



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: July 16, 2024

#### Consent Agenda

**Department:**

Agriculture and Land Resources

**Presenter(s):**

John Hudson, Budget Director

**Contact(s):**

Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture and Land Resources Director  
Ariel Zijp, Farmland Preservation Manager  
Avni Naik, Farmland Preservation Coordinator

**Subject:**

Establish 3 new conservation easements and the Conservation Easements Administration project

**Brief Summary:**

The Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) requests transaction costs totaling \$184,000 for the following three new conservation easement projects:

**Kestrel Herb Farm** - 70.1 acres in Sandy Mush - \$50,000

**Sandy Hollar Farm** - 150 acres in Sandy - \$66,000

**Battle Forest** - 167 acres in Candler - \$68,000

Easement purchase costs for these three easement projects will be requested at a future meeting from Open Space Bond funds.

Agriculture and Land Resources staff also requests to combine two previously created projects:

Pre-Appraisals - (\$15,000)

Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act - (\$10,000)

into one new project with an additional \$30,000 titled:

Conservation Easements Administration - \$55,000

This project will be used for due diligence pre-work on conservation easements such as pre-appraisals and title checks.

**Recommended Motion & Requested Action:**

Approve budget amendment

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

County Manager recommends as presented