



CHEROKEE COUNTY

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Murphy, NC 28906
828-837-5527

Randy Wiggins, County Manager
Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Candy R. Anderson, CPA, CGMA, Chief Financial Officer
Darryl Brown, County Attorney

Board of Commissioners
Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman
Cal Stiles, Vice-Chairman
Ben Adams, Member
Alan Bryant, Member
Mark Stiles, Member

CHEROKEE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Cherokee County, North Carolina

Section 1. There is hereby appropriated in the General Fund the amounts reflected in “Attachment A” for the operation of the County Government and its activities for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County.

Section 2. It is estimated and hereby appropriated in the General Fund the revenues reflected in “Attachment B” for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County.

Section 3. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of 61.0 cents per One Hundred Dollars (\$100) of valuation of property listed for the taxes as of January 1, 2025, for the purpose of raising the revenue listed as “Current Year’s Property Tax” in the General Fund in Section 2 of this ordinance. This tax rate is based on an estimated total valuation of property, for the purpose of taxation, of \$4,241,806,774 and an estimated average collection rate of 98.60% property taxes and 99.88% auto taxes. This estimated rate of collection is based on the fiscal year 2023-2024 collection rate. No discounts will be allowed for early payment of taxes.

Section 4. Charges for fees and licenses by Cherokee County Departments or Agencies are in accordance with established fee policies and Statutes authorizing the establishment of said fees. All fees levied by Cherokee County will remain unchanged for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Section 5. Deed Trust Fee Fund- The following amount is hereby appropriated in the Deed Trust Fee Fund for the 1.5% of revenue collected by certain activities of the Office of the Cherokee County Register of Deeds that must be turned over monthly to the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, for use in the State of North Carolina's General Fund. The County's management has no control over and cannot direct the level of or use of these revenues. Pursuant to the standards of GASB 84 (Fiduciary Activities), this is a special revenue fund. Activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with the chart of accounts for this County:

Payments to NC	<u>\$ 8,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 8,000</u>

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Deed Trust Fee Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026:

Fees Collected	<u>\$ 8,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 8,000</u>

Section 6. Fines and Forfeitures Fund- The following amount is hereby appropriated in the Fines and Forfeitures Fund for the fees the County receives from the local court system, which must be turned over to the local Board of Education to supplement the County's appropriations to the school's general fund. The County's management has no control over and cannot direct the level of or use of these revenues. Pursuant to the standards of GASB 84 (Fiduciary Activities), this is a special revenue fund. Activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with the chart of accounts for this County:

Payments to CCBE	<u>\$ 120,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 120,000</u>

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Fines and Forfeitures Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026:

Fines and Forfeitures	<u>\$ 120,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 120,000</u>

Section 7. Representative Payee Fund- The following amount is hereby appropriated in the Representative Payee Fund for the resources the County must occasionally hold in trust for its clients, and the receipt and disbursement of these funds is required to be held in a special revenue fund according to the standards by GASB 84 (Fiduciary Activities). The County's management has no control over and cannot direct the level of or use of these revenues. Activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with the chart of accounts for this County:

Human Services	<u>\$ 290,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 290,000</u>

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Representative Payee Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026:

Restricted Revenues	<u>\$ 290,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 290,000</u>

Section 8. 911 Fund- The following amount is hereby appropriated in the 911 Fund for the operation of the 911 program and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with the chart of accounts for this County:

911 Expenditures	<u>\$ 186,674</u>
Total	<u>\$ 186,674</u>

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the 911 Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026:

Interest Income	\$ 700
911 Subscriber Fees	<u>\$ 185,974</u>
Total	<u>\$ 186,674</u>

Section 9. Revaluation Fund- The following amount is hereby appropriated in the Revaluation Reserve Fund for the operation of the tax revaluation program and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with the chart of accounts for this county:

Revaluation costs	<u>\$ 204,260</u>
Total	<u>\$ 204,260</u>

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Revaluation Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026:

Investment Earnings	\$ 450
Use of Fund Balance	\$ 78,810
Transfer from General Fund	<u>\$ 125,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 204,260</u>

Section 10. The following property tax rates are hereby levied for the purpose of raising revenue to support the county's volunteer fire districts for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

<u>Volunteer Fire Department</u>	<u>Tax Rate per \$100 of Valuation</u>
Bellview	4.9 cents
Brasstown	4.1 cents
Culberson	9.0 cents
Grape Creek	6.0 cents
Hanging Dog	5.9 cents
Hiwassee Dam	9.5 cents
Martins Creek	3.4 cents
Murphy Rural	9.9 cents
Peachtree	9.0 cents
Ranger	4.7 cents
Tipton Creek	4.1 cents
Unaka	3.8 cents
Valleytown	5.4 cents
Violet	9.5 cents
Wolfcreek/Hot House	9.0 cents

Section 11. Bear Paw Service District- There is hereby levied a special tax at the rate of 40.0 cents per One Hundred Dollars (\$100) of valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2025, located within the Bear Paw Service District for the raising of revenue for said Bear Paw Service District. This rate of tax is based on an estimated total valuation of property, for the purpose of taxation, of \$91,750,772 and an estimated collection rate of 98.1%. This estimated collection rate is based on the fiscal year 2023-2024 collection rate.

