

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners will conduct a Special Meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021, beginning at 12:00 noon and reconvening on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 9:00 A.M. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a retreat to review goals and objectives for Watauga County. The meeting will be held remotely, via zoom.

To join the meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021, please click the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86778761514?pwd=c0pOWIFUS2treExOaytIZ0YvVUhYdz09>

OR call: 1 929 205 6099 and enter Meeting ID: 867 7876 1514 and Passcode: 12345

To join the meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, please click the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88391690789?pwd=YmZjdmlEWmRVakNrdHBnRzRLaFhiQT09>

OR call: 1 929 205 6099 and enter Meeting ID: 883 9169 0789 and Passcode: 12345

For information or questions, please contact the County Manager's Office at 828-265-8000.

John Welch
CHAIRMAN

**Watauga County
Annual Retreat
February 8 & 9, 2021**



Board of Commissioners
John Welch, Chairman
Billy Kennedy, Vice-Chairman
Carrington Pertalion
Larry Turnbow
Charlie Wallin



WATAUGA COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY MANAGER

Administration Building, Suite 205 – 814 West King Street – Boone, NC 28607 – (828) 265-8000
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Watauga County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Deron Geouque
County Manager
SUBJECT: Annual Retreat
DATE: January 28, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to significantly impact federal, state and local governments. Many states have experienced the worst job loss since the Great Recession. However, steady growth is forecasted for the North Carolina economy with the unemployment rate targeted to decline to 5.1% by year end. The rate is still higher than the pre-COVID rate of 3.6%. The COVID-19 vaccine will factor significantly in the recovery of the economy as businesses are able to reopen and less restrictions are placed on travel and gatherings.

On January 27, 2021 the State Legislators kicked off the budget process. The top five (5) statewide county priorities are:

1. Seek legislation, funding, and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure/broadband capability to the unserved and under-served areas and residents of the state.
2. Seek additional revenue sources, including a statewide bond referendum and expanded lottery proceeds, and changes to the Needs-Based Public-School Capital Fund, to equitably address statewide public school and community college capital challenges. Revisions to the Needs-Based Public-School Capital Fund that will allow more equitable access to counties to take advantage of the funds include:
 - Allowing Needs-Based Public-School Capital Funds to be used for renovations and improvements in addition to new construction.
 - Reducing or eliminating local match requirements for Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties.
 - Eliminate the five-year prohibition of receiving funds from the Public-School Building Capital Fund if a county receives a grant from the Needs-Based Public-School Capital Fund by repealing G.S. 115C-546.2(f).
3. Support legislation to allow counties to include specific language on the ballot referendum designating how the proposed quarter-cent local sales tax levy will be spent.
4. Increase state funding and support legislation for behavioral health services and facilities, including dedicated resources for community paramedicine projects; inpatient crisis beds; substance use disorders; specialty courts; individuals with mental health issues in county jails; and single stream funding for area authorities.
5. Oppose efforts to divert to the state, fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties or to erode existing county revenue streams with unfunded mandates.

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to influence Federal and State budgets that will have a trickle-down effect on local government budgets. The State budget will be closely monitored by staff for any potential impact to the County's 2021-2022 budget.

The Board and staff shared concerns with the potential to experience a significant decline in sales tax related to the pandemic in constructing the FY 2020-2021 budget. Last year's budget cycle saw the Board make difficult decisions conservatively and cautiously that have put the County on solid financial footing. Staff is projecting a positive financial position as the County commences the process for formulating next fiscal year's budget. County revenues are trending above the levels established by the FY 2020-2021 budget. Expenditures are trending within and below budgeted levels.

The Tax Department continues work on the 2022 Revaluation. Real estate sales have been strong with the average median home sale of \$340,000 and the sales ratio around eighty-one percent (81%). These factors will assist the County in meeting budget requests from Departments and outside agencies. Watauga Medics is requesting a nine (9) hour crew in addition to the twenty-four-hour crew that was added January 1, 2021. The Health Department continues to struggle meeting their current needs on top of the COVID-19 demands. Hopefully, the State will provide more funding for public health in light of the ongoing pandemic and community health matters in general. Staff is planning for the opening of the new Community Recreation Center as soon as COVID-19 demands and restrictions are lessened. However, the Recreation Center is hosting vaccination clinics through AppHealthCare and Appalachian Regional Healthcare System truly serving it's designed purpose as a community center.

Commissioner feedback will be crucial in developing a budget that reflects the Board's goals and vision for the County. Information will be provided regarding the County's current fiscal status. Department and outside agency funding requests will be provided for the Board's review. COVID-19 will make the budget process even more challenging but with the County's current solid financial foundation success is obtainable with strong planning and leadership from the Board and execution by staff.

TENTATIVE RETREAT AGENDA
WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORIGINATING FROM THE COMMUNITY ROOM IN THE
WATAUGA COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER, BOONE, NC
FEBRUARY 8 & 9, 2021

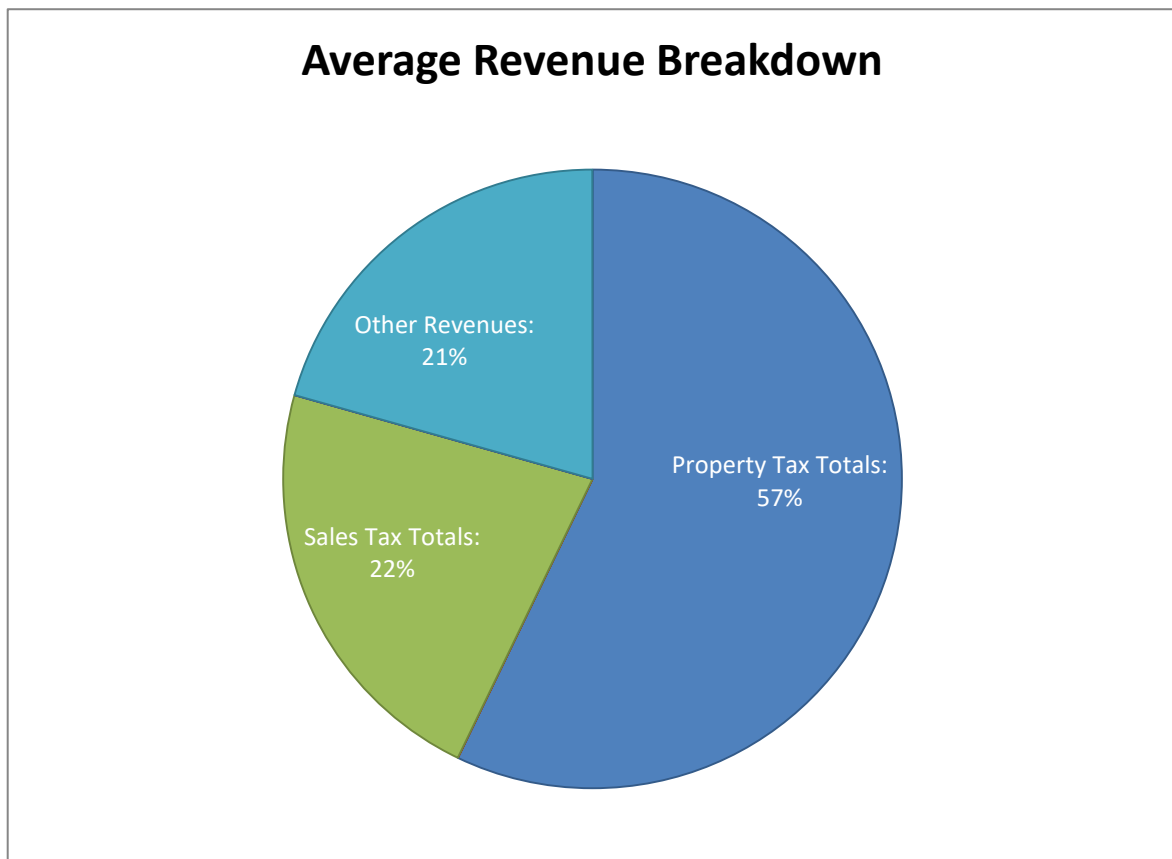
TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	PAGE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021			
12:00 PM	OPENING REMARKS AND LUNCH	MR. DERON GEOUQUE	
1:00 PM	FY 2021 REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF FY 2022 BUDGET	MS. MISTY WATSON	1
	A. Revenues		1
	B. Expenditures		2
	C. Debt Service Report		6
	D. Budget Calendar		8
	E. Special Appropriations		9
1:15 PM	REVIEW OF CURRENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)	MR. DERON GEOUQUE & MR. ROBERT MARSH	10
	A. Current CIP Status Report		10
	B. Courtroom # 2 Renovations		11
	C. Valle Crucis Elementary School		
	D. East Annex Building Program		13
	E. Courthouse and Administration Roof Replacements		
	F. County Facilities Assessment Update		14
	G. Courthouse Parking		17
	H. Recreation Matters		18
	1. Tennis Courts		
	2. Basketball Court		
	3. Pickleball Courts		
	I. Community Recreation Center Update		21
	J. Library		58
	K. Habitat Road Request		61
	L. School Facilities		65
2:45 PM	BREAK		
3:00 PM	SANITATION MATTERS	MR. REX BUCK	71
	A. Organics Recycling Market Study		71
	B. Facility Upgrades		85
3:30 PM	CALDWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	DR. MARK POARCH	111
3:45 PM	TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TDA)	MR. MATT VINCENT & MR. WRIGHT TILLEY	112
4:15 PM	BREAK		
4:30 PM	APPALACHIAN DISTRICT HEALTH	MS. JENNIFER GREENE	
5:00 PM	WATAUGA MEDICS	MR. CRAIG SULLIVAN	117
	A. Annual Report		118
	B. Future Needs		128
5:45 PM	PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS UPDATE	MR. WILL HOLT	196
6:00 PM	COUNTY MANAGER'S SUMMARY	MR. DERON GEOUQUE	
7:00 PM	RECESS UNTIL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021, AT 9:00 AM		

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

8:30 AM	BREAKFAST		
9:00 AM	MIDDLE FORK GREENWAY UPDATE	MS. WENDY PATOPRSTY	198
9:15 AM	MINIMUM HOUSING STANDARDS	MR. JOE FURMAN	199
9:30 AM	CENSUS 2020	MR. JOE FURMAN	226
9:45 AM	BROADBAND UPDATE	MR. JOE FURMAN	230
10:00 AM	2022 REVALUATION	MR. LARRY WARREN	
10:30 AM	SCHOOL BOARD FUNDING ISSUES	DR. SCOTT ELLIOTT & SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS	
	A. FY 2022 Funding Needs		
	B. Schools' Capital Improvement Plan		
11:30 AM	EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND RETENTION PLAN	MR. DERON GEOUQUE	240
11:45 AM	MISCELLANEOUS & COMMISSIONER MATTERS	MR. DERON GEOUQUE	
	A. State Issues		
	B. Commissioner Matters		
11:55 PM	WRAP UP, GOALS & OBJECTIVES, BOARD DIRECTIVES		
12:00 PM	ADJOURN		

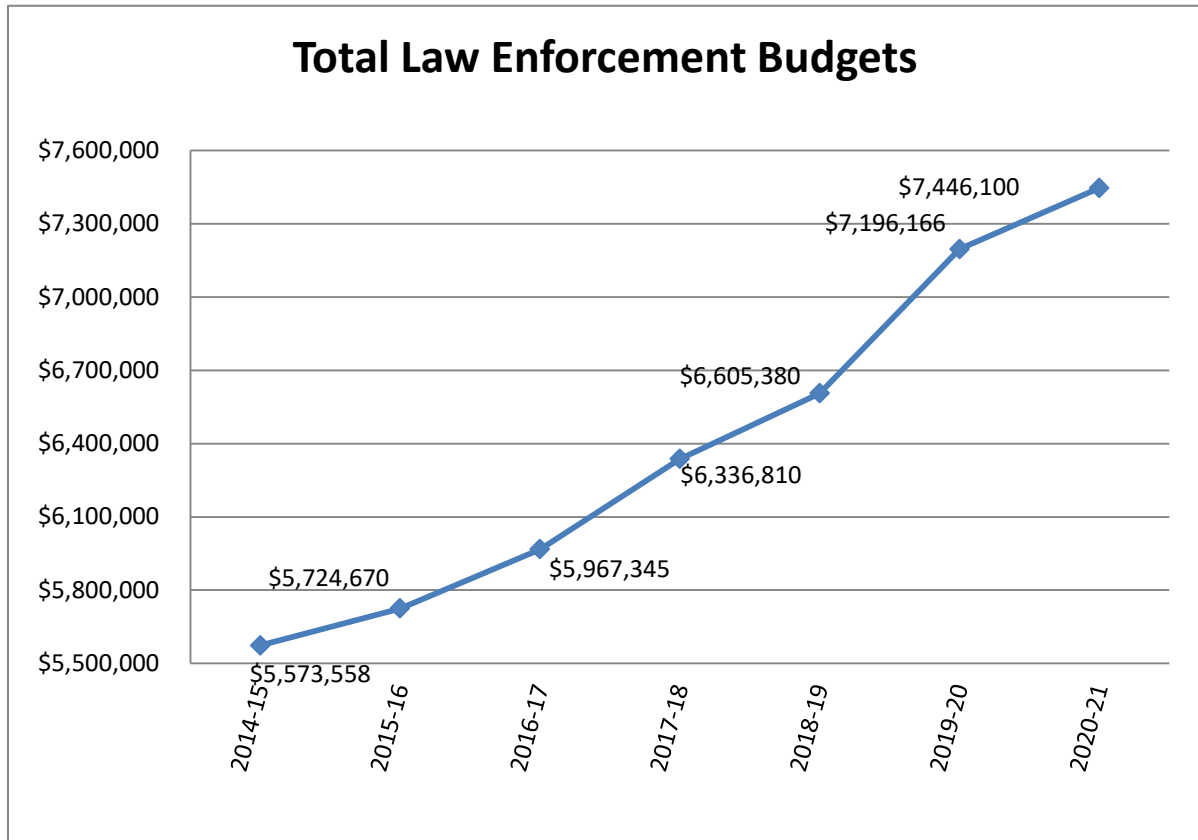
Primary County Revenues

	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20
Property Tax Totals:	\$ 28,151,345	\$ 28,518,320	\$ 32,480,532	\$ 32,786,204	\$ 37,373,588
Sales Tax Totals:	11,166,662	11,642,604	12,162,274	12,809,697	14,117,340
Other Revenues:	8,328,510	9,458,125	12,451,024	11,617,631	15,658,071
Total Revenues:	<u>\$ 47,646,517</u>	<u>\$ 49,619,049</u>	<u>\$ 57,093,830</u>	<u>\$ 57,213,532</u>	<u>\$ 67,148,999</u>



Budget Summary Report						
	Actuals Thru 6-30 of Each Year			FY 2020-21		
General Fund	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	Annual Budget	Actual at 12/31/2020	Percent to Date
Revenues						
Property Taxes	\$ 32,480,532	\$ 32,786,204	\$ 37,373,588	\$ 36,911,375	\$ 30,445,307	82.5%
Sales Taxes	12,162,274	12,809,697	14,117,340	9,446,800	4,138,709	43.8%
Other Taxes	904,135	952,758	1,017,017	798,000	722,003	90.5%
Intergovernmental	5,087,374	5,778,526	7,829,046	4,091,440	2,038,761	49.8%
Permits and Fees	766,847	787,275	839,865	699,700	497,305	71.1%
Sales and Services	1,168,094	1,194,343	1,079,918	1,232,968	324,345	26.3%
Miscellaneous	3,659,574	1,344,481	1,273,134	587,964	407,159	69.2%
Transfer from Other Funds	865,000	1,560,248	3,619,091	228,000	-	0.0%
Fund Balance	-	-	-	3,383,636	-	0.0%
Revenue Subtotal:	\$ 57,093,830	\$ 57,213,532	\$ 67,148,999	\$ 57,379,883	\$ 38,573,589	67.2%
Expenditures						
General Administration	\$ 3,849,908	\$ 2,107,172	\$ 1,968,935	\$ 2,183,656	\$ 551,216	25.2%
Finance	408,116	386,855	391,481	410,025	192,902	47.0%
Tax	1,225,890	1,254,749	1,321,991	1,465,172	662,141	45.2%
Legal	75,850	57,749	86,155	81,000	32,703	40.4%
Court Facilities	1,087	1,361	5,011	2,000	-	0.0%
Elections	321,766	335,633	404,870	492,328	500,650	101.7%
Register of Deeds	515,322	520,726	533,430	566,132	281,620	49.7%
Information Technology	809,373	844,644	993,624	1,077,165	552,947	51.3%
Maintenance/Buildings	2,648,984	2,823,688	3,220,074	5,607,908	1,630,739	29.1%
Sheriff/Jail	5,903,310	6,186,586	6,747,492	7,446,100	3,274,380	44.0%
Emergency Services	2,540,879	2,520,656	3,269,951	2,704,231	1,763,267	65.2%
Planning & Inspections	642,566	651,345	621,424	677,417	297,871	44.0%
Ambulance & Rescue	1,340,393	1,457,499	1,471,249	1,835,728	706,844	38.5%
Animal Control	154,442	131,034	135,460	146,700	65,780	44.8%
Transportation	225,389	224,792	231,493	87,956	41,577	47.3%
Economic Development	73,795	205,436	181,640	126,417	22,826	18.1%
Cooperative Extension	242,313	255,004	274,185	283,261	112,546	39.7%
Soil Conservation	113,518	118,435	258,615	215,614	20,107	9.3%
Public Health	614,490	680,705	746,920	813,129	406,565	50.0%
Mental Health	171,195	171,195	171,194	171,194	85,597	50.0%
Project on Aging	1,252,113	1,281,296	1,278,447	1,575,781	573,917	36.4%
Veteran's Service	114,020	118,550	123,532	131,995	60,448	45.8%
Special Appropriations	524,357	468,469	531,493	529,066	305,368	57.7%
WCS, Board of Education	14,572,326	14,992,995	15,248,056	14,614,674	7,157,049	49.0%
CCC&TI, Watauga Campus	924,895	1,252,325	1,000,279	1,000,279	500,140	50.0%
Library	557,160	604,760	652,360	652,360	326,180	50.0%
Parks & Recreation	995,017	1,010,962	795,436	1,520,305	342,876	22.6%
Transfers to Other Funds	12,107,580	9,703,918	9,868,106	\$ 10,962,290	5,443,741	49.7%
Expenditures Subtotal:	\$ 52,926,054	\$ 50,368,539	\$ 52,532,903	\$ 57,379,883	\$ 25,911,997	45.2%
Social Services Fund						
Revenues						
Federal/State Programs	\$ 3,114,049	\$ 3,392,855	\$ 3,193,993	\$ 3,472,653	\$ 1,195,854	34.4%
Miscellaneous	19,897	27,145	86,407	11,575	8,867	76.6%
Transfer from General Fund	1,473,285	1,396,655	2,232,006	2,110,851	1,055,426	50.0%
Fund Balance	-	-	-	6,076	-	0.0%
Revenues Subtotal:	\$ 4,607,231	\$ 4,816,655	\$ 5,512,406	\$ 5,601,155	\$ 2,260,147	40.4%
Expenditures						
Administration	\$ 3,010,758	\$ 3,177,801	\$ 3,184,033	\$ 3,465,612	\$ 1,564,283	45.1%
Child Support Enforcement Programs	200,538	215,705	206,020	227,090	98,510	43.4%
	1,305,936	1,777,923	1,585,465	1,908,453	817,525	42.8%
Expenditures Subtotal:	\$ 4,517,232	\$ 5,171,429	\$ 4,975,518	\$ 5,601,155	\$ 2,480,318	44.3%
Solid Waste Fund						
Revenues						
Intergovernmental	\$ 156,093	\$ 150,629	\$ 140,998	\$ 129,330	\$ 37,185	28.8%
Charges for Services	4,970,636	5,092,325	5,118,690	5,225,184	4,259,057	81.5%
Miscellaneous	205,443	126,841	127,692	11,737	7,809	66.5%
Fund Balance Appropriated	-	-	-	1,710,140	-	0.0%
Revenues Subtotal:	\$ 5,332,172	\$ 5,369,795	\$ 5,387,380	\$ 7,076,391	\$ 4,304,051	60.8%
Expenditures						
Solid Waste Operations	\$ 4,411,990	\$ 4,969,102	\$ 5,101,540	\$ 6,983,740	\$ 1,995,100	28.6%
Recycling Operations	250,928	108,761	81,986	92,651	50,415	54.4%
Expenditures Subtotal:	\$ 4,662,918	\$ 5,077,863	\$ 5,183,526	\$ 7,076,391	\$ 2,045,515	28.9%

Law Enforcement Budget History



Fiscal Years	Sheriff	Jail	Total for Law Enforcement	Percent of Change	Percent of County Budget
2020-21	\$ 5,049,045	\$ 2,397,055	\$ 7,446,100	3.47%	12.98%
2019-20	\$ 4,839,670	\$ 2,356,496	\$ 7,196,166	8.94%	11.41%
2018-19	\$ 4,314,320	\$ 2,291,060	\$ 6,605,380	4.24%	11.25%
2017-18	\$ 4,106,758	\$ 2,230,052	\$ 6,336,810	6.19%	10.78%
2016-17*	\$ 3,793,710	\$ 2,173,635	\$ 5,967,345	4.24%	11.63%
2015-16	\$ 3,626,820	\$ 2,097,850	\$ 5,724,670	2.71%	11.69%
2014-15	\$ 3,464,017	\$ 2,109,541	\$ 5,573,558	9.20%	11.51%

*\$254,000 in one time additional capital removed from FY 16-17 totals.

Capital Funding Plan

Watauga County School System

	Current Capital	Capital Project Set Aside	Total Annual County Funding	Lottery Funds	Long-Term Needs	Future Valle Crucis School	Total Capital Funding
2014-15	175,000	300,000	475,000	296,693	-	-	771,693
2015-16	275,000	375,000	650,000	300,000	-	-	950,000
2016-17	300,000	400,000					
		<i>300,000</i>	*	1,000,000	300,000	-	1,300,000
2017-18	450,000	500,000	950,000	300,000	1,500,000	-	2,750,000
2018-19	450,000	500,000	950,000	300,000	1,500,000	-	2,750,000
2019-20	450,000	500,000	950,000	300,000	1,500,000	2,700,000	5,450,000
2020-21	450,000	500,000	950,000	300,000	-	-	1,250,000
2021-22	450,000	500,000	950,000	300,000	1,500,000	2,700,000	5,450,000
2022-23	450,000	500,000	950,000	300,000	1,500,000	2,700,000	5,450,000
2023-24	450,000	500,000	950,000	300,000	1,500,000	2,700,000	5,450,000

Lottery Funds: Unallocated balance is \$157,792 with additional revenues expected in FY 20-21 of approximately \$110,830. (Utilized the unallocated balance as the 2020-21 as the estimated lottery distribution has not been released.)

ADM Funds: Balance is \$3,650.

**One time allocations from unassigned fund balance increase at prior year end.*

Ten Year Funding Summary for Watauga County Schools

Budgeted

Current Expense

Fiscal Year	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Current Operating	10,984,774	11,839,645	11,839,645	12,195,409	12,198,409	12,558,345	12,942,400	13,157,455	13,557,455	13,864,674	13,864,674
Annual Inc/(Dec)	(80,905)	854,871	-	355,764	3,000	359,936	384,055	215,055	400,000	307,219	-
	-0.73%	7.78%	0.00%	3.00%	0.02%	2.95%	3.06%	1.66%	3.04%	2.27%	0.00%
WCS Fund Balance	2,400,214	4,499,249	4,687,534	4,077,715	3,333,909	3,235,107	3,256,372	3,256,238	3,662,377	3,775,921	
Fund Bal Inc/(Dec)	441,788	2,099,035	188,285	(609,819)	(743,806)	(98,802)	21,265	(134)	406,139	113,544	

Capital Expense

Fiscal Year	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Additional Projects	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Projects Fund	-	-	-	640,400	300,000	375,000	400,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Long Term Capital Needs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500,000	1,500,000	4,200,000	-
QSCB Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lottery/ADM Projects	650,493	966,108	268,964	216,249	820,740	210,132	566,931	167,500	456,200	295,711	300,000
Current Capital	407,814	321,574	340,400	-	175,000	275,000	300,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000
Subtotal of Capital:	1,108,307	1,287,682	609,364	856,649	1,295,740	860,132	1,266,931	2,617,500	2,906,200	5,445,711	1,250,000
Annual Inc/(Dec)	3,189,916	179,375	(678,318)	247,285	439,091	(435,608)	406,799	1,350,569	288,700	2,539,511	(4,195,711)
Debt Service	6,370,571	7,528,099	6,999,071	7,020,392	6,452,109	5,458,896	5,348,988	5,202,104	5,060,420	4,863,331	4,562,231
WCS Fund Balance	261,068	321,344	173,108	39,504	315,497	303,378	325,991	405,963	334,564	283,871	
Capital Bal Inc/(Dec)	60,276	60,276	(148,236)	(133,604)	275,993	(12,119)	22,613	79,972	(71,399)	(50,693)	

Total County Funding Excluding Debt Service and Lottery Projects	11,442,588	12,161,219	12,180,045	12,835,809	12,673,409	13,208,345	13,642,400	15,607,455	16,007,455	19,014,674	14,814,674
Annual Inc/(Dec)	2,663,723	718,631	18,826	655,764	(162,400)	534,936	434,055	1,965,055	400,000	3,007,219	(4,200,000)

Total Funding	18,463,652	20,655,426	19,448,080	20,072,450	19,946,258	18,877,373	19,558,319	20,977,059	21,524,075	24,173,716	19,676,905
Annual Inc/(Dec)	5,364,900	2,191,774	(1,207,346)	624,370	(126,192)	(1,068,885)	680,946	1,418,740	547,016	2,649,641	(4,496,811)

Change in Operating Fund Balance, last year versus 9 years ago: \$ 1,375,707 increase

Change in Capital Fund Balance, last year versus 9 years ago: \$ 22,803 increase

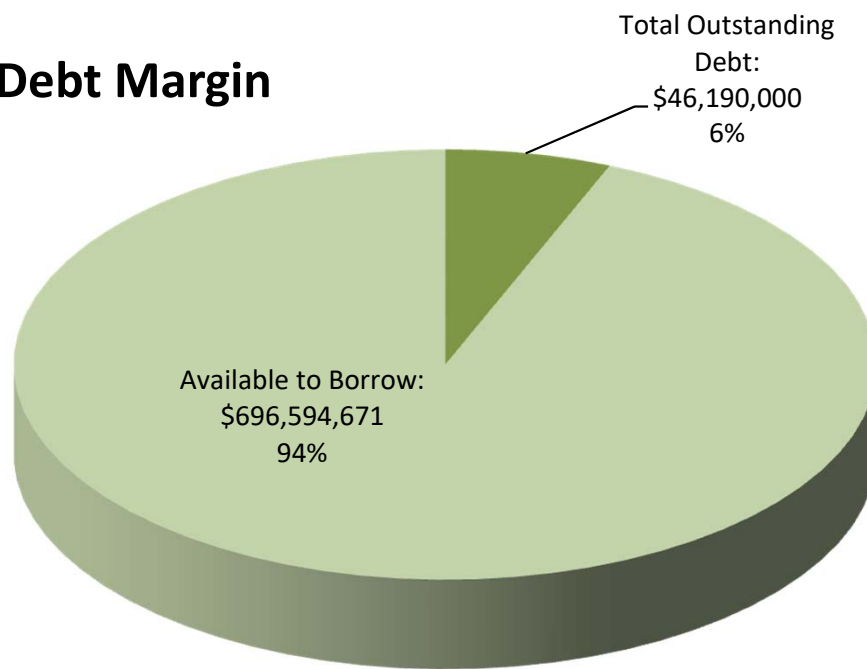
Lottery Funds: Unallocated balance is \$157,792 with additional revenues expected in FY 20-21 of approximately \$110,830. (Utilized the unallocated balance as the 2020-21 as the estimated lottery distribution has not been released.)

Debt Service Summary

2021 Annual Pre-Budget Retreat

Fiscal Year	2012 High school Debt (Refunded and Unrefunded)	2018 Recreation Center	Total General Fund Debt Service
	LOBs	LOBs	
2020-21 (P)	3,660,000	1,320,000	4,980,000
(I)	902,231	794,400	1,696,631
Total	4,562,231	2,114,400	6,676,631
2021-22 (P)	3,680,000	1,320,000	5,000,000
(I)	743,998	728,400	1,472,398
Total	4,423,998	2,048,400	6,472,398
2022-23 (P)	3,720,000	1,320,000	5,040,000
(I)	567,933	662,400	1,230,333
Total	4,287,933	1,982,400	6,270,333
2023-24 (P)	3,670,000	1,320,000	4,990,000
(I)	481,257	596,400	1,077,657
Total	4,151,257	1,916,400	6,067,657
2024-25 (P)	3,620,000	1,325,000	4,945,000
(I)	395,012	530,400	925,412
Total	4,015,012	1,855,400	5,870,412
2025-26 (P)	3,600,000	1,320,000	4,920,000
(I)	278,415	464,150	742,565
Total	3,878,415	1,784,150	5,662,565
2026-27 (P)	3,555,000	1,320,000	4,875,000
(I)	187,335	398,150	585,485
Total	3,742,335	1,718,150	5,460,485
2027-28 (P)	3,515,000	1,325,000	4,840,000
(I)	94,905	332,150	427,055
Total	3,609,905	1,657,150	5,267,055
2028-29 (P)		1,320,000	1,320,000
(I)		292,400	292,400
Total		1,612,400	1,612,400
2029-30 (P)		1,320,000	1,320,000
(I)		226,400	226,400
Total		1,546,400	1,546,400
2030-31 (P)		1,320,000	1,320,000
(I)		160,400	160,400
Total		1,480,400	1,480,400
2031-32 (P)		1,320,000	1,320,000
(I)		94,400	94,400
Total		1,414,400	1,414,400
2032-33 (P)		1,320,000	1,320,000
(I)		48,200	48,200
Total		1,368,200	1,368,200
Principal	\$29,020,000	\$17,170,000	\$46,190,000
Interest	\$3,651,086	\$5,328,250	\$8,979,336

Legal Debt Margin



Fiscal Year 2021-22 BUDGET SCHEDULE

January 2021

Capital Improvement Plan packets to departments.

January 29, 2021

Capital Improvement Program requests due back.

February/March 2021

Requests for funding sent to outside agencies.

February 8 and 9, 2021

Board of Commissioners Retreat with staff. There are typically two sessions with some presentations.

February 10, 2021

Department head staff meeting - budget information packets emailed out. Worksheets and all supporting documents are due by email to Misty by March 12. Early submission is encouraged.

April 2021

Individual agency and department meetings will be during April with budget staff.

May 4, 2021

Staff submits recommended budget to Board of Commissioners for review prior to work sessions.

May 13 and 14, 2021

Budget work sessions held with staff and Board of Commissioners. There are two sessions planned.

May 18, 2021

Public hearing held on County Manager's proposed budget.

June 1, 2021

Budget adoption.



SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
APPALACHIAN THEATER OF THE HC	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
BEECH MTN PARKS & REC	-	-	-	-	-	-
BLOWING ROCK PARKS & REC	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
BLUE RIDGE MEDIATION/DRUG COURT	21,000	21,000	22,500	23,000	22,000	23,000
CHILDREN'S COUNCIL	1,500	1,500	2,500	25,000	50,000	50,000
CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE	-	1,223	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
COMMUNITY CARE CLINIC	17,000	17,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
FOSCOE GRANDFATHER COMM. CENTER	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM	-	-	-	-	-	-
GREEN VALLEY COMMUNITY PARK	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
HOSPITALITY HOUSE - WECAN	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
HOSPITALITY HOUSE	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
HUNGER COALITION	8,500	8,500	8,500	9,315	9,315	9,315
MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
OASIS	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN HISTORICAL ASSN	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
VALLE CRUCIS COMMUNITY PARK	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
WAMY	13,214	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
WATAUGA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,800
WATAUGA HUMANE SOCIETY	81,401	81,482	82,460	83,865	85,036	86,822
WATAUGA OPPORTUNITIES	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
WESTERN YOUTH NETWORK	1,500	1,500	1,500	-	-	-
BLUE RIDGE RC&D COUNCIL INC.	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
TOTALS:	\$ 290,415	\$ 281,005	\$ 293,760	\$ 320,480	\$ 345,651	\$ 348,437

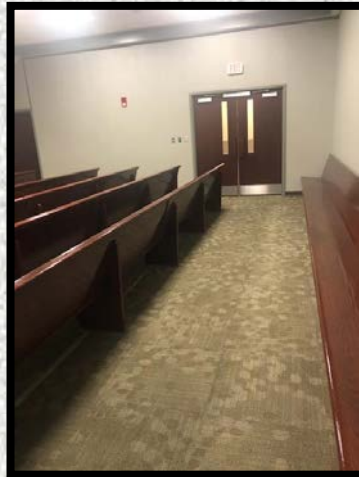
CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMARY

Project Description	6/30/2020 Balance	2020-21 Budget	Budget Amendments		6/30/2021 Balance
			In	Out	
Caldwell Community College	\$ 52,833	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 102,833
Information Technology Needs	450,186	-	-	-	450,186
East Annex Renovations	337,127	-	-	-	337,127
Eastern Community Center	54,031	-	-	-	54,031
Emergency Communications	2,042,726	500,000	-	-	2,542,726
Facilities Maintenance	788,161	1,000,000	-	-	1,788,161
Future County Buildings	132,864	-	-	-	132,864
EDC	143,193	50,000	-	-	193,193
Recreation-Facilities/Maintenance	1,255,854	-	-	-	1,255,854
Watauga Co. Schools-Long Term Needs	4,588,492	-	-	-	4,588,492
Future Valle Crucis School	2,755,650	-	-	-	2,755,650
Watauga Co. Schools-CIP	1,054,140	500,000	74,808	-	1,628,948
Totals:	\$ 13,655,257	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 74,808	\$ -	\$ 15,830,065

Project Description	Actual Additions				
	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Caldwell Community College	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
EDC	-	-	-	50,000	83,463
East Annex Renovations	-	-	-	-	200,000
Emergency Communications	-	250,000	250,000	250,000	500,000
Facilities Maintenance	-	315,500	146,400	208,990	1,123,817
Future County Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation-Facilities/Maintenance	1,843,552	2,384,500	2,477,075	1,881,140	274,655
Watauga Co. Schools-Long Term Needs	-	-	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Future Valle Crucis School	-	-	-	-	2,700,000
Watauga Co. Schools-CIP	375,000	935,370	714,205	767,133	704,165
Totals:	\$2,268,552	\$3,935,370	\$5,137,680	\$4,707,263	\$7,136,100



Courtroom 2



Judges' Chambers



Watauga County

Capital Improvement Plan FY 2022

Project Title: East Annex Renovation Requesting Department or Agency: _____

Fund: _____

Project Description: Update finishes and add handicap restrooms on upper floor. Construction 6,300 sf x \$100/sf = \$630,000; Design 10% = \$63,000.

Project Justification: Need to replace old ceilings and carpet. Existing restrooms are not easily accessed by handicapped individuals.

Manager's Priority Ranking: _____

Adjusted Ranking: _____

	Budget Year 2021-22	Planning Year 2022-23	Planning Year 2023-24	Planning Year 2024-25	Planning Year 2025-26	Planning Year 2026-27	Total
Project Cost Elements: (list expenditure categories)							
Design & construction	\$115,500	\$115,500	\$115,500	\$115,500	\$115,500	\$115,500	\$693,000
Totals:							
Revenue Sources: (list expenditure categories)							
Totals:							
Annual Operating Budgetary Impact: (list expected annual operating costs and effects)							
Net Annual Operating Effect:							

Watauga County

Capital Improvement Plan FY 2022

Project Title: New County Office Building

Requesting Department or Agency: Administration

Fund: _____

Project Description: Construct 40,000sf office building for County agencies. This site was prepared during the construction of the Health Department in 2005. Cost 40,000sf x \$285sf = \$11,400,000; Design \$1,140,000 = \$12,540,000.

Project Justification: Provide offices for County agencies so that space can be reallocated to court agencies in the Courthouse and Annex buildings.

Manager's Priority Ranking: _____

Adjusted Ranking: _____

	Budget Year 2021-22	Planning Year 2022-23	Planning Year 2023-24	Planning Year 2024-25	Planning Year 2025-26	Planning Year 2026-27	Total
Project Cost Elements: (list expenditure categories)	\$2,090,000	\$2,090,000	\$2,090,000	\$2,090,000	\$2,090,000	\$2,090,000	\$12,540,000
Totals:							
Revenue Sources: (list expenditure categories)							
General Fund							
Totals:							
Annual Operating Budgetary Impact: (list expected annual operating costs and effects)							
Maintenance utilities \$114,000							\$184,412
Two maintenance positions \$70,412							
Net Annual Operating Effect:							

Watauga County

Capital Improvement Plan FY 2022

Project Title: Human Services Center Parking Lot Requesting Department or Agency: Maintenance

Fund: _____

Project Description: Construct a parking lot (82 spaces) in the front of the Human Services Center adjacent to King Street. Design \$37,375; Construction \$373,750.

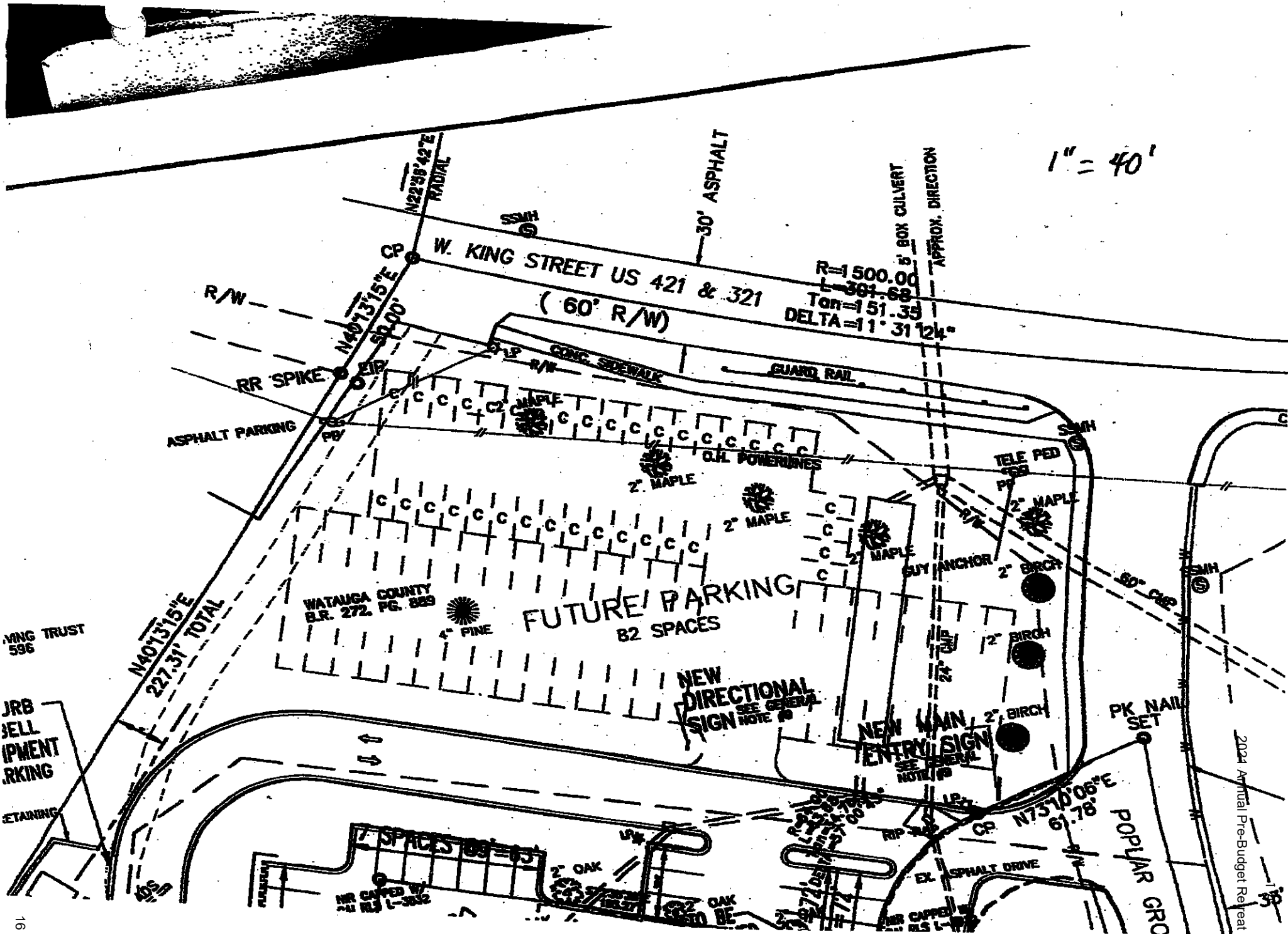
Project Justification: Additional parking will be needed for the future County Office Building.

Manager's Priority Ranking: _____

Adjusted Ranking: _____

	Budget Year 2021-22	Planning Year 2022-23	Planning Year 2023-24	Planning Year 2024-25	Planning Year 2025-26	Planning Year 2026-27	Total
Project Cost Elements: (list expenditure categories)							
Option 1	\$205,562	\$205,562					\$411,125
Totals:							
Revenue Sources: (list expenditure categories)							
General Fund	\$411,125						\$411,125
Totals:							
Annual Operating Budgetary Impact: (list expected annual operating costs and effects)							
Net Annual Operating Effect: None							

1" = 40'



TRUST 596

JRB SELL IMPMENT PARKING

RETAINING

Watauga County

Capital Improvement Plan
FY 2022

Project Title: Water Street Parking Deck
Fund: _____

Requesting Department or Agency: Maintenance

Project Description: Sitework \$230,000 + deck construction (11,527 per level x 3 = 34,581 sf x 75 sf) \$2,593,575 = \$2,823,575. Design \$282,358. Total \$3,105,933. A parking deck or an area designated "Jury Parking Only" on days when jurors are reporting for Jury Duty.

Project Justification: Increase parking opportunities for the public. Provide approximately 100 new parking spaces. From January to December 2013, an average of 502 people came through the front doors of the Watauga County Courthouse per day. Two weeks each month we average between 60-75 jurors reporting for jury duty. One of the complaints I hear each session of Jury Court is that they could not find anywhere to park. They don't complain that they are giving up a week of work and often a week of lost wages. Is it right that we do not have a designated place for them to park when they arrive to do their Civic Duty? It is the norm for Watauga County to have at least two courts in session each day and sometimes we have more. This constitutes a parking quandary for everyone including the staff who work in the county and state offices located in or around the courthouse. With the projected growth of ASU as well as the continual increase in the court sessions in Watauga County, it is time to look to the future and plan for the ongoing need for parking.

Manager's Priority Ranking: _____
Adjusted Ranking: _____

	Budget Year 2021-22	Planning Year 2022-23	Planning Year 2023-24	Planning Year 2024-25	Planning Year 2025-26	Planning Year 2026-27	Total
Project Cost Elements: (list expenditure categories) (Land Cost and architectural fees first year)	\$1,552,966	\$1,552,967					\$3,105,933
Totals:							
Revenue Sources: (list expenditure categories)	\$	\$					\$
Totals:							
Annual Operating Budgetary Impact: (list expected annual operating costs and effects)							
Net Annual Operating Effect:							

Watauga County

Capital Improvement Plan FY 2021

Project Title: Complex 1 Field and Court Renovations

Requesting Department or Agency: _____

Fund: _____

Project Description: Reorient field to new position. County to provide fill dirt. Sports lighting \$175,000; fencing \$65,000; bleacher pads \$5,000; Earthworks \$15,000; drainage \$5,000, hydroseeding \$2,000; infield mix \$3,000; gravel dust \$3,000; bases \$300. Construct four tennis courts 120' x 240', four pickleball courts 60' x 120', and one basketball court 60' x 120'. Tennis and pickleball courts will be sloped for sheet drainage. Project design and plans \$18,000(design was paid in FY 19-20). Excavation, paving, gravel, color coat, net/post, fencing, bleachers, trash cans, windscreen \$414,507. Lighting \$48,000. Total \$735,807.

Project Justification: New site is better suited for new Community Recreation Center and courts.

Manager's Priority Ranking: _____

Adjusted Ranking: _____

	Budget Year 2020-21	Planning Year 2021-22	Planning Year 2022-23	Planning Year 2023-24	Planning Year 2024-25	Planning Year 2025-26	Total
Project Cost Elements: (list expenditure categories)	\$735,807						\$735.807
Totals:							
Revenue Sources: (list expenditure categories)							
Totals:							
Annual Operating Budgetary Impact: (list expected annual operating costs and effects)							
Net Annual Operating Effect:							



GENERAL NOTES:

- TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 2910-73-0610-000
- PROPERTY OWNER: WATAUGA COUNTY
814 W KING STREET
BOONE, NC 28607
- SITE ADDRESS: 231 COMPLEX DRIVE
BOONE, NC 28607
- ZONING: OI
- EXISTING USE: PARKS & RECREATION
- PROPOSED USE: PARKS & RECREATION
- TOTAL SITE AREA: 13.199 ACRES
- DISTURBED ACREAGE: 2.43 ACRES
- THIS SITE LIES WITHIN FLOOD ZONE 'AE' ACCORDING TO FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP NUMBER 371029100J DATED DECEMBER 03, 2009.

SITE PLAN LEGEND:

- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- CHAIN LINK FENCE

- CONCRETE SIDEWALK
- CONCRETE BLEACHER PAD
- GRAVEL DRIVE

SCALE 1"=30'

NAD 83

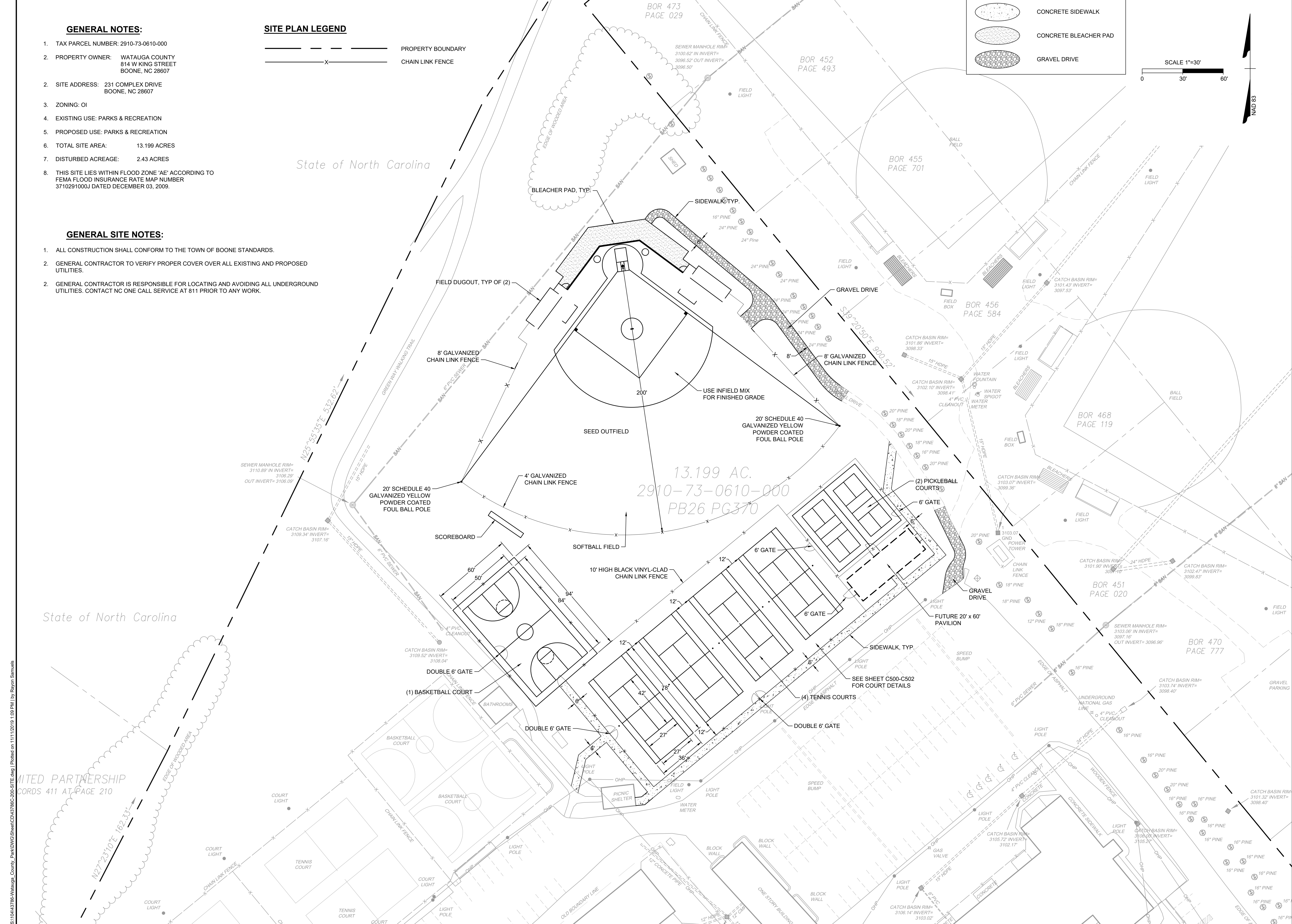
GENERAL SITE NOTES:

- ALL CONSTRUCTION SHALL CONFORM TO THE TOWN OF BOONE STANDARDS.
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY PROPER COVER OVER ALL EXISTING AND PROPOSED UTILITIES.
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCATING AND AVOIDING ALL UNDERGROUND UTILITIES. CONTACT NC ONE CALL SERVICE AT 811 PRIOR TO ANY WORK.

State of North Carolina

State of North Carolina

13.199 AC.
2910-73-0610-000
PB26 PG370



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YOUR VISION ACHIEVED THROUGH OURS.

DATE: 8/5/2019
 DRAWN BY: RAS
 DESIGNED BY: RAS
 CHECKED BY: BVC
 SCALE: AS SHOWN

TIMMONS GROUP

WATAUGA COUNTY PARK
 WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
 SITE LAYOUT PLAN

JOB NO. 43786
 SHEET NO. C200

S:\10443786-Watauga County Park\DWG\Sheet\CD43786C-200-SITE.dwg | Printed on 11/11/2019 11:09 PM | by Brian Samuels

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 CORDS 411 AT PAGE 210

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WATAUGA COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY MANAGER

Administration Building, Suite 205 – 814 West King Street – Boone, NC 28607 – (828) 265-8000
TDD 1-800-735-2962 – Voice 1-800-735-8262 – FAX (828) 264-3230

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Deron Geouque
County Manager

SUBJECT: Community Recreation Center Discussion

DATE: November 3, 2020

Per Commissioner request, staff has developed three (3) options for consideration regarding the opening of the community recreation center.

	Date of Opening	Restrictions	Staff	Hours of Operation	Expense	Revenue
Option 1 Watauga High School Swim Team Only	12/1/2020	Current COVID-19 Restrictions and NCHSAA Guidelines and Protocols	4 Guards Nov. 30 To Jan. 30, 2021	<u>M-F</u> 8:00 AM 5:00 PM	\$27,321	\$0
Option 2 Open at 30% Capacity	1/18/2021	Current COVID-19 Restrictions per the Governor's Executive Order and NCDHHS Guidance	January To June 2021 Staffing Costs	<u>M-W-F</u> 6:00 AM 8:00 PM <u>T-TH-Sat</u> 8:00 AM 8:00 PM <u>Sun</u> 12 noon 5:00 PM	\$187,000	30% of Budgeted Amount or \$63,000
Option 3 Open at 50% Capacity	TBD	COVID-19 Restrictions per the Governor's Executive Order and NCDHHS Guidance	April To June 2021 Staffing Costs	<u>M-W-F</u> 6:00 AM 8:00 PM <u>T-TH-Sat</u> 8:00 AM 8:00 PM <u>Sun</u> 12 noon 5:00 PM	\$102,000	50% of Budgeted Amount or \$52,500

Option 1

Facility opens to the Watauga High School Swim Team **only** on December 1, 2020 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM and Wednesday from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Two (2) lifeguards and one (1) custodial position would be necessary to cover the swim practice. No county testing/screening will be conducted. Coaches are required to follow NCHSAA guidelines and protocols to ensure athletes' safety. County would require athletes to sign COVID19 waiver. No other programs offered. Locker rooms closed and family changing rooms utilized. The facility would operate from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Estimated cost is \$27,321. Zero revenues received.

Option 2

Facility opens to the Watauga High School Swim Team and public under the current COVID19 restrictions limiting capacity to thirty percent (30%). Facility would open to Swim Team on December 1, 2020 and the rest of the facility would open on January 18, 2021, approximately two (2) months from notice to open to hire & train facility staff. Occupancy based on percentages established through the Health Department and NCDHHS guidelines. Locker rooms closed. List of modified programs included in the opening plan. No childcare service provided. Limited access with the potential for patrons to be turned away due to capacity levels. Estimated cost is \$187,000 based on six (6) months of operations. \$63,000 in revenues based on thirty percent (30%) of budgeted revenues for a six-month period.

Option 3

Facility opens to the Watauga High School Swim Team on December 1, 2020 and remains closed to the public until COVID19 restrictions are lifted to allow for at least fifty percent (50%) or higher capacity. Require approximately two (2) months from notice to open at higher capacity to hire & train facility staff. Occupancy based on percentages established through the Health Department and NCDHHS guidelines. Locker rooms closed. List of modified programs included in the opening plan. No childcare service provided. Increased access for patrons reducing the potential to be turned away due to capacity. Estimated cost is \$102,000 based on three (3) months of operations. \$52,500 in revenues based on fifty percent (50%) of budgeted revenues for a three-month period.

