Guilford County Fiscal Year 2025-26 Recommended Budget

Michael Halford County Manager May 15, 2025



Guilford County Government

FY2026 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026



Guilford County

STATE of NORTH CAROLINA

















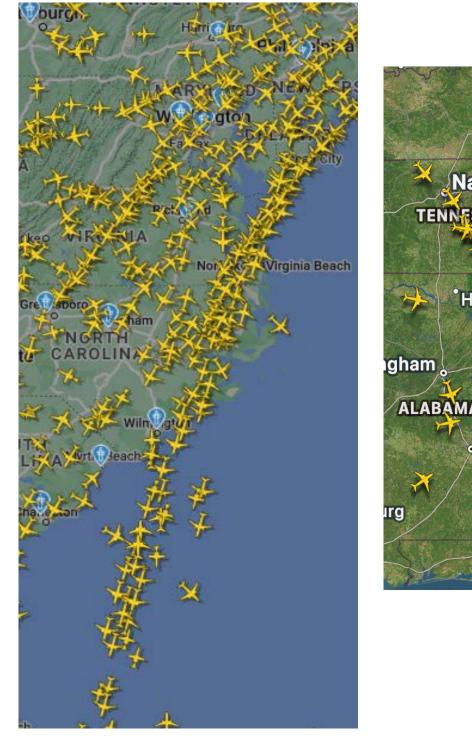
Our Core Values

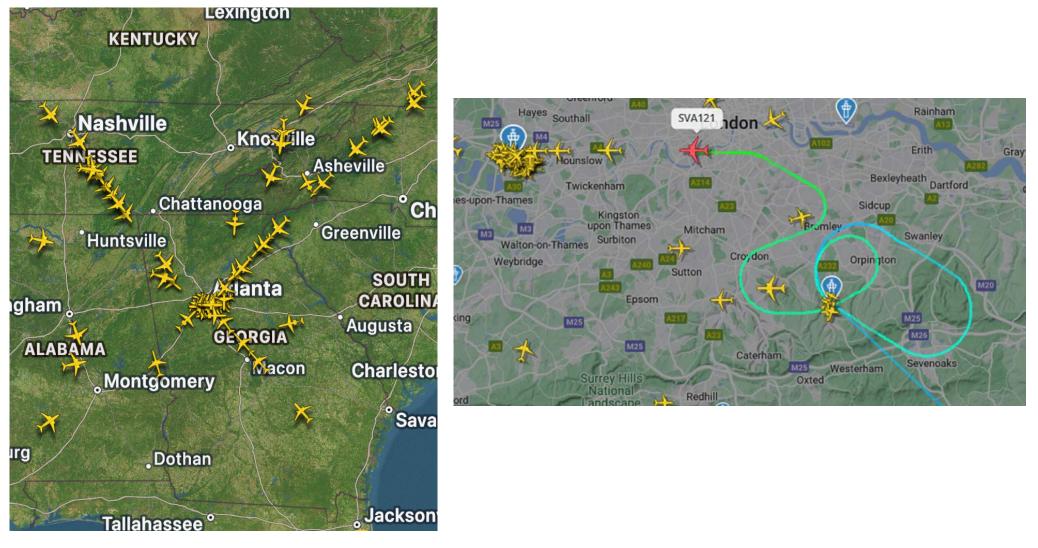
Transparency & Communication Equity & Inclusion Accountability Service & Outcomes Excellence Our People Matter



9:00 am, January 16, 2025







Guilford County Government

3



How do they do it?



Choose where to fly the planes.



Fly the planes.

Guilford County Government





Their Navigation Chart



Guilford County Government

Our Navigation Chart One Guilford



Strong Community

Empowering Successful People to thrive in a Strong Community supported by Quality Government

Successful People

<u>8</u>

Quality Government



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One Guilford – Our Destination

Successful People

Guilford County is made up of thriving Successful People who have equitable access to a range of coordinated social, physical, and behavioral health services and partnerships that meet them where they are to support their life journeys.

Our education and credentialing systems produce graduates with high academic achievement and skill levels that allow them to compete successfully in our thriving job market and support themselves and their families.

Our residents are healthy, educated, housed, and employed throughout their lives. Communities within our county are connected and our residents are engaged, supported and fulfilled.

Strong Community

Guilford County is a Strong Community that protects the safety and security of its residents through strategically coordinated and professional public safety services.

We have strong and inclusive local and regional economies; a clean environment with quality recreational outlets; and vibrant arts, culture, and entertainment options. Our community has a continuum of safe and affordable housing and a strong safety net for those who are experiencing housing insecurity.

We have quality public infrastructure that is accessible to all ages and abilities and is equitably distributed across the county. Guilford County is an attractive, fun, and diverse community that welcomes newcomers and retains our home-grown talent. People readily choose to live and raise families here.

Quality Government

Guilford County is a fiscally-sound Quality Government that promotes transparency, equity, accountability, and efficiency, meaning our government is a trusted and inclusive partner that is genuinely engaged with and reflective of our community.

We are a highly sought-after organization that values and supports a high-performing, professional, thoughtful, and innovative workforce where our team members are excited to work. We provide data-informed, high-quality strategic leadership that supports resilient and sustainable services while optimizing and safeguarding the public's assets.

Guilford County is a community of firsts and is regularly recognized for its unique and effective programs. Our team members and residents enjoy safe public facilities that meet the service, access, and technological needs of our community.



One Guilford – Our Destination

The Board identified 15 separate goals that broadly define the Board's desired outcomes for the community. Essentially, it decided where it would like to fly the planes.

	Successful People		Strong Community		Quality Government
1.	Ensure our social, physical, and behavioral health services are coordinated, easily accessed, and effective.	1.	Maintain safe and secure communities through strategically coordinated and professional public safety services.	1.	Be good stewards of the County's money and other assets to meet the service, access, and technology needs of our teams and
2.	Promote and enhance the health of our residents and community.	2.	Work with stakeholders to support a continuum of safe, adequate, and stable	2.	community. Develop systems that are data-informed,
3.	Ensure safety and promote self-sufficiency and permanency in the lives of adults,	3.	housing. Expand and diversify the local and		innovative, and effective to support high quality services and outcomes.
4.	children, and families. Provide a continuum of behavioral		regional economies and create quality jobs that provide opportunities for all	3.	engagement in County services, initiatives, and
	healthcare services to improve residents' mental well-being and reduce substance	4.	residents. Enhance residents' quality of life through		resources through transparent and trustworthy communication.
5.	misuse. Support an education and credentialing continuum that produces graduates with	5.	vibrant recreational, cultural, and entertainment opportunities. Ensure safe, secure, and clean	4.	Recruit, retain, and advance high-performing, and innovative teams that are reflective of our community.
	high academic achievement and skill levels to successfully compete in the job market.		environments through responsible growth, development, and	5.	
			management.		development and initiatives.





