



STAFF REPORTS

October 2025 Regular Meeting

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Department News

Administrative Specialist Melissa Taylor attended notary training on September 3 at Cape Fear Community College. This certifies personnel to become public notaries.

Officer Bardales attended the Radar Training course September 5-7 at Cape Fear Community College. This course certifies officers to operate the Radar instrument for traffic enforcement purposes.

Officer Benson attended the General Criminal Investigations course September 8-12 at the North Carolina Justice Academy. This 40-hour foundational course teaches officers broad yet fundamental investigative procedures necessary to conduct a thorough criminal investigation starting with the initial response and ending with a successful prosecution.

Senior Officer McElroy attended Radar recertification September 10 at Cape Fear Community College. This course ensures officers can continue to operate their Radar instruments.

Lieutenant Almond attended the Police Law Institute September 15-26 at Cape Fear Community College. This course provides the skills necessary to conduct enforcement activities associated with search warrants, warrantless searches, interviews, eyewitness identifications, and nontestimonial identification orders.

Master Officers Brown and Piniewski attended First Line Supervision training September 15-19 at Cape Fear Community College. This course teaches the experienced officer how to effectively supervise personnel and gives them the basic concepts of management and employee relations within a law enforcement agency.

Sergeant Lewis attended the INTOX Operator Course September 15-19 at Brunswick Community College. This course trains law enforcement officers on the operation of the breath testing instrument, and the applicable NC administrative codes, general statutes, and policies that govern evidential breath alcohol testing and implied consent offenses.

Officers Hagerman and Holbrook attended Crisis Intervention Training September 15-19 at the Brunswick County Range. This course provides officers with the skills needed to respond to incidents involving individuals with a mental health or substance use crisis, and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Senior Officer Yeager attended Basic Historical Cell Site Analysis Training September 17-18 in Raleigh. This training is designed to be an introduction to basic cellular analysis and geospatial mapping.

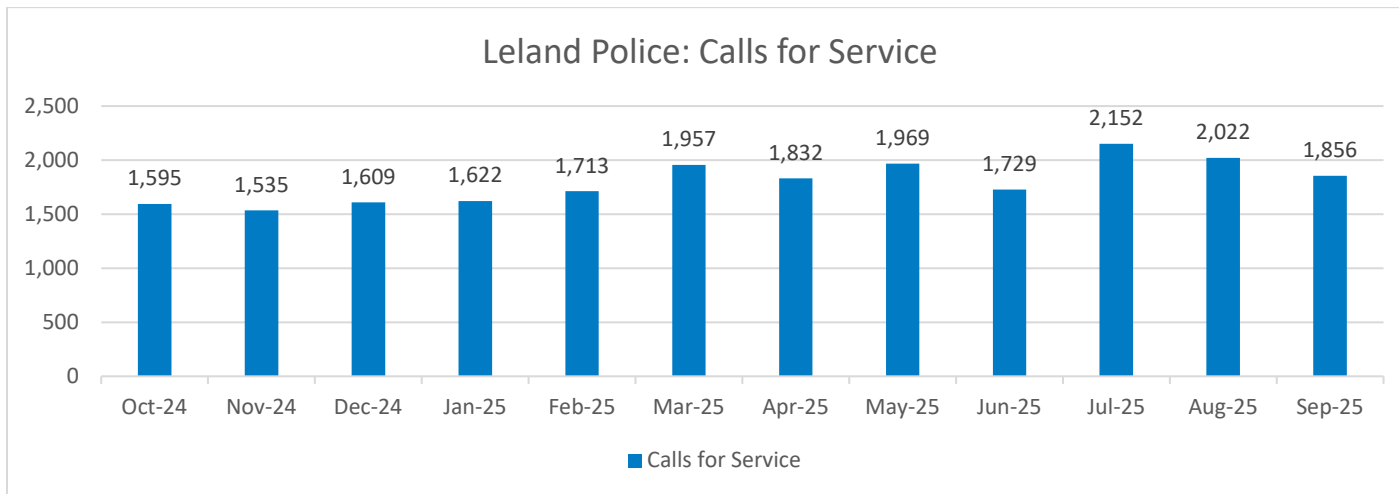
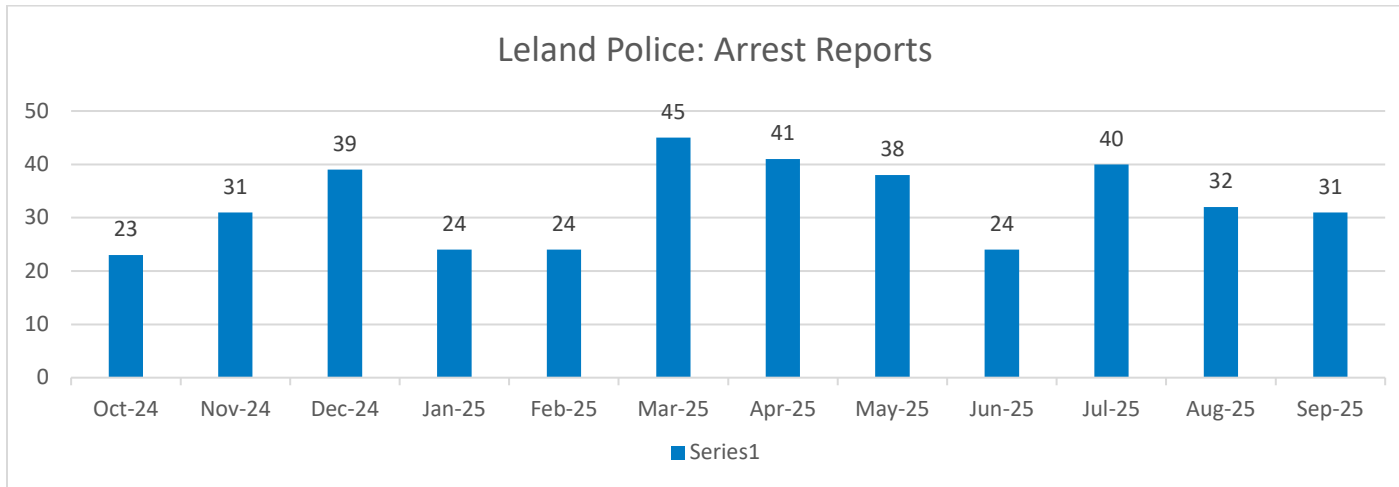
Officer Hutton attended a Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) refresher course September 18 at Cape Fear Community College. This course recertifies police officers on their qualification to conduct SFST for use in DWI investigations.

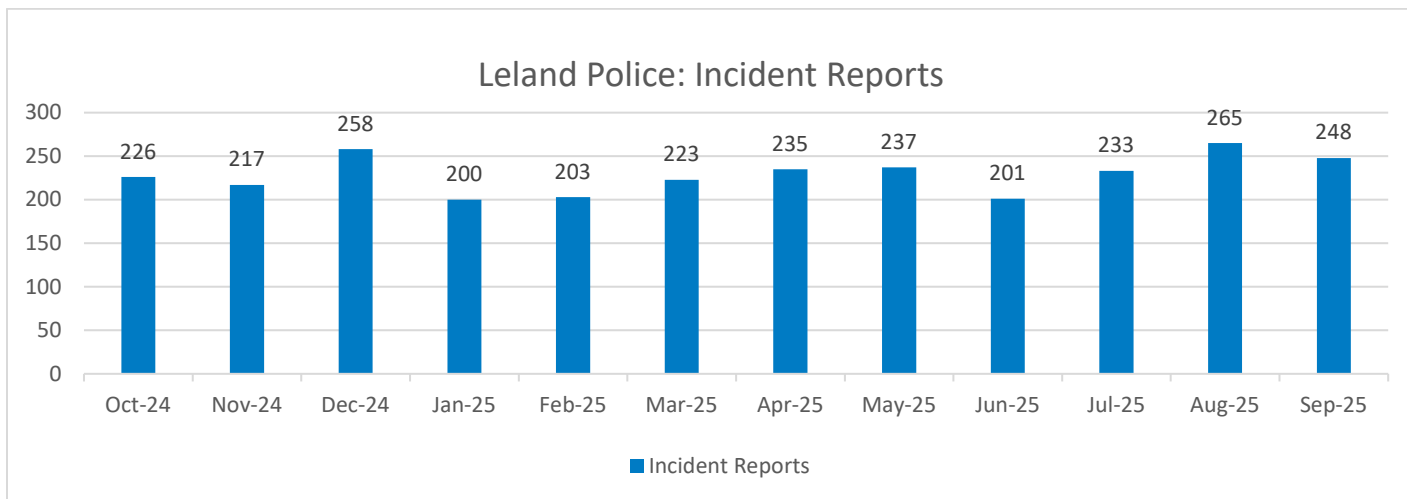
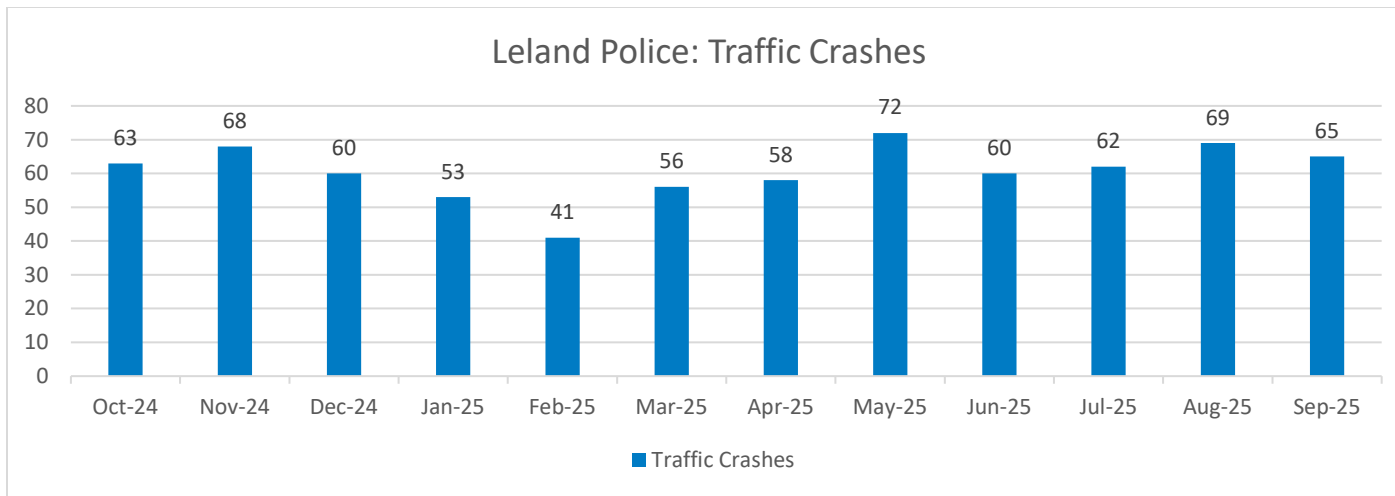
Sergeants Guy and Terry attended the FBI-LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute course September 22-26 at the Clinton Police Department. This class is part of the FBI's Trilogy Series relating to various aspects of leadership.

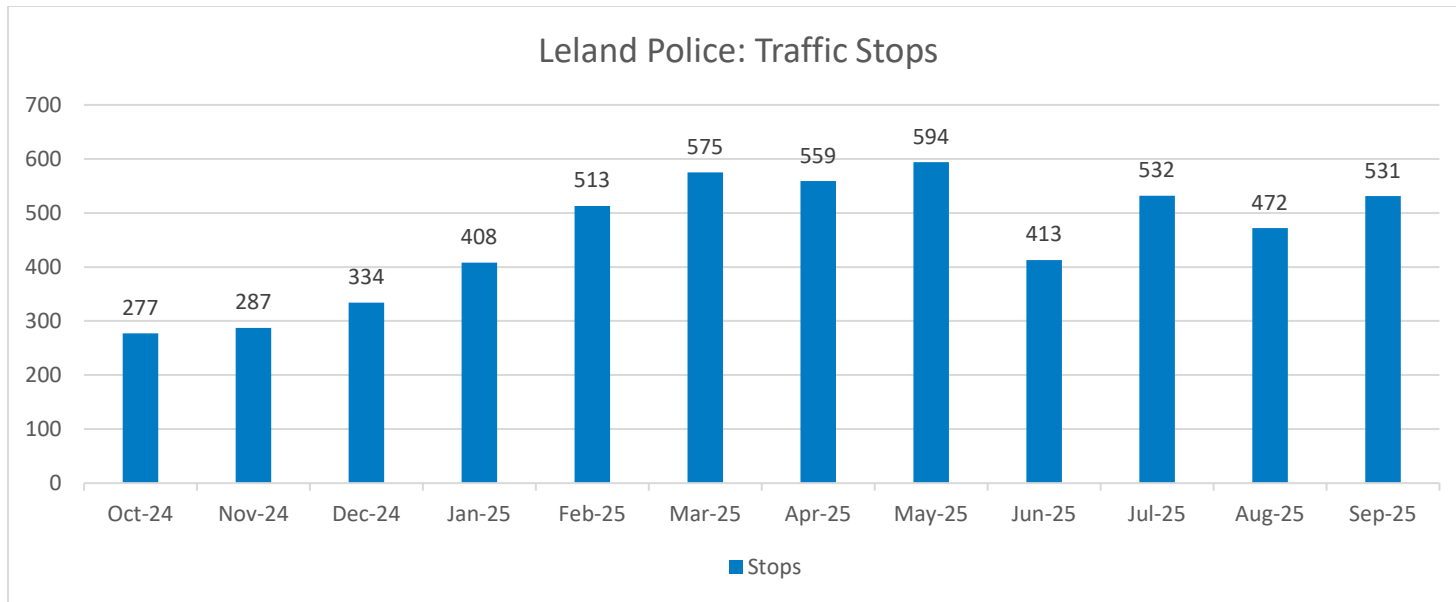
Active Mutual Aid Agreements

- Bald Head Island
- Boiling Spring Lakes
- Brunswick Community College
- Brunswick County
- Carolina Beach
- Caswell Beach
- DCI
- Duke Energy
- Holden Beach
- Jacksonville
- Navassa
- NCDOT
- NCDMV
- New Hanover County
- Northwest
- Oak Island
- Ocean Isle Beach
- SABLE
- Shallotte
- Southport
- Sunny Point
- Sunset Beach
- Wilmington

Dashboard



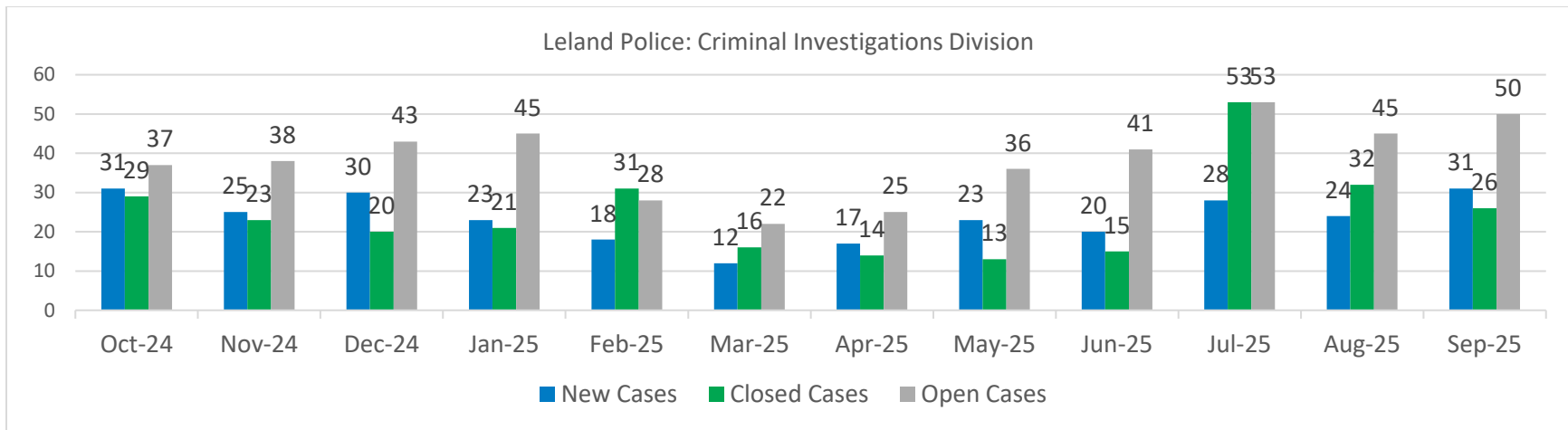




Traffic Focal Areas

August 2025	Time (Hours)	Stops	Citations	Warnings
Brunswick Forest Parkway	37.50	17	11	6
Grandiflora Drive	35.13	21	4	17
Pine Harvest Drive	27.10	26	18	8
Mallory Creek Drive	37.43	25	16	9

September 2025	Time (Hours)	Stops	Citations	Warnings
Brunswick Forest Parkway	25.85	15	6	9
Grandiflora Drive	14.82	1	1	0
Pine Harvest Drive	12.43	10	3	7
Mallory Creek Drive	26.33	4	0	4



Animal Services Report							
2025	CFS	Cats Picked up	Dogs Picked up	Transported	Traps	Citations	Bites
Jan	21	3	1	3	2	0	1
Feb	23	1	3	4	0	1	1
Mar	42	4	5	8	5	2	3
Apr	52	4	1	4	2	0	3
May	67	3	1	4	5	0	5
Jun	47	0	3	3	0	0	3
Jul	42	0	4	4	0	0	1
Aug	38	1	4	2	0	0	4
Sep	43	0	12	12	0	0	4
Totals	375	16	34	34	14	3	25

Department News

In addition to answering calls, staff accomplished numerous tasks in September:

- Assisted 17 homeowners with smoke alarm installations or battery replacements
- Assisted one citizen with a car seat check/installation
- Conducted one station/engine tour for local school students
- Participated in a community event for Mallory Creek
- Participated in WECT's Weather Alert Wednesday community event

Firefighter Joe Tassi joined the department.

Senior Fire Apparatus Engineer Chris Barrett attended the Child Passenger Safety Technician course.

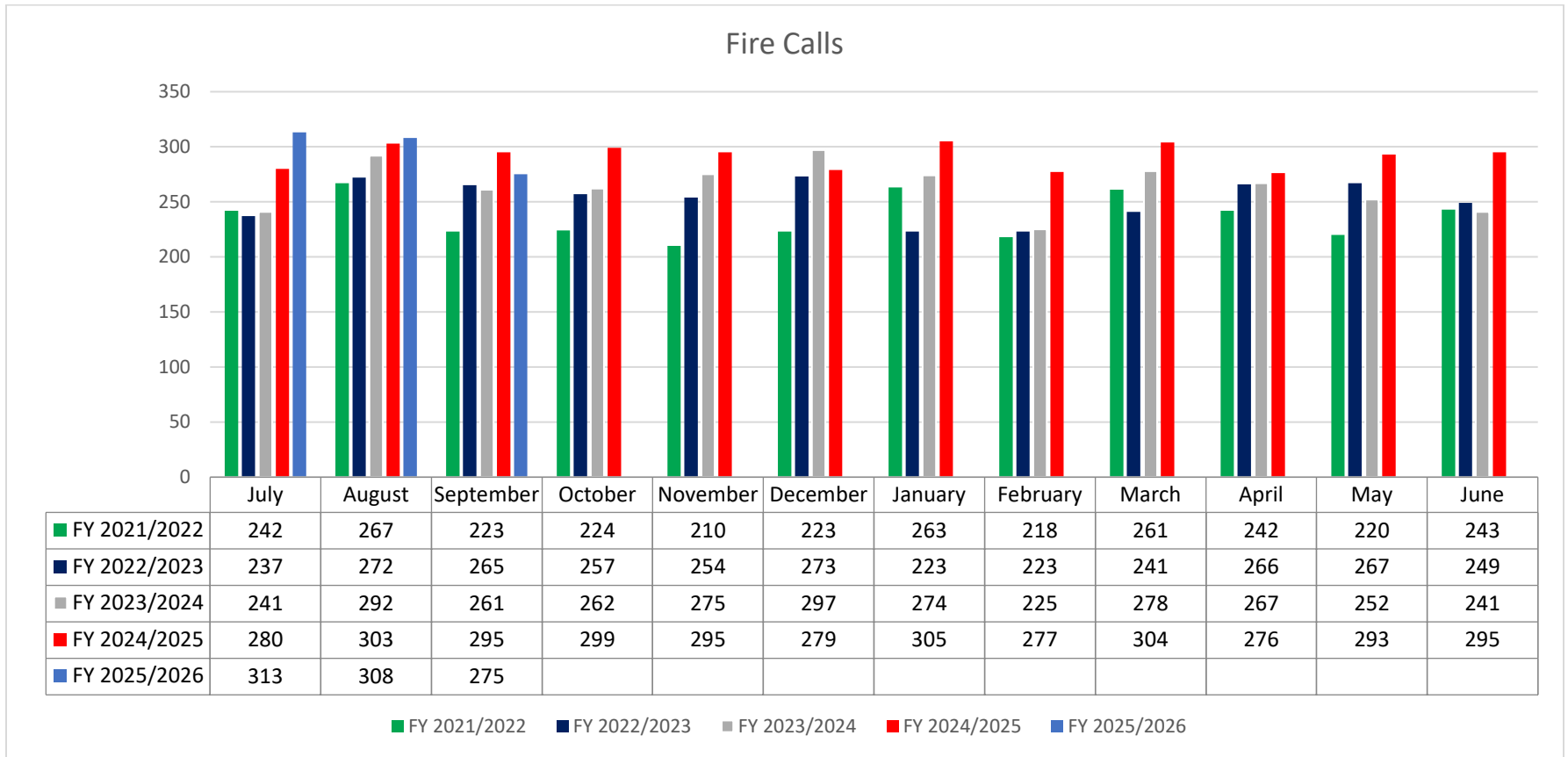
A Push-In Ceremony was held for the new Rescue Engine 52. The department participated in the Battle of the Bowls with Leland Police, which was hosted by the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department.