There is appropriated to the Bear Paw Service District the proceeds of this special tax for use by the Bear Paw Service District in such manner and for such expenditures as is permitted by law from the proceeds of this tax and any other revenues otherwise accruing to said Bear Paw Service District.

Section 12. Micro-Purchase Threshold- **WHEREAS**, from time to time, Cherokee County purchases goods and services using federal funding subject to the procurement standards in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart D; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee County's procurement of such goods and services is subject to the Cherokee County Purchasing Policy and Procedure Manual, as most recently amended on October 4, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee County is a non-Federal entity under the definition set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.1; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. 200.320(a)(1)(ii), a non-Federal entity may award micro-purchases without soliciting competitive price or rate quotations if the non-Federal entity considers the price to be reasonable based on research, experience, purchase history or other information and documents that the non-Federal entity files accordingly; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. 200.320(a)(1)(iii), a non-Federal entity is responsible for determining and documenting an appropriate micro-purchase threshold based on internal controls, an evaluation of risk, and its documented procurement procedures; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(iv), a non-Federal entity may self-certify on an annual basis a micro-purchase threshold not to exceed \$50,000 and maintain documentation to be made available to a Federal awarding agency and auditors in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(iv), such self-certification must include (1) a justification for the threshold, (2) a clear identification of the threshold, and (3) supporting documentation, which, for public institutions, may be a "higher threshold consistent with State law"; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-129(a) and G.S. 143-131(a) requires Cherokee County to conduct a competitive bidding process for the purchase of (1) "apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment" where the cost of such purchase is equal to or greater than \$30,000, and (2) "construction or repair work" where the cost of such purchase is greater than or equal to \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina law does not require a unit of local government to competitively bid for purchase of services other than services subject to the qualifications-based selection process set forth in Article 3D of Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes (the "Mini-Brooks Act"); and

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-64.32 permits units of local government to exercise, in writing, an exemption to the qualifications-based selection process for services subject to the Mini-Brooks Act for particular projects where the aggregate cost of such services do not exceed \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. 200.320(a)(1)(iv), the Commissioners of Cherokee County now desires to adopt higher micro-purchase thresholds than those identified in 48 C.F.R. § 2.101.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY COMMISSIONERS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY:

Cherokee County has qualified as a low-risk auditee in accordance with the criteria set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.520. Therefore, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(iv)(A) and the applicable provisions of North Carolina law, the Cherokee County hereby self-certifies the following micro-purchase thresholds:

- A. \$30,000, for the purchase of “apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment”; and
 - B. \$30,000, for the purchase of “construction or repair work”; and
 - C. \$50,000, for the purchase of services not subject to competitive bidding under North Carolina law; and
 - D. \$50,000, for the purchase of services subject to the qualifications-based selection process in the Mini-Brooks Act; provided that such threshold shall apply to a contract only if the Unit has exercised an exemption to the Mini-Brooks Act, in writing, for a particular project pursuant to G.S. 143-64.32. If the exemption is not authorized, the micro-purchase threshold shall be \$0.
2. The self-certification made herein shall be effective as of the date hereof and shall be applicable until the June 30, 2026, but shall not be applicable to Federal financial assistance awards issued prior to November 12, 2020, including financial assistance awards issued prior to that date under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Support (CARES) Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116-136).
3. In the event that the Cherokee County receives funding from a federal grantor agency that adopts a threshold more restrictive than those contained herein, Cherokee County shall comply with the more restrictive threshold when expending such funds.
4. Cherokee County shall maintain documentation to be made available to a Federal awarding agency, any pass-through entity, and auditors in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.
5. The Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of Cherokee County are hereby authorized, individually and collectively, to revise the Purchasing Policy of the Unit to reflect the increased micro-purchase thresholds specified herein, and to take all such actions, individually and collectively, to carry into effect the purpose and intent of the foregoing resolution.