One Guilford – FY 25-26 Strategic Destinations 8

	Successful People		Strong Community		Quality Government
	Ensure our social, physical, and behavioral health services are coordinated, easily accessed, and effective. Promote and enhance the health of our	1. 2.	through strategically coordinated and professional public safety services.	1.	Be good stewards of the County's money and other assets to meet the service, access, and technology needs of our teams and community.
3.	residents and community. Ensure safety and promote self-sufficiency and permanency in the lives of adults, children, and families.	3.	continuum of safe, adequate, and stable housing. Expand and diversify the local and regional economies and create quality jobs that	2.	Develop systems that are data-informed, innovative, and effective to support high quality services and outcomes. Promote community understanding of and
	Provide a continuum of behavioral healthcare services to improve residents' mental well-being and reduce substance misuse.	4.	provide opportunities for all residents. Enhance residents' quality of life through vibrant recreational, cultural, and entertainment opportunities.	4.	engagement in County services, initiatives, and resources through transparent and trustworthy communication. Recruit, retain, and advance high-
5.	Support an education and credentialing continuum that produces graduates with high academic achievement and skill levels to successfully compete in the job market.	5.	Ensure safe, secure, and clean environments through responsible growth, development, and management.	5.	performing, and innovative teams that are reflective of our community. Promote strategic leadership to address broad system-level opportunities to advance County development and initiatives.



One Guilford – Our Strategic Boarding Passes

Successful People

- Ensure safety and promote self-sufficiency and permanency in the lives of adults, children, and families.
- Support an education and credentialing continuum that produces graduates with high academic achievement and skill levels to successfully compete in the job market.

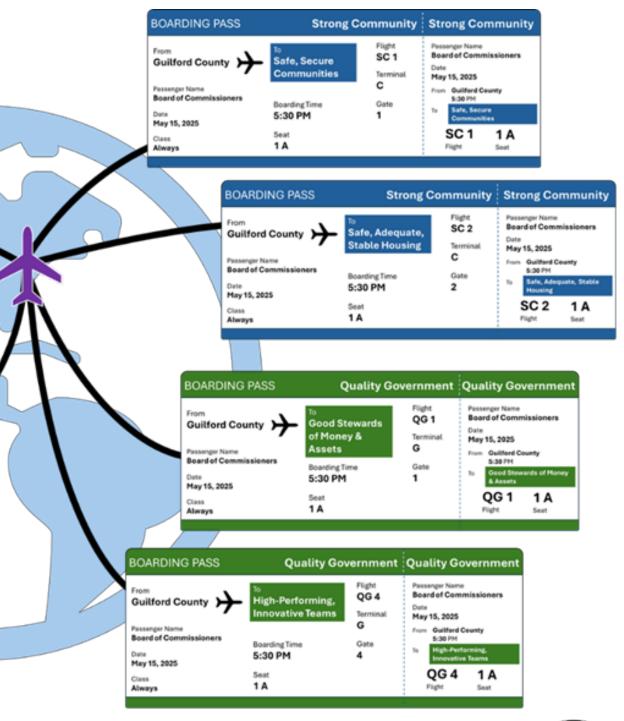
Strong Community

- Maintain safe and secure communities through strategically coordinated and professional public safety services.
- Work with stakeholders to support a continuum of safe, adequate, and stable housing.

Quality Government

- Be good stewards of the County's money and other assets to meet the service, access, and technology needs of our teams and community.
- Recruit, retain, and advance high-performing, and innovative teams that are reflective of our community.







Some of our flight parameters...

The Recommended Budget was developed using these guidelines informed by Board discussions and feedback:

- Protect service performance & operational resiliency improvements made possible by our compensation plan.
- Shore up core county functions, ensure proper support of mandates, and at least maintain current education operating funding and \$2 billion capital model.
- Maintain county services with no personnel reductions.
- Continue to enhance the County's physical and cyber security.
- Reduce reliance on fund balance to support recurring expenses and balance the budget.
- Consider use of bond model flexibility to protect the County's ability to provide and enhance other services for our residents and limit change in property tax rate to provide predictability and stability for our residents and businesses.





