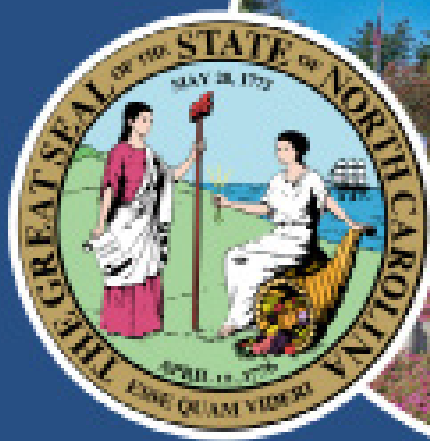


Jackson County, NC

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



www.jacksonnc.org

Your County. Your Services. Your Future.

Jackson County Administration Building
401 Grindstaff Cove Road
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: (828) 586-4055

Jackson County Health Department
538 Scotts Creek Road
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: (828) 586-8994

Jackson County Services Building
(DMV) (Elections) (License Plate Agency)
876 Skyland Drive
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: (828) 586-7538

Jackson County Department of Social Services
15 Griffin Street
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: (828) 586-5546

Jackson County Department on Aging
100 County Services Park
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: (828) 586-5494

Jackson County Animal Shelter
84 Green Energy Park Road
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: (828) 586-6138

Jackson County Recreation Departments
Cullowhee Site:
88 Cullowhee Mountain Road
Cullowhee, NC 28723
Phone: (828) 293-3053

Jackson County Department of Transit
1148 Haywood Road
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: (828) 586-0233

Cashiers Site:
355 Frank Allen Road
Cashiers, NC 28717
Phone: (828) 631-2020

Jackson County Veterans Office
100 County Services Park
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: (828) 631-2231



Facebook: facebook.com/jacksoncountync/
Website: www.jacksonnc.org
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@jacksoncountynorthcarolina7897

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Empowering Growth





Through Collaboration

From the Desk of Kevin S. King

County Manager, Jackson County, NC



Jackson County continues to be a place where tradition meets progress, and where people matter most.

Over the past year, our community has continued to grow, thrive, and invest in the future. Thanks to the dedication of our Board of Commissioners, residents, staff, and community partners, we've seen incredible progress on a number of transformational projects that will shape Jackson County for generations to come.



County Manager, Kevin King with
Hands on Jackson

Upcoming Jackson County Capital Projects

- Jackson County Fairgrounds Coming Summer 2026.
- Center for Domestic Peace Coming Winter 2025.
- Jackson County Administration Building Coming Spring 2027.
- Jackson County Justice and Detention Facility Coming Spring 2028.
- Smoky Mountain Middle School Coming Fall 2028.
- Recreational Enhancements Spring 2026 and Fall 2026.
- Jackson County Business Park Coming Fall 2027

Collectively, these projects go beyond just brick and mortar. They reflect our shared commitment to improving the quality of life, expanding opportunities, and strengthening communities for all.

Looking ahead, we are especially excited to celebrate a remarkable milestone in 2026, Jackson County's 175th Anniversary. This will be a time to honor our rich history while boldly embracing the future. We invite everyone, residents and visitors alike, to be part of this special celebration.

Jackson County is a place of natural beauty, rich culture, and deep-rooted values. It's where neighbors know one another, where mountains meet opportunity, and where visitors often become lifelong residents. It's a place we're proud and thankful to call home.

Thank you for being part of our story!

Jackson County, NC

Board of Commissioners

Chairman Mark A. Letson

District 1 Todd Bryson, Vice-Chair

District 2 John W. Smith

District 3 Jenny Lynn Hooper

District 4 Michael Jennings

The Board of Commissioners consists of five members. Each of these members serve four-year terms. The Chairman is elected at-large, with no district residency requirement. The remaining Commissioners are also elected at-large but must reside within one of the four districts located in the county.

Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Meeting Times:

1st Tuesday of EVERY month at 6:30 pm

3rd Tuesday of EVERY month at 6:30 pm

District 1 Barkers Creek, Dillsboro, Greens Creek, and Qualla

District 2 Scotts Creek I, II, III, North and South Sylva

District 3 Cullowhee, Savannah, and Webster

District 4 Canada, Caney Fork, Cashiers, Hamburg, Mountain, and River



Pictured Left to Right - Michael Jennings, John Smith, Mark Letson, Todd Bryson, and Jenny Lynn Hooper

Clerk to the Board

The Clerk is duly sworn into the public office, serves as a direct link between the citizens and their government. The Clerk to the Board is appointed by the Board of Commissioners and serves at the pleasure of the Board. The Clerk attends all Board meetings of the Board of Commissioners and records official actions, acts as custodian of legal documents pertaining to the county and prepares a permanent record of meetings for future use, prepares and advertises notices of meetings and hearings, administers oaths of office, keeps track and coordinates board appointments to their advisory boards and attests legal documents.

Public records requests may be submitted as follows:

- Email to publicrecords@jacksonnc.org
- In-person or by mail to:

**Jackson County Government
Public Records Request
401 Grindstaff Cove Road
Sylva, NC 28779**

For more information can be found here:
www.jacksonnc.org/public-records-request



Kerri Tucker, Executive Assistant to the County Manager
Bill Davis, Public Information Officer
Angie Winchester, Clerk to the Board

