



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Emergency Management and Fire Services

Board Action

File # 25-529

Commissioner Hovis - Emergency Management/Fire Services - To Accept and Appropriate Duke Grant Funds Received from Duke Energy Foundation Grant for Funding of a High-Capacity Generator and/or Drones to Enhance Disaster Preparedness and Climate Resiliency in the Amount of \$10,000 00

STAFF CONTACT

Vincent Wong - Emergency Management & Fire Services - 704-866-3277

BUDGET IMPACT

General Fund: Increase local grant revenue by \$10,000 and appropriate \$10,000 into the appropriate expenditure account. No County funds.

BACKGROUND

Gaston County Emergency Management & Fire Services was awarded \$10,000 00 from the Duke Energy Foundation Grant to be used for the purchase of a high-capacity generator and/or advanced drones to enhance disaster preparedness and climate resiliency

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Budget Change Request (BCR); Generator and Drones - Duke Energy Proposal Management System

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
2025-346	10/28/2025	BH	SS	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

DISTRIBUTION

Laserfiche Users

A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST (BCR)

TO: Matthew Rhoten, County Manager
FROM: EMG Emergency Management & Fire Service
 Dept. Code Department Name
 Vincent Wong 10/15/2025
 Department Director Date

REQUEST TYPE.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line-Item Transfer Within Department & Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Line-Item Transfer Between Funds* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Transfer Within Department & Fund | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Appropriation of Funds* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line-Item Transfer Between Departments | |
- * Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION As it appears in Munis	ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT**																														
Ex. Employee Training	<table border="0" style="font-size: small; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Fund</td><td style="text-align: center;">Dept</td><td style="text-align: center;">Div.</td><td style="text-align: center;">SubDiv</td><td style="text-align: center;">Prog</td><td style="text-align: center;">SubProg</td><td style="text-align: center;">Future</td><td style="text-align: center;">Fisc</td><td style="text-align: center;">Obj</td><td style="text-align: center;">Proj</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">xxxx</td><td style="text-align: center;">xxx</td><td style="text-align: center;">xxx</td><td style="text-align: center;">xxxxx</td><td style="text-align: center;">xxxxxx</td><td style="text-align: center;">xxxxxx</td><td style="text-align: center;">xxx</td><td style="text-align: center;">xx</td><td style="text-align: center;">xxxxxx</td><td style="text-align: center;">xxxxx</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Ex. 1000-BGT-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-</p>	4	3	3	5	6	7	4	2	6	5	Fund	Dept	Div.	SubDiv	Prog	SubProg	Future	Fisc	Obj	Proj	xxxx	xxx	xxx	xxxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxxx	xxx	xx	xxxxxx	xxxxx	Ex. \$5,000.00 Ex. (\$5,000.00)
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Furn/Equip<\$5K-DukeGenerDrones	1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520020-L0020	\$10,000																														
Other Grant Rev-DukeGenerDrone	1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-445006-L0020	(\$10,000)																														

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST

Gaston County Emergency Management & Fire Services was awarded \$10,000 00 from the Duke Energy Foundation Grant to be used for the purchase of a high-capacity generator and/or advanced drones to enhance disaster preparedness and climate resiliency

** Decreases in expenditures and increases in revenue accounts require brackets. Increases in expenditures and decreases in revenue do not require brackets. Please note that transfers between funds require inter-fund transfer accounts.

Generator and drones

Transferred In From Cause Vetting Required

Mailbox: Gaston
 Deadline:
 VIP:
 Template Type: Duke Energy Foundation Grant
 ID: 10242
 Status: Approved
 Received: 4/25/2025
 Label

Duke Energy Foundation Grant

Organization Information

Were you able to find your organization in the Cause search above? No

Organization Name: Gaston County EM and Fire Services

Please confirm you have a Tax ID in the format 00-0000000 or a 7 digit NCES district ID: EIN

Tax ID

(IRS) Non-profit Organization Status: Not a 501(c) Organization

(IRS) Organization Legal Name

(IRS) Organization Address

(IRS). Organization City

(IRS): Organization State

(IRS). Organization Zip Code

Country: United States of America (The)

State: North Carolina

City: Gastonia

Mission Statement: The Gaston County Office of Emergency Management and Fire Services protects life, property, and the environment by leading coordinated efforts to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate emergencies. Through planning, education, and collaboration with public safety partners and the community, we build a safer, more resilient Gaston County

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: No conflict of interest

Contact Information

First Name: Scott

Last Name: Hunter, Sr

Contact Title: EM Director

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Telephone 704-995-7111
 First Name Lance
 Last Name Foulk
 Contact Title Deputy EM Director
 Email Address lance.foulk@gastongov.com
 Telephone 704-913-2340

Program Information

Select the Duke Energy investment priority that best aligns with your grant proposal Climate Resiliency
 Select Climate Resiliency focus area(s) Resiliency projects that prepare communities for and mitigate against the effects of climate change
 Natural disaster preparedness and response programming

Second priority area of alignment (if applicable)

Third priority area of alignment (if applicable)

Grant Request Title Generator and drones

Grant Request Summary Gaston County Office of Emergency Management and Fire Services seeks funding for a high-capacity generator and drones to enhance disaster preparedness and climate resiliency. The generator will power our All-Hazards Simulator, an educational tool that teaches residents about severe weather and fire safety, while the drones will support real-time damage assessment, improve disaster response, and aid in early identification of threats. This project will strengthen community readiness, improve response capabilities, and reduce recovery time following climate-related disasters.