In September, the department continued its transition to a new method of documenting responses, which has caused a delay in this month's data. Future reports will include this information.

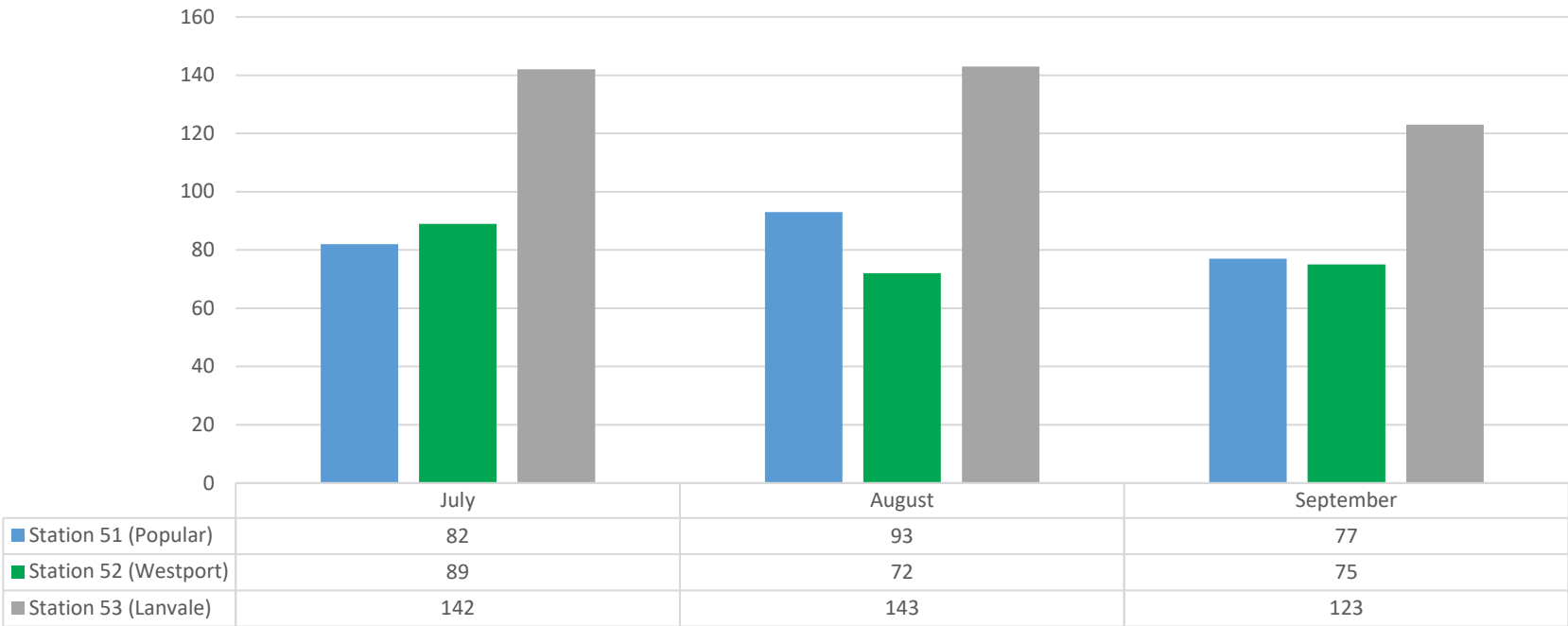
Active Mutual Aid Agreements

- Bald Head Island Department of Public Safety
- Boiling Spring Lakes Fire Rescue
- Bolivia Volunteer Fire Department
- Calabash Volunteer Fire Department
- Civietown Volunteer Fire Rescue
- Grissettown Longwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department
- Navassa Volunteer Fire Department
- North Carolina Incident Mutual Aid System
- New Hanover County Fire Rescue
- Northwest Volunteer Fire Department
- Oak Island Fire Department
- Ocean Isle Beach Fire Department
- Shallotte Fire & Rescue Department
- Shallotte Point Volunteer Fire Department
- Southport Fire Department
- St. James Volunteer Fire Department
- Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal
- Sunset Beach Fire Department
- Sunset Harbor & Zion Hill Volunteer Fire Department
- Supply Volunteer Fire Department
- Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department
- Waccamaw Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department
- Wilmington Fire Department
- Winnabow Volunteer Fire Department
- Yaupon Beach Volunteer Fire Department

Dashboard



FY 2025/2026 Fire Calls Per Station



■ Station 51 (Popular) ■ Station 52 (Westport) ■ Station 53 (Lanvale)

Department News

Chief Grimes completed his final interview for the Chief Fire Officer Designation, a credential awarded by the Center for Professional Credentialing to recognize career excellence and promote continuous personal development. He anticipates receiving the designation in October. Chief Grimes also completed Continuity Planning and Continuity of Operations Program Management courses through the National Disaster and Emergency Management University. These courses support continuity program managers in understanding their roles and responsibilities and provide resources to build comprehensive continuity capabilities. This training aligns with the Town's 2030 Strategic Plan, which prioritizes continuity of operations as a strategic initiative.

Staff have also advanced the update of the Emergency Operations Plan. The base plan is in final draft form, with annex development as the next step toward adoption.

Work Priorities and Initiatives

- Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Continuity of Operations Plan
- Emergency Operations Plan update

Projects Completed

- No projects were completed in September.

Department News

Staff generated 216 work orders in September and completed 205 (95%).

Streets Maintenance Technician I Tyler Barth has been promoted to Streets Maintenance Technician II.

Streets Maintenance Technician I Lucas Hall completed his Confined Space Certification Training.

Streets Updates

Work Priorities and Initiatives

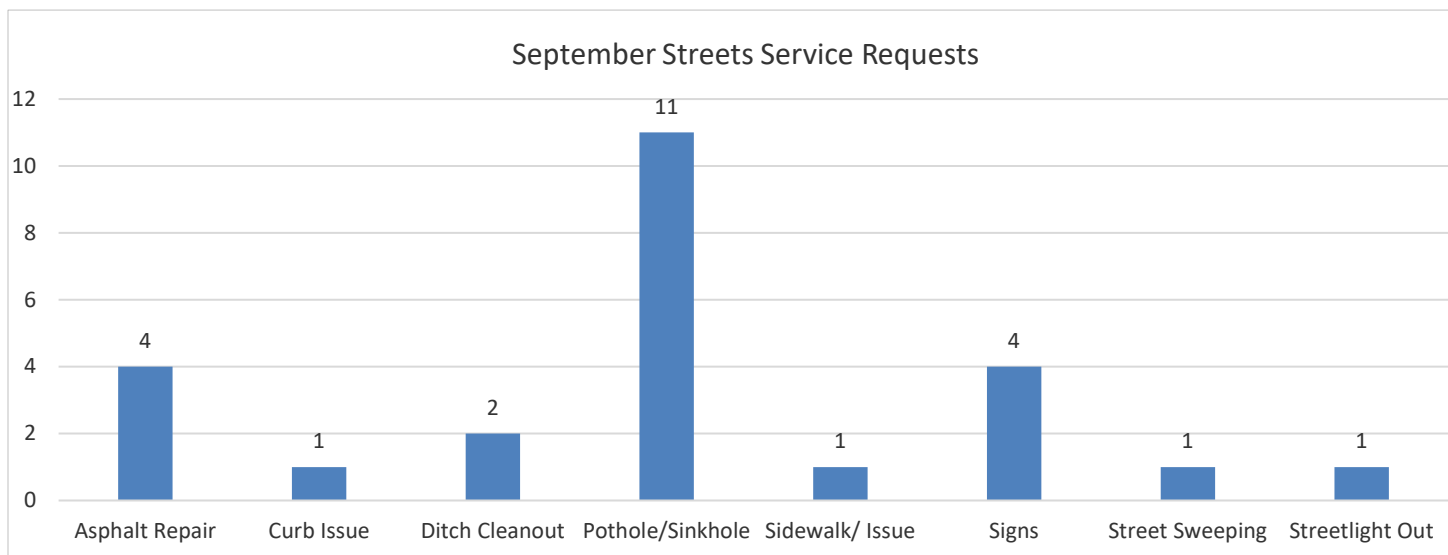
- Staff will focus on asphalt repair projects throughout Town in October.
- Staff will install new pedestrian safety devices called rapid flashing beacons at two crosswalk locations on Town Hall Drive.
- Streets Maintenance Technicians Tim Hall, Jacob Watson, and Evan Long will be attending Flagger Recertification Training, which is required every four years.
- Streets Maintenance Technicians Joe Piro and Lucas Hall, and Grounds Maintenance Technicians Ethan Scott, Dushawn Warner, and Bret Usry will be attending Flagger Certification Training.