County Attorney

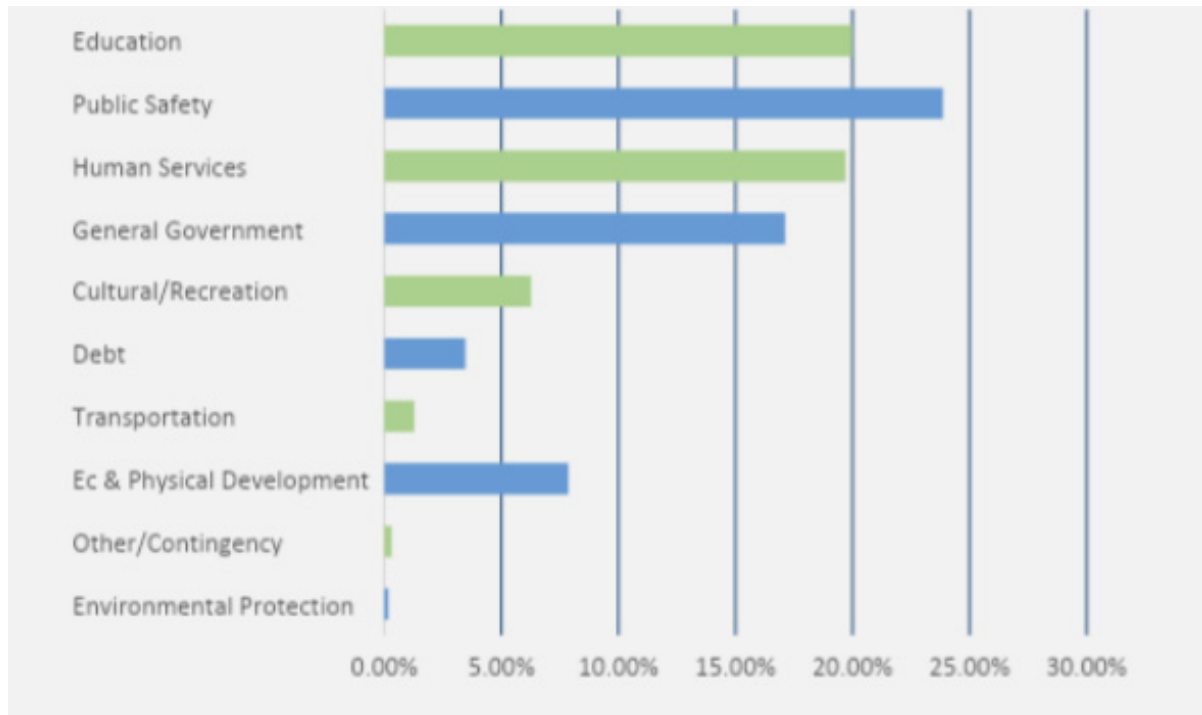
The Jackson County Attorney, John Kubis, represents the county government in legal proceedings, provides legal advice to the Board of Commissioners and county departments, as well as supervises the drafting of ordinances and legal documents. Every Board of Commissioners in North Carolina must appoint an attorney to be its legal advisor.



Commissioners Meeting on April 15, 2025

Expenditures by Function \$103,176,104

The Budgetary Role of the Finance Department



Expenditures by Type for 2024-25

The display above depicts Jackson County's expenditures by type. For the fiscal year 2024-2025, Jackson County's operating budget equated to \$103,176,104 representing an increase of approximately 3.8% over the FY 2023-2024 budget.

The Jackson County Budget is balanced and in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.



JACKSON COUNTY

Board of Elections

30,403
**Total ballots cast in
2024 elections**



Survived in 2025

- Voter Photo ID implementation & vast changes to election law (DB747)
- Employee & Board turnover
- SBE Wellness Check
- Ballot reconfiguration & absentee release delay
- Hurricane Helene
- “New Model” of election preference
- Six-Month Long statewide election protest

Anticipated in 2026

- SBE & BOE turnover
- New administrative burdens & compressed deadlines (SB 382)
- Increase in election administration legislation & litigation; quickness for immediate implementation of law or court decisions (like and unfunded statewide bond election)
- Limited time between elections cycles

**5,321
New Registrations
Processed in 2024**

2025 Upcoming Election Dates

- Tuesday November 4, 2025 - Election Day
- Friday, November 14, 2025 - County Canvass
- Monday, December 1, 2025 - Candidate Filing
- Tuesday, March 3, 2026 - Primary Election Day
- Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - General Election Day

Become a Poll Worker

Precinct Officials play a critical role in successful elections. Jackson County employs qualified residents to serve in this capacity. Those employed receive monetary compensation for training sessions and workdays.

Qualifications:

- Be a registered voter & resident of Jackson County
- Must not be an elected government official
- Must not be a candidate in the election



Elections Board Members: Jay Pavey, Roy Osborn, Chairman Bill Thompson, Betsy Swift, and Wes Hanemayer

Tax Administration

The Tax Administration Department consists of land records, tax assessment, and tax collections. The Land Records Division is responsible for maintaining property information used for taxation, public inquiry and legal research. Tax Assessment is responsible for listing, appraising, and assessing all real and personal property. Tax Collections is responsible for the collection of all real and personal property taxes within Jackson County, including collection of taxes levied by the Town of Dillsboro, Village of Forest Hills, Town of Highlands, and Town of Webster.



Tax Collector
Frequently Asked Questions



Statistics

- **2,124 Business Personal Property**
2024-2025
- **3,136 Residential Personal Property**
- **37,260 Motor Vehicles Registered with the DMV**
- **41,001 Real Property Parcels**
- **24,004 Residential Structures**



Important Tax Dates:

- **Mid-August Tax Bills are mailed**
- **September 1 - 2025 Tax Bills are due**
- **January 6, 2026 - Taxes become delinquent**
- **January 31, 2026 - Last day of 2026 listing period**

Exceptions: Property Tax Relief Programs

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

2025-2026 Goals

- Performance Evaluation
- Benefits Enrollment
- Records Retention Review
- Event Schedules

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department is committed to the mission of providing quality support and services to County leadership, departments, employees and prospective employees in the areas of employee relations, recruitment and selection, position classification and compensation, performance management, staff development and training, policy development and interpretation, compliance with state and federal employment laws, benefits administration and workplace safety. Two full-time employees, Human Resources Director and Employee Benefits Administrator, staff the department to serve over 500 employees and retirees combined.

