



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: September 5, 2023

Consent Agenda

Department: Agriculture & Land Resources **Presenter(s):** John Hudson, Budget Director

Contact(s): Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture & Land Resources Director
Avni Naik, Farmland Preservation Coordinator

Subject: Establish Two Conservation Easements

Brief Summary: The Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) requests transaction costs for two new conservation easement projects. The projects consist of Fairacres Farm in Fairview and Parham-Fortner Farm in Leicester.

- Fairacres Farm, +/- 155 acres in Fairview - \$63,000
- Parham-Fortner Farm, +/- 30 acres in Leicester - \$37,000

This aligns with the 2025 Strategic Plan Goal: Preserve farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts.

This aligns with Buncombe County Board of Commissioner's Land Conservation Goal of *protecting 20% of Buncombe County lands by 2030.*

Buncombe County has previously funded projects that will bring the total acreage of land protected in the County up to 79,578 acres. With these additional acres, Buncombe County will have 79,763 acres of protected land and will need 4,333 additional acres to achieve the 20% by 2030 conservation goal.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented