BUDGET ORDINANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Gaston County, North Carolina:

SECTION I. BUDGET ADOPTION 2026-2027. There is hereby adopted a budget for the County of Gaston for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, a summary of which is included as Exhibits I (funding sources by fund and revenue type) and II (appropriations by fund and function) herein on page 4. The budget is hereby adopted by fund on a functional basis. The County Manager is directed to finalize the line-item detailed budget, at which time that document shall be incorporated herein as if fully set out verbatim and referred to hereinafter as the "2026-2027 Gaston County Budget."

SECTION II. TAX RATE LEVY 2026-2027. There is hereby levied for fiscal year 2026-2027 a tax rate of 59.9 cents per $100.00 of assessed valuation.

SECTION III. SALARIES. The 2026-2027 Gaston County Budget fully funds longevity and a 3% cost-of-living adjustment for eligible employees.

SECTION IV. BUDGET OFFICER AND FINANCE OFFICER. In accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the County Manager has prepared a budget which contains a General Fund, a Community Investment Fund, a Debt Service Fund, a Capital Improvements Fund, a Social Services Beneficiaries Fund, a Tourism Fund, a Property Revaluation Fund, a Courthouse Parking Fund, an Emergency Telephone Fund, a Unified Fire Protection Service District Fund, a Deeds of Trust Fund, a Civil Process Fund, a Fines and Forfeitures Fund, a Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, and a Self-Insurance Fund.

The County Manager is designated as the Budget Officer of the County and the Finance Director is designated as Finance Officer. As provided by G. S. 159-25 (b), the Board is authorized to require two signatures on each check or draft that is made on County funds. The signature of the County Manager and the Finance Officer shall be the authorized signatures of the County. The Deputy County Manager shall have signatory authority in the absence of the County Manager and the Finance Officer shall designate signatory authority to a responsible individual on their staff in their absence.

SECTION V. TRANSFERS OF FUNDS BETWEEN OBJECT ACCOUNTS. Line item changes are authorized only with the approval of the Board of Commissioners as required by law, except as provided below. The Budget Officer is authorized to transfer monies from one line item appropriation to another within the same fund in accordance with provisions of G.S. 159-15.

In compliance with Resolution 2003-321, upon making such transfers, the Manager shall accumulate them to be forwarded to the Clerk to the Board on or before the agenda deadline for the next regular scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting so that said transfers may be placed in the agenda and recorded in the minutes of said meeting. Budget Change Requests included in the agenda are for information purposes and will not be discussed by the Board at the meeting unless a Budget Change Request pertains to a resolution that is on the Board's agenda for that meeting. Nothing in this resolution in any way affects the County Manager's authority to make budget transfers by the amount provided in the Budget Ordinance.

Movement of funds between expenditure categories (personnel, operating, capital and debt service) may be requested by departments, but require approval of the Budget Officer or their designee. No lapsed salary can be used to fund other operational expenditures without the Budget Officer or their designee approval. Movement of funds to purchase unbudgeted capital items requires approval of the Budget Officer or their designee.

SECTION VI. OBLIGATIONS FROM THE PRIOR YEAR. As provided by G.S. 159-13 (b), any funds of a capital or operating nature for which bids have been received or contracts executed in previous fiscal years are hereby re-appropriated. All unpaid encumbrances, ongoing projects that are assigned a project number, capital improvement projects, and any other items which have been approved by the Board of Commissioners, such as grants, are hereby re-appropriated and are to be added to this approved budget.

SECTION VII. SCHOOL BUDGET. Current Expense - The Gaston County Board of Commissioners approves an operating allocation of $54,001,704 for the Gaston County Board of Education. In addition, the Board approves $2,200,224 for School Resource Officers assigned to schools, as well as $65,000 for the Commissioners' School of Excellence.

Capital/Debt Service Funds - The Gaston County Board of Commissioners appropriates $35,361,046 for the school system's FY 2026-2027 capital and debt service needs, to be allocated as follows: $1,227,000 for capital needs and $35,413,254 for debt service.