One Guilford – Takeoff

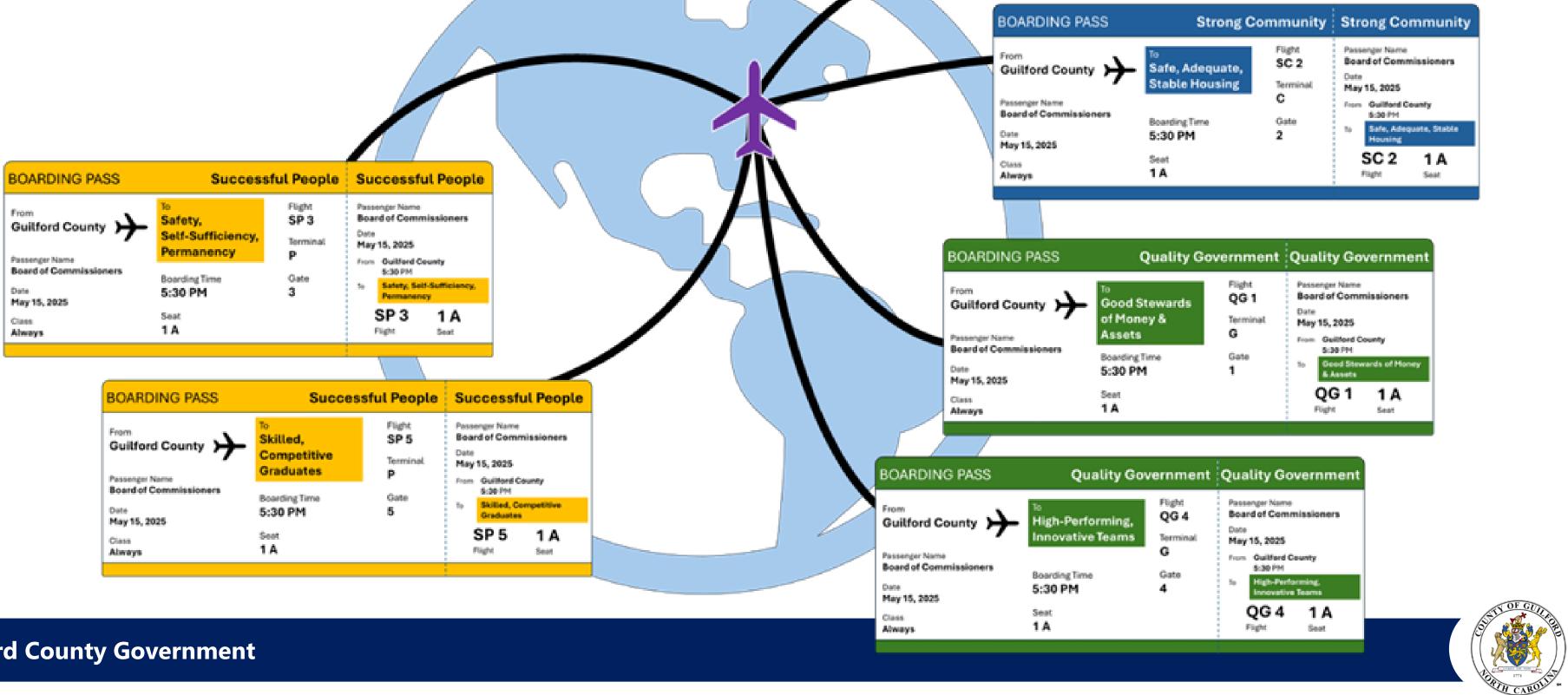
From

Passenger Name

Date May 15, 2025

Class

Abways



Guilford County Government



Flight SP 3

BOARDING PASS	Successful People			Successful People		
From Guilford County	To Safety, Self-Sufficiency,	Flight SP 3 Terminal	Boa Date	enger Name rd of Comn 15, 2025	nissioners	
Passenger Name Board of Commissioners	Permanency Bearding Time	P Gate	-	m Guilford County 5:30 PM		
Date May 15, 2025	Boarding Time 5:30 PM	3	То	Safety, Sel Permanen	f-Sufficiency, cy	
Class Always	Seat 1 A			SP 3 Flight	1 A Seat	





Goal 3: Ensure safety and promote self sufficiency and permanency in the lives of adults, children, and families.

Successfully completed the requirements of the GCDSS Child Welfare Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that was approved in July 2023.

This budget supports...

- Expanding Children's Services for Assessments & Foster Care by 26 positions to help move children to permanency quickly and with high quality. (\$2.3 million/\$1.15 million net county).
- Expands funding for Foster Care placements associated with service growth, placement costs, and length of stay (\$2.0 million / \$1.2 million net county).
- Adds 8 positions in Social Services to support Food and Nutrition Services application processing (\$0.6 million/\$0.3 million net county).
- Add three (3) positions in Social Services to more quickly process applications to connect children/families to quality daycare (\$0.3 million/\$0 net county funds)



BOARDING PASS	Succes	sful People	Su	ccessf	ul People
From Guilford County	To Safety, Self-Sufficiency,	Flight SP 3 Terminal	Boa Date		nissioners
Passenger Name Board of Commissioners	Permanency	P	From	rom Guilford County 5:30 PM	
Date May 15, 2025	Boarding Time 5:30 PM	Gate 3	То	Safety, Se Permanen	lf-Sufficiency, cy
Class Always	Seat 1 A			SP 3	1 A Seat





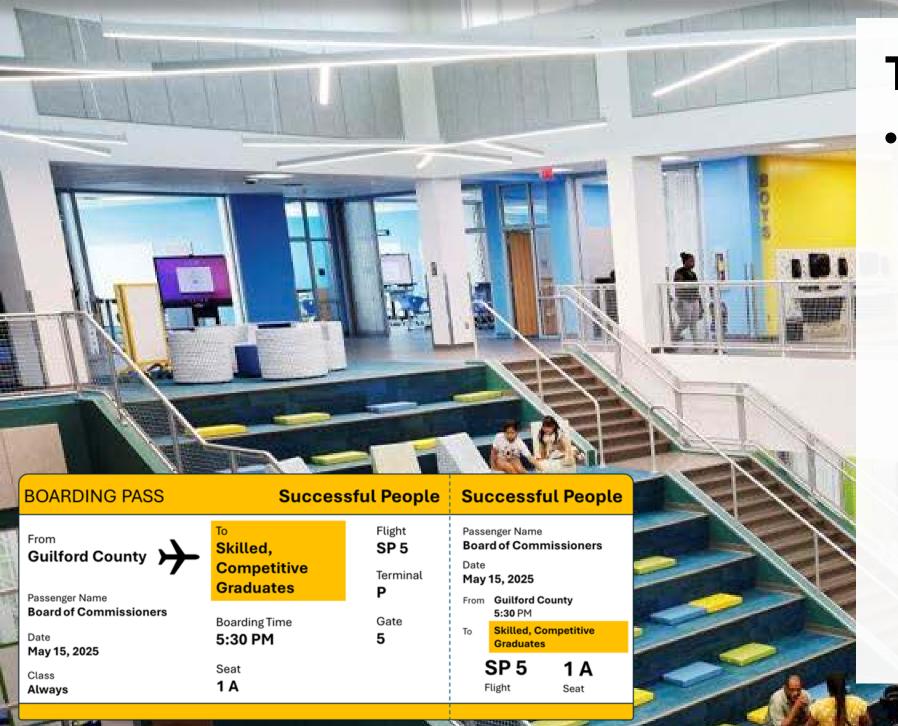
Flight SP 5

BOARDING PASS	RDING PASS Success			ccessful People	
From Guilford County	To Skilled, Competitive Graduates	Flight SP 5 Terminal P	Boa Date May	y 15, 2025	
Board of Commissioners Date May 15, 2025	Boarding Time 5:30 PM	Gate 5	From To	Guilford County 5:30 PM Skilled, Competitive Graduates	
Class Always	Seat 1 A			SP5 1A Flight Seat	





Goal 5: Support an education and credentialing continuum that produces graduates with high academic achievement and skill levels to successfully compete in the job market.



This budget supports...

- 25.

 - construction.

Guilford County Government

Allocates \$464 million for Guilford County Schools – an increase of \$32 million over the total allocation in FY 2024-

o \$272.7 million to support the Guilford County Board of Education's highest priorities, including an operating increase of \$2.5 million to support growth in Charter School funding.

o \$50 million to support capital outlay funded through bond proceeds, an increase of \$40 million.

 \$87.8 million to meet existing debt service requirements, funding through a mixture of county funds, bond premium, and fund balance in the debt service fund.

• Setting aside \$53.2 million to continue planned investment in historic \$2 Billion bond referendum for school capital

Featured Photo: Guilford County Schools – Claxton Elementary



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Goal 5: Support an education and credentialing continuum that produces graduates with high academic achievement and skill levels to successfully compete in the job market.

This budget supports...