Employee Benefits

- Paid comprehensive medical and dental insurance.
- Paid term life insurance
- Participation in the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS)
- Health Care and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts.



Pictured Left to Right - Kathleen Breedlove and Kendra Brown

Serving with Integrity





National Custodian Day!

Thank You!



Everyday

Register of Deeds

Online Requests

The Jackson County Register of Deeds office accepts online requests for birth, marriage, and death certificates. The website is listed below:

www.ncvitals.com



Internet Access

- Visit: www.jacksonnc.org
- Under Online Services, Choose Register of-Deeds Search
- Name searches have been available from October 1, 1991 to present.

For any questions, please contact
the Register of Deeds office at
(828) 586-7530

Requirements for Marriage License

Appointments only Between 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Please call (828) 586-7530 to make an appointment or if you have any questions.

What you will need for your appointment:

- Valid picture ID: driver's license, state issued ID, passport, or military ID
- Proof of social security number: original card or copy of tax form such as 1099 or 1040. (Must show full name and full social security number)
- If either party has been married before, you will need to know the month and year of when the last marriage ended. If divorce, annulment or death occurred within the last two years, a copy of the divorce/annulment judgement or death certificate will be required.

ONLINE APPLICATION HAS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT

Fee for License is \$60



Jackson County Land Records Requirements for Deeds per G.S. 105-317.2

Deeds presented to land records for approval must contain the following:

- Name and address of the preparer (must be individual's name or law firm's name and must be on the first page of the document).
 - Property description sufficient to identify parcel to be transferred.
 - Meters and bounds description OR plat cabinet and slide reference.
 - Back deed references of the grantor.
- A statement whether the property includes the primary residence of a grantor.

All deeds must be presented to the Tax Collector's Office for certification of no delinquent property taxes. The Collector's Office requests a Parcel Identification Number (PIN) for timely processing. (Effective March 7, 2011)



Stephanie Grissom, Shandra Sims, Jennifer Blanton, Lois Danner, and Julie Davis

Planning

The Planning Department continues to administer the land development ordinances for the County's four municipalities.



Historic Jackson County Courthouse

Jackson County Historic Preservation

The Jackson County Historic Preservation Commission's purpose is to designate and protect local districts, landmarks, and sites that are significant to Jackson County's history.

What is the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)?



The Ordinance shall be known as and may be cited as the "Jackson County Unified Development Ordinance" and may be referred to as the "Ordinance," "UDO", or "JacksonCounty UDO."

The Jackson County UDO is hereby adopted under the authority and provisions of North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) Section 160D.

The Purpose of the regulations set forth in the Jackson County UDO shall be to fulfill the goals, objectives, recommendations, and action items of the Jackson County Land Use Plan 2040, as adopted and as may be amended from time to time.

**To view Jackson County's Municode;
Visit: www.jacksonnc.org**



Pictured Left to Right - Ashley Clapsaddle, Mike Poston, John Jeleniewski, and Allison Kelley

Permitting and Code Enforcement Department

When do you need a Permit?

A building permit is required for ANY construction, installation, repair, replacement or alteration costing more than \$40,000 in any single family residence, farm building, or commercial building, per 143-138 (b5). A permit is also required, no matter what the cost, if the work involves the addition, repair or replacement of load bearing members or structures, the addition of plumbing, heating, air conditioning, electrical wiring, devices, appliances or equipment.

What doesn't NEED a Permit:

- Repair of non-load bearing components and non-structural repairs.
- Replacement of windows or doors if they remain in the same location.
- Repairing pickets, railings, stair treads and decking on exterior decks, porches and balconies.



Fire Inspections and Permits needed:

- Large tents for local events, weddings, etc.
- Fire safety for commercial structures - schools, restaurants, retail shops, apartments, hospitals, etc.
- The NC Division of Social Services mandates inspections of foster homes.
- Emergency planning and preparedness facilities.
- Any large fireworks show in the county must be inspected for safety.



Apply for Duke Energy Service

Two ways to apply for service:

- Register or visit the Builder Portal at: www.duke-energy.com
- Contact the Duke Energy Builder Line: (800) 636-0581.

Hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. till 5 p.m.

What can we help with?

Whether you need temporary service, are planning a subdivision or need electricity for single-family or multifamily housing we will walk you through the process so that you can keep your projects moving.

Who Regulates What?

Use your phone to scan the QR code below to see the Jackson County Permitting Office brochure to answer questions regarding who and what needs a permit.



Tourism Development Authority

Occupancy Tax

The TDA is funded entirely through occupancy taxes paid by overnight visitors, not by local property taxes or taxes on residents.

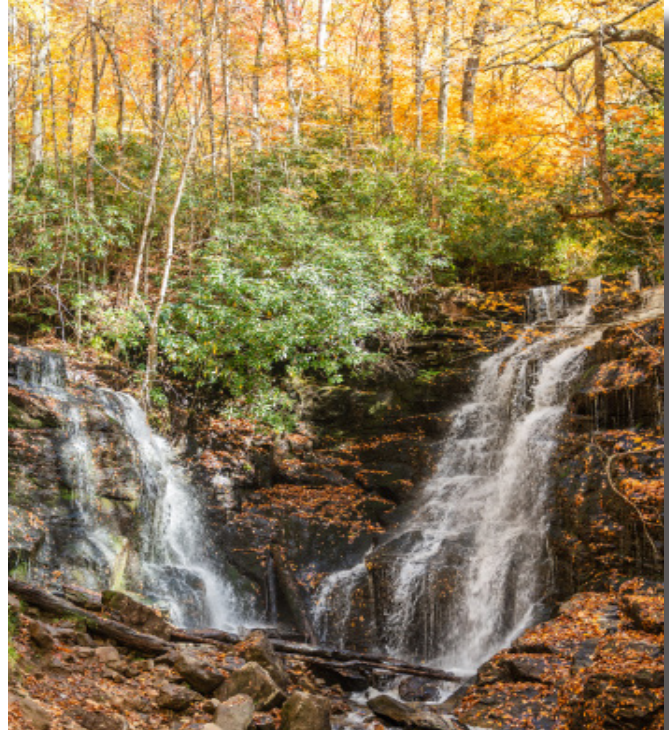
- As of July 1, 2025, the TDA's occupancy tax rate is 6% on lodging. The 2% increase passed in 2024, is projected to fund \$1 million annually in capital projects that attract and retain visitors.
- The TDA's total FY 2025-26 is estimated at \$3.5 million.

Media Mentions

- Travel + Leisure
- Southern Living
- Architectural Digest
- USA Today
- Family Vacationist

Visitor Services

- The TDA directly funds Jackson County Visitor Centers.
- Kiosks throughout the county.
- Jackson County maintains a presence at the Asheville Regional Airport.
- The TDA distributes brochures to 180+ regional locations.



Looking Ahead...

With record visitation and expanded funding tools, the TDA is committed to investing in both destination marketing and community. Our strategic priorities are clear: grow responsibly, enhance visitor experiences, and deliver real benefits to the residents of Jackson County. As travel trends evolve, our mission remains the same: to keep Jackson County a vibrant, welcoming, and economically strong mountain destination.

T H R I V E
in NORTH CAROLINA™

Economic and Physical Development

The focus of the Economic Development office centers on being the catalyst for job creation, business development, and support for our existing business community. Together with elected and appointed officials from state and local governments and agencies, along with business and educational leaders from our area, we will build a strong coalition to further develop the economy of Jackson County, from both an internal and external perspective.

The Department of Economic Development will leverage their vast resources and established brands to promote Jackson County as the economic hub of Southwestern North Carolina.



Betsy Norwood, Nicole Dexter, and Tiffany Henry

**JACKSON COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Our Partners

For Jackson County, teamwork is held in the highest of regards. Together with our industry and business partners, the Department of Economic Development has created an environment that engages the community and leverages the economic assets of our county. Whether your business needs educational, technical, industrial, or entrepreneurial support, there is a wealth of resources available.



**SOUTHWESTERN COMMISSION
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**



**DUKE
ENERGY**

**Western
Carolina
UNIVERSITY**

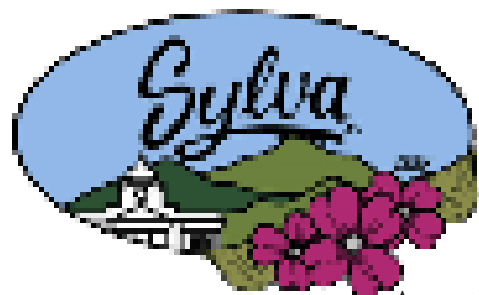
**HARRIS
REGIONAL HOSPITAL**

A Duke LifePoint Hospital



**TUCKASEGEE
Water & Sewer Authority**

**Southwestern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



Smart Growth





Stronger Communities

Information Technology



The Jackson County IT department supports nearly every county office, ensuring that each department has the technology and tools needed to serve residents effectively. One of the biggest advantages of having an in-house IT Department is the ability to provide fast response times. Instead of waiting for an outside vendor, county staff can typically receive assistance within the hour. From troubleshooting network issues to repairing computer hardware, the team provides hands-on support that keep daily operations running smoothly.

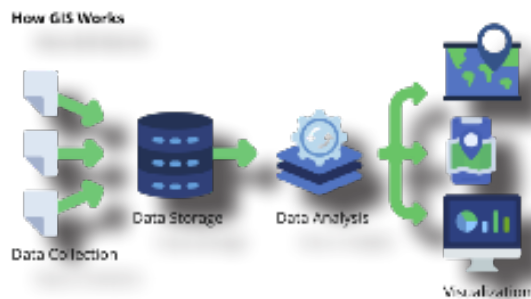


veeam
Carbon Black



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The GIS Department provides software, training, database development, application development and technical support to county departments. The GIS Department also maintains the Real Property Viewer website, as well as a variety of other web maps and applications.



The GIS Department provides assistance with mapping 9-1-1 response, data creation and management of web maps and applications such as the Real Property Viewer and internal websites for various departments, and complex spatial analyses, such as delineation of protected ridges. The GIS Department has recently created an online “portal” where users can find public web mapping applications and GIS data for download.



Using the Jackson County's Real Property Viewer

- Navigate to <https://gis.jacksonnc.org/rpv>
- The “Search Tool” is located on the upper left corner of the page. This can be used to search a property owner’s name, address, the property PIN number, or a property description.
- Other tools for the map are located in the upper right and include a more advanced property query tool, selection, drawing, and measurement tools, along with several others. Users may also view aerial imagery from previous years.



Department of Public Health

Our mission is to ensure, enhance, promote, and protect the health of our residents through prevention and education.

Public health (also called population health) is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities.

2024-2025 Accomplishments

- Accredited with Honors in May 2025 by the NC Public Health Accreditation Board.
- Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution: From October 2024 through October 2025 we have educated 412 community members on how to recognize and respond to an overdose and have distributed 451 Naloxone kits to community members.
- Formed a free public health pantry (in partnership with the Maintenance Department) stocked with free hygiene products for our community.
- Hosted a community Baby Shower in November 2024 and reached 80 women and their families.
- Hosted WNC Septic Installers Training with 178 participants in 2025
 - Offer ServSafe classes quarterly for food service workers.
- Hosted 3 Rabies Vaccination Clinics and vaccinated 255 animals in FY 24/25
 - Held 2 pet adoption events in FY 24/25



Services offered include:

- Clinical Services
- School Health Programs
- Laboratory Services
- WIC & Nutrition Services
- Vital Records
- Environmental Health
- Animal Control & Shelter
- Emergency Preparedness
- Health Education & Community Outreach



2025-2026 Goals

- Advocating for Accessible Healthcare for all.
- Monitor and assess community health, data, agency strengths and weaknesses, and implement evidence-based practices to meet community needs.
- Enhance community collaboration, partnerships, and engagement.
- Promote population health and disease prevention through education and outreach.
- Responding to the health needs and priorities of the community.