Summary

Options 2 and 3 are subject to change based on more or less COVID19 restrictions being imposed or reduced. The initial plan for opening the facility would occur once COVID19 restrictions allowed for fifty percent (50%) occupancy. The reason for opening the facility at 50% capacity was threefold. First, the County wanted to review and monitor other facilities and the impact COVID19 restrictions were having on their operations since this is a new facility with no operational history to base projections. Second, patrons being turned away due to capacity levels. Third, the prospect to reach projected budgeted revenues was higher.

There are slight differences in the operational costs to open the facility at 30% and 50% capacity. One major factor is the amount of months the facility will be open at 30% or 50% capacity. Right now, we know the amount of months at 30% but 50% is unknown until restrictions are lifted to allow for the higher capacity. In addition, due to the delayed opening, the 30% and 50% capacities are more manageable from a budgetary perspective.

Staff has provided the best conservative estimates on revenues possible with no historical data. However, should revenues not be met, staff would reduce programming and utilize contingency funds to cover any shortfall. All options have been discussed and reviewed with the Health Department and adhere to NCDHHS guidelines. Staff recommends that if the facility is open to the High School Swim that the rest of the facility be open as well.

Staff seeks direction from the Board.

Watauga Community Recreation Center



Opening Plan for 2020/21



WATAUGA COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER OPENING

(Tentative) Monday, January 18th, 2021

What Will Open:

- ◆ Aquatic Center
- ◆ Weight Room
- ◆ Cardio Equipment
- ◆ Fitness Classes
- ◆ Open Gym Sports
- ◆ Youth Clinics
- ◆ Adult Indoor Sports
- ◆ Holiday Programs
- ◆ Senior Art Classes
- ◆ Home School Classes

Our COVID-19 Commitment

Watauga County is dedicated to providing a safe and socially aware environment for all members & visitors to the WCRC. Your patience & understanding as we have navigated through this process is appreciated. Our staff is committed to following & adhering to CDC, NC Department of Health & Human Services, the governor, and local governance guidance for your protection & comfort.

WCRC Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	6 a.m.—8 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	8 a.m.—8 p.m.
Sunday	12 noon—5 p.m.

Pre-Opening Tours

We will begin offering facility tours prior to our Grand Opening. Sign up [HERE](#) to reserve your space.

Membership & Daily Fee Schedule

Please click [here](#) to visit our website for membership fees, as well as program information. We are excited to welcome you to the Watauga Community Recreation Center.

Visitor's Guide

- ◆ *Sign COVID-19 and facility liability waiver*
- ◆ *Maintain 6 feet distance between other members*
- ◆ *Respect capacity limitations*
- ◆ *Wipe down equipment before and after use*
- ◆ *Scan in & out of the facility during each visit*
- ◆ *Wear a mask when not engaged in physical activity*
- ◆ *Come "workout" ready*

231 Complex Drive, Boone, NC

828.264.9511



WATAUGA COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER OPENING

COVID-19 PROCEDURES & PROTOCOLS

Watauga County Parks & Recreation has developed these policies, procedures, and protocol based upon recommendations from the NCDHHS, the CDC, as well as state and local government.

General Program Information

Hours of Operation

Mon/Wed/Fri	6 am – 8 pm
Tue/Thur/Sat	8 am – 8 pm
Sunday	12 pm – 5 pm

General Facility Procedures & Protocol

- If you are running a fever at or above 100.4 and/or have any onset COVID-like or flu-like symptoms, please stay home.
- Dress appropriately before you arrive. We are promoting a "workout ready" environment.
- Please bring your personal items, towel, water bottle, membership ID card and your face covering. Cloth face coverings should be worn at gyms, exercises facilities and fitness facilities, at all times except when strenuously exercising.
- For the safety of members and staff some amenities will be limited or suspended.
- We are unable to offer childcare for members at this time.
- Expect reduced capacity. To ensure proper social distancing, all classes and areas will have a limited capacity.
- Because of reduced capacity, if you wish to participate in a fitness class, you must reserve a slot for the time and class. If you do not notify WCP&R within 24 hours and are a "no show," there will be a \$10 fee. Your membership will be suspended until the fee is paid.
- Use of the Fitness Area and Walking Track are on a first come first serve basis, dependent on the percentage allowed under the NCDHHS guidelines.
- Bring a filled water bottle. Water fountains will not be available for use.

When you arrive at the WCRC

- Use the main entrance to enter and exit. Use appropriately marked doors. Members are counted as they enter and leave the facility to ensure we do not exceed the Emergency Maximum Capacity number.
- Members and Daily Guests are to scan/sign in and out as they leave daily in order to effectively track and trace as needed.
- Please sanitize hands before entering the facility. Several hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the building. Please wash and sanitize hands frequently.
- All members and staff unwilling to comply to the COVID transmission prevention measures will be asked to leave.
- All areas adapted to provide appropriate social distancing.
- With the provided cleaning supplies, please wipe down all equipment, weights, mats, etc. before and after use.
- Follow the physical distancing requirements by keeping at least six feet away from others whenever possible.
- Abide by all additional signage.



WATAUGA COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER OPENING

COVID-19 PROCEDURES & PROTOCOLS

Facility Set-Up

- Facility capacity is governed by 30% Emergency Maximum Occupancy using 30% of stated fire capacity in addition to limiting the number of people in any given room of the facility so that everyone can stay 6 feet apart.
- GROUP FITNESS CLASSES- are on a pre-registration basis. Visit our website to review the available class options and times at wataugacounty.org.
- OPEN GYM ATHLETICS— will open based on percentage and distancing requirements.
- BASKETBALL-- is not recommended at this time per the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Resources (NCDHHS).
- WALKING TRACK— is open with social distancing requirements.
- THE FITNESS ROOM— is open with social distancing requirements.
- AQUATIC FACILITY—is open with percentage and distancing requirements. Locker rooms and showers available to aquatic guests only at this time.
- No water fountains available throughout the facility.
- Lounge areas including chairs and tables will be removed.
- Any alterations to group sizes or quantities will be governed by NC Executive orders, the CDC and NCDHHS.

Sanitation Guidelines

- Sanitization is the first line of defense to avoid the spread of germs. A sanitizing solution as recommended by CDC will be mixed and provided for sanitation.
- Cloth face coverings should be worn by members and staff over both the nose and mouth except during strenuous exercise.
- Frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizing is recommended.
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance, and any other high traffic areas throughout the fitness center or gym as needed.
- Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas handles, sink handles, railings, keyboards, light switches, tables, game controllers and other high touch areas will be sanitized with an approved sanitizing solution per CDC guidelines and recommendations.
- Members must disinfect all shared fitness equipment prior to and at the conclusion of its use.
- Sanitation and facility cleanings will follow guidelines and recommendations set by CDC and the NCDHHS. Any other items not listed should be sanitized appropriately based on need.

On Site Sickness Procedure

- Signage will be posted at the main entrance requesting that people Do Not Enter if they've been symptomatic with fever and/or cough.
- Members who show COVID-like or flu-like symptoms while at the WCRC, will be immediately separated and asked to leave.
- Any symptomatic employee or member should wear masks until leaving the facility. Cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented hitting high-touch areas they may have come in contact with, e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails, lockers, dressing areas, front counter.



Aquatics Plan

Opening Recommendations for Aquatics

Programs and Spaces available to members that this time:

- Lap Swimming One person per lane (Lane Reservation Required)
- Lap Swimming (Watauga County Swim team, two swimmers per lane per state guidelines)
- Lap Swimming (Watauga County High School, two swimmers per lane per state guidelines)
- Water fitness classes (Class sizes will be limited to 25 people)
- Locker rooms will be open only to pool users alone.

Temporary unavailable aquatics programs:

- Swim birthday parties
- Group child swim lessons will be slatted for the beginning of 2021
- (Public Swim in Rec pool and Lap pool) Not be offered until we move to at least 50%.
Currently at 30% (26 people) Not cost effect and negative customer experience.
50% is approximately (44 people) for recreation pool.

Cleaning tasks:

During the day lifeguards will wipe down high touch points in aquatic spaces,

Clean office areas as they use for meals.

Good to know facts:

Check-in and Check out will be completed at the front desk.

Lap swimmer will only enter pool from shallow end useless coaching

Parents of swim team members will be required to wait outside unless they are walking in to drop off.

Equipment will be not available for lap swim or water fitness classes.

Staffing:

All aquatic staff will be wearing mask when working with the public.

Each lifeguard will be provided their own rescue mask.

Recue tubes will be cleaned after each use.

Subject to Change:

Center hours:

M/W/F 6-8

T/TH/SAT 8-8

SUN: 12-6

Lap Pool hours:

M/W/F: 6:30-7:30

T/TH/SAT: 11-7:30

SUN: 12-5:30

Recreation Pool hours

M-TH: 10-1 5-7

FRI: 10-1, 5-7

SAT: 10-11,

SUN: closed



Athletics Plan

ATHLETICS

Programs that will be provided upon opening at 30% occupancy

Open Gym Pickleball (Year round - currently operating at OCCG)

- Limit to 8 participants per gym, with a maximum of 4 people waiting
- No Spectators
- Ball provided and sanitized between matches
- Other than balls, no sharing of equipment
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
- Pre-registration recommended
- Program covered in membership fee

Open Gym Volleyball (Year round - SUSPENDED)

- Limit to 8 participants per court, with a maximum of 4 people waiting
- No Spectators
- Ball provided and sanitized between matches
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
- Pre-registration recommended
- Program covered in membership fee

Open Gym Basketball (Year round - SUSPENDED)

- Limit to 6 participants per gym, with a maximum of 4 people waiting
- No Spectators
- Shooting, "Horse type games" - no contact games
- No scrimmage games allowed
- Participants must provide their own ball and no sharing
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
- Pre-registration recommended
- Program covered in membership fee

Pickleball League (Year round - SUSPENDED)

- No Spectators
- Ball provided and sanitized between matches
- Other than balls, no sharing of equipment
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided

Beginners Pickleball (Year round - SUSPENDED)

- No Spectators
- Ball provided and sanitized between matches
- Other than balls, no sharing of equipment
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided

Fall & Winter programs currently being offered

Youth Soccer (August - October)

- Shortened Season - 8 games
- Ball provided and sanitized between games
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
- Limit spectators to immediate household for games
- 60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators
- Sanitize players before the game, between quarters and upon substitution
- Sanitize the ball before the game, at quarters and halves, and at timeouts.
- No sharing fields for practices
- Small teams when able
- Teams formed by school attended
- Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders
- Limit one parent inside during practices. Siblings not allowed in practices
- Teams/spectators not allowed on the field until 15 min prior to game time
- Only rostered players and up to 3 adult coaches allowed on team bench
- Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.
- No team snacks
- No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.

Men's Softball (August - October)

- Shortened Season - 8 games
- Limit the number of teams per league
- Teams supply their own balls & WCPR supply wipes to sanitize between innings
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided in each dugout
- 60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators
- Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders
- Teams/spectators not allowed to the field until 15 min prior to game time
- Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.
- No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.

Co-ed Softball (August - October)

- Shortened Season - 8 games
- Limit the number of teams per league
- Teams supply their own balls & WCPR supply wipes to sanitize between innings
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided in each dugout
- Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders

Teams/spectators not allowed to the field until 15 min prior to game time
Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.
No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.

Co-ed Volleyball (October - November)

Shortened Season - 8 games
Limit the number of teams per league
Ball provided and sanitized between games
Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
Limit to the number of spectators per participant
60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators
Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders
Teams/spectators not allowed inside the gym until 15 min prior to game time
Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.
No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.
Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators
Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

Winter programs that may be offered, based on NFHS Guidelines and local and state government & health officials guidelines.

Junior Hornets Girls Basketball (October - mid December - POSTPONED)

Shortened Season - 8 games
Must be able to use school gyms for practices
Ball provided and sanitized between games
Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
Limit spectators to immediate household for games
60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators
Sanitize players before the game, between quarters and upon substitution
Sanitize the ball before the game, at quarters and halves, and at timeouts.
No sharing gyms for practices
Small teams when able (limit to 8 per team)
Teams formed by school attended
Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders
Limit one parent inside during practices. Siblings not allowed in practices
Teams/spectators not allowed inside the gym until 15 min prior to game time
Only rostered players and up to 3 adult coaches allowed on team bench
Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.
No team snacks

No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.
Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators
Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

Junior Hornets Boys Basketball (December - early March - POSTPONED)

Shortened Season - 8 games
Must be able to use school gyms for practices
Ball provided and sanitized between games
Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
Limit spectators to immediate household for games
60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators
Sanitize players before the game, between quarters and upon substitution
Sanitize the ball before the game, at quarters and halves, and at timeouts.
No sharing gyms for practices
Small teams when able (limit to 8 per team)
Teams formed by school attended
Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders
Limit one parent inside during practices. Siblings not allowed in practices
Teams/spectators not allowed inside the gym until 15 min prior to game time
Only rostered players and up to 3 adult coaches allowed on team bench
Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.
No team snacks
No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.
Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators
Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

7th/8th Grade Basketball (December - early March - POSTPONED)

Shortened Season - 8 games
Must be able to use school gyms for practices
Ball provided and sanitized between games
Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
Limit spectators to immediate household for games
60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators
Sanitize players before the game, between quarters and upon substitution
Sanitize the ball before the game, at quarters and halves, and at timeouts.
No sharing gyms for practices
Small teams when able (limit to 8 per team)
Teams formed by school attended
Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders
Limit one parent inside during practices. Siblings not allowed in practices

Teams/spectators not allowed inside the gym until 15 min prior to game time
Only rostered players and up to 3 adult coaches allowed on team bench
Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.
No team snacks
No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.
Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators
Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

9th-10th Grade Basketball (December - early March - POSTPONED)

Shortened Season - 8 games
Must be able to use school gyms for practices
Ball provided and sanitized between games
Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
Limit spectators to immediate household for games
60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators
Sanitize players before the game, between quarters and upon substitution
Sanitize the ball before the game, at quarters and halves, and at timeouts.
No sharing gyms for practices
Small teams when able (limit to 8 per team)
Teams formed by school attended
Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders
Limit one parent inside during practices. Siblings not allowed in practices
Teams/spectators not allowed inside the gym until 15 min prior to game time
Only rostered players and up to 3 adult coaches allowed on team bench
Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.
No team snacks
No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.
Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators
Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

Men's Basketball (November - early February - POSTPONED)

Shortened Season - 8 games
Limit the number of teams per league
Ball provided and sanitized between games
Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided
Limit to the number of spectators per participant
60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators
Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders
Teams/spectators not allowed inside the gym until 15 min prior to game time
Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.

No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.

Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators

Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

Women's Volleyball (January - mid-March)

Shortened Season - 8 games

Limit the number of teams per league

Ball provided and sanitized between games

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided

Limit to the number of spectators per participant

60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators

Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders

Teams/spectators not allowed inside the gym until 15 min prior to game time

Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.

No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.

Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators

Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

Men's Volleyball (January - mid-March)

Shortened Season - 8 games

Limit the number of teams per league

Ball provided and sanitized between games

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided

Limit to the number of spectators per participant

60 minutes games scheduled 90 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators

Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders

Teams/spectators not allowed inside the gym until 15 min prior to game time

Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.

No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.

Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators

Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

Youth Volleyball (February - considering a December program)

Short season with 6 games and 2 weeks of preseason practices

All practices and games at OCCG or WCRC

Ball provided and sanitized between games

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes provided

Limit spectators to immediate household for games

45 minutes games scheduled 75 minutes apart to social distance teams/spectators

Sanitize players before the game and upon substitution

Sanitize the ball before the game and at timeouts.
No sharing gyms for practices
Small teams when able (limit to 8 per team)
Teams formed by school attended
Coaches and spectators encouraged to wear face covers in accordance with NC Governors Orders
Limit one parent inside during practices. Siblings not allowed in practices
Teams/spectators not allowed inside the gym until 15 min prior to game time
Only rostered players and up to 3 adult coaches allowed on team bench
Participants, coaches and spectators should self monitor prior to attending games.
No team snacks
No handshakes/high fives, team meetings or gatherings following the game.
Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators
Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

Youth Basketball Clinics (November - December)

Clinic based with scrimmage games
Wash pennies between clinics and don't share during session
One ball per person during drills
Limit drills that require sharing a ball or close contact
Limit 1 guardian inside during clinics; no siblings
Sanitize balls regularly during the clinic
Wet wipes and sanitizer available
Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators
Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

Youth Pickleball (Postponed)

Clinic based - 3/4 instruction, 1/4 matches
4 to 6 week season, 2 times per week
Limited number of participants
Limit to 1 guardian for clinics
Limit spectators to immediate household for matches
Wet wipes and sanitizer available
Sanitize paddles and balls regularly
Waiver and sign-in sheet for spectators
Limit to 30% occupancy for spectators = 98 people (minimum)

Afterschool Athletics (During school year - POSTPONED)

Clinic Based
Limit the number of participants based on occupancy and indoor restrictions
Wait until school is back in full session and center is open

Offer low contact athletic programs including pickleball, aerobics, running, volleyball
No spectators

Evening Program	
Day and Evening	
Daytime Program	



Fitness Plan

Fitness Classes/Instructor	30%	50%	Items Needed
Patron Information	<p>Inform patrons of reservation protocol and that they are to come dressed to workout, bringing their own water bottle, mats, and anything else they require.</p> <p>Recommend Masks be worn unless they are doing strenuous exercise.</p>	<p>Inform patrons of reservation protocol and that they are to come dressed to workout, bringing their own water bottle, mats, and anything else they require.</p> <p>Recommend Masks be worn unless they are doing strenuous exercise.</p>	
Check In/Out	<p>Check to make sure class has enough to be offered per 30% guidelines.</p> <p>Patrons sign in daily for class, time in and time out.</p> <p>Arrive 30 minutes prior to class start time.</p>	<p>Check to make sure class has enough to be offered per 50% guidelines.</p> <p>Patrons sign in daily for class, time in and time out.</p> <p>Arrive 30 minutes prior to class start time.</p>	
Procedures	<p>All patrons to remain at least 6 feet apart during program, no exceptions.</p> <p>Communicate with WCRC staff should exercise space require special markings, spacing of equipment, etc.</p> <p>Instructor to also remain at least 6 feet apart from the patrons at all times.</p> <p>When class ends, patrons are to not loiter and leave promptly.</p> <p>Instructor to clean the space as needed.</p>	<p>All patrons to remain at least 6 feet apart during program, no exceptions.</p> <p>Communicate with WCRC staff should exercise space require special markings, spacing of equipment, etc.</p> <p>Instructor to also remain at least 6 feet apart from the patrons at all times.</p> <p>When class ends, patrons are to not loiter and leave promptly.</p> <p>Instructor to clean the space as needed.</p>	To be determined per class and dependent on where class is held, gym v. multipurpose room.
Employees	<p>Recommend masks while dealing with public before and after class.</p> <p>If directed to quarantine by the health department, advise supervisor and follow medical personnel directions.</p>	<p>Recommend masks while dealing with public before and after class.</p> <p>If directed to quarantine by the health department, advise supervisor and follow medical personnel directions.</p>	Gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, wipes.



Front Desk Plan

Front Desk Operation	30%	50%	Items Needed
Equipment/supplies	Floor markers – social distancing Cleaning - front desk and commonly used equipment ie: pens, etc between patrons. Plexiglass shields at workstations. Supply hand sanitizer.	Floor markers – social distancing Cleaning - front desk and commonly used equipment ie: pens, etc between patrons. Plexiglass shields at workstations. Supply hand sanitizer.	Disinfectant wipes Hand sanitizer Workstation shields (have)
Check In/Out	Reduce congestion at front (one way in/one way out) Add check out station at front door in order to effectively keep track of number of patrons inside building.	Reduce congestion at front (one way in/one way out) Add check out station at front door in order to effectively keep track of number of patrons inside building.	Scanner, computer & table or workstation
Procedures	COVID precautions signage posted. All patrons and staff unwilling to comply with the posted COVID transmission prevention measures will be asked to leave. No one in facility without a purpose. No loitering etc! Implement pool, fitness, gym procedures as set by programmers.	COVID precautions signage posted. All patrons and staff unwilling to comply with the posted COVID transmission prevention measures will be asked to leave. No one in facility without a purpose. No loitering etc! Implement pool, fitness, gym procedures as set by programmers.	COVID signage
Childcare	Closed	Closed	
Employees	Recommend masks while dealing with public at front. Wear gloves when dealing directly with patrons or their personal items. Pre-check before scheduled to work. Be conscious of symptoms. If directed to quarantine by the health department, advise supervisor and follow medical personnel directions.	Recommend masks while dealing with public at front. Wear gloves when dealing directly with patrons or their personal items. Pre-check before scheduled to work. Be conscious of symptoms. If directed to quarantine by the health department, advise supervisor and follow medical personnel directions.	Masks and gloves for employees



Special Pops Plan

SPECIAL POPULATIONS PROGRAMMING FOR REMAINDER OF 2020

PROGRAM	DATES/TIME	CAPACITY	C-19 RESTRICTIONS/CONCERNS/NEEDS	SAFE TO HOST?
<u>Home School PE</u> <i>1-hr session of age appropriate PE. Curriculum based upon age.</i>	Beginning @ WCRC Opening M, W @ 10 am	25/class meeting	Frequent sanitizing. Poly spots for social distancing. Individual supplies as needed. Masks recommended. COVID Supplies: Sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, poly spots Staff: 1FT + 1PT or 2PT	YES NOT HELD DUE TO CENTER NOT BEING OPEN FOR PROGRAMMING
<u>Home School Art</u> <i>1-hr session of age appropriate art. Curriculum based upon age.</i>	Beginning @ WCRC Opening W @ 11:15 am	25/class meeting	Frequent sanitizing. Poly spots for social distancing. Individual supplies as needed. Masks recommended. COVID Supplies: Sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, poly spots Staff: 1FT + 1PT OR 2PT	YES NOT HELD DUE TO CENTER NOT BEING OPEN FOR PROGRAMMING
<u>Senior Art & Activity Classes</u> <i>1-hr session of art and/or activity.</i>	Beginning @ WCRC Opening M, W @ 2 pm	10/activity meeting	No field trips at this time. Social distance and space participants out at tables, chairs. High risk population. Individual art supplies; disinfecting all common areas after session. Masks highly recommended. COVID Supplies: Sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, poly spots Staff: 1FT + 1 PT	YES NOT HELD DUE TO CENTER NOT BEING OPEN FOR PROGRAMMING
<u>Senior Prom</u> <i>2-hr program featuring music, food, dancing for sr population.</i>	November 19 5-7 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendsgiving Theme • App Ski Mtn Food • Self DJ 	25 total	Serving food, dancing. Will it be too difficult to distance and clean areas? High risk population. Center open? \$150 for food & decorations \$10/person x 25 ppl = \$250 revenue Multi-purpose room Staff: 1FT + volunteers	YES NOT HELD DUE TO CENTER NOT BEING OPEN FOR PROGRAMMING.
<u>Trunk-or-Treat in the Parking Lot</u> <i>2 hr. Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot. Pumpkin carving contest (pre-done)</i>	October 29 5-7 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trunk-or-treat in parking lot • Prize for best trunk 	60 cars spaced out in front lot of WCRC. Limit trick-or-treaters entering the lot to maintain social distancing.	Cars will be set at every other spot. Masks recommended for "trunkers." Will be over 50 ppl for outdoor gathering. Recommended? COVID Supplies: Hand sanitizer Prize(s) for best trunk and best pumpkin Staff: 1FT + 1PT + volunteers	YES? OFFERED & HELD WITH GREAT SUCCESS!
<u>Breakfast with Santa</u> <i>1-hr program featuring breakfast with Santa. Pictures, prizes, food, and music.</i>	December 5 8-11 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast by ASM • Toy donations for Santa • Pictures for sale • Quick craft 	20/session	Serve individual meals. Will Santa have to wear a mask? Disinfect common areas between sessions. \$240 for PT salaries & supplies \$10 x 60 ppl = \$600 Multi-purpose room/Lobby/Child care room Staff: 2FT + Santa	YES

SPECIAL POPULATIONS PROGRAMMING FOR REMAINDER OF 2020

PROGRAM	DATES/TIME	CAPACITY	C-19 RESTRICTIONS/CONCERNS	SAFE TO HOST?
<u>Parking Lot Christmas Parade</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive-thru only event • Families remain in cars • Parade exhibits set for viewing 	December 6th 5-7 pm	30 campers/day	<p>Cars will be set at every other spot. Masks recommended for display vehicles/people.</p> <p>Prize(s) for best exhibit & display</p> <p>Staff: FT/PT + volunteers</p>	YES
<u>Holiday Camp</u>	December 21, 22, 23, 29, 30 M-F 730-330	30 campers/day	<p>Frequent sanitizing. Poly spots for social distancing. Individual supplies as needed. Masks recommended.</p> <p>\$150 for food & decorations</p> <p>\$50/day x 30 campers x 5 days = \$7,500 revenue</p> <p>Multi-purpose room, gym, pool as available</p> <p>Staff: 1FT + 3 PT = \$2,000</p>	YES
<u>Special Olympics</u> <i>1-1.5-hr practice, clinic, fitness time for SO athletes, coaches, and volunteers.</i>	September-December TH 9-10 am	10 total/activity	<p>Per SONC, can begin on 9/8/20. No competition. Practices, clinics, and fitness only. Virtual meetings & activities. High risk population. Disinfect equipment during practice as needed. Center open?</p> <p>Staff: 1FT + volunteers</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>CURRENTLY RUNNING WITH SUCCESS. OUTDOORS ONLY.</p>
<u>Specialized Recreation Art & Activity Sessions</u> <i>1-hr program featuring art and/or healthy activities for specialized recreation clients.</i>	Beginning @ WCRC Opening TH 2-3 pm	10/activity meeting	<p>No field trips. Art & health classes only. Social distance & clean areas. High risk population. Individual supplies. Disinfect common areas after session. Center open?</p> <p>Staff: 1FT + volunteers</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>NOT HELD DUE TO CENTER NOT BEING OPEN FOR PROGRAMMING</p>

SPECIAL POPULATIONS PROGRAMMING: SUPPLEMENTAL CHILD CARE

PROGRAM	DATES/TIME	CAPACITY	C-19 RESTRICTIONS/CONCERNS	SAFE TO HOST?
<p><u>Supplemental Child Care</u> <i>10-hr childcare session to provide assistance to working parents. Afternoon start to allow for remote learning at home.</i></p> <p><u>Program Fee</u> <i>\$50/day</i> <i>Sign up through RecTrac</i></p> <p><u>Potential Revenue</u> <i>\$50 x 30 children = \$1,500</i></p> <p>WEEKLY REVENUE: \$1,500</p>	<p>Beginning @ WCRC Opening W 730-530</p>	<p>30 participants/ day</p>	<p>Frequent sanitizing. Poly spots for social distancing. Individual supplies as needed. Masks recommended. Follow childcare protocol as set by CDC, NCDHHS, state and local governance. COVID Supplies: Sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, poly spots</p> <p><u>Program Expenses</u> <u>Supplies</u> Art & food supplies = \$50/week</p> <p><u>Staff: 1FT + 3PT</u> \$10 x 3 employees x 10 hrs = \$300</p> <p>WEEKLY EXPENSE: \$350 (+ FT staff time)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">YES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOT HELD DUE TO CENTER NOT BEING OPEN FOR PROGRAMMING</p>



Capacity Restrictions Percentages

WCRC Capacity Restrictions per State & Health Department Governance (as of 11/2/20)

AREA	OCC	SF	30%	50%
Track & Cardio	202	10,076	60	101
Spin Room	17	851	5	8
Fitness Area	119	5,904	35	59
Pool Spectator Seating*	266	950	31* CLOSED	>31
Competition Pool**	1-p/lane 2-ppl/lane ST	3,592	6 12	6 12
Leisure Pool***	62	3,060	26	35
Women's Locker Room	16	789	4 CLOSED	8
Men's Locker Room	17	737	5 CLOSED	8
Blue/Saltwater Room(s)	25/27	364/397	7/8	12/13
Portable Bleachers	25/set	—	7	12
Lobby Lounge	34	509	10	17
Child Care	24	359	8 CLOSED	12 CLOSED
Multipurpose Room	93	1,385	27	46

OCC and SF based on Clarknensen architectural drawings

* Based on Health Dept. note of 3.3%/100SF

** Based on NC Governor Pool Guidance

*** Based on NC Health Dept. Guidance

PROGRAM	MAX CAPACITY	REC CAPACITY	NCDHHS GUIDELINES
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Open Gym Pickleball	12p/gym court 8p waiting	8p/court 4p waiting 2 Dbls cts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Risk • Ltd w/social distance
Open Gym Volleyball	12/gym court 6v6 @ 100%	4v4 @ 30% 5v5 @ 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate Risk • Ltd w/restrictions
Open Gym Basketball	10/gym court 10p waiting	3v3 @ 30% 4v4 @ 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Risk • Not Recommended
Fitness Classes	50p/gym court	15p @ 30% 24p @ 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain at least 6ft between members

OPEN GYM & OPEN FITNESS PROGRAMS GUIDELINES

- ◆ Hand sanitizing stations will be available.
- ◆ Masks recommended unless engaged in strenuous activity.
- ◆ Guests waiting to enter games will be seated on bleachers in marked spaces.
- ◆ Sports equipment will be sanitized to minimize potential viral spread.
- ◆ For Open Gym Sports activities, at least 2 gym courts will be available to allow for maximum usage. For example, if the Open Gym Pickleball is slated for Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m., 2 gym courts would be used to allow for the set up of 4 pickleball courts (16 people).
- ◆ Yoga participants must bring their own equipment & mats.
- ◆ Group fitness participants will be spaced at a minimum of 7 ft.
- ◆ All guests will sign in and out, as well as sign the COVID-19 WAIVER.

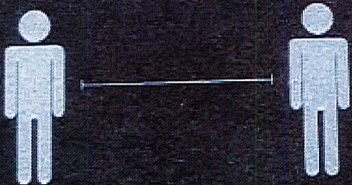
TAKE PRECAUTIONS



WASH YOUR HANDS



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

THANK YOU!

PLAY IT SMART



KEEP 6' APART



COVID-19 Waiver

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF WATAUGA

WAIVER OF LIABILITY: CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19

WARNING: The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is reported to be extremely contagious. The state of medical knowledge is evolving, but the virus is believed to spread from person-to-person contact and/or by contact with contaminated surfaces and objects, and even possibly in the air. People reportedly can be infected and show no symptoms and therefore spread the disease. The exact methods of spread and contraction are unknown, and there is no known treatment, cure, or vaccine for COVID-19. Evidence has shown that COVID-19 can cause serious and potentially life-threatening illness and even death. While Watauga County has taken all reasonable precautions to provide a safe environment, Watauga County cannot prevent you (or your child(ren)) from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while participating in activities sponsored by Watauga County. It is not possible to prevent against the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose to engage in the activities covered by this Waiver, you may be exposing yourself to and/or increasing your risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK & REPRESENTATION: I have read and understood the above warning concerning COVID-19. I hereby choose to accept the risk of contracting COVID-19 for myself and/or my children in order to enter on, participate, spectate or, in any way, be part of any activity, program and/or business located on Watauga County property, and further agree to refrain from engaging in any such activity (or keep my child(ren) from doing so) if I (or my child(ren), as the case may be) are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 including, but not limited to running a high temperature.

These activities are of such value to me (and/or to my children,) that I accept the risk of being exposed to, contracting, and/or spreading COVID-19 in order to participate in person (if applicable: "rather than arranging for an alternative method of enjoying the same services virtually (e.g. videoconference)).

WAIVER OF LAWSUIT/LIABILITY: I hereby forever release and waive my right to bring suit against Watauga County and its officers, directors, managers, officials, trustees, agents, employees, or other representatives in connection with exposure, infection, and/or spread of COVID-19 related to my participation in the above identified activities. I understand that this waiver means I give up my right to bring any claims including for personal injuries, death, disease or property losses, or any other loss, including but not limited to claims of negligence and give up any claim I may have to seek damages, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen. I understand and agree that the law of the State of North Carolina will apply to this contract.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL PROVISIONS OF THIS RELEASE, AND FREELY AND KNOWINGLY ASSUME THE RISK AND WAIVE MY RIGHTS CONCERNING LIABILITY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Minor's Name: _____

[] check here if signing as parent or legal guardian



WCRC Fees & Scholarship Scale

MEMBERSHIPS & FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE WATAUGA COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

Membership Category Descriptions

<u>Individual</u>	One adult person age 18 or better.	\$35/month
<u>*Household</u>	Up to two adults permanently residing at the same address with their children through the age of 18. (Children under the age of 2 are free.)	\$70/month
<u>Senior Adult</u>	One adult person age 62 or better.	\$20/month
<u>Youth</u>	Ages 2-17. For the young person that does not fall under a household membership.	\$20/month

**Proof of address is required. (Driver's license, bank statement, voided check, or utility bill.)*

All paid memberships include fitness classes, open gym activities, aquatics classes. Specialty programming may require additional costs.

Watauga County Resident Fee Structure

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Daily</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Annually</u>	<u>One-Time Initiation Fee</u>
Individual	\$10	\$35	\$350	\$20
Household	\$20	\$70	\$700	\$40
Senior (62+)	\$6	\$20	\$200	\$20
Youth	\$6	\$20	\$200	\$20
Dry Ticket	\$4	—	—	—
Card Replacement Fee	—	—	—	\$10

Non-Resident Fee Structure

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Daily</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Annually</u>	<u>Initiation/Renewal Fee</u>
Individual	\$15	\$53	\$530	\$30
Household	\$30	\$105	\$1,050	\$60
Senior (62+)	\$9	\$30	\$300	\$30
Youth	\$9	\$30	\$300	\$30
Dry Ticket	\$4	—	—	—
Card Replacement Fee	—	—	—	\$10

WATAUGA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
 Scholarship Application
(To be completed by parent or guardian)



What is a scholarship?

A scholarship is a reduced scale for Watauga County Parks and Recreation programs and activities, based on a financial need. Scholarships apply to most programs or activities with the exception of:

- Facility Rental Fees
- Late Fees
- Adult Athletic Team or Player Fees
- Summer Day Camp or Dance Camp
- Programs of \$10 or Less

How to apply for a scholarship?

1. Simply complete the WCP&R Scholarship Application.
2. Attach current federal tax return materials to substantiate annual income. Approval will not be considered without proper documentation.
3. Applicants will be notified within three business days regarding their scholarship status. The applicant is responsible for registering for the desired program or activity. Scholarship application and/or approval is separate from registration. Once approval is granted, any remaining fee must be paid, and registration completed in order for participation in any class, clinic, program, or activity. Classes or programs that are full or cancelled may not be available regardless of the scholarship status. The scholarship application will not hold a reservation for any class, clinic, program or activity with limited registration spots. The registration is not considered complete until after the scholarship is approved, and any balance is paid in full. The scholarship application must be completed at least three business days before the deadline in order to insure that the applicant has a chance to pay the balance in full prior to the program start.
4. Must bring all information to:

Watauga County Parks & Recreation
 231 Complex Drive, Boone, NC 28607
 (P) 2828.254.9511 (F) 828.264.9523
 Email: watco.parks@watgov.org

Who is eligible to apply for a scholarship?

- Scholarships are available to Watauga County residents for recreation programs only. Scholarships are based on the number of immediate family members in the household and their combined income from all sources.
- Income is calculated on gross income (before deductions from taxes, insurance premiums, social security, and other employee deductions). Income should include net income from self-employment, social security, public assistance, alimony, child support payments, regular contributions from people not living in the same household, and monetary compensation for services such as wages, salary, commission and all other cash income.

All information contained on the application is strictly confidential. Class instructors, coaches, and

WATAUGA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
 Scholarship Application
(To be completed by parent or guardian)



Last Name _____ First _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Watauga Co Res? _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

List all immediate family members in your household. Immediate family members include only parents and children. This does NOT INCLUDE grandparents, grandchildren, cousins, aunts, uncles, etc.

Number in family residing at the above address: _____

Name	Birthdate (month/year)	Name	Birthdate (Month/year)

TO BE COMPLETED BY WCP&R STAFF

Household Member	Federal Income Tax	DSS Support	Cumulative Amount
Head of Household	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Spouse	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other:	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
		TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME	\$ _____

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Approved % of Scholarship Reduction _____ By _____ Date _____

I give permission to Watauga County Parks and Recreation Department to contact the necessary agents to verify information on this application. I also understand that deliberate misrepresentation of information negates the scholarship consideration. I hereby certify that all of the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Applicant Signature _____ **Date** _____

All information contained on the application is strictly confidential. Class instructors, coaches, and program leaders are not informed of participant's scholarship status.

Watauga County Recreation Center Fee Reduction Scale *

Household Size	10%	Reduced Fee	Pay 25%		Reduced Fee	Pay 50%		Reduced Fee	Pay 75%		Reduced Fee	Pay 100%
	Up To		From	To		From	To		From	To		
1	\$ 12,490	\$ 3.50	\$ 12,491	\$ 16,643	\$ 8.75	\$ 16,644	\$ 20,796	\$ 17.50	\$ 20,797	\$ 24,948	\$ 26.25	\$ 24,949
2	\$ 16,910	\$ 7.00	\$ 16,911	\$ 22,539	\$ 17.50	\$ 22,540	\$ 28,168	\$ 35.00	\$ 28,169	\$ 33,797	\$ 52.50	\$ 33,798
3	\$ 21,330	\$ 7.00	\$ 21,331	\$ 28,423	\$ 17.50	\$ 28,424	\$ 35,516	\$ 35.00	\$ 35,517	\$ 42,609	\$ 52.50	\$ 42,610
4	\$ 25,750	\$ 7.00	\$ 25,751	\$ 34,319	\$ 17.50	\$ 34,320	\$ 42,888	\$ 35.00	\$ 42,889	\$ 51,457	\$ 52.50	\$ 51,458
5	\$ 30,170	\$ 7.00	\$ 30,171	\$ 40,215	\$ 17.50	\$ 40,216	\$ 50,260	\$ 35.00	\$ 50,261	\$ 60,305	\$ 52.50	\$ 60,306
6	\$ 34,590	\$ 7.00	\$ 34,591	\$ 46,111	\$ 17.50	\$ 46,112	\$ 57,632	\$ 35.00	\$ 57,633	\$ 69,153	\$ 52.50	\$ 69,154
7	\$ 39,010	\$ 7.00	\$ 39,011	\$ 51,995	\$ 17.50	\$ 51,996	\$ 64,980	\$ 35.00	\$ 64,981	\$ 77,965	\$ 52.50	\$ 77,966
8	\$ 43,430	\$ 7.00	\$ 43,431	\$ 57,891	\$ 17.50	\$ 57,892	\$ 72,352	\$ 35.00	\$ 72,353	\$ 86,813	\$ 52.50	\$ 86,814

* Based on 100% Federal Poverty Guidelines 2020



31 January 2020

Dear Chairman Welch, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Turnbow, Commissioner Wallin, Commissioner Yates, and Mr. Geouque,

The Appalachian Regional Library has begun serious consideration of the need to expand the Watauga County Public Library at its location on Queen Street in Boone. We are in the very beginnings of our conversations with community members (town and county residents), community leaders, and our governmental officials. We understand that the expansion of a public building is a complicated process.

You may know that when the current public library building was finished in 1997, it was approximately 2/3 the originally planned size due to a shortage of funding. We long ago outgrew this building. Even the most cursory walk around inside will show how crowded we are. Friends of the Library sort books for their sales in the back hallway; our grant-funded Alphabet Ready project manager has a desk in the book stacks because there is not a square foot of desk or table space for her anywhere else. The Adult Services work room has given up half its space to the Digital Watauga project (scanning and thus preserving the photographic and documentary history of our county); our regional IT Manager uses the other half of the office one day a week, so the Adult Services staff have no work or storage space outside of their small public desk. I would invite you to view the Youth Services workroom, but you would have to go in one at a time – there's not room for more than that to squeeze in.

Yet in these extremely cramped work conditions, our staff provides outstanding, innovative, and much needed and appreciated services for our community. We would be happy to supply statistics on the use of the library by the public. For instance, 70% of Watauga County residents (excluding ASU students) have a library card. Some weeks it feels like most of them have visited the library! If you want a more complete picture of what your public library does on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis, please let us know and we will oblige.

Please take our needed expansion, and our request to the county to help make it happen, into consideration as you have your capital budget deliberations. We don't yet know the price tag of the expansion project. (For a one-story expansion at 6,800 square feet and a square foot cost of \$250, the total cost would be \$1.7 million.) We do plan to have a building program done so that we have a clearer idea of how to use the space we have now and the space in an expansion. We would like to get the most square footage out of the space in front of the current building as possible, which might mean a two-story addition. We thought about the idea of a parking deck being built behind the library where there is a parking lot now – the library doesn't necessarily need a parking deck, but the town does. (Hmmm . . . a chance to work together?) And finally, we should take this opportunity to renovate the current building as part of the expansion project – the entirety of the space should be rethought to get the most out of it.

The county's leadership in this project is crucial. Please give serious thought to improving your public library's ability to continue to serve the residents of the county.

Thank you.



Jane W. Blackburn
Director of Libraries



Monica Caruso
County Library

Watauga County

Capital Improvement Plan FY 2022

Project Title: Watauga County Public Library Expansion Requesting Department or Agency: County Manager

Fund: _____

Project Description: Expand the Library by (2) bays or 70' X 96', 6800 s. f. This expansion was planned into the original design concept and should meet the TOB required setbacks.

Construction Cost	6,800 s. f. x \$250 s. f.	= 1,700,000
Design Fee 10%		= 170,000
Contingency 5%		85,000
		1,700,000

Project Justification: Library was completed in 1997. The expansion is necessary to meet the county's growing population needs regarding technology (access and instruction) , lifelong learning, promoting reading (emergent and established readers) and having access to a safe, comfortable attractive and welcoming place for all residents.

Manager's Priority Ranking: _____

Adjusted Ranking: _____

	Budget Year	Planning Year	Planning Year	Planning Year	Planning Year	Planning Year	Total
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	
	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	10,200,000

Revenue Sources:
(list expenditure categories)

Totals:

Annual Operating Budgetary Impact:
(list expected annual operating costs and effects)

Net Annual Operating Effect: 16,468

Anita.Fogle

Subject: FW: Habitat PleaOn Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 3:36 PM Mark Murrey <mark@markmurrey.com> wrote:

Dear Carrington,

I am emailing today about a great need our affiliate is facing.

Watauga Habitat is nearing completion on our first phase of affordable homes in our eco-friendly GreenWood Community. We are breaking ground on the last home in this phase in July 2021. We are excited to once again be partnering with Appalachian State students for our 3rd App Builds a Home!

We desperately need to extend the road in GreenWood so we can begin the second phase of building by the end of this year. Several years ago, our Executive Director (Alex Hooker) and a Board member attended a Commissioners meeting and the Commissioners agreed to help us build this next phase of road. That was some time ago and we now really need to begin road construction as soon as possible.

I was told by our ED that the Watauga County Commissioners are having a Retreat in Feb. or March and you will discuss this again. My sincere request is that the Commissioners will prioritize this project and begin ASAP.

Carrington,..I would LOVE to meet you in GreenWood at a time convenient for you and show you exactly where the road needs to go. You can see first-hand why we need to begin building the road in the coming months. I think you would love seeing the beautiful, simple and affordable homes we are building in Watauga County. If we are able to meet, then Allison Jennings may join us.

Thanks for being the "commish".

Mark

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Anita.Fogle

Subject: FW: Watauga Habitat for Humanity

From: Allison Jennings <allison@wataugahabitat.org>

Date: January 26, 2021 at 1:10:03 PM EST

To: <John.Welch@watgov.org>, Charlie Wallin <wallincr@appstate.edu>, <charlie.wallin@watgov.org>, <larry.turnbow@watgov.org>

Cc: Pat McGuire <pmcguire1584@gmail.com>

Subject: Watauga Habitat for Humanity

Hello John, Charlie and Larry

I am emailing today about a great need Watauga Habitat for Humanity is facing.

I am sure this story will be familiar to you but Watauga Habitat is nearing completion on our first phase of affordable homes in our eco-friendly GreenWood Community. We are breaking ground on the last home in this phase in July 2021. We are excited to once again be partnering with Appalachian State students for our 3rd App Builds a Home!

We desperately need to extend the road in GreenWood so we can begin the second phase of building by the end of this year. I know several years ago, our Executive Director (Alex Hooker) and a Board member attended a Commissioners meeting and the Commissioners agreed to help us build this next phase of road. That was some time ago and we now really need to begin road construction as soon as possible.

I was told by our ED that the Watauga County Commissioners are having a Retreat in Feb. or March and you will discuss this again. My sincere request is that the Commissioners will prioritize this project and begin ASAP.

I would LOVE to meet you in GreenWood at a time convenient for you and show you exactly where the road needs to go. You can see first-hand why we need to begin building the road in the coming months. I think you would enjoy seeing the beautiful, simple and affordable homes we are building in Watauga County.

Is there a time you would be able to meet? Our Board President, Pat McGuire would be joining us. We will mask-up, socially-distancing and you could also have a private tour of a home we are currently building.

I have already sent an email to Billy about this issue and our Board Member, Dr. Mark Murrey has contacted Carrington.

Hope we can schedule a quick outdoor, masked meeting soon in our Habitat GreenWood Neighborhood.

[Here is a link to our website](#) and you can check out some of our build projects.

Thank you for all you do to make our community a better place for all who live here,

Facilities Plan

Watauga County Schools Capital Improvement Plan

*Pending funding for new facilities and renovations.

Rev. 1/29/21

Year 2019/2020	\$	5,295,750
Annual Maintenance Items	\$	989,250
Roof Maintenance	\$	45,000
Pavement Repair	\$	160,000
Carpet & Tile Replacement	\$	30,000
Door Replacement	\$	15,000
HVAC Sewer Pump Replacement	\$	10,000
Gym Floor Replacement/Recoat (Mabel)	\$	75,000
Cafeteria Tables	\$	15,000
Replace Kitchen/Cafeteria Equipment	\$	55,000
Band/Arts Program Equipment	\$	40,000
Custodial Floor Equipment	\$	15,000
Vehicle Replacement	\$	85,000
Activity Bus Replacement	\$	95,000
Furniture/ Equipment	\$	69,250
Classroom Presentation Technology	\$	80,000
Student/ Staff Instructional Devices	\$	200,000
Tire Changer	\$	16,500
Security Cameras	\$	100,000
VoIP at Green Valley	\$	65,000
Resurface Tennis Courts at WHS	\$	60,000
Improvements at Central Office	\$	30,000
Fuel Island Upgrades	\$	35,000
Phase 1 Renovations	\$	4,000,000
New Valle Crucis School	\$	35,000,000

Year 2020/2021	\$	3,039,000
Annual Maintenance Items	\$	1,000,000
Roof Maintenance	\$	45,000
Pavement Repair	\$	160,000
Carpet & Tile Replacement	\$	30,000
Door Replacement	\$	15,000
HVAC Sewer Pump Replacement	\$	10,000
Gym Floor Replacement/Recoat (Blowing Rock)	\$	75,000
Cafeteria Tables	\$	15,000
Replace Kitchen/Cafeteria Equipment	\$	55,000
Band/Arts Program Equipment	\$	40,000
Custodial Floor Equipment	\$	15,000
Vehicle Replacement	\$	95,000
Activity Bus Replacement	\$	95,000
Furniture/ Equipment	\$	70,000
Classroom Presentation Technology	\$	80,000

Student/ Staff Instructional Devices	\$	200,000
Resurface Weight Room at WHS	\$	24,000
VoIP	\$	65,000
Landscape Area Around Foundation at Cove Creek	\$	15,000
Phase 1 Renovations	\$	2,000,000

Year 2021/2022	\$	4,245,000
Annual Maintenance Items	\$	1,000,000
Roof Maintenance	\$	80,000
Pavement Repair	\$	200,000
Carpet and Tile Replacement	\$	45,000
Door Replacement	\$	20,000
HVAC/Sewer Pump Replacement	\$	25,000
Gym Floor Screening and Recoat	\$	20,000
Cafeteria Tables	\$	15,000
Replace Kitchen/Cafeteria Equipment	\$	55,000
Band/Arts Program Equipment	\$	40,000
Custodial Floor Equipment	\$	15,000
Vehicle Replacement	\$	95,000
Activity Bus Replacement	\$	95,000
Furniture/Equipment	\$	70,000
Classroom Presentation Technology	\$	80,000
Student/Staff Instructional Devices	\$	200,000
Learning Cottage/Classroom - Hardin Park	\$	125,000
VoIP	\$	65,000
Phase 1 Renovations	\$	2,000,000

Year 2022/2023	\$	3,290,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,000,000
Add Generator to Maintenance Building	\$	75,000
Install Truck Wash @ Trans.	\$	100,000
HVAC Replacement @ Central Office	\$	115,000
Phase 1 Renovations	\$	2,000,000

Year 2023/2024	\$	1,770,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,025,000
Bulk Storage for Salt & Sand	\$	350,000
Renovate Parts Room	\$	35,000
Upgrade Central Food Storage	\$	25,000
Painting @ WHS	\$	35,000
Phase 1 Renovations Design at Remaining Schools	\$	300,000

Year 2024/2025	\$	3,590,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,025,000
Upgrade Central Exhausts @ Bus Garage	\$	50,000
Upgrades @ Central Office	\$	150,000
Add Additional Parking @ Central Office	\$	240,000
Add Lift for Service Vehicles	\$	25,000
Replace Dump Truck	\$	100,000
Phase 1 Renovations	\$	2,000,000

Year 2025/2026	\$	3,100,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,050,000
Misc. Painting and Maint. @ Central Services	\$	50,000
Phase 1 Renovations	\$	2,000,000

Year 2026/2027	\$	1,050,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,050,000

Year 2027/2028	\$	3,050,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,050,000
Phase 1 Renovations	\$	2,000,000

Year 2028/2029	\$	3,075,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,075,000
Phase 1 Renovations	\$	2,000,000

Year 2029/2030	\$	3,575,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,075,000
Hardin Park Design	\$	2,500,000
Year 2030/2031	\$	1,600,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,100,000
Phase 2 Renovations Design	\$	500,000
Year 2031/2032	\$	92,300,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,100,000
Construct New Facility at Hardin Park	\$	85,000,000
Year 2032/2033	\$	3,100,000
Annual Maintenance Items (same as above)	\$	1,100,000
Phase 2 Renovations	\$	2,000,000

Facilities Plan Cash Flow

Watauga County Schools Capital Improvement Plan

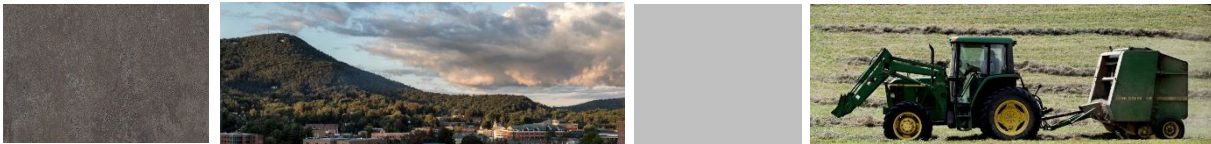
*Pending funding for new facilities.