- Allocates \$31.4 million for GTCC an increase of \$2.1 million over the total allocation in FY 2024-25.
 - \$19.4 million to support GTCC's Board of Trustees' highest priorities, an increase of \$0.4 million.
 - o \$1.55 million to support capital outlay, from County Building Construction Fund.
 - \$10.4 million to support existing debt service requirements and build capacity, which could support the \$11.1 million committed for phase one of the Aviation Training Center.





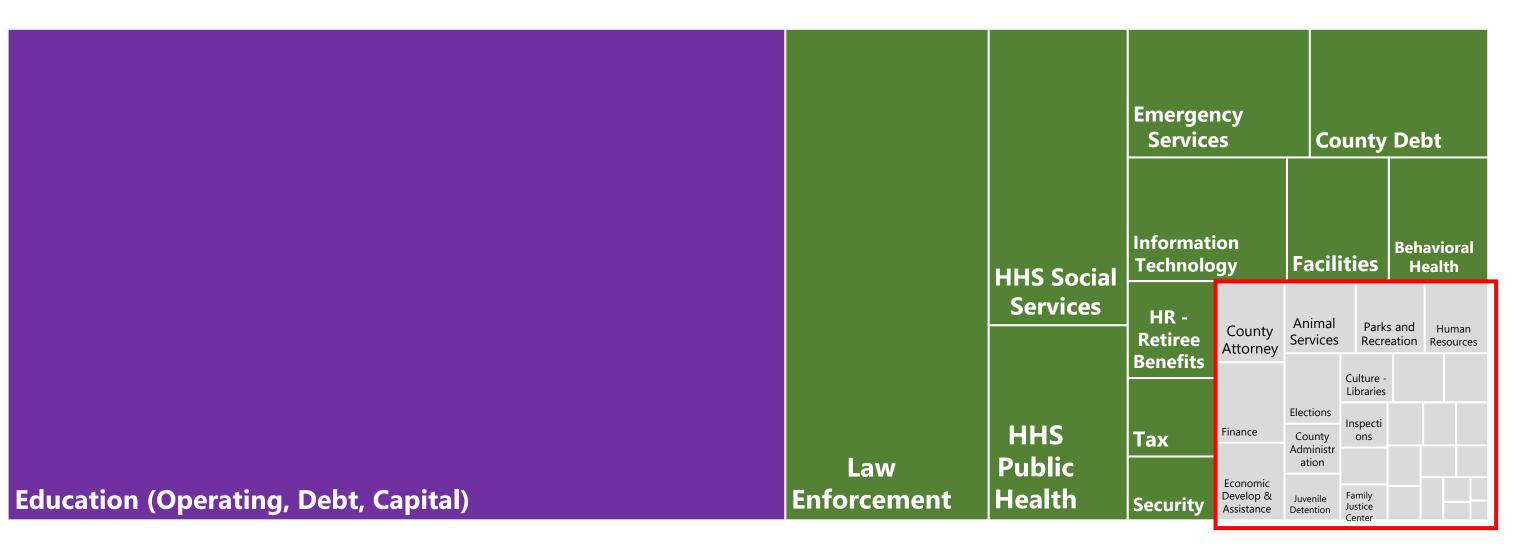
Guilford County Government



16

Goal 5: Support an education and credentialing continuum that produces graduates with high academic achievement and skill levels to successfully compete in the job market.

To fully fund the **Board of Education** and **Board of Trustee's** prior funding + additional requests, without a tax rate increase, would result in the elimination of an equivalent of almost 75% of county departments, including many providing mandated services.



Guilford County Government

~\$58 million represents:

- County Attorney
- Finance
- Economic Develop & Assistance
- Animal Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Human Resources
- Elections
- County Administration HHS Administration
- Juvenile Detention
- Culture Libraries
- Planning and Development
- Coordinated Services
- Inspections
- Commissioners & Clerk to the Board
- Family Justice Center
- Court Services
- Communications
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship
- Budget & Management Services
- Solid Waste

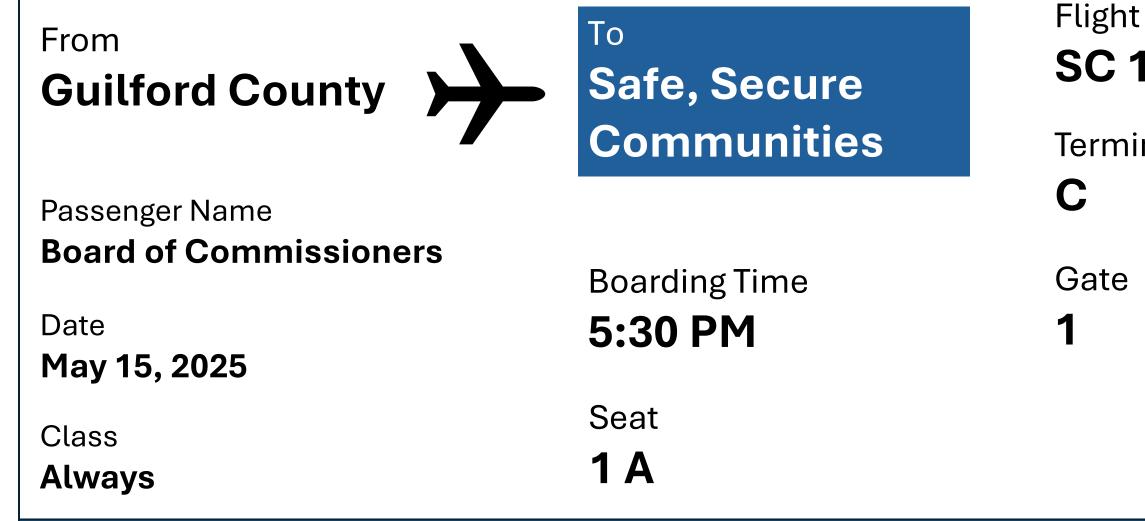
- Internal Audit
- Cooperative Extension Service
- Fleet Operation
- Veteran Services
- Soil & Water Conservation
- Child Support