Cullowhee Community Garden

The Cullowhee Community Garden is a donation-based food relief program. Individuals may adopt an available plot, free-of charge, and plant produce of their choice. Synthetic pesticides and fertilizers are not utilized in the community garden. Individuals may use up to half of their produce, at least half must be donated to a food relief agency in Jackson County.



2024 Community Garden Accomplishments

- 794 lbs of organic produce donated to local food relief in 2024.
- Volunteer workdays on Wed. & Sat.
- Internship opportunities.



For more information, call
828-587-8250



2024-2025 Environmental Health Accomplishments

- Permit Center implemented a new software program to link departments for access to records and application process.
- FY 25 Lead Time: 0.98 Days Until 1st Contact for Septic/Well Applications, 3.05 days to 1st Appointment and to 5.08 days to permit issued.
- Processed 581 onsite wastewater applications and 157 well applications.
- Collected 816 water samples.
- Implemented an Operation and Maintenance program for Onsite.
- Provided Septic Installers training for western North Carolina septic installers continuing education requirements (178 participants in 2025).
- Provided education to restaurant owners through ServSafe and outreach, to school cafeteria staff, and 5th graders for field day.
- Held education meeting with pool operators for updates to the Pool Drain Safety Compliance Sheet.
- Assisted other counties with services during Helene recovery.

Emergency Management Operations

The Jackson County Emergency Management Department assists the citizens of Jackson County before, during, and after any type of major emergency or disaster event. Jackson County Emergency Management Operations consists of Emergency Management Administration, the Fire Marshal, 9-1-1 Communications, and the 9-1-1 Addressing Office. These offices play an important role in the safety and welfare of the citizens of Jackson County. During any type of emergency, man-made or natural disaster, the lives of one, many, or all Jackson County citizens may be impacted. This is why Jackson County Emergency Management Operations strives for efficiency and excellence.



Helene Recovery Efforts

2025-2026 Goals

- Comply with the Emergency Management Performance Grant requirements. This includes 16 requirements that must be met to ensure Federal and State funding for the County.
- Expand the Fire & Safety program in all schools and Child Care Facilities in the County utilizing the Fire & Life Safety trailer.
- Update and complete local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) requirements regarding our emergency action plans within the Jackson County EOP.
- Continue providing information updates to the community about incidents throughout the county and education preparedness by utilizing our social media outlets. (Facebook, CodeRED, and Nextdoor).
- Increase employee's knowledge base by attending training and exercises to benefit Jackson County citizens during emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts.
- Create logistics procedures within the emergency management office to update the efficiency and organization of emergency response resources.
- Increase public awareness of the Safe Kids initiative through community engagement events.
- Organizing a full-scale shelter exercise to test setup time and shelter plans.



Sheriff's Office

The mission of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office is to provide a community driven law enforcement service concerned with meeting the needs of the public and taking proactive measures to prevent crime.

The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer in the county, created and mandated under the North Carolina Constitution.

2025-2026 Goals

- The primary goal of this office is employee recruitment and retention by implementing our recommended compensation addendums.
- Successfully balance our needs and accomplish our goals in efforts to provide a community driven approach to law enforcement, by adding a full-time evidence technician.
- Add a lieutenant in the SRO Division. This position would also serve as a liaison with the Board of Education and Southwestern Community College, Summit Charter School, and all Jackson County schools.
- Replace the antiquated intercom and PLC systems which are failing in the Detention Center.



Civil Process Fees:

- In-State Service: \$30.00
- Out-of-State Service: \$100.00

Inmate Visitation Schedule:

SUNDAYS ONLY FROM 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Sheriff Farmer, Tony Cabe, Tiffany Paul, Blake Watson, Josh Yopp, and Patrick McCoy
Sheriff's Office Administration

SHOP WITH A COP 2024





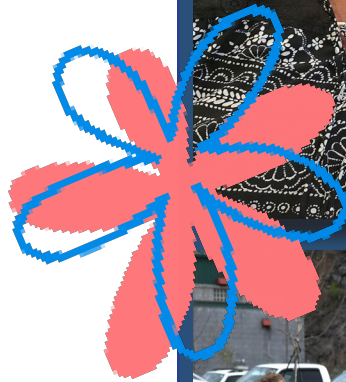
Department on Aging

Aging Services

- Adult Day Program
- Caring Hands Respite
- Cashiers Senior Center
- Health & Wellness Programs
- In-Home List
- Jackson County Senior Center
- Liquid Supplement
- Meals on Wheels
- Options Counseling
- Project C.A.R.E
- Project F.I.R.E
- Project Lifesaver
- Lending Closet
- Senior Christmas Boxes
- Senior Games

2025-2026 Goals

- Secure over \$250,000 in state and local grants to the Department on Aging
- Increase salary grades for identified staff on capital requests.
- Partner with Area Agency on Aging to host an Elder Abuse Awareness Walk and have over 50 in attendance.
- Bring at least 5 new workers in for the in-home list to help for homebound seniors.
- Have a total of 125 active in-home lists to families in need.
- Increase Meals on Wheels volunteer base to cover routes and expand on-call volunteer base. Bring in at least 20 new volunteers.
- Host a volunteer recognition event during national volunteer week in April 2025.
- Deliver over 700 Christmas Boxes to seniors in need.
- Host a mobile pharmacy event in the Fall of 2025.
- Increase participants in exercise classes by 5%.