Rev. 3/22/19

Budget Year	CIP		Long Term	
	Reserves	Balance	Capital	Balance
2018-2019		\$ 1,224,005		\$ 3,012,946
Expenditures	\$ 500,000		\$ 400,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2019-2020		\$ 1,224,005		\$ 4,112,946
Expenditures	\$ 510,750		\$ 4,000,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2020-2021		\$ 1,213,255		\$ 1,612,946
Expenditures	\$ 379,000		\$ 2,000,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2021-2022		\$ 1,334,255		\$ 1,112,946
Expenditures	\$ 315,000		\$ 2,000,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2022-2023		\$ 1,519,255		\$ 612,946
Expenditures	\$ 1,540,000		\$ 2,000,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2023-2024		\$ 479,255		\$ 112,946
Expenditures	\$ 720,000		\$ 300,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2025-2026		\$ 259,255		\$ 1,312,946
Expenditures	\$ 350,000		\$ 2,000,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2026-2027		\$ 409,255		\$ 812,946
Expenditures	\$ 300,000		\$ -	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2027-2028		\$ 609,255		\$ 2,312,946
Expenditures	\$ 300,000		\$ 2,000,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2028-2029		\$ 809,255		\$ 1,812,946
Expenditures	\$ 325,000		\$ 2,000,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2029-2030		\$ 984,255		\$ 1,312,946
Expenditures	\$ 325,000		\$ 1,500,000	
Revenues	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
2030-2031		\$ 1,159,255		\$ 1,312,946

Phase II Study Organic Composting

Watauga County, NC



Initial Report - October/September 2020
Board Presentation – February 2021



Summary of Options



OPTION 1

Combine the existing operations of Watauga County's organic recycling with a composting operation

(3,075 CY of annual production)

Sized to match woody waste debris flow and site

- Capital Requirements
 - Civil Costs: 310 k\$ to 350k\$
 - Equipment Costs: 200 k\$ to 230k\$
- Projected Positive Cash Flow, Years 1 through 3
 - 110 k\$ annually on startup volume
 - 185 k\$ annually on full volume
- Headcount Impact:
 - 1 Full Time Equivalent Employee
- Sufficient Nitrogenous Feedstocks Exist



Baker Advisors, Inc.
Winston Salem, NC

Coker Composting & Consulting
Troutville, VA



Summary of Options



OPTION 2

Improve the quality of soils and mulches manufactured

- Watauga has made exceptional progress
 - Grinding
 - Screening



Baker Advisors, Inc.
Winston Salem, NC

Coker Composting & Consulting
Troutville, VA



Summary of Options



OPTION 3

Outsource composting operations to a third party

- An operation on the same footprint with an operational LCID would result in:
 - Additional costs
 - Lower margins
 - Increased risks
- Contractor would likely require a larger facility with waste receipt from outside the County
- Probably requires acquiring additional land for a stand alone facility



Baker Advisors, Inc.
Winston Salem, NC

Coker Composting & Consulting
Troutville, VA



Summary of Options



OPTION 4

Transportation of excess wood wastes in the form of preprocessed product to other composters landscape yards

- Watauga has received interest and is now availing itself of a local supplier
 - This option could be temporary or permanent
 - Depends on ongoing interest and market conditions
- Study results model hauling single ground product to nearby composters
 - Would result in higher operating costs



Composting



- Composting is a biological manufacturing process for recycling organics (food wastes, woody wastes, industrial residuals)
- Phase 1 - Small facility handling 750 tons/year of food-related wastes and 1,500 tons/year of woody wastes, producing 3,075 CY of compost annually to be sold
 - Needs about 1.2 acres of LCID site
 - Would use aerated static pile composting (fans blowing air through perforated piping below compostables)
 - Easily expandable if needed



Baker Advisors, Inc.
Winston Salem, NC

Coker Composting & Consulting
Troutville, VA



Composting

- Initial conceptual layout
- To reduce costs, need to stay away from LCID-filled areas



Baker Advisors, Inc.
Winston Salem, NC

Coker Composting & Consulting
Troutville, VA



Composting – Capital Costs



Watauga County Compost Facility Cost Estimates - Equipment

Item	Specifications	Unit Price	Units	Quantit y	
				Quantit y	Costs
Blowers	Fuji Electric VFC-400P-5T compressor, single p	\$ 770	Ea	12	\$ 9,240
Blower sheds	Small "doghouses" to protect blowers from wea	\$ 75	Ea	12	\$ 900
Blower timers	ART-Dne adjustable recycling timer	\$ 90	Ea	12	\$ 1,080
Fernco fittings	2" x 1.5" Fernco fitting between blower and mani	\$ 3.00	Ea	12	\$ 36
Aeration piping	1.5" PVC aeration piping	\$ 0.57	LF	2880	\$ 1,642
	PVC elbows, tees, etc.	Allowance	Ea	1	\$ 500
Electrical	Install 3 wooden power poles - 40' high	\$ 1,384	Ea	3	\$ 4,152
	Circuit breaker in TS - 3 pole, 100A, 10,000 AIC	\$ 273.05	Ea	1	\$ 273
	Conduit in TS - 3/4" diameter, with mounting bra	\$ 6.00	LF	240	\$ 1,440
	Power line to utility shed - #4 AWG 5K volt cross-linked polyethylene non-shielded copper (XLP) cable	\$ 5.57	LF	150	\$ 836
	Ground rods - 3/4", Cu-clad, 10' long with couplings and clamps	\$ 107.81	Ea	2	\$ 216
	Circuit breaker panel for blowers, 100A, 16 spac	\$ 334.14	Ea	1	\$ 334
	Single-pole 15A circuit breakers	\$ 23.62	Ea	12	\$ 283
	Miscellaneous electrical materials	Allowance	Ea	1	\$ 500
Trash pump for water/leach	2.5 hp pump, 1.5" outlets	\$ 200	Ea	1	\$ 200
Leachate tank	2,000 gal double-walled fiberglass tank	\$ 12,058	Ea	1	\$ 12,058
Suction/discharge hoses	1.5" hoses	\$ 1.00	LF	200	\$ 200
Trommel screen	TROM 512	\$ 149,000	Ea	1	\$ 149,000
	Shipping, installation	Allowance			\$ 5,000
Nitrogenous wastes storag	10 CY shipping container	\$ 4,000	Ea	1	\$ 4,000
Compost product bucket	Tool carrier bucket and modifications	Allowance	Ea	1	\$ 7,000
Water truck	Northstar 200-gal skid sprayer	\$ 3,000	Ea	1	\$ 3,000
Pressure washer	Northstar gas cold water 4200 psi, 3.5 gpm	\$ 1,350	Ea	1	\$ 1,350
Totals	Totals				\$ 203,239



Baker Advisors, Inc.
Winston Salem, NC

Coker Composting & Consulting
Troutville, VA



Composting - Capital Cost

Watauga County Compost Facility				
Cost Estimates - Site Development				
Item	Unit Price	Units	Quantity	Costs
Land acquisition				
Site already owned by County				
Permits and Approvals				
Local- zoning, S&EC, bldg permits		Ea	Allowance	\$10,000
NCDEQ Permitting - solid waste compost		Ea	Allowance	\$12,000
NCDEQ Permitting - storm water		Ea	Allowance	\$5,000
Clearing and Grading				
Site is cleared	\$ 6,750	Ac	0.00	\$0
Knock down hill of inert materials	\$ 3.69	SY	4,250	\$4,760
Fine grading of site for drainage	\$ 1.12	CY	4,964	\$5,560
Hardscape construction				
Geotextile fabric - Mirafi 500X	\$ 1.17	SY	4,964	\$5,808
Concrete slab for Composting bunker floor 6" thick	\$ 4.00	SF	6,542	\$26,170
Incl. excavation, gravel fill, rebar, forms, vapor barrier				
Concrete block bunker walls	\$ 150.00	Ea	155	\$23,250
Assume 8' H walls, 2' x 2' x 4' t&g concrete blocks - delivered and set in				
Asphalt working surface (5" paving over 12" aggregate base)	\$ 5.83	SF	12,558	\$73,220
Assume under waste receipt, grinding/mixing, utility aisle, front apron of				
Crushed aggregate working surface (6" thick)	\$ 0.91	SF	25,509	\$23,213
Under woody wastes storage, curing, screening and product storage				
Excavation and backfill for leachate tank (8' W x 20' L x 6' D)	\$ 6.00	CY	36	\$216
Water management				
Run-on berm (8" high compacted earth) - west site boundary	\$ 2.00	LF	1,000	\$2,000
Runoff swales (24" W x 24" D)	\$ 3.00	LF	1,000	\$3,000
Solids separator	\$ 5,000	Ea	Allowance	\$5,000
Wet detention pond	\$ 78,100	Ac	0.11	\$8,650
Utilities				
Primary compost leachate collection tank	\$ 16,352	L.S.	1	\$16,352
Small utility shed	\$ 1,400	Ea	1	\$1,400
Subtotals				\$225,599
Design Fee	7.5%	Ea		\$16,920
Construction management/project support				\$20,000
Contingency	25%	Ea		\$56,400
Totals				\$318,919

Baker Advisors, Inc.
Winston Salem, NC

Coker Composting & Consulting
Troutville, VA



Watauga County Compost Facility

3,050 ton/year capacity, Year 1 throughput = 1,500 tons, Year 1 compost production = 1,500 CY

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD
Revenue													
Tip Fees - woody wastes	\$16,869	\$12,874	\$17,535	\$18,644	\$18,423	\$23,306	\$17,979	\$21,086	\$19,976	\$20,198	\$19,532	\$15,537	\$221,958
Tip Fees - nitrogenous waste	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$2,458	\$29,500
Compost Sales - commercial	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,016	\$3,312	\$1,236	\$389	\$1,440	\$2,304	\$1,799	\$195	\$264	\$12,955
Compost Sales - residential	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,512	\$2,484	\$927	\$292	\$1,080	\$1,728	\$1,349	\$146	\$198	\$9,716
Topsoil sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$917	\$917	\$917	\$917	\$917	\$917	\$917	\$917	\$7,333
Totals	\$19,327	\$15,332	\$19,993	\$24,631	\$27,594	\$28,844	\$22,034	\$26,981	\$27,383	\$26,721	\$23,248	\$19,375	\$281,462
Cost of Compost Production													
Waste Receipt	\$349	\$267	\$363	\$386	\$382	\$483	\$372	\$437	\$414	\$418	\$405	\$322	\$4,597
Grinding/shredding	\$6,284	\$4,795	\$6,532	\$6,945	\$6,862	\$8,681	\$6,697	\$7,855	\$7,441	\$7,524	\$7,276	\$5,788	\$82,680
Transport to pad	\$664	\$507	\$690	\$734	\$725	\$917	\$707	\$830	\$786	\$795	\$769	\$611	\$8,735
Building ASPs	\$830	\$633	\$863	\$917	\$906	\$1,146	\$884	\$1,037	\$983	\$994	\$961	\$764	\$10,918
Electricity for ASPs	\$164	\$125	\$170	\$181	\$179	\$226	\$175	\$205	\$194	\$196	\$190	\$151	\$2,155
Leachate tank management	\$142	\$108	\$147	\$157	\$155	\$196	\$151	\$177	\$168	\$170	\$164	\$130	\$1,864
Moving Compost to Curing	\$581	\$443	\$604	\$642	\$634	\$802	\$619	\$726	\$688	\$695	\$673	\$535	\$7,643
Managing Curing Piles	\$2,026	\$1,546	\$2,106	\$2,239	\$2,213	\$2,799	\$2,159	\$2,533	\$2,399	\$2,426	\$2,346	\$1,866	\$26,659
Screening Compost & Soil Blending	\$336	\$256	\$349	\$371	\$367	\$464	\$358	\$420	\$398	\$402	\$389	\$309	\$4,418
Moving Screened Compost to Storage	\$167	\$128	\$174	\$185	\$183	\$231	\$178	\$209	\$198	\$200	\$194	\$154	\$2,201
Move Overs to Storage	\$42	\$32	\$43	\$46	\$46	\$58	\$45	\$52	\$50	\$50	\$48	\$39	\$550
Process Management and Recordkeeping	\$667	\$509	\$693	\$737	\$728	\$921	\$711	\$834	\$790	\$799	\$772	\$614	\$8,775
Product Marketing & Sales	\$766	\$584	\$796	\$846	\$836	\$1,058	\$816	\$957	\$907	\$917	\$887	\$705	\$10,075
Subtotal	\$13,016	\$9,934	\$13,530	\$14,387	\$14,215	\$17,983	\$13,873	\$16,271	\$15,414	\$15,586	\$15,072	\$11,989	\$171,269
Administrative Costs													
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Admin Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Income	\$6,311	\$5,398	\$6,463	\$10,244	\$13,378	\$10,860	\$8,161	\$10,710	\$11,969	\$11,136	\$8,176	\$7,386	\$110,192

Watauga County Compost Facility

3,050 ton/year capacity, Year 2 throughput = 2,287 tons, Year 2 compost production = 2,306 CY

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD
Revenue													
Tip Fees - woody wastes	\$16,869	\$12,874	\$17,535	\$18,644	\$18,423	\$23,306	\$17,979	\$21,086	\$19,976	\$20,198	\$19,532	\$15,537	\$221,958
Tip Fees - nitrogenous wastes	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$3,869	\$46,433
Compost Sales - commercial	\$0	\$452	\$1,807	\$3,162	\$5,194	\$1,938	\$610	\$2,258	\$3,613	\$2,821	\$305	\$414	\$22,574
Compost Sales - residential	\$0	\$339	\$1,355	\$2,371	\$3,896	\$1,454	\$457	\$1,694	\$2,710	\$2,116	\$229	\$311	\$16,931
Topsoil Sales	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$16,500
Totals	\$22,113	\$18,908	\$25,941	\$29,422	\$32,757	\$31,942	\$24,290	\$30,282	\$31,544	\$30,380	\$25,311	\$21,507	\$324,396
Cost of Compost Production													
Waste Receipt	\$349	\$267	\$363	\$386	\$382	\$483	\$372	\$437	\$414	\$418	\$405	\$322	\$4,597
Grinding/shredding	\$6,284	\$4,795	\$6,532	\$6,945	\$6,862	\$8,681	\$6,697	\$7,855	\$7,441	\$7,524	\$7,276	\$5,788	\$82,680
Transport to pad	\$664	\$507	\$690	\$734	\$725	\$917	\$707	\$830	\$786	\$795	\$769	\$611	\$8,735
Building ASPs	\$830	\$633	\$863	\$917	\$906	\$1,146	\$884	\$1,037	\$983	\$994	\$961	\$764	\$10,918
Electricity for ASPs	\$164	\$125	\$170	\$181	\$179	\$226	\$175	\$205	\$194	\$196	\$190	\$151	\$2,155
Leachate tank management	\$142	\$108	\$147	\$157	\$155	\$196	\$151	\$177	\$168	\$170	\$164	\$130	\$1,864
Moving Compost to Curing	\$581	\$443	\$604	\$642	\$634	\$802	\$619	\$726	\$688	\$695	\$673	\$535	\$7,643
Managing Curing Piles	\$2,026	\$1,546	\$2,106	\$2,239	\$2,213	\$2,799	\$2,159	\$2,533	\$2,399	\$2,426	\$2,346	\$1,866	\$26,659
Screening Compost & Soil Blending	\$336	\$256	\$349	\$371	\$367	\$464	\$358	\$420	\$398	\$402	\$389	\$309	\$4,418
Moving Screened Compost to Storage	\$167	\$128	\$174	\$185	\$183	\$231	\$178	\$209	\$198	\$200	\$194	\$154	\$2,201
Move Overs to Storage	\$42	\$32	\$43	\$46	\$46	\$58	\$45	\$52	\$50	\$50	\$48	\$39	\$550
Process Management and Recordkeeping	\$667	\$509	\$693	\$737	\$728	\$921	\$711	\$834	\$790	\$799	\$772	\$614	\$8,775
Product Marketing & Sales	\$766	\$584	\$796	\$846	\$836	\$1,058	\$816	\$957	\$907	\$917	\$887	\$705	\$10,075
Subtotal	\$13,016	\$9,934	\$13,530	\$14,387	\$14,215	\$17,983	\$13,873	\$16,271	\$15,414	\$15,586	\$15,072	\$11,989	\$171,269
Administrative Costs													
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Admin Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Income	\$9,097	\$8,975	\$12,410	\$15,035	\$18,541	\$13,959	\$10,417	\$14,012	\$16,130	\$14,794	\$10,239	\$9,518	\$153,127

Watauga County Compost Facility

3,050 ton/year capacity, Year 3 throughput = 3,050 tons, Year 3 compost production = 3,075 CY

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD
Revenue													
Tip Fees - woody wastes	\$16,869	\$12,874	\$17,535	\$18,644	\$18,423	\$23,306	\$17,979	\$21,086	\$19,976	\$20,198	\$19,532	\$15,537	\$221,958
Tip Fees - nitrogenous wastes	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$5,163	\$61,950
Compost Sales - commercial	\$0	\$614	\$2,457	\$4,300	\$7,064	\$2,636	\$829	\$3,071	\$4,914	\$3,837	\$415	\$564	\$30,701
Compost Sales - residential	\$0	\$461	\$1,843	\$3,225	\$5,298	\$1,977	\$622	\$2,303	\$3,686	\$2,878	\$311	\$423	\$23,026
Topsoil sales	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$1,833	\$22,000
Totals	\$23,865	\$20,944	\$28,830	\$33,165	\$37,780	\$34,915	\$26,425	\$33,457	\$35,572	\$33,908	\$27,255	\$23,519	\$359,635
Cost of Compost Production													
Waste Receipt	\$356	\$272	\$370	\$394	\$389	\$492	\$380	\$445	\$422	\$427	\$413	\$328	\$4,689
Grinding/shredding	\$6,409	\$4,891	\$6,662	\$7,084	\$7,000	\$8,855	\$6,831	\$8,012	\$7,590	\$7,674	\$7,421	\$5,903	\$84,334
Transport to pad	\$677	\$517	\$704	\$748	\$739	\$935	\$722	\$846	\$802	\$811	\$784	\$624	\$8,909
Building ASPs	\$846	\$646	\$880	\$935	\$924	\$1,169	\$902	\$1,058	\$1,002	\$1,013	\$980	\$780	\$11,137
Electricity for ASPs	\$167	\$127	\$174	\$185	\$182	\$231	\$178	\$209	\$198	\$200	\$193	\$154	\$2,198
Leachate tank management	\$144	\$110	\$150	\$160	\$158	\$200	\$154	\$181	\$171	\$173	\$167	\$133	\$1,901
Moving Compost to Curing	\$592	\$452	\$616	\$655	\$647	\$819	\$631	\$741	\$702	\$709	\$686	\$546	\$7,796
Managing Curing Piles	\$2,067	\$1,577	\$2,148	\$2,284	\$2,257	\$2,855	\$2,203	\$2,583	\$2,447	\$2,474	\$2,393	\$1,903	\$27,192
Screening Compost & Soil Blending	\$342	\$261	\$356	\$379	\$374	\$473	\$365	\$428	\$406	\$410	\$397	\$315	\$4,506
Moving Screened Compost to Storage	\$171	\$130	\$177	\$189	\$186	\$236	\$182	\$213	\$202	\$204	\$198	\$157	\$2,245
Move Overs to Storage	\$43	\$33	\$44	\$47	\$47	\$59	\$45	\$53	\$51	\$51	\$49	\$39	\$561
Process Management and Recordkeeping	\$680	\$519	\$707	\$752	\$743	\$940	\$725	\$850	\$806	\$814	\$788	\$627	\$8,951
Product Marketing & Sales	\$781	\$596	\$812	\$863	\$853	\$1,079	\$832	\$976	\$925	\$935	\$904	\$719	\$10,277
Subtotal	\$13,277	\$10,132	\$13,801	\$14,674	\$14,500	\$18,343	\$14,150	\$16,596	\$15,723	\$15,897	\$15,373	\$12,229	\$174,695
Administrative Costs													
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Admin Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Income	\$10,588	\$10,812	\$15,029	\$18,491	\$23,280	\$16,572	\$12,275	\$16,861	\$19,849	\$18,011	\$11,881	\$11,291	\$184,940

Composting



Initial Steps Completed

McGill has evaluated combining the MSW trailer storage leachate collection with the proposed compost operation

LCID Phase 1 and 2 investigation

- Historical review
- Soil borings



Important because NCDEQ requirements for a compost facility built on or near LCID

Resulted in a new proposed layout by McGill



Baker Advisors, Inc.
Winston Salem, NC

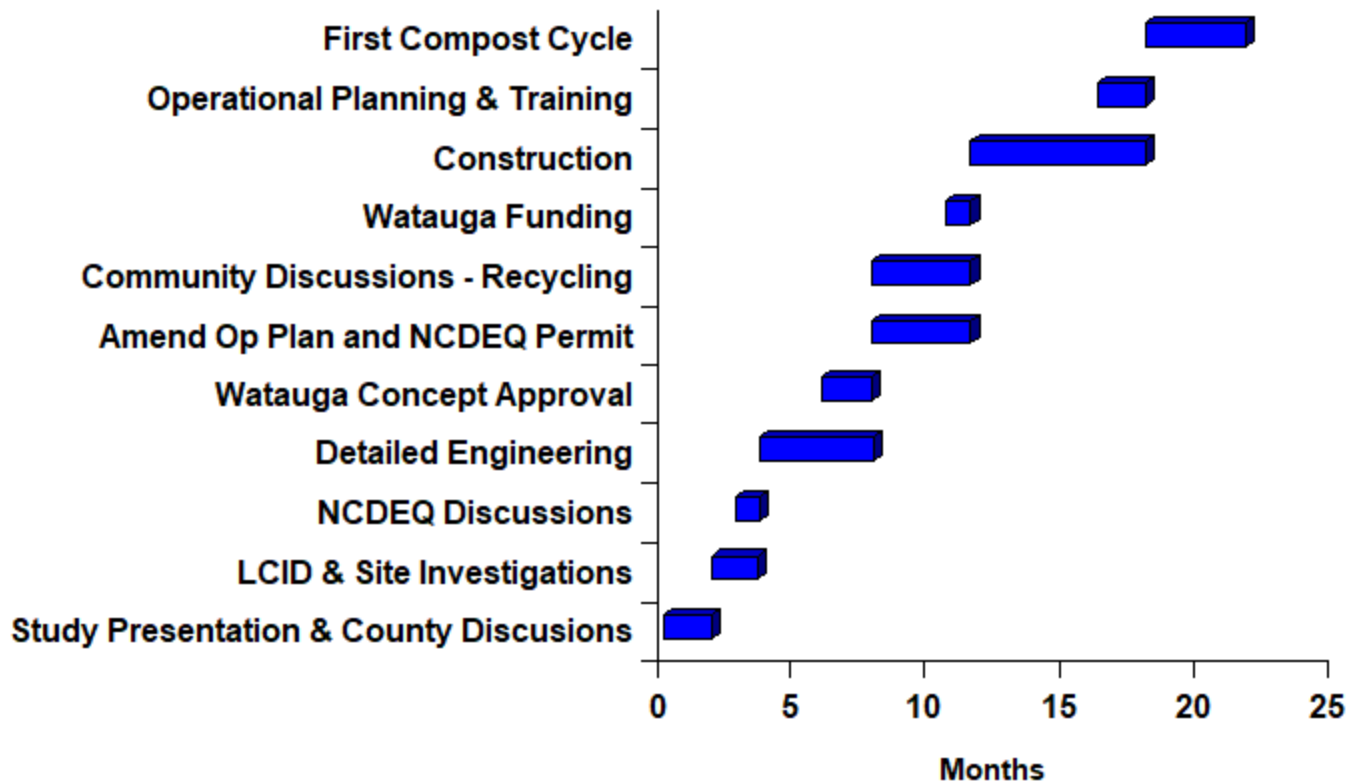
Coker Composting & Consulting
Troutville, VA



Composting – Stand Alone Facility



Potential Next Steps



Baker Advisors, Inc.
Winston Salem, NC

Coker Composting & Consulting
Troutville, VA





INSTALL APPROXIMATELY 260 L.F. OF 2" TYPE-2 COPPER WATERLINE TO EXISTING ADMIN BUILDING AND NEW SCALEHOUSE
 INSTALL YARD HYDRANT FOR SCALE AREA WASHDOWN
 INSTALL 2 - 2" BALL VALVES AT WATERLINE TEE

INSTALL APPROXIMATELY 220 L.F. OF 8" D.I.P. SEWER LINE WITH MANHOLES
 INSTALL APPROXIMATELY 35 L.F. 4" PVC SEWER SERVICE WITH CLEANOUTS TO NEW SCALEHOUSE

RELOCATE EXISTING FIRE HYDRANT AND INSTALL NEW METER FOR BOTH EXISTING ADMIN BUILDING AND NEW SCALEHOUSE

PROPOSED INLET TOP EL.: 3207.5
 INVERT EL.: 3203.5
 BOTH PIPES ARE 15" CMP

LIMITS OF PHASE-1 CONSTRUCTION

PROPOSED INLET TOP EL.: 3205.5
 INVERT EL.: 3202.7 (VERIFY IN FIELD)
 INVERT IN (24") EL.: 3262.7
 INVERT IN (18") EL.: 3203.0

PROPOSED 24" CMP STORM DRAIN W/END WALL
 INVERT EL.: 3205.8

INSTALL APPROXIMATELY 280 L.F. OF 8" PVC SEWER LINE WITH MANHOLES

INSTALL NEW SERVICE TAP FROM NEW WATERLINE TO EXISTING WATER METER

FIELD LOCATE PERMANENT DIVERSION BERMS AVOID OBSTACLES AND MAINTAIN POSITIVE DRAINAGE
 INSTALL AT 4% MAXIMUM SLOPE WHERE FEASIBLE
 VERIFY LOCATION IN FIELD

INSTALL NEW FIRE HYDRANT TO SERVICE RECYCLING FACILITY

INSTALL APPROXIMATELY 630 L.F. OF 6" OR 8" (MATCH EXISTING) D.I.P. WATERLINE

NOTE: THIS OPTION ALLOWS BOTH SCALES AND SCALEHOUSE TO BE BUILT OFF LINE. EXISTING SCALE REMOVED AFTER NEW WORK IS COMPLETELY OPERATIONAL

CATCH BASIN
 GRATE EL.: 3221.51'
 15" CMP (NW) I.E.: 3219.20'

I.E.: 3222.35'

PROPOSED 15" CMP STORM DRAIN W/END WALL
 INVERT EL.: TO BE DETERMINED IN FIELD TO PROVIDE 2% MIN. SLOPE TO EXISTING STORM DRAINAGE PIPE INVERT

I.E.: 3230.12'

I.E.: 3235.1'

P:\2020\07\02\WATAUGA\CONC-SCALE IMPROVEMENTS\DRAWINGS\OLD WASTE\CONCEPTUAL\CONCEPT 1\WATAUGA COUNTY LF SCALE HOUSE\DWG PLOT DATE: 07/15/2020 10:55 AM DAVE PARKIN

55 Broad Street
 Asheville, NC 28801
 828.252.0575
 NC Firm License # C-0459
 mcgillassociates.com



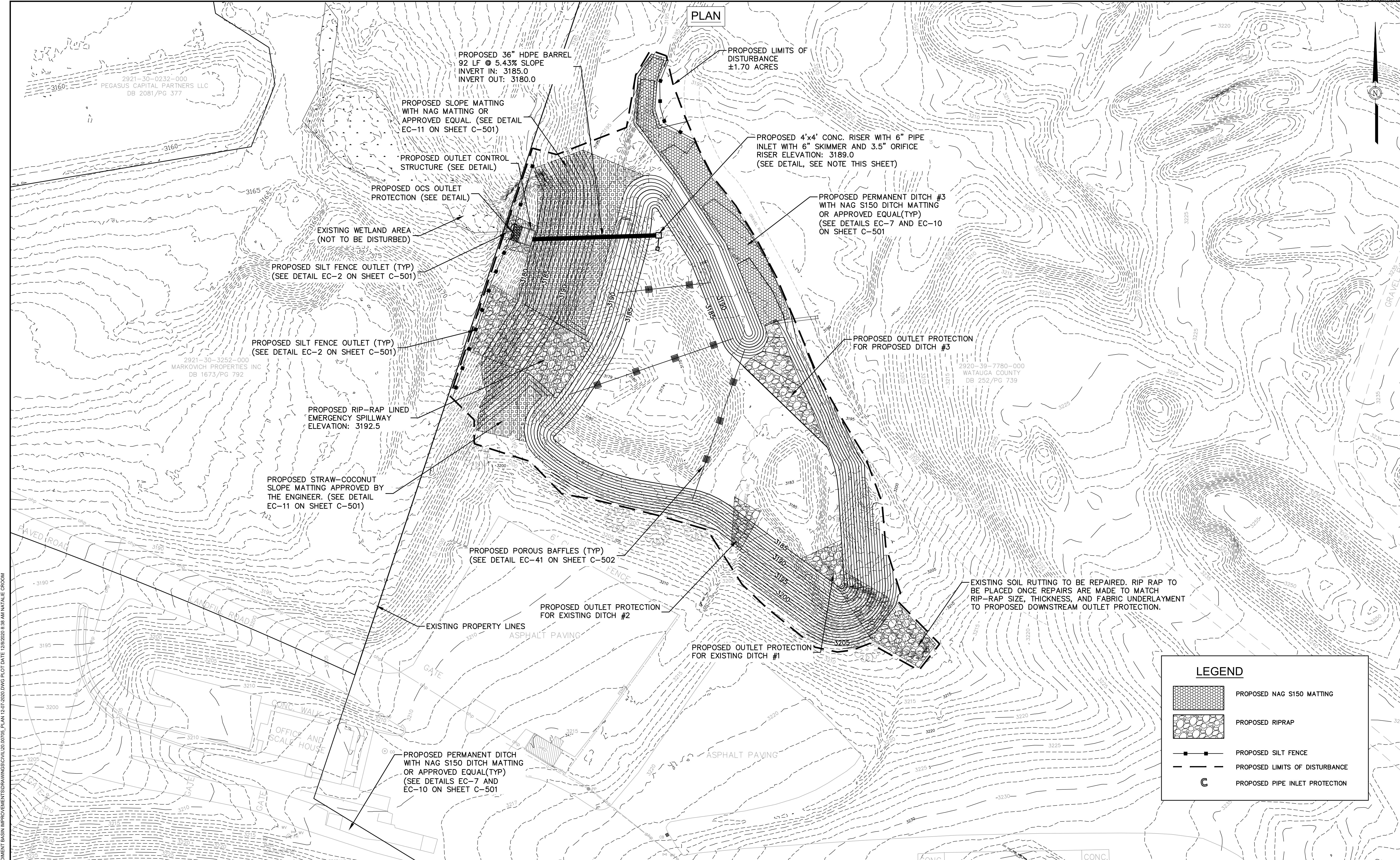
NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

WATAUGA COUNTY LANDFILL
 SCALE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
 WATAUGA COUNTY
 WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

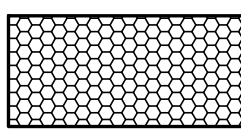

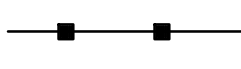


20 0 10 20 40 GRAPHIC SCALE DIVISION VALUE = 20 FEET	
OFFICE MANAGER MDC	DESIGNER DAP
PROJECT MANAGER JRB	REVIEWER JRB

CONCEPTUAL OPTION 1		
DATE JULY 2019	PROJECT # 14.00708	FUNDING # N/A

SHEET
 C-101



LEGEND

-  PROPOSED NAG S150 MATTING
-  PROPOSED RIPRAP
-  PROPOSED SILT FENCE
-  PROPOSED LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE
-  PROPOSED PIPE INLET PROTECTION

P:\2020\20.0705-WATAUGA-CO-SOLID WASTE-BASIN IMPROVEMENTS\DRAWINGS\CIVIL\20.0705_PLAN_12-07-2020.DWG PLOT DATE: 12/8/2020 8:38 AM NATALIE CROOM



55 Broad Street
Asheville, NC 28801
828.252.0575
NC Firm License # C-0459
mcgillassociates.com

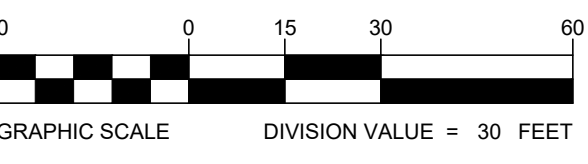



NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

SEDIMENT BASIN IMPROVEMENTS

WATAUGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE

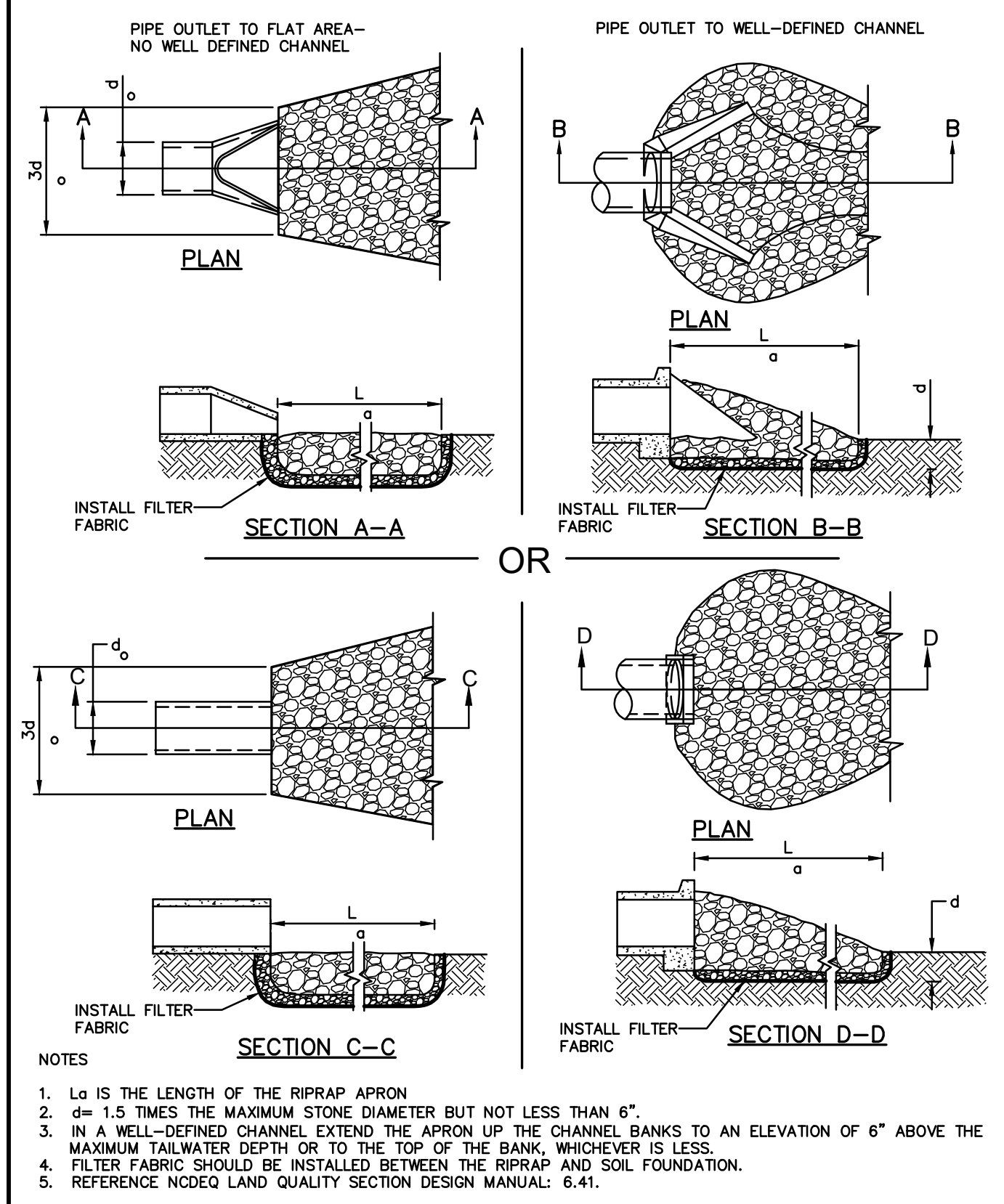
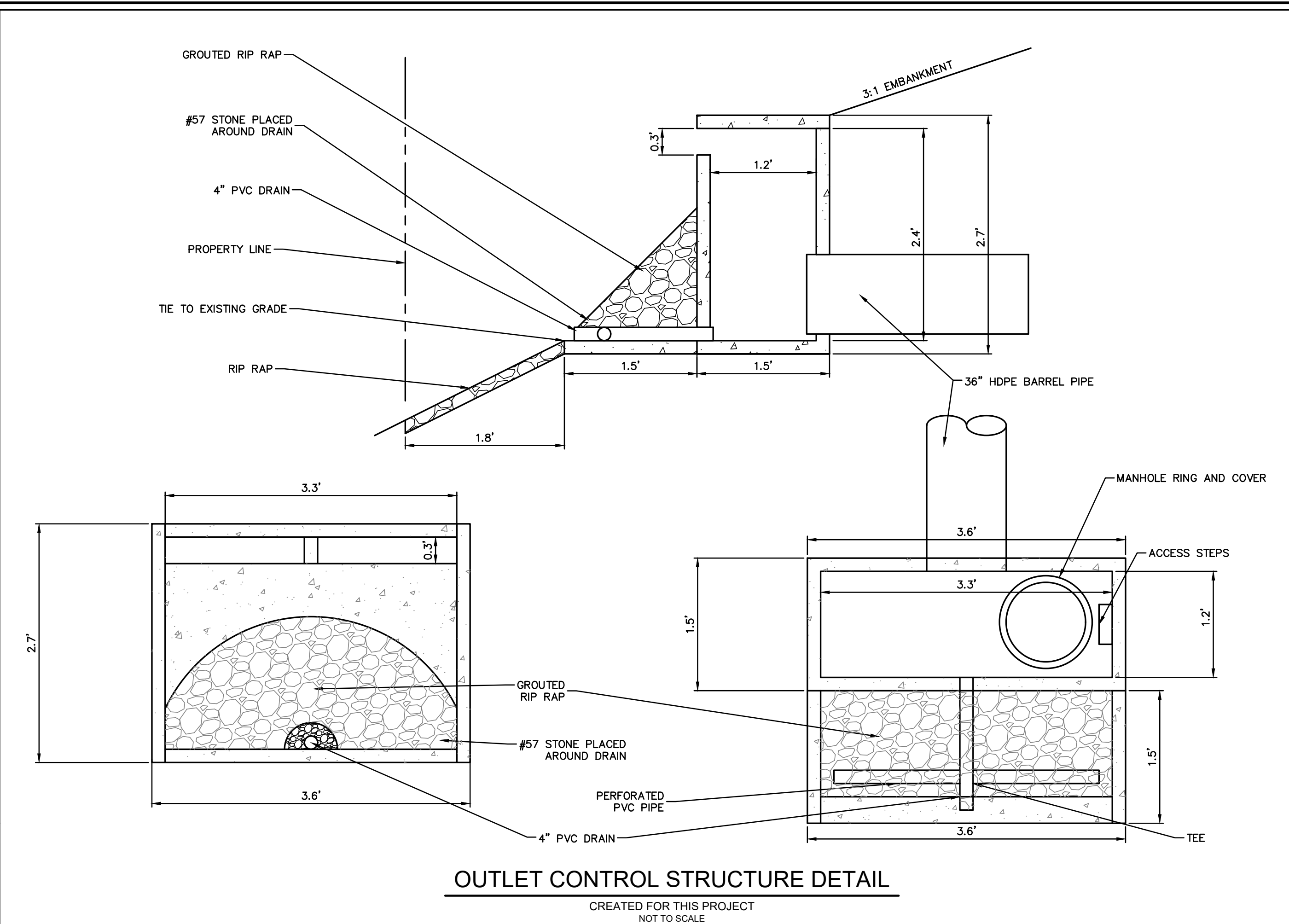
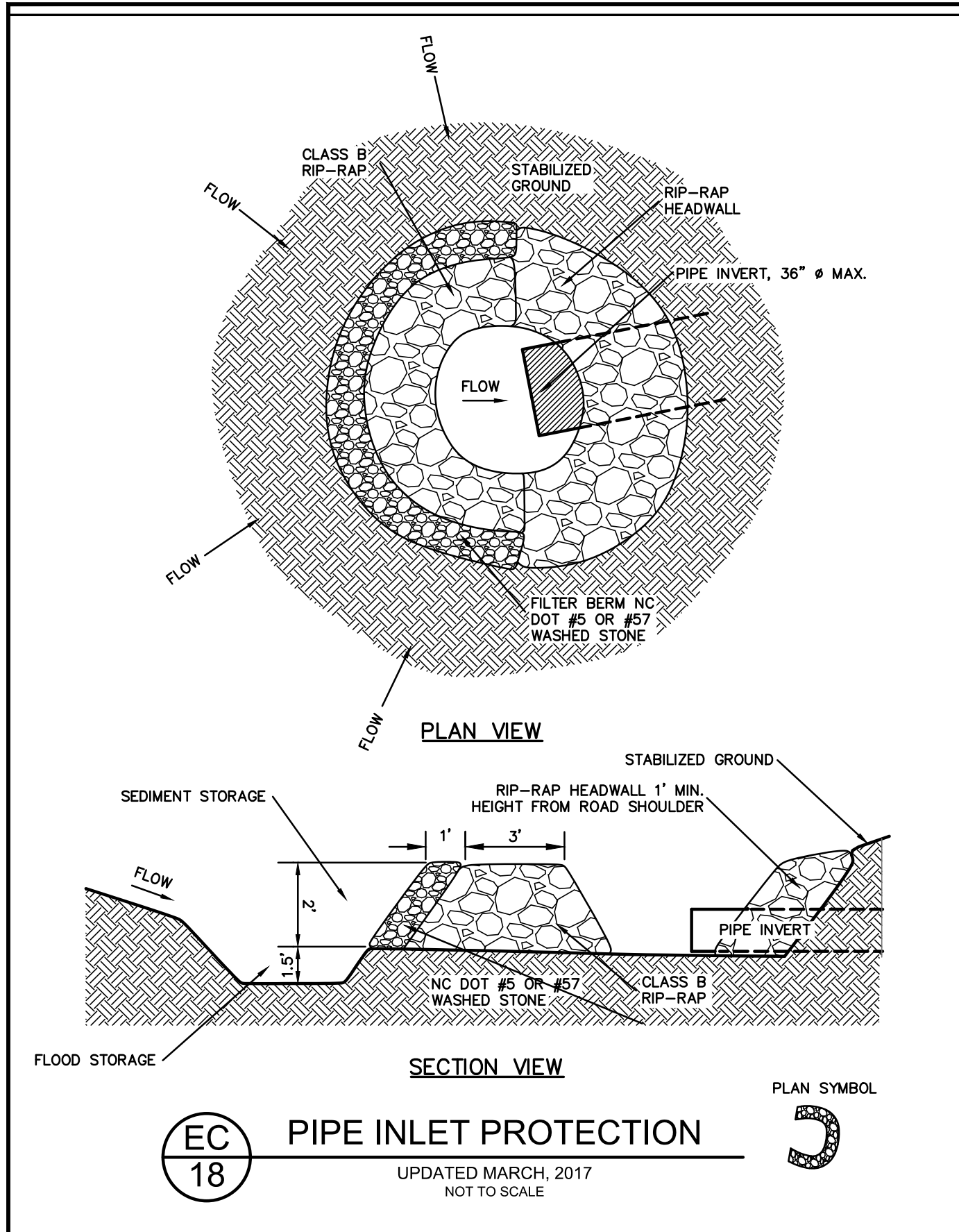
WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



OFFICE MANAGER M. CATHEY	DESIGNER N. SAWYER
PROJECT MANAGER S. BURWELL	REVIEWER S. BURWELL

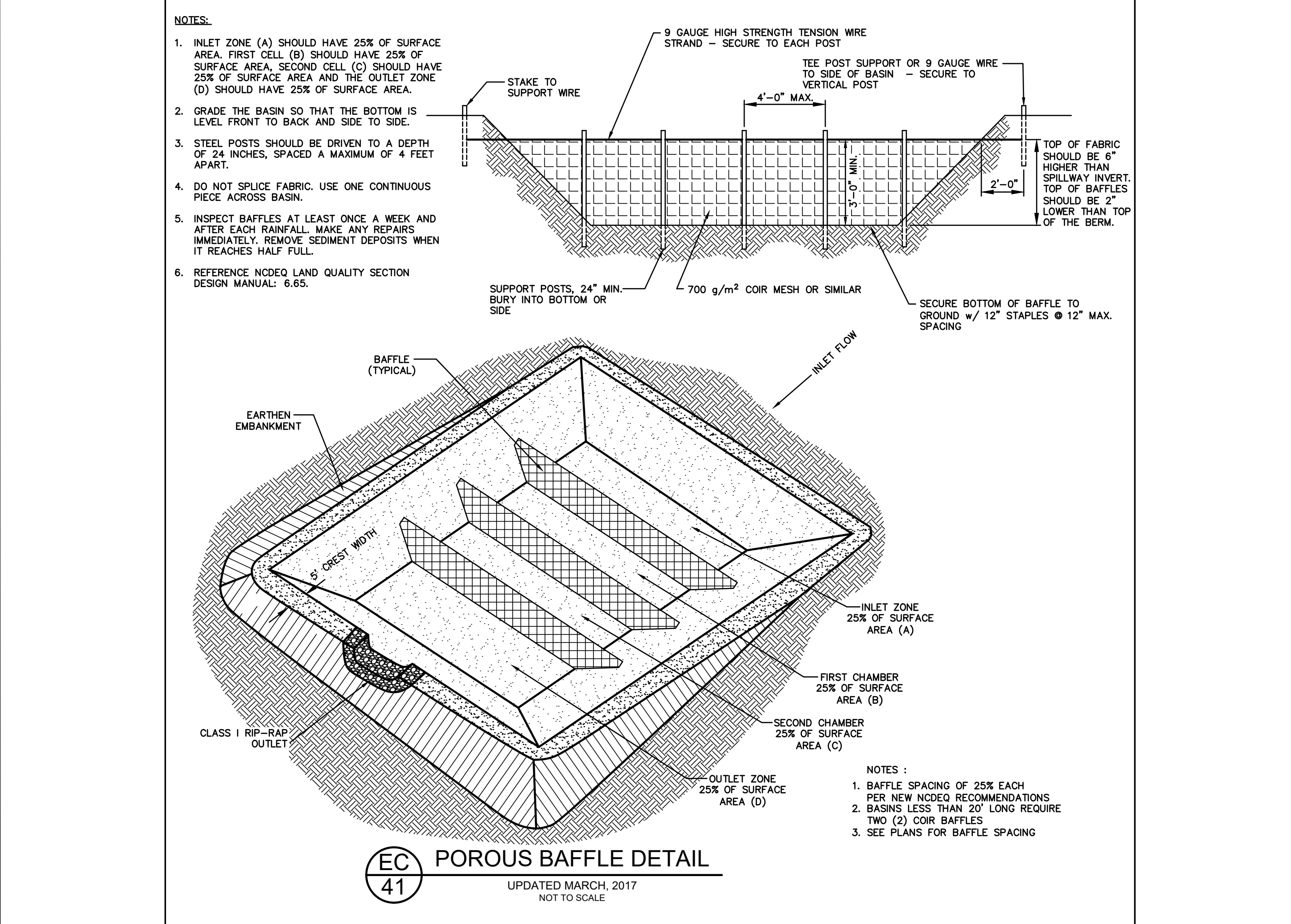
DATE DECEMBER 2020	PROJECT # 20.00705	FUNDING # N/A
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SHEET
C-103



RIPRAP APRON SIZING

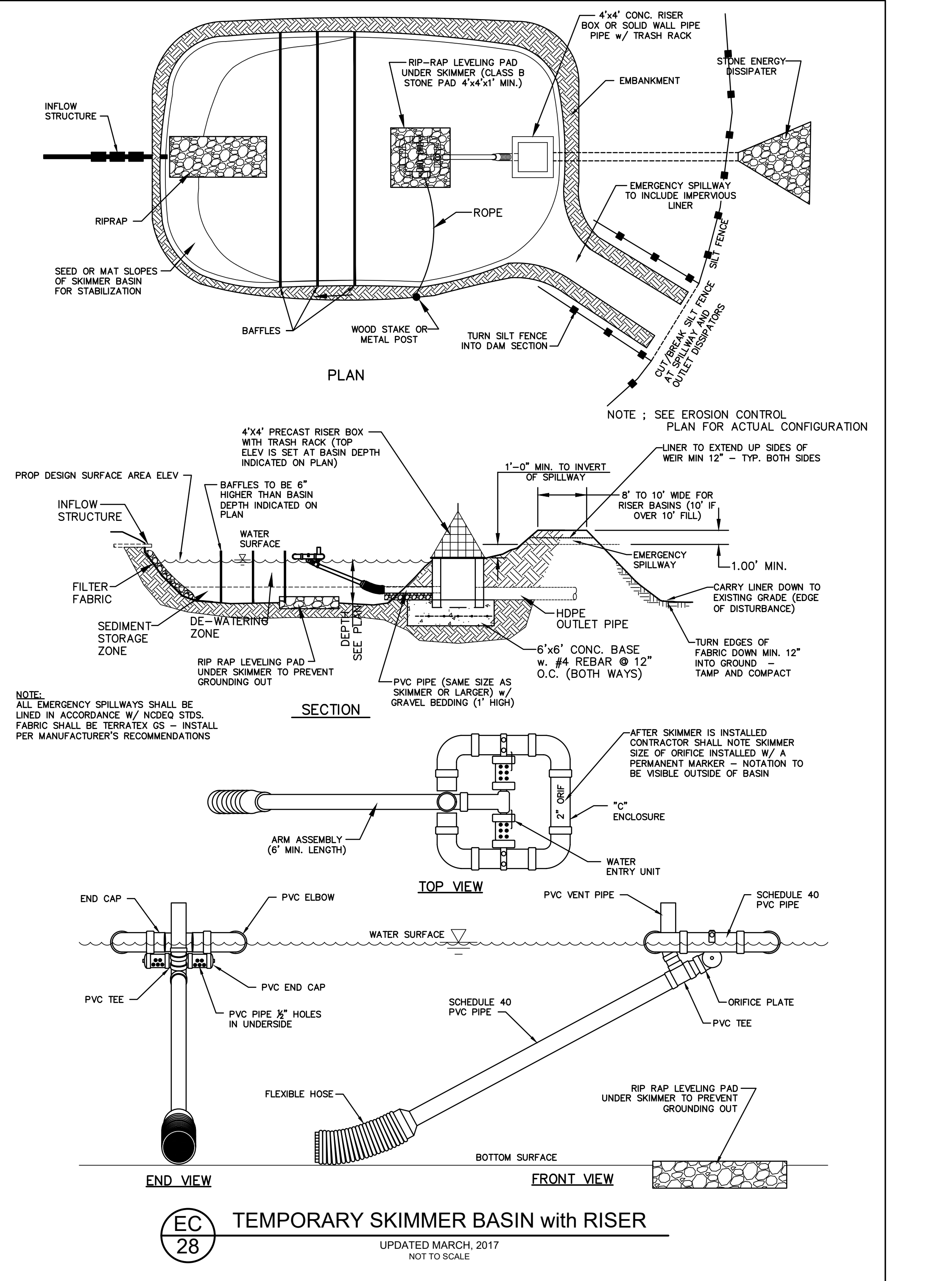
OUTLET No.	PIPE DIAMETER (Do)	3 x Do	APRON LENGTH (Lo)	APRON WIDTH (W=Do+Lo)	RIPRAP SIZE (50xTHICKNESS)
EXIST DITCH 1	N/A	N/A	24'	24'	10"
EXIST DITCH 2	N/A	N/A	20'	20'	21"
PROP DITCH 3	N/A	N/A	48'	48'	5"
OCS	3"	9"	12'	15'	23"
PERM SPILLWAY	N/A	N/A	48'	45'	12"
TEMP SPILLWAY	N/A	N/A	27'	30'	18"



SKIMMER SEDIMENT BASIN SCHEDULE

BASIN #	TOP BERM ELEV. (ft)	RISER TOP ELEV. (ft)	PRIMARY SPILLWAY (D x WIDTH)	EMERGENCY SPILLWAY (D x WIDTH)	SKIMMER INVERT ELEV. (ft)	BASIN SIDE SLOPE RATIO	BASIN DEPTH (FT)	BASIN SPILLWAY LENGTH (FT)	BASIN SPILLWAY WIDTH (FT)	BASIN BOTTOM LENGTH (FT)	BASIN BOTTOM WIDTH (FT)	SKIMMER SIZE (IN)	SKIMMER ORIFICE SIZE (IN)
TEMP SB	3191'	N/A	N/A	30'	3185'	2:1	2'	27'	30'	218'	108'	6"	3.5"
PERM SB	3194'	3189'	4' x 4' BOX	45'	3185'	3:1	2'	48'	45'	238'	108'	6"	3.5"

NOTES:
 1. LENGTH AND WIDTH ARE BASED ON DIMENSIONS AT THE ELEVATION OF THE PRIMARY SPILLWAY.



P:\2020\20.00705-WATAUGA-COUNTY-SOLID-WASTE-SEDIMENT-BASIN-IMPROVEMENTS\DRAWINGS\CIVIL\20.00705_Plan_12-07-2020.dwg PLOT DATE: 12/08/2020 8:38 AM NATAVIA CROOK

NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

SEDIMENT BASIN IMPROVEMENTS
WATAUGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE
 WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

NOT TO SCALE

MISCELLANEOUS DETAILS

SHEET **C-502**

OFFICE MANAGER M. CATHEY	DESIGNER N. SAWYER	DATE DECEMBER 2020	PROJECT # 20.00705	FUNDING # N/A
PROJECT MANAGER S. BURWELL	REVIEWER S. BURWELL			

Watauga County Sign - Bidders List

CONFIRMED

1. Appalachian Sign co. located in Boone
laura@appalachiansigns.com
898 W king st, Boone 28607
828-265-1141
2. Fastsigns-located in asheville
nikki.swafford@fastsigns.com
828-222-0096
3. Snyder Signs
charity@snydersigns.com
2918 creekmoore dr, johnson city, tn 37601
423-282-6221
4. pittman signs - spruce pine
pittmansigns@gmail.com
54 Skyhook Lane, Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-9535
5. sales@aoasigns.com
336-679-3344
214 E. Cherry Street, yadkinville
6. Brenda Dunaway
bdunaway@apcosigns.com
704-975-6794



P:\2020\200703\WATAUGA\CONC-LANDFILL STRIPING AND SIGNAGE\DRAWINGS\SOLID WASTE\19.0708 - WCL SIGNAGE PLAN.DWG PLOT DATE 11/4/2021 11:02 AM ADAM WALDRUP

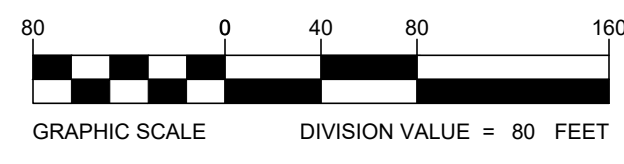


55 Broad Street
Asheville, NC 28801
828.252.0575
NC Firm License # C-0459
mcgillassociates.com

FOR REVIEW ONLY

NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE
WATAUGA COUNTY LANDFILL
WATAUGA COUNTY
WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



GRAPHIC SCALE DIVISION VALUE = 80 FEET

OFFICE MANAGER M. CATHEY	DESIGNER A. WALDRUP
PROJECT MANAGER M. CATHEY	REVIEWER M. CATHEY

PROPOSED SIGNAGE PLAN	
DATE OCTOBER 2020	FUNDING # N/A
PROJECT # 19.00708	

SHEET
C-101

What Are You Dropping Off?