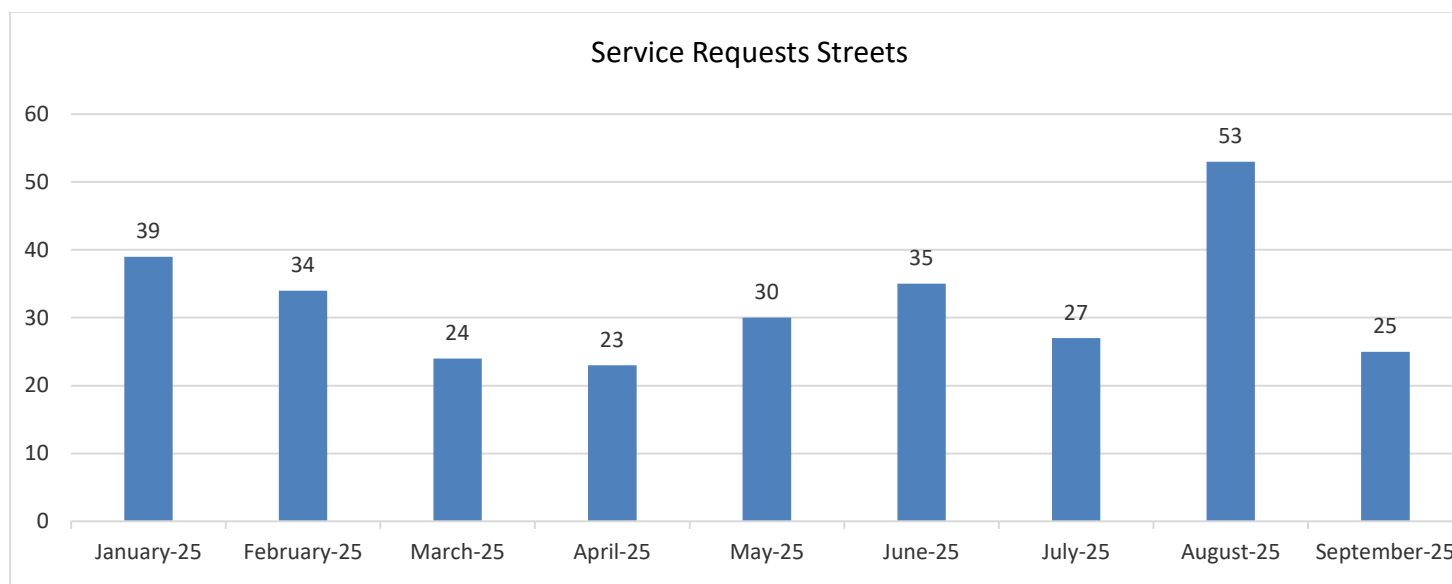
Projects Completed

- Staff inspected and repaired sinkholes in Westport and Magnolia Greens.
- Staff replaced sidewalks damaged by trees in Magnolia Greens and Brunswick Forest.
- Staff repaired potholes at various locations throughout Town.
- Staff removed trees damaging sidewalks in Magnolia Greens.
- Staff cleared vegetation from several ditches throughout Town.
- Staff completed pavement repair projects in Brunswick Forest, Mallory Creek, and Westport.
- Staff made improvements to the ADA curb ramp on Town Hall Drive in preparation for the installation of the new pedestrian crossing rapid flashing beacons.
- Staff repaired a major sinkhole in Brunswick Forest.

Work Order Summary

- Streets generated 25 work orders in September, with the majority being pothole/sinkhole (11), asphalt repair (4), signs (4), and ditch cleanout related (2).
- Streets completed 24 work orders in September, with an approximate expense of \$50,000 in labor, equipment, and materials to complete these work orders. The bulk of this expense was in employee costs (\$23,600) and equipment costs (\$21,500).





Grounds Updates

Work Priorities and Initiatives

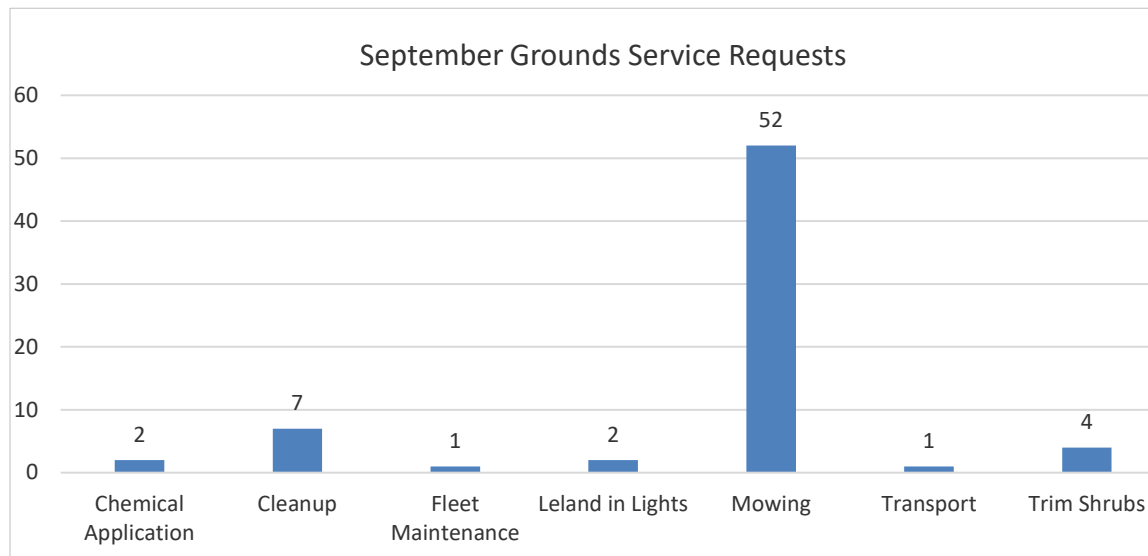
- Staff will continue to install lights at Town Hall for Leland in Lights and will continue into Founders Park to install holiday displays.
- Staff will continue to perform lawn maintenance at Town-owned properties and parks.
- Staff will continue to clear underbrush/vegetation on Town-owned properties to enhance their appearance.
- Staff will begin to prep annual beds around Town-owned properties for fall plantings.
- Staff will be installing fall and winter annuals.
- Staff members without flagger certification will attend training on October 2.

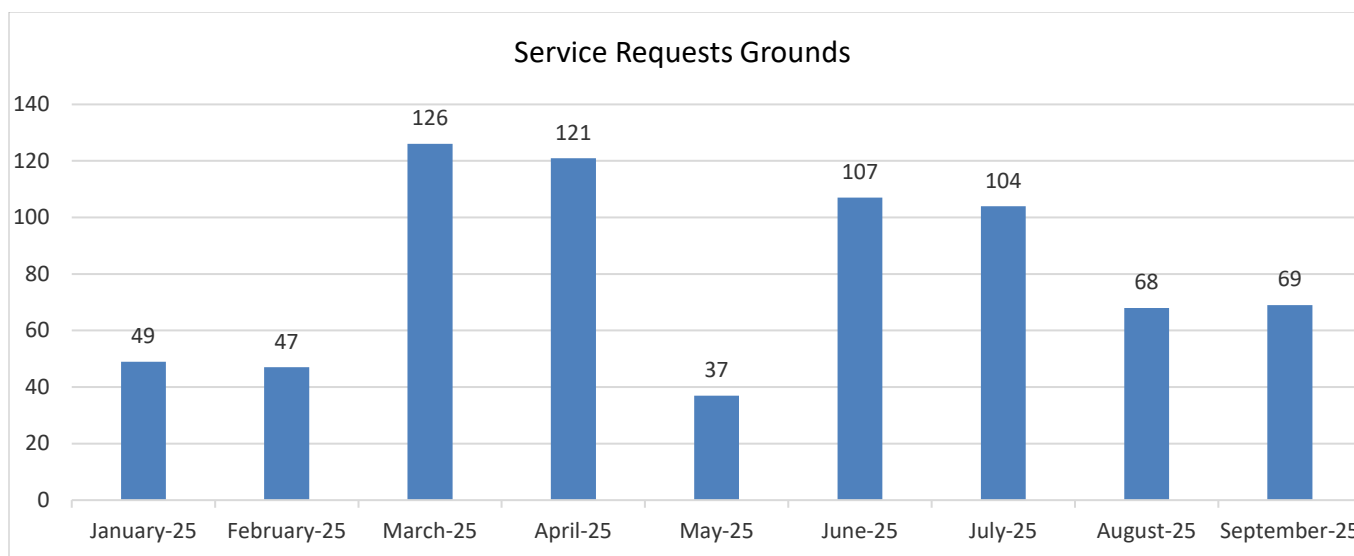
Projects Completed

- Staff replaced deteriorated boards at the classroom and on the bridge at Westgate Nature Park.
- Staff removed summer annuals in preparation to install fall and winter annuals.

Work Order Summary

- Grounds generated 69 work orders in September, with most of them being mowing (52), cleanup (7), and trimming shrub related (4).
- Grounds completed 64 work orders in September, with an approximate expense of \$27,600 in labor and equipment to complete these work orders.





Operations Updates

Work Priorities and Initiatives

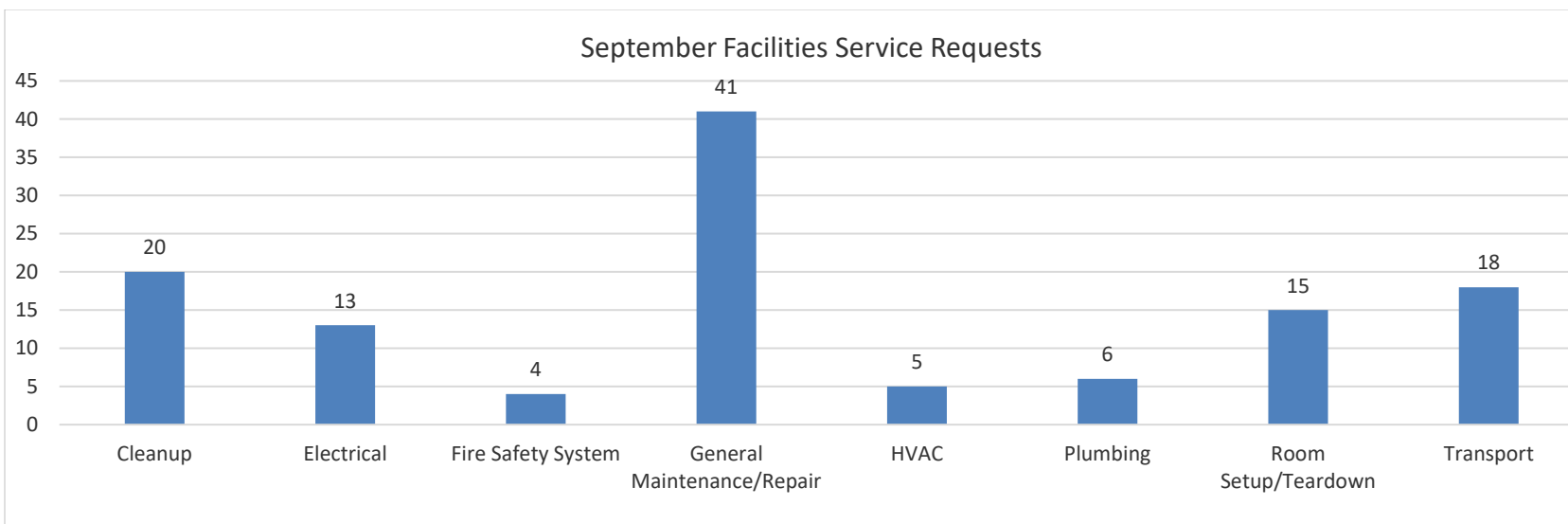
- Staff will be performing maintenance on the generators at Fire Station 51 and Fire Station 53.
- Staff will be implementing a building management system (Climatec) for the new HVAC system at Town Hall.
- Staff are in the process of changing fluorescent bulbs at Town Hall and replacing them with LED.
- Staff are in the process of completing the LED light replacement at the Leland Cultural Arts Center.
- Staff continue to work on a final detailed preventative maintenance plan for each Town facility.
- Staff will be introducing and monitoring the new work order email (workorders@townofleland.com).
- Staff will be trained on power transfer switches for Town generators.
- Staff will be working on arc flash and lock out/tag out procedures for Town facilities.
- Staff will be reviewing custodial training through the International Sanitary Supply Association Cleaning Management Institute.
- Staff will continue improving the iWork work order system to schedule custodians and room setups (table/chair configurations, etc.) for Town meetings and events.