Section 13. The Budget Officer and the Chief Financial Officer may transfer amounts between objects of expenditure within a department, without limitation. Further the Budget Officer and the Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to transfer from one appropriation to another appropriation within the same fund as contained herein under the following condition:

Any such transfers shall be reported to the Board of Commissioners at their next regularly scheduled meeting and such action shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Section 14. The Budget Officer and the Chief Financial Officer are hereby directed to make any changes in the budget or fiscal practices that are required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

- A. As provided by G.S. 159-25 (b), the Board has authorized dual signatures for each check or draft that is made on County funds. The signatures on the County accounts have been approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- B. Operating funds encumbered on the financial records of the County as of June 30th, 2025, are hereby re-appropriated to the budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.
- C. The Board authorizes one principal account as the central depository for funds received by the Chief Financial Officer. Other accounts authorized by the Board can be used for special purposes such as the enterprise fund and various trust accounts. Current accounting techniques shall be used to assure that all funds will be properly accounted for in the financial records of the County.

Section 15. The Budget Officer or his designee or the Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to enter into contracts/agreements, within funds included in the Budget Ordinance or other actions authorized by the Board of Commissioners for the following purposes: 1) Lease of routine business equipment; 2) Consultant, professional, or maintenance service agreements; 3) Purchase of supplies, materials, or equipment where formal bids are not required by law; 4) Applications for and agreements for the acceptance of grant funds from Federal, State, public, private and non-profit organizations sources, and other funds from other government units, for services to be rendered which have been approved by the Board of Commissioners; 5) Construction and repair projects; 6) Liability, health, life, disability, casualty, property or other insurance or performance bonds; 7) Other administrative contracts which include agreements approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 16. County funded agencies are required to submit an audit or other detailed financial reports to the County Chief Financial Officer each year. Approved payments may be delayed pending receipt of financial information.

Section 17. It is the policy of Cherokee County to not absorb any reduction in State or Federal grant funds. Any decrease shall be absorbed in the budget of the agency or department receiving funding by reducing personnel or department expenditures to stay within the County appropriations as approved.

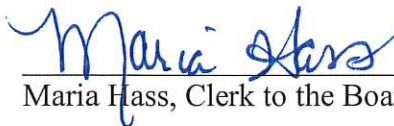
Section 18. Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Board, the Budget Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Tax Assessor for direction in the carrying out of their duties.

Adopted this the 16th day of June 2025.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Eichenbaum'.

Dan Eichenbaum, Chairperson
Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maria Hass'.

Maria Hass, Clerk to the Board

Attachment A

**Cherokee County
General Fund
Budget by Department**

<u>General Fund</u>	FY 2025-2026 Budget
PARKS & RECREATION	\$ 445,122
MUSEUM	58,769
LIBRARY	217,645
TOTAL CULTURAL & RECREATION	721,536
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	166,791
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	221,424
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	40,750
SOIL & WATER	139,256
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS	939,256
TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	1,340,686
SCHOOLS	7,819,159
COMMUNITY COLLEGE	980,569
TOTAL EDUCATION	8,799,728
GOVERNING BOARD	385,588
ADMINISTRATION	291,316
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	1,047,157
FINANCE	760,646
TAX ASSESSOR	687,099

LAND RECORDS	206,513
TAX COLLECTOR	357,021
COURT FACILITIES	45,026
BOARD OF ELECTIONS	456,952
REGISTER OF DEEDS	691,555
PUBLIC BUILDINGS/MAINTENANCE	898,648
CENTRAL SERVICE	704,850
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL	6,532,371
MENTAL HEALTH	75,000
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	3,370,266
SOCIAL SERVICES	11,103,662
VETERANS SERVICES	143,183
SENIOR CENTER	625,490
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS	209,752
TOTAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	15,527,353
TOTAL TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	125,000
SHERIFF	5,072,490
JAIL	4,235,857
911 ADDRESSING	113,946
CENTRAL DISPATCH	1,388,433
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	304,512
AMBULANCE SERVICE	5,800,077
FIRE PROTECTION	89,518
CODE ENFORCEMENT	492,596
ANIMAL CONTROL	180,457
MEDICAL EXAMINER	70,000
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS	122,905
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	17,870,791

SOLID WASTE	<u>2,916,346</u>
TRANSPORTATION	1,077,331
AIRPORT OPERATIONS	<u>588,574</u>
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	<u>1,665,905</u>
CONTINGENCY	<u>400,000</u>
ADDITION TO RESTRICTED/DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE	<u>4,895,661</u>
TOTAL ADDITION TO FUND BALANCE	<u>4,895,661</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	<u><u>\$60,962,168</u></u>

Attachment B

**Cherokee County
General Fund
Source of County Revenues**

Description	Budget
	2025-2026
Property Tax	\$26,058,064
Restricted	5,970,518
Sales Tax	11,873,472
Unrestricted	2,145,000
Sales & Services	5,455,366
Permits & Fees	2,410,388
Investment Earnings	135,100
Other taxes	1,482,800
Use of Fund Balance	1,456,945
Use of Designated Fund Balance	3,846,815
Miscellaneous	127,700
Total General Fund	\$60,962,168