

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** January 15, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Grant Project Ordinance – Helene Disaster Response and Recovery

**PRESENTER:** Randall L. Cox, Finance Director

**ATTACHMENT:** Yes

1. Budget Amendment
2. Grant Project Ordinance

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Staff is requesting the Board to adopt the attached grant project ordinance in accordance with Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina to establish a budget for projects related to the Helene Hurricane Disaster Response that will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) Public Assistance Programs. Through its Public Assistance Program (PA), FEMA provides Federal grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities. The amounts reflected in the ordinance and budget amendment are estimates, to be modified as expenditures are recorded and funds are received.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to adopt the attached grant project ordinance and approve the attached budget amendment to establish a budget for projects related to the Helene Hurricane Disaster Response as presented.

#### ***Suggested Motion:***

*The Board is requested to adopt the attached grant project ordinance and approve the attached budget amendment to establish a budget for projects related to the Helene Hurricane Disaster Response as presented.*



**HENDERSON COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA  
Before the Board of Commissioners**

**Project Ordinance for  
Tropical Storm Helene Disaster Response and Recovery**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENACTMENT 2025-\_\_\_\_\_

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Commissioners for Henderson County, North Carolina that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

**Section 1:** This ordinance is to establish a budget for projects related to the Helene Hurricane Disaster Response ([FEMA Disaster 4827](#)) that will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program and North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) Public Assistance Program. Through its [Public Assistance Program](#) (PA), FEMA provides Federal grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities. *[Although FEMA typically covers 75% of the eligible costs, the federal government [increased the cost share in North Carolina for the Helene disaster](#) to 100% for the first 180 days of the incident period.]* Expenses may be eligible for FEMA and NCEM reimbursement in the following categories:

**Emergency Work**

Category A: Debris Removal -- Expenses related to clearing debris from public property, including roads, parks, and other infrastructure.

Category B: Emergency Protective Measures -- Costs for actions taken to protect public health and safety, such as: search and rescue operations; sheltering and evacuation; and medical care and emergency response.

**Permanent Work**

Category C: Roads and Bridges -- Repairs and restoration of transportation infrastructure, including highways, streets, and bridges.

Category D: Water Control Facilities -- Restoration and repair of drainage systems, levees, and other flood control measures.

Category E: Public Utilities -- Restoration of water, wastewater, electrical systems, and other essential public utilities.

Category F: Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other -- Repair or replacement of parks, recreational areas, and public spaces.

Category G: Buildings and Equipment -- Repairs or replacements of public buildings, such as schools, community centers, and related equipment.

**Administrative Work**

Category Z: Management Costs -- Administrative costs related to the overall management of disaster response and recovery efforts, which are capped at a certain percentage of eligible project costs.

**Section 2:** The following amounts are appropriated for the eligible projects and authorized for expenditure:

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>FEMA Category</b>	<b>Appropriation from FEMA &amp; NCEM Public Assistance Grants</b>
Debris Removal	A	\$46,040,000
Emergency Protective Measures	B	\$1,810,000
Road & Bridges	C	\$0
Water Control Facilities	D	\$0
Park & Recreation Facilities	F	\$0
Buildings & Equipment	G	\$0
Management Costs	Z	\$2,392,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$50,242,500</b>

**Section 3:** The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the projects:

FEMA Public Assistance Program Grant Funds (90%):	\$45,218,250
NCEM Public Assistance Funds (10%):	\$5,024,250
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$50,242,500</b>

**Section 4:** As initially adopted, all appropriations and funds herein are estimates only, to be modified as expenditures (retroactive to the date of the first declaration of emergency by the County) are recorded and funds are received.

**Section 5:** The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency and the grant terms and conditions.

**Section 6:** The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report the financial status of the projects to the governing board on a quarterly basis.

**Section 7:** Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Budget Officer, the Finance Officer and to the Clerk to Board of Commissioners.

**Section 8:** This grant project ordinance expires when final FEMA reimbursements are received related to FEMA Disaster 4827 and all FEMA audits are completed.