Flight SC 1

BOARDING PASS

Strong Commu



Guilford County Government



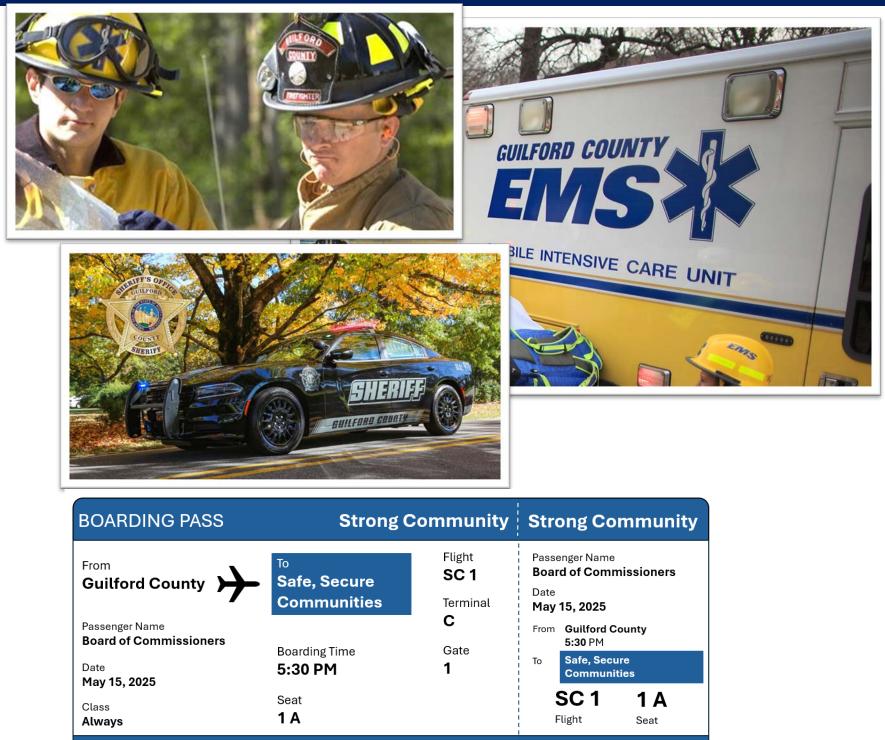
Strong Community
Passenger Name Board of Commissioners
Date May 15, 2025
From Guilford County 5:30 PM
To Safe, Secure Communities
SC11AFlightSeat

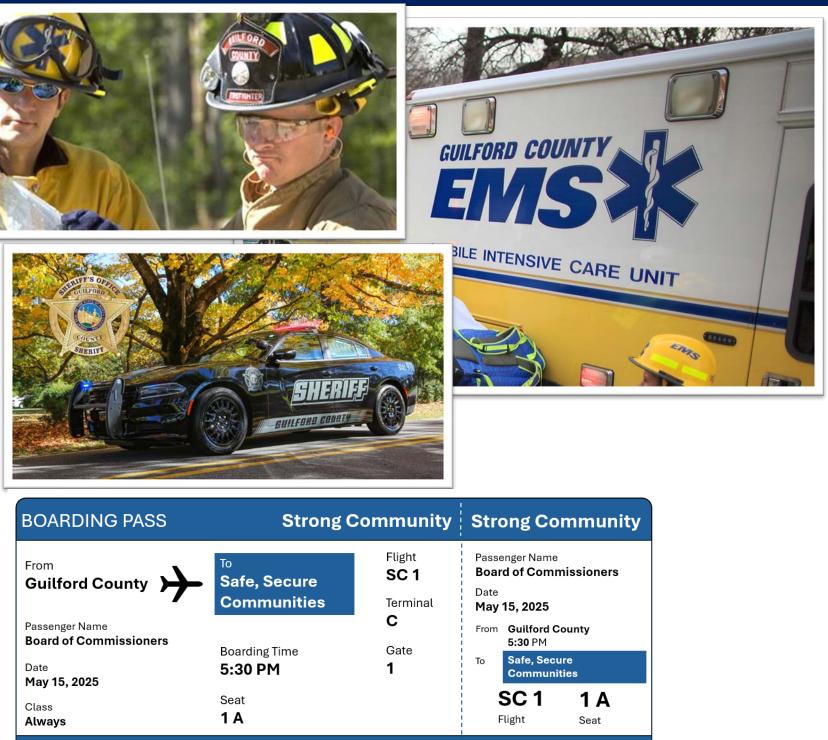


Goal 1: Maintain safe and secure communities through strategically coordinated and professional public safety services.

This budget supports...

- Improving our emergency medical response capability by adding an additional 24 positions to support four (4) additional peak demand units with a goal to improve associated response times and reduce unsustainable workloads (\$2.1 million/ \$0.5 million net county).
- Strengthening operational and fiscal resiliency of fire districts by including the 13 rate increases requested by fire district boards.
- Fund public safety asset plans with recurring revenue, including regular vehicle replacements, major equipment, and specific public safety specialty needs and major software upgrades.
- Support building and grounds security (\$0.65 million)





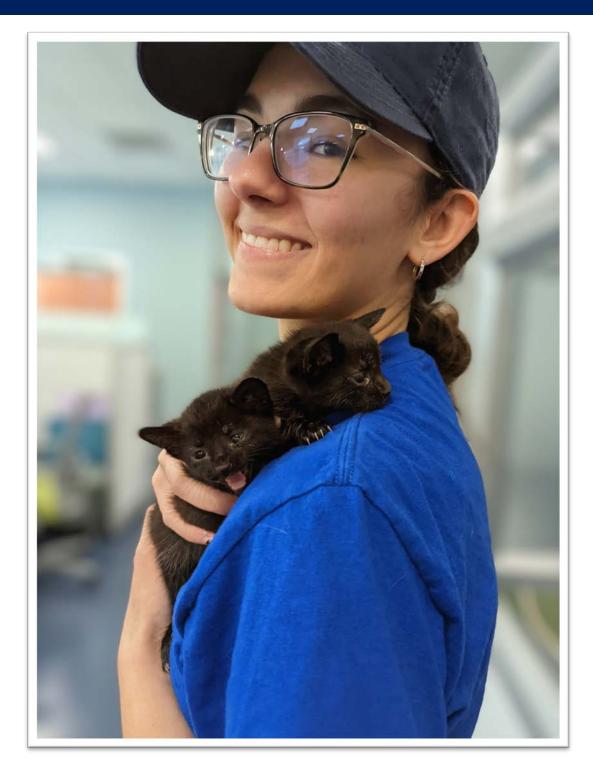




Featured Photo: Guilford County Emergency Medical Services



Goal 1: Maintain safe and secure communities through strategically coordinated and professional public safety services.



This budget supports...

Stabilizing the existing operating model including:

- two (2) Animal Control specialist to provide additional hours of (4pm -12am)
- three (3) Animal Techs to increase enrichment and daily care of animals
- two (2) positions to support customer service and manage daily customer transactions
- one (1) Foster Rescue Coordinator,
- stabilize part-time funding

(\$0.6 million/\$0.49 million net county funds)

Guilford County Government





BOARDING PASS	Strong C	Community	Strong Communit		
From Guilford County	™ Safe, Secure Communities	Flight SC 1 Terminal	Boa Date	enger Name Ird of Commissioners 9 7 15, 2025	
Passenger Name Board of Commissioners	De audiu e Time	C Gate	From	m Guilford County 5:30 PM	
Date May 15, 2025	Boarding Time 5:30 PM	1	То	Safe, Secure Communities	
Class Always	Seat 1 A		1	SC1 1A Flight Seat	

Featured Photos: Guilford County Animal Services



Flight SC 2

BOARDING PASS	Strong C	community	Str	ong Community	
From Guilford County	To Safe, Adequate, Stable Housing	Flight SC 2 Terminal	Boa Date	enger Name rd of Commissioners 7 15, 2025	
Passenger Name Board of Commissioners		C	From		
Date May 15, 2025	Boarding Time 5:30 PM	Gate 2	То	Safe, Adequate, Stable Housing	
Class Always	Seat 1 A			SC2 1A Flight Seat	

Guilford County Government





Goal 2: Work with stakeholders to support a continuum of safe, adequate, and stable housing.



