Background and Request

**Background**

- Ward and Smith provided an update to the Board of Commissioners at the February 6th Briefing and shared updates from the 2023 Legislative Session.
- During the Legislative Debrief, Commissioners identified additional areas of focus for the upcoming 2024 Short Session.
  - Appropriations for infrastructure expansion
  - Appropriations for projects included in the Buncombe County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
  - Appropriations for water quality improvements (e.g., Community Conservation Assistance Program).

**Request**

- Adopt the 2024 Buncombe County Legislative Agenda.
Legislative Priorities - Appropriations

- Seek state funding for State Employees, including K-12 and Community College education, and related capital needs.

- Seek additional state funding and/or direct earmarks for water quality, flood resiliency, and stormwater mitigation projects in the French Broad River basin, including targeted funding for the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP).

- Seek state funding for water and/or sewer projects to extend service to Southwestern Buncombe County towards Canton.

- Seek and advocate for additional state funding to address the Innovation Waiver slots waiting list for IDD individuals in the Buncombe community.

- Seek state funding resources for repairs and improvements to McCormick Field.
Legislative Priorities - Policy

• Seek additional state funding support for early childhood education and Pre-K programs including simplifying or modifying the subsidy formula for Buncombe County.

• Oppose any proposals that would limit local government ability to regulate short-term rentals or online marketplaces.

• Seek authorization of a General Assembly study for property tax relief and related exemptions for permanent residents of the State of North Carolina.

• Continue to evaluate methods to modernize NC House Occupancy Tax guidelines to meet the evolving visitation and infrastructure needs of Buncombe County.

• Seek additional state investment in broadband including the re-allocation of unspent State or Federal funds to the GREAT Grant program, as well as additional flexibility for local government investment in broadband infrastructure.
Request

• Adopt the 2024 Buncombe County Legislative Agenda.