

# Proposed FY25 Rates and Fees

May 20<sup>th</sup> 2024



**UNIONCOUNTY**  
north carolina

# Rates & Fees Overview

- Many rates and fees have not been reviewed in a long time.
- Departments that are proposing rate increases in the FY25 budget: **Agricultural Services, Building Code Enforcement, Environmental Health, Parks & Recreation, Planning, Public Health, Sherriff's Office, and Solid Waste;**
- Building Code, Water & Sewer, and Solid Waste revenues fully support their operation
- All other departments rely of general county dollars to fully fund operations.

# Rates & Fees

- **Agricultural Services:** Proposed rates are for the Simpson Event Center; When the center was open rates were set below similar type facilities. Since opening this facility has become extremely well used. Many of these events require extensive set up and break down. The increase in fees will help cover the cost of generally operation for these events. Increases to vendors fees for the farmer's market.
- **Building Code Enforcement:** Building Codes last fee update was in August of 2013. Building Code completed a comprehensive review, and it was determined that their current rates are at about 60% of surrounding communities. Fees would increase for Residential, Commercial, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, and General permitting. If implemented, these fee would set our rates at 80% of surrounding communities. While Building Code revenues have supported operations, that gap is narrowing.
- **Environmental Health:** Proposed Increases for Swimming Pool Inspections and On-Site Water Protection Program.
- **Parks & Recreation:** Rates have only been adjusted once in the past 10 years. Fees for senior annual pass for Union County residents eliminated. Added senior fee for non-union county residents. Simplified rates for athletic field use.
- **Planning & Zoning:** Implements a tiered rate structure for conditional rezonings. Higher housing unit developments will pay a larger fee.

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- **Public Health:** Proposed 5% increase to all dental clinical fees. Addition of pediatric behavioral and psychotherapy fees in our Child Health Clinic. These fees are related to a pilot program for pediatric mental health program. Increase several other clinical fees to maximize Medicaid reimbursement.
- **Sheriff's Office:** Fees for photocopies and staff time for public information requests that require more than 5 hours to fulfill. This would generally only apply to 1 or 2 requests per year.
- **Solid Waste:** At the board retreat we presented municipal solid waste tipping fees and construction and demolition tipping fees. Due to the heavy demand put on the transfer station, and the limited capacity at our C&D site, the board asked staff to go back and look over the fees again. The updated proposed fees are approximately 5% higher than what was presented in February. We feel this keeps the county competitive, without encouraging excessive use.