1

Convenience Center

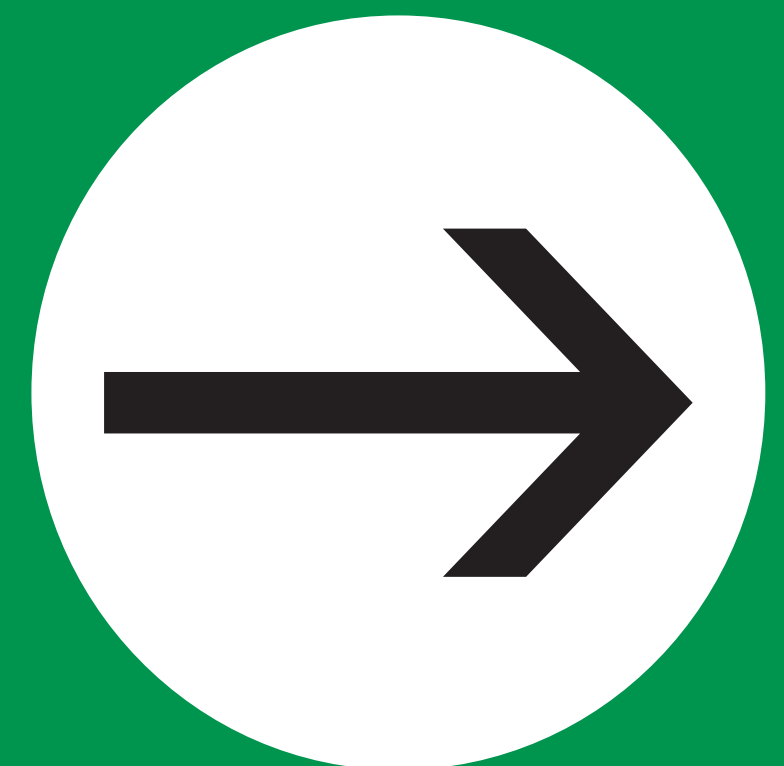
Bagged residential trash & recyclables



2

Transfer Station

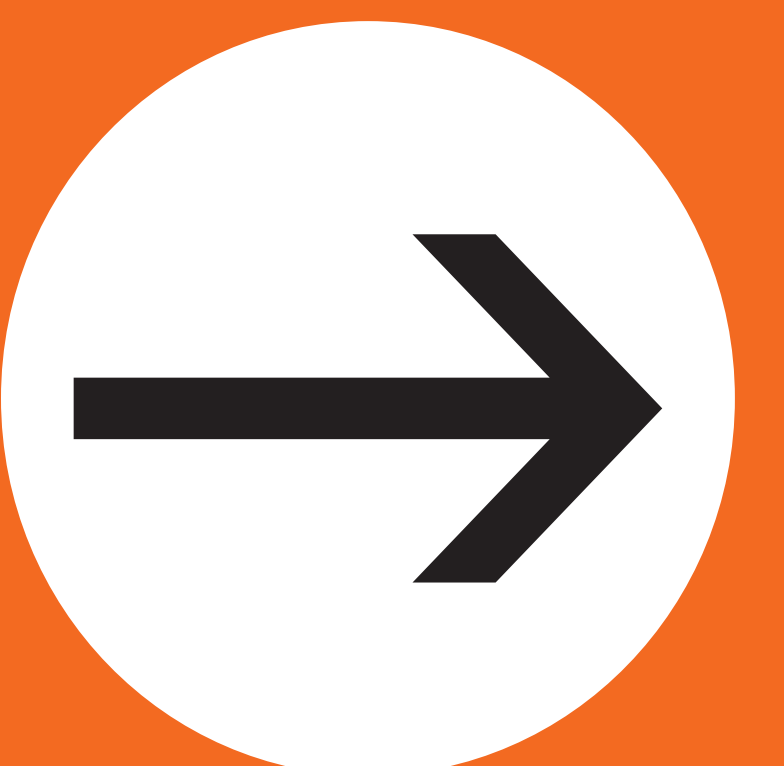
Bulk non-bagged residential & commercial waste



3

Land Clearing & Inert Debris

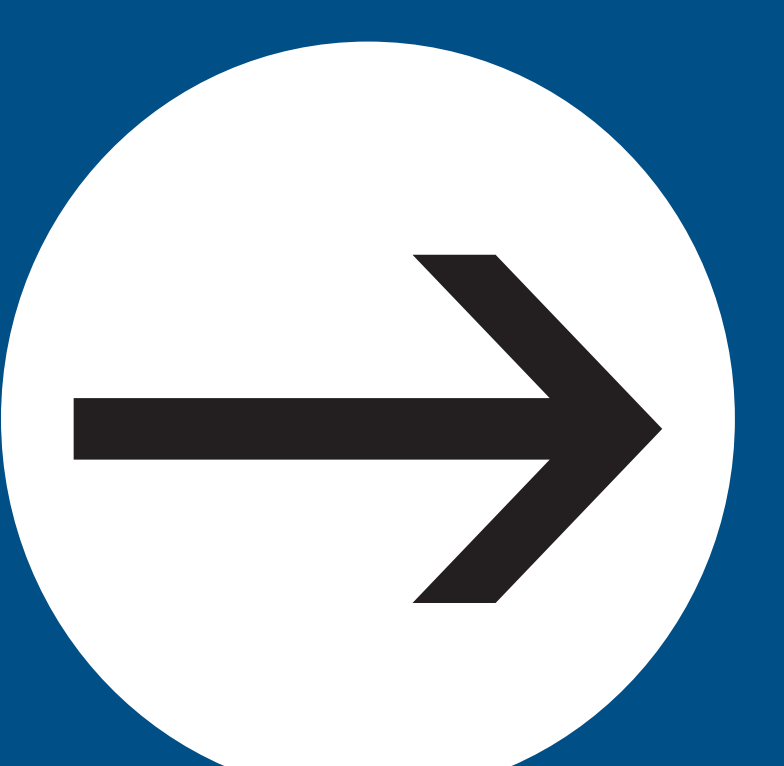
Brush, stumps, yard waste, brick, block, dirt & asphalt



4

Recycling Facility

Electronics, scrap metal & white goods



What Are You Dropping Off?

1

Convenience Center

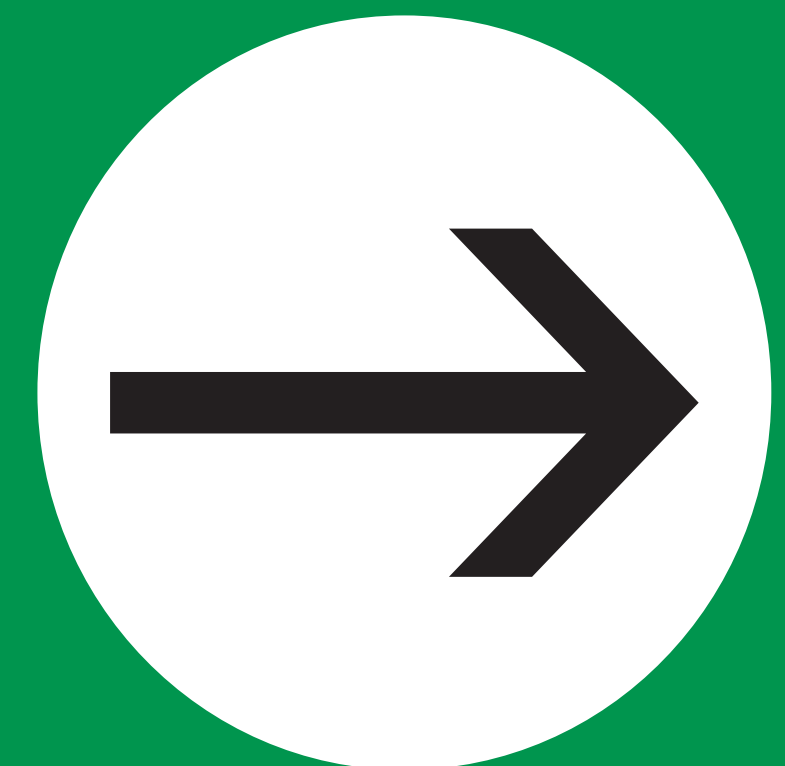
Bagged residential trash & recyclables



2

Transfer Station

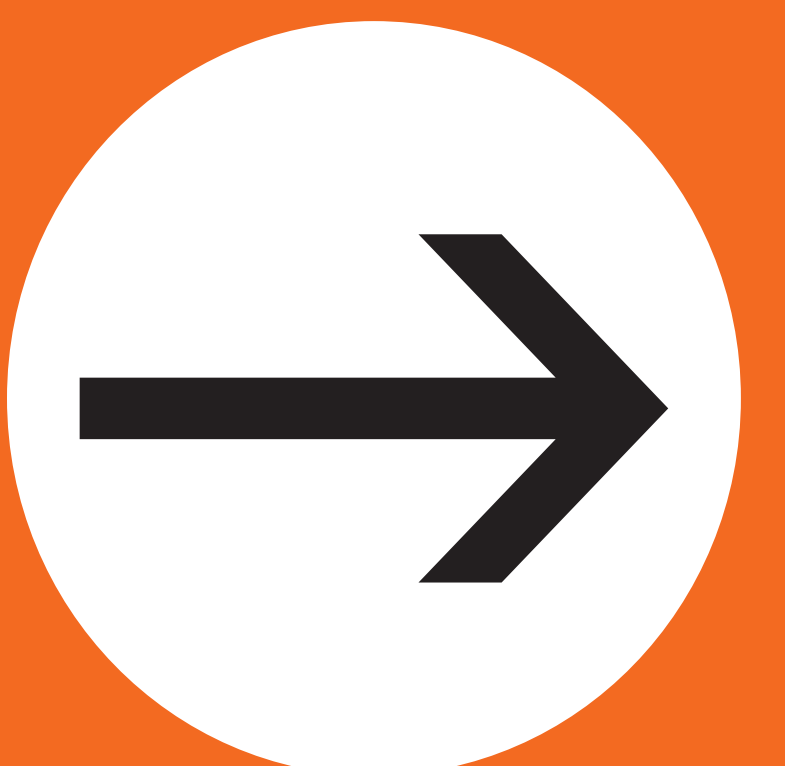
Bulk non-bagged residential & commercial waste



3

Land Clearing & Inert Debris

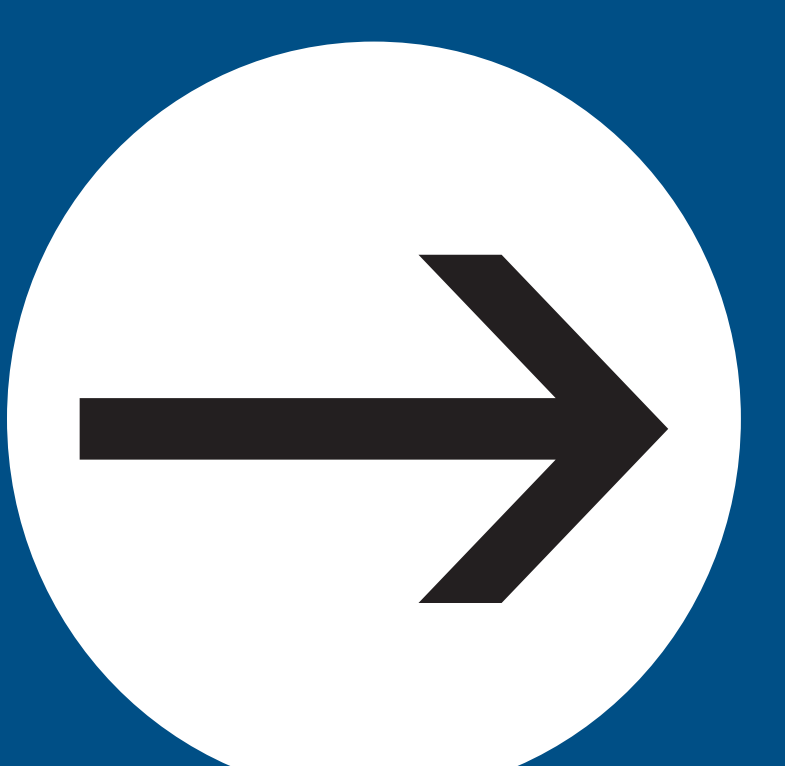
Brush, stumps, yard waste, brick, block, dirt & asphalt



4

Recycling Facility

Electronics, scrap metal & white goods

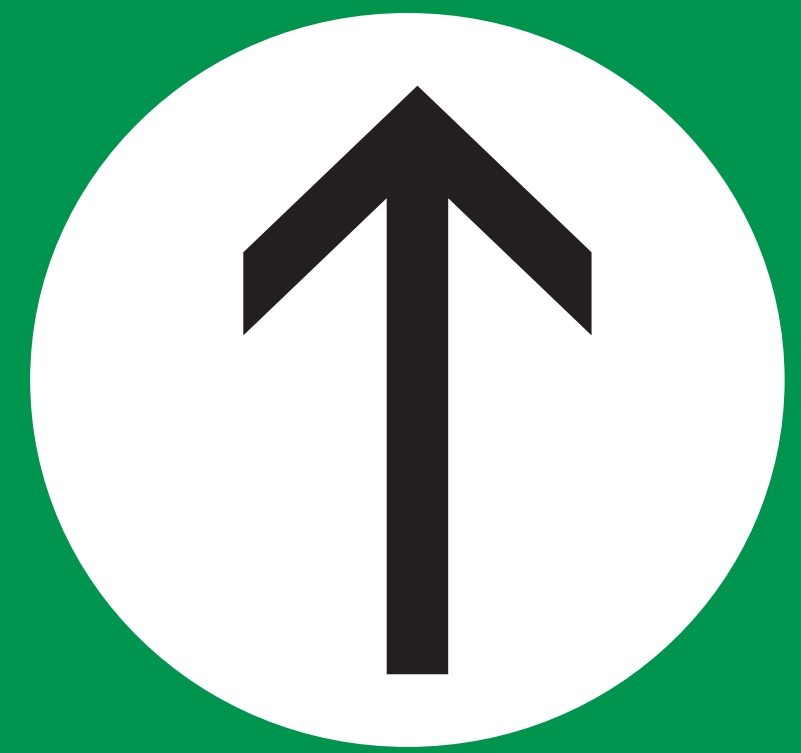


Where Do You Want to Go?

2

Transfer Station

500 feet straight ahead



3

Land Clearing & Inert Debris

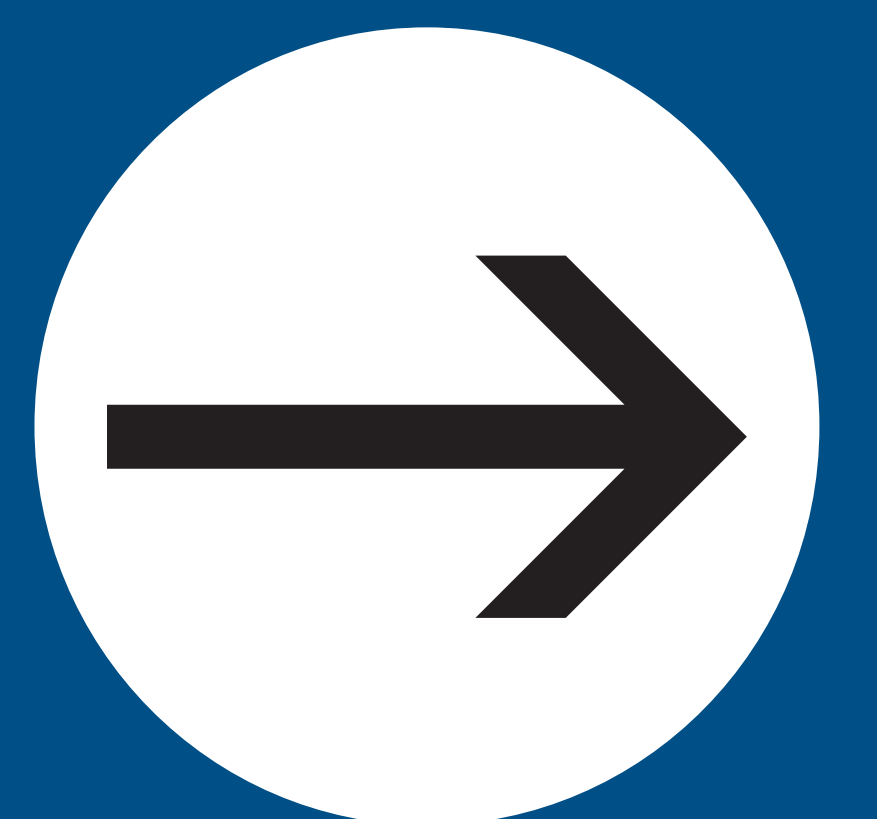
First left after
Area 2 / Transfer Station

4

Recycling Facility

Turn right at
Area 2: Transfer Station

Recycling Facility



Outbound Weight



Outbound Weight



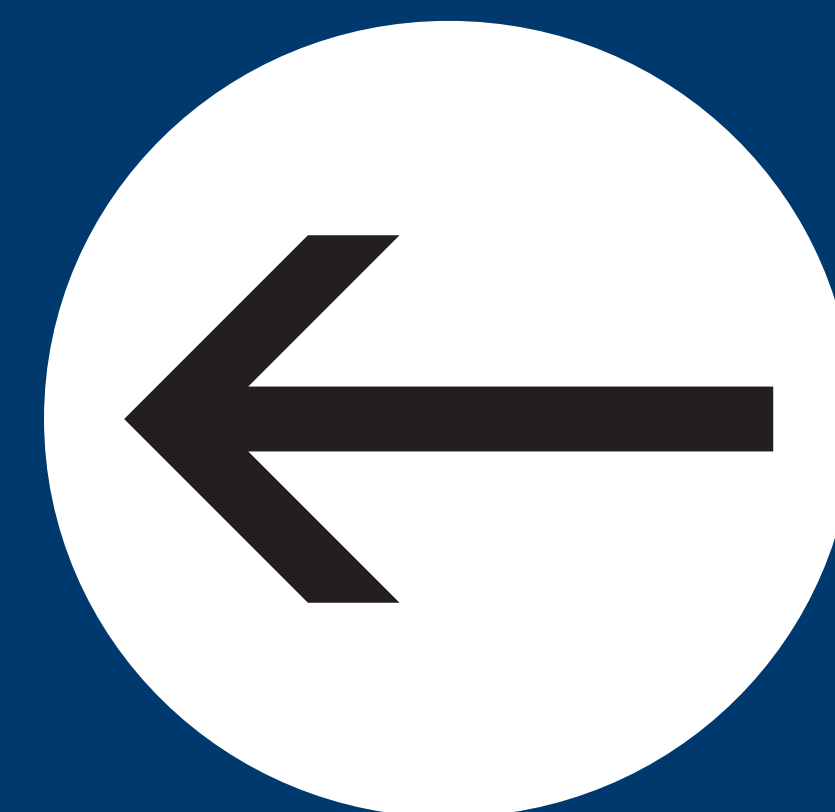
X

**Do Not
Enter**

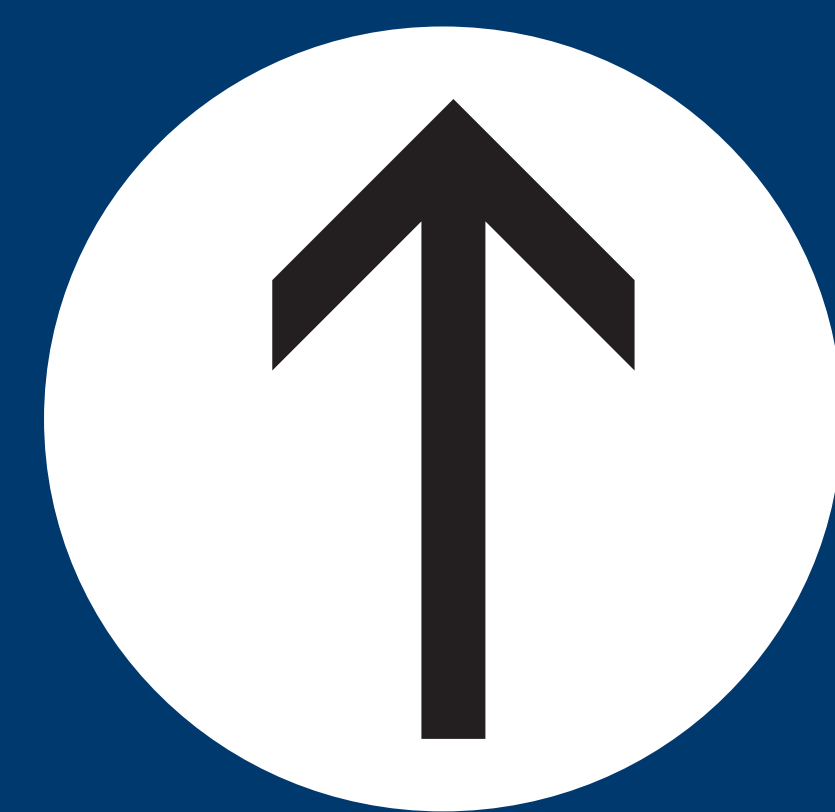
X

**Landfill
Personnel
Only Past
This Point**

Residential Users



Commercial Users



Commercial Waste Drop-Off Area



Commercial Waste Drop-Off

3

Land Clearing & Inert Debris Landfill



3

Land Clearing & Inert Debris Landfill

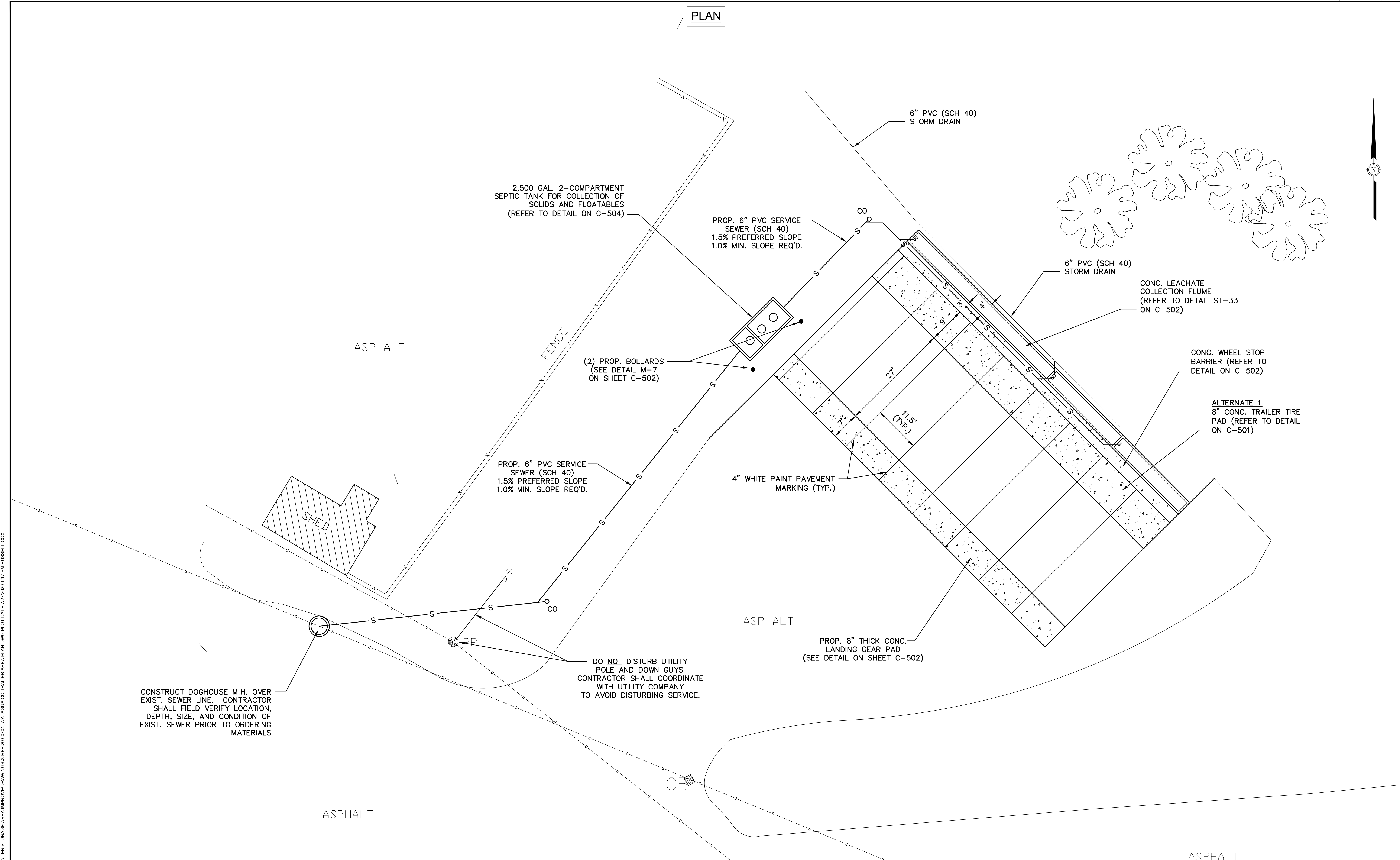
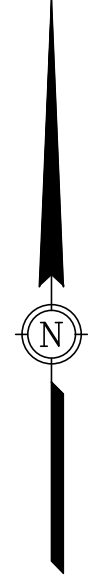


Exit

Brush, Stumps & Yard Waste

Brick, Block, Dirt & Asphalt

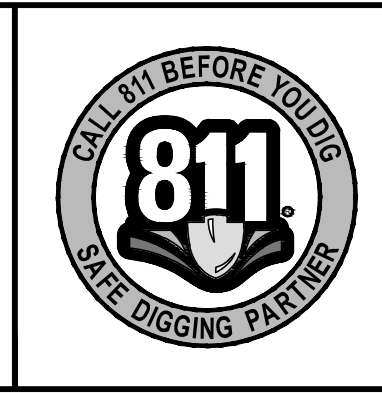
PLAN



P:\2020\00704\WATAUGA\CONC-TRAILER STORAGE AREA IMPROV\DRAWINGS\X-REF\20\0704_WATAUGA_CO_TRAILER AREA PLAN.DWG PLOT DATE 1/27/2020 1:17 PM RUSSELL COX

55 Broad Street
Asheville, NC 28801
828.252.0575
NC Firm License # C-0459
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PRELIMINARY



NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

WATAUGA COUNTY LANDFILL
TRAILER STAGING AREA IMPROVEMENTS
WATAUGA COUNTY
TOWN OF BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

GRAPHIC SCALE DIVISION VALUE = 10 FEET

OFFICE MANAGER M. CATHEY	DESIGNER R.L. COX
PROJECT MANAGER M. OETTING	REVIEWER A. WALDRUP

DATE JULY, 2020	PROJECT # 20.00704	FUNDING # N/A
--------------------	-----------------------	------------------

SHEET
C-101

P:\2020\20.00704-WATAUGA\CONCEPTUAL SITE LAYOUT\DRAWINGS\REF\20.00704-TRAILER AREA.ALT BASES.DWG PLOT DATE 09/25/2020 10:25 AM MATTHEW OETTING

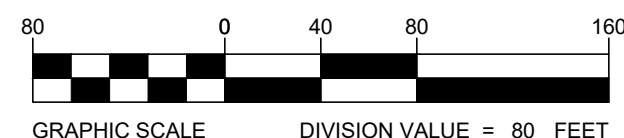



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Asheville, NC 28801
828.252.0575
NC Firm License # C-0459
mcgillassociates.com



NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

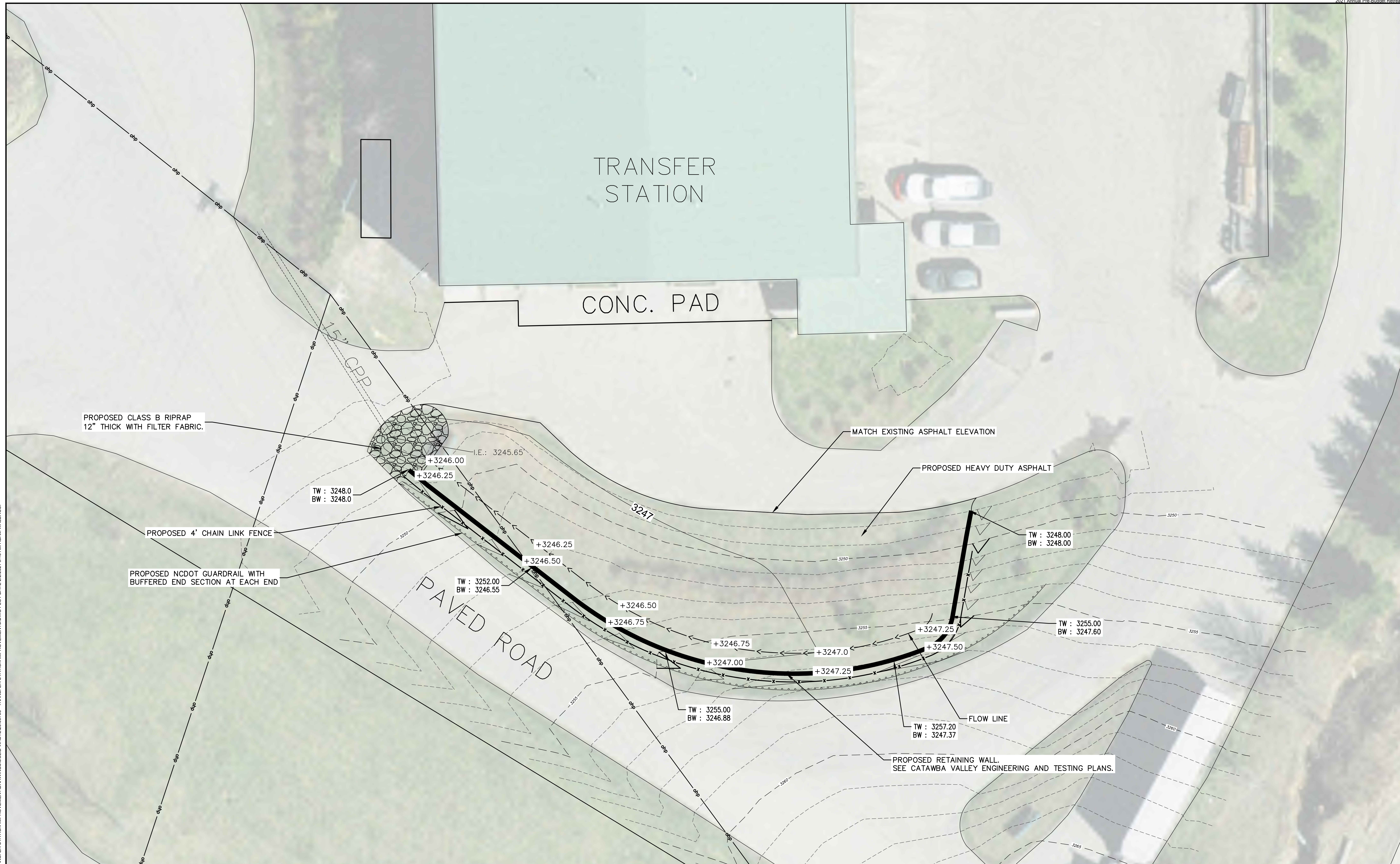
WATAUGA COUNTY LANDFILL
WATAUGA COUNTY
WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



OFFICE MANAGER M. CATHEY	DESIGNER M. OETTING
PROJECT MANAGER M. CATHEY	REVIEWER S. BURWELL

CONCEPTUAL SITE LAYOUT		
DATE SEPTEMBER 2020	PROJECT # 20.00704	FUNDING # N/A

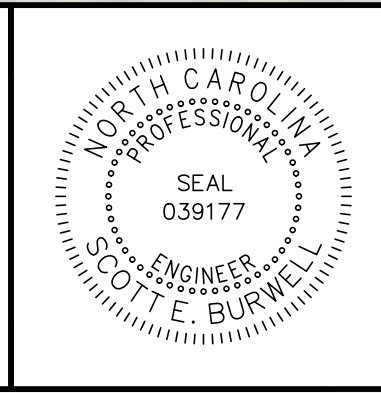
SHEET
C-101



P:\2020\20.00703\WATAUGA\CONC-TRANSFER STATION IMPROVEMENTS\DRAWINGS\SS\LD WASTE\20.00703 - TRANSFER STATION IMPROVEMENTS.DWG PLOT DATE: 2/22/2021 9:13 AM ADMIN: WALDRUP



55 Broad Street
Asheville, NC 28801
828.252.0575
NC Firm License # C-0459
mcgillassociates.com



SIGNED AND DATED:

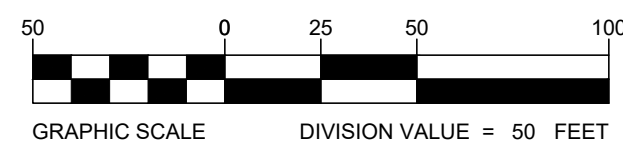
NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DIGITALLY SIGNED AND SEALED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOUND IN NC ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 21-56.1103(E). THIS DIGITAL SIGNATURE HAS BEEN FOUND BY THE NC BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS TO MEET THESE STANDARDS. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNER IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE IN VALIDATING THE SIGNATURE.

TRANSFER STATION IMPROVEMENTS

WATAUGA COUNTY

WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



OFFICE MANAGER	DESIGNER
M. CATHEY	A. WALDRUP
PROJECT MANAGER	REVIEWER
S. BURWELL	S. BURWELL

GRADING AND WALL SITE PLAN	
DATE	PROJECT #
FEBRUARY, 2021	20.00703
FUNDING #	N/A

SHEET

C-101

Capital Improvement Projects Updated Cost Estimate		
ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST
1	Innovation Drive Improvements	N/A
2	Inbound Scale & Turning lane	\$750,000.00
3	Convenience Center	\$700,000.00
4	Stormwater Pond Repair/Improvements	\$275,000.00
5	Trailer Storage Area Improvements	\$100,000.00
6	Transfer Station Improvements	\$150,000.00
7	Signage and Striping	\$18,250.00
CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL		\$1,993,250.00
CONTINGENCY (10%)		\$199,325.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST		\$2,192,575.00
NOTES:		
<p>1. The ENGINEER maintains no control of labor costs, materials, equipment or services furnished by others, the Contractor(s)' methods for determining prices, or competitive or market conditions. The estimates herein for project and construction costs represent the ENGINEER'S best judgment, and are based on his experience and qualifications as a Professional Engineer who possesses familiarity with the construction industry. The ENGINEER does not guarantee the accuracy of the cost estimates, which may vary from bids or actual project and construction costs.</p> <p>2. Engineering & Permit fees are excluded from this estimate.</p> <p>4. Easements to perform the repairs are not included in item 4.</p>		

Upcoming Project Schedule

Transfer Station Improvements

- Advertise for Bids: 2/15/2021
- Receive Bids: 3/15/2021

Sediment Basin

- Advertise for Bids: 3/1/2021
- Receive Bids: 4/1/2021



CCC&TI 2020 Renovations

(Old Student Services Building)





TO: Watauga County Board of Commissioners
Deron Geouque, Watauga County Manager

FROM: Wright Tilley, Executive Director

RE: TDA Update for Watauga County Board Retreat

DATE: 2/2/2021

The Watauga County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) is pleased to provide this update for the 2021 Watauga County Commissioners' Retreat.

Attached to this memo is a copy of the current FY 20/21 Occupancy Tax chart through December 2020 comparing current fiscal year to last fiscal year, and a copy of the 2020 Calendar Year occupancy tax collections compared to calendar year 2019.

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit in March of 2020, we really had no idea what impact that would have on travel and tourism in Watauga County. As we created our FY 20/21 budget, we budgeted for a 40% reduction in occupancy tax revenue and reduced our media/advertising spend by \$175,000. We were able to do this without impacting our operations because we have built a very healthy fund balance over the years.

Fortunately, the mountain and coastal regions of North Carolina have done pretty well during these unprecedented times. Cabin and house rentals have been more popular than traditional hotel rooms. Our many outdoor recreation options have been appealing to those wanting to get away, but still maintain social distancing. As a result, our numbers are up while our colleagues in other areas of the state are down.

Watauga TDA Highlights:

- Closed the FY 19/20 fiscal year with an increase in occupancy tax revenue of 13.5%, which amounted to a \$248,321.80 increase in occupancy tax funds over the prior fiscal year.
- Current FY 20/21 Fiscal Year occupancy tax collections are up 63.4% over last year for July through December. This amounts to an additional \$808,802.90 in occupancy tax funds six months into the fiscal year.

- Calendar year 2020 occupancy tax collections were up 41.3% over the 2019 calendar year, which amounts to an \$846,587.94 increase in occupancy tax collections for 2020.

In the last (5) years, we have increased occupancy tax revenues in Watauga County by 52% and from FY 2010/11 through FY 19/20 we have increased occupancy tax revenues by 154%.

- Watauga County is ranked 18th out of North Carolina's 10 counties in terms of overall travel impact among North Carolina's 100 Counties. (NC Commerce/ Visit NC)
- Tourism in Watauga County generated visitor spending of \$284.73 million in 2019, a 7.89% increase over 2018. (NC Commerce)
- Local tax revenues generated by tourism in Watauga County in 2019 amounted to \$ 11.12 million. According to the NC Commerce Department, this represents a \$434.76 tax savings to each county resident. (NC Commerce)
- 2,970 jobs in Watauga County were directly attributable to travel & tourism in 2019. (NC Commerce)
- The TDA continued to support the Watauga Choose & Cut program in 2020 with a \$5,300 marketing grant to the Watauga County Christmas Tree Association.
- The Watauga County TDA changed ad agencies for FY 20/21. Our new agency, Miles Partnership, only works with travel and tourism clients. Their knowledge of our industry and their investment in industry research will be a tremendous asset to us moving forward. We are developing a new advertising/marketing campaign called "Inspiring Awe Since 1849." The campaign continues to emphasize outdoor recreation and natural beauty, but will also showcase arts & cultural programming, and local food and beverage. Our 2020/21 media plan uses a variety of advertising mediums including, digital, paid search, print, television, radio, out-of-home, native and paid social media and public relations strategies. We shifted more heavily into digital and programmatic ads which gives us the flexibility to start, stop and change messaging in shorter time frames.

TDA Infrastructure/Product Development Projects:

- Middle Fork Greenway – The Watauga County TDA continues its commitment to helping make the Middle Fork Greenway a reality. Over the past six years we’ve committed \$1 million to the Middle Fork Greenway Association. This year we are providing an additional \$400,000 in funding from our FY 20/21 budget and fund balance.
- County-wide Wayfinding Plan – The TDA bid the wayfinding signs in Feb/March of 2020. After receiving (3) bids, the TDA board decided to put the program on hold for a while. We are trying to facilitate some legislative changes to allow us to include historic attractions by name on the signage. Currently, the DOT does not allow names. You can only say “theme park” or “attractions” with a directional arrow.
- Rocky Knob Park - With the help of the County, the TDA added new drainage ditches around the playground area at Rocky Knob. The TDA also hired a landscape contractor to re-grade the playground pad prior to installation of the new playground equipment. Once the playground was installed, the TDA paid for new boarder rails and landscaping around the playground and also had a fence installed to keep people off the steep hill behind the playground. Our next maintenance issue at Rocky Knob is to have the wooden picnic pavilion and entrance signage sealed and re-stained.
- Guy Ford River Access – The TDA was pleased to be able to contribute funding for the new Guy Ford Road parking area and river access. That facility looks great and is very popular in warmer weather.
- Blue Ridge Conservancy Valle Crucis River Access - In 2020, the TDA contributed funds to the Blue Ridge Conservancy to help them purchase land along the Watauga River in Valle Crucis. This will lead to future development of that site as a paddle access and fishing area.

Occupancy Tax Collection Report

July 2020 to Date

	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>JULY to Date</u>
BR	155,423.25	141,301.06	118,720.53	155,399.59	87,294.26								658,138.69
	143,282.60	139,341.13	129,201.81	203,780.69	108,116.62								723,722.85
	(12,140.65)	(1,959.93)	10,481.28	48,381.10	20,822.36								65,584.16
	-7.80%	-1.40%	8.80%	31.10%	23.85%								9.97%
Boone	194,352.96	186,771.03	154,333.63	198,371.58	135,490.30								869,319.50
	158,116.33	143,603.50	163,988.58	225,467.56	131,486.14								822,662.11
	(36,236.63)	(43,167.53)	9,654.95	27,095.98	(4,004.16)								(46,657.39)
	-18.64%	-23.10%	6.30%	13.66%	-3.00%								-5.37%
Wat	254,674.60	217,608.87	174,199.64	214,671.17	161,134.03	253,872.96							1,276,161.27
	377,331.40	358,877.47	309,299.99	380,066.83	228,272.21	431,116.27							2,084,964.17
	122,656.80	141,268.60	135,100.31	165,395.66	67,138.18	177,243.31							808,802.90
	48.00%	65.00%	77.55%	77.05%	41.70%	69.82%							63.38%
TTLS													
Prior Yr	605,450.81	545,680.96	447,253.80	568,442.34	383,918.59								2,803,619.46
Cur Yr	678,730.33	641,822.10	602,490.38	809,315.08	467,874.97								3,631,349.13
\$s +/-	73,279.52	96,141.14	155,236.58	240,872.74	83,956.38								827,729.67
% +/-	12.10%	17.62%	34.71%	42.40%	21.87%								29.52%

Occupancy Tax Collection Report

Jan 2020 to Date

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	JAN to Date
BR	61,449.10	50,076.61	44,578.63	55,684.21	83,738.73	106,423.60	155,423.25	141,301.06	118,720.53	155,399.59	87,294.26		1,060,089.57
	73,168.88	64,985.89	26,661.97	652.85	10,489.38	73,729.28	143,282.60	139,341.13	129,201.81	203,780.69	108,116.62		973,411.10
	11,719.78	14,909.28	(17,916.66)	(55,031.36)	(73,249.35)	(32,694.32)	(12,140.65)	(1,959.93)	10,481.28	48,381.10	20,822.36		(86,678.47)
	19.10%	29.80%	-40.00%	-98.83%	-87.47%	-30.70%	-7.80%	-1.40%	8.80%	31.10%	23.85%		-8.18%
Boone	97,048.98	89,014.92	98,031.27	110,474.04	133,176.33	155,067.97	194,352.96	186,771.03	154,333.63	198,371.58	135,490.30		1,552,133.01
	116,989.08	116,509.44	55,338.64	25,693.35	42,858.99	98,694.77	158,116.33	143,603.50	163,988.58	225,467.56	131,486.14		1,278,746.38
	19,940.10	27,494.52	(42,692.63)	(84,780.69)	(90,317.34)	(56,373.20)	(36,236.63)	43,167.53	9,654.95	27,095.98	4,004.16		(273,386.63)
	20.54%	30.90%	-43.50%	-76.70%	-67.80%	-36.40%	-19.60%	-23.10%	6.30%	13.66%	-3.00%		-17.61%
Wat	161,705.63	123,551.06	89,010.17	97,106.59	126,043.01	174,510.92	254,674.60	217,608.87	174,199.64	214,671.17	161,134.03	253,872.96	2,048,088.65
	205,827.86	157,431.81	58,521.26	9,495.01	98,510.27	279,926.21	377,331.40	358,877.47	309,299.99	380,066.83	228,272.21	431,116.27	2,894,676.59
	44,122.23	33,880.75	(30,488.91)	(87,611.58)	(27,532.74)	105,415.29	122,656.80	141,268.60	135,100.31	165,395.66	67,138.18	177,243.31	846,587.94
	27.30%	27.42%	-34.00%	-91.20%	-21.80%	60.40%	48.00%	65.00%	77.55%	77.05%	41.70%	69.82%	41.34%
TTLS													
Prior Yr	320,203.71	262,642.59	231,620.07	263,264.84	342,958.07	436,002.49	604,450.81	545,680.96	447,253.80	568,442.34	383,918.59		4,660,311.23
Cur Yr	395,985.82	338,927.14	133,557.91	31,691.67	151,858.64	452,350.26	678,730.33	641,822.10	602,490.38	809,315.08	467,874.97		5,146,834.07
\$'s +/-	75,782.11	76,284.55	(98,062.16)	(231,573.17)	(191,099.43)	16,347.77	73,279.52	96,141.14	155,236.58	240,872.74	83,956.38		486,522.84
% +/-	23.67%	29.05%	-41.30%	-88.00%	-65.72%	3.75%	12.10%	17.62%	34.71%	42.40%	21.87%		10.44%

Watauga Medics Inc.

921 W. King St. Boone NC 28607 Ph. 828 264-9486 email: medics@boone.net

Director Craig Sullivan
Cell: 828 964-1706

To: Watauga County Board of Commissioners

From: Craig Sullivan, Watauga Medics Inc.

Date: Feb. 2, 2021

Re: Request to increase subsidy to pay for additional crews.

Watauga Medics Inc. would like to increase our staffing to include a 9 hour paramedic crew 7 days per week. Some of the cost for this increased staffing can be offset with a increase in our rates for services. The total costs for the crew and the equipment needed are Estimated to be \$265,000 per year. A rate increase to the allowable amounts as set by CMS will fund approx.. \$65,000.00 of this cost leaving approx. \$200,000.00. It is my recommendation to begin with this additional crew on Jan. 1, 2022.

This will change will give Watauga County with 4-24 hour paramedic crews, 1-12 hour paramedic crew and a 9 hour paramedic crew. Thank you for your consideration.

Craig Sullivan

Watauga Medics Inc.

921 W. King St. Boone NC 28607 Ph: 828 264 9486 Fax: 828 264 9482 email: medics@boone.net

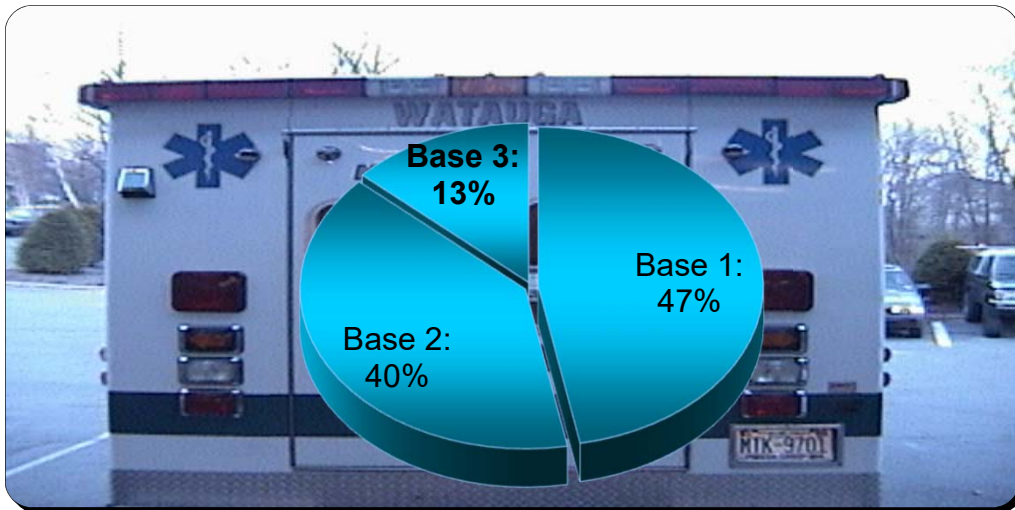
Year 2020 at a Glance

Total Number of Calls:	5,385
Number of No Transports:	1,624
Total Patients Transported:	3,761
Yearly Average Response Time:	0:09:48
Total Out of County Transports:	633
Total Out Of County Emergency Tranports:	211
Total Number of Emergency Calls:	2,428
Total Number of Patients Transported Emergency:	749
Total Number of Calls in Boone Fire District:	3,298
Total Calls other than Boone:	2,087
Busiest Fire District other than Boone:	Blowing Rock
Average Number of Calls per Day:	14.7
Busiest month:	February
Busiest day of the week	Tuesday
Busiest time of the day:	Between 1300 and 1400
Yearly average percent increase in calls over last 29 years:	3.60%
Increase percentage in calls from previous year	-14.06%
Percentage of Calls that resulted in No Transports (NTP's):	30.2%
Total Number of DOA's for Year:	63
Total Number of Patients flown from the scene:	18

Watauga Medics Inc. Year 2020 Annual Report

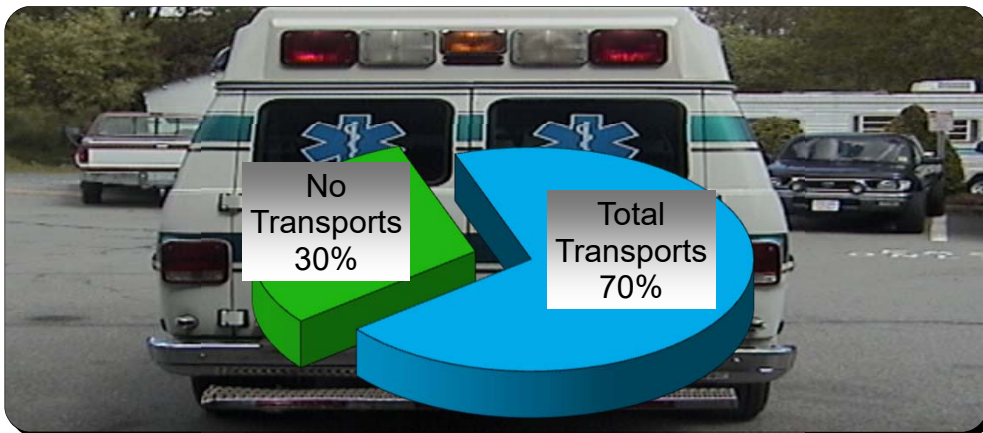
For year ending 2020

Calls Run From Each Base	
Base 1:	2,532
Base 2:	2,141
Base 3:	712
Total Number of Calls	5,385



No Transports compared to Total Calls

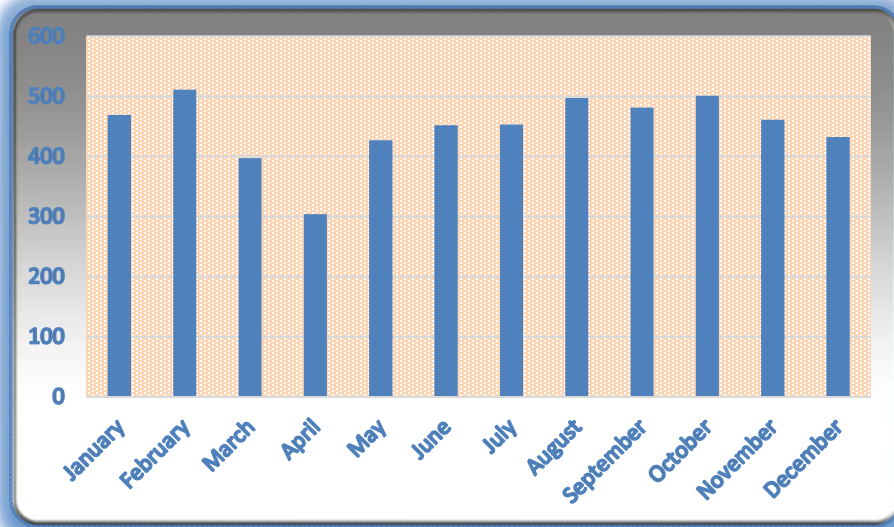
Total Transports	3,761
No Transports	1,624
Total Calls	5,385



Watauga Medics Inc. Year 2020 Annual Report For Year ending 2020

Calls by the Month

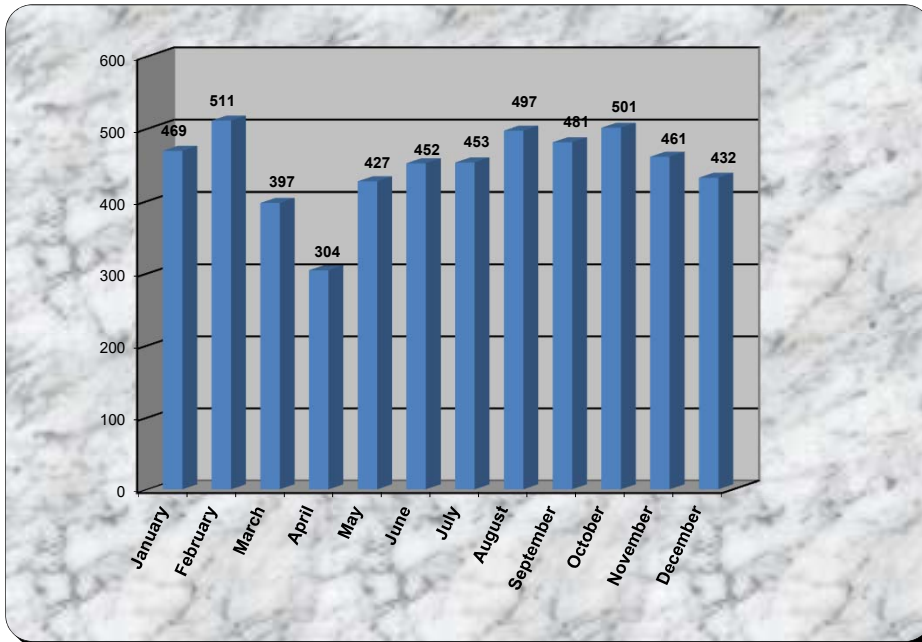
<u>Month</u>	<u>Calls</u>
January	469
February	511
March	397
April	304
May	427
June	452
July	453
August	497
September	481
October	501
November	461
December	432



Total Calls 5,385

No-Transports by Month

<u>Month</u>	<u>NTP's</u>
January	127
February	144
March	115
April	89
May	127
June	136
July	149
August	153
September	124
October	158
November	164
December	138

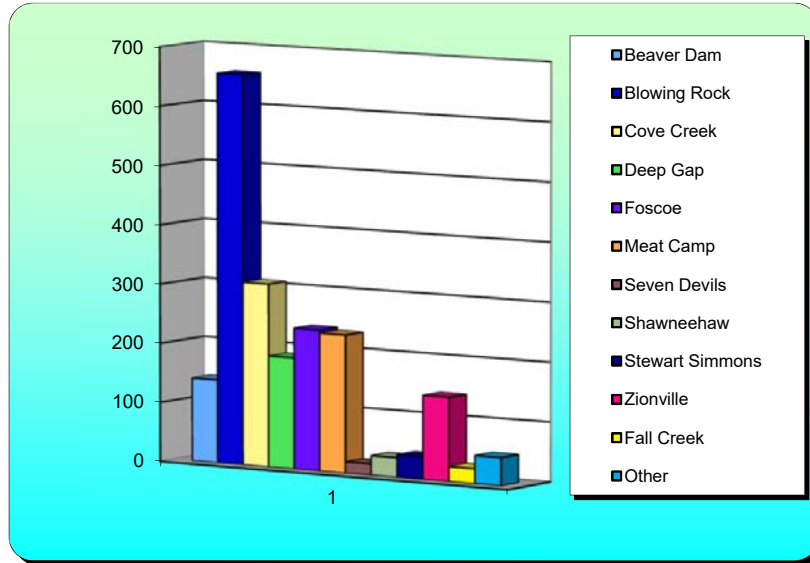


Total 1,624

Watauga Medics Inc. Year 2020 Annual Report

For Year Ending 2020

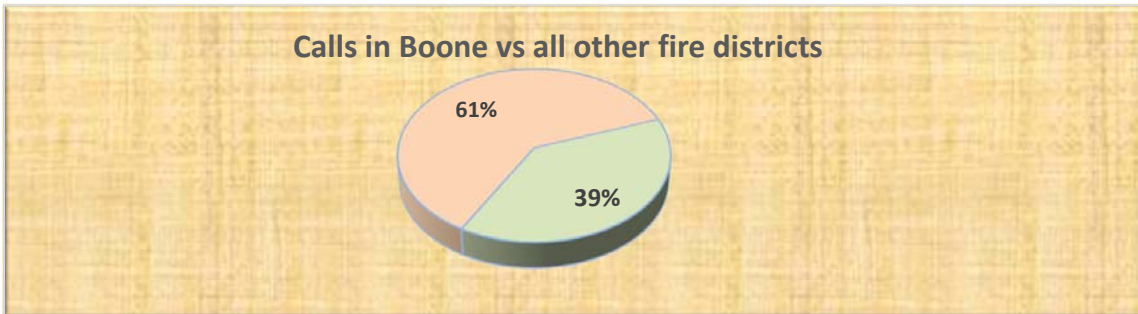
<u>Calls by Fire District</u>	<u>Number</u>
Beaver Dam	140
Blowing Rock	657
Cove Creek	308
Deep Gap	187
Foscoe	237
Meat Camp	232
Seven Devils	19
Shawneehaw	33
Stewart Simmons	38
Todd	23
Zionville	141
Fall Creek	25
Other	47



