

# Buncombe County Audit Committee

Update for Buncombe County Board of Commissioners



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



# About Us

## Purpose

Assist the Board of Commissioners in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities for:

- The financial reporting process
- Management's systems of internal controls
- The performance of internal and external audit functions



# About Us

## Members

Kendra Ferguson, CPA (Chair)

Commissioner Al Whitesides (Vice Chair)

Commissioner Robert Pressley

Larry Harris, CPA

Danny Yelton, CPA

Mike Knepshield

Dr. Glenda Weinert



# Dates and Accomplishments

**12-01-2020**

## Meeting

- Approval of Business Plan for the Internal Audit Department
  - *Aligns with the Buncombe County Strategic Plan*
- Approval of 2021 Meeting Dates and Elected Officers
- Continued discussion of Governance documents
- Internal Audit Department updates

**01-29-2021**

## Meeting

- Review and approval of Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Proposal for Internal Audit Department
- External audit update
- Continued discussion of Governance documents
- Internal Audit Department updates

**03-02-2021**

## Meeting

- Approval to recommend Fiscal Year 2020 external audit report to the BOC
- Approval of the Fiscal Year 2021 external audit contract
- Approval of Audit Committee Charter, Audit Committee Bylaws, and Internal Audit Charter
- Internal Audit Department updates



# Dates and Accomplishments

**06-23-2021**

## Meeting

- Approval of Internal Audit Subcommittee to serve as Personnel Committee to work with the County Manager on the Internal Audit Director recruitment
- Internal Audit Department updates

**08-03-2021**

## Meeting

- Updates on Fiscal Year 2021 external audit plan
- Internal Audit Department updates
- Internal Audit Director recruitment updates



# Internal Audit Recent Successes

- Increased number of Employee Ethics Report Line cases
  - Demonstrates confidence in the process
- Implementation of audit management software is ongoing, which will include a data analytics component
- Internal Audit serves on various County workgroups in an advisory capacity
  - IA is a valued partner
- Internal Audit conducts training for other departments (such as on COSO's Internal Control Integrated Framework)



# Current Challenges

- Internal Audit Director position has been open since July 1, 2021
- Have been unable to approve a comprehensive risk assessment and audit plan for FY2021 due to Director turnover
- Lack of resources within the Internal Audit Department
  - Currently only one staff person
  - Do not have the capacity to complete audits
  - Do not have expertise to assess risk and audit Information Technology functions



# Benchmarking

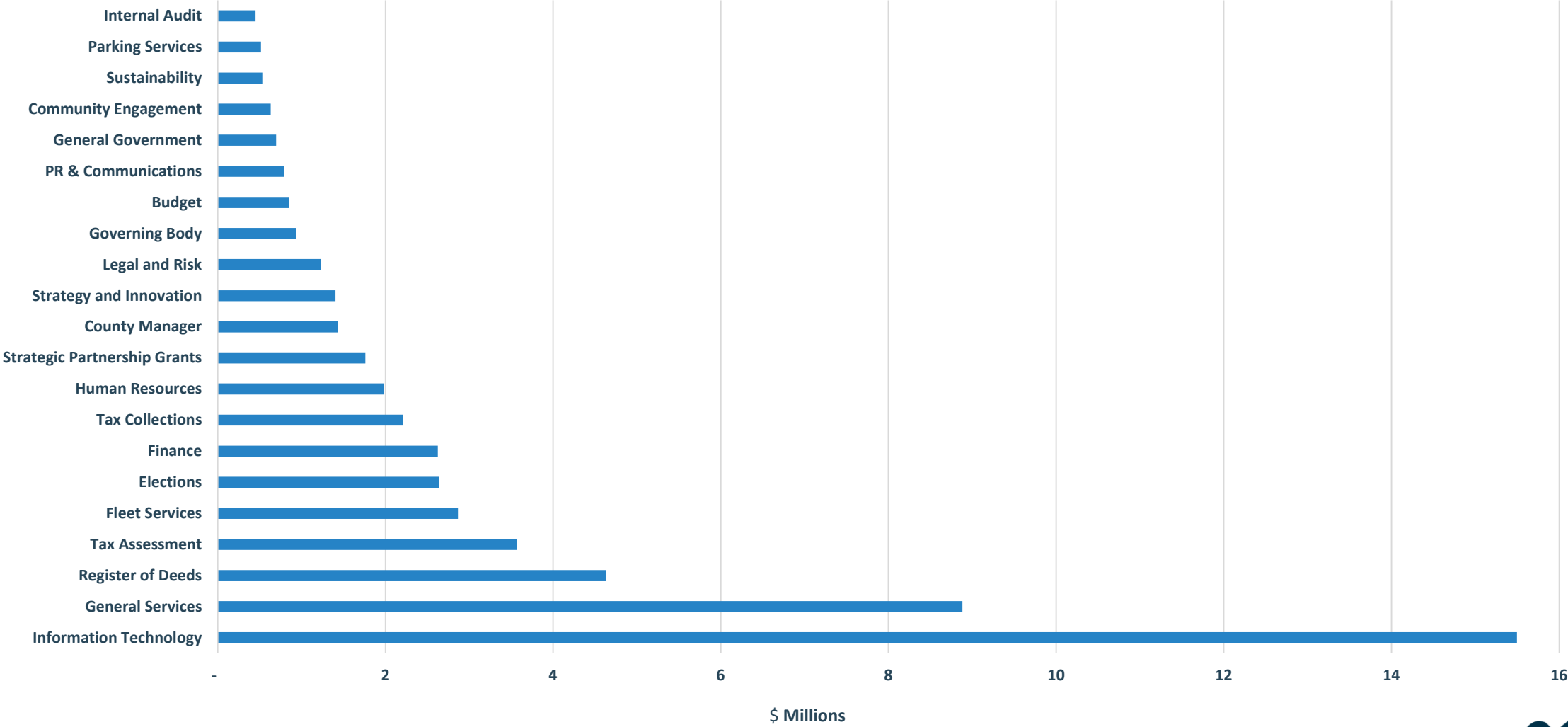
## Internal Audit Department Size of Other North Carolina Governments (as of January 2021)

- Mecklenburg County 15 staff
- City of Charlotte 11 staff
  
- Wake County 5 staff
- City of Raleigh 5 staff
  
- Guilford County 5 staff
- City of Greensboro 5 staff
  
- Durham County 3 staff
- City of Durham 5 staff
  
- Buncombe County 3 staff (1 open position; 3rd position authorized & expected to hire in early 2022)
- City of Asheville 1 staff





# FY2022 Amended Budget – General Government Function – General Fund (as of 10/24/2021)



# Upcoming Items

- Highest priority is to hire Internal Audit Director
- Review and recommend the FY2021 external audit report the Board of Commissioners is expected soon
- Recommending the FY2023 Internal Audit budget this month
- Request approval of revised Governance documents by the Board of Commissioners coming soon (Audit Committee Charter and Internal Audit Charter)