BOARDING PASS	Strong C	Community	Strong Communi		
From Guilford County	™ Safe, Adequate, Stable Housing	Flight SC 2 Terminal	Boa Date	senger Name ard of Commissioners e y 15, 2025	
Passenger Name Board of Commissioners	BoardingTime	C Gate	From	Guilford County 5:30 PM	
Date May 15, 2025	5:30 PM	2	То	Safe, Adequate, Stable Housing	
Class Always	1 A			Flight Seat	

This budget supports...

- earnings).

Guilford County Government



• Existing efforts to support the continuum of care, including providing regional leadership to address homelessness.

• Address systemic issues contributing to chronic homelessness by expanding the Continuum of Care to become the Collaborative Applicant/Lead Agency with the addition of 3 new positions and converting 3 positions from ARPA funding (\$0.6 million, offset with investment



Flight QG 1

BOARDING PASS

From Guilford County	To Good Stewards of Money & Assets	Flight QG 1 Termina G
Board of Commissioners	Boarding Time	Gate
Date May 15, 2025	5:30 PM	1
Class Always	Seat 1 A	







Goal 1: Be good stewards of the County's money and other assets to meet the service, access, and technology needs of our teams and community.

This budget supports...

- Protecting the county's fiscal resiliency by reducing fund balance use for recurring expenses by \$15.3 million.
- Funding critical information technology to ensure operational resilience and strengthen cyber security and disaster recovery, funded with \$2.44 million in ARPA investment earnings, and \$1.25 million to address capital needs at the Truist Building utilizing County Building Construction Fund fund balance.
- The county's debt, including for the \$41 million in two-thirds bonds to address county capital, vehicle replacements, and radio replacements.



Featured Photo: Guilford County Facilities' -New Governmental Plaza Rendering



From Guilford C

Passenger Nam Board of Com

Date **May 15, 2025**

Class **Always**





NG PASS	Quality Go	Quality Government	
County me mmissioners	To Good Stewards of Money & Assets Boarding Time	Flight QG 1 Terminal G Gate	Passenger Name Board of Commissioners Date May 15, 2025 From Guilford County 5:30 PM
5	Boarding Time 5:30 PM Seat 1 A	1	To Good Stewards of Money & Assets QG 1 1A Flight Seat

Flight QG 4

BOARDING PASS

Quality Governm

From Guilford County	To High-Performing,	Flight QG 4
	Innovative Teams	Termina
Passenger Name		G
Board of Commissioners	Boarding Time	Gate
Date May 15, 2025	5:30 PM	4
Class Always	Seat 1 A	



nent	Quality Government					
Ļ	Passenger Name Board of Commissioners					
nal	Date May 15, 2025					
	From Guilford County 5:30 PM					
	To High-Performing, Innovative Teams					
	QG4 1A					
	Flight Seat					



Goal 4: Recruit, retain, and advance diverse, high-performing, and innovative teams that are reflective of our community.

This budget supports...

- *Protect service performance & operational resiliency* improvements made possible by our compensation *plan* through a performance-based merit (\$2.7 million/\$2.4 million net county) & compensation maintenance (\$2.0 million/\$1.8 million net county).
- State mandated retirement increases \bullet
- Honor Board direction by adding \$1.0 million in recurring revenue to support retiree health insurance.



Passenger Name

Date May 15, 2025

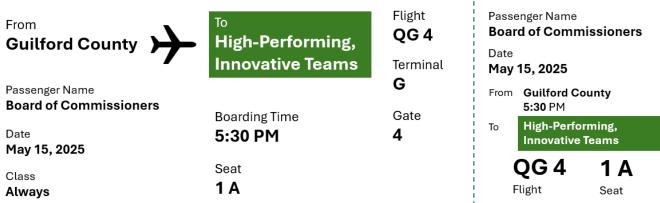
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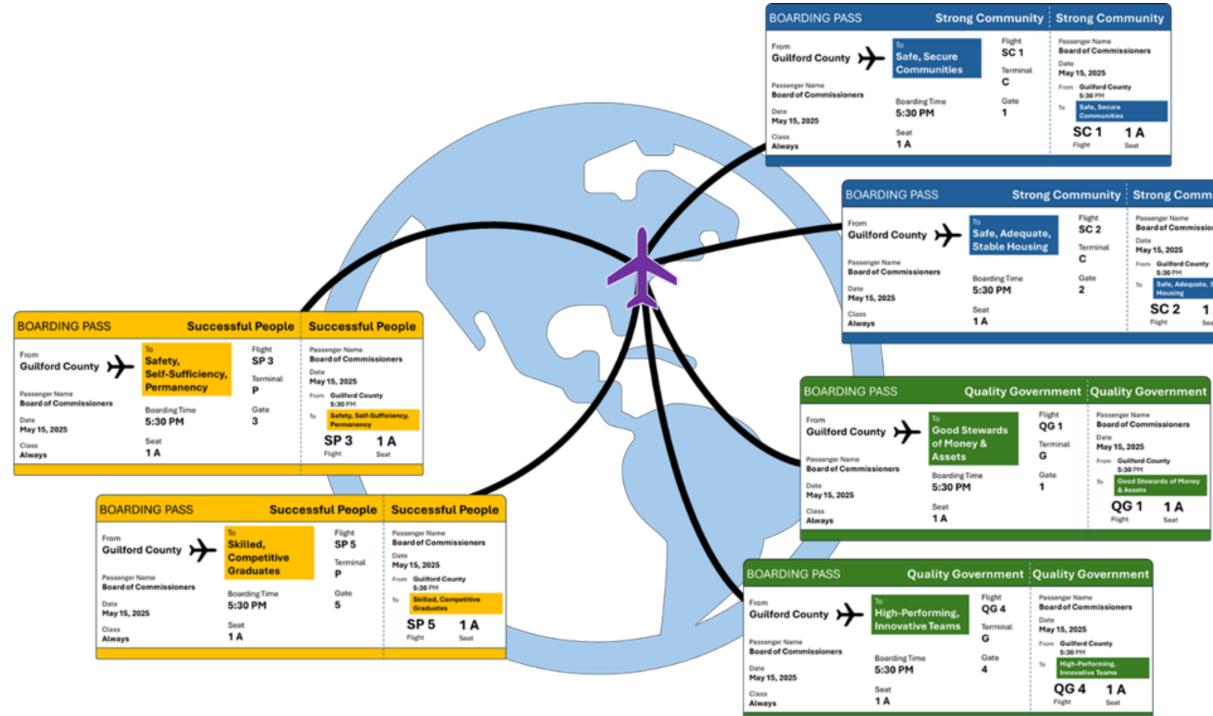
BOARDING PASS