Calls by Fire District Other Than Boone: 2,087

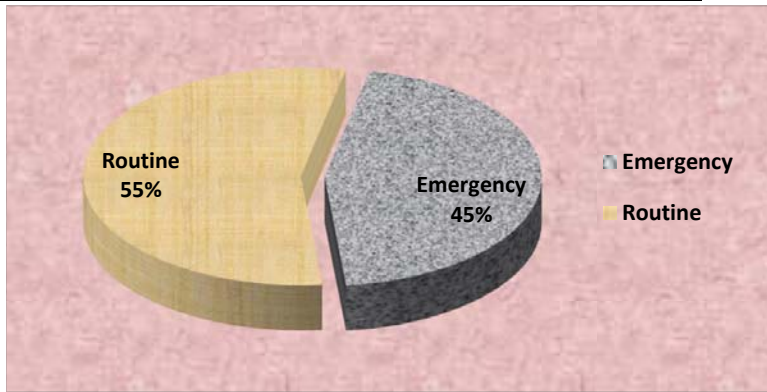
Calls in Boone vs other districts

Calls other than Boone	2,087
Calls in Boone Fire Dist.	3,298
Total	5,385



Calls by type of response used:

<u>Type of Response</u>	<u>Number</u>
Emergency	2,428
Routine	2,957
Total	5,385

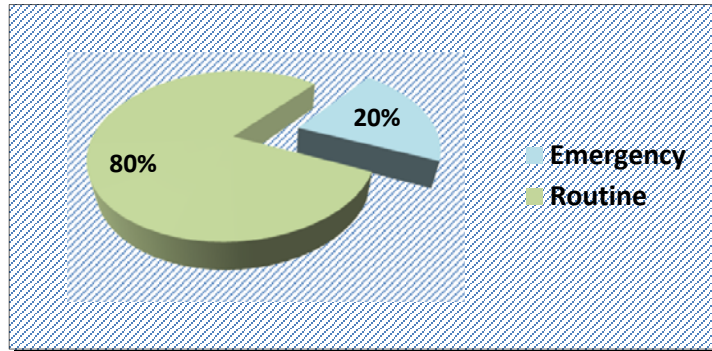


Watauga Medics Inc. Year 2020 Annual Report

For Year Ending 2020

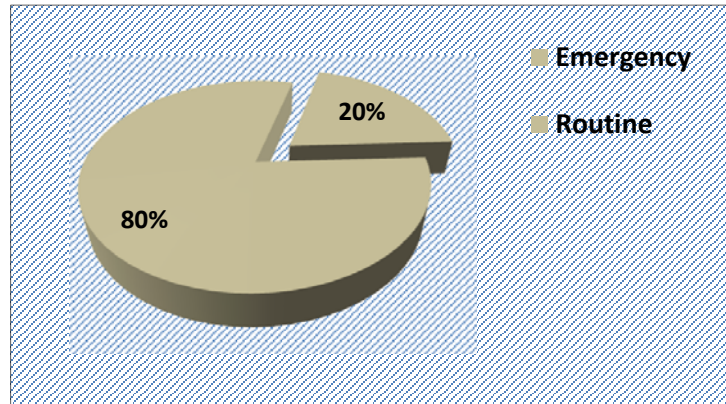
Type of response used while transporting patients

<u>Transport Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Emergency	766
Routine	2,995
Total Transports	3,761



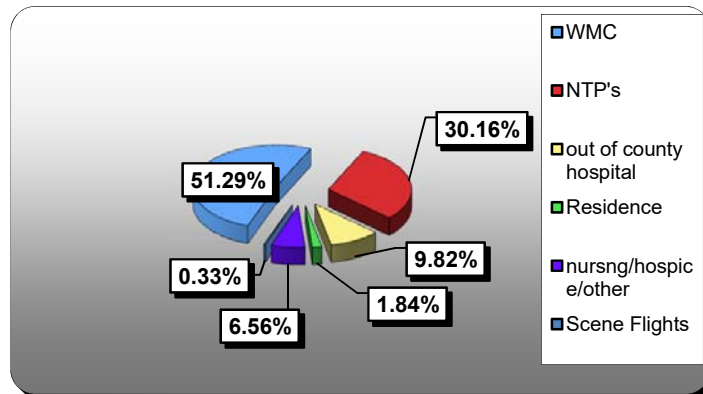
Type of Traffic for Out-Of-County Trips

<u>Traffic</u>	<u>Number</u>
Emergency	197
Routine	436
Total Out of County	633



Destination of Calls

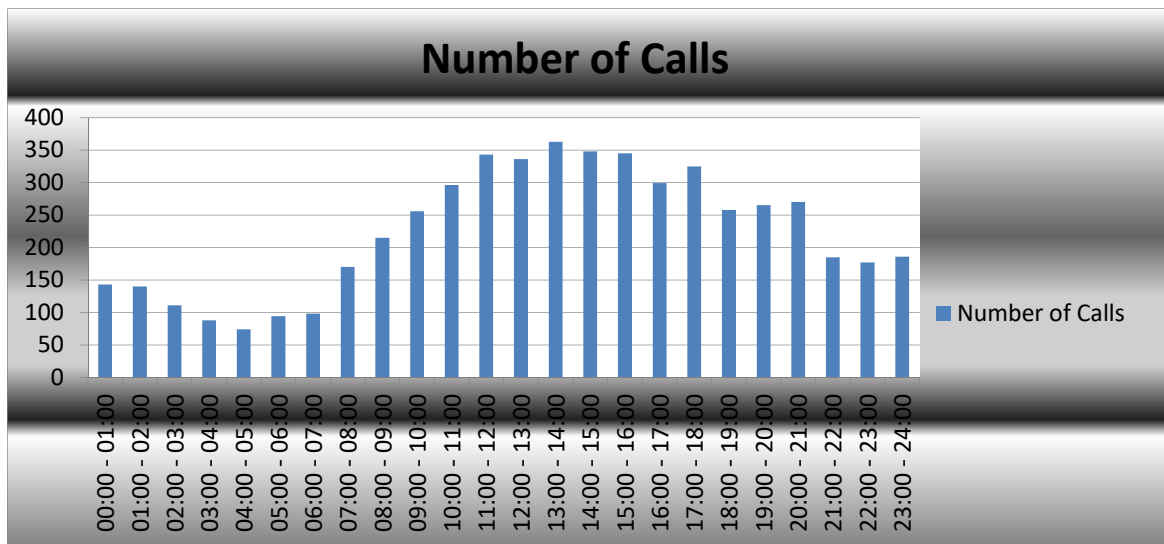
<u>Destination</u>	<u>Number</u>
WMC	2,762
NTP's	1,624
out of county hospital	529
Residence	99
nursng/hospice/other	353
Scene Flights	18
Total	5,385



* **WMC:** Watauga Medical Center
 * **NTP:** No Transports

Watauga Medics Inc. Year 2020 Annual Report

<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Number of Calls</u>
00:00 - 01:00	143
01:00 - 02:00	140
02:00 - 03:00	111
03:00 - 04:00	88
04:00 - 05:00	74
05:00 - 06:00	94
06:00 - 07:00	98
07:00 - 08:00	170
08:00 - 09:00	215
09:00 - 10:00	256
10:00 - 11:00	296
11:00 - 12:00	343
12:00 - 13:00	336
13:00 - 14:00	363
14:00 - 15:00	348
15:00 - 16:00	345
16:00 - 17:00	299
17:00 - 18:00	325
18:00 - 19:00	258
19:00 - 20:00	265
20:00 - 21:00	270
21:00 - 22:00	185
22:00 - 23:00	177
23:00 - 24:00	186
5,385	



Watauga Medics Inc. Year 2020 Annual Report

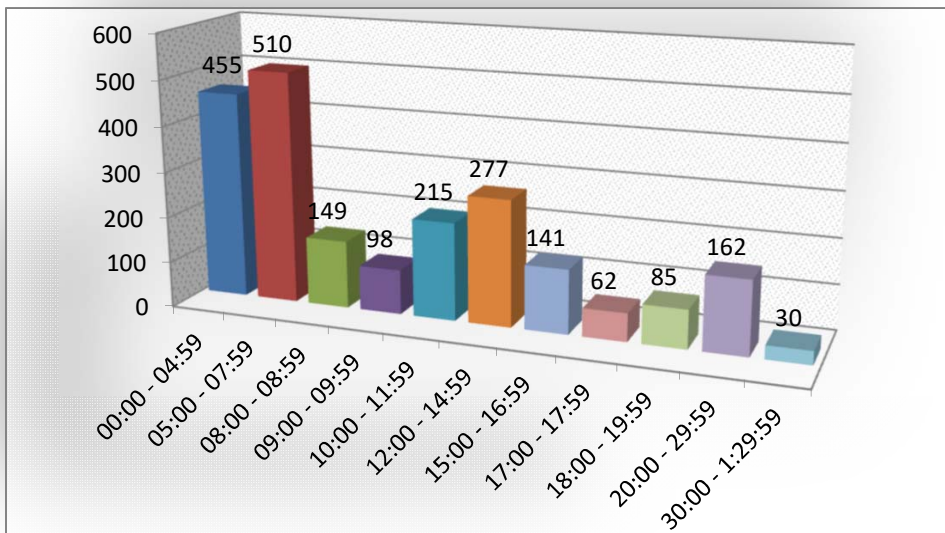
Response Times For Year Ending 2020

<u>Response Times</u>	<u>Number</u>
00:00 - 04:59	455
05:00 - 07:59	510
08:00 - 08:59	149
09:00 - 09:59	98
10:00 - 11:59	215
12:00 - 14:59	277
15:00 - 16:59	141
17:00 - 17:59	62
18:00 - 19:59	85
20:00 - 29:59	162
30:00 - 1:29:59	30

Total Emergency Responses **2,184**

Yearly Average Response Time: **0:09:48**

Number



Watauga Medics Inc. Year 2020 Annual Report

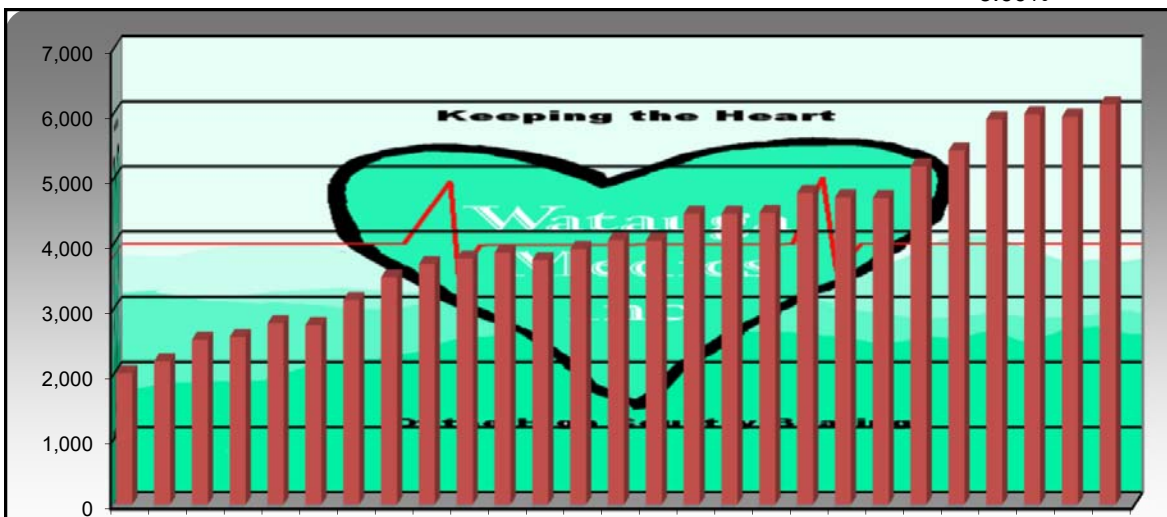
Total Number of Calls by Year

Year	Total Calls
1991	1,782
1992	1,921
1993	2,017
1994	2,198
1995	2,527
1996	2,571
1997	2,784
1998	2,755
1999	3,139
2000	3,487
2001	3,688
2002	3,775
2003	3,866
2004	3,752
2005	3,922
2006	4,053
2007	4,048
2008	4,460
2009	4,461
2010	4,473
2011	4,783
2012	4,714
2013	4,705
2014	5,191
2015	5,435
2016	5,912
2017	5,990
2018	5,952
2019	6,142
2020	5,385

Number Increase/Decrease

Year	Change
1991	
1992	139 7.24%
1993	96 4.76%
1994	181 8.23%
1995	329 13.02%
1996	44 1.71%
1997	213 7.65%
1998	-29 -1.05%
1999	384 12.23%
2000	348 9.98%
2001	201 5.45%
2002	87 2.30%
2003	91 2.35%
2004	-114 -3.04%
2005	170 4.33%
2006	131 3.23%
2007	-5 -0.12%
2008	412 9.24%
2009	1 0.02%
2010	12 0.27%
2011	310 6.48%
2012	-69 -1.46%
2013	-9 -0.19%
2014	486 9.36%
2015	244 4.49%
2016	477 8.07%
2017	78 1.30%
2018	-38 -0.64%
2019	190 3.09%
2020	-757 -14.06%

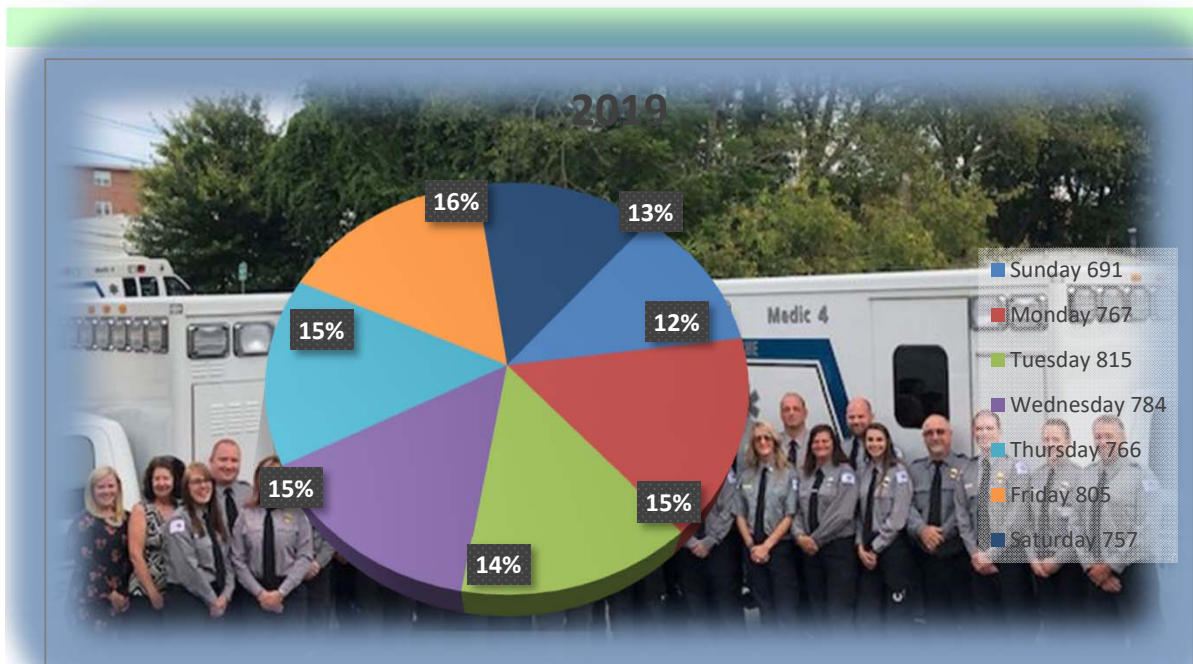
3.60%



2020 Calls by the day of the week

Total Calls by Day of The Week

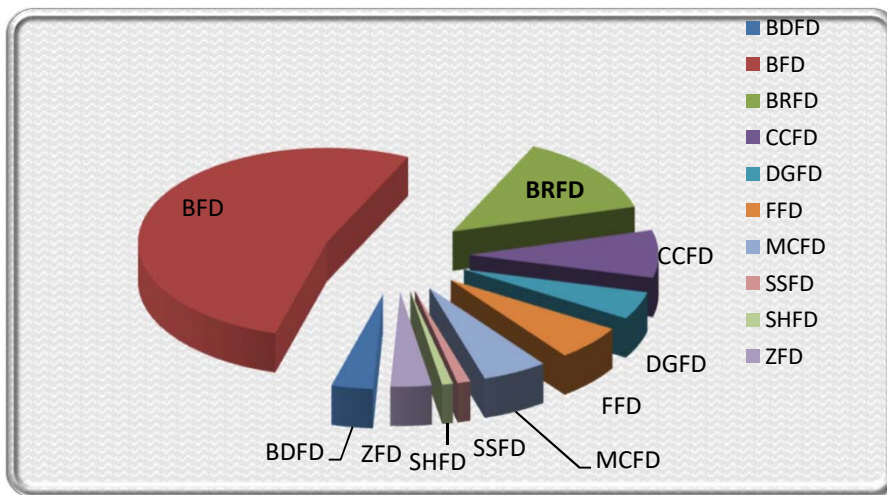
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Sunday	691	721	733	840	822	682
Monday	767	957	855	790	843	811
Tuesday	815	874	824	852	822	756
Wednesday	784	896	865	879	818	793
Thursday	766	908	871	863	844	742
Friday	805	966	918	873	915	819
Saturday	757	820	886	893	848	832
	5,385	6,142	5,952	5,990	5,912	5,435



2020 Number of Emergency calls by district

2020	
BDFD	80
BFD	1184
BRFD	308
CCFD	183
DGFD	107
FFD	136
MCFD	125
SSFD	25
SHFD	21
ZFD	79
2,248	

2016 Data:	
BDFD	41
BFD	1271
BRFD	282
CCFD	195
DGFD	119
FFD	154
MCFD	109
SSFD	20
SHFD	35
ZFD	55
2,281	



Avg. emergency response time by district

2020 data	
BDFD	00:19:46
BFD	00:06:35
BRFD	00:11:45
CCFD	00:11:37
DGFD	00:15:42
FFD	00:14:25
MCFD	00:15:18
SSFD	00:24:18
SHFD	00:24:01
ZFD	00:11:25

2016 data:		Diff of:
BDFD	00:25:32	improve 0:05:46
BFD	00:06:12	dec 0:00:23
BRFD	00:12:35	improve 00:00:50
CCFD	00:12:33	improve 00:00:56
DGFD	00:14:28	dec 00:01:14
FFD	00:13:07	dec 00:01:18
MCFD	00:14:02	dec 00:00:44
SSFD	00:25:37	improve 00:01:19
SHFD	00:21:46	dec 00:02:15
ZFD	00:15:04	improve 00:03:39

Watauga County EMS Staffing and Location Study

Executive Summary

February 1, 2017

To the Watauga County Board of Commissioners

This study was initiated at the request of the Watauga County Board of Commissioners to assist in evaluating four proposals relating to staffing and location of future EMS bases with the goal of improving EMS response time.

The study is based on a thorough analysis of 911 call and EMS response records for the period of 2013 to 2016. During that period, MEDIC responded to 21, 242 calls, 8,492 of which were dispatched as emergency calls.

This study considers four alternatives for upgrades to the EMS services and presents an evaluation of the impact each alternative based on six criteria concerning their impacts on EMS response times within the County. The alternatives include adding a crew at an existing Base, placing a crew in Blowing Rock, as well as adding crews in two other locations.

A key part of the study involved assessing how population growth in the County will affect the workload and response time of MEDIC units. Increases in population will very likely result in more Emergency Medical Service calls in the county. Moreover, understanding where this growth will occur can guide improvements in response time in particular parts of the County.

In matters of life and death, rapid response is essential. Few tax-supported services are more important to the public than their safety and health. Among the many public safety demands facing local government, perhaps the most critical challenge is how quickly local government can provide life-saving emergency medical care.

Watauga County is known for its impressive quality of medical services. However, due to the distances involved in traveling across the county, all areas will never have equal response times for emergency medical services.

This study consider alternatives that build upon the existing high quality of EMS capabilities that already exist in Watauga with the goal of improving services to the largest number of people.

Because there are pending requests to the County for locating additional EMS crews and stations in various locations, with the goal of reducing response time for emergency calls, Watauga County requested an objective, data-based study with recommendations for future EMS locations.

This study reviews the key factors associated with EMS response times ranging from when a call is made to 911, through the dispatch process and the time needed to have an EMS unit on scene.

After a thorough consideration of the factors involved, geography and distance are shown to be the key factors that will most directly affect EMS response times. Moreover, due to the local traffic congestion in and around Boone, the options available for improving EMS response time come down to adding locations from which crews can respond.

Data clearly show that response times vary considerably throughout the county due to distances involved from the existing EMS bases and because of traffic delays. Substantial reduction in response times is possible but only if additional EMS crews are deployed at additional locations in the county.

Methodology Used to Rank Improvements in EMS Response Times

In order to evaluate the options for staffing and adding EMS locations, a methodology was developed that sets forth six factors and assigns points according to how well the particular option addressed a particular evaluative criteria. These factors take into account expected population growth, traffic congestion and other factors in their impact of response times.

Each of the staffing alternatives under consideration is complex. In order to evaluate an alternative, it was necessary to establish use a range of scores based on the importance of the factor and apply those scores to each EMS alternative under consideration.

- **What is the impact in reducing response time compared to the current system?**
- **Will the alternative materially lessen the number of times that the Rescue Squads are placed on standby?**
- **Various sections of the county will be affected differently by certain EMS alternatives. How many times in a year is a particular alternative expected to improve response times?**
- **Does the particular option lessen the number of times EMS units will have to fight heavy traffic congestion while responding to an emergency call?**
- **How will the alternative address the growth scenarios identified by the local planning offices?**

Summary Table One	
Criteria for Assessing EMS Staffing Alternatives	Potential Score
Reduction of Response Time in Minutes—one point for each minute of reduction in response time	1-10
Will the alternative make more resources available where most calls occur?	1-5
Reduction in Number of Squad Standby Alerts	1
Reduction in number of responses to emergency calls through heavily congested intersections	0-3
Numbers of Emergency Calls to Be Affected by Study Option (in hundreds of calls)	1-10
Addresses Impact of Population Growth	1-3

The tables that follow come from the body of the report and quickly take the reader to the key questions to be answered in considering several alternatives for expanded MEDIC staffing.

Data is presented which focuses on the substantial growth challenges that Watauga County will experience within the next ten years. It is clear that growth within the County will be uneven, ranging from close to negligible in some areas to quite significant in others. One of the purposes of this study is to analyze which of several EMS alternatives best addresses the rapid growth in the county that will impact the need for expanded EMS operations.

Summary Table Two identifies the alternatives under consideration and the scores assigned to each alternative.

Summary Table Two Alternative Options for Improved EMS Response Time		
Option	Comments	Score
Alternative 1 Build EMS Base 4 in East Boone and staff with a 24/7 MEDIC crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant reduction in Response Time for MEDICS units to reach Meat Camp, Deep Gap, and East Boone with some improvement in response to Stewart Simmons – Overall reduction estimated at 6 minutes in these areas 	6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses expectations of high growth along US 421 East of Boone 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some reduction in Rescue Squad standby alerting 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in MEDIC responses to emergency calls through heavily congested intersections 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases EMS Resources in central Watauga where most calls originate since there will be a fourth crew on duty in Boone 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to affect 1000 responses per year 	10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choosing Site and Construction Will Take Time 	Total 26
Alternative 2a Add a 12 hour MEDIC Crew in Blowing Rock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant reduction in Response Time for MEDICS units to reach typical calls in Blowing Rock Fire District (estimated at 7 minutes) 	7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases EMS Resources in center of County where most calls originate since there will be fewer instances of Station 2 being empty due to response into Blowing Rock 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some reduction in Rescue Squad standby alerting 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in MEDICS responses to emergencies through heavily congested intersections 	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses (limited) population growth expected in Blowing Rock Fire District and opening of Chestnut Ridge 	1.5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative affects approximately 250 calls per year 	2.5
	Total	14

<p>Alternative 2b Add a 12 hour MEDIC Crew in Boone at Base 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on typical response time for MEDICS unit to arrive on scene within Blowing Rock Fire District (data shown to be average 7 minutes currently) and at Chestnut Ridge • Increases EMS Resources in center of County where most calls originate • Addresses (high) growth expected in Boone Fire District • Some reduction in Rescue Squad standby alerting • Reduction in responses to emergency calls through heavily congested intersections • Approximately 600 calls per year will be affected 	<p style="text-align: right;">0</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Total 15</p>
<p>Alternative 3 Build EMS Base 5 near 105-105 Bypass Intersection and staff with 24/7 MEDIC crew</p> <p>To be implemented near end of 2020-2025 planning period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant reduction in MEDIC Response Time in southern portion of Boone, Foscoe, Seven Devils - Reduction in Response Time estimated at 5 minutes in these areas • A fifth crew will be made available to respond to calls throughout County, meeting EMS call volume for the foreseeable future. • Significant reduction in Rescue Squad standby alerting • Reduction in responses to emergency calls through heavily congested intersections • Addresses likely growth scenarios for ten year planning period • Expected to respond to 500 calls per year • Note: Choosing Site and Construction Will Take Significant Lead Time 	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Total 22</p>

TASK II:

Using the best available data, including building permits, tourism data, university enrollment growth, and census projections, how will EMS call volume increase in Watauga County through 2025?

FINDING:

Based on the current EMS call rate (110.1 calls per 1000 population in 2016), the EMS call volume can be expected to substantially increase in the near future due to population growth. This will likely result in overtaxing available crews and slowing responses.

Based upon conversations with local planning officials, population growth in the county will likely exceed the current projections made by the Census Bureau and the NC Office of State Budget and Management. Furthermore, it is likely that multiunit housing construction in Boone will likely accelerate over the next five years, possibly as soon as 2018, when water lines are extended along US 421 east of Boone, increasing the supply of water that can be made available to developments.

As a whole, Watauga County will likely continue to experience significant growth, but the growth will be mostly in and around the Town of Boone.

Growth in the county is driven by:

- the area's continued attractiveness and quality of life for year round residents;
- seasonal residents who maintain second homes in the area;
- the popularity of the area for visitors for major cultural and athletic events as well as summer and winter recreational activities;
- the continued expansion of Appalachian State University;
- Boone and Blowing Rock's position as banking, retail and medical care centers.

In addition to population growth, there is evidence that demand for EMS units will also increase because people appear to be using EMS units more than in the past.

Whether it is due to an increase in the elderly segment of the county population (with increases in fall and illnesses associated with old age) or due to an expansion of the population under 25 years of age (with increases due to alcohol-related automobile accidents, substance abuse, skiing injuries or other risky behavior), it is likely that demands placed on the EMS units will increase beyond that due just to population growth.

Because the demand for EMS services is expected to increase due both to population and increased EMS usage, Summary Table Three projects future EMS call volume in two ways. First, it applies the rate the current rate of 110.1 calls per 1000 residents to the Census and Office of State Budget and Management population projections for Watauga County. An additional projection of MEDIC calls using a call rate of 112 calls per 1000 population is also shown.¹

Summary Table Three			
Projections for Watauga County Population and EMS Call Volumes, 2016-2025			
Year	Population	MEDIC Call Volume	Rate per 1000 Persons
2016	53,706	5,911 (actual)	110.1
Year	Estimated County Population ²	Call Volume Projection Based on 110 calls per 1000 persons	Call Volume Projection Based on 112 calls per 1000 persons
2017	54,094	5,954	6,059
2018	54,482	5,996	6,102
2019	54,874	6,040	6,146
2020	55,264	6,082	6,150
2021	55,655	6,126	6,233
2022	56,045	6,168	6,277
2023	56,434	6,211	6,321
2024	56,825	6,254	6,304
2025	57,215	6,297	6,408
Change 2016-2025	6.5%	Increase over Expected 2016 Call Volume= 6.5%	Increase over Expected 2016 Call Volume 7.5%

¹ In mid-2016 the rate of calls was assumed to 101.9 per 1000 calls based on MEDIC data from 2008-2014. Final data for 2016 showed that rate of calls had increased to 110.1 calls per 1000 population. In order to present the potential increases in the rate of calls, a second projection was made using a rate of 112 calls per 1000 population.

² Population estimates published by the US Census Bureau.

CONCLUSIONS

- This report has presented objective evidence that MEDIC will continue to experience significant increases in its call volume each year through 2025.
- MEDIC call volume will increase due to population growth and increased demand for responses from MEDIC.
- Additional MEDIC staffing is needed in order to handle the increased call volume.
- Population growth will be concentrated in and around Boone where approximately 65% of all MEDIC calls presently originate.
- Substantial multiunit projects currently in the planning stage will add to the portion of the county's population residing in the Boone Fire District.
- Traffic congestion in Boone already delays the ability of MEDIC to quickly respond to priority calls in the Meat Camp, Deep Gap, Foscoe, Stewart Simmons and Todd Fire Districts with little likelihood that road construction will relieve that congestion.
- Once completed, the expansion of the Boone water supply and the availability of developable land will likely result in substantial construction east of Boone.
- As pointed out by Kevin Rothrock, Blowing Rock will not likely experience much new construction due to the topography, federal ownership of large tracts of land, and development standards designed to retain Blowing Rock's village atmosphere.
- Except as noted above, the lack of water and sewer service outside Boone and Blowing Rock will likely lead to a slow growth scenario for much of Watauga County.
- Improvements in MEDIC response time in rural sections of Watauga County will require adding additional bases from which MEDIC can respond.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Due to rising land costs and development pressures, **it will be in the best interests of the County to quickly acquire property for the construction of two future EMS bases.** Stations will be needed within five years east of Boone and at a location near the Bypass off 105 south of Boone.
- **In the near term and in order to handle the current call volume, a twelve hour crew should be placed in Boone at existing Base 2 (Alternative 2B).** Although Alternative 2A and 2B are identical in cost for personnel,

Alternative 2B (Adding a 12 hour crew in Boone) makes the crew available where the bulk of the calls originate and does not detract from the response time in Blowing Rock. MEDIC President Craig Sullivan made clear that adding a 12 hour crew in Blowing Rock would involve having that crew responding to calls in Boone, Foscoe, Deep Gap and Meat Camp when the crews at the existing EMS bases are committed. The bulk of the calls in Blowing Rock are non-emergency calls and the Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue Services units provide critical life support prior to the arrival of MEDIC units.

Overall, the study found that increases in staffing and addition of EMS bases are the keys to reductions in response time for EMS units. However, when considering the impact of various staffing options, it is recommended that greater weight be given to those that affect the largest numbers of persons and take into account where growth will most likely occur.

Invaluable assistance came from numerous persons during the completion of this report. They are acknowledged in Section III at the end of the report. However, I am responsible for any errors or omissions and for the interpretation of the data.

Marvin K. Hoffman

Watauga County EMS Staffing and Location Study

Study Background

This study was initiated at the request of the Watauga County Board of Commissioners in order to evaluate four staffing options under consideration for expanding EMS operations. A primary desire expressed by county officials was to have a set of objective criteria to evaluate how each option will lead to reductions in emergency responses time by EMS units in Watauga County. A related concern expressed by the county was to have information on how best to locate EMS resources to meet Census Bureau and local land use planning office projections about near-term growth in Watauga County.

EMS care begins at the time someone calls for help, continues through the alerting and dispatch of appropriate units, travel by the EMS units to the scene, the rendering of care on-scene and concludes with transporting the patient to appropriate medical facilities

Factors Affecting EMS Response Times:

- a. **Location and number of available MEDICS EMS units**
- b. **Processing of 911 calls**
- c. **First Responder units that Arrive On Scene Prior to Arrival of Medics for high priority EMS calls**
- d. **Traffic Congestion Affecting MEDICS Emergency Response**
- e. **Increases in call volume due to population growth and special events**

Each of the factors set out above has some bearing on how quickly EMS units can arrive on scene to provide care to patients requiring emergency attention. Not all of the factors have the same influence on response time but they have cumulative effects on how quickly an EMS unit arrives on scene when someone places a call for emergency assistance. In general, geography and traffic play the strongest roles in EMS response time in Watauga County. Reduction in response time will likely be possible only with the deployment of additional EMS crews.

Each of these factors was reviewed and data is presented that allows the reader to understand the effect of each on EMS response time. Response time data was analyzed on 21,242 EMS calls (routine and emergency) occurring during 2013-2016.³

³ Watauga MEDICS, incorporated, Annual Report to Watauga County”, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Data was provided by MEDIC in electronic form from its call database. Information about patients and addresses was redacted by MEDIC.

SECTION ONE**Overview of the Watauga County
Emergency Medical System****WATAUGA MEDIC**

Watauga County residents and visitors receive emergency medical care from EMS units operated under a contract between the county and Watauga Medics, Incorporated (MEDIC). MEDIC provides advanced paramedic emergency care as well as nonemergency patient transportation to and from medical facilities in Watauga County. MEDIC units provide these services on both a scheduled and emergency call basis.

Craig Sullivan is the President of Watauga Medical Services, Incorporated. Oversight of quality of care by MEDIC is provided by Dr. Jennifer Stoeber, MD, under a contract between Dr. Stoeber and Watauga County.

MEDIC currently operates from three EMS Bases. The third EMS Base opened in mid-January 2017.

EMS Base 1 is located near the Watauga County Agriculture Center at 921 W King Street in Boone. This station primarily covers the near-western and south western portions of Watauga County and parts of Boone. This facility is staffed 24/7 with two crews certified at the Paramedic or Emergency Technician level and at least three ambulances.

EMS Base 2 is located at 133 Longvue Street in southeastern Boone, near the Watauga Medical Center. It serves the eastern, northeastern and southeastern portions of Watauga County, Blowing Rock and approximately half of the area of the Town of Boone. This facility is staffed 24/7 with a crew certified at the Paramedic or Emergency Technical level and at least two ambulances

EMS Base 3, located near the intersection of US321 and US421 in Vilas, opened in mid-January 2017. EMS calls in western Watauga (Vilas, Sugar Grove, Shawneehaw, Bethel, Beaver Dams and Zionville) will be served by EMS Base 3 now that it is operational. This facility is now staffed 24/7 with a crew certified at the Paramedic or Emergency Technical level and at least one ambulance.

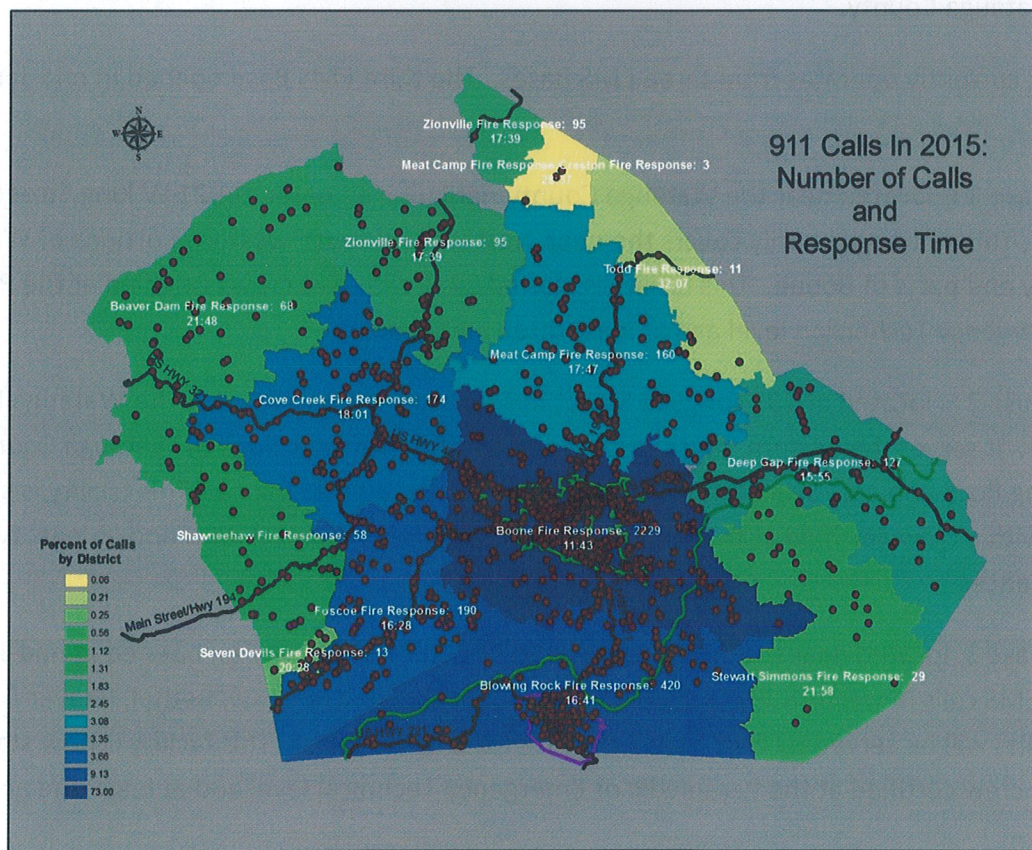
As shown in Figure One, most MEDIC calls involve travel in and around Boone and Blowing Rock. In fact, over a four year period involving 21,242 calls, (including both emergency and routine traffic) 65% were within the Boone Fire District. This should not be surprising since largest

portion of the County’s population resides in the Boone Fire District and several of the skilled nursing care facilities are also located within the Boone Fire District.⁴

Although the majority of the calls are relatively short in distance, units may be tied up for long periods of time at automobile accidents and during law enforcement situations. Furthermore, the ambulances may be involved with emergency or nonemergency transportation to Johnson City, Winston-Salem and other facilities outside the county.

Following each call, the ambulance is restocked, refueled, and cleaned before being put back in service. Downtime between calls is used for review of procedures and in-service training.

Figure One
Distribution of EMS Calls in 2015



Data furnished to the county by MEDIC indicates that daily call volumes do vary but the workload is trending upward.

⁴ This graphic includes all calls (routine transport and emergency) during 2015. Alpha and Bravo calls are not emergency calls and including them in the graphic shows increased response times for all calls. However, the graphic does give an idea of where in the county EMS calls typically occur.

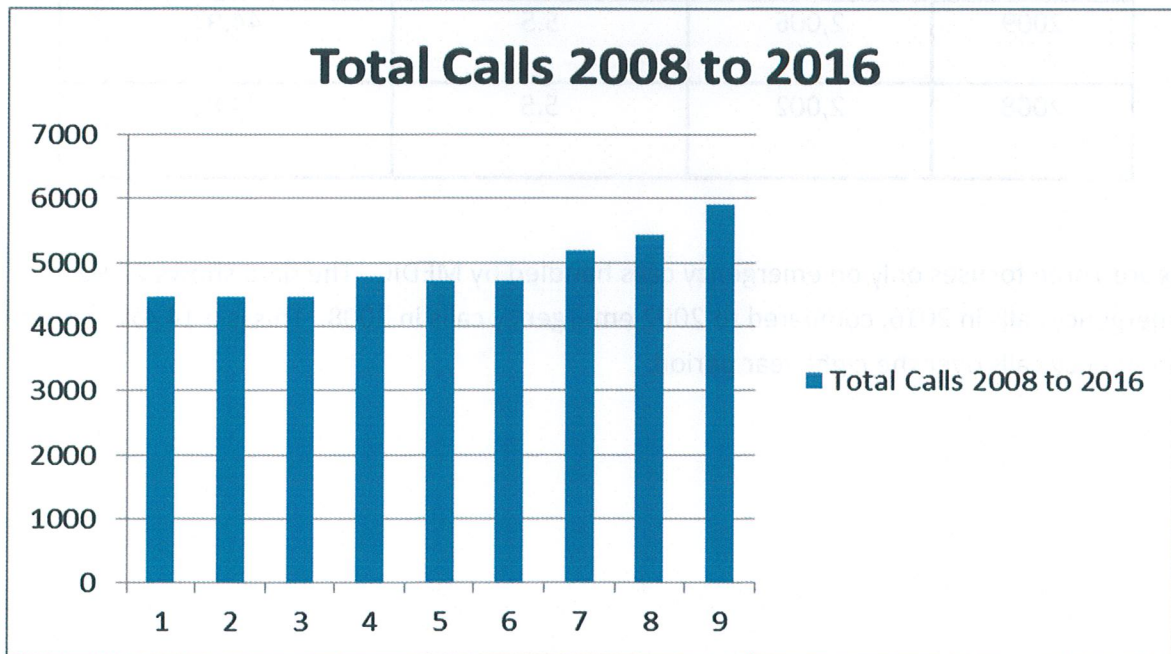
Set out below in Table One is information for 2011-2016.

Table One Variation in MEDC Call Volume, 2011-2016				
Year	Average Number of Calls Per Day	Maximum Calls Handled in One Day	Fewest Calls Handled in One Day	Total Calls For Year
2016	16.19	29	5	5,911
2015	14.89	52	4	5,435
2014	14.22	37	4	5,191
2013	12.89	29	4	4,705
2012	12.82	25	1	4,714
2011	13.10	26	1	4,783

Although daily call volume can vary, the clear trend is for more calls to MEDIC each year. For example, data furnished by MEDIC shows that it responded to 5911 calls in 2016, compared to a total of 4460 calls shown in MEDIC Annual Report for 2008. This is a 21.8% increase over an eight year period.

Figure Two visually portrays the trends in MEDIC call volume (nonemergency plus emergency traffic) from 2008-2016.

Figure Two



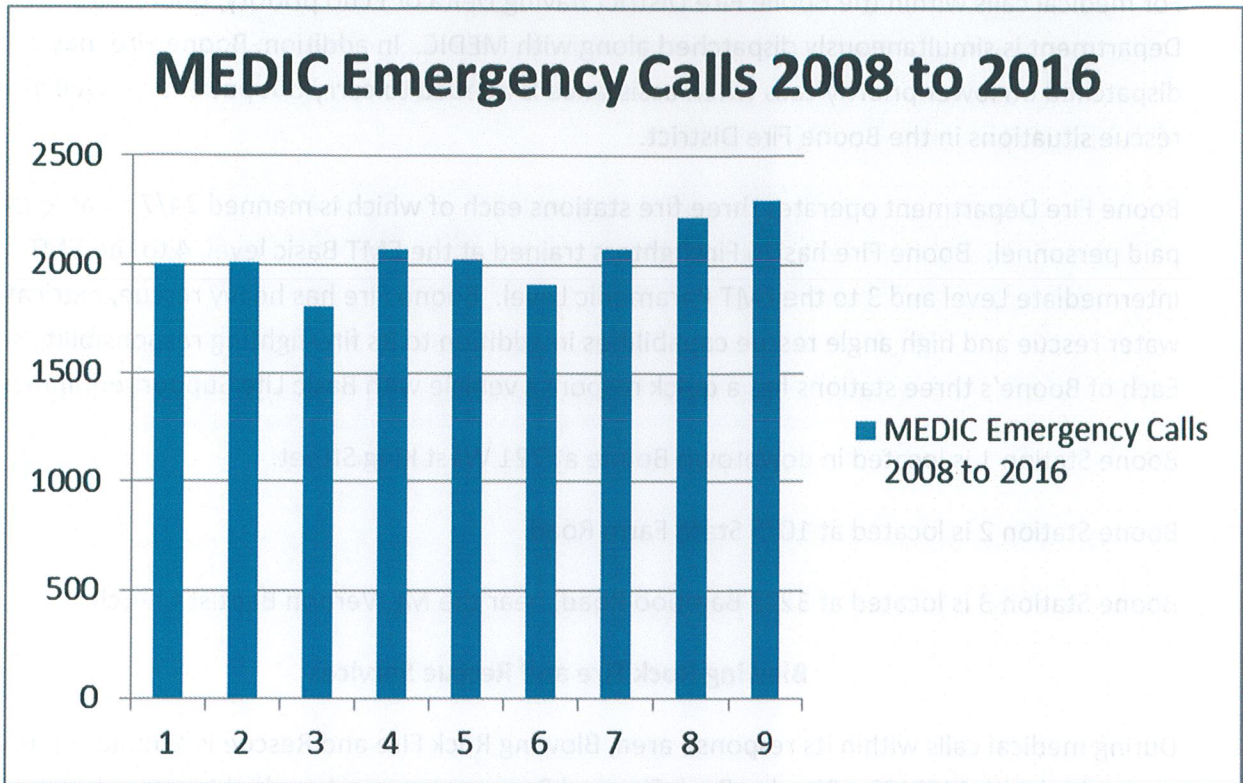
Note: YR1=2008; YR2=2009; YR3=2010; YR4=2011; YR5=2012; YR6=2013; YR7=2014; YR8=2015; YR9=2016

Table Two contains information about the Emergency Calls that MEDIC responded to over a nine-year period.

Year	Emergency Calls For Year	Average Number Per Day	Emergency Calls as a Percentage of Yearly Total
2016	2,292	6.3	38.78
2015	2,220	6.1	40.85
2014	2,074	5.7	39.95
2013	1,906	5.2	40.51
2012	2,087	5.6	43.00
2011	2,074	5.7	43.38
2010	1,806	4.9	40.38
2009	2,006	5.5	44.97
2008	2,002	5.5	44.89

Figure Three focuses only on emergency calls handled by MEDIC. The data shows 2,292 emergency calls in 2016, compared to 2,002 emergency calls in 2008. This is a 14.4% increase in emergency calls over the eight year period.

Figure Three



Note: YR1=2008; YR2=2009; YR3=2010; YR4=2011; YR5=2012; YR6=2013; YR7=2014; YR8=2015; YR9=2016

EMS Partners

When all on-duty MEDICS units are responding to calls, MEDIC is backed up by the Watauga Rescue Squad and the Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue Service.

Within the Boone Fire District, Boone Fire automatically responds on Delta and Echo calls and, at other times, when requested to assist MEDIC.

Volunteer First Responders from each of the county volunteer fire departments respond to assist MEDIC on Charlie, Delta and Echo calls and to vehicle wrecks.⁵

⁵ Emergency Medical Dispatch codes provide a degree of confidentiality about patient conditions and are used to prioritize calls handled by the 911 Centers.

Alpha - Non life-threatening where time will not affect patient outcome.

Bravo - Non life-threatening where time may affect outcome (i.e. acute illness, minor fractures and/or immobilizing injuries due to pain).

Charlie - Potentially life-threatening where time may affect outcome (i.e. Major fractures and blunt trauma)

Delta - Life-threatening of highest priority (cardiac arrest, respiratory difficulty/arrest, etc.)

Echo - Full Arrest or Imminent Death

Boone Fire Department

For medical calls within the Boone Fire District having Delta or Echo priority, Boone Fire Department is simultaneously dispatched along with MEDIC. In addition, Boone Fire may be dispatched on lower priority calls when assistance is needed to carry out patients as well as for rescue situations in the Boone Fire District.

Boone Fire Department operates three fire stations each of which is manned 24/7 by at least two paid personnel. Boone Fire has 26 Firefighters trained at the EMT Basic level, 4 to the EMT Intermediate Level and 3 to the EMT Paramedic Level. Boone Fire has heavy rescue, extrication, water rescue and high angle rescue capabilities in addition to its fire-fighting responsibilities. Each of Boone's three stations has a quick response vehicle with Basic Life Support equipment.

Boone Station 1 is located in downtown Boone at 721 West King Street.

Boone Station 2 is located at 1075 State Farm Road.

Boone Station 3 is located at 3228 Bamboo Road, near the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church.

Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue Services

During medical calls within its response area, Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue is simultaneously dispatched with MEDICS. Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue personnel are highly trained and equipped for Technical Rescue and Extrication, fire-fighting and emergency medical calls.

Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue is one of two primary backup responders when all MEDICS units are tied up. In such situations, BRRS units, along with those of the Watauga Rescue Squad, are placed on standby for medical dispatch until a MEDIC unit becomes available for calls. If a call is received while the squads are on standby, one or the other is dispatched, depending upon the location.

Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue is located at 8001 Valley Boulevard in Blowing Rock. There are paid fire and rescue personnel on duty 24/7 who are certified at least at the Emergency Medical Technician level. These personnel respond to medical calls within the Blowing Rock Fire District with Quick Response Vehicles with Advanced Life Support equipment.

Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue Station 2 is located at 6165 US 221 South. This station covers a portion of the Blowing Rock Fire District which is west of Blowing Rock. This station is unmanned but has equipment for fire and medical response.

The Town of Blowing Rock recently purchased property at 2409 Aho Road, near its intersection with the Blue Ridge Parkway, and is constructing its Fire Station 3 in order to improve response in

the portion of the Blowing Rock Fire District which is located outside the town limits and east of Blowing Rock.

Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue has at least two paid personnel on duty who staff its main station around the clock. Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue personnel respond to medical calls outside the town but within its fire district, a portion of which is in Caldwell County.

Watauga County Rescue Squad

Watauga Emergency and Rescue Squad is a volunteer organization that operates from its base at 200 Quail Street, Boone, off Highway 105 Extension, near the 105-421 intersection.

Watauga Rescue has 46 members (18 EMT-Paramedics, 6 EMT-Intermediates, and 22 EMT-Basic) and operates three ambulances and two rescue vehicles for extrication and technical rescue operations (trench collapse, mountainside falls and swift water rescue).

Watauga Rescue operates 3 Advanced Life Support ambulances, 2 heavy rescue vehicles, a Quick Response Vehicle with Advanced Life Support equipment, as well as other specialized equipment needed for rescues or searches.

Watauga Rescue Squad is the primary backup unit for MEDIC when all MEDIC units are on calls; Watauga Rescue personnel are placed on standby for dispatch until a MEDIC unit becomes available for calls. Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue is also placed on standby and is ready to respond until MEDIC units clear their calls.

The Growing Problem of EMS Resource Depletion

It is not uncommon for all MEDIC units to be tied up for varying lengths of time which results in Watauga Rescue and Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue being placed on standby in case additional calls come in before MEDIC units become available.

Data set out below shows a clear trend for EMS resource depletion which occurs when all MEDIC units are committed on calls.

Table Three summarizes data obtained from the Watauga 911 Center about the number and duration of dispatches to the Rescue Squads for standby because all MEDIC units are tied up.

Year	Watauga Rescue	Blowing Rock Rescue	Minutes on Standby		
	Standby Alerts	Standby Alerts	Average	Minimum	Maximum
2016	254	254	41.6	1	330
2015	176	176	37.4	1	253
2014	132	132	38.9	1	357
2013	192	192	42.1	1	417
2012	172	172	44.3	2	375
2011	152	152	39.6	1	285

First Responders

Citizens of Watauga County receive crucial services from First Responders who are part of each of the volunteer fire departments serving Watauga County.⁶ First responders operate under the supervision of MEDICS.

Because of their proximity, first responders are automatically dispatched to assist MEDIC and to more quickly deliver life-saving care until a MEDIC unit can arrive from an EMS Base. On-scene first responders alert the 911 Center when helicopter transportation to an advanced trauma center will be needed. First responders are dispatched to vehicle accidents and when assistance may be needed in carry-outs.

Outside Boone and Blowing Rock, because of the distances involved, first responders frequently arrive on scene before a MEDIC unit. First responders are trained to perform life-saving techniques including airway maintenance, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and hemorrhage control until MEDIC personnel with higher levels of EMS certification arrive on scene. Some individual First Responders hold higher levels of EMS certification because of their primary employment.

A request was made to the County Fire Marshal's Office to gather information about the fire department first responder program.

⁶ Some portions of Watauga County are served by departments in adjacent counties due to their location being closer than a Watauga fire department.

Table Four summarizes the responses about staffing and AED capabilities received from each fire department in the county.

