



# AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Forsyth County

**MEETING DATE:** January 30, 2025

**CONTRACT  
NUMBER:**

**STAFF CONTACT:** Gordon Watkins, County Attorney      **DEPARTMENT:** Attorney's Office

**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REVISED LEGISLATIVE GOALS AND SUBMISSION OF SUCH GOALS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**ATTACHMENTS:** [Resolution-2025-1495 - 2024 Legislative Goals revision - Pdf](#)

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REVISED LEGISLATIVE GOALS AND SUBMISSION OF SUCH GOALS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**WHEREAS** on December 19, 2024, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners adopted its legislative goals for the North Carolina General Assembly's long session in 2025;

**WHEREAS** after due deliberation, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners has determined that the attached revised legislative goals for the North Carolina General Assembly's long session in 2025 represent the collective wishes of the entire Board;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached legislative goals, incorporated herein by reference, and authorizes the Chairman of the Board, or his designee, to submit the attached legislative goals to the North Carolina General Assembly.

Adopted this 30th day of January 2025.

## **Forsyth County Proposed Legislative Goals NC General Assembly 2025 Long-Session**

### **Cure Violence Program**

**Needs Addressed:** Cure Violence is an evidence-based model that stops the spread of violence by using the methods and strategies associated with disease control: detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals and changing social norms. It uses trained violence interrupters and outreach workers to identify and mediate potentially lethal conflicts and to follow up to ensure that a conflict does not reignite. Trained, culturally-appropriate outreach workers will work with those at highest risk to make them less likely to commit violence and help them obtain services they need, like job training and drug treatment. It also engages residents and local organizations to speak out against violence. This is a City/County joint program that began on July 1, 2022 utilizing city and county ARPA funds. As all funds will have been expended by June 2025, additional funds are needed to continue the program which has contributed to a reduction in crime.

**State Funding Requested:** \$1.5 Million

### **Belews Lake Park Phase 2 Design and Construction**

**Needs Addressed:** Utilizing the master plan that was developed for Belews Lake Park, the following Phase 2 elements are planned for an additional 20 acres of the Belews Lake site: a 200-person picnic shelter, a comfort station/restroom, an accessible playground, an approximately 1.5-mile 10 foot-wide, paved multi-use path, 3,500 linear feet of natural surface nature trails, and all the required site work, site infrastructure, and site amenities. Belews Lake Park will serve residents of Forsyth, Stokes, Rockingham, and Guilford counties.

**Cost/Budget:** \$6 Million (county is utilizing \$2.5 million PayGo and \$500K PARTF grant)

**State Funding Requested:** \$3 Million

### **Airport Project - MRO Hangar Improvement**

**Needs Addressed:** The largest hangar facility at Smith Reynolds Airport was built by Piedmont Airlines in 1969. For years, the facility has been an economic engine for the community since it is home to over 350 employees who provide maintenance service to airlines such as American and United. Since the hangar is over 55 years old, it is need of major renovations and refurbishment. Without these required improvements the region is in jeopardy of losing its existing Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) tenant.

**Cost/Budget:** \$15M (The County has acquired a \$6M+ EDA grant, but the funding will only cover a few of the renovations which start in Q1 2025. The County is using Airport revenue and Pay-Go funding for additional improvements.)

**State Funding Requested:** \$3.5M

## Proposed Law/Statute Changes

### Billable Codes for Paramedicine and Peer Support Specialists

**Goal:** Support alternative treatments by providing a revenue source for paramedicine programs and Certified Peer Support Specialists. By doing so, capacity would be expanded, allowing individuals to receive culturally appropriate supports more quickly than through transitional means. There is also the potential to expand the para-professional and professional services workforce.

**Statutory Citations:** N.C.G.S. § 122c (and ultimately [Program Specific Clinical Coverage Policies | NC Medicaid](#))

**Explanation:** The capacity of the behavioral health workforce does not meet immediate demands. Individuals are not always able to quickly access the type of service needed in the amount that it is needed, or the setting where it is needed. By providing a revenue source for peers and paramedicine the capacity of the community response is broadening. Further, this creates a possible pipeline for advanced paramedics, EMTs, and potentially clinicians.

### Reduce risk to Residential Providers serving youth with high complexity needs

**Goal:** To reduce the risk to a licensed behavioral health 24-hour facility associated with providing a “No eject/no reject” residential level of care to youth with high complexity and evolving needs. Barriers that prevent providers of lower levels of care continuing to serve, or temporarily serving, youth as a placement is secured at the recommended level of care, need to be eliminated.

**Statutory Citations:** Authority to enforce state sanitation rules and laws is delegated pursuant to 10A NCAC 27G.0405

**Explanation:**

Youth with complex needs can be difficult to place in treatment facilities. Providers note that if they exceed their scope of practice, they could be financially penalized by the Division of Health Services Regulation and have sanctions placed upon their license.

Youth in DSS custody that are discharged from care because of behavior often have a difficult time securing placement elsewhere and may end up housed in an emergency room or Social Services lobby. This can perpetuate needs and continue to increase the difficulty in securing placement in the correct level of care.

### **Law Clarity for Register of Deeds offices in regard to adopted siblings marrying**

**Explanation:** What are the legal ramifications, if any, for siblings adopted by the same family who want to marry each other? Two people of legal age who were adopted by the same family, but are not blood-related, obtained a marriage license in the Forsyth County Register of Deeds Office. Charles Szpszak, law professor at the UNC Government for the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds (NCARD) was contacted to see if the marriage license was legal. He stated, "there is no clear answer to the question in NC law and the kinship issue makes no distinction about siblings being adopted rather than sibling birth". The entire state would benefit from a definitive answer as to whether the law for sibling kinship would prohibit adopted, non-blood-related siblings who want to marry each other?

## **Additional Proposed Law/Statute Changes**

### **Repeal Subpart III-K of S.L. 2024-57 (“Down Zoning”)**

**Explanation:** Subpart III-K of Session Law 2024-57 restricts local governments from making density or use changes in zoning districts, unless they can obtain consents from every property owner throughout the entire zoning area. In practice, this new law prohibits local governments from adjusting their zoning districts to reflect changes in development, the economy, or in the law. Traditionally, when there is a zoning change in allowed uses, local governments “grandfather” any non-conforming use. Thus, property owners are already protected, and there is no need for Subpart III-K.

### **Amend NCGS 136-189.10 and 136-189.11 to Allow Use of Strategic Transportation Investments Act (“STI”) Funds for Independent Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements.**

**Explanation:** Local Governments are seeking to provide more safe recreation activities for their citizens. Allowing the use of STI funds for independent bicycle and pedestrian projects would allow development of recreational activities that not only serve citizens, but act as a draw for tourism.