Quality Government Quality Government





One Guilford – Recommended Strategic Priorities



Guilford County Government

Strong C	ommunity	Strong Community		
iecure unities Time M	Flight SC 1 Terminal C Gate 1	Passenger Name Board of Commissioners Date May 15, 2025 From Guilferd County 5:00 PM To Safe, Sectore Communities SC1 1AA Fight Seat		

s	Strong C	Strong Community		
≻ ™	To Safe, Adequate, Stable Housing BoardingTime 5:30 PM Seat 1 A	Flight SC 2 Terminal C Gate 2	Passenger Name Board of Commissioners Date May 15, 2025 Free: Guilderd County 5:30 PM To Safe, Adequart, Stable Housing SC 2 1A Fight Seat	

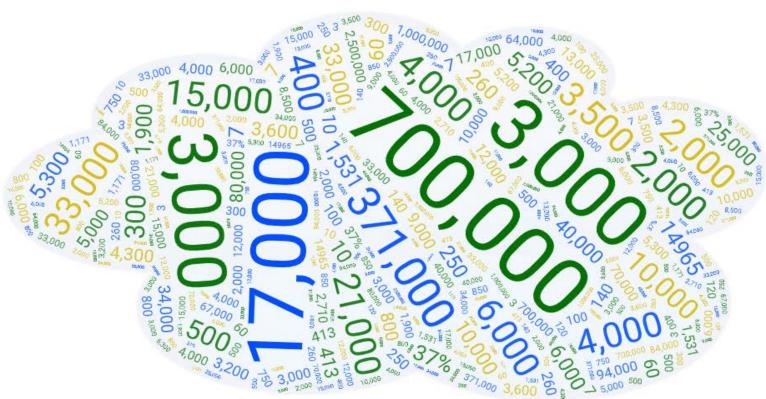


All the Other Flights



Other work continues..

- To support the remaining goals established through the vision statement
- Support the over 240 distinct services, including over 120 mandated services, delivered by departments daily. This includes Core county functions in Social Services, Public Health, Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, Behavioral Health, Tax, Veteran Services, Board of Elections, Child Support.







Other Key Investments

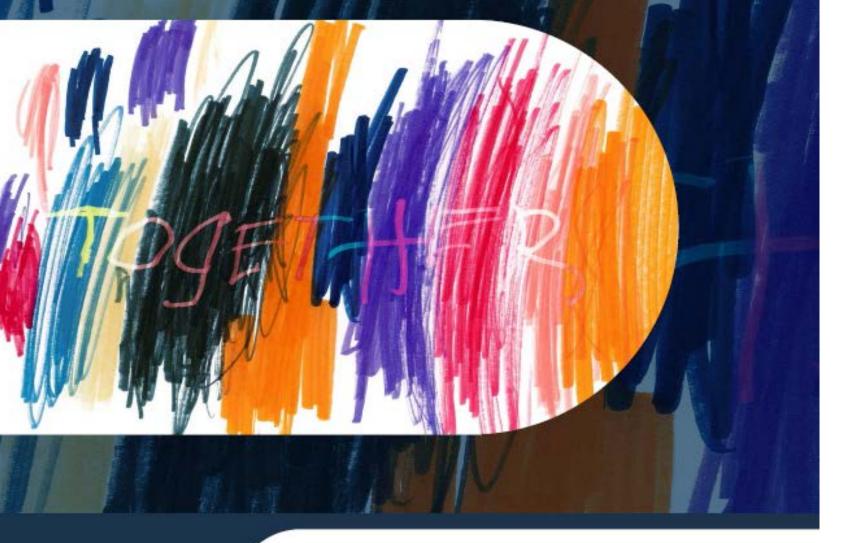
- \$2.8 million to continue implementing strategies to address the Opioid Crisis • Finalizing the Parks Master Plan in the Fall of 2025. Includes one position funded through part-time and existing operating budget reductions at Bur-Mil Park to provide consistent support, reduce workload strain, and improve internal operations.
- \$2.4 million to fund local library systems in Greensboro, High Point, Gibsonville and Jamestown
- \$1.74 million to support Community Based Organizations that provide a range of services to enhance the community.
- Maximizes use of the Tax Revaluation Fund to support aerial imagery and Appeal Pro software (\$0.2 million/\$0 net county funds)





FY2026 **RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026



Guilford County STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA





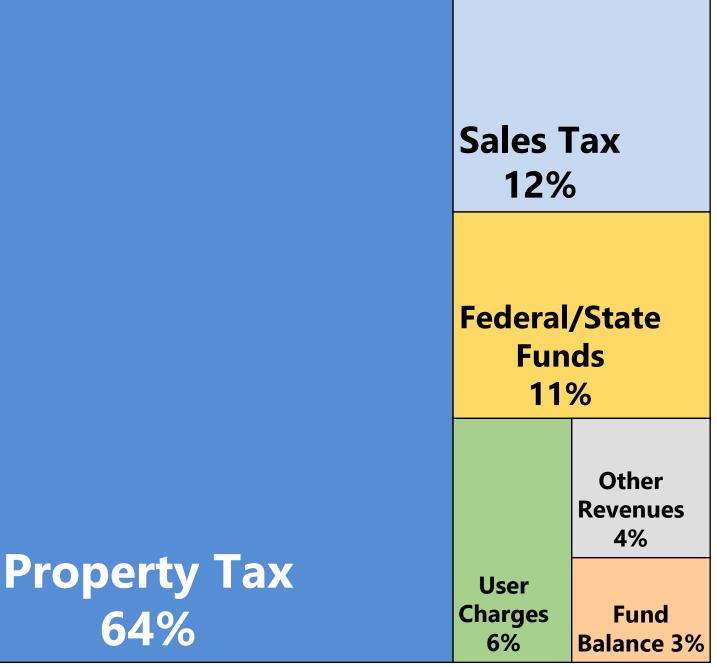
Budget at a Glance



Fiscal Year 2025-26 Recommended Budget

- ✓ Maintains the Tax Rate at \$0.7305 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation
- ✓ Recommends a General Fund budget of \$841,683,000, a less than 1% increase over prior year adopted.
- \checkmark Identifies operational efficiencies by minimizing growth in operating budgets
- \checkmark Makes targeted enhancements to public safety functions, core county operations, and restores major equipment, technology, and vehicle replacement funding
- \checkmark Increases operating support for education partners, while continuing investments in capital and required debt service payments.