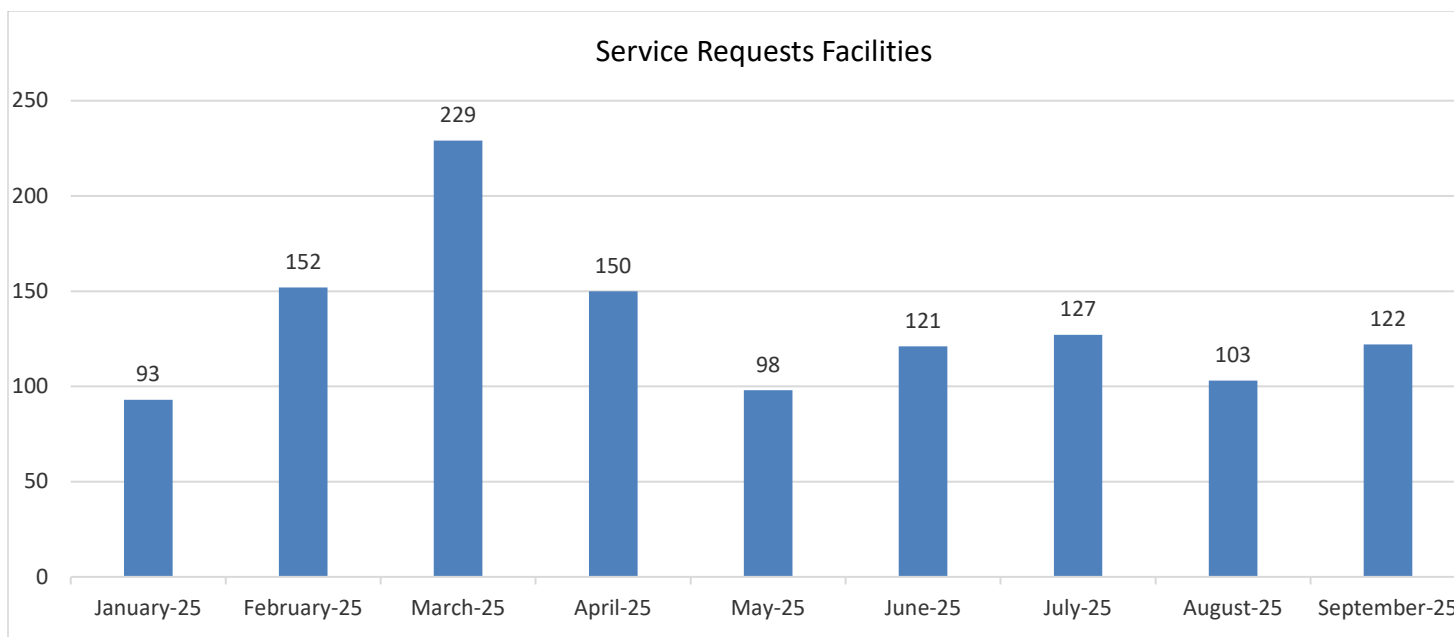
Projects Completed

- Staff completed training on the new HVAC system in the Town Hall expansion.
- Staff have completed the new gas fired water heater installation at Fire Station 52.
- Staff have improved efficiency and cleaning strategies in all Town facilities by inspecting and documenting work priorities, procedures, and schedules.
- Staff have installed a new air compressor at Fire Station 51.
- Staff have completed training on the new Kohler generator and transfer switch at the Town Hall expansion.

Work Order Summary

- Operations generated 122 work orders in September, with most of them being general maintenance/repair (41), cleanup (20), transport (18), and room setup/teardown (15), and electrical related (13).
- Operations completed 117 work orders in September, with an approximate expense of \$28,900 in labor and materials.





Town Project Updates

Projects In Design

- Baldwin Drive Improvements
- Leland Unpaved Roads Improvements
- Pavement Condition Assessment 2025-2026
- Roadway Resurfacing 2025-2026
- Sturgeon Creek Park
- U.S. Highway 17 Pedestrian Crossing

Projects In Ad/Bid/Award

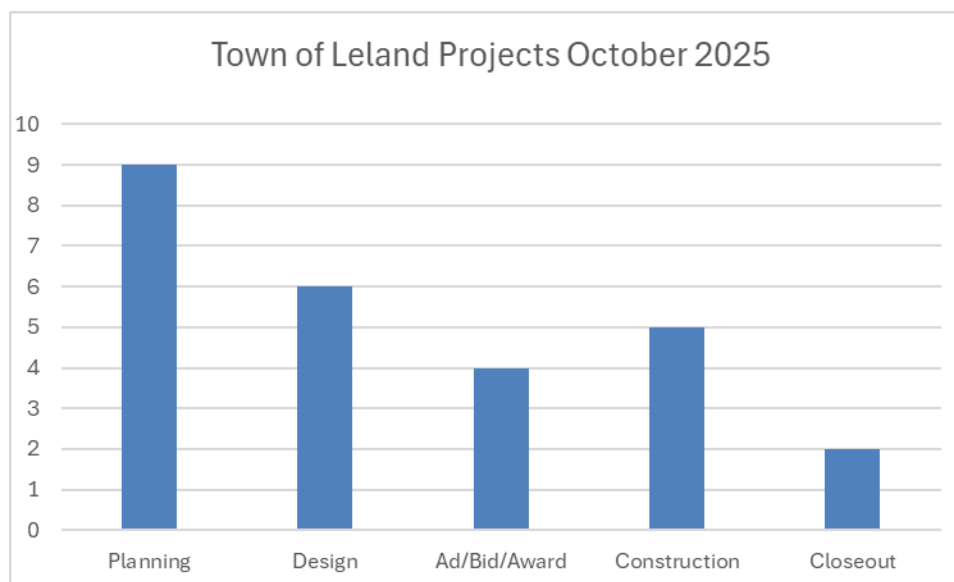
- CDBG Housing Construction
- Founders Park Amphitheater Rebuild
- Ocean Gate Plaza Roundabout

- StRAP Grant Phase 2

Projects In Construction

- AARP Community Challenge Grant – 5% complete
- Founders Park – 80% complete
- Roadway Resurfacing 2024-2025 – 75% complete
- Settler’s Village Connector Road – 0% complete
- Town Hall Expansion – 85% complete

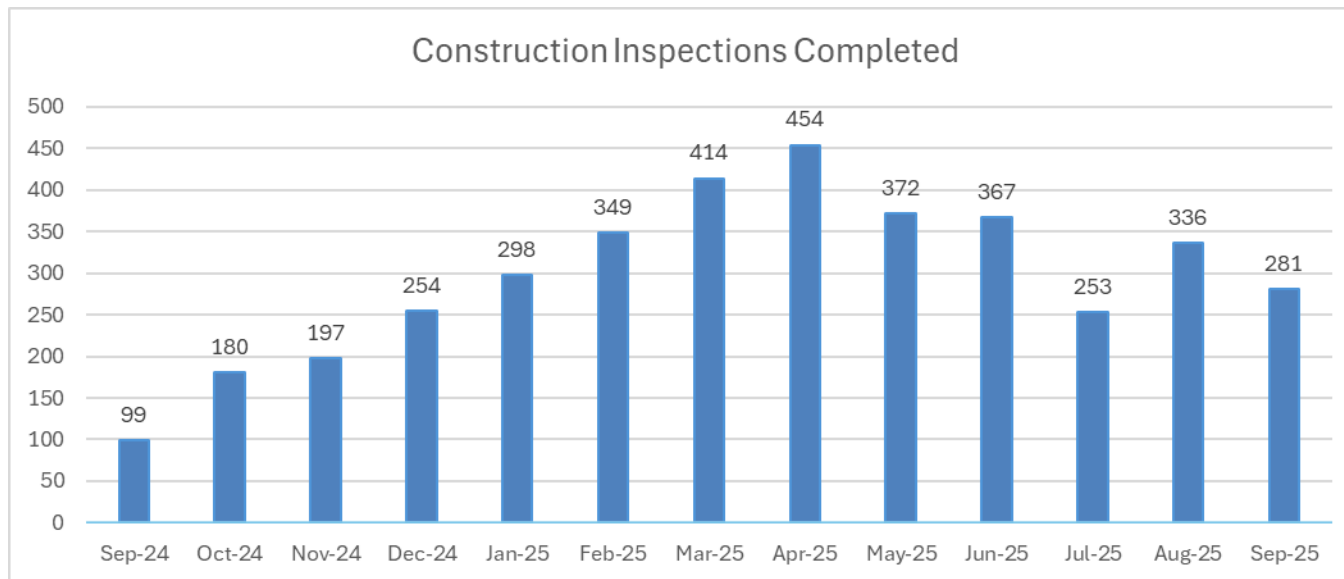
Full project details can be found [on the Town website](#).



