



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: October 1, 2024

New Business

Department:

Agriculture and Land Resources

Presenter(s):

John Hudson, Budget Director

Contact(s):

Ariel Zipp, Farmland Preservation Program Manager

Subject:

Open Space Bond: Purchase Costs for Three Conservation Easements

Brief Summary:

The Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) requests 50% of purchase costs for three conservation easement projects totaling \$1,394,500. The projects consist of:

Kestrel Herb Farm, +/- 70 acres in Sandy Mush - \$259,000

Sandy Hollar Farm, +/- 150 acres in Sandy Mush - \$760,000

Battle Forest, +/- 167 acres in Candler - \$375,500

The Board of Commissioners have previously approved transactions costs related to these easements out of the annual Conservation Easements funding in the Special Projects Fund.

This aligns with the 2025 Strategic Plan Goal: Preserve farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented