District Capital Projects Fund
- Major Facilities Capital Projects Fund
- Solid Waste Capital Projects Fund
- Housing Capital Projects Fund
- Wake Technical Community College Capital Projects Fund
- Wake County Public School System Capital Projects Fund

Special Revenue Project Ordinances

- Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization Fund Project Ordinance
- Capital Area Workforce Development Fund Project Ordinance
- Grants and Donations Fund Project Ordinance
- Human Services Transportation Fund Project Ordinance

Personnel Authorization, Classification, and Compensation Ordinance

Item Summary:

Purpose: In compliance with the *North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act* (G.S. 159, Article 3) the Board of Commissioners adopts an annual balanced budget ordinance covering a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30 for all governmental and proprietary funds except funds authorized by project ordinances.

Background: On May 5th, 2025, the County Manager presented to the Board of Commissioners a recommended FY 2026 General Fund budget totaling \$2,165,555,000. This recommended budget is balanced as required by and defined in the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. Public comments were submitted through the Wake County website beginning May 5th. Public hearings on the budget were held May 19th and 20th with public comments collected through May 21st.

Strategic Plan: This action supports routine County business operations.

Fiscal Impact: The FY 2026 General Fund budget presented for adoption totals \$2,165,555,000 and reflects a property tax rate of 51.60 cents per \$100 of valuation. The budget sets the Fire Tax District tax rate to 12.25 cents per \$100 property valuation.

Additional Information:

Technical Corrections to Recommended Budget

General Fund

		FTE	Revenues	Expenditures
	Recommended	4,995.495	\$2,165,424,000	\$2,165,424,000
a.	Update Juvenile Crime Prevention Council program revenue to reflect the FY 2026 North Carolina Department of Public Safety's Wake County JCPC Funding Plan, which was approved at the May 19, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting	-	131,000	131,000
b.	Shift authorization of 2 FTE from Housing Special Revenue Fund to General Fund to align personnel with programmatic changes	2.000	-	-
c.	Increase of 2.000 FTE to staff the new Behavioral Health department through the transfer of Director and Business Officer positions from the County Manager's Office	2.000	-	-
d.	Reduction of 2.000 FTE resulting from the transfer of Director and Business Officer positions to the new Behavioral Health department from the County Manager's Office	(2.000)	-	-
e.	Transfer of budget and FTE from Social Services to Public Health as part of the Health and Human Services function reorganization	12.000	1,114	6,586,373
f.	Transfer of budget and FTE from Social Services to Public Health and Finance departments as part of Health and Human Services function reorganization	(12.000)	(1,114)	(7,098,600)

g.	Transfer of budget from Social Services to Finance as part of Health and Human Services function reorganization	-	-	512,227
h.	Transfer 1.000 FTE from Information Technology to Fire Services and Emergency Management to support Public Safety functions	(1.000)	-	-
i.	Transfer 1.000 FTE from Information Technology to Fire Services and Emergency Management to support Public Safety functions	1.000	-	-
Proposed Adopted		4,997.495	\$2,165,555,000	\$2,165,555,000

- a. The Wake County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Annual Plan was adopted at the May 19, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting. This correction adjusts the County Manager's Recommended Budget for the JCPC program to align with the revenues outlined in the adopted FY 2026 Wake County JCPC plan.
- b. Transferring 2.000 FTE from the Housing Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund aligns personnel with programmatic changes in the Wake Prevent program, which provides rental assistance to household at risk of eviction. The shift enables greater programmatic flexibility for Wake Prevent to adapt to changing demands. The cost of shifting the positions is accommodated in the department's base budget by realigning contracted services budget that will now be paid for with the Emergency Solutions Grant.
- c. Transferring 2.000 FTE (Director and Business Officer) from the County Manager's office to the new Behavioral Health department provides foundational leadership and essential administrative/financial support for this new county initiative. The salary and benefits of these positions were moved in the County Manager's Recommended Budget; this technical correction aligns the authorization of these positions to match.
- d. See description in c.
- e. Beginning in FY 2026 the Department of Health & Human Services will be split into independent Social Services and Public Health departments. As staff refine the reorganization decisions and actions, this correction ensures that positions and budget appropriations are correctly allocated between the two new departments.
- f. See description in e.
- g. See description in e.
- h. Transfer 1.000 FTE from Information Technology to Fire Services and Emergency Management. Position transferred will support public safety functions within Fire Services and Emergency Management. The salary and benefits of these positions were moved in the County Manager's Recommended Budget; this technical correction aligns the authorization of these positions to match.
- i. See description in h.

Grants & Donations Fund

	FTE	Revenues	Expenditures
Recommended	42.000	\$2,830,000	\$2,830,000
a. Adjust Continuum of Care program budget to remove funding previously appropriated at the April 21, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting	-	(471,000)	(471,000)
b. Reduce 3.000 FTE from the Recovery Court Program to correct administrative error in Recommended Budget	(3.000)	-	-
c. Transfer FTE from Public Health to Social Services as part of Health and Human Services function reorganization	5.000	-	-
d. Transfer FTE from Public Health to Social Services as part of Health and Human Services function reorganization	(5.000)	-	-
Proposed Adopted	39.000	\$2,359,000	\$2,359,000

- a. At the April 21, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting, \$471,166 was appropriated in the Grants and Donations fund to support the Continuum of Care Program. These funds were also included in the County Manager's Recommended Budget. This correction removes the budget estimate for the Continuum of Care Program that was included in the County Manager's Recommended Budget.
- b. Three positions were mistakenly included in the Grants & Donations Fund for the Recovery Court program. The Recovery Court program's funding and positions transitioned to the General Fund in the County Manager's Recommended Budget. This correction removes positions no longer needed in the Grants and Donations Fund.
- c. Beginning in FY 2026 the Department of Health & Human Services will be split into independent Social Services and Public Health departments. This correction ensures that positions and budget appropriations are correctly allocated between the two new departments.
- d. See description in c.

Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization

	FTE	Revenues	Expenditures
Recommended	20.000	\$8,515,000	\$8,515,000
a. Shift authorization of 2 FTE from Housing Special Revenue Fund to General Fund to align personnel with programmatic changes	(2.000)	-	-
Proposed Adopted	18.000	\$8,515,000	\$8,515,000

- a. The shift in authorization of 2.000 FTE from the Housing Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund aligns personnel with programmatic changes in the Wake Prevent program, which provides rental assistance to household at risk of eviction. The shift enables greater programmatic flexibility for Wake Prevent to adapt to changing demands. The cost of shifting the positions is accommodated in the department's base budget by realigning contracted services budget that will now be paid for with the Emergency Solutions Grant in the Housing Special Revenue Fund.

Fire Tax District Capital Fund

	FTE	Revenues	Expenditures
Recommended	-	\$24,582,325	\$24,582,325
Include the Limited Obligation Bond revenue for the Sandy Plains Public Safety Station		6,400,000	6,400,000
Proposed Adopted	-	\$30,982,325	\$30,982,325

The Fire Tax District Capital Fund budgets for capital projects that support the Fire Tax District in Wake County. The FY 2026 Recommended Budget did not include the Limited Obligation Bond revenue and associated expenditure for the Sandy Plains Public Safety Station. This correction appropriately accounts for this capital project.

Human Services Transportation Fund

	FTE	Revenues	Expenditures
Recommended	6.000	\$11,629,000	\$11,629,000
Include the additional revenue from Wake Transit for vehicle replacements	-	4,116,000	4,116,000
Proposed Adopted	6.000	\$15,745,000	\$15,745,000

Human Services Transportation took a request to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and Go Wake for vehicle replacement dollars. In the Wake Transit Plan, the Transportation Fund received \$4.1M for replacements.

Budget Ordinances

The attachments include all ordinances necessary to implement the FY 2026 operating, capital, and project budgets.

The totals of each budget (displayed by fund), as recommended by the County Manager on May 5, 2025, inclusive of the staff recommended and Board of Commissioners directed revisions reflected above, are:

Fund

Operating Budgets

General Fund	2,165,555,000
Debt Service Fund	388,547,000
Fire Tax District Fund	64,000,000
Major Facilities Fund	92,232,000
Solid Waste Operating Fund	18,979,000
South Wake Landfill Partnership Fund	25,158,000
Corporate Fleet Fund	17,605,000
Health and Dental Fund	89,036,000
Wake County Public School System Fines and Forfeitures Fund	2,800,000
Human Services Client Trust Fund	3,000,000

Capital Improvement Projects

County Capital Projects Fund	158,469,000
Fire Tax District Capital Projects Fund	30,928,325
Major Facilities Capital Projects Fund	7,400,000
Solid Waste Capital Projects Fund	1,882,000
Housing Capital Projects Fund	15,625,000
Wake Tech Community College Capital Projects Fund	91,025,000
Wake County Public School System Capital Projects Fund	413,739,077

Special Revenue Projects

Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization Fund	8,515,000
Capital Area Workforce Development Fund	9,465,000
Grants and Donations Fund	2,359,000
Human Services Transportation Fund	15,745,000

Position Authorization, Classification, and Compensation Ordinance

In addition to budget and project ordinances, attached is the Position Authorization, Classification, and Compensation Ordinance. This ordinance establishes the Board approved staffing levels (by full-time equivalent or FTE) for every County department and fund during FY 2026. This ordinance is not required by State statute but is included to formally adopt authorized positions.

The position authorization, classification, and compensation ordinance also includes adjustments resulting from market comparisons and reflecting the County's living wage policy. The salary of individual employees in the affected market range are unchanged unless the current salary is below the minimum of the new market range, or it is impacted by the Human Resources Department recommended adjustments.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. General Fund Operating Ordinance
3. Debt Service Fund Ordinance
4. Fire Tax District Fund Ordinance
5. Major Facilities Fund Ordinance
6. Solid Waste Operating Fund Ordinance
7. South Wake Landfill Partnership Fund Ordinance
8. Corporate Fleet Fund Ordinance
9. Health and Dental Fund Ordinance
10. Human Services Transportation Fund Project Ordinance
11. Wake County Public School Fines and Forfeiture Fund Ordinance
12. Human Services Client Trust Fund Ordinance
13. Capital Improvement Projects Funds Ordinance
14. Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization Fund Project Ordinance
15. Capital Area Workforce Development Fund Project Ordinance
16. Grants and Donations Fund Project Ordinance
17. Position Authorization, Classification, and Compensation Ordinance