Construction Inspections

Inspections

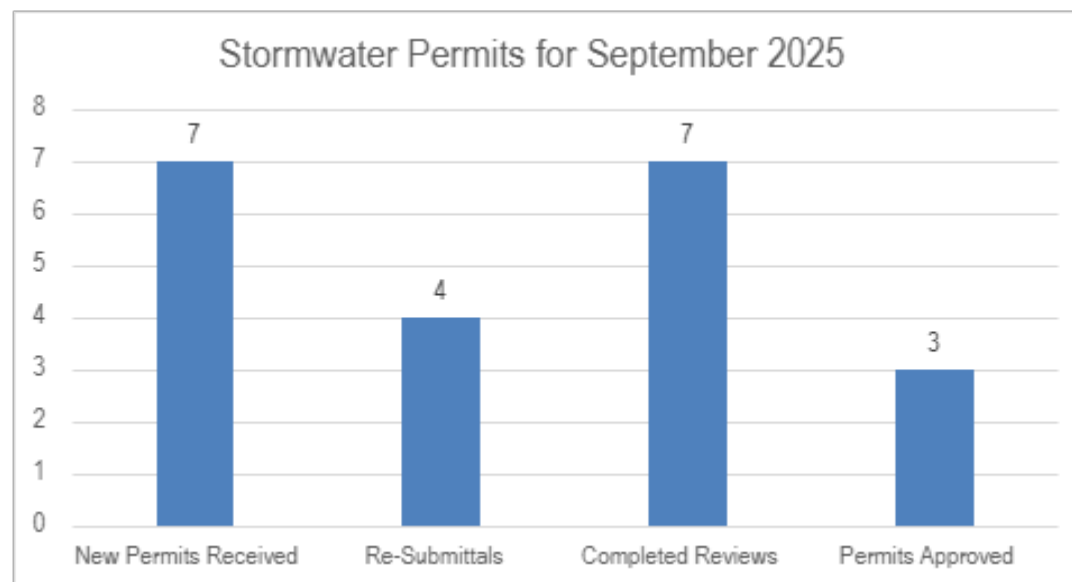
- Staff have completed 281 construction inspections.
 - Construction inspections include developer and Town projects.



Stormwater Permits

Stormwater Permit Review

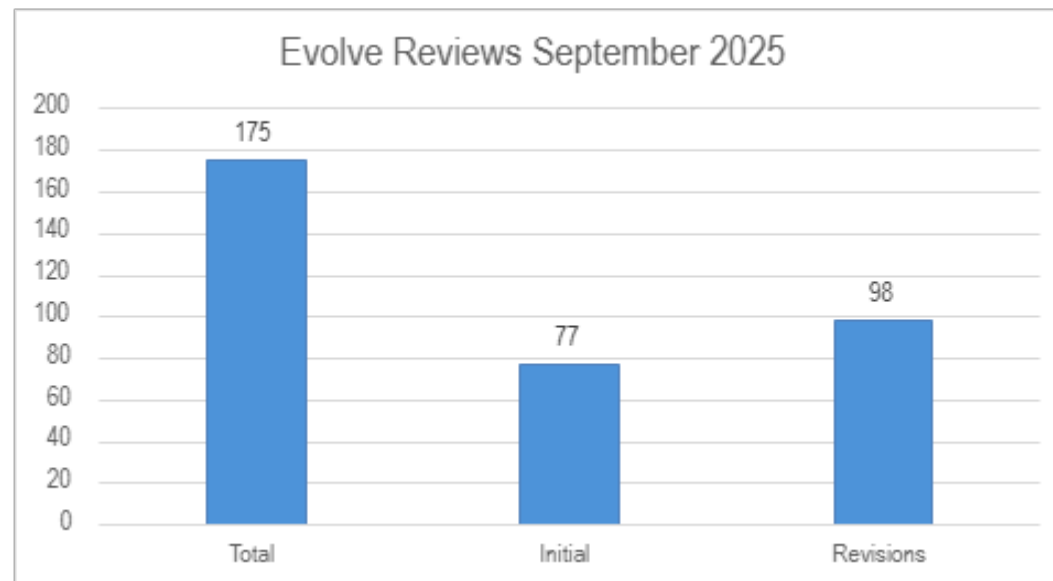
- 100% of stormwater permits submitted within the last 45 business days have either been approved or sent back for comments. Three permits were approved in September.



Evolve Reviews

Evolve Reviews

- Evolve reviews confirm that plats align with stormwater plans, performance guarantees cover required infrastructure and costs, and built-upon areas remain within impervious surface limits.



Department News

The Town of Leland is proud to be recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), earning two of the organization's highest honors. For the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget, the Town received its fourth Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. In addition, the Town was awarded its third Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Ms. McGrady attended a session for the Municipal Finance Webinar Series, Roles and Responsibilities, hosted by the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Ms. Newton attended UNC School of Government classes on Strategic Planning in Local Government and Capital Financing in Local Government. She also participated in the webinar Turning Resident Priorities into Budget Action: Exclusive Insights from a New National Survey, hosted by ICMA.

Ms. Cook attended the WILMA Leadership Institute, September 2025 Quarter 3 update hosted by Visit NC, and the NC Vision Zero Group meeting. Ms. Cook also attended UNCW's Project Management Class.

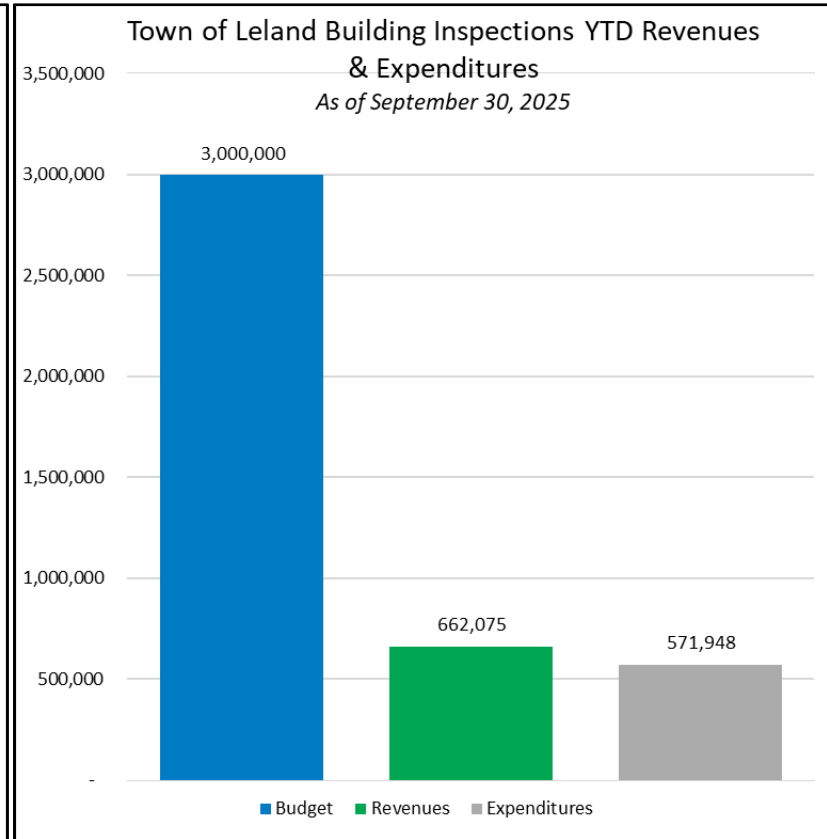
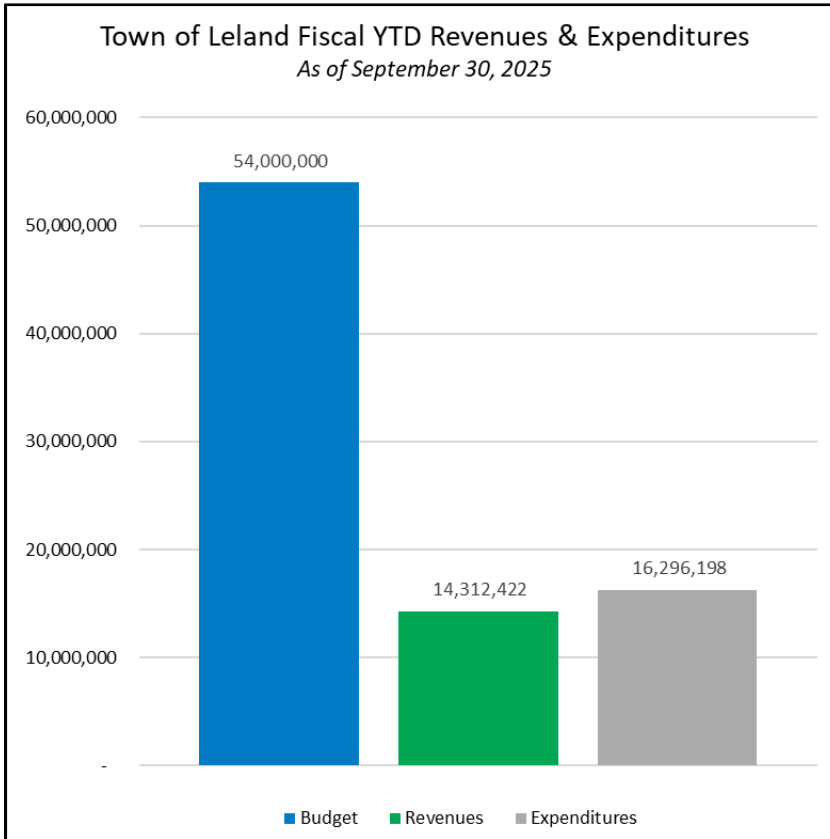
Ms. Norton attended the Civic Fellows Leadership Summit at the UNC School of Government.

