



Board Bulletin

June 14, 2024

Library System Secures Digital Equity Grant

The Stanly County Library has secured a \$200,000 digital equity and inclusion grant from the NC Department of Information Technology, Broadband Office.

The \$200,000 grant is part of a \$14 million statewide grant initiative that seeks to do the following:

* Develop or expand digital equity programming and address at least one of the following elements of digital inclusion:

- Affordable, reliable high-speed internet;*
- Provision of Internet enabled devices (computer, laptops, etc.) that meet users' needs;*
- Provide access to digital literacy and skills training;*
- Provide quality technical support; and*
- Creation of applications and online content designed to enable and encourage sufficiency, participation and collaboration*

The County's Library System applied for \$244,000 grant that included digital navigators to help individuals learn to use digital tools such as the Internet, online applications, etc., hotspot data to increase Internet availability as well as digital devices to enhance access.

There is no financial match required for the grant. The Library will focus the available grant funds on the digital navigators to improve digital literacy and skills as well as hotspot data to enhance affordable, high-speed Internet access.

Once the grant is finalized by NC DIT, the County's Library staff will seek a budget amendment to recognize, receive and appropriate the grant funds in FY 24-25.

FY 23-24 Sales Tax Summary

Sales tax revenue for April (June 2024 report) was \$237,072 (16%) more than March (May 2024 report). Statewide sales tax revenue increased by 21% in April as compared to March 2024.

Sales tax revenue for April 2024 was \$27,622 (2%) higher than the same revenue source in April 2023. Stanly County's year-over-year sales tax increase of 2% exceeds the statewide year-over-year increase of 1.38% for the month of April.

The County's FY 23-24 sales tax revenue is trending 4.2% (\$638,618) ahead of sales tax revenue for the same time period in FY 22-23.

Property Tax Collections Update

As of May 31, the real property tax collection rate was 98.06%. This rate is 0.16 percentage points higher than the reported rate at the end of May 2023.

Below please find the May 2024 real property tax collection rate in comparison to the same time period the prior four (4) fiscal years:

