



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

**Meeting Date: June 4, 2024**

#### New Business

**Department:**

Agriculture and Land Resources

**Presenter(s):**

Ariel Zijp, Farmland Preservation Manager  
Jill Carter, Open Space Bond Project Manager  
John Hudson, Budget Director

**Contact(s):**

Ariel Zijp, Farmland Preservation Manager  
Avni Naik, Farmland Preservation Coordinator  
Jill Carter, Open Space Bond Project Manager

**Subject:**

Warren Wilson College/Okoboji Farm Conservation Easements

**Brief Summary:**

The Agriculture Advisory Board is requesting easement purchase funds in the amount of \$511,500 for Okoboji Farm from the Open Space Bond funds. Transaction costs have already been allocated for this easement from the FY24 Conservation Easement Funding in the Special Projects Fund.

Additionally, the Land Conservation Advisory Board requests transaction costs for four conservation easements on 600 acres protecting Warren Wilson College Farm and forestland. The total amount requested is \$310,000 and will come from the Special Projects Fund - FY24 Conservation Easement Funding.

These align with the 2025 Strategic Plan Goal: Preserve farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts.

**Recommended Motion & Requested Action:**

Approve budget amendments

**County Manager's Comments & Recommendation:**

County Manager recommends as presented