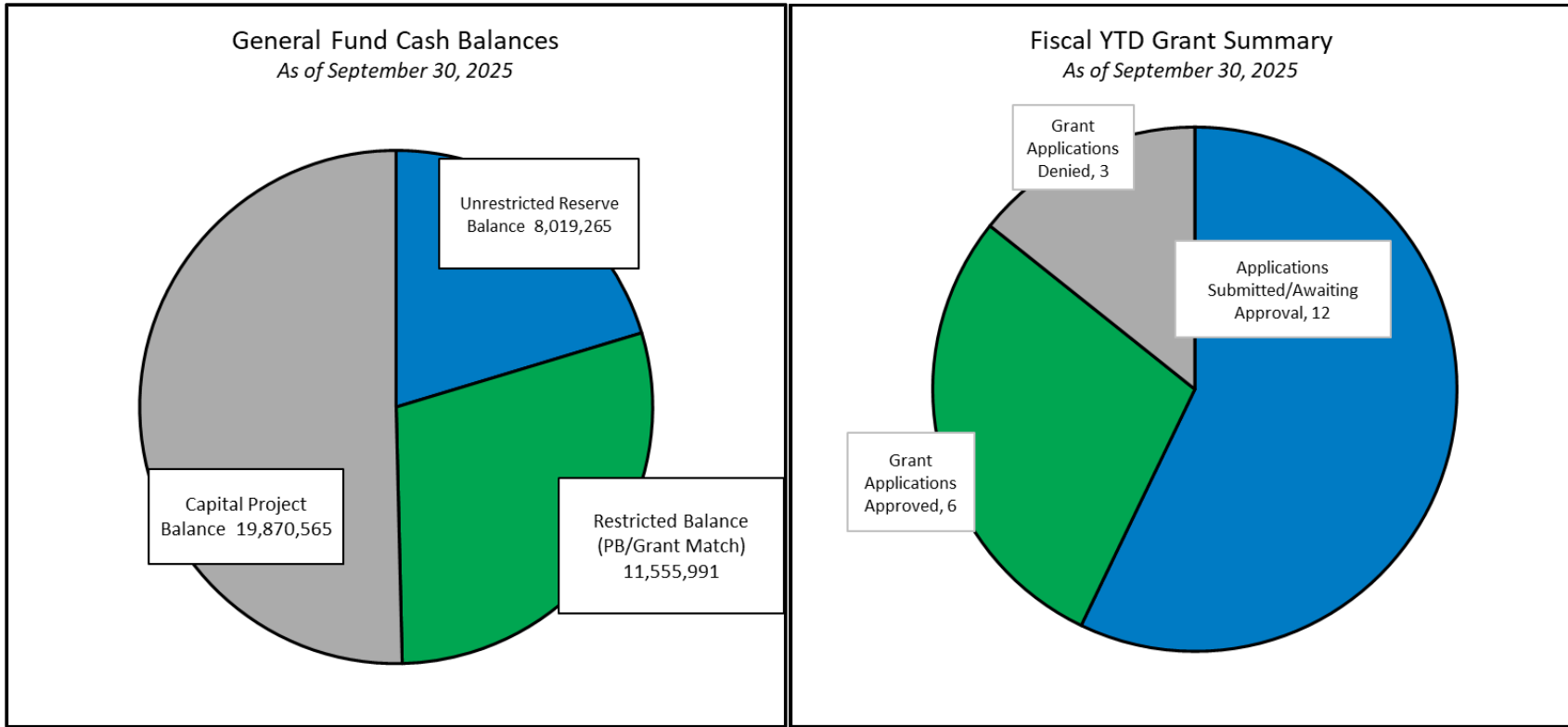
Ms. Hagg attended the GFOA's webinar series titled GFOA Best Practices.

Financial Budget to Actual Report – September 30, 2025

REVENUES							
	Original Budget	Current Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Encumbrances	Variance	Percent Remaining
Property Tax	19,280,000	19,280,000	2,238,153	3,399,996	-	15,880,004	82.37%
Sales Tax	14,200,000	14,200,000	1,302,038	3,570,057	-	10,629,943	74.86%
Fire Fees	6,680,000	6,680,000	-	1,640,548	-	5,039,452	75.44%
Municipal Vehicle Tax	950,000	950,000	-	153,540	-	796,460	83.84%
Non-Primary General Fund	6,890,000	12,890,000	551,418	5,368,282	-	7,521,718	58.35%
Building Inspections	3,000,000	3,000,000	135,613	662,075	-	2,337,925	77.93%
REVENUES	51,000,000	57,000,000	4,227,222	14,794,497	-	42,205,503	74.04%
EXPENSES							
	Original Budget	Current Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Encumbrances	Variance	Percent Remaining
Governing Body	350,000	350,000	18,918	80,291	10,745	258,964	73.99%
Administration	3,100,000	3,100,000	106,606	753,399	140,356	2,206,245	71.17%
Information Technology	4,160,000	4,160,000	326,378	703,634	545,112	2,911,255	69.98%
Human Resources	610,000	610,000	25,989	72,457	34,998	502,545	82.38%
Finance	1,270,000	1,270,000	100,348	255,896	19,882	994,222	78.29%
Planning	1,200,000	1,200,000	56,255	176,430	36,266	987,304	82.28%
P&R & Cultural Arts	1,350,000	1,350,000	94,742	232,780	178,419	938,801	69.54%
Operations	1,970,000	1,970,000	163,834	504,853	158,522	1,306,625	66.33%
Streets & Grounds	3,670,000	3,670,000	203,770	557,003	160,063	2,952,934	80.46%
Engineering	1,350,000	1,350,000	66,058	188,856	67,241	1,093,903	81.03%
Police	8,250,000	8,250,000	507,586	1,361,841	514,964	6,373,195	77.25%
Emergency Management	240,000	240,000	14,423	45,228	2,150	192,622	80.26%
Fire	10,630,000	10,630,000	547,488	1,482,818	2,493,018	6,654,165	62.60%
Debt Services	6,900,000	6,900,000	615,804	2,587,237	-	4,312,763	62.50%
Transfers	2,950,000	8,950,000	93,445	7,293,445	-	1,656,555	18.51%
Building Inspections	3,000,000	3,000,000	204,385	571,948	60,808	2,367,244	78.91%
EXPENSES	51,000,000	57,000,000	3,146,030	16,868,116	4,422,543	35,709,341	62.65%

Dashboard

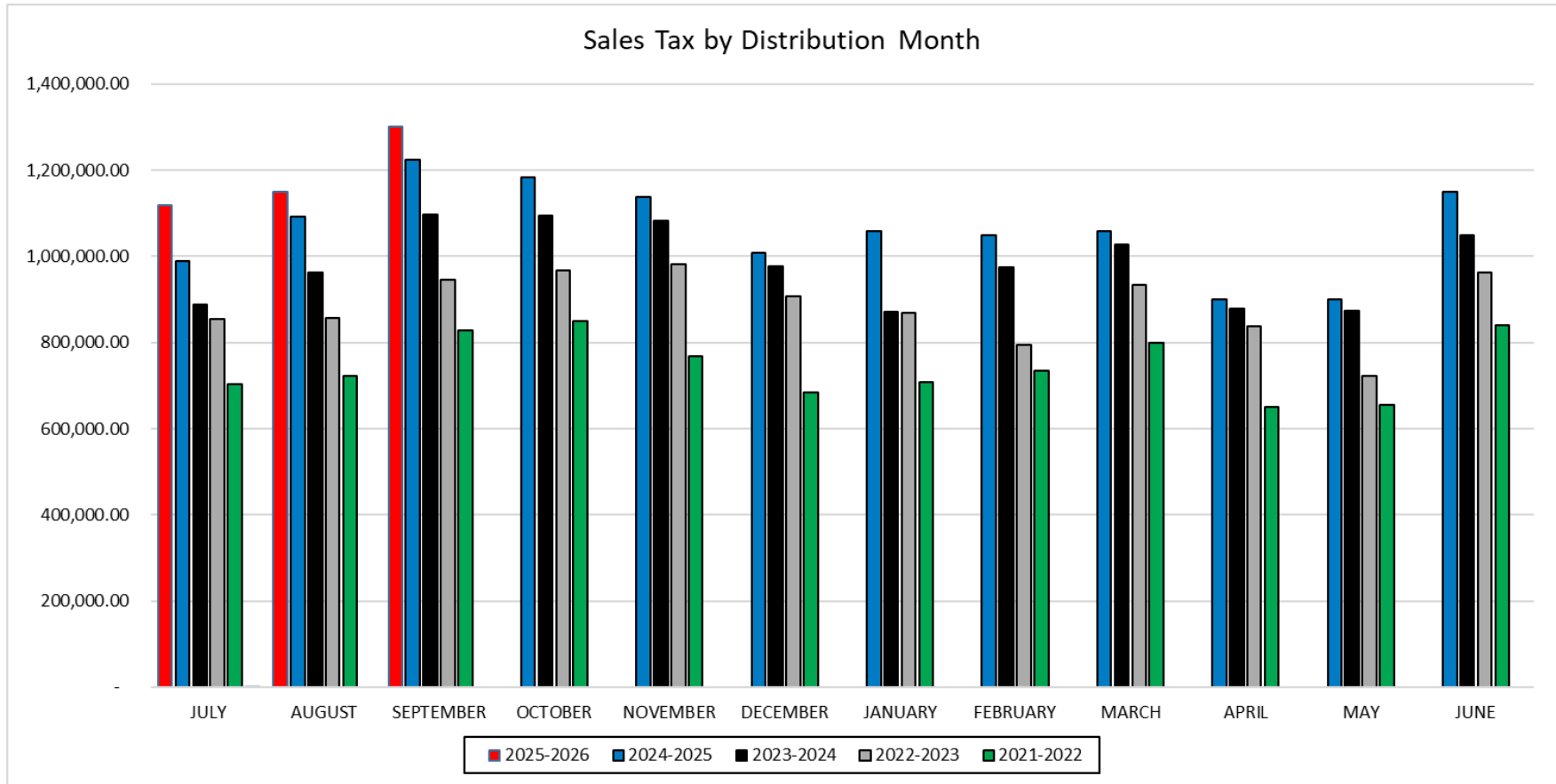




*The Fiscal YTD Grant Summary chart reflects grant application data exclusively from the current fiscal year.

FY Sales Tax Distribution

These amounts represent the month/year the Town received the funds from NCDOR.



Grant News

For detailed grant/project information, please visit the [Grants webpage](#).

Donations

North Carolina Division of Emergency Management donated two pallets of bottled water.

Purchase Orders Issued at the Direction of the Town Manager in Excess of \$50,000

Description: Desktop and laptop replacement; Vendor: DHE Computer Systems LLC; Amount: \$122,759.07

Description: New apparatus (2); Vendor: Atlantic Emergency Solutions; Amount: \$2,300,000.00

Description: Website migration; Vendor: CivicPlus LLC; Amount: \$50,089.00

Intradepartmental and Interdepartmental Budget Transfers

There were no budget transfers in September.

Audit Committee Meeting Summary

The Audit Committee did not meet in September.