FY2026 Recommended Budget Summary: ALL FUNDS (in millions)

(in millions)	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26		
(in millions)	Budget	Budget		
General Fund	\$833.7	\$841.7		
ARPA Enabled	\$41.1	\$17.7		
Debt Service	\$128.9	\$121.7		
DSS Rep Payee	\$4.0	\$4.0		
Fines & Forfeitures	\$4.0	\$4.0		
Opioid Settlement	\$0.9	\$2.8		
Room Occ. & Tourism Development	\$10.0	\$10.0		
Rural Fire Districts	\$35.2	\$35.8		
Tax Revaluation	\$0.5	\$0.9		
County Building Construction	\$0.0	\$15.9		
School Building Construction	\$14.0	\$55.6		
Community Development Fund	\$0.0	\$3.0		
Grants	\$0.0	\$1.3		
Total	\$1,072.3	\$1,114.4		
Less Transfers	(\$69.8)	(\$49.7)		
Net Total	\$1,002.5	\$1,064.7		
Internal Service Fund	\$61.5	\$62.7		



vs. FY25	vs. FY25
Adopted (\$)	Adopted (%)
\$8.0	1%
(\$23.4)	(57%)
(\$7.2)	(6%)
\$0.0	0%
\$0.0	0%
\$1.9	211%
\$0.0	0%
\$0.6	2%
\$0.4	80%
\$15.9	100%
\$41.6	297%
\$3.0	100%
\$1.3	100%
\$42.1	4%
\$20.1	(29%)
\$62.2	6%
\$1.2	2%



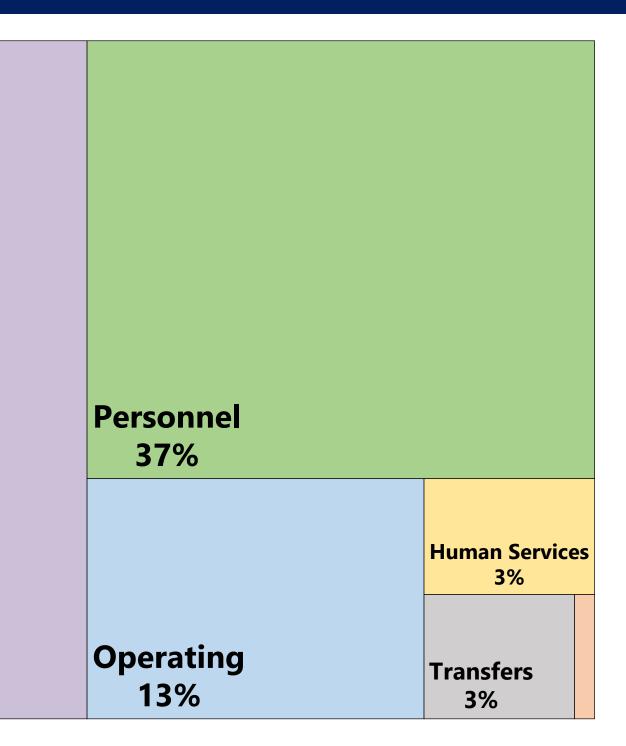
Fiscal Year 2025-26 Recommended Budget

Department	FY2026 Budget	% Budget	\$ per capita	Department	FY2026 Budget	% Budget	\$ per capita
Education	\$360,267,200	43%	\$655	Parks and Recreation	\$6,095,756	1%	\$11
GCS - Operating	\$272,706,000	32%	\$496	Human Resources	\$4,254,357	1%	\$8
GCS - Debt	\$4,750,000	1%	\$9	Elections	\$4,091,968	0%	\$7
GCS – Honor Capital	\$53,173,000	6%	\$97	County Administration	\$2,600,022	<1%	\$5
GTCC - Operating	\$19,428,000	2%	\$35	Juvenile Detention	\$4,729,360	<1%	\$9
GTCC - Debt	\$10,210,200	1%	\$19	Culture - Libraries	\$2,417,964	<1%	\$4
Plus \$71.8 million for GC				Planning and Dev.	\$2,480,762	<1%	\$5
Plus \$50.0 million for GCS capital is included in capital fund Plus \$0.2 million for GTCC is accounted for in debt fund			Coordinated Services	\$3,547,224	<1%	\$6	
Plus \$1.55 million for GT				Inspections	\$3,612,777	<1%	\$7
Law Enforcement	\$100,511,868	12%	\$183	Commissioners & Clerk to the Board	\$1,640,514	<1%	\$3
Social Services	\$105,780,068	13%	\$192	Family Justice Center	\$1,716,153	<1%	\$3
Public Health	\$56,775,057	7%	\$103	Court Services	\$1,422,894	<1%	\$3
Emergency Services	\$47,777,001	6%	\$87	Communications	\$1,314,233	<1%	\$2
County Debt	\$21,346,226	3%	\$39	Small Business and Entrep.	\$1,281,972	<1%	\$2
Info. Technology	\$18,320,398	2%	\$33	Budget & Management	\$1,321,681	<1%	\$2
Facilities	\$12,830,321	2%	\$23	Solid Waste	\$2,481,793	<1%	\$5
Behavioral Health	\$11,437,427	1%	\$21	Internal Audit	\$1,047,734	<1%	\$2
HR - Retiree Benefits	\$8,000,000	1%	\$15	Cooperative Extension	\$993,381	<1%	\$2
Тах	\$9,702,412	1%	\$18	Fleet Operation	\$956,315	<1%	\$2
Security	\$5,296,069	1%	\$10	Veteran Services	\$629,608	<1%	\$1
County Attorney	\$5,142,554	1%	\$9	Soil & Water Conservation	\$494,135	<1%	\$1
Finance	\$5,213,867	1%	\$9	Child Support	\$8,781,603	<1%	\$16
Economic Dev. & Assist.	\$4,895,210	1%	\$9	HHS Administration	\$1,078,897	<1%	<\$1
 Animal Services	\$6,050,168	1%	\$11	Register of Deeds	\$3,346,051	<1%	\$6
					\$841,683,000		\$1,530

Education 43%

Guilford County Government







Full budget available in the Clerk's Office and online at: www.guilfordcountync.gov

Tentative Budget Work Sessions: June 10 and June 12 **Public Hearing** June 5 at 5:30 pm **Old County Courthouse**