Table Four		
Fire Department First Responder Program		
Fire District	First Responders and Paramedics	Automatic Electronic Defibrillator(s)
Beaver Dams	13	Yes
Beech Mountain	15/3	21
Cove Creek	15	10
Deep Gap	5	Yes
Foscoe	8	8
Meat Camp	NR	NR
Seven Devils	NR	NR
Shawneehaw	4	Yes
Stewart Simmons	8 (Daytime)	3
Zionville	13	Yes
NR denotes no reply		

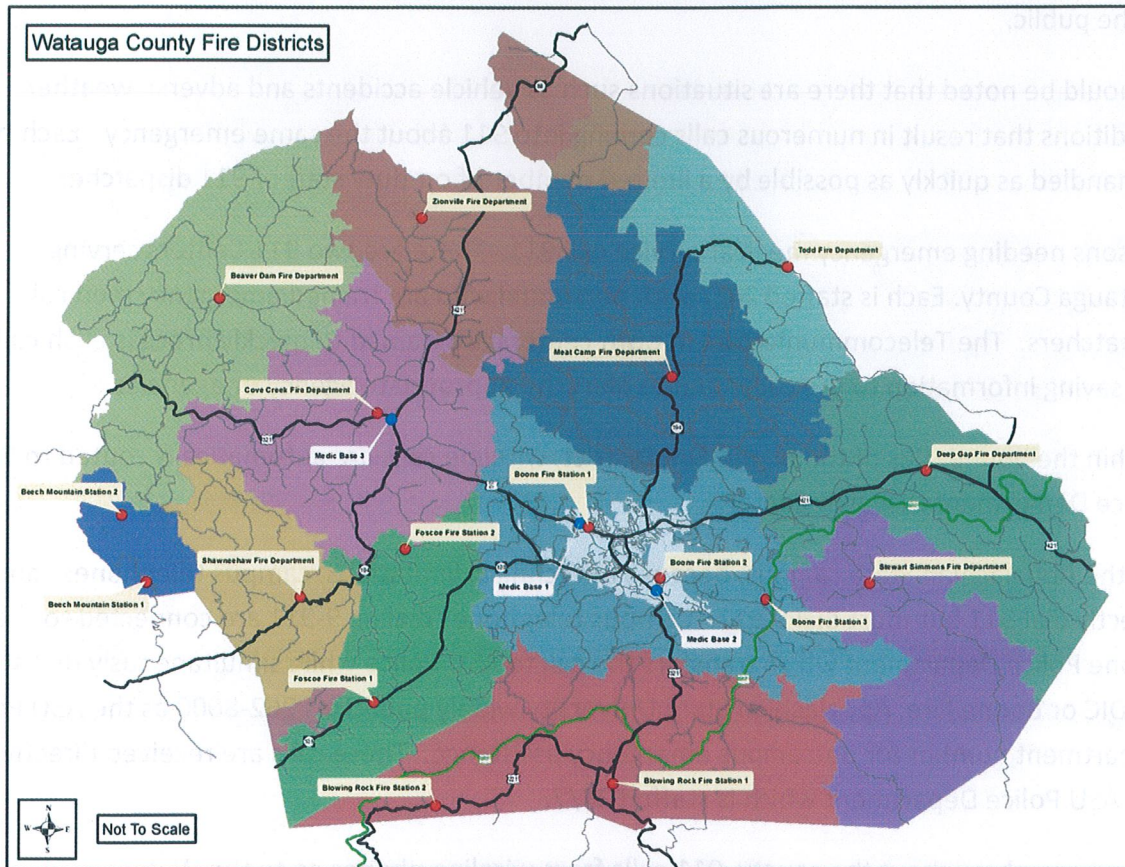
Table Five is based on MEDIC call records and displays the number of times each of the volunteer fire department first responder units were dispatched along with MEDICS in the 2013-2016 timeframe of this study.

Table Five					
Numbers of First Responder Calls to Assist MEDIC					
FIRST RESPONDERS	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL 2013-2016
Beaver Dams	108	97	105	94	404
Blowing Rock Fire	217	365	415	416	1413
Cove Creek	196	236	223	272	927
Creston	1	2	0	1	4
Deep Gap	121	103	151	144	519
Fall Creek	3	8	7	10	28
Foscoe	199	221	206	225	851
Meat Camp	145	168	172	174	659
Seven Devils	9	20	12	8	49
Shawneehaw	28	27	32	31	118
Stewart Simmons	25	28	32	30	115
Todd	14	13	14	17	58
Zionville	93	115	106	89	403

Figure Four is a map that shows the areas of each Fire District, station and EMS base within the county.

Figure Four

Watauga Fire Districts and Stations



Watauga Medical Center

The Watauga Medical Center is located at 336 Deerfield Road in Boone. It is a comprehensive 117 bed general and surgical facility with a fully staffed 24/7 Emergency Department that serves Watauga County and surrounding areas in the High Country. Burn, severe trauma, and cardiac patients are stabilized and transported to trauma centers in Johnson City, Winston-Salem or Charlotte. Depending upon the severity of the situation, transport may be done by MEDIC or by one of the medical helicopter units located at one of the major trauma centers in Johnson City, Winston-Salem or Charlotte.

EMS Dispatch Centers

Quality emergency medical care begins when a call is received that indicates the need for an ambulance.

Information gathered and observations made during this study, extending over a year-long period, indicate that the 911 dispatch centers in Watauga County provide a high quality of service to the public.

It should be noted that there are situations such as vehicle accidents and adverse weather conditions that result in numerous calls coming into 911 about the same emergency. Each has to be handled as quickly as possible by a limited number of on-duty staff of 911 dispatchers.

Persons needing emergency medical service call 911. There are two 911 Centers serving Watauga County. Each is staffed 24/7 with personnel who are trained emergency medical dispatchers. The Telecommunicators at both centers are trained to quickly process each call, give life-saving information to the caller and to alert the appropriate agency or agencies.

Within the boundaries of the Boone Fire District, wireline calls are automatically routed to Boone Police Department Dispatch Center.

On the Appalachian State campus, because of technical limitations, campus telephones cannot directly dial 911 but must dial 9-911. Campus telephones dialing 9-911 are connected to the Boone Police Department which transfers the call to ASU Police while simultaneously dispatching MEDIC or Boone Fire. Appalachian State University widely publicizes 262-8000 as the ASU Police Department number for on-campus emergency assistance. These calls are received directly at the ASU Police Department which is staffed 24/7.

Elsewhere, throughout the county, 911 calls from wireline phones go to the Watauga County Emergency Communications Center.

Cellular callers may reach either Boone or Watauga communications center depending upon which cell tower picks up the call. Either Communications Center can quickly reroute the call if the location is within the responsibility of the other Center.

Trained 911 operators at Boone Police and Watauga 911 centers screen calls to learn the nature of the emergency and then dispatch the appropriate unit or agency according the location and nature of the call.

The computer aided dispatch (CAD) system database contains each address in Watauga County (including Boone and Blowing Rock). Based on the location and the nature of the call, CAD

recommends to the dispatcher which units should be dispatched to the call. Times, locations, units, are entered and stored into the CAD systems that operate at Watauga, Boone and ASU.

Dispatchers assign a priority to each medical call which reflects whether the situation is a life-threatening medical emergency or one that may be temporarily deferred or set for a scheduled time. The priority categories range from low to high:

- Alpha – Non life-threatening where time will not affect patient outcome.
- Bravo – Non life-threatening where time may affect outcome (i.e. acute illness, minor fractures and/or immobilizing injuries due to pain).
- Charlie – Potentially life-threatening where time may affect outcome (i.e. Major fractures and blunt trauma)
- Delta – Life-threatening of highest priority (cardiac arrest, respiratory difficulty/arrest, etc.)
- Echo – Full Arrest or Imminent Death

Call Volumes Received by 911 Centers

The two 911 Centers in Watauga County are quite busy and handle emergency calls coming in on 911 as well as numerous administrative calls to a variety of agencies. The 911 Centers receive numerous calls during severe weather and multiple calls concerning automobile accidents.

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	4082	3837	4128	4118
Feb	4141	37	4288	4216
Mar	4064	36	4092	4016
Apr	4480	34	4117	4116
May	4488	40	4338	4316
Jun	4484	31	4098	4016
Jul	4614	44	4792	4716
Aug	4732	37	4701	4716
Sep	4012	41	4098	4016
Oct	4021	37	4098	4016
Nov	4101	35	4198	4116
Dec	4084	37	4198	4116
Total	48827	488	48828	48828

Watauga 911

Table Six displays data from Watauga 911 showing that its dispatchers are quite busy in handling telephone calls.

Table Six				
Watauga County 911 Center Telephone Traffic, 2015-2016				
Month	911 Incoming	911 Hangups	Total Calls	Average Call Duration (seconds)
Jan 2015	753	28	4357	82.1
Feb 2015	749	52	3722	89.8
Mar 2015	626	33	4191	82.2
Apr 2015	694	76	3585	81.5
May 2015	822	33	4267	81.2
Jun 2015	1032	35	5549	74.1
July 2015	1124	41	5145	83.5
Aug 2015	949	32	4877	86.3
Sept 2015	920	39	4324	100.4
Oct 2015	903	42	4661	89.3
Nov 2015	873	24	4207	88.1
Dec 2015	771	20	3992	92.0
Total 2015	10216	455	52877	86.4
Jan 2016	815	2327	4085	83.5
Feb 2016	758	27	4141	89.4
Mar 2016	805	36	4664	80.6
Apr 2016	717	34	4480	87.7
May 2016	839	40	4465	86.9
Jun 2016	903	51	4558	90.2
July 2016	1192	144	5624	82.7
Aug 2016	1077	55	5122	83.2
Sept 2016	895	41	4615	91.7
Oct 2016	1009	57	4569	90.0
Nov 2016	1021	42	4592	90.5
Dec 2016	821	27	4164	90.7
Total 2016	10852	877	55059	87.2

Boone 911 Telephone Traffic

The 911 Dispatch Center located at the Boone Police Department is also quite busy. It handles all 911 wireline calls originating in the Boone Fire District as well as telephone and radio traffic for Boone Police, MEDIC and, after hours, Boone Public Works and Utilities. Table Seven contains telephone and cell traffic coming into the Boone 911 Center during 2015 and 2016.

Table Seven				
Boone 911 Center Telephone Traffic				
Month	911 Incoming	911 Hangups	Total Calls	Average Call Duration (seconds)
Jan 2015	555	65	734	118.5
Feb 2015	556	49	717	155.7
Mar 2015	543	82	737	165.8
Apr 2015	594	63	781	100.8
May 2015	591	49	780	104.8
Jun 2015	628	68	839	111.2
July 2015	615	57	798	108.8
Aug 2015	736	59	992	99.2
Sept 2015	721	59	933	98.1
Oct 2015	647	74	852	112.1
Nov 2015	632	50	734	115.1
Dec 2015	604	67	793	114.1
Total 2015	5882	742	9750	115.8
Jan 2016	592	55	786	117.8
Feb 2016	634	67	846	118.3
Mar 2016	598	68	772	120.5
Apr 2016	640	63	893	124.1
May 2016	551	101	2732	79.6
Jun 2016	618	41	4903	82.8
July 2016	792	52	5124	80.9
Aug 2016	778	32	5503	83.7
Sept 2016	731	29	5339	84.9
Oct 2016	733	27	5107	79.0
Nov 2016	624	23	5011	79.2
Dec 2016	503	18	4212	84.4
Total 2016	7794	576	41208	85.0

There was no indication that either Watauga 911 or Boone 911 fails to quickly respond to calls or alert the proper agencies.

The 911 Dispatch Center located at the Boone Police Department in Boone, North Carolina, is the primary 911 center for Boone County. The 911 Dispatch Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The 911 Dispatch Center is responsible for receiving 911 calls, dispatching emergency services, and providing information to the public. The 911 Dispatch Center is also responsible for providing information to the public regarding emergency services. The 911 Dispatch Center is also responsible for providing information to the public regarding emergency services.

Table Seven
Boone 911 Center Telephone Traffic

Month	911 Incoming	911 Hangups	Total Calls
Jan 2015	555	65	620
Feb 2015	556	49	605
Mar 2015	543	83	626
Apr 2015	581	63	644
May 2015	581	49	630
Jun 2015	628	68	696
Jul 2015	615	53	668
Aug 2015	728	59	787
Sep 2015	721	59	780
Oct 2015	647	74	721
Nov 2015	637	90	727
Dec 2015	604	63	667
Total 2015	7082	742	7824
Jan 2016	502	59	561
Feb 2016	474	67	541
Mar 2016	508	66	574
Apr 2016	590	63	653
May 2016	581	70	651
Jun 2016	638	61	699
Jul 2016	615	53	668
Aug 2016	728	59	787
Sep 2016	721	59	780
Oct 2016	647	74	721
Nov 2016	637	90	727
Dec 2016	604	63	667
Total 2016	7082	742	7824

Data on Response Times to Priority EMS Calls by Fire District, 2013-2016

Data from MEDIC call records was statistically analyzed using the IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)⁷ to determine average response times for emergency calls (Charlie, Delta or Echo priority) in each of the Fire Districts in the County for 2013-2016.

Table Eight displays the results of the analysis.

Fire District	2013 Average (N)		2014 Average (N)		2015 Average (N)		2016 Average (N)	
Beaver Dams	22.2	59	22.9	45	21.7	47	22.1	41
Boone	6.9	1087	7.4	1172	7.2	1214	6.4	1295
Blowing Rock	12.7	157	14.0	225	12.6	257	13.1	287
Cove Creek	14.0	123	13.4	141	12.7	182	12.9	182
Deep Gap	15.3	192	14.2	164	14.6	117	14.6	123
Foscoe	12.6	131	13.6	147	13.5	127	13.3	158
Meat Camp	13.3	96	14.3	109	13.5	119	14.4	115
Seven Devils	20.6	8	20.7	18	16.6	12	19.2	20
Shawneehaw	21.3	22	21.4	28	26.8	34	22.0	35
Stewart Simmons	27.8	14	26.5	18	21.8	27	26.0	21
Todd	14.8	11	23.0	8	20.6	7	19.5	9
Zionville	16.9	53	16.1	74	17.3	86	15.9	116

Anticipated Effect of the Addition of EMS Base 3 near Vilas

The data in Table Eight cannot take into account the anticipated reduction in response time in western Watauga County due to EMS Base 3 just opened in mid-January 2017. Assuming an average emergency response speed of 50 mph from Base 1 to western Watauga, it is likely that the addition of the new Base 3 will reduce response time (both day and night) on average by 7.08 minutes in Western Watauga since the unit at the new Base will be able to reach almost any location in its response area faster than a unit traveling from Base 1.

Traffic Congestion In and Around Boone Adversely Affects Many EMS Responses

The [2013 Watauga Comprehensive Traffic Plan](#) identifies the 105-321 intersection as the most congested in the High Country. DOT traffic counts show 40,000 vehicles per day passing through that intersection.⁸

⁷ IBM Corp. Released 2014. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows. Version 22.0, Armonk, NY. IBM Corp.

Much of the EMS traffic passes through this intersection which at times is quite congested which adversely affecting MEDIC response time. Response time for a MEDIC unit to arrive either from Base 1 or Base 2 in the Eastern, Northern, or Southern portions of Watauga County is adversely affected by travelling through the 105-321 intersection as well as the 105-421 Intersection.

There are seasonal variations in traffic conditions in and around Boone. For example traffic congestion improves after ASU holds commencement and the improvement generally continues prior to arrival of tourists. In the Fall Semester, after the leaves come down, up through the time that snowfalls begin, traffic is generally better. After the end of ski season and prior to spring, traffic improves. Alternatively, Boone is most congested during the peak of Summer tourism, on Fall Football weekends, before and after Appalachian's Commencement; and, particularly so during Moving-In Day on Campus.

Data was requested from NCDOT Traffic Engineering concerning hourly traffic counts from its electronic sensors at the 105-321 and the 105-421 intersections. Unfortunately, the hourly traffic count data that can be obtained is limited and applies to traffic in 2015. Visual observation of congestion at the two intersections yielded a subjective analysis of the traffic flow. The data that was obtained from NCDOT confirmed the variability by time of day of large numbers of vehicles in the congested intersections. Appendix I is a map furnished by NCDOT showing the most recent traffic counts made by NCDOT.

Table Nine scores the congestion on particular EMS response paths from Base 1 and Base 2 throughout the day.

⁸North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2013 Watauga County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, found at http://www.wataugacounty.org/App_Pages/Dept/BOC/Forms/Watauga%20CTP_Final_Report.pdf

Table Nine Congestion Scoring for EMS Responses Travel in and Around Boone by Hour of Day						
Hour of Day	Base 1 unit traveling East on King St	Base 1 unit traveling on Rivers St	Base 1 unit traveling on 321 to BR	Base 2 unit traveling on 321 to BR	Base 2 unit traveling on 321S to 105	Base 2 unit traveling to western Watauga
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	1	2	2	2	2	2
8	2	3	3	3	3	3
9	3	3	3	3	3	3
10	3	3	3	3	3	4
11	3	3	4	3	3	4
12 noon	4	4	4	4	4	5
13	4	4	4	4	4	5
14	3	3	4	3	3	4
15	3	3	3	3	3	4
16	3	3	3	3	3	5
17	6	5	6	5	5	6
18	4	4	6	3	4	6
19	3	4	4	3	4	5
20	2	3	3	2	3	3
21	3	3	2	2	3	3
22	2	2	2	1	2	3
23	0	0	2	0	0	0
24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congestion Score	49	52	58	47	52	65

The scores shown are the estimated increase in travel time along that route due to traffic congestion at that hour in the day. A "0" would denote that response time is a function primarily of distance, while a "4" would be an estimate that congestion at major intersections and a heavily traveled route adds an addition 4 minutes to the response time. The importance of scoring

congestion in and around Boone arises reflects the substantial and adverse impact traffic congestion has on MEDIC response times.

Depending upon the time of day and the route needed to reach the call, EMS units from either Base 1 or Base 2 face substantial congestion in responding through Boone traffic. This delays the initiation of advanced life support care to the patient. The greatest impacts occur when Base 2 has to respond at midday along 321 and through campus to western Watauga because Base 1 units are already committed to calls. Alternatively, units responding to a call east or north of Boone from Base 1 through downtown Boone at midday or at 5 p.m. encounter very heavy congestion which significantly delays the initiation of advanced life support level care.

Traffic and Expected Near-Term Growth in Watauga County

If traffic is bad now, it is likely to worsen with residential and commercial growth that is expected within Watauga County. Interviews were conducted with local government planning and growth management officials in Boone, Blowing Rock and Watauga County. These interviews were conducted to better understand trends for new development in each jurisdiction. Information about pending or planned projects will impact the number of people moving into Watauga County which will, in turn, impact future demands on the EMS system.

Development in Unincorporated Areas Outside Towns and Their Planning Areas

Mr. Joe Furman, Watauga County Director of Planning, indicated that substantial growth is not expected within his office's area of responsibility. Single family home construction is expected to continue at a slow pace. For example, Echota is expected to continue its expansion near Foscoe. Previously approved development at Heavenly Mountain will likely be limited. Resale of existing homes will continue at rates comparable to prior years. Reliance on wells and septic tanks will, by and large, result in rather slow growth outside the town planning jurisdictions. Table Ten summarizes building permit activity within the jurisdiction of Watauga County Planning.

Township	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bald Mountain	3	5	0	3	2	6
Beaver Dam	2	4	4	1	4	3
Blowing Rock	12	3	10	9	10	12
Blue Ridge	15	7	21	15	15	10
Boone	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brushy Fork	9	6	7	7	4	4
Cove Creek	5	7	11	5	4	5
Elk	7	10	12	17	16	19
Laurel Creek	3	3	4	5	8	3
Meat Camp	6	8	11	7	2	9
New River	16	8	14	27	8	4
North Fork	1	0	1	1	1	2
Shawneehaw	4	3	2	3	4	6
Stony fork	3	4	8	5	5	5
Watauga	24	18	14	17	19	13

Consultant's assessment for growth in County Planning Area:

Score: 1

Overall growth will occur at a low rate, except in a small number of subdivisions.

Most construction in County jurisdiction will be single family residential with a small amount of business development.

Growth in county jurisdiction is not likely to exceed Census Bureau growth projections through 2025.

Development within Town of Blowing Rock Jurisdiction

Mr. Kevin Rothrock, Planning Director for Blowing Rock, indicated that several factors will likely limit growth in Blowing Rock's Planning jurisdiction.

Much of the undeveloped land near Blowing Rock is owned by the U.S. Government or is unsuitable for development because of the steepness of slopes. Topography will limit extension

of sewer service in a large portion of Blowing Rock's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Without sewer service, growth along US321 near Tweetsie will be limited.

Renovation and additions to existing homes and businesses typify the permits issued by Blowing Rock. He indicated that development at and adjacent to the Foley Center at Chestnut Ridge will constitute the largest portion of expansion in Blowing Rock's jurisdiction.

Chestnut Ridge is a high quality 87,500 square foot facility that will provide post-acute and palliative care and is expected to have 112 skilled care beds.

Table Eleven is based on the 2015 Annual Report furnished by Mr. Rothrock.

Table Eleven					
Building Permit Activity, Blowing Rock Planning Department					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Building Permit Applications	346	321	288	315	298
New Homes	1	3	8	12	3
Home Additions/Renovations	182	180	158	216	214
Multifamily	0	0	0	0	0
New Commercial	4	2	2	2	5
Commercial Additions/Renovations	111	83	90	85	79

Consultant's assessment of growth in Blowing Rock Planning Jurisdiction:

Score 1

Low rate of growth for new residential, emphasis on high quality construction and expansion of business tax base, considerable emphasis on renovation of existing structures.

Growth within the Blowing Rock Planning jurisdiction is not likely to exceed Census growth projections through 2025.

Development within Town of Boone Jurisdiction

Mr. Bill Bailey indicated that substantial growth will be likely within the Town of Boone over the foreseeable future. This will include substantial numbers of multifamily units and multiple bedroom apartments and condominiums that will likely to characterize growth in Boone over the

next five years. Once the Town of Boone completes the water system expansion project in 2018, it is likely that the area along US421 east of Boone will experience considerable development.

Table Twelve identifies large multifamily developments approved or pending approval since completion of the 2010 U.S. Census.

Table Twelve		
Town of Boone Multifamily Buildings		
2011-2016		
Project	Completed/Permitted Under Construction/Vested/ Approved/Pending	# of Bedrooms
Glen Wilde	Constructed	72
Highland Woods	Constructed	71
Greenway Cove	Constructed	48
Exchange – Phase 2	Constructed	24
Robbins Ridge Townhomes	Constructed	32
Turtle Creeks Phase 3	Constructed	126
Mountaineer Crossing – Phase 1	Constructed	72
Mountaineer Crossing – Phase 2	Constructed	132
Butler MF Apartments	Constructed	18
King Street Mixed Use Project	Constructed	30
Watauga Green	Constructed	164
Winkler Square	Constructed	42
Oak Street Apartments	Constructed	18
Appalachian Suites	Constructed	30
Shadowline Square	Under Construction	502
The Standard at Boone	Constructed	560
Skyline Terrace	Under Construction	276
University Overlook	Under Construction	24
The Marketplace	Under Construction	159
Rivers Walk	Vested	380
King and College	Pending	64
Total		2844

Consultant's assessment:

Score: 3.

Within Boone Planning area, there will be a low rate of growth for new single family residential, but a **very high rate of growth for multifamily unit construction**, as well as redevelopment of commercial sites.

Completion of 421 Water Line will further accelerate development

Growth in Boone Planning jurisdiction will very likely to exceed Census growth projections through 2025.

A Methodology to Rank Improvements in EMS Response Times

In order to give a means of assessing the importance of various aspects of proposed changes in EMS Staffing and/or Base Operations, a ranking system was devised. Set out below are ranges of scores that reflect the researcher's professional opinion about the importance of population growth, traffic congestion and response times when evaluating three EMS alternatives.

Each of the alternatives under consideration is complex; in order to sort out the several ways in which an EMS alternative should be evaluated, it is necessary to assign a score to each of the four ways that an EMS alternative should be evaluated.

- **What is the impact in reducing response time compared to the current system?**
- **Will the alternative materially lessen the number of times that the Rescue Squads are placed on standby?**
- **Various sections of the county will be affected differently by certain EMS alternatives. How many times in a year is the alternative expected to improve response times?**
- **How will the alternative address the growth scenarios identified by the local planning offices?**

Table Thirteen	
Criteria for Assessing EMS Staffing Alternatives	Potential Score
Reduction of Response Time in Minutes—one point for each minute of reduction in response time	1-10
Will the alternative make more resources available where most calls originate?	1-5
Reduction in Number of Squad Standby Alerts	1
Reduction in number of responses to emergency calls through heavily congested intersections	0-3
Numbers of Emergency Calls to Be Affected by Study Option (in hundreds of calls)	1-10
Addresses Impact of Population Growth	1-3

Ranking Four EMS Alternatives in Addressing Growth and Reduced Response Time

Four alternatives were evaluated for reducing response time and giving residents and visitors improved times from the 911 call to on-scene arrival by EMS personnel. Each alternative was evaluated in light of the scoring methodology outlined above. This assessment is based upon growth scenarios identified by local land use planners as well as traffic flow data.

Table Fourteen identifies the four alternatives, assigns scores for evaluating each alternative and ranks the three alternatives in terms of a recommended implementation sequence.

Table Fourteen Alternative Options for Improved EMS Response Time		
Option	Comments	Score
Alternative 1 Build EMS Base 4 in East Boone and staff with a 24/7 MEDIC crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant reduction in Response Time for MEDIC units to reach Meat Camp, Deep Gap, and East Boone with some improvement in response to Stewart Simmons – Overall reduction estimated at 6 minutes in these areas 	6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses expectations of high growth along US 421 East of Boone 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some reduction in Rescue Squad standby alerting 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in MEDIC responses to emergency calls through heavily congested intersections 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases EMS Resources in central Watauga where most calls originate since there will be a fourth crew on duty in Boone 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected to affect 1000 responses per year 	10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing Site and Construction Will Take Time 	
		Total 26

<p>Alternative 2a Add a 12 hour MEDIC Crew in Blowing Rock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant reduction in Response Time for MEDIC units to reach typical calls in Blowing Rock Fire District (estimated at 7 minutes) 7 • Increases EMS Resources in center of County where most calls originate since there will be fewer instances of Station 2 being empty due to response into Blowing Rock 2 • Some reduction in Rescue Squad standby alerting 1 • Reduction in MEDICS responses to emergencies through heavily congested intersections 0 • Addresses (limited) population growth expected in Blowing Rock Fire District and opening of Chestnut Ridge 1.5 • Alternative affects approximately 250 calls per year 2.5 	<p style="text-align: right;">Total 14</p>
<p>Alternative 2b Add a 12 hour MEDIC Crew in Boone at Base 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on typical response time for MEDICS unit to arrive on scene within Blowing Rock Fire District (data shown to be average 7 minutes currently) and at Chestnut Ridge 0 • Increases EMS Resources in center of County where most calls originate 3 • Addresses (high) growth expected in Boone Fire District 4 • Some reduction in Rescue Squad standby alerting 1 • Reduction in responses to emergency calls through heavily congested intersections 0 • Approximately 600 calls per year will be affected 6 	<p style="text-align: right;">Total 15</p>

<p>Alternative 3 Build EMS Base 5 near 105-105 Bypass Intersection and staff with 24/7 MEDIC crew</p> <p>To be implemented near end of 2020-2025 planning period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant reduction in MEDIC Response Time in southern portion of Boone, Foscoe, Seven Devils - Reduction in Response Time estimated at 5 minutes in these areas 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fifth crew will be made available to respond to calls throughout County, meeting EMS call volume for the foreseeable future. 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant reduction in Rescue Squad standby alerting 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in responses to emergency calls through heavily congested intersections 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses likely growth scenarios for ten year planning period 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected to respond to 500 calls per year 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Choosing Site and Construction Will Take Significant Lead Time 	
	Total	22

Table 15
County and Municipal Populations and Applicable Employment Projections

Year	Watauga County (Total)	Town of Boone	Appalachian State University (Estimated)
2018	24,654	16,708	11,108
2019	25,257	16,927	11,387
2020	25,724	17,212	11,674
2021	26,154	17,577	11,961
2022	26,547	18,027	12,248
2023	26,904	18,456	12,535
2024	27,224	18,864	12,822
2025	27,507	19,251	13,109
2026	27,754	19,617	13,396
2027	28,064	20,064	13,683
2028	28,337	20,493	13,970
2029	28,574	20,904	14,257
2030	28,774	21,297	14,544
2031	28,937	21,672	14,831
2032	29,064	22,029	15,118
2033	29,154	22,368	15,405
2034	29,207	22,689	15,692
2035	29,224	23,000	15,979
2036	29,204	23,293	16,266
2037	29,147	23,568	16,553
2038	29,054	23,825	16,840
2039	28,924	24,064	17,127
2040	28,757	24,285	17,414
2041	28,554	24,488	17,701
2042	28,314	24,673	17,988
2043	28,037	24,840	18,275
2044	27,724	25,089	18,562
2045	27,374	25,320	18,849
2046	27,087	25,533	19,136
2047	26,764	25,728	19,423
2048	26,404	25,905	19,710
2049	26,007	26,064	20,000
2050	25,574	26,204	20,290
2051	25,104	26,325	20,580
2052	24,697	26,428	20,870
2053	24,254	26,513	21,160
2054	23,774	26,580	21,450
2055	23,257	26,629	21,740
2056	22,704	26,660	22,030
2057	22,114	26,673	22,320
2058	21,487	26,668	22,610
2059	20,824	26,645	22,900
2060	20,124	26,604	23,190
2061	19,387	26,545	23,480
2062	18,614	26,468	23,770
2063	17,804	26,373	24,060
2064	16,957	26,260	24,350
2065	16,074	26,129	24,640
2066	15,154	25,980	24,930
2067	14,204	25,813	25,220
2068	13,224	25,628	25,510
2069	12,214	25,425	25,800
2070	11,174	25,204	26,090
2071	10,104	24,965	26,380
2072	9,004	24,708	26,670
2073	7,874	24,433	26,960
2074	6,714	24,140	27,250
2075	5,524	23,829	27,540
2076	4,304	23,500	27,830
2077	3,054	23,153	28,120
2078	1,774	22,788	28,410
2079	504	22,405	28,700
2080	0	22,004	29,000

Section II

Projections Concerning Future EMS Call Volume

Watauga County is fortunate to have a robust economy and to be largely immune from the economic stagnation that is found in many counties in North Carolina. It should be noted that more than half of the counties in the United States lost population between 2010 and 2014. The UNC Carolina Population Center reported that 49 of North Carolina's 100 counties lost population between 2010 and 2014.⁹

In addition to counting the population every ten years, the US Census Bureau also makes projections for the near-term future based upon a variety of factors including birth rates, deaths, as well as current rates of growth and applies those factors to the most recent base-line population numbers.

Table Fifteen summarizes data obtained from the US Census Bureau and the Office of State Management and Budget concerning the population in Watauga County. Enrollment data published for Appalachian State University is drawn from the Appalachian State University Factbook published annually.

Year	Watauga County Total	Town of Boone	Official Appalachian State Enrollment (September)	Town of Blowing Rock
2008	49,499	16,208	15,108	1,284
2009	50,121	16,927	15,387	1,284
2010	50,922	17,212	15,674	1,240
2011	51,079	17,177	16,023	1,237
2012	52,450	18,022	16,168	1,235
2013	52,676	18,156	16,424	1,232
2014	52,923	18,130	16,636	1,233
2015	53,315	18,227	16,777	1,173
2016 ¹⁰	53,710	18,324	17,064	1,116
Percentage Change 2010-2015				
2010-2015	4.55%	5.90%	7.04%	-5.40%

⁹ NC-in-focus-share-of-counties-with-population-loss-2010-2014, <http://demography.cpc.unc.edu/2015/04/09>, found on May 15, 2016.

¹⁰ Because the Intercensal Populations Estimates for Cities and Towns for 2016 will not be available until March 21, 2017, this figure is derived by applying the rate used by the Census Bureau for 2015.

The estimates are not infallible but are considered the best official data available. These numbers are used to allocate state gasoline tax revenues, beer and wine tax collections and to plan for school construction needs. The methodology used accounts for births, deaths, building permits using statistical techniques accepted by market researchers, land use planners and demographers.

Watauga County has for the past two decades shown growth rates higher than the state as a whole. Local factors affecting that growth include:

- Overall quality of life in the area
- Appalachian State University and the cultural, educational and athletic opportunities it brings to the area
- Quality of medical care in the area
- Quality of public schools
- Local cultural events including Horn in the West, Art in the Park, as well as local music events
- Tourist attractions drawing visitors to the area including the Blue Ridge Parkway, Grandfather Mountain, Blowing Rock, Tweetsie Railroad, and Horn in the West
- A climate that offers four distinct seasons including skiing, hiking, canoeing, bicycling and numerous opportunities to observe our local environment as the seasons change

The type growth experienced in Watauga County has several medical consequences that differ from other counties with similar population totals. The attractiveness of this area for retirees as well as the access to winter sports and ice leads to increased orthopedic injuries. The presence of a large and growing university tends to be associated with increased demands for EMS transports. In fact, data suggests that both the young and older segments of the local population are expanding and each group will continue to place increased demands on EMS beyond current trends

While growth occurs throughout the county, the public has concern over the rate of growth within particular sections of the county. Some sections of the county show a strong desire to preserve a small town or community atmosphere and this tends to produce very different feelings towards where and how much growth should occur. Clearly, growth in Boone is far greater than that in Blowing Rock which is reflected in the small decrease in Blowing Rock's population. The differences are due to community concerns over slow growth, high quality development standards.

One of the purposes of this study is to project future demands for service so that the county can develop orderly plans for the increases in demands for EMS resources.

Demands for EMS services arise because of continued long-term expansion of the county population as well as because of temporary surges in the numbers of persons in the area due to cultural, athletic and tourist events. These events, including Appalachian State University sporting events and concerts, as well as Art in the Park and the Horse Show in Blowing Rock, bring considerable economic activity to the area and result in increases in calls for EMS. These temporary surges appear to be adequately handled by MEDIC bringing in off duty personnel to staff reserve ambulances. While there are some increases in call volume during these events, their primary effect of the events is to aggravate serious traffic congestion in and around Boone. This is discussed in a separate section below.

Projected Population Changes within Watauga County

Conversations with the local planning officials reveal different expectations about growth with various sections of the county through 2025.

- Multiunit housing in Boone will likely expand substantially in numbers in the next five years, possibly as soon as 2018, when water lines are extended along US 421 east of Boone.
- Growth in various sections of the county will be uneven:
 - a. Watauga County will not likely experience much growth in its planning area.
 - b. Blowing Rock will not likely experience much growth beyond Chestnut Ridge.
 - c. Boone will experience considerable multi-unit and commercial growth.
- Regardless of location, Watauga County as a whole will likely continue to experience significant growth which will drive increased demand for EMS units.
- Overall growth will be driven by:
 - a. the quality of life in the area for year round residents;
 - b. seasonal residents who maintain second homes in the area;
 - c. the popularity of the area for visitors for major cultural and athletic events as well as summer and winter recreational activities;
 - d. the continued expansion of Appalachian State University;
 - e. the importance of Boone and Blowing Rock as banking, retail and medical care centers

Based on the data analyzed in this study, Watauga County should expect to face a significant and steady increase in the number of Emergency Medical Service responses over the foreseeable future.

The North Carolina Office of State Management and Budget (OSMB) develops population projections based on Census Bureau data and also uses its own methodology to refine projections of future growth within North Carolina and its counties. In the case of Watauga County, it seems unlikely that the rate of population growth will slow; more likely, it will be at least as great as that projected below.

Projected Growing Demand for MEDIC Services

In addition to population growth, there is evidence that demand for EMS units will also increase because people appear to be using EMS units more than in the past.

Whether it is due to an increase in the elderly segment of the county population (with increases in fall and illnesses associated with old age) or due to an expansion of the population under 25 years of age (with increases due to alcohol-related automobile accidents, substance abuse, skiing injuries or other risky behavior), it is likely that demands placed on the EMS units will increase beyond that due just to population growth.

Because the demand for EMS services is expected to increase due both to population and increased usage, Table Sixteen projects future EMS call volume in two ways. First, it applies the rate the current rate of 110.1 calls per 1000 residents to the Census and Office of State Budget and Management population projections for Watauga County. An additional projection of MEDIC calls using a call rate of 112 calls per 1000 population is also calculated.¹¹

¹¹ In mid-2016 the rate of calls was assumed to 101.9 per 1000 calls based on MEDIC data from 2008-2014. Final data for 2016 showed that rate of calls had increased to 110.1 calls per 1000 population. In order to present the potential increases in the rate of calls, a second projection was made using a rate of 112 calls per 1000 population.

Table Sixteen			
Projections for Watauga County Population and EMS Call Volumes, 2016-2025			
Year	Population	MEDIC Call Volume	Rate per 1000 Persons
2016	53,706	5,911 (actual)	110.1
Year	Estimated County Population ¹²	Call Volume Projection Based on 110 calls per 1000 persons	Call Volume Projection Based on 112 calls per 1000 persons
2017	54,094	5,954	6,059
2018	54,482	5,996	6,102
2019	54,874	6,040	6,146
2020	55,264	6,082	6,150
2021	55,655	6,126	6,233
2022	56,045	6,168	6,277
2023	56,434	6,211	6,321
2024	56,825	6,254	6,304
2025	57,215	6,297	6,408
Change 2016-2025	6.5%	Increase over Expected 2016 Call Volume= 6.5%	Increase over Expected 2016 Call Volume 7.5%

In summary, reasons for projecting an increase in EMS calls include the following factors:

- The number of Multiunit Apartment/Condo units now under construction substantially exceeds the rate for multiunit construction that was built into the Census population projections made in 2014.
- Pending applications for additional multiunit apartments nearly exceed those currently under construction.

¹² Population estimates published by the US Census Bureau.

- Growth associated with Appalachian State University's new College of Health Sciences and associated growth in the proposed adjacent Medical District around the Health Sciences Building near the Watauga Medical Center.
- Anticipated construction along US 421 when water and sewer service is available.
- Continued Growth at Appalachian State University near downtown Boone

Accelerated growth could be driven by:

- a. Speedy resolution of water problems that will open additional areas for growth
- b. Appalachian may grow faster than its recent rate of growth
- c. Continued expansion of cultural and sporting venues
- d. Continued growth of Boone as a regional medical center
- e. Appalachian's College of Health Sciences

CONCLUSIONS

- This report has presented objective evidence that MEDIC will continue to experience significant increases in its call volume each year through 2025.
- The call volume will increase due to population growth and increased demand for responses from MEDIC.
- Additional MEDIC staffing is needed in order to handle the increased call volume.
- Population growth will be concentrated in and around Boone where approximately 65% of all MEDIC calls presently originate.
- Substantial multiunit projects currently in the planning stage will add to the portion of the county's population residing in the Boone Fire District.
- Traffic congestion in Boone already delays the ability of MEDIC to quickly respond to priority calls in the Meat Camp, Deep Gap, Foscoe, Stewart Simmons and Todd Fire Districts with little likelihood that road construction will relieve that congestion.
- Once completed, the expansion of the Boone water supply and the availability of developable land will likely result in substantial construction east of Boone.
- As pointed out by Kevin Rothrock, Blowing Rock will not likely experience much new construction due to the topography, federal ownership of large tracts of land, and development standards designed to retain Blowing Rock's village atmosphere.
- Except as noted above, the lack of water and sewer service outside Boone and Blowing Rock will likely lead to a slow growth scenario for much of Watauga County.
- Improvements in MEDIC response time in rural sections of Watauga County will require adding additional bases from which MEDIC can respond.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Due to rising land costs and development pressures, it will be in the best interests of the County to acquire property for the construction of future EMS bases. Stations will be needed within five years east of Boone and at a location near the Bypass off 105 south of Boone.
- **In the near term and in order to handle the current call volume, a twelve hour crew should be placed in Boone at existing Base 2 (Alternative 2B).** Although Alternative 2A and 2B are identical in cost for personnel, Alternative 2B (Adding a 12 hour crew in Boone) makes the crew available where the bulk of the calls originate and does not detract from the response time in Blowing Rock. MEDIC President Craig Sullivan made clear that adding a 12 hour crew in Blowing Rock would involve having that crew responding to calls in Boone, Foscoe, Deep Gap and Meat Camp when the crews at the existing EMS bases are committed. The bulk of the calls in Blowing Rock are non-emergency calls and the Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue Services units provide critical life support prior to the arrival of MEDIC units.

SECTION III

Data Sources:

A large amount of data was gathered and analyzed in this study. Unless otherwise noted, the data sources are unpublished and non-public due to HIPPA rules concerning the confidentiality of patient information. Information taken from 911 file and MEDIC response records did not include patient names or other information which would identify the patient. Information concerning call locations was limited to the Fire District and did not include street addresses.

The study also uses information from other sources which are identified below:

North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2013 Watauga County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, found on May 2, 2016 at
http://www.wataugacounty.org/App_Pages/Dept/BOC/Forms/Watauga%20CTP_Final_Report.pdf

US Census, Intercensal Population Estimates 2010,
<http://www.census.gov/popest/data/intercensal/cities/cities2010.html>

Town of Boone Master Plan

Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue Services, Heat Map for Watauga EMS Calls

Town of Blowing Rock Master Plan

Watauga MEDICS, Annual Reports to Watauga County for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015.

Watauga MEDIC, Redacted EMS Call Database, 2013, 2014, 2015

Watauga 911 Center Telephone Call Summary Report, 2014, 2015

Town of Boone Redacted EMS Dispatch Database, 2015

Town of Boone 911 Center Telephone Call Summary, 2014, 2015

Town of Boone Planning and Inspections Department, Approved and Pending Multiunit Housing Projects, 2016

Interview, Mr. Joe Furman, Watauga County Planner

Interview, Mr. Bill Bailey, Boone Planning Director

Interview, Mr. Kevin Rothrock, Blowing Rock Director of Planning

Interview, Mr. Dan Meyer, Director, Boone Area Chamber of Commerce

Interview, Mr. David Graham, Transpiration Planner, High Country Council of Governments

Interview, Chief Jimmy Isaacs, Boone Fire Department

Interview, Chief Kent Graham, Blowing Rock Fire Department

Interview, Mr. Jeff Virginia, Director Emergency Services and 911, Watauga County

Interview, Ms. Jennifer Song, State Demographer, NC Office of State Management and Budget

Interview, Mr. Rob Shepherd, Assistant Director of Business and Membership Development Services, NC League of Municipalities

Technical assistance with mapping given by Chris Miller, GIS Coordinator, Town of Boone

Independent Written Report

Funded by: Blowing Rock Civic Association

Submitted: December 20th, 2020, Revised January 4, 2021

Prepared by: Lords Consulting, LLP

The Blowing Rock Civic Association requested an investigation into the response times of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and recommendations for change or improvement. I have been working in the EMS Field since 1976 and have a strong background in pre-hospital medical care and EMS Systems. My experiences range from medical first responder through critical care paramedic and include administrative tenures as Crew Chief, Operations Director, Department Manager and County EMS Director.

This report includes information collected from in person interviews and telephone conversations as well as statistical data collected directly from Amy Snider, 911 Services Coordinator, Watauga County Communications. A concerted effort was made to separate data by individual agency.

Watauga County provides EMS services throughout the County by contracting with Watauga Medics to provide emergency and transport services. Blowing Rock Fire & Rescue provides paramedic 1st Responder services to the Town of Blowing Rock and the entire Blowing Rock Fire District from 3 stations. The primary funders of Blowing Rock Fire & Rescue are the taxpayers in Blowing Rock and the taxpayers located in the fire district.

General concepts related to EMS analysis and evaluation

Response Times

To get a better understanding of response times we will use medically based science. Many of these standards were put in place in the early 70's. "The "standard" was derived while cardiac arrest survival was being studied in the early 1970s by Alvarez and Cobb in Seattle. They noted dramatic increases in survival, which they attributed to at least three factors: reduced response times, of less than eight minutes, first responders performing CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and citizen CPR training. Later, Mickey Eisenberg, MD, et al catapulted Seattle's results to national attention by publishing several landmark studies" (Fitch, 2005). The American Heart Association states, "for each minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation, the chances of survival decreased by 7-10%" (2013). Even applying the nation's best response times, the rate of recovery in the United States from cardiac arrest is less than 10% with only 7% achieving full pre-arrest function. Presently there is not a universally accepted response-time requirement. However, in urban areas the most widely used standard is eight minutes and 59 seconds (8:59). The goal is 90% compliance based on a fractal measure, not an average. (fractal response time measurement includes all time intervals between the time the service received enough information to initiate a response and the time a properly equipped and staffed ambulance arrives on scene.) The 8:59 target is also consistent with the response time recommended by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1710, _5.3.3.4.2). The NFPA requires communities to "provide for the arrival of an ALS (Advance Life Support) company within an eight-minute response time to 90% of incidents. The NFPA standard excludes call-processing time intervals (Fitch, 2005).

Research outline in the article *Emergency Medical Services Response Time and Mortality in an Urban Setting* published in the journal of *Prehospital Care* 2012 states, "A common tenet

in emergency medical services (EMS) is that faster response equates to better patient outcome, translated by some EMS operations into a goal of a response time of 8 minutes or less for advanced life support (ALS) units responding to life-threatening events” (Blanchard et al, 2012).

An analysis of this data suggested there may be a small beneficial for those that receive care in ≤ 7 minutes 59 seconds as it relates to inpatient admission but not on survival. The results of this study call into question the clinical effectiveness of the 8-minute response time on decreasing mortality for adult patients identified as having a life-threatening event at the time of the 9-1-1 call (Blanchard et al, 2012).

In a study cited by *JAMA 2019, Association Between Emergency Medical Service Response Time and Motor Vehicle Crash Mortality Found in the United States*, they found “that during the study period, 2,214,480 ambulance responses to Motor Vehicle Crashes (MVC) were identified (median, 229 responses per county with a range of 73-697) in 2268 US counties. The median county response time was 9 minutes (range 7-11 minutes). Longer response times were significantly associated with a higher rate of MVC mortality (≥ 12 vs < 7 minutes; mortality rate ratio, 1.46” (Byrne et al., 2019). This means that patients with response times greater than 12 minutes have a 1.46 times great chance of mortality than those with response times of less than 7 minutes. “After adjusting for measures of rurality, on-scene and transport times, access to trauma resources, and traffic safety laws. This finding was consistent in both rural/wilderness and urban/suburban settings, where a significant proportion of MVC fatalities (rural/wilderness, 9.9%; urban/suburban, 14.1%) were associated with prolonged response times (defined by the median value, ≥ 10 minutes for rural and ≥ 7 minutes for urban). “These findings suggest that trauma system-level efforts to address regional disparities in MVC mortality should evaluate EMS response times as a potential contributor” (Byrne et al., 2019).

Local Response

In Watauga County, Medical Helicopter service is utilized to transport trauma patients from the scene to Level 1 Trauma Centers. Research has shown that air transport to a Trauma Center decreases mortality rate from trauma by 57% (Michaels, 2014). Watauga Medics state that in 2019 that they had an average response time of 9.01 minutes. The fractal response time for Watauga Medics is 17 minutes at 90% compliance.

Key Points

Faster Response Times equates to Better Patient Outcomes

Common Goal is 90% Coverage within < 9 Minutes

Fractal Measurement of Both Coverage and Response Time is the Best Practice

Watauga Medics Fractal Response Time is 17 Minutes at 90%

Coverage is divided between Emergency 1st Responders and Transport Services

Local EMS Analysis and Evaluation

Franchise Agreement (Watauga County and Watauga Medics)

The current franchise agreement between Watauga County and Watauga Medics has been in place since 2018. In review of this agreement, I have identified a few concerns. Included are my recommendations to assist Watauga County moving forward by improving services and response times.

1. Watauga Medics billing fees are not in line with the Medicare allowable rates.
 - Federal Medicare guidelines identify Watauga County as rural. Medicare sets forth allowable rates for service to the EMS providers. Presently some of the Watauga

Medics fees fall below the Medicare allowable rates and are restricted by the franchise agreement. It is recommended that Watauga Medics be allowed to adjust their fee structure to reflect at least 125% of the allowable rate outline by Medicare. Medicare pays 80% of billed charges so billing 125% of the allowable rate would assure maximum federal support of the local EMS system. In all these examples the Medicare patient would be responsible for the 20% of the billed services as required by the government.

1. Basic Life Support (BLS) fee allowed by the franchise agreement is \$300 (23a). Medicare allowable rate is \$227.68. To receive this amount Watauga Medics should bill \$284.60.
2. ALC non-emergency fee allowed by the franchise agreement is \$325.00 (23b). Medicare allowable rate is \$272.68. To receive this amount Watauga Medics should bill \$340.85.
3. ALS emergency fee allowed by the franchise agreement is \$415.00 (23b). Medicare allowable rate is \$431.74 To receive this amount Watauga Medics should bill \$539.65.
4. ALS II fee allowed by the franchise agreement is \$550.00 (23b) Medicare allowable rate is \$624.89. To receive this amount Watauga Medics should bill \$781.11.
5. Mileage fee allowed by the franchise agreement is \$9.50 (23c). Medicare allowable rate is \$11.54 for the first 17 miles and \$7.69 for each mile thereafter. To receive this amount Watauga Medics should bill \$14.42 and \$9.61 per mile.

2. Watauga Medics billing fees are not being adjusted timely in response to changes in the Medicare allowable rate.
 - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) evaluates the ambulance fee structure every year. Adjustments are made as needed. Most of the Watauga Medics service fees are below the allowable rates as outlined above. It is my recommendation that the franchise agreement be updated to allow an automatic increase/decrease of fees in response to any Medicare approved rate change.
3. Watauga Medics is reported a 9:01 minute average emergency response time for 2019. The franchise agreement currently requires an average emergency response time “not to exceed 10 minutes” (17a).
 - Watauga Medics are being allotted additional coverage hours beginning January 2021. Their emergency call volume has remained consistent over the past ten (10) year meaning that emergency calls are less than 45% of total call volume and have been no more than 2,500 annually. With the addition of a fourth 24-hour ambulance it should be expected that their response times improve proportionally. I recommend the franchise requirement be amended to an 8:06 minute average emergency response time.
4. The franchise currently states that “not less than 2 ambulances will be kept within the County at all times” (7).
 - Beginning January 2021 Watauga Medics will have 6 ambulances during peak hours and 4 during non-peak hours. It is my recommendation that this number be increased to not less than 3 ambulances within the County. Increased availability and proximity will improve response times.

Key Points

Billing Rates should be increased to Federal Medicare Allowable Rates

Use Fractal Response Times (National Benchmark) to measure Success

County provides an EMS team at BRFD on Monday to Friday for 9 hours

County continues to provide transport services and rely on high quality paramedic 1st Responder coverage provided by BRF&R until the transport ambulance arrives

Overview of Watauga Medics

A non-exclusive franchise agreement is in place between Watauga County and Watauga Medics. This agreement outlines the provision of Emergency Medical Services throughout Watauga County as provided by Watauga Medics, Inc. Current operations from that agreement includes:

- A. Annual subsidy payable to Watauga Medics by Watauga County of \$1,577,000 (2020/2021)
- B. Billing for all calls in Watauga County generated \$1.71 million in revenue (2018).
- C. Watauga Medics has three stations. Each station has a 24/7 unit (24-hour ambulance seven days a week with two qualified crew members). They have an additional ambulance that works a 12-hour day shift and a 5th ambulance that is stationed at the Blowing Rock Fire Department (BRFD) Station 1 for 9 hours a day Monday through Friday. This 9-hour truck will be converted to a 24/7 unit beginning January 2021. This unit will continue to be stationed at the Blowing Rock Fire Department (Station 1) for 9 hours a day Monday through Friday. After that time, the unit will then move to Watauga

Medics station #2 in Boone for the remainder of their shift. All the ambulances provided by Watauga Medics are ALS (Advanced Life Support/Paramedic) which is the highest certification level of care for a North Carolina County 911 system.

- D. Watauga Medics' stations are located at 921 W. King Street in Boone, 133 Longvue Street in Boone, and the Villas near the intersection of US321 and US421. They also have a unit stationed at the Blowing Rock Fire Department M-F for 9 hours each day.
- E. In 2019 Watauga Medics had reduced their average *emergency* response time to 9:01 minutes as shown here (Table 1). An average response time reflects 50% of the response times to be less than 9:01 minutes and the other 50% are greater. The data is further broken down by fire district to show which areas have realized the greatest improvement in response times (Table 2).
- F. Watauga Medics received 6,142 call in 2019. Approximately 28% (1,742) of those patients were not transported leaving 4,400 transports. Those transport included interfacility transfers which resulted in 666 patients being taken out of the county. Out of county transports can take up to 6 hours, placing units out of service for extended periods of time.

Table 1

For Year Ending 2019

<u>Response Time</u>	<u>Number of call</u>
00:00 – 04:49	632
05:00 – 07:59	577
08:00 – 08:59	189
09:00 – 09:59	147
10:00 – 11:59	233
12:00 – 14:59	287
15:00 – 16:59	121
17:00 – 17:59	44
18:00 – 19:59	67

20:00 – 29:59	154
30:00 – 1:29:59	20

Total Emergency Responses **2471**

Average Response Time **9:01 Minutes**

Table 2

Average Emergency Response Time by District

	2019 Data	2016 Data	Change	
BDFD	18:52	25:32	- 6:39	Improved
BFD	06:10	06:12	- :02	Improved
BRFD	12:01	12:35	- :34	Improved
CCFD	10:24	12:33	- 2:09	Improved
DGFD	13:39	14:28	- :49	Improved
FFD	14:19	13:07	1:12	Declined
MCFD	14:46	14:02	:44	Declined
SSFD	24:51	25:37	- :46	Improved
SHFD	21:32	21:46	- :14	Improved
ZFD	11:47	15:04	- 3:16	Improved

Mr. Craig Sullivan, owner-operator of Watauga Medics, was asked to provide an estimated cost of adding an additional ALS transport unit beginning 2021. His projections are shown here.

Personnel Expenditures

\$ 577,920 Paramedic salaries and benefits (see appendix A for additional details)

Initial Capital Expenditures

\$200,000 Vehicle and equipment

Maintenance and Repairs

\$20,000 Annually based on 5-year life expectancy

Average Cost is approximately \$650,000 by amortizing Capital Expenditures over 5 years.

Key Points

County chooses to contract with a private EMS provider

Watauga Medics has a Non-Exclusive Franchise contract with the County

No control by Blowing Rock Township or Blowing Rock Fire District

The Blowing Rock area only produces 10% of the county's emergent calls

Average Response Time in Boone is 6 Minutes

Average Response Time outside of Boone is 10 to 24 Minutes

Average Response to for Blowing Rock Fire District is 12 Minutes

Overview of Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue (BRF&R)

Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue serve 36.6 square miles of Watauga County.