Parks and Recreation Department

2025-2026 Goals

Complete the Qualla/Whittier park Project by the end of 2025

- Begin implementing a new 10-year comprehensive parks and recreation masterplan for Jackson County.
- Launch expanded aquatic programming for youth, adults, and seniors.
- Increase participation in Community recreation events by 10% over last year.



Key Activities and Community Involvement 2024-2025 Highlights

- Facility Improvement: Opened the new aquatics center addition at the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department; installed irrigation system at Cashiers Community Park; creation of a new park in Qualla/Whittier area; installed new turf grass in Cashiers and Cullowhee on soccer fields.
- Facility Usage: We now currently have 4,467 members, 110,000 yearly check-ins, 20,000 yearly fitness class participants.
- Community Events: Hosted or co-hosted Greening Up the Mountain 5k, Special Olympics Spring Games, Senior Games, multiple swim meets, July 4th Fireworks Celebration, Concerts on the Creek, Back to School Bash, Treat Street, Kids Learn to Fish Program, Carpenter Classic Golf Tournament, and Breakfast with Santa.
- Aquatics Programs: Expanded swim lessons, lifeguard certification courses, swim stroke school for youth and adults, dive team, and water fitness classes.
- Youth Sports: Coordinated baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, and cheerleading leagues serving over 1,200 participants.
- Special Partnerships: Supported Catamount School and district middle school cross country meets, host Catamount School for their physical education classes, host Heritage Christian Academy for basketball, baseball, softball and volleyball practices/games, partner with Smoky Mountain High School for the Lyle Cabe Gold Classic and collaborated with local nonprofits for inclusive recreation activities.
- Emergency Response Support: Assisted with storm cleanup and facility shelter operations during Hurricane Helene.



Aquatic Center Opens 2025

Aquatic Center Opens 2025



NC Cooperative Extension

Outreach Programs

- Monthly Radio Spots on WRGC and WBHN
- Monthly News Articles in Smoky Mountain Times and The Sylva Herald
- Social Media Posts
- Quarterly Livestock Newsletter: “The Stock Tank”
- Jackson/Macon/Swain Cattlemen’s Association
- Face to Face contacts, technical assistance, correspondence, farm visits, phone calls, emails, etc.
- School Enrichment - Embryology with 4-H and FCS Agents
- Summer Camp - Jackson Co. Parks and Recreation Camp - Dairy Day



We Grow North Carolina through Education and Research



AGRICULTURE
& FOOD



HEALTH &
NUTRITION



4-H YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT

4-H Development since January 2025

- 40 total youth enrolled in active clubs, 7 members at large.
- Reached 68 2nd graders across 3 schools for Embryology.
- A 200% increase in students reached, and 2 new schools included.
- Offer Enrichment and Curriculum to 3 community partner-led day camps, reaching 72 K-5 Jackson County Youth.
- Directly reached 6/10 schools in the county.
- Added 2 new level 1 volunteers.
- Had 3 of our shooting sports youth join the national NC 4-H team in Nebraska.

Soil and Water Conservation

The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District exists to carry out a program for resource development and conservation of natural resources. This is accomplished by assisting land users in the proper care and use of land as it relates to the conservation of resources. The main objective is to provide a quality environment and higher quality of life while protecting natural resources.

The District is governed by a five-member board, of which three members are elected, and two members are appointed by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The district staff consists of the District Manager/Soil Conservation and the Education Coordinator/Administrative Assistant, with both positions being funded by Jackson County and the state of North Carolina. Furthermore, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service provides a District Conservationist for the district.



Several Soil and Water Board Members

2025-2026 Goals

- Conservation Programs Assisting Landowners
- Best Management Practices Goals
- Livestock Feeding Areas
- Livestock exclusion
- Agriculture Well
- Pasture Renovation
- Livestock Watering Facilities
- Stream Debris Removal
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Agriculture Road Repair/Stabilization

North Carolina Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

For the Past few years, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation has been working to get more funding for the NC Community Conservation Program. This program is designed to assist urban, suburban, and rural landowners with treatment and storage of polluted storm water runoff and improve the water quality of our state's waterways.

Equipment Rental

Farmers in the community have been very receptive to the rental equipment and are glad to have access to this equipment to make improvements to their fields and pastures. Equipment offered by the District include a bulk lime spreader, grass/grain drill, fertilizer spreader, and a sprayer.

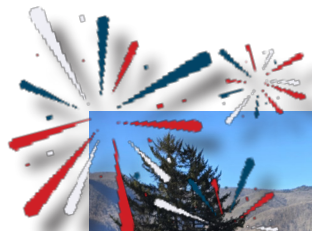


Veterans Services

Department

The Veterans Service Officer administers the laws of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to include compensation for disability or death, pension for non-service connected disability or death dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), vocational rehabilitation, education and training, guaranty or insurance of home loans, hospitalization, domiciliary care, prosthetic application, special housing and automobile adaption, government life insurance and fiduciary/guardian protection programs. Burial benefits to include flags, grave markers and payment assistance for plot and burial expenses, and administer State of North Carolina benefits for veterans and their families.

The Jackson County Veterans Office serves a diverse cast of veterans who have left or retired from military service. For those no longer in the military, the Veterans Office offers a wide array of services in the Jackson County area. These services include personal aid and assistance, healthcare aid, vocational rehabilitation, education and job training, home loans, life insurance, help for dependents and survivors, burial aid, automobile adaptation, home improvement and structural alterations (HISA) grants and resources for the Wish for your Heroes Foundation.



Sheila Setzer visits gravesite of World War II Veteran

The PACT ACT of 2022

The PACT ACT is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT ACT).

- Extends eligibility for VA healthcare for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post 9/11 eras.
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for agent orange and radiation.
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA healthcare.



