



FY 2026-27 Budget Highlights – Recommended Budget



REVENUES OVERVIEW

- A 2.0 cent Property Tax increase on the General Fund. One cent will generate \$8.5 million of revenue
- Sales tax revenue is \$133 million, a 2.33% increase in local sales taxes or \$3.0 million increase
- General Fund fund balance is budgeted at \$19.4 million, a \$4.5 million or 18.8% decrease
- Intergovernmental funds received in Public Health decreased by \$1.7 million (16.0% decrease) due to changing landscapes at the State and Federal level
- EMS fees for service are projected to increase 12.6%, an increase of \$2.0 million
- Changes to state legislation redirects Occupancy Tax funds to Discover Durham, decreasing funding by 1/3 for the second year in a row to \$1.4 million supporting the Capital Financing Plan Fund

EXPENDITURES OVERVIEW

- An All Funds budget of \$1,045,423,705 an Increase of \$7.0 million (0.67%)
- General Fund Budget of \$699,910,534 increasing \$10.2 million (1.48%) to support personnel, public safety, and education

Personnel Highlights

- Implementing a 2% COLA at a cost of \$3.6 million
- Increased Benefits costs to provide coverage for County employees at a cost of \$1.6 million
- Creation of 11 new positions at a cost of \$745,296
- Continued general hiring freeze to closely monitor and control expenses

Education

- DPS total funding of \$235,428,901, a 4.85% increase, includes \$10.9 million in additional County funding matching their continuation funding request for Current Expense
 - Per pupil funding increases to \$5,929, an increase of \$368
- Pre-K expansion funding of \$1.27 million for a total investment of \$10.2 million
- Durham Technical Community College's County funding increases \$378,644 (3.0%) to a total of \$12,997,305

General Government

- General Services budget increase for a new County Security contractor and seven new FTEs (approved late FY 2025-26)

Public Safety

- EMS staffing increase (10 FTEs) to add one additional 24-hour ambulance unit for a total cost of \$1.23 million
- Durham County Sheriff's Office
 - Five additional Law Enforcement Officers to maintain timely responses in the community. These positions are reallocated from detention officer positions, which will be re-established if vacancy levels decrease.
 - Inflationary increase of \$36,663 (3%) for the contract to run the Animal Shelter for a total of \$1,258,760.
- Justice Service Department
 - Human Service Clinical Counselor to facilitate expansion of mental health services at the detention center
 - Additional funding of \$42,568 to address the demand for ongoing mental health support in the detention center

Human Services

- Continuation funding of \$425,000 to sustain ongoing programming efforts for the Hayti Reborn initiative
- \$250,000 for the development and implementation of a joint comprehensive violence reduction plan with the City of Durham.

Environmental Protection

- The Solid Waste sticker fee increases \$4 to \$185 per household annually.

Vehicles

- 51 General Fund Vehicles and 4 Enterprise Fund vehicles. Total vehicle cost is \$6.8 million.

OTHER FUNDS

Sewer Utility Enterprise Fund and Stormwater Enterprise Fund

- The Sewer Utility monthly consumption rate will increase 10% - from \$8.05/hundred cubic feet to \$8.86/hundred cubic feet – which is projected to bring in revenue of more than \$21.29M.

Risk Management Fund

- Funding of \$117,631 for a Risk Analyst position to facilitate ongoing operations, including risk assessments throughout the county and management of a complex insurance portfolio

Other Tax District Highlights

- Three Fire Tax districts are recommended for increased property tax rates
 - The new Mangum Fire Service District is requesting a tax rate (4.7 cents) for the first time this fiscal year
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