- A. In 2019 they equipped all three stations as Medical First Responders. They are not only first responders but were providing care at the paramedic level with Advanced Life Support equipment. The highest level of pre-hospital care available.
- B. Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue has 3 stations staff 24/7. Station 1 is located at 8001 Valley Boulevard in Blowing Rock and is staffed with 2 paid firefighter/paramedics. Station 2 is located at 6165 US 221 and is staffed with 1 paid firefighter/paramedic. Station 3 is located at 2409 Aho Road and is also staffed with 1 paid firefighter/paramedic. The district also has volunteers that will respond if needed.
- C. Their average response time in 2019 was 6 minutes and 51 seconds. This time exceeds national standards for urban and rural areas. NFPA 1710 states, "On all EMS calls, the standard establishes a turnout time of one minute, and four minutes or less for the arrival

of a unit with first responder or higher-level capability at an emergency medical incident. This objective should be met 90% of the time” (NFPA 2020). Fire department response time measurements are an integral part of managing and understanding emergency response. However, fire departments often define response time using different measures and report response time to the public in different ways (Yeomans, 2011).

D. In 2019 the fire department responded to 577 medical calls from the Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue stations (including some medical calls in other fire districts within Watauga County). These calls are simultaneous dispatch with Watauga Medics.

For clarification I would like to review the format used the Watauga Communications when taking 911 medical calls. Carefully following a scripted call intake, they divide calls into the following Response Determinants (Figure 1.)

Figure 1.

Response Determinant

Type	Capability	Response Time
Alpha	Basic Life Support	Cold (single unit)
Bravo	Basic Life Support	Hot (multiple units)
Charlie	Advanced Life Support	Cold (single unit)
Delta	Advanced Life Support	Hot (multiple units)
Echo	Advanced Life Support and special units	Hot (Multiple units) plus other first responders, e.g. Fire

(Clawson,2011)

- E. Prior to the pandemic all fire districts were dispatched as First Responders to all EMS calls with the exception of the Boone Fire District. EMS services were dispatched to all calls. The only exception to this process is a citizen assist call which is considered non-medical. The fire department alone would response. An example of this would be someone who needs assistance getting up but does not requires any medical intervention. Once COVID became active the Blowing Rock Fire Department altered their responses to include only Delta and Echo calls leaving EMS to respond alone to all other call types.
- F. The 2020 census for Blowing Rock Fire District numbered 4,664. Blowing Rock Fire District is the second largest district in Watauga County by area. Boone is slightly larger at 40.74 square miles. Boone’s 2010 census numbered 27,80.
- G. Blowing Rock Fire Department receive funding from several sources including Watauga Fire District Tax, Blowing Rock Township Tax and Caldwell County Tax. Blowing Rock Fire District includes areas outside of Blowing Rock township and has a tax valuation of \$1.0B with a fire tax rate of .05 which bring in \$494,989 (Table 3). The residents of Blowing Rock township do not pay this .05 fire tax. It is included in their township tax.

Table 3.

For the Year Ending June 30, 2019

Fire Protection District	Tax Rate per \$100	Net Levy
Beech Mountain Rural	0.05	\$ 1,588
Blowing Rock	0.05	494,989
Boone Rural	0.06	947,176
Cove Creek	0.05	253,675
Cove Creek Rural	0.05	324
Deep Gap	0.05	201,961

Foscoe	0.05	479,151
Foscoe Rural	0.05	74,574
Meat Camp	0.05	227,353
Northwest Watauga	0.05	118,372
Shawneehaw	0.05	101,296
Shawneesha Rural	0.05	6,334
Stewart Simmons	0.085	232,844
Todd	0.07	64,821
Zionville	0.05	123,391

Total Net Fire Protection District Levies **\$3,327,391**

Break out of 2019 Emergency Medical Services calls in BRFD District

<u>Area</u>	<u>ESN</u>	<u>Call Volume</u>	
BRFD Township	310	11	
BRFD Township	302	325	
		<u>336</u>	58%
BRFD	301	165	
BRFD	370	18	
BRFD	401	57	
		<u>240</u>	42%

Chief Kent Graham, Chief of Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue, was asked to provide an estimated cost of adding an additional ALS transport unit beginning 2021. His projections are shown here.

Initial Personnel Expenditures

\$ 44,000.00	Paramedic Annual Salary Avg
\$ 17,600.00	Annual Benefits Cost
<u>\$ 61,600.00</u>	Total Per Medic
\$ 431,200.00	Additional Medic Staffing (7 FTE)
\$ 30,000.00	Clerical / Billing Admin Salary
<u>\$ 12,000.00</u>	40% Benefit Cost
\$ 42,000.00	Additional Admin. / Billing Staff (1 FTE)

\$ 473,200.00 Total Annual Personnel Cost

Initial Incidental & Recurring Expenditures

\$ 12,000.00	Equipment & Vehicle Maintenance & Repair
\$ 61,516.00	FT Transport Agency Worker's Comp Insurance (13%)
<u>\$ 42,000.00</u>	Additional portable radios, pagers, uniforms, PPE
\$ 115,516.00	

Initial Capital Expenditures

\$ 78,000.00	Medical, Radios, Cardiac Monitor, Equipment & Supplies
\$ 44,000.00	Stretcher Lift Mechanism
\$ 17,000.00	Powered Stretcher Assembly
<u>\$ 145,000.00</u>	Additional Type I 4WD Ambulance
\$ 284,000.00	

\$ 872,716.00 Initial Year Total Cost Estimate

Average Cost is approximately \$700,000 by amortizing Capital Expenditures over 5 years.

Key Points

Blowing Rock and BRDF fund Paramedic 1st Responders to reduce Risk

Average response time in 2019 was 6 minutes and 51 seconds

58% of Emergency Calls in BRFD are for Town of Blowing Rock

BRFD Footprint is large

BRFD is 36 Square Miles

Town of Blowing is 3 Square Miles

BRF&R already provides responses to all call levels, prior to COVID

BRF&R already responds to Caldwell County with an ALS Ambulance.

Cost per Team is \$50K higher compared to Watauga Medic

Overview of Blowing Rock Township

Blowing Rock Township North Carolina has a population 1,367 according to the 2020 census and a seasonal effective population of approximately 5,000 without including tourists based on approximately 1,800 homes. Blowing Rock encompasses just 3.1 square miles. The tax valuation of Blowing Rock Township is \$1.2B, with a \$0.39 tax rate generating \$4,680,000 in property taxes. The median age of the citizens based on census data is 60.3 years, 57.1 years for males, and 62.1 years for females (World Population, 2020). Anecdotally, we know that the median age for seasonal residents is older but declining as homeowners from surrounding regions are increasing.

Potential Solutions

These proposals are listed in no specific order of priority. They are presented from the viewpoint of decreasing the response times of EMS to Blowing Rock Township. Each proposal cost approximately \$650,000 annually and will provide 24/7 ambulance service to Blowing Rock. To ascertain the actual cost a Request for Proposal (RFP) will need to be solicited from the providers for the exact type of service to be provided.

- 1. County continues to provide transport services, rely on high quality paramedic 1st Responder coverage provided by BRF&R until the transport ambulance arrives and challenge County to provide the same level of service throughout the County using a Fractal Goal to measure success.**

Key Points

BRF&R 1st Responder Emergency Response Times are below 9 Minute Standard

Must accept Transport Response Times by County

Accept that the County is not providing consistent service throughout the County

No Local Control

No Additional Cost

- 2. County provides an ALS Watauga Medics unit in Blowing Rock 24 hours a day, seven days a week funded by County.**

Watauga Medics are already stationed at the Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue station 9 hours a day Monday - Friday. This proposal would increase that time to 24/7.

- The unit would be housed in an existing facility at no additional cost.
- The approximate cost of \$650,000 annually
- Reduced response times for an ambulance in the Blowing Rock Fire District.
- An increased presence of an ambulance in the Blowing Rock Fire District.

This unit would still be utilized as needed for calls, standbys, and backup throughout Watauga county. The Blowing Rock Fire District generated less than 10% of the Watauga county call volume while the Boone Fire District creates over 65% of that annual call volume. It is my estimate that

during peak hours this unit will be out of the Blowing Rock Fire District approximately 40% of the time.

Key Points

Provides 24/7 coverage

Crew pulled away as needed coverage elsewhere

Takes advantage of BRF&D main facility

Annual incremental cost is \$580,000

No additional funding has been offered by County

No Local Control

3. BRF&R provides an ALS unit at BRF&R main station 24 hours a day, seven days a week funded by BRFD and Town of Blowing Rock taxes.

- The unit would be housed in an existing facility at no additional cost.
- The approximate cost would be \$650K.
- Significantly reduced response times for an ambulance in the Blowing Rock Fire District as the unit would not leave the district unless it is on a call. This unit would also be utilized as needed for standbys and backup on emergent calls throughout Watauga county.
- A franchise agreement would need to be established with Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue for ambulance transport services.

- The unit cost will be averaging over \$1,000 per transport.
- Funding of \$600,000 net cost could come from different sources to cover capital cost and ongoing expenses. As an example:

Increase in Taxes	\$6000,000
Each \$0.01 Fire Tax increase	\$100,000
Each \$0 .01 Blowing Rock Township Tax	\$120,000
Revenue from call volume, 400 calls billed at \$500 (allowable rate) x 50% collection	\$100,000

Key Points

Allows for Control of Personnel

Need to outsource billing

Net Cost is approximately \$600,000

Increase in BRFD tax rate

Increase in Town of Blowing Rock tax rate

Need to determine fair allocation to BRFD and Town of Blowing Rock

4. Town of Blowing Rock provides EMS that would provide an ALS ambulance 24 hour a day, seven days a week funded by the Town of Blowing Rock

- This system would run independently of Watauga County and Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue.

- This service could be a private service or a township service, depending on how much control and responsibility the township wants to maintain.
- A franchise agreement with Watauga County would be needed. This agreement would include any supplements from tax dollars and billing restrictions.
- To assure that best pricing is achieved this service should be put out for RFPs.
- The ownership of vehicles, staff and administrative responsibilities would be determined based on the RFP (Request for Proposal).
- Blowing Rock Township is a small area with a small population for an independent EMS to operate. This service could be provided by 1 ambulance, with the other county services continuing to provide routine transports and emergency backup. The unit cost will be significant averaging approximately \$2,000 per transport. (336 transports per year)

Key Points

Most Expensive Alternative

Town would be in control of the additional ALS Ambulance

No commitment to County, except Mutual Aid

Funding would come from BRFD fire taxes and Town property taxes

Need to outsource Billing

Need Franchise Agreement with County

Need Agreement with BRF&R to house ALS Ambulance

Need Agreement on use of ALS Ambulance in County System

Obtain agreements with Watauga Medics for all non-emergent transports.

Other Considerations

1. Seasonal coverage with County

After a careful analysis of the monthly statistics, it seems reasonable to flex coverage with seasonal demands. The yearly cost could possibly be lowered. The highest demand months are May through November. The greatest difficulty with this scenario is the ability to find the necessary resources to flex up during the summer months. This mainly applies to qualified staff as summer months add increase call volume for most of the counties in North Carolina.

2. Peak Time coverage

Breaking down call volume into actual calls per hour and by day of the week helps determine appropriate staffing. Increased staffing during peak hours can improve response times and help controlling overall cost. Watauga Medics is currently staffing a 12-hour day truck in Boone and a 9-hour day truck Monday – Friday in Blowing Rock. This concept can be further applied to keep the Blowing Rock unit in their district as much as possible.

3. Quick Response Vehicles (QRV's)

A QRV is a fully equipped ALS non transport unit that is manned by a single Paramedic who is strategically located and can respond to emergency medical situations quickly. This concept is currently in place at BRF&R. Paramedics were responding to 100% of 911 calls through 2019. Once the pandemic began to take hold the Fire Chief changed the response to include only Delta and Echo calls. The QRVs are no longer responding

to Alpha, Bravo, Charlie response determinants due to COVID 19. Historically a QRV with a paramedic arrived at the scene of an emergency in an average 6.5 minutes. This time meets or exceeds National standards and significantly impacts mortality rates. In addition to excellent response times the cost of this services is less than half that of an ambulance. As the COVID vaccine becomes readily available and things we begin to return to normal, the BRF&R needs to continue their QRV service in the community.

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Watauga County Emergency Services

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Fax 828-265-7617



Fire Marshal ♦ Emergency Management ♦ Communications

Radio Infrastructure Update

While the public safety radio infrastructure has been a long-term project, it is with pleasure that we are able to report significant progress over the past year. This summary will provide the current status of the overall project and plans moving forward. This document does not intend to serve as a comprehensive review and as such I will be happy to provide answers to specific questions at the budget retreat. For clarification, VIPER stands for Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders and is the North Carolina Statewide 800Mhz public safety radio network.

System-wide Status

- The overall system plan has shifted to a primary VIPER based concept of operations with supplemental VHF
 - o As previously discussed, the VHF spectrum is becoming increasingly prohibitive due to the changes in FCC frequency band allocation, looming requirement for 6.25Mhz narrowbanding, and geographical interference with Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, and other NC Counties
 - o The large majority of end users (law, fire, rescue, EMS) have obtained dual band radios that will be compatible with the changeover to a primary VIPER system
 - o Partnering with VIPER yields significant cost savings both in the initial construction and long-term operation costs.
- A small delay was incurred as our RF Engineer changed (same firm, different assigned engineer) which necessitated confirmation of the radio frequency design that was in progress
- FCC relicensing of our current VHF pairs is underway for three sites that are certain with the addition of Elk Knob and Foscoe as possibilities
- A new mandatory minimum radio template has been received by NCSHP, this is being incorporated into our operational plans for standardized radio templates

Communications Center (VHF/VIPER)

- The communications center's radios have been upgraded to include the rack-mounted radios and portables used as our required back-up
- The tower is currently undergoing inspections and mapping to determine any requirements for additional equipment along with establishing a baseline inspection schedule for insurance requirements
- The consoles are being evaluated for replacement as the current consoles are at end-of-life. The proposed replacements are largely fundable with our 911 Surcharge funds and additional funding has been budgeted as part of the overall project
- The integration of our consoles with VIPER in addition to going on the State's ESINet for 911 phones will allow for a fully remote and redundant option for our communications center operations



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Fire Marshal ♦ Emergency Management ♦ Communications

Buckeye Knob (VHF/VIPER)

- The only current operation here will be determining any upgrades necessary for the tower once the radio design is complete

Rich Mountain (VHF, separate VIPER tower)

- The Rich Mountain tower is currently undergoing inspections and mapping to determine any requirements for additional equipment along with establishing a baseline inspection schedule for insurance requirements
- The Rich Mountain back-up generator has been delivered and is in storage pending weather improvement to allow installation
- The Rich Mountain towerhouse is being evaluated for retrofit vs replacement

Sampson (VHF/VIPER)

- This tower (referred to as Aho by NCSHP due to confusion with Sampson County) is currently going through federal and state approval processes
- The construction drawings have been finalized which include current needs and room for future growth
- Pending approvals, construction is tentatively planned to begin this May

Elk Knob (VHF/VIPER)

- Current proposal is a joint site with NCSHP, Watauga County, and State Parks
- Tower evaluation is being considered by State Parks before initiating additional regulatory approvals

Foscoe (VHF/VIPER)

- Current proposal is a joint site with NCSHP and Watauga County
- This site is currently going through the real estate acquisition process

February 2021 Updates for Watauga Board of Commissioners

Blowing Rock Section – 1.2 miles

Final design, engineering, and permitting in 2021 with possible construction to begin fall 2021, depending on National Park Service approval timelines.

Aho Section – 0.8 miles

11.42 acres acquired in 2020 and 2.5 acres acquired in 2019. To be designed, engineered, permitted with Watauga TDA funds in 2021. Construction in 2022 will connect to existing trail at Sterling Creek Park. (still need funding for construction)

321 Trailhead - 0.85 miles of trail

Almost 2 acres acquired in 2020 for trailhead. Construct trail from Niley Cook Rd (Goldmine Branch Park) to QP gas station in 2021. Underpass at Tweetsie to be permitted and let to bid in fall 2021 with funding from Watauga TDA.

Payne Branch Park –

ASU, NRLP, Brushy Fork Environmental and other funding partners removed the dam and restored the river. With a grant from ARHS, and partnership with Watauga County, Blue Ridge Conservancy is developing a trail, picnic area, 2 bridges, 3 benches, and interpretive sign for public to access this pocket park. This park will be good fishing and wheelchair access for the community.

We are continuing work on the trail connections throughout the corridor. To complete the Middle Fork greenway, we will need continued County support and additional funding.





WATAUGA COUNTY

126 Poplar Grove Connector, Suite 201 Boone, NC 28607

Department of
Planning & Inspections

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Memorandum

Date: January 29, 2021
To: County Manager, Board of Commissioners
From: Joe Furman 
RE: Response to "Arguments for Minimum Housing Code in Watauga County"

I will begin by addressing two points raised in the young man's arguments to insure there is no misunderstanding about them. 1) Fair Housing is entirely different from minimum housing codes. Fair Housing laws originate from the federal government for the purpose of prohibiting discriminatory practices in sales and rentals of residences. Minimum housing codes are local laws that attempt to address substandard housing conditions. 2) Local governments in North Carolina are given the authority to adopt minimum housing codes by NC General Statute 160D, Article 12 (attached). The General assembly adopted this enabling legislation recognizing that some local governments would be interested in adopting these regulations, generally urban areas. The statutes provide standardized rules and procedures for statewide consistency among those local governments that choose to adopt such regulations. If the General Assembly had determined that minimum housing codes were necessary statewide, the statutes would mandate rather than enable.

Article 12 provides authority to address by local ordinance vacant, dilapidated residential structures as well as occupied residences, both renter and owner-occupied. NC General Statute 160D Article 11 (building and residential code statutes, excerpts attached) also provides the authority to address unsafe conditions, upon the direction of the Board of Commissioners, without adopting a local ordinance. Article 12 requires adoption of a local ordinance and specifies that the "public officer" shall investigate a dwelling to determine if it is unfit for human habitation if directed to by a "public authority", or upon receipt of a petition by at least five (5) residents, or if it appears to the public officer that a dwelling is unfit for human habitation. If the dwelling is determined to be unfit, Article 12 sets forth procedures for a hearing, order to repair or demolish the dwelling, and enforcement. The enforcement options include criminal and civil penalties, seeking court orders, and demolition by the County followed by placing of a lien on the property.

During my years with the County, the authority in Article 11 has been used sparingly. No Board of Commissioners has provided direction, and we have never sought direction to perform the periodic inspections. To my knowledge, it has only been discussed one time; the discussion was within the last couple of years, and resulted in consensus not to begin condemning vacant, dilapidated houses, as there are many throughout the County, and doing so would create

additional workload and legal processes/expenses, which could grow to be significant workload and legal processes/expenses.

Typically, low income families and individuals, if renting, are unable to afford dwellings other than older units, often in disrepair or with maintenance neglected. Ethically, it behooves owners of rental units (some of whom are low-moderate income themselves) to keep them safe and in good repair, and further perhaps the local government should require this to be the case. However, more investment in units likely results in the need for higher rents, which could in turn result in the units becoming unaffordable for low income renters, possibly resulting in homelessness. Rents are already very high in Watauga County. Without eviction protection and/or rent control laws in place, there is nothing to prevent that scenario. I am unaware of authority for Counties to enact eviction protection or rent controls. In rural Watauga County, there is a significant number of low-moderate income homeowners. Because of their income, they may not be able to maintain their homes as they would desire. Article 12 of the statutes does not draw a distinction between owners and renters. If the County receives a petition from five (5) citizens, or the public officer has reason to believe a home is unsafe, the County could be in the position of forcing homeowners to make repairs, or have to vacate the house if unable to afford the repairs. I am aware that both of the above scenarios seem far-fetched or counter-intuitive, but based on calls/complaints we have received through the years, I can assure you they are not as unlikely as one would hope. Should the Commissioners choose to enact a minimum housing code pursuant to Article 12, I don't see much flexibility in the statute; the term "shall" is present throughout.

I am particularly aware of the difficulties interpreting 160D-1203(2). Clearly if a petition from five (5) residents is filed, an investigation shall be made. If one person calls and complains about a dwelling, describing an unsafe condition, does that mean "it appears to the public officer that the dwelling is unfit for human habitation"? If so, it would seem the five-resident petition requirement is moot. If a resident makes a complaint to an individual Commissioner, the County Manager, the Fire Marshal, etc, and that complaint is passed on to the public officer, an investigation shall occur.

Through the years, the Planning & Inspections Department has received calls from;

- ASU students,
- Parents of ASU students,
- Tenants who are not students,
- Neighbors of vacant, dilapidated houses,
- Neighbors of occupied houses, many of which are owner-occupied.

Should the Commissioners enact a minimum housing ordinance, when "word gets out" the calls will increase dramatically. The County employs three (3) Building Inspectors to cover three hundred (300) square miles. Their workload increased in 2020 as the number of permits issued increased to pre-great-recession-levels (P&I annual report attached). The County employed four (4) Building Inspectors in 2008. The current inspectors can't be expected to absorb a minimum housing code. I contend that sooner rather than later, the County will need to hire a fourth inspector, as well as a person to enforce a minimum housing code should such be enacted; I believe that ordinance alone would soon keep an inspector busy. Fortunately, a minimum

housing code inspector does not have to be a certified building inspector; only knowledge of and experience in construction is necessary. The other current staff can't absorb new work either, as all types of development have also increased in 2020, and the department is currently short-staffed with a vacant, unfilled Program Assistant position. Keeping up with workload while efficiently responding to the public's calls, emails, and office visits is a challenge and requires sacrifices by current staff. Along with the inspections, personal interactions, and likely court appearances, a minimum housing code generates significant administrative work, due to the requirements of Article 12, and the importance of the documentation being accurate and complete.

The Commissioners may decide a minimum housing code is appropriate. It needs to be understood there will be costs involved: staffing as mentioned above, legal costs, and potentially costs to demolish structures. Another consideration, as is going to be the case with many upcoming decisions, is the timing – the pandemic and the accompanying economic downturn have yet to end. I'll be glad to discuss as needed.

WATAUGA COUNTY BUILDING ACTIVITY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Month	1-Family Deta	Est.Bldg.Cost	1-Fam Att	Est.Bldg.Cost	Multi-Uni	Est.Bldg.Cost	Res/Add/Remd	Est.Bldg.Cost	Alt.Permits	Est.Cost	Comm P	Est Cost	Other	Est.Bldg.Cost	Total Permits	Total Est. Cost
JANUARY	7	4,345,000.00					34	1,128,100.00	68	273,050.00	3	156,450.00	7	139,400.00	119	6,042,000.00
FEBRUARY	5	2,550,000.00					22	1,814,000.00	48	248,500.00	6	104,000.00	4	3,123,600.00	85	7,840,100.00
MARCH	10	2,905,000.00			1	2,200,000.00	29	1,365,700.00	49	261,100.00	3	14,300.00	3	29,000.00	95	6,775,100.00
APRIL	13	6,786,000.00			2	2,380,000.00	29	833,800.00	48	307,630.00	2	1,950,000.00	2	5,200.00	96	12,262,630.00
MAY	20	10,084,000.00			1	190,000.00	23	1,428,550.00	60	296,130.00	1	2,000.00	2	255,000.00	107	12,255,680.00
JUNE	16	8,380,000.00					35	1,513,400.00	132	869,150.00	7	798,000.00	9	219,600.00	199	11,780,150.00
JULY	11	5,538,000.00	3	900000.00			33	2,009,900.00	115	744,750.00	4	175,500.00	9	140,000.00	175	9,508,150.00
AUGUST	18	8,580,700.00			1	2,200,000.00	30	2,025,200.00	94	502,350.00	5	104,500.00	7	179,500.00	155	13,592,250.00
SEPTEMBER	11	4,906,600.00	0	0.00			38	3,010,500.00	89	419,500.00	3	1,055,000.00	9	368,500.00	150	9,760,100.00
OCTOBER	22	10,934,000.00					21	936,600.00	99	536,500.00	8	211,400.00	13	332,400.00	163	12,950,900.00
NOVEMBER	12	4,657,000.00			1	2,200,000.00	31	1,498,800.00	79	448,200.00	0	0.00	10	331,500.00	133	9,135,500.00
DECEMBER	17	8,241,000.00					26	1,161,500.00	59	330,600.00	5	21,700.00	4	142,500.00	111	9,897,300.00
TOTALS	162	\$77,907,300.00	3	\$900,000.00	6	\$9,170,000.00	351	\$18,726,050.00	940	\$5,237,460.00	47	\$4,592,850.00	79	\$5,266,200.00	1,588	\$121,799,860.00

WATAUGA COUNTY PLANNING AND INSPECTIONS REVENUE 2020

Month	# Permits	Permit Fees	# M. Homes	M.H. Fees	Alteration	Miscellaneous	Recovery Fund	Plat Fees	Signs	Grading	Zoning	Floodplain	Month Total
JANUARY	119	16,084.05	2	200.00	4,425.00	150.00	330.00	90.00	100.00	0.00	480.00	0.00	21,859.05
FEBRUARY	85	14,464.88	1	100.00	3,225.00	300.75	240.00	90.00	0.00	600.00	360.00	150.00	19,530.63
MARCH	95	16,827.15	2	175.00	3,375.00	301.60	250.00	120.00	50.00	1,300.00	680.00	300.00	23,378.75
APRIL	96	23,062.27	1	100.00	3,150.00	0.00	240.00	120.00	350.00	0.00	360.00	300.00	27,682.27
MAY	107	22,279.02	1	75.00	3,675.00	0.00	300.00	3,330.00	375.00	450.00	400.00	300.00	31,184.02
JUNE	199	25,663.55	1	100.00	10,125.00	75.00	230.00	345.00	225.00	150.00	780.00	300.00	37,993.55
JULY	175	19,376.00	3	275.00	8,025.00	0.00	280.00	120.00	350.00	2,850.00	520.00	150.00	31,946.00
AUGUST	155	24,981.20	0	0.00	6,375.00	0.00	310.00	210.00	175.00	750.00	720.00	300.00	33,821.20
SEPTEMBER	150	20,606.35	0	0.00	5,100.00	0.00	270.00	720.00	100.00	300.00	800.00	300.00	28,196.35
OCTOBER	163	27,658.65	3	275.00	13,400.00	0.00	370.00	210.00	0.00	600.00	480.00	0.00	42,993.65
NOVEMBER	133	20,067.90	2	150.00	5,025.00	0.00	240.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	520.00	0.00	26,092.90
DECEMBER	111	23,132.25	1	100.00	3,900.00	0.00	300.00	120.00	0.00	0.00	620.00	150.00	28,322.25
TOTALS	1588	\$254,203.27	17	\$1,550.00	\$69,800.00	\$827.35	\$3,360.00	\$5,565.00	\$1,725.00	\$7,000.00	\$6,720.00	\$2,250.00	\$353,000.62

Article 12.

Minimum Housing Codes.

§ 160D-1201. Authorization.

(a) Dwellings. – The existence and occupation of dwellings that are unfit for human habitation are inimical to the welfare and dangerous and injurious to the health and safety of the people of this State. A public necessity exists for the repair, closing, or demolition of such dwellings. Whenever any local government finds that there exists in the planning and development regulation jurisdiction dwellings that are unfit for human habitation due to dilapidation; defects increasing the hazards of fire, accidents or other calamities; lack of ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities; or other conditions rendering the dwellings unsafe or unsanitary, or dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety, morals, or otherwise inimical to the welfare of the residents of the local government, power is conferred upon the local government to exercise its police powers to repair, close, or demolish the dwellings consistent with the provisions of this Article.

(b) Abandoned Structures. – Any local government may by ordinance provide for the repair, closing, or demolition of any abandoned structure that the governing board finds to be a health or safety hazard as a result of the attraction of insects or rodents, conditions creating a fire hazard, dangerous conditions constituting a threat to children, or frequent use by vagrants as living quarters in the absence of sanitary facilities. The ordinance may provide for the repair, closing, or demolition of such structure pursuant to the same provisions and procedures as are prescribed by this Article for the repair, closing, or demolition of dwellings found to be unfit for human habitation. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 39, 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1202. Definitions.

The following terms shall have the meanings whenever used or referred to as indicated when used in this Part unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

- (1) Owner. – The holder of the title in fee simple and every mortgagee of record.
- (2) Parties in interest. – All individuals, associations, and corporations who have interests of record in a dwelling and any who are in possession thereof.
- (3) Public authority. – Any housing authority or any officer who is in charge of any department or branch of the government of the city, county, or State relating to health, fire, building regulations, or other activities concerning dwellings in the local government.
- (4) Public officer. – The officer or officers who are authorized by ordinances adopted hereunder to exercise the powers prescribed by the ordinances and by this Article. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1203. Ordinance authorized as to repair, closing, and demolition; order of public officer.

Upon the adoption of an ordinance finding that dwelling conditions of the character described in G.S. 160D-1201 exist, the governing board is authorized to adopt and enforce ordinances relating to dwellings within the planning and development regulation jurisdiction that are unfit for human habitation. These ordinances shall include the following provisions:

- (1) Designation of enforcement officer. – One or more public officers shall be designated to exercise the powers prescribed by the ordinance.

- (2) Investigation, complaint, hearing. – Whenever a petition is filed with the public officer by a public authority or by at least five residents of the jurisdiction charging that any dwelling is unfit for human habitation or when it appears to the public officer that any dwelling is unfit for human habitation, the public officer shall, if a preliminary investigation discloses a basis for such charges, issue and cause to be served upon the owner of and parties in interest in such dwellings a complaint stating the charges in that respect and containing a notice that an administrative hearing will be held before the public officer, or the officer's designated agent, at a place within the county in which the property is located. The hearing shall be not less than 10 days nor more than 30 days after the serving of the complaint. The owner and parties in interest shall be given the right to file an answer to the complaint and to appear in person, or otherwise, and give testimony at the place and time fixed in the complaint. The rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law shall not be controlling in administrative hearings before the public officer.
- (3) Orders. – If, after notice and an administrative hearing, the public officer determines that the dwelling under consideration is unfit for human habitation, the officer shall state in writing findings of fact in support of that determination and shall issue and cause to be served upon the owner one of the following orders, as appropriate:
- a. If the repair, alteration, or improvement of the dwelling can be made at a reasonable cost in relation to the value of the dwelling, requiring the owner, within the time specified, to repair, alter, or improve the dwelling in order to render it fit for human habitation. The ordinance may fix a certain percentage of this value as being reasonable. The order may require that the property be vacated and closed only if continued occupancy during the time allowed for repair will present a significant threat of bodily harm, taking into account the nature of the necessary repairs, alterations, or improvements; the current state of the property; and any additional risks due to the presence and capacity of minors under the age of 18 or occupants with physical or mental disabilities. The order shall state that the failure to make timely repairs as directed in the order shall make the dwelling subject to the issuance of an unfit order under subdivision (4) of this section.
 - b. If the repair, alteration, or improvement of the dwelling cannot be made at a reasonable cost in relation to the value of the dwelling, requiring the owner, within the time specified in the order, to remove or demolish the dwelling. The ordinance may fix a certain percentage of this value as being reasonable. However, notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the dwelling is located in a historic district and the Historic District Commission determines, after an administrative hearing as provided by ordinance, that the dwelling is of particular significance or value toward maintaining the character of the district, and the dwelling has not been condemned as unsafe, the order may require that the dwelling be vacated and closed consistent with G.S. 160D-949.

- (4) Repair, closing, and posting. – If the owner fails to comply with an order to repair, alter, or improve or to vacate and close the dwelling, the public officer may cause the dwelling to be repaired, altered, or improved or to be vacated and closed, and the public officer may cause to be posted on the main entrance of any dwelling so closed a placard with the following words: "This building is unfit for human habitation; the use or occupation of this building for human habitation is prohibited and unlawful." Occupation of a building so posted shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor. The duties of the public officer set forth in this subdivision shall not be exercised until the governing board shall have by ordinance ordered the public officer to proceed to effectuate the purpose of this Article with respect to the particular property or properties that the public officer shall have found to be unfit for human habitation and which property or properties shall be described in the ordinance. This ordinance shall be recorded in the office of the register of deeds in the county where the property or properties are located and shall be indexed in the name of the property owner in the grantor index.
- (5) Demolition. – If the owner fails to comply with an order to remove or demolish the dwelling, the public officer may cause such dwelling to be removed or demolished. The duties of the public officer set forth in this subdivision shall not be exercised until the governing board shall have by ordinance ordered the public officer to proceed to effectuate the purpose of this Article with respect to the particular property or properties that the public officer shall have found to be unfit for human habitation and which property or properties shall be described in the ordinance. No such ordinance shall be adopted to require demolition of a dwelling until the owner has first been given a reasonable opportunity to bring it into conformity with the housing code. This ordinance shall be recorded in the office of the register of deeds in the county where the property or properties are located and shall be indexed in the name of the property owner in the grantor index.
- (6) Abandonment of Intent to Repair. – If the dwelling has been vacated and closed for a period of one year pursuant to an ordinance adopted pursuant to subdivision (4) of this section or after a public officer issues an order or proceedings have commenced under the substandard housing regulations regarding a dwelling to be repaired or vacated and closed as provided in this subdivision, then the governing board may find that the owner has abandoned the intent and purpose to repair, alter, or improve the dwelling in order to render it fit for human habitation and that the continuation of the dwelling in its vacated and closed status would be inimical to the health, safety, and welfare of the local government in that the dwelling would continue to deteriorate, would create a fire and safety hazard, would be a threat to children and vagrants, would attract persons intent on criminal activities, would cause or contribute to blight and the deterioration of property values in the area, and would render unavailable property and a dwelling that might otherwise have been made available to ease the persistent shortage of decent and affordable housing in this State, then in such circumstances, the governing board may, after the expiration of such

one-year period, enact an ordinance and serve such ordinance on the owner, setting forth the following:

- a. If it is determined that the repair of the dwelling to render it fit for human habitation can be made at a cost not exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the then current value of the dwelling, the ordinance shall require that the owner either repair or demolish and remove the dwelling within 90 days.
- b. If it is determined that the repair of the dwelling to render it fit for human habitation cannot be made at a cost not exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the then current value of the dwelling, the ordinance shall require the owner to demolish and remove the dwelling within 90 days.

This ordinance shall be recorded in the office of the register of deeds in the county wherein the property or properties are located and shall be indexed in the name of the property owner in the grantor index. If the owner fails to comply with this ordinance, the public officer shall effectuate the purpose of the ordinance.

(7) Liens. –

- a. The amount of the cost of repairs, alterations, or improvements, or vacating and closing, or removal or demolition by the public officer shall be a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred, which lien shall be filed, have the same priority, and be collected as the lien for special assessment provided in Article 10 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes.
- b. If the real property upon which the cost was incurred is located in an incorporated city, then the amount of the cost is also a lien on any other real property of the owner located within the city limits or within one mile thereof except for the owner's primary residence. The additional lien provided in this sub-subdivision is inferior to all prior liens and shall be collected as a money judgment.
- c. If the dwelling is removed or demolished by the public officer, the local government shall sell the materials of the dwelling, and any personal property, fixtures, or appurtenances found in or attached to the dwelling, and shall credit the proceeds of the sale against the cost of the removal or demolition, and any balance remaining shall be deposited in the superior court by the public officer, shall be secured in a manner directed by the court, and shall be disbursed by the court to the persons found to be entitled thereto by final order or decree of the court. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair or limit in any way the power of the local government to define and declare nuisances and to cause their removal or abatement by summary proceedings or otherwise.

- (8) Civil action. – If any occupant fails to comply with an order to vacate a dwelling, the public officer may file a civil action in the name of the local government to remove such occupant. The action to vacate the dwelling shall be in the nature of summary ejectment and shall be commenced by filing a complaint naming as defendant any person occupying such dwelling. The clerk of superior court shall issue a summons requiring the defendant to appear before a magistrate at a certain time, date, and place not to exceed 10 days from the

issuance of the summons to answer the complaint. The summons and complaint shall be served as provided in G.S. 42-29. If the summons appears to have been duly served and if at the hearing the public officer produces a certified copy of an ordinance adopted by the governing board pursuant to subdivision (5) of this section authorizing the officer to proceed to vacate the occupied dwelling, the magistrate shall enter judgment ordering that the premises be vacated and that all persons be removed. The judgment ordering that the dwelling be vacated shall be enforced in the same manner as the judgment for summary ejectment entered under G.S. 42-30. An appeal from any judgment entered hereunder by the magistrate may be taken as provided in G.S. 7A-228, and the execution of such judgment may be stayed as provided in G.S. 7A-227. An action to remove an occupant of a dwelling who is a tenant of the owner may not be in the nature of a summary ejectment proceeding pursuant to this paragraph unless such occupant was served with notice at least 30 days before the filing of the summary ejectment proceeding that the governing board has ordered the public officer to proceed to exercise his duties under subdivisions (4) and (5) of this section to vacate and close or remove and demolish the dwelling.

- (9) Additional notices to affordable housing organizations. – Whenever a determination is made pursuant to subdivision (3) of this section that a dwelling must be vacated and closed, or removed or demolished, under the provisions of this section, notice of the order shall be given by first-class mail to any organization involved in providing or restoring dwellings for affordable housing that has filed a written request for such notices. A minimum period of 45 days from the mailing of such notice shall be given before removal or demolition by action of the public officer, to allow the opportunity for any organization to negotiate with the owner to make repairs, lease, or purchase the property for the purpose of providing affordable housing. The public officer or clerk shall certify the mailing of the notices, and the certification shall be conclusive in the absence of fraud. Only an organization that has filed a written request for such notices may raise the issue of failure to mail such notices, and the sole remedy shall be an order requiring the public officer to wait 45 days before causing removal or demolition. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 40, 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1204. Heat source required.

(a) A local government shall, by ordinance, require that every dwelling unit leased as rental property within the city shall have, at a minimum, a central or electric heating system or sufficient chimneys, flues, or gas vents, with heating appliances connected, so as to heat at least one habitable room, excluding the kitchen, to a minimum temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit measured 3 feet above the floor with an outside temperature of 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

(b) If a dwelling unit contains a heating system or heating appliances that meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the owner of the dwelling unit shall not be required to install a new heating system or heating appliances, but the owner shall be required to maintain the existing heating system or heating appliances in a good and safe working condition. Otherwise, the owner of the dwelling unit shall install a heating system or heating appliances that meet the

requirements of subsection (a) of this section and shall maintain the heating system or heating appliances in a good and safe working condition.

(c) Portable kerosene heaters are not acceptable as a permanent source of heat as required by subsection (a) of this section but may be used as a supplementary source in single-family dwellings and duplex units. An owner who has complied with subsection (a) of this section shall not be held in violation of this section where an occupant of a dwelling unit uses a kerosene heater as a primary source of heat.

(d) This section applies only to local governments with a population of 200,000 or over within their planning and development regulation jurisdiction, according to the most recent decennial federal census.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to diminish the rights or remedies available to a tenant under a lease agreement, statute, or at common law or to prohibit a city from adopting an ordinance with more stringent heating requirements than provided for by this section. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1205. Standards.

An ordinance adopted under this Article shall provide that the public officer may determine that a dwelling is unfit for human habitation if the officer finds that conditions exist in the dwelling that render it dangerous or injurious to the health, safety, or welfare of the occupants of the dwelling, the occupants of neighboring dwellings, or other residents of the jurisdiction. Defective conditions may include the following, without limiting the generality of the foregoing: defects therein increasing the hazards of fire, accident, or other calamities; lack of adequate ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities; dilapidation; disrepair; structural defects; or uncleanliness. The ordinances may provide additional standards to guide the public officers in determining the fitness of a dwelling for human habitation. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1206. Service of complaints and orders.

(a) Complaints or orders issued by a public officer pursuant to an ordinance adopted under this Article shall be served upon persons either personally or by certified mail. When service is made by certified mail, a copy of the complaint or order may also be sent by regular mail. Service shall be deemed sufficient if the certified mail is unclaimed or refused but the regular mail is not returned by the post office within 10 days after the mailing. If regular mail is used, a notice of the pending proceedings shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises affected.

(b) If the identities of any owners or the whereabouts of persons are unknown and cannot be ascertained by the public officer in the exercise of reasonable diligence, or, if the owners are known but have refused to accept service by certified mail, and the public officer makes an affidavit to that effect, then the serving of the complaint or order upon the owners or other persons may be made by publication in a newspaper having general circulation in the jurisdiction at least once no later than the time at which personal service would be required under the provisions of this Article. When service is made by publication, a notice of the pending proceedings shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises thereby affected. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1207. Periodic inspections.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the inspection department may make periodic inspections only when there is reasonable cause to believe that unsafe, unsanitary, or otherwise hazardous or unlawful conditions may exist in a residential building or structure. However, when the inspection department determines that a safety hazard exists in one of the dwelling units within a multifamily building, which in the opinion of the inspector poses an immediate threat to the occupant, the inspection department may inspect, in the absence of a specific complaint and actual knowledge of the unsafe condition, additional dwelling units in the multifamily building to determine if that same safety hazard exists. For purposes of this section, the term "reasonable cause" means any of the following: (i) the landlord or owner has a history of more than two verified violations of the housing ordinances or codes within a 12-month period, (ii) there has been a complaint that substandard conditions exist within the building or there has been a request that the building be inspected, (iii) the inspection department has actual knowledge of an unsafe condition within the building, or (iv) violations of the local ordinances or codes are visible from the outside of the property. In conducting inspections authorized under this section, the inspection department shall not discriminate between single-family and multifamily buildings or between owner-occupied and tenant-occupied buildings. In exercising this power, members of the department shall have a right to enter on any premises within the jurisdiction of the department at all reasonable hours for the purposes of inspection or other enforcement action, upon presentation of proper credentials. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit periodic inspections in accordance with State fire prevention code or as otherwise required by State law.

(b) A local government may require periodic inspections as part of a targeted effort to respond to blighted or potentially blighted conditions within a geographic area that has been designated by the governing board. However, the total aggregate of targeted areas in the local government jurisdiction at any one time shall not be greater than 1 square mile or five percent (5%) of the area within the local government jurisdiction, whichever is greater. A targeted area designated by the local government shall reflect the local government's stated neighborhood revitalization strategy and shall consist of property that meets the definition of a "blighted area" or "blighted parcel" as those terms are defined in G.S. 160A-503(2) and G.S. 160A-503(2a), respectively, except that for purposes of this subsection, the planning board is not required to make a determination as to the property. The local government shall not discriminate in its selection of areas or housing types to be targeted and shall (i) provide notice to all owners and residents of properties in the affected area about the periodic inspections plan and information regarding a legislative hearing regarding the plan, (ii) hold a legislative hearing regarding the plan, and (iii) establish a plan to address the ability of low-income residential property owners to comply with minimum housing code standards.

(c) In no event may a local government do any of the following: (i) adopt or enforce any ordinance that would require any owner or manager of rental property to obtain any permit or permission under Article 11 or Article 12 of this Chapter from the local government to lease or rent residential real property or to register rental property with the local government, except for those individual properties that have more than four verified violations in a rolling 12-month period or two or more verified violations in a rolling 30-day period, or upon the property being identified within the top ten percent (10%) of properties with crime or disorder problems as set forth in a local ordinance, (ii) require that an owner or manager of residential rental property enroll or participate in any governmental program as a condition of obtaining a certificate of occupancy, (iii) levy a special fee or tax on residential rental property that is not also levied against other commercial and residential properties, unless expressly authorized by general law or applicable

only to an individual rental unit or property described in clause (i) of this subsection and the fee does not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in any 12-month period in which the unit or property is found to have verified violations, (iv) provide that any violation of a rental registration ordinance is punishable as a criminal offense, or (v) require any owner or manager of rental property to submit to an inspection before receiving any utility service provided by the local government. For purposes of this section, the term "verified violation" means all of the following:

- (1) The aggregate of all violations of housing ordinances or codes found in an individual rental unit of residential real property during a 72-hour period.
- (2) Any violations that have not been corrected by the owner or manager within 21 days of receipt of written notice from the local government of the violations. Should the same violation occur more than two times in a 12-month period, the owner or manager may not have the option of correcting the violation. If the housing code provides that any form of prohibited tenant behavior constitutes a violation by the owner or manager of the rental property, it shall be deemed a correction of the tenant-related violation if the owner or manager, within 30 days of receipt of written notice of the tenant-related violation, brings a summary ejectment action to have the tenant evicted.

(d) If a property is identified by the local government as being in the top ten percent (10%) of properties with crime or disorder problems, the local government shall notify the landlord of any crimes, disorders, or other violations that will be counted against the property to allow the landlord an opportunity to attempt to correct the problems. In addition, the local government and the county sheriff's office or city's police department shall assist the landlord in addressing any criminal activity, which may include testifying in court in a summary ejectment action or other matter to aid in evicting a tenant who has been charged with a crime. If the local government or the county sheriff's office or city's police department does not cooperate in evicting a tenant, the tenant's behavior or activity at issue shall not be counted as a crime or disorder problem as set forth in the local ordinance, and the property may not be included in the top ten percent (10%) of properties as a result of that tenant's behavior or activity.

(e) If the local government takes action against an individual rental unit under this section, the owner of the individual rental unit may appeal the decision to the housing appeals board or the zoning board of adjustment, if operating, or the planning board if created under G.S. 160D-301, or if neither is created, the governing board. The board shall fix a reasonable time for hearing appeals, shall give due notice to the owner of the individual rental unit, and shall render a decision within a reasonable time. The owner may appear in person or by agent or attorney. The board may reverse or affirm the action, wholly or partly, or may modify the action appealed from, and may make any decision and order that in the opinion of the board ought to be made in the matter. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 41, 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1208. Remedies.

(a) An ordinance adopted pursuant to this Article may provide for a housing appeals board as provided by G.S. 160D-305. An appeal from any decision or order of the public officer is a quasi-judicial matter and may be taken by any person aggrieved thereby or by any officer, board, or commission of the local government. Any appeal from the public officer shall be taken within 10 days from the rendering of the decision or service of the order by filing with the public officer and with the housing appeals board a notice of appeal that shall specify the grounds upon which the appeal is based. Upon the filing of any notice of appeal, the public officer shall forthwith

transmit to the board all the papers constituting the record upon which the decision appealed from was made. When an appeal is from a decision of the public officer refusing to allow the person aggrieved thereby to do any act, the decision remains in force until modified or reversed. When any appeal is from a decision of the public officer requiring the person aggrieved to do any act, the appeal has the effect of suspending the requirement until the hearing by the board, unless the public officer certifies to the board, after the notice of appeal is filed with the officer, that because of facts stated in the certificate, a copy of which shall be furnished to the appellant, a suspension of the requirement would cause imminent peril to life or property. In that case the requirement is not suspended except by a restraining order, which may be granted for due cause shown upon not less than one day's written notice to the public officer, by the board, or by a court of record upon petition made pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

(b) The housing appeals board shall fix a reasonable time for hearing appeals, shall give due notice to the parties, and shall render its decision within a reasonable time. Any party may appear in person or by agent or attorney. The board may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the decision or order appealed from, and may make any decision and order that in its opinion ought to be made in the matter, and, to that end, it has all the powers of the public officer, but the concurring vote of four members of the board is necessary to reverse or modify any decision or order of the public officer. The board also has power in passing upon appeals, when unnecessary hardships would result from carrying out the strict letter of the ordinance, to adapt the application of the ordinance to the necessities of the case to the end that the spirit of the ordinance is observed, public safety and welfare secured, and substantial justice done.

(c) Every decision of the housing appeals board is subject to review by proceedings in the nature of certiorari instituted within 15 days of the decision of the board, but not otherwise.

(d) Any person aggrieved by an order issued by the public officer or a decision rendered by the housing appeals board may petition the superior court for an injunction restraining the public officer from carrying out the order or decision and the court may, upon such petition, issue a temporary injunction restraining the public officer pending a final disposition of the cause. The petition shall be filed within 30 days after issuance of the order or rendering of the decision. Hearings shall be had by the court on a petition within 20 days and shall be given preference over other matters on the court's calendar. The court shall hear and determine the issues raised and shall enter such final order or decree as law and justice may require. It is not necessary to file bond in any amount before obtaining a temporary injunction under this subsection.

(e) If any dwelling is erected, constructed, altered, repaired, converted, maintained, or used in violation of this Article or of any ordinance or code adopted under authority of this Article or any valid order or decision of the public officer or board made pursuant to any ordinance or code adopted under authority of this Article, the public officer or board may institute any appropriate action or proceedings to prevent the unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, or use; to restrain, correct, or abate the violation; to prevent the occupancy of the dwelling; or to prevent any illegal act, conduct, or use in or about the premises of the dwelling. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 42, 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1209. Compensation to owners of condemned property.

Nothing in this Article shall be construed as preventing the owner or owners of any property from receiving just compensation for the taking of property by the power of eminent domain under the laws of this State nor as permitting any property to be condemned or destroyed except in

accordance with the police power of the State. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1210. Additional powers of public officer.

An ordinance adopted by the governing board may authorize the public officer to exercise any powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purpose and provisions of this Article, including the following powers in addition to others herein granted:

- (1) To investigate the dwelling conditions in the local government's planning and development regulation jurisdiction in order to determine which dwellings therein are unfit for human habitation.
- (2) To administer oaths, affirmations, examine witnesses, and receive evidence.
- (3) To enter upon premises for the purpose of making examinations in a manner that will do the least possible inconvenience to the persons in possession.
- (4) To appoint and fix the duties of officers, agents, and employees necessary to carry out the purposes of the ordinances.
- (5) To delegate any of his or her functions and powers under the ordinance to other officers and other agents. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1211. Administration of ordinance.

A local government adopting an ordinance under this Article shall, as soon as possible thereafter, prepare an estimate of the annual expenses or costs to provide the equipment, personnel, and supplies necessary for periodic examinations and investigations of the dwellings for the purpose of determining the fitness of dwellings for human habitation and for the enforcement and administration of its ordinances adopted under this Article. The local government is authorized to make appropriations from its revenues necessary for this purpose and may accept and apply grants or donations to assist it. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1212. Supplemental nature of Article.

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to abrogate or impair the powers of the courts or of any department of any local government to enforce any provisions of its charter or its ordinances or regulations nor to prevent or punish violations thereof. The powers conferred by this Article shall be supplemental to the powers conferred by any other law in carrying out the provisions of the ordinances. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

NC General Statute 160D-Article 11 excerpts

§ 160D-1117. Periodic inspections.

The inspection department may make periodic inspections, subject to the governing board's directions, for unsafe, unsanitary, or otherwise hazardous and unlawful conditions in buildings or structures within its planning and development regulation jurisdiction. In exercising this power, members of the department shall have a right to enter on any premises within the jurisdiction of the department at all reasonable hours for the purposes of inspection or other enforcement action, upon presentation of proper credentials. Inspections of dwellings shall follow the provisions of G.S. 160D-1207. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit periodic inspections in accordance with State fire prevention code or as otherwise required by State law. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1118. Defects in buildings to be corrected.

When a local inspector finds any defects in a building, or finds that the building has not been constructed in accordance with the applicable State and local laws, or that a building because of its condition is dangerous or contains fire hazardous conditions, it shall be the inspector's duty to notify the owner or occupant of the building of its defects, hazardous conditions, or failure to comply with law. The owner or occupant shall each immediately remedy the defects, hazardous conditions, or violations of law in the property. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1119. Unsafe buildings condemned.

- (a) Designation of Unsafe Buildings. – Every building that shall appear to the inspector to be especially dangerous to life because of its liability to fire or because of bad condition of walls, overloaded floors, defective construction, decay, unsafe wiring or heating systems, inadequate means of egress, or other causes shall be held to be unsafe, and the inspector shall affix a notice of the dangerous character of the structure to a conspicuous place on the exterior wall of the building. (b) Nonresidential Building or Structure. – In addition to the authority granted in subsection (a) of this section, an inspector may declare a nonresidential building or structure within a community development target area to be unsafe if it meets all of the following conditions: (1) It appears to the inspector to be vacant or abandoned. (2) It appears to the inspector to be in such dilapidated condition as to cause or contribute to blight, disease, vagrancy, or fire or safety hazard, to be a danger NC General Statutes - Chapter 160D Article 11 11 to children, or to tend to attract persons intent on criminal activities or other activities that would constitute a public nuisance. (c) Notice Posted on Structure. – If an inspector declares a nonresidential building or structure

to be unsafe under subsection (b) of this section, the inspector must affix a notice of the unsafe character of the structure to a conspicuous place on the exterior wall of the building. For the purposes of this section, the term "community development target area" means an area that has characteristics of an urban progress zone under G.S. 143B-437.09, a "nonresidential redevelopment area" under G.S. 160A-503(10), or an area with similar characteristics designated by the governing board as being in special need of revitalization for the benefit and welfare of its citizens. (d) Applicability to Residential Structures. – A local government may expand subsections (b) and (c) of this section to apply to residential buildings by adopting an ordinance. Before adopting such an ordinance, a local government shall hold a legislative hearing with published notice as provided by G.S. 160D-601. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1120. Removing notice from condemned building.

If any person shall remove any notice that has been affixed to any building or structure by a local inspector of any local government and that states the dangerous character of the building or structure, that person shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1121. Action in event of failure to take corrective action.

If the owner of a building or structure that has been condemned as unsafe pursuant to G.S. 160D-1119 fails to take prompt corrective action, the local inspector shall give written notice, by certified mail to the owner's last known address or by personal service, of all of the following: (1) That the building or structure is in a condition that appears to meet one or more of the following conditions: a. Constitutes a fire or safety hazard. b. Is dangerous to life, health, or other property. c. Is likely to cause or contribute to blight, disease, vagrancy, or danger to children. d. Has a tendency to attract persons intent on criminal activities or other activities that would constitute a public nuisance. (2) That an administrative hearing will be held before the inspector at a designated place and time, not later than 10 days after the date of the notice, at which time the owner will be entitled to be heard in person or by counsel and to present arguments and evidence pertaining to the matter. (3) That following the hearing, the inspector may issue such order to repair, close, vacate, or demolish the building or structure as appears appropriate. If the name or whereabouts of the owner cannot, after due diligence, be discovered, the notice shall be considered properly and adequately served if a copy is posted on the outside of the building or structure in question at least 10 days prior to the hearing and a notice of the hearing is published in a newspaper having general circulation in the local government's area of jurisdiction at least NC General Statutes - Chapter 160D Article 11 12 once not later than one week prior to the hearing. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 33, 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1122. Order to take corrective action.