**For more information on
Services provided, please con-
tact the Veterans Office at
(828) 631-2231**

Transit Department

Transit Services and Stops

Transit has proudly served the transportation needs of the citizens of Jackson County for the past 30 years. Transit is a fully coordinated, public transportation system that is operated as a branch of the Jackson County government. This department provides transportation for human services agencies, the elderly, people with disabilities, and the general public of Jackson County. Transit also offers deviated fixed routes, paratransit service, and an on-demand response door-to-door service between 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on holidays.

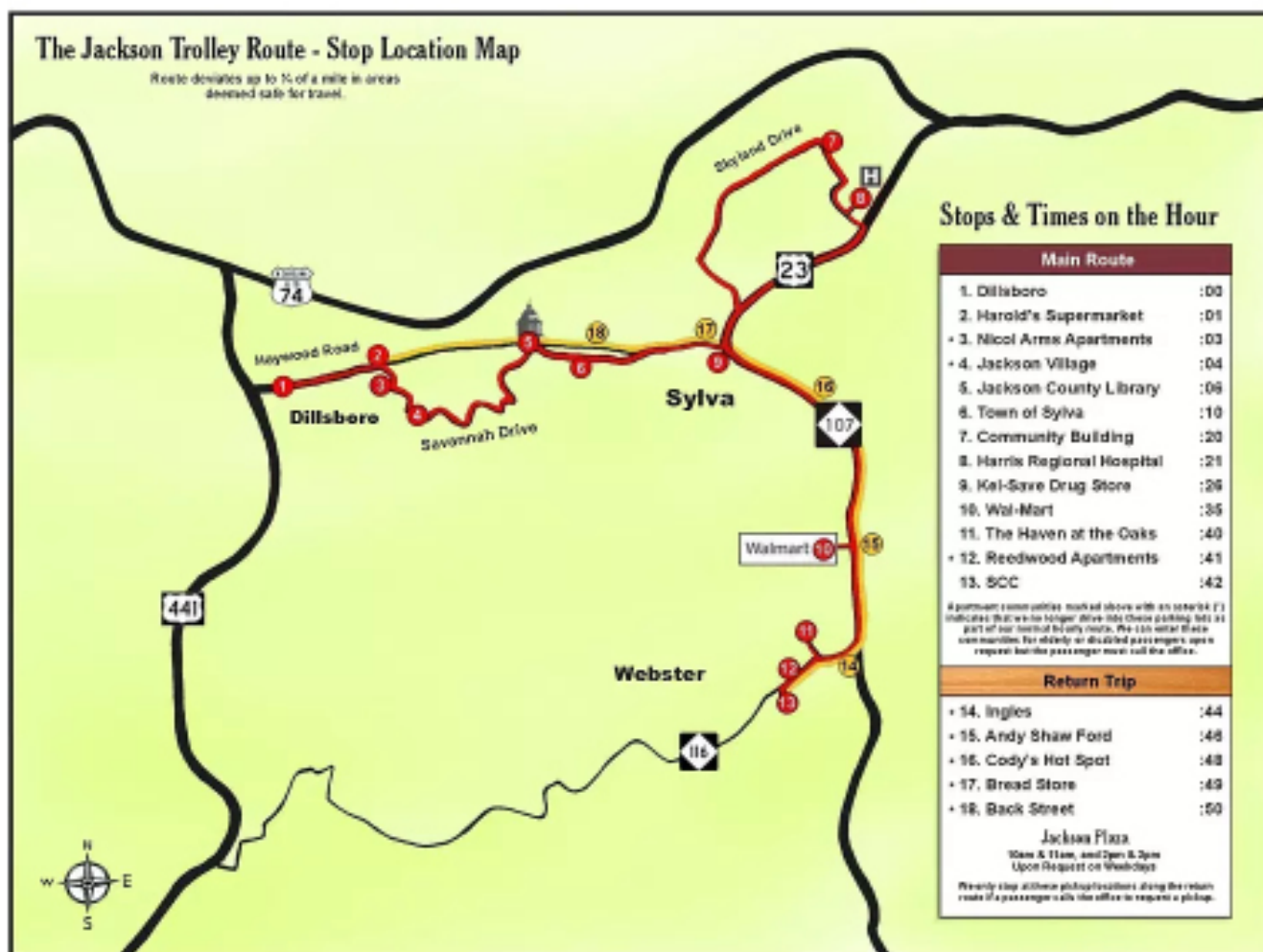
Transit Email:

info@jacksoncountytansit.com



Passenger Personal Care Attendant

If a person is in need of assistance beyond boarding and exiting the vehicle they should plan to bring an aid. The driver is not responsible for seeing that passengers enter the building of their destination. However, personal care attendants are not required to pay for their transportation.



Asheville Airport

Jackson County Transit is able to arrange transportation to the Asheville Regional Airport and Asheville Greyhound station.

Trips can be scheduled Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The trip will cost \$25.00 if an individual is being picked up from downtown Sylva and \$28.00 if being picked up from Western Carolina University (WCU).

TRANSIT HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone: (828) 586-0233

WWW.JACKSONNC.ORG/TRANSIT

Title VI Policy

In accordance with DOT Order 1050 A2, Jackson County Transit assures the NC DOT that no person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related nondiscrimination authorities, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation under any program or activity undertaken by Jackson County Transit.

To file a Title VI discrimination complaint, you may contact us at (828) 586-0233.



Rules for Riding

- Passengers should be ready and waiting upon Jackson County Transit vehicle arrival.
- There is a 15 minute “service window.” This means Transit can pick you up 15 min before or after your scheduled pick-up time.
- Disruptive or abusive behavior toward other passengers or the driver will not be tolerated.
- NO profanity or vulgarity will be tolerated while on board.
- Passengers are not permitted to eat, drink, or use any kind of tobacco products while on board.
- Passengers MUST wear seatbelts.
- NO screaming, loud talking, singing, or playing loud music.
- NO inappropriate displays of affection toward the driver or other passengers will be permitted.
- NO weapons are permitted on Jackson County Transit vehicles.
- Take all personal belongings and any trash you have generated with you when you exit the vehicle.
- NO animals are permitted with the exception of required service animals for persons with disabilities.
- NO large items that would block aisle.
- NO fertilizer, NO car batteries, NO gasoline.
- NO children under 8 years of age.
- North Carolina State Law prohibits open containers of any kind of alcoholic beverage in all vehicles.

