

Legislative Agenda

February 11, 2025

Outline

1. Proposed Top 5 Policy Items
2. Proposed Top 5 Money Items
3. Proposed Local Bill



Policy #1 – Powell Bill

Aid to Municipalities - Budget Special Provision

POWELL BILL FUNDS For the 2025-27 fiscal biennium:

(1) The Department of Transportation shall not reduce the funds appropriated under this act to the State Aid – Powell Bill Fund for allocation under the Powell Bill (G.S. 136-41.1 through G.S. 136-41.4).

(2) Notwithstanding G.S. 136-41.1(a), eligible municipalities with a population of 400,000 or more shall receive the same amount of Powell Bill Program funds allocated for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The remaining Powell Bill Program funds shall be allocated to municipalities with a population of less than 400,000 in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 136-41.1(a).

Policy #2 – Downzoning SL 2024-57

Options - Repeal, amend, or exempt Monroe from this law

Local Bill - A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY TO PLAN AND DEVELOP IN THE CITY OF MONROE

The General Assembly enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 160D-601(d) reads as rewritten:

“(d)(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, G.S. 160D-601(d) does not apply to the City of Monroe, effective retroactively to December 11, 2024.”

Policy #3 – County Tier Ranking System

Directs the Department of Commerce to Study and Recommend Changes to the Tier 1, 2, 3 System of classifying economically distressed counties.

- Census Tract – Alternate method
- Compare economic conditions
- Does Census Tract provide a more precise and reliable measure of economic distress compared to the county-level designation
- Applicability across the State
- Identify costs and necessary resources to implement tier designation at the Census Tract level
- Identify changes to implementation of programs
- Report March 2026 on findings and recommendation to the Legislature

Policy #4 – Water

Amend the law for Inter Basin Transfers G.S. 143-215.22I

- Revise the criteria for water transfers to apply solely to the major river basins (remove the subbasins from the law).
- 17 Major Basins
 - 38 total major and subs
- [G.S. 143-215.22G](#)



Policy #5 – Emergency Management Service Delivery

Require High Quality Service Consistency throughout State

Require the Office of Emergency Management Systems to:

- Review emergency management program data on service delivery and outcomes.
- Identify strengths and inconsistencies and any gaps or inefficiencies in the statewide system.
- Review other states' EMS delivery systems
- Make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the necessary reforms

Money Items



Money #1 – Powell Bill

Increase funding for Powell Bill – Aid to Municipalities

- Increase by 20% over the 2025-27 Fiscal Biennium;
\$18.6M annually (\$37.2M Statewide in FY 2026-27)
- Impacts over 500 Municipalities
- City of Monroe Impact - \$250K (estimate)



Money #2 – Winchester Redevelopment

Budget Request of Directed Grants through Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Department of Transportation, and Department of Commerce - \$2.5M

1. Winchester Heritage Trail –\$125,000 to \$200,000.
2. City/Private Partnership Business Incubator
3. City/Private Retail Center
4. Winchester “Ceramics” Building Repurpose –The renovations inside are expected to be about \$600,000 and outside \$135,000 for a total project budget requirement of \$735,000.
5. Community Center Improvements –This estimate is about \$50,000 for these items.
6. Pedestrian walkway Winchester to Downtown/Five Points. This plan is for a pedestrian path from the Winchester side over the CSX railroad tracks to connect to the Monroe Five Points .
7. Greenway Extension – Creft Park to Winchester; continue the City’s Greenway system and will connect to the current project underway from Griffin Park to Creft Park.
8. Branding of Winchester – Street Signs, Additional Lighting, Wayfinding Signage



Rocky Mount – Planned Pedestrian Bridge over a CSX RR. Rocky Mount Telegram

Money #3 – Airport Improvements

Request \$8.5M for additional funding to improve existing hangars, building t-hangars, and any other improvements needed at the Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport. The request is for a budget special provision and appropriation of funds.

Budget Request

“For FY 2025-26, \$8.5M shall be appropriated to the City of Monroe for Airport improvements for hangar renovations, preparation of hangar pads for public/private partnerships, construction of t-hangars, and any other improvements to the Airport. These funds shall not revert to State coffers.”

Money #4 – Water Resources Funding

Request Funding for the Expansion of the Waste-Water Treatment Plant – approximately \$100M

Appropriation of funds for enhancements to the water and waste-water treatment systems

Infiltration and Inflo Mitigation

Replacement of Aging Infrastructure

Money #5 – City Hall Replacement

Request Funds for Replacement of City Hall

Potential Space Needs

Up to 50,000 sqft

(Creech & Associates 12/7/2011 Space Needs Assessment)

Price Range (\$426-\$570) Autodesk Estimate

Estimated Replacement Cost \$21M-\$28M



Local Bill – Voluntary Annexation

Maintains Existing Law

Short Title: Continue Planning and Development in the City of Monroe and Union County

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PRESERVE INDIVIDUALS' AND CORPORATE RIGHTS TO SEEK VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF MONROE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

Section 1. "Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, including any legislation enacted during the 2025-2027 legislative biennium or thereafter, the City of Monroe and all incorporated municipalities within Union County shall have the authority to accept voluntary annexation requests of new territories and place these into its municipal boundaries, in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 160A-31 and G.S. 160A-58.1, as they exist on January 1, 2025."

Questions