If, upon a hearing held pursuant to the notice prescribed in G.S. 160D-1119, the inspector shall find that the building or structure is in a condition that constitutes a fire or safety hazard or renders it dangerous to life, health, or other property, the inspector shall make an order in writing, directed to the owner of such building or structure, requiring the owner to remedy the defective conditions by repairing, closing, vacating, or demolishing the building or structure or taking other necessary steps, within such period, not less than 60 days, as the inspector may prescribe, provided that where the inspector finds that there is imminent danger to life or other property, the inspector may order that corrective action be taken in such lesser period as may be feasible. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, s. 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1123. Appeal; finality of order if not appealed.

Any owner who has received an order under G.S. 160D-1122 may appeal from the order to the governing board by giving notice of appeal in writing to the inspector and to the local government clerk within 10 days following issuance of the order. In the absence of an appeal, the order of the inspector is final. The governing board shall hear an appeal in accordance with G.S. 160D-406 and render a decision within a reasonable time. The governing board may affirm, modify and affirm, or revoke the order. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 34, 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1124. Failure to comply with order. If the owner of a building or structure fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to G.S. 160D-1122 from which no appeal has been taken or fails to comply with an order of the governing board following an appeal, the owner is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 35, 51(a), (b), (d).)

§ 160D-1125. Enforcement.

(a) Action Authorized. – Whenever any violation is denominated a misdemeanor under the provisions of this Article, the local government, either in addition to or in lieu of other remedies, may initiate any appropriate action or proceedings to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate the violation or to prevent the occupancy of the building or structure involved. (b) Removal of Building. – In the case of a building or structure declared unsafe under G.S. 160D-1119 or an ordinance adopted pursuant to G.S. 160D-1119, a local government may, in lieu of taking action under subsection (a) of this section, cause the building or structure to be removed or demolished. The amounts incurred by the local government in connection with the removal or demolition are a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred. The lien shall be filed, have the same priority, and be collected in the same manner as liens for special assessments provided in Article 10 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes. If the building or structure is removed or demolished by the local government, the local government shall sell the usable materials of the building and any personal property, fixtures, or appurtenances

found in or attached to the building. The local government shall credit the proceeds of the sale against the cost of the removal or demolition. Any balance remaining from the sale shall be deposited with the NC General Statutes - Chapter 160D Article 11 13 clerk of superior court of the county where the property is located and shall be disbursed by the court to the person found to be entitled thereto by final order or decree of the court. (c) Additional Lien. – The amounts incurred by a local government in connection with the removal or demolition are also a lien against any other real property owned by the owner of the building or structure and located within the local government's planning and development regulation jurisdiction, and for cities without extraterritorial planning and development jurisdiction, within one mile of the city limits, except for the owner's primary residence. The provisions of subsection (b) of this section apply to this additional lien, except that this additional lien is inferior to all prior liens and shall be collected as a money judgment. (d) Nonexclusive Remedy. – Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair or limit the power of the local government to define and declare nuisances and to cause their removal or abatement by summary proceedings or otherwise. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 36, 51(a), (b), (d).) §

Boone Fair Housing Taskforce
Arguments for Minimum Housing Codes in Watauga County
January 2021

Abstract

Minimum housing codes are a common and frequently used resource by counties and municipalities to safeguard and maintain safe and fair conditions for their constituents' rights as tenants. While the town of Boone has a minimum housing code enforced by Boone's Planning and Inspection department, the county does not. Implementing a minimum housing code would protect members of the county in a far reaching and necessary manner. With the housing crisis growing, the inevitability of poor housing conditions looms and a lack of a vote on a minimum housing code would be irresponsible for the sake of the county.

The Precedent

Counties across the state have implemented minimum housing codes. Urban counties, like Orange, Cumberland, and Mecklenburg, among others, all have existing county-wide housing codes. For the sake of our non-urban Watauga, we need to examine rural counties that have made similar strides. Stanly, Henderson, Wayne, Onslow, and many other less populated counties have implemented minimum housing standards. Despite some of these counties varying in political climates ranging from very progressive to conservative, across ideologies these counties recognize that minimum standards of housing do not serve as a government overreach but a measure for how we want our neighbors to live.

General Research, Statutes, and Code related information

If minimum housing codes are unneeded, why did the General Assembly provide for them in the General Statutes? (§ 160D-1129, effective January 2021)

The only state law referring to minimal housing is as follows,

Article 12.

Minimum Housing Codes.

§ 160D-1201. (Effective January 1, 2021) Authorization.

(a) Occupied Dwellings. – The existence and occupation of dwellings that are unfit for human habitation are inimical to the welfare and dangerous and injurious to the health and safety

of the people of this State. A public necessity exists for the repair, closing, or demolition of such dwellings. Whenever any local government finds that there exists in the planning and development regulation jurisdiction dwellings that are unfit for human habitation due to dilapidation; defects increasing the hazards of fire, accidents or other calamities; lack of ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities; or other conditions rendering the dwellings unsafe or

unsanitary, or dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety, morals, or otherwise inimical to the welfare of the residents of the local government, power is conferred upon the local government to exercise its police powers to repair, close, or demolish the dwellings consistent with the provisions of this Article.

(b) Abandoned Structures. – Any local government may by ordinance provide for the repair, closing, or demolition of any abandoned structure that the governing board finds to be a health or safety hazard as a result of the attraction of insects or rodents, conditions creating a fire hazard, dangerous conditions constituting a threat to children, or frequent use by vagrants as living quarters in the absence of sanitary facilities. The ordinance may provide for the repair, closing, or demolition of such structure pursuant to the same provisions and procedures as are prescribed by this Article for the repair, closing, or demolition of dwellings found to be unfit for human habitation. (2019-111, s. 2.4.)

The above section, lifted directly from North Carolina law, shows a severe lack of definition and is vague which allows for the nuance to be interpreted by the judge of a court ruling on the issue. While the implementation of a minimum housing code exists as a rigid and easy to follow standard.

Even if some provisions from state law protected tenants in the same way Boone's (and other counties) minimum housing codes do, an argument that the minimum housing code is redundant falls flat. Local governments need to remain accessible to their community members and implementing a minimal housing code at a county level would give citizens specific information about what was expected of their landlords.

Minimum Housing codes not only clarify expectations for tenants, it gives guidance to inspectors about what's acceptable and what isn't.

Henderson County, The Rural County that Leads the Way

Henderson county's code, though less detailed and comprehensive than the town of Boone's deals with much of the same issues.

*The rest of the section is citing Henderson County's Minimum Housing Code, not state statutes. Below are general examples of a minimum housing code that provides protections for tenants.

48-41. General

Scope. The provisions of this section shall govern the minimum conditions and standards for light, ventilation, and space for occupying a structure.

Responsibility. The owner of the structure shall provide and maintain light, ventilation and space conditions in compliance with these requirements. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant, or permit another person to occupy, any premises that do not comply with the requirements of this section.

Alternative devices. In lieu of the means for natural light and ventilation herein prescribed, artificial light or mechanical ventilation complying with the North Carolina Building Code shall be permitted.

48-38. Extermination

Infestation. All structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent infestation. All structures in which insects or rodents are found shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes that will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation.

Owner. The owner of any structure shall be responsible for extermination within the structure prior to renting or leasing the structure.

48-42. Light

Habitable spaces. Every habitable space shall have at least one window facing directly to the outdoors or to a court to permit natural lighting.

Exception: Where natural light for rooms or spaces without exterior windows or glazing areas is provided through an adjoining room, the unobstructed opening to the adjoining room shall be at least 8 percent of the floor area of the interior room or space, but not less than 5 square feet. The exterior window area shall be based on the total floor area being served.

Common halls and stairways. Every common hall, ingress, egress and stairway in residential occupancies, other than in 1 and 2 family dwellings, shall be lighted at all times with at least a 60 watt standard incandescent light bulb (or fluorescent equivalent) provided that the spacing between lights shall not be greater than 30 feet.

For the purposes of brevity, the inclusion of more examples would only further complicate the example. Though I encourage you to read the entire Henderson county minimum housing code, found here, <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/code-document/chapter-48-minimum-housing-code>.

The Model in Our County, Boone's Minimum Housing Code

While Henderson serves as an excellent example for the way another county is running their minimal housing code, Boone's exists as an applicable and relevant model for our county at large.

Boone's code is both comprehensive and tailored to the needs of a significant portion of our counties population. You can find the code in its entirety here, https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/boone/latest/boone_nc/0-0-0-4975

Here's some examples of what the code covers,

§ 151.18 MINIMUM SPACE AND USE REQUIREMENTS.

(A) Required space in dwelling unit. Every dwelling unit shall contain at least 150 square feet of floor space for the first occupant thereof and at least 100 additional square feet of floor area per each additional occupant.

(D) Occupancy of the dwelling unit below grade. No basement or cellar space shall be used as a habitable room or dwelling unit unless meeting all specifications for habitable rooms.

§ 151.19 STRUCTURAL AND GENERAL STANDARDS TECHNICAL GUIDELINES.

(A) Foundation.

(1) Beneath the building firm ground, reasonably dry, no soggy ground, no water standing, no water running under building;

(2) Sound footing, adequate bearing;

(C) Roofs.

(1) No rafters rotted, broken, sagging or improperly supported ends. All eaves in proper structural condition;

As evidenced above, Boone's minimum housing code is not a radical set of government rules, instead a reasonable standard of living we should want our neighbors to have. It is also important to note that these standards are entirely report based, meaning that they would only be serving tenants and citizens concerned with their living conditions.

What Wataugans Think

Boone Fair Housing's resolutions passed through council were the most viewed "The Appalachian Article" of 2020, also garnering significant support and comments on the "Watauga Democrat" article covering the same topic. Citizens of the county feel that the housing situation only stands to worsen. Watauga residents are being priced out farther and farther into the county, while also simultaneously losing the town's mechanism of rental protection. This issue is not one that is student related, nor is it one entirely related to non-students, it is instead an issue of equity and fairness. Many tenants already feel they are being rented substandard housing while paying exorbitant rents, this gives tenants an option. People deserve the right to report a poor living condition and feel that the county government has their interests in mind. It is time to set a standard for Watauga, leaving no vagueness on the standards we wish to uphold for the many that live in our county.

Recommendations

The clear move is that Watauga County should move to adopt a minimum housing code, county wide, while building it based on many of the sentiments shared by the town of Boone's minimum housing code. The county could remove any portion of the code that the commissioners feel is not suited for the county at large, while also understanding that the code would exist in an entirely report based system. I welcome any suggestions, or questions about the topic and encourage the commissioners to adopt a code that would work for and protect all citizens of Watauga county.

Courtesy of Dalton George and the Boone Fair Housing Taskforce



WATAUGA COUNTY

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Memorandum

Date: January 29, 2021
To: County Manager, Board of Commissioners
From: Joe Furman 
RE: Census 2020

The Census started and stopped, started again and proceeded cautiously, so the results are delayed. Attached are two recent press releases from the Census Bureau; it seems County-level counts will be available in the spring.

Also attached is a tabulation of self-response rates for Watauga County. Self-response could have been online, by phone or mail. It does not include the door-to-door follow-up by Census workers. Watauga's rates are low, but don't accurately reflect local low participation in the Census. Census forms were delivered to all of the dwellings in the County, and the rates are percentages of responses received from those forms. Approximately 30% of the dwellings in the County are seasonal, so there will be no responses from them. Also, ASU students were mostly gone from the area last spring and summer, so self-response from off-campus dwellings is also likely low. Dormitories are tabulated differently, as group quarters, by the Census Bureau working through the university. The follow-up by Census workers will ostensibly remedy the low self-response rates; this has been the case in past Censuses. We will have to wait for release of the data to determine if we have concerns about the local count.

Census Bureau Update on 2020 Census

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

JANUARY 21, 2021

RELEASE NUMBER CB21-RTQ.05

JAN. 21, 2021 — The U.S. Census Bureau is implementing the President's Executive Order "Ensuring a Lawful and Accurate Enumeration and Apportionment Pursuant to the Decennial Census," released January 20, 2021. The 2020 Census data products including the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Summary Data File will not include information on citizenship or immigration status. The Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office will reengage the Department of Justice's Voting Section to confirm that Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) [</programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/voting-rights/cvap.html>] data produced from the American Community Survey (ACS) continue to meet its statistical needs. The Census Bureau has released this product annually since 2011. All work on the immigration status of the population of the United States regarding the 2020 Census was suspended on January 12, 2021.

###

Contact

Public Information Office

301-763-3030

pio@census.gov [<mailto:pio@census.gov>]

Census Bureau Statement on Apportionment Counts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021

JANUARY 28, 2021

RELEASE NUMBER CB21-RTQ.06

JAN. 28, 2021 — Our current schedule points to April 30, 2021, for the completion of the apportionment counts.

###

Contact

Public Information Office

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Watauga County: Census 2020 Real-Time Response Rates - Week Ending Oct 13

How is Watauga County performing?

45.5% of households in Watauga County have self-responded to the 2020 Census between March 12 and Oct 13, 2020, **below** the state response rate of 63.2%. Watauga County is currently ranked 89 out of 100 counties in NC.

How are people responding to the 2020 Census in Watauga County?

39.3% of Watauga households responded to the census online versus 49.4% of all NC households.

6.2% of Watauga households responded to the census by phone or mail versus 13.8% of all NC households.

Where are people responding in Watauga County? (Top 5 Tracts)

Rank	Tract Number	Self-Response Rate
1	9207.03	62.8%
2	9202	61.3%
3	9201	58.8%
4	9207.01	58.6%
5	9204	53.3%

Where are people not responding in Watauga County? (Bottom 5 Tracts)

Rank	Tract Number	Self-Response Rate
13	9210	15.3%
12	9208	23.5%
11	9206.02	36.8%
10	9209	37.6%
9	9205	44.9%

How many households in Watauga County self-responded in past census counts?

Historic census self-response rates for Watauga County were 55.0% in 1990, 54.0% in 2000, and 52.8% in 2010.



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DEMOGRAPHY

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How are target groups responding in Watauga County?**Young Children - 5.9% of NC population ages 0-4**

% Young Children	# of Tracts	Average Response Rate
Less than 4.1%	7	40.6%
4% to 5.5%	5	54.6%
5.5% to 7.2%	1	45.3%
7.2% or higher	0	n.a.

Immigrant Population - 7.9% of NC population is foreign-born

% Foreign-Born Residents	# of Tracts	Average Response Rate
Less than 2.9%	6	47.1%
2.9% to 5.7%	6	47.1%
5.7% to 9.8%	1	36.8%
9.8% or higher	0	n.a.

Minority Population - 34% of NC population is American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, or Hispanic/Latinx

% Minority Residents	# of Tracts	Average Response Rate
Less than 14%	13	46.3%
14% to 28%	0	n.a.
28% to 50%	0	n.a.
50% or higher	0	n.a.

No Internet - 21% of NC households do not have Internet at home

% HH with no Internet	# of Tracts	Average Response Rate
Less than 12%	3	32.3%
12% to 21%	7	47.7%
21% to 31%	3	57.3%
31% or higher	0	n.a.



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THE HIGH PRICE OF SLOW INTERNET



Some 40 million Americans lack reliable online access, cutting them off from work, doctors, schools and shopping

BY MELISSA PREDDY

Standing in the rain in front of her home, Lisa Huntsman strained to hear her pulmonologist during a telemedicine call. “I was so nervous. It was hard to focus on what my doctor was saying,” says Huntsman, 49, of Fleming, a rural community in southeastern Ohio.

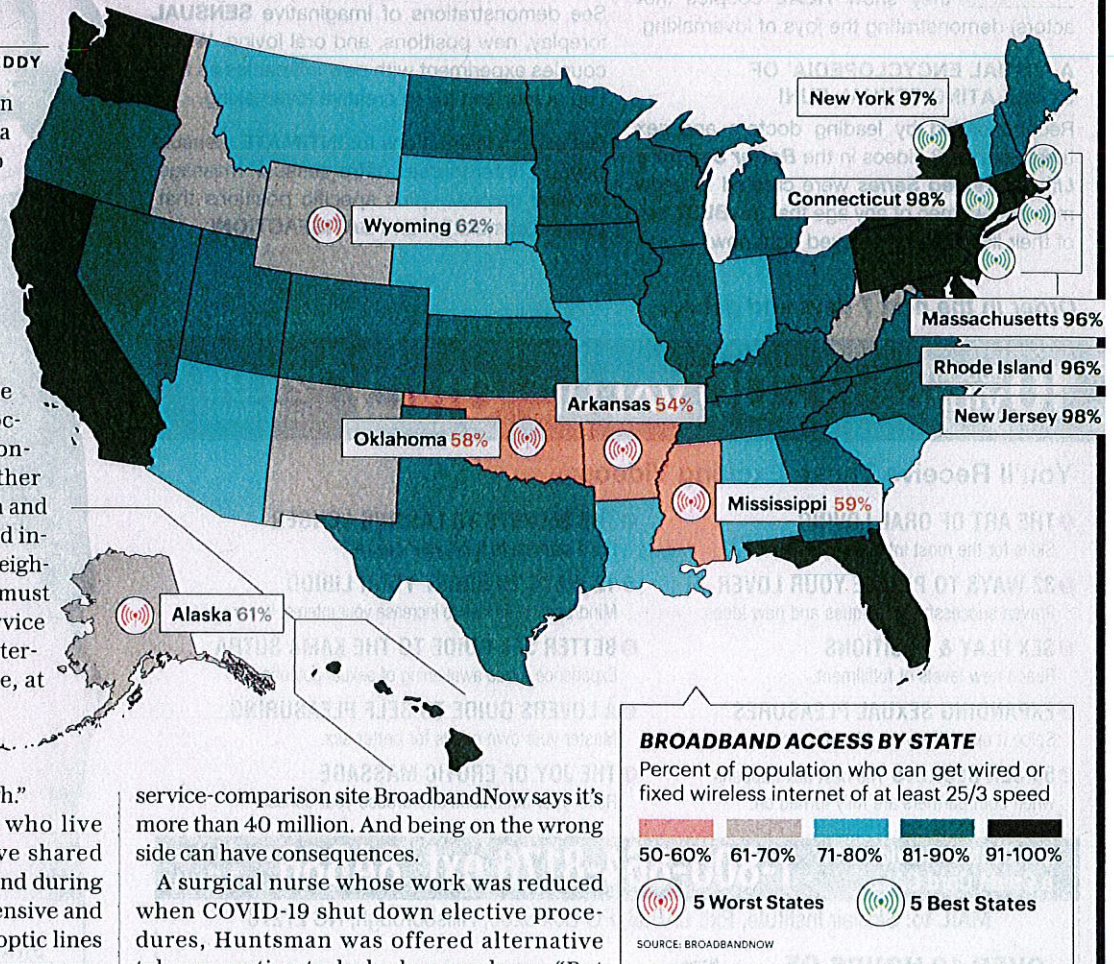
In better circumstances, she would have engaged with her doctor on a computer via a videoconference. They could see each other and calmly discuss her condition and treatments. But wired broadband internet lines haven’t come to her neighborhood, so she and her family must make do with spotty cellular service for phone calls and low-grade internet service via a hot spot device, at \$360 per month. “It’s our most expensive bill,” Huntsman says. “Our house payment was never even that high.”

Countless older Americans who live outside cities and suburbs have shared Huntsman’s frustration, before and during the pandemic. Because it is expensive and sometimes difficult to run fiber-optic lines and coaxial cables to rural homes, many residents lack the technology to access the full range of digital services available to the rest of us—from holding video chats with grandchildren to connecting to the computer servers at work to streaming the latest popular series on Netflix.

How many Americans are on the wrong side of this “digital divide”? The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimates the number to be 21 million, while the

service-comparison site BroadbandNow says it’s more than 40 million. And being on the wrong side can have consequences.

A surgical nurse whose work was reduced when COVID-19 shut down elective procedures, Huntsman was offered alternative telecommuting tasks by her employer. “But I had to turn that down because our internet is so poor,” she says. Her husband and teen daughter have had to take turns juggling work and school demands because their hot spot can’t reliably serve multiple users. “There were many days our daughter came to us in tears,” Huntsman says. “With the libraries closed, we’ve been known to sit outside the McDonald’s just to get homework done,” using the restaurant’s free Wi-Fi.



DEFINING THE DIVIDE

“Broadband” internet service currently is defined by the federal government as a minimum download speed of 25 megabits per second (Mbps), and an upload speed of 3 Mbps, known as “25/3.” Only 1.4 percent of urban households lack access to internet at that speed. But in rural America, 26.9 percent of homes can’t connect at these speeds.

Lisa Huntsman, of Ohio, sits with her family in a parking lot where they can access a free Wi-Fi internet connection.



And that “25/3” standard is an increasingly low bar, given the demands of modern households—one person streaming a TV show while another streams music while another conducts a video chat. “If you have a family of four working and learning at home, a total of 25 Mbps is just not adequate,” says Christopher Ali, a University of Virginia professor who studies the digital divide. “That’s when your video stops or your audio skips or your connection freezes.”

COSTS AND BARRIERS

Internet providers are for-profit businesses, so much of the digital divide is caused by economics. “It can cost from \$3,000 to \$8,000 per house to wire for fiber-optic,” says Tyler Cooper, the editor in chief at BroadbandNow. “There is very little return on investment for providers in an area like that.”

Another factor is legislation that blocks competition: BroadbandNow research found that 22 states have enacted barriers or bans to setting up municipally owned nonprofit networks that are similar to public utilities.

Accessing the internet via a satellite dish would seem a likely solution, eliminating the need to bury expensive fiber networks. But experts say that satellite technology is often slow and unreliable. While some dish companies advertise 25/3 broadband speeds, in practice they often clock in at 10/1 or 5/1. In a 2019 Purdue University household survey, only a quarter of those surveyed were happy with satellite service, while more than half of cable and fixed wireless users were satisfied.

TOWARD SOLUTIONS

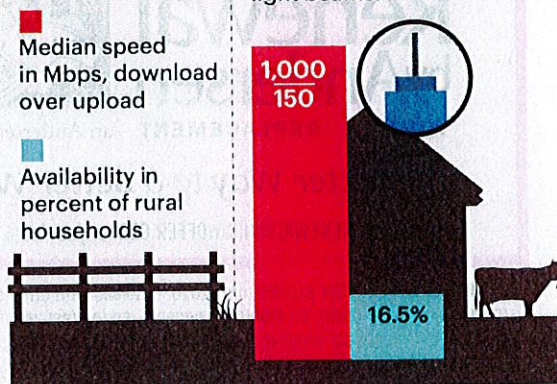
Anne Boothe describes her hometown of Malta, Montana, as “100 miles from the nearest Walmart and 200 miles from the nearest airport.” But the telecommuter and grandmother is satisfied with her broadband access, which is provided over fiber-optic lines through a member-owned co-op, Triangle Communications. It began in the 1950s as a telephone company. “Our co-op took out federal loans to expand the network,” says Boothe, 62, who enjoys chatting with her grandchildren in Oregon via Zoom. “We are very sparsely populated—less than one person per square mile. But with our broadband, farm spouses can work remotely, retirees can stay connected, and we’ve

MADDIE MCGARVEY; GRAPHIC BY MSJONESNYC

HOW RURAL AMERICANS GET INTERNET

FIBER-OPTIC NETWORK

This state-of-the-art wiring uses tiny glass strands or tubes to transmit information via light beams.



avoided the brain drain of younger people leaving for good.”

Such cooperatives don't have the pressure to produce quick returns on investment, notes Geoff Feiss, the general manager of the Montana Telecommunications Association. “They can invest in areas where publicly traded companies can't justify the expense.”

Other work-arounds include municipally operated networks, where cities and towns issue bonds to cover network expansion costs. About 125 communities nationwide—most with populations under 25,000—operate such broadband utilities, says Christopher Mitchell, director of broadband for the Minneapolis-based Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Hundreds of other municipalities operate limited networks or are involved in public-private partnerships. But BroadbandNow research found that 22 states have laws that prohibit public-sector competition with for-profit telecommunications companies.

The federal government allocates roughly \$6 billion a year for rural internet access, but even those upgrades may not bring some areas up to industry broadband standards. “That is keeping rural America behind,” says U.Va. professor Ali. AARP is among the organizations pushing for more funding, emphasizing the need for reliable telehealth service to older Americans. AARP has encouraged federal and state lawmakers to allocate more for broadband infrastructure, including advocating for additional appropriations in coronavirus relief bills and emphasizing the issue's importance to the FCC. Social distancing has only amplified the issue. “This national emergency,” Feiss says, “has exposed both the benefits of broadband, and the gaps and challenges that remain.” ■

Melissa Preddy is a Michigan-based journalist whose work has also appeared in Consumers Digest and the Detroit News.

THE OTHER DIGITAL DIVIDE: COST

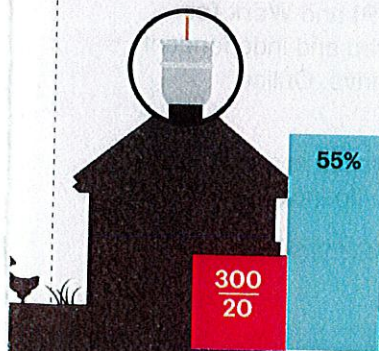
In cities and suburbs across America, a local provider will gladly connect your home to a broadband service. But the cost may be prohibitive. For half of Americans, broadband service is more than \$60 a month, according to a report from BroadbandNow, often for business reasons.

“We've found a direct relationship between the level of competition in an area and the pricing,” says Tyler Cooper, editor in chief at BroadbandNow. “In many areas, you may have one major provider that owns the phone lines and one major carrier that owns the cable line—and they know there is no point getting into bidding wars with one another.”

Broadband deserts exist in urban areas, too. Providers may decide that wiring a lower-income neighborhood isn't worth the investment. In Detroit, Sandra Stewart, 68, can get only DSL internet service over a phone line in her historic Palmer Park neighborhood. The service is spotty. If there's a streaming TV program on Amazon Prime that Stewart really wants to see, she can only view it on her phone or tablet via the cellular signal, and that method quickly eats up the monthly data allotment from her phone plan. “I'd like to get Netflix, too,” Stewart says, “but I've given up on that for now.” —M.P.

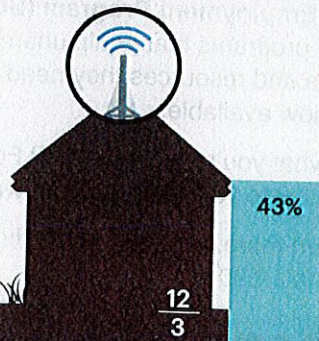
CABLE MODEM

Internet is delivered via the coaxial cable that traditionally delivers television service.



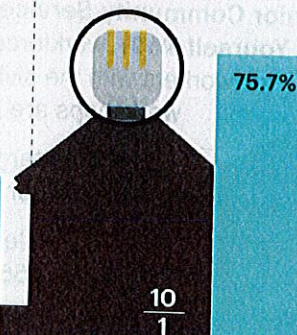
FIXED WIRELESS

The signal comes from equipment mounted on a tower; generally requires an uninterrupted line of sight between the tower and the signal receiver.



DSL

One of the original means of internet access, it connects you via existing telephone wiring.



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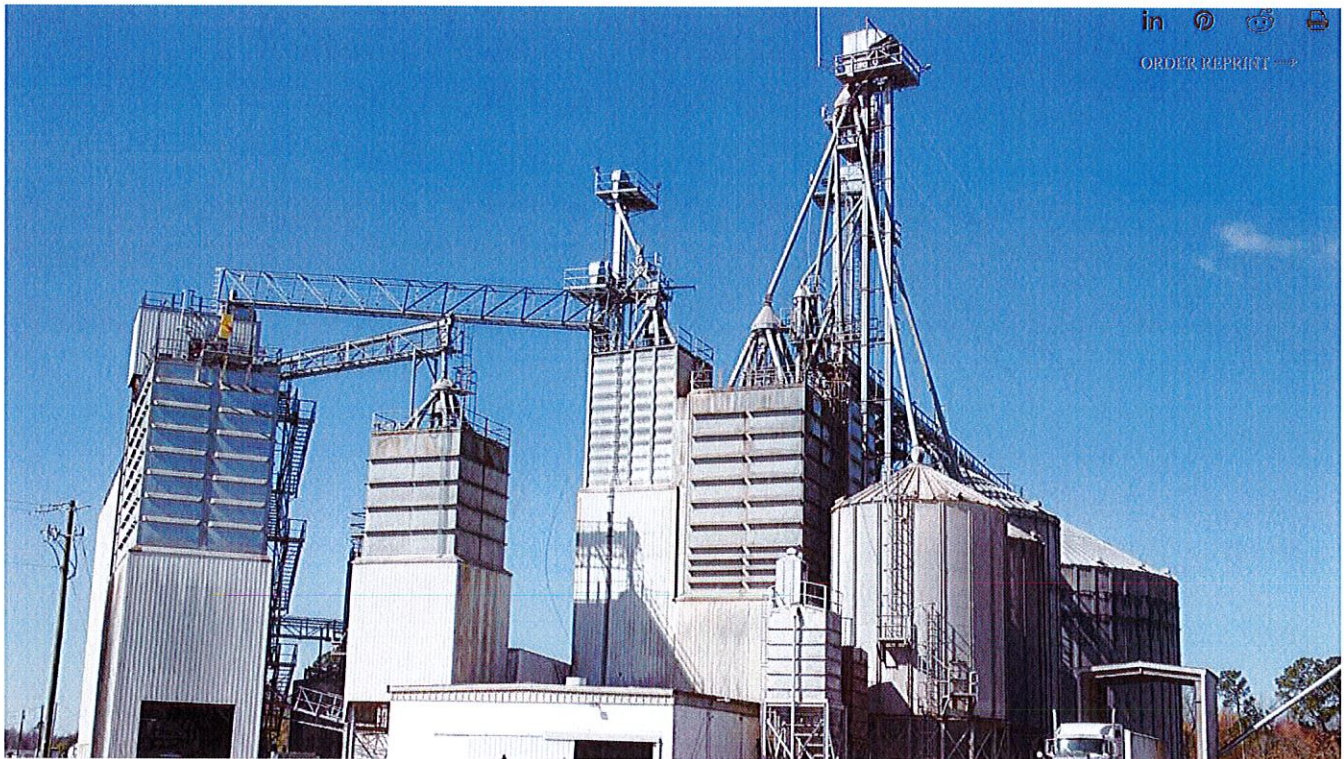
POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Faster internet is a top priority for the legislature. But how can NC get there?

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

JANUARY 25, 2021 10:46 AM, UPDATED JANUARY 26, 2021 01:21 PM

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Transmitter equipment mounted on a grain elevator in Lenoir County's Deep Run community in 2018. The equipment, from Eastern Carolina Broadband, provides a wireless signal for internet service in a five-mile radius. COLIN CAMPBELL@NCINSIDER.COM

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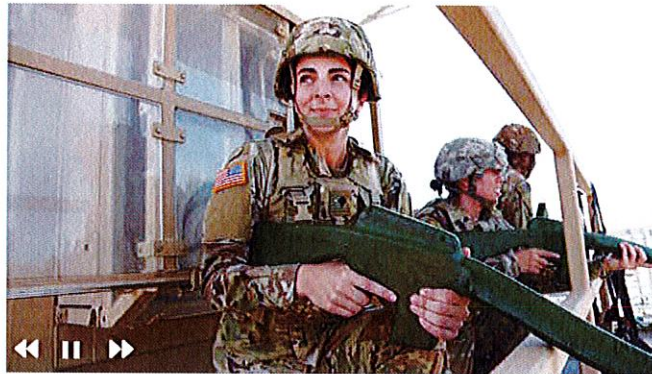
RALEIGH

Drive west from the Triangle into the far reaches of Chatham County — where suburban communities give way to farmland — and the available internet speed slows to a crawl that makes working from home into a nightmare.

In neighborhoods between Siler City and Ramseur, speeds average around 5 megabits per second — well below the 25-megabit threshold for basic broadband and a far cry from the 1,000-megabit fiber internet offered in nearby cities.

According to a survey conducted by internet provider Randolph Communications, children there struggle to complete online assignments, while remote work is next to impossible.

TOP ARTICLES



3-D printing and AI: NC State partnership with Army could bring new tech to battlefield

And don't even think about watching Netflix. "We do not even try to watch movies because of buffering," Teresa Phillips wrote in the survey to Randolph Communications, which recently applied for a state broadband grant to build fiber lines along her rural road.

The program, known as Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology, or GREAT, has been the legislature's primary tool for expanding broadband access into rural areas. So far it's helped private internet companies expand service to about 20,000 homes and businesses.

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CLAIM OFFER



Because so many internet providers applied for the latest \$30 million in grants, Randolph was among those that didn't yet receive funding, although the company still plans to expand fiber internet service in Chatham County without state dollars.

But after a year in which the COVID-19 pandemic made the digital divide even deeper, state legislators want to do more this year to expand high-speed internet. Lawmakers from both parties and from across the state have listed it among their top priorities.

Rep. Dean Arp, a Union County Republican and a co-sponsor of the GREAT grant legislation, says more funding for grants is likely. The latest application period saw qualified projects seeking \$64 million — well above the \$30 million available, so he says that means \$34 million of "shovel ready" projects are simply awaiting more action from the legislature.

So far, the grants have helped about 10% of the state's 200,000 unserved or underserved households and businesses, Arp said. "It's very specific about what it's trying to accomplish, and we haven't been able to accomplish all of that yet," he said.

But lawmakers are considering other approaches that could solve other pieces of the broadband puzzle. Sen. Paul Newton, a Republican from Cabarrus County, said he's working with the N.C. State Institute for Emerging Issues to create a stakeholder group to propose other policy solutions.

Transfer of Power



A special newsletter from our D.C. Bureau focused on transition to the Biden administration.

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The group also includes the governor’s office, Arp, Rep. Brian Turner, D-Buncombe, Sen. Kirk deViere, R-Cumberland, Sen. Jay Chaudhuri, D-Wake, and Sen. Todd Johnson, R-Union.

“I think the industry is going to be coming to me with some ideas,” including a possible tax credit or incentives program. “We’ll put that in the mix with alternatives and ideas that we haven’t even thought of.”

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE LEASING

Towns and cities will continue to push this year for an idea that so far hasn’t gained traction at the legislature: Leasing government-owned infrastructure so that private providers can use fiber lines and power poles to expand service areas.

The N.C. League of Municipalities has pushed for a bill in recent sessions, but the idea continues to face opposition from major telecom companies and some Republicans.

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Cities like Washington in Beaufort County want to be able to use existing infrastructure to attract new providers, which could result in higher speeds and lower rates.

Washington Mayor Donald Sadler said internet service in his community isn’t bad enough to qualify for the GREAT grants, but he’s heard so many complaints about the city’s one provider — Suddenlink Communications — that he joined with other nearby mayors in asking Attorney General Josh Stein to investigate. Sadler says people are paying up to \$250 per month for internet speeds well below what the company claims to provide.

With its waterfront location near the coast, Washington could attract new residents with work-from-home jobs, Sadler said, but slow internet would be a deterrent.

“We have a lot of natural resources to offer, but that could be a business person’s concerns that we don’t have the necessary services to provide.”

Legislators, however, aren’t convinced that local governments are the right solution. “There’s enough of a track record of failure and risk in that area that that’s not a smart thing to do,” Newton said.



He pointed to the example of Salisbury, which developed its own high-speed internet service but ultimately lost money and sold the network to a private company. Local governments aren’t seeking now to build and operate their own services, however, and Newton said that for infrastructure leasing, “if there are guardrails to it ... I wouldn’t rule out the possibility.”

Derek Kelly, a government affairs director for CenturyLink, said leasing government-owned infrastructure would lead to “overbuilding where there’s existing networks.”

“The unserved pockets of the state are not within city limits,” he said. He also noted that local governments are responsible for permitting broadband construction projects, so it could mean “having to go into competition with people who are approving your permit.”

Kelly said some localities are taking up to three months to approve permits, which is slowing broadband expansion efforts. That's something the legislature might need to address, he added.

Scott Mooneyham, a spokesman for the N.C. League of Municipalities, dismisses the criticism of infrastructure leasing from companies like CenturyLink.



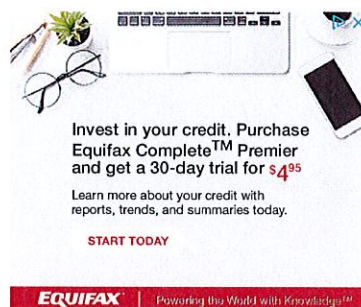
“If the big telecoms are going to rule the day, I don’t think people should waste their time on this anymore, and North Carolina can suffer the economic consequences,” he said. “The League has spent three years making the case for more solutions and all solutions that are practical.”

GRANT MONEY FOR RURAL BROADBAND

CenturyLink wants to see more GREAT grants instead, which it has been using to expand its service. It received grants recently for Franklin, Johnston, Harnett, Pamlico and Pitt counties. In Johnston, the grant will expand gigabit fiber to hundreds of homes in the rural Hardee Crossroads area north of Benson that currently only receive low-speed DSL service from CenuryLink.

Kelly said it’s been helpful that the latest grants made the state’s wealthiest Tier 3 counties eligible, because internet access in Tier 3 counties like Johnston varies dramatically from inner suburbs to the more rural communities. He wants to see that eligibility continue in future grant rounds.

The state currently bases eligibility for grants on data from Census tracts, but that’s problematic because it misses Census tracts where high-speed service isn’t available in all areas.



Perry says he wants to “take this initiative to the address level,” because “Census tract analysis is a blunt instrument.”

Future broadband initiatives, he said, will also need to consider new low-earth satellite internet services such as SpaceX’s Starlink currently launching in Canada. He sees that as a potential solution for areas that don’t have multiple providers to choose from, such as Washington.

“You suddenly see a future where the competition is brought by the private sector,” he said.

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- Recounts and the Electoral College 28 min
- Election Surprises? Wrapping Up Tuesday's Results 32 min

NEWS: QUICK TAKES

Early North Carolina broadband survey data shows mediocre access

Johnny Kampis
in Quick Takes

February 1, 2021
1:52PM

North Carolinians can now view results from an ongoing survey designed to show gaps in coverage in the state, which so far indicates a lack of access to broadband.

The North Carolina Broadband Survey is gauging the availability of wireline and wireless internet, as well as speeds, across the state using self-reported responses. As of Friday, Jan. 29, just more than 40,000 residents and business owners have responded, with about 5% of them reporting having no internet at home.

Thomas Parrish, acting secretary of the N.C. Department of Information Technology, said in a news release that he hopes launching the dashboard will help encourage others to participate in the survey.

“The survey is ongoing, and as we continue to navigate the pandemic and respond to the more critical need for high-speed internet service, it is more important than ever to help get a more accurate picture of broadband in North Carolina,” he said.

The survey can be taken either online or by phone by texting “internet” to 919-750-0553. It is available in both English and Spanish.

Jeff Surai, director of the NCDIT’s Broadband Infrastructure Office, said the department is urging everyone to take the survey – whether or not they have good broadband service – so the state can more accurately map the high-speed internet landscape. Data from the survey will better enable the state to determine areas most in need of grants from the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology program. That includes funds from pandemic relief, which, as *Carolina Journal* previously reported, required some budgeting switcheroo in an agreement between Gov. Roy Cooper and the North Carolina Legislature.

“Broadband availability is a major issue, and this data will help us provide much-needed context to the stories we hear every day from residents struggling to work, learn and interact online,” he said. “With better context, we can advocate more effectively for our unserved and underserved communities in desperate need for expanded availability and more affordable access to high-speed internet service.”

The survey has found mediocre results for broadband access in North Carolina. The median internet download speed is 16 Megabits per second while the median upload speed is 3 Mbps. The Federal Communications Commission considers broadband as download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps. Only 39% of respondents say they have adequate broadband speeds.

Respondents also say they pay a lot for internet, as the selection of “over \$125” was the most commonly chosen option at 18%. But that could include respondents mistakenly including bundled services with both cable and internet for their answer, although the question asks the price for internet only.

categories: **Business and Regulations, CJ Quick Take, Economic Growth & Development, History, K-12 Education, North Carolina**

tags: **Gov. Roy Cooper, N.C. Broadband survey, N.C. Department of Information Technology, rural broadband**

Watauga County Pay and Classification Plan

Revised/Effective 7/1/2019

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Mid-Point</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Container Site Attendant	1	\$25,298	\$31,623	\$37,948
Cook I	1	\$25,298	\$31,623	\$37,948
Custodian I	1	\$25,298	\$31,623	\$37,948
Kitchen Assistant	1	\$25,298	\$31,623	\$37,948
Utility Worker	1	\$25,298	\$31,623	\$37,948
Custodian II	2	\$26,816	\$33,520	\$40,225
Processing Assistant III	2	\$26,816	\$33,520	\$40,225
Senior Center Assistant	2	\$26,816	\$33,520	\$40,225
Cook II	3	\$28,425	\$35,532	\$42,638
Data Entry Specialist	3	\$28,425	\$35,532	\$42,638
In-Home Aide	3	\$28,425	\$35,532	\$42,638
Motor Vehicle Valuation Specialist	3	\$28,425	\$35,532	\$42,638
Office Clerk	3	\$28,425	\$35,532	\$42,638
Public Works Technician	3	\$28,425	\$35,532	\$42,638
Recycling Truck Operator	3	\$28,425	\$35,532	\$42,638
Tax Listing Clerk	3	\$28,425	\$35,532	\$42,638
Deputy Register of Deeds I	4	\$30,131	\$37,664	\$45,196
Income Maintenance Caseworker I	4	\$30,131	\$37,664	\$45,196
Office Assistant	4	\$30,131	\$37,664	\$45,196
Program Assistant - Elections	4	\$30,131	\$37,664	\$45,196
Program Assistant - Planning	4	\$30,131	\$37,664	\$45,196
Program Assistant - Recreation	4	\$30,131	\$37,664	\$45,196
Sanitation Truck Operator	4	\$30,131	\$37,664	\$45,196
Tax Mapper I	4	\$30,131	\$37,664	\$45,196
Veterans Services Assistant	4	\$30,131	\$37,664	\$45,196
Custodian Crew Chief	5	\$31,939	\$39,923	\$47,908
Deputy Tax Collector I	5	\$31,939	\$39,923	\$47,908
Equipment Operator I	5	\$31,939	\$39,923	\$47,908
License Tag Specialist	5	\$31,939	\$39,923	\$47,908
Maintenance Technician I	5	\$31,939	\$39,923	\$47,908
Administrative Assistant I	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783
Administrative Assistant I / DCI/TAC Coordinator	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783
Animal Control Officer	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783
Deputy Register Of Deeds II	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783
Equipment Operator II	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783
Finance Accounting Tech I	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783
Income Maintenance Caseworker II	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783
Jailer I	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783
Manufactured Housing Specialist	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783
Telecommunicator I	6	\$33,855	\$42,319	\$50,783

Deputy Tax Collector II	7	\$35,886	\$44,858	\$53,830
Emergency Management Technician I	7	\$35,886	\$44,858	\$53,830
Finance Accounting Tech II	7	\$35,886	\$44,858	\$53,830
Jailer II	7	\$35,886	\$44,858	\$53,830
Maintenance Mechanic II	7	\$35,886	\$44,858	\$53,830
Maintenance Technician II	7	\$35,886	\$44,858	\$53,830
Recycling Coordinator	7	\$35,886	\$44,858	\$53,830
Social Worker I	7	\$35,886	\$44,858	\$53,830
Telecommunicator II	7	\$35,886	\$44,858	\$53,830
Administrative Assistant II	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Administrative Assistant II - Sheriff	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Assistant Aquatics Director	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Business Property Appraiser II	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Chief Animal Control Officer	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Chief Deputy Register of Deeds	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Child Services Enforcement Agent II	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Conservation Technician	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Deputy Sheriff I	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Emergency Management Technician II	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
GIS Technician II	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Income Maintenance Supervisor I	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Recreation Specialist I	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Tax Appraiser I	8	\$38,040	\$47,549	\$57,059
Chief Finance Accounting Tech /Payroll	9	\$40,322	\$50,402	\$60,483
Deputy Sheriff II	9	\$40,322	\$50,402	\$60,483
E911 Addressing Technician	9	\$40,322	\$50,402	\$60,483
Jail Supervisor	9	\$40,322	\$50,402	\$60,483
Senior Center Director I	9	\$40,322	\$50,402	\$60,483
Aquatics Director	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Assistant Athletic Director	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Child Services Enforcement Supervisor I	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Detective	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Domestic Violence Officer	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Home Delivered Meals Coordinator	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
License Tag Director	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Maintenance Tech Crew Chief	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Recreation Specialist II	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Senior Center Director II	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Social Worker II	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Tax Appraiser II	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Telecommunications Supervisor	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Veteran Service Officer	10	\$42,741	\$53,427	\$64,112
Assistant Chief Jailer	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Clerk to the Board	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959

Code Enforcement Officer I	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Deputy Sheriff-Sergeant	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Deputy Sheriff-Sergeant-Civil	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Emergency Mgmt Coord/Fire Marshal	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Human Resources Coordinator	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Maintenance Mechanic Crew Chief	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Planner I	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Planner/Development Coordinator	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
POA CAP Case Manager	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Sergeant Detective	11	\$45,306	\$56,632	\$67,959
Athletic Director	12	\$48,024	\$60,030	\$72,036
Board of Elections Director	12	\$48,024	\$60,030	\$72,036
Code Enforcement Officer II	12	\$48,024	\$60,030	\$72,036
Programmer/Analyst	12	\$48,024	\$60,030	\$72,036
RN Supervisor/Assessor	12	\$48,024	\$60,030	\$72,036
Social Worker III	12	\$48,024	\$60,030	\$72,036
Appraisal Director/Re-evaluation Coordinator	13	\$50,906	\$63,632	\$76,358
Code Enforcement Officer III	13	\$50,906	\$63,632	\$76,358
Deputy Sheriff-Lieutenant	13	\$50,906	\$63,632	\$76,358
In-Home Services Supervisor	13	\$50,906	\$63,632	\$76,358
Lieutenant-Civil	13	\$50,906	\$63,632	\$76,358
Planner II	13	\$50,906	\$63,632	\$76,358
Social Worker I/A/T	13	\$50,906	\$63,632	\$76,358
Tax Collections Director	13	\$50,906	\$63,632	\$76,358
Chief Code Enforcement Officer	14	\$53,960	\$67,450	\$80,940
Chief Detention Officer	14	\$53,960	\$67,450	\$80,940
PC/Network Specialist	14	\$53,960	\$67,450	\$80,940
Chief Detective Captain	15	\$57,197	\$71,497	\$85,796
Deputy Sheriff-Captain	15	\$57,197	\$71,497	\$85,796
Emergency Services Director	15	\$57,197	\$71,497	\$85,796
Human Resources Manager	15	\$57,197	\$71,497	\$85,796
Major	16	\$60,629	\$75,787	\$90,944
Parks and Recreation Director	16	\$60,629	\$75,787	\$90,944
Project on Aging Director	16	\$60,629	\$75,787	\$90,944
Register Of Deeds	16	\$60,629	\$75,787	\$90,944
Social Worker Supervisor III	16	\$60,629	\$75,787	\$90,944
Maintenance Director	17	\$64,267	\$80,334	\$96,401
Operations Services Director	17	\$64,267	\$80,334	\$96,401
No Positions Assigned	18			
Planning & Inspections/EDC Director	19	\$72,210	\$90,263	\$108,316
Tax Administrator	19	\$72,210	\$90,263	\$108,316
County Sheriff	20	\$76,543	\$95,679	\$114,815
Finance Director	20	\$76,543	\$95,679	\$114,815
Information Technology Director	20	\$76,543	\$95,679	\$114,815

Social Services Director	21	\$81,136	\$101,420	\$121,703
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Watauga County Pay and Classification Plan

Revised/Effective 03/01/2021

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Mid-Point</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Container Site Attendant	1	31,939	39,923	47,909
Cook I	1	31,939	39,923	47,909
Custodian I	1	31,939	39,923	47,909
Kitchen Assistant	1	31,939	39,923	47,909
Utility Worker	1	31,939	39,923	47,909
Custodian II	2	33,536	41,920	50,304
Processing Assistant III	2	33,536	41,920	50,304
Senior Center Assistant	2	33,536	41,920	50,304
Cook II	3	35,213	44,016	52,819
Data Entry Specialist	3	35,213	44,016	52,819
In-Home Aide	3	35,213	44,016	52,819
Motor Vehicle Valuation Specialist	3	35,213	44,016	52,819
Office Clerk	3	35,213	44,016	52,819
Public Works Technician	3	35,213	44,016	52,819
Recycling Truck Operator	3	35,213	44,016	52,819
Tax Listing Clerk	3	35,213	44,016	52,819
Deputy Register of Deeds I	4	36,973	46,217	55,460
Income Maintenance Caseworker I	4	36,973	46,217	55,460
Office Assistant	4	36,973	46,217	55,460
Program Assistant - Elections	4	36,973	46,217	55,460
Program Assistant - Planning	4	36,973	46,217	55,460
Program Assistant - Recreation	4	36,973	46,217	55,460
Sanitation Truck Operator	4	36,973	46,217	55,460
Tax Mapper I	4	36,973	46,217	55,460
Veterans Services Assistant	4	36,973	46,217	55,460
Custodian Crew Chief	5	38,822	48,528	58,233
Deputy Tax Collector I	5	38,822	48,528	58,233
Equipment Operator I	5	38,822	48,528	58,233
License Tag Specialist	5	38,822	48,528	58,233
Maintenance Technician I	5	38,822	48,528	58,233
Administrative Assistant I	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Administrative Assistant I / DCI/TAC Coordinator	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Animal Control Officer	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Deputy Register Of Deeds II	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Equipment Operator II	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Finance Accounting Tech I	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Income Maintenance Caseworker II	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Jailer I	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Manufactured Housing Specialist	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Telecommunicator I	6	40,763	50,954	61,145
Deputy Tax Collector II	7	42,801	53,502	64,202
Emergency Management Technician I	7	42,801	53,502	64,202

Finance Accounting Tech II	7	42,801	53,502	64,202
Jailer II	7	42,801	53,502	64,202
Maintenance Mechanic II	7	42,801	53,502	64,202
Maintenance Technician II	7	42,801	53,502	64,202
Recycling Coordinator	7	42,801	53,502	64,202
Social Worker I	7	42,801	53,502	64,202
Telecommunicator II	7	42,801	53,502	64,202
Administrative Assistant II	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Administrative Assistant II - Sheriff	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Assistant Aquatics Director	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Business Property Appraiser II	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Chief Animal Control Officer	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Chief Deputy Register of Deeds	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Child Services Enforcement Agent II	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Conservation Technician	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Deputy Sheriff I	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Emergency Management Technician II	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
GIS Technician II	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Income Maintenance Supervisor I	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Recreation Specialist I	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Tax Appraiser I	8	44,941	56,177	67,412
Chief Finance Accounting Tech /Payroll	9	47,188	58,986	70,783
Deputy Sheriff II	9	47,188	58,986	70,783
E911 Addressing Technician	9	47,188	58,986	70,783
Jail Supervisor	9	47,188	58,986	70,783
Senior Center Director I	9	47,188	58,986	70,783
Aquatics Director	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Assistant Athletic Director	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Child Services Enforcement Supervisor I	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Detective	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Domestic Violence Officer	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Home Delivered Meals Coordinator	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
License Tag Director	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Maintenance Tech Crew Chief	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Recreation Specialist II	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Senior Center Director II	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Social Worker II	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Tax Appraiser II	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Telecommunications Supervisor	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Veteran Service Officer	10	49,548	61,935	74,322
Assistant Chief Jailer	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Clerk to the Board	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Code Enforcement Officer I	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Deputy Sheriff-Sergeant	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Deputy Sheriff-Sergeant-Civil	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Emergency Mgmt Coord/Fire Marshal	11	52,025	65,032	78,038

Human Resources Coordinator	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Maintenance Mechanic Crew Chief	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Planner I	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Planner/Development Coordinator	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
POA CAP Case Manager	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Sergeant Detective	11	52,025	65,032	78,038
Athletic Director	12	54,627	68,283	81,940
Board of Elections Director	12	54,627	68,283	81,940
Code Enforcement Officer II	12	54,627	68,283	81,940
Programmer/Analyst	12	54,627	68,283	81,940
RN/Cap Case Manager	12	54,627	68,283	81,940
Social Worker III	12	54,627	68,283	81,940
Appraisal Director/Re-evaluation Coordinator	13	57,358	71,697	86,037
Code Enforcement Officer III	13	57,358	71,697	86,037
Deputy Sheriff-Lieutenant	13	57,358	71,697	86,037
In-Home Services Supervisor	13	57,358	71,697	86,037
Lieutenant-Civil	13	57,358	71,697	86,037
Planner II	13	57,358	71,697	86,037
Social Worker I/A/T	13	57,358	71,697	86,037
Tax Collections Director	13	57,358	71,697	86,037
Chief Code Enforcement Officer	14	60,226	75,282	90,339
Chief Detention Officer	14	60,226	75,282	90,339
PC/Network Specialist	14	60,226	75,282	90,339
Chief Detective Captain	15	63,237	79,046	94,856
Deputy Sheriff-Captain	15	63,237	79,046	94,856
Emergency Services Director	15	63,237	79,046	94,856
Human Resources Manager	15	63,237	79,046	94,856
Major - Chief Deputy	16	66,399	82,999	99,598
Parks and Recreation Director	16	66,399	82,999	99,598
Project on Aging Director	16	66,399	82,999	99,598
Register Of Deeds	16	66,399	82,999	99,598
Social Worker Supervisor III	16	66,399	82,999	99,598
Maintenance Director	17	69,719	87,149	104,578
Operations Services Director	17	69,719	87,149	104,578
No Positions Assigned	18	73,205	91,506	109,807
Planning & Inspections/EDC Director	19	76,865	96,081	115,298
Tax Administrator	19	76,865	96,081	115,298
County Sheriff	20	80,708	100,885	121,062
Finance Director	20	80,708	100,885	121,062
Information Technology Director	20	80,708	100,885	121,062
Social Services Director	21	84,744	105,930	127,116