Requested Grant Amount USD 24,200 00

Fund Use The Duke Energy Foundation funds will be used to purchase a high-capacity generator and advanced drones, both critical components of Gaston County's strategy to strengthen disaster preparedness, response capabilities, and climate resiliency. The generator will power our All-Hazards Simulator, a mobile learning unit that travels to schools, senior centers, and community events to teach residents how to recognize and respond to severe weather, fire hazards, and other emergencies. This proactive education targets populations most vulnerable to disasters and supports long-term community resilience by equipping individuals with the knowledge and confidence to act before, during, and after a crisis.

The drones will be deployed in the aftermath of storms or other large-scale emergencies to conduct aerial damage assessments, locate blocked evacuation routes, monitor flood-prone areas in real-time, and support search and rescue operations, particularly in areas that are unsafe or inaccessible by vehicle or foot. These real-time insights allow emergency managers to make faster, better-informed decisions, ensuring resources are directed where they're needed most and reducing risks to both responders and residents. Together, these investments will greatly enhance our capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the escalating threats of climate change, including more intense storms, flooding, and infrastructure strain, delivering maximum impact for the safety and well-being of Gaston County

residents.

Grant Request Overview

The Gaston County Office of Emergency Management and Fire Services is launching a climate resiliency initiative focused on public education, disaster preparedness, and emergency response. With support from the Duke Energy Foundation, we will purchase a high-capacity generator to power our All-Hazards Simulator and acquire drones to enhance disaster response and recovery operations.

The All-Hazards Simulator is a mobile educational tool that teaches residents, especially youth, seniors, and vulnerable populations, about severe weather events, fire safety, and disaster readiness. It provides realistic, hands-on learning experiences at schools, community events, and preparedness fairs. The generator will ensure continued operation in remote areas and during power outages, increasing community access to vital preparedness programming.

The drones will be used for rapid post-disaster damage assessment, flood monitoring, and identifying blocked evacuation routes or other hazards. These tools will enhance situational awareness, reduce response times, support search and rescue operations, and improve the allocation of emergency resources.

Expected Results and Measures of Success

Educate at least 7,500 residents annually using the All-Hazards Simulator

Reduce post-disaster damage assessment times by 40% using drone technology

Increase the reach and continuity of community preparedness events by ensuring generator-powered operation regardless of location.

Improve overall community resiliency by providing timely, accurate information and resources during emergencies.

What Success Looks Like

A more informed and prepared public, quicker and safer response to disasters, and stronger resiliency across Gaston County This project will help the county better anticipate, endure, and recover from the increasing risks associated with climate change and natural disasters.

Does most of the funding for this grant program specifically seek to serve

Yes

underserved or low-income populations?

Program confirmation

Supporting Documentation

Grant Acknowledgement

I Acknowledge

Select ALL counties served by this grant program

County/State

- 1 Cleveland, NC
- 2. Gaston, NC
- 3. Lincoln, NC
- 4 Mecklenburg, NC

Please provide the total number of people being served DIRECTLY by this grant program. 750000

Financial information

Total Grant Program Budget Amount USD 24,200 00

Upload the Overall Grant Program Budget [Duke Energy Grant Budget Worksheet.pdf](#)

Other Funders N/A

Volunteer Engagement

Describe any specific volunteer opportunities associated with this grant program

This grant program creates a wide range of meaningful volunteer and community engagement opportunities that directly contribute to disaster preparedness, response, and long-term resilience. One major component involves trained volunteers supporting the operation of our All-Hazards Simulator As this mobile educational unit travels to schools, community centers, preparedness fairs, and public events, volunteers assist in facilitating interactive sessions, distributing preparedness materials, and leading discussions on how individuals and families can stay safe during natural disasters. This peer-to-peer learning model strengthens community connections while promoting personal responsibility in emergency readiness. In addition to preparedness education, this program also encourages volunteer involvement in post-disaster operations. Community members, county employees, and volunteers, many of whom are personally impacted by the disaster, often take active roles in conducting preliminary damage assessments, documenting impacts, and assisting emergency personnel by providing situational awareness from the field. These efforts not only speed up the recovery process but also empower residents to be part of the solution during times of crisis. By involving the public in both education and response, the program not only extends its reach but also fosters a culture of shared responsibility and resilience, which is essential in the face of increasing climate-related disasters.

Approval Info

Approval Info

Initial Recommendation	Recommended for Approval
Initial Review Feedback	
Foundation Manager Feedback	
Total Amount to be Approved	USD 10,000 00
One payment or multiple payments?	Single Payment
Select Approval Date	6/26/2025
Select Budget:	DEC NC - Gaston, Mecklenburg, Union
Payment Method	Benevity Disbursement

Budget review

Please confirm that the remaining amount in the Budget is sufficient to create payments. If not, please return to the previous page and choose another budget.

I confirm

Notes

Vetting failed

Text	Vetting failed, issues with account. Cannot fund
Contact	
Author	Sarah Wray
Date	6/13/2025 5:08 19 PM
Attachment	

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