SECTION VIII. GASTON COLLEGE BUDGET. In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 115D, Gaston County shall provide, based upon the appropriations herein, funds to Gaston College as needed to meet current fund and capital fund expenditures. The FY 2026-2027 appropriation for Gaston College totals $8,152,991 to be allocated as follows: $6,271,775 for current operating expenses, $797,219 for capital expenses, and $1,083,997 for debt service expenditures.

Reserves for future capital projects shall remain with Gaston County to the credit of Gaston College until requested for payment of duly appropriated obligations. Payment of all capital expenditures shall be made upon presentation of the appropriate invoices to Gaston County.

SECTION IX. APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS. The Board of County Commissioners does hereby approve the amended budget of each department by the County Manager or as amended by this Board on page 4 herein and as more fully detailed in the document to be finalized per Section I above.

SECTION X. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND. The Board of the County Commissioners does hereby approve the Capital Improvement Fund as budgeted by the County Manager or as amended by this Board on page 4. Accordingly, the Finance Director is authorized to make the proper entries to the County's accounting records as of June 30, 2027 to cause the net balance of the appropriate projects to revert to the Community Investment Fund's fund balance.

SECTION XI. DESIGNATION OF INSURANCE RESERVES AND AUTHORIZATION FOR EXPENDITURES. The Board of Commissioners approves the designation of unspent funds, from General Fund "Insurance" (530024) and "Uninsured Cost" (530025) line items into fund balance titled "Designated for Insurance Reserves".

SECTION XII. GASB 87 AND 96 BUDGETARY COMPLIANCE. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized to amend the appropriations and estimated revenues within any fund to reflect the non-cash financial transactions required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87 (Leases) and Statement No. 96 (Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements). Specifically, when a lease or subscription-based IT arrangement is initiated, modified, or extended, the Finance Officer may record an increase to the appropriate Departmental Capital Outlay or IT Subscription Expenditure account, offset simultaneously by an equal increase to an Other Financing Source (Inception of Lease / Inception of SBITA) account. These adjustments are technical, non-cash accounting entries required by GAAP and shall not increase the net cash requirement or tax burden of the fund.

Amended this 28th day of July 2026, to become effective on July 28, 2026.

I, Clerk to the Board, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners on

July 28, 2026
(Date)

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Financial and Management Services - Budget

Board Action

File #: 26-285

Commissioner Keigher - Financial and Management Services (Budget and Finance) - To Amend the FY2026-2027 Gaston County Budget Ordinance to Authorize Technical, Non-Cash Accounting Entries Required for Financial Reporting *(No Budget Impact or Change in Appropriations)*

STAFF CONTACT

Taylor Ricci - Budget Director - 704-866-3122
Kyle Sutherland - Finance Director - 704-866-3130

BUDGET IMPACT

No budget impact. This amendment authorizes technical, non-cash accounting entries required for financial reporting and does not increase appropriations requiring cash, affect fund balance, or change the tax levy.

BACKGROUND

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements No. 87 (Leases) and No. 96 (Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements) require certain lease and subscription agreements to be recorded as capital expenditures with corresponding other financing sources for financial reporting purposes. These are non-cash accounting entries that do not affect the County's cash position or tax burden.

This amendment adds a new Section XII to the FY2026-2027 Budget Ordinance authorizing the Finance Officer to make these technical budgetary adjustments administratively to ensure compliance with GASB reporting requirements, eliminating the need for routine Board approval of these year-end accounting entries. This authority is limited to technical accounting adjustments and does not authorize additional cash appropriations or expenditures.

POLICY IMPACT

No policy impact.

ATTACHMENTS

FY2026-2027 Budget Ordinance (Amended)

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	*DATE*	*M1*	*M2*	*JBailey*	*CBrown*	*CCloninger*	*AFraley*	*BHovis*	*TKeigher*	*SShehan*	*Vote*
2026-237	07/28/2026	TK	SS	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

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