Department of Social Services

The mission of the Jackson County Department of Social Services is to provide essential human services that protect, strengthen and improve lives in Jackson County. Our commitment is to provide the highest quality of service through teamwork, professionalism, and respect for our clients and the community that supports our work.

Community Resources in Jackson County, NC

Jackson County wants to provide its citizens with more options to help your situation. Please scan the QR Code below to see all community resources that Jackson County can offer you. Browse through the websites or contact the following so-cail services organizations and departments:



Foster Care Services

Children are placed in the responsibility of the agency through court ordered custody, voluntary placement agreements, or release for adoption. Permanency planning for children provides time-limited and goal-oriented care for children to achieve permanent families as soon as possible.

88

Children in Agency Custody

As of 3/1/24

21

Children Entered Custody

Through 6/30/24

27

Children Left Custody:

0 Transferred to Another County

0 Custody Dissolved

19 Returned to Parents

1 Guardianship/Custody to Others

5 Children Adopted

2 Children Aged Out

82

Children Remained in Agency Custody

As of 6/30/24



For more information, call the Jackson County Department of Social Services at (828) 586-5546

Public Works Department

The Public Works Department consists of five sub-departments:

- Grounds
- The Garage
- Housekeeping
- Maintenance
- Solid Waste



Recycling Information

Plastics - Bottles, jars, jugs, other rigid plastic containers are all recyclables. These containers should be rinsed out before recycling them.

Glass - Glass bottles, jars, glass food containers, and glass beverage containers are recyclable. Like plastics, these containers should be rinsed before they are recycled.

Metals - Individuals may recycle aluminum cans, metal cans, loose metal jar lids, steel bottle caps, and foil. These items are to be rinsed before they are recycled.

Fiber/Paper - Newspapers, office paper, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, and boxboard are able to be recycled.

2025-2026 Goals

- **Keep workers Compensation claims below four (3) incidents for the calendar year.**
- **Create the best working environment possible among all county employees by keeping complaints about cleaning below ten (10) per year.**
- **Hire the best-qualified persons for new job openings.**
- **Keep all buildings cleaned and sanitized.**
- **Keep all equipment maintained and up to date according to cleaning needs.**
- **Keep all equipment, chemicals and work places safe.**
- **Continue use of Maintenance Edge and Capital Forecasting with all departments.**
- **Complete 87% of work orders within five working days received.**

Scan QR code to see our Solid Waste Policies and Recycling Center Locations



Green Energy Park

What does the Green Energy Park Offer?

- Glass - The Glass Studio is one of the only hot shops in the world utilizing landfill methane gas as a fuel. Glass Studio space is available for rent.
- Blacksmithing/Metals - The Metals Shop features the first blacksmith forges and art foundry ever fired on landfill gas. Metals Shop facilities and equipment are available for rent.
- Ceramics - The Green Energy Park Anagama Kiln is modeled on ancient Japanese designs. The 100 foot kiln is fired using wood salt, baking soda, and waste vegetable oil as fuels. The kiln is available for public firings several times throughout the year.

Guided Tours - Tours generally include a glass-bowing demonstration, a walking lecture on the GEP's renewable energy use and history, a visit to the ceramics kiln, and a blacksmithing demonstration, when available.

For more information on taking a class or having a guided tour, please call: (828) 631-0271

Please visit our website: www.jcgep.org



Beginner-Friendly Classes

No experience necessary! The beginner's classes give students an introduction on working with glass or metal, including use of basic tools, safety practices, and understanding the medium.

Beginner glass classes focus on solid shapes (paperweights) and simple vessels like bud vases. Beginner metal classes center on making hooks, butter knives, and other small projects that teach multiple skills.

Grassroots Arts Program Funding

The Jackson County Green Energy Park and Jackson County Government is temporarily serving as a partner to the North Carolina Arts Council and administer sub-grants as part of the Grassroots Arts Program Grant Funding for the 2025 to 2026 fiscal year.



North
Carolina
Arts
Council

www.NCArts.org



Hurricane Helene



Response 2024

Innovation



In Action



Jackson County, NC

LEADERSHIP



Kevin King
County Manager



John Kubis
County Attorney



Doug Farmer
Sheriff



Shandra Sims
Register of Deeds



Anna Lippard
Health Director



Cris Weatherford
DSS Director



Chad Parker
Public Works Director



Darlene Fox
Finance Director



Tony Elders
Permitting Director



Kathleen Breedlove
HR Director



Tiffany Henry
Econ Development



Michael Forbis
Fire Marshal



Jamie Davis
Director on Aging



Michael Poston
Planning Director



Sheila Setzer
Veterans Director



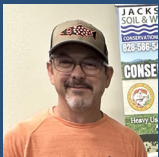
Amanda Allen
Elections Director



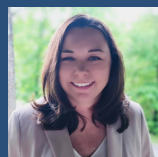
Nick Breedlove
Tourism Authority



Michael Hopkins
Recreation Director



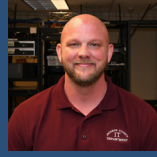
Barry Stevens
Soil & Water Director



Tabitha Ashe
Tax Assessor



Morgan Kennedy
Green Energy Director



Justin Thomas
IT Director



Brandi Henson Brooks
Tax Collector



Rob Hawk
Cooperative
Extension



Zeb Holland
EM Director



Rene Moore
Transit Director



Bill Davis
Public Info Officer



Cheyenne Truett
GIS Director