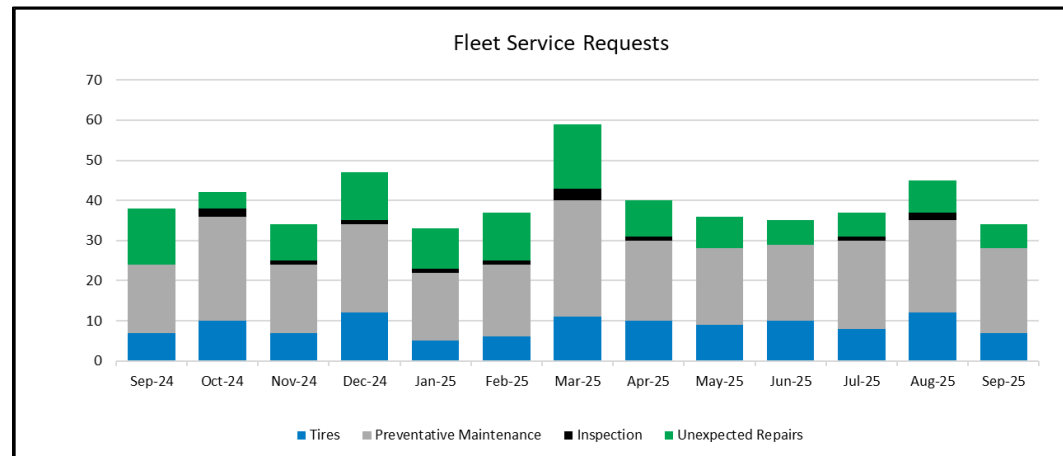
Investment Portfolio

The Town has a diversified investment portfolio across four wealth management banking institutions. The September overview is below:

	Average Monthly Yield	Dividend Reinvestment / Interest Earned	Fiscal YTD Dividend Reinvestment / Interest Earned	Month End Statement Balance or Market Value
First Citizens Bank	0.040	6,855.35	21,860.93	2,116,929.96
NC Capital Management Trust	0.042	56,235.50	197,317.19	17,721,640.47
NC Class	0.043	14,843.01	45,738.85	4,242,094.94
Atlantic Union Bank 36m CD	0.037	23,697.30	48,110.01	8,048,110.01
Total		101,631.16	313,026.98	32,128,775.38

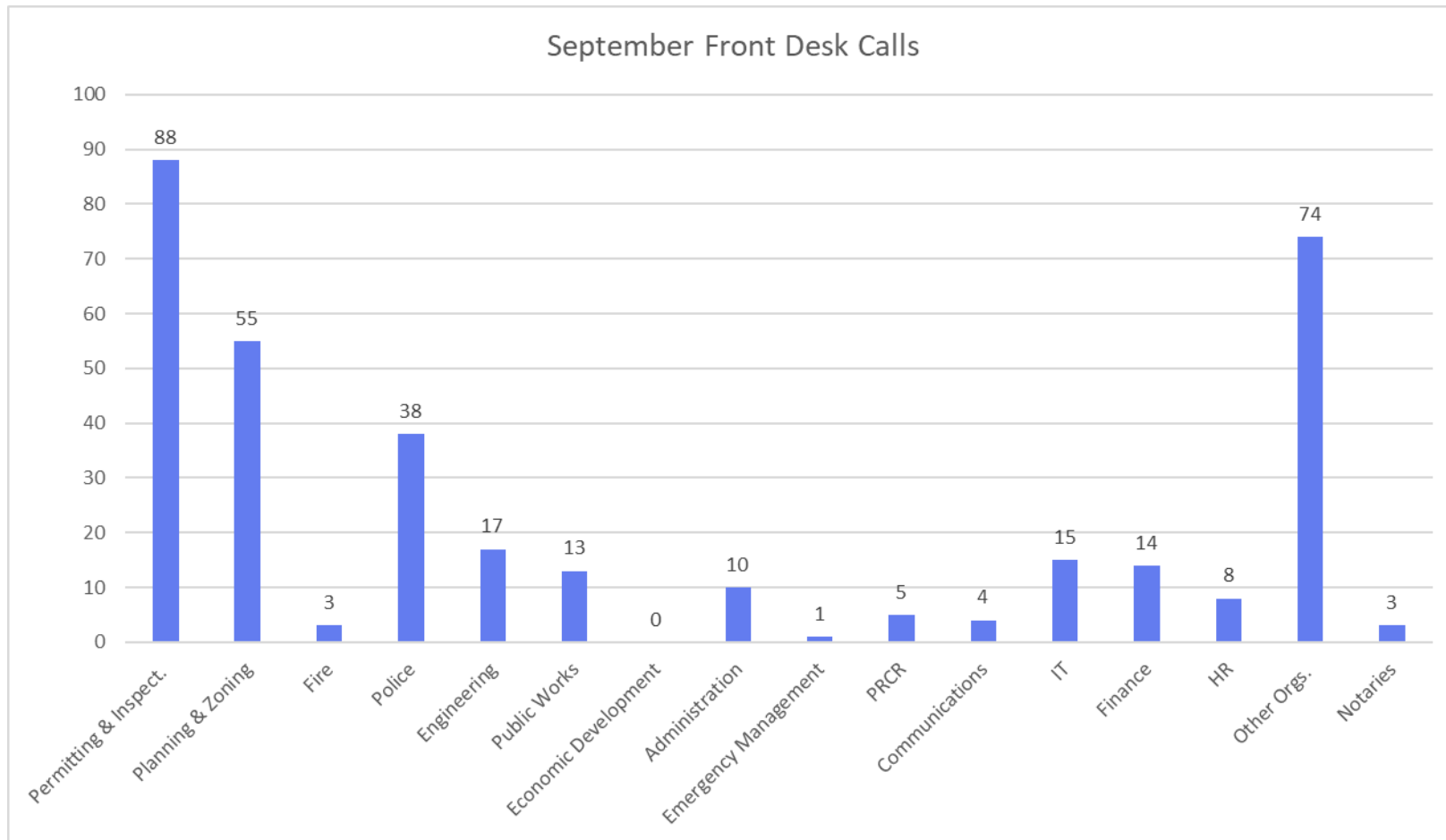
Fleet Updates

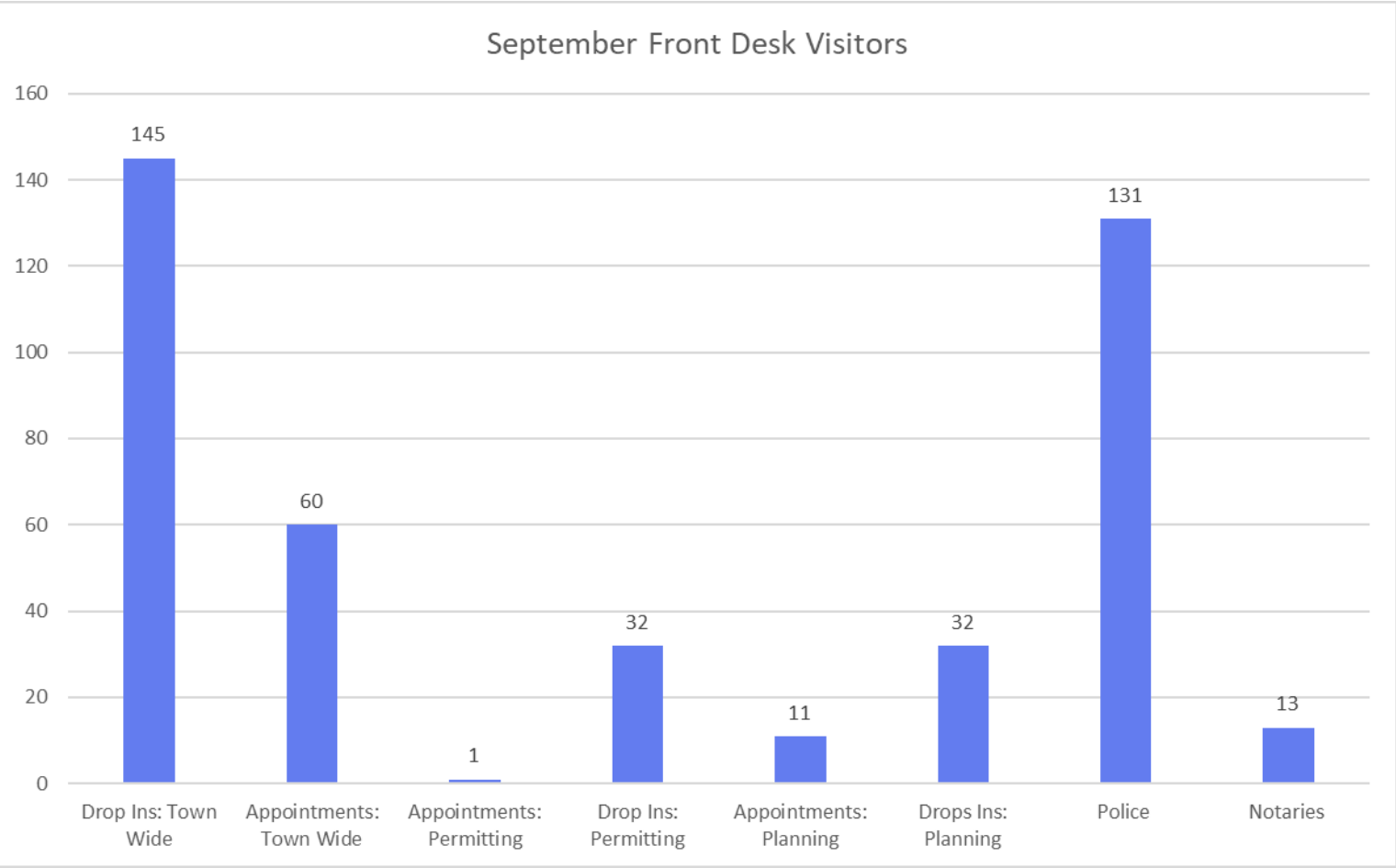
Fleet generated 34 work orders in September for an approximate expense of \$9,116.94



Department News

In September, the department facilitated responses to 39 contact forms submitted through the website, 348 calls, and 425 visitors to Town Hall. Ms. Fore and Ms. Jewell attended the North Carolina Terms FEMA Public Information Basics and received their Basic PIO Certifications. Ms. Draughn attended a webinar on Language Access Planning for Emergencies and Disasters through Building Integrated Communities hosted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.





Social Media Update

- Facebook Highlights (September 1 – 30, 2025)
 - Added 65 new page followers
 - Impressions – 51,635
 - Top post (Largest reach): “A new tradition is cooking in Leland! Join us for Battle of the Bowls on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Leland Cultural Arts Center.
This free, family-friendly evening brings together everything that makes our community special:
 - 🎵 Live bluegrass from Massive Grass
 - 🍲 Chili cookoff between **Leland NC Police Department** and **Leland Fire/Rescue**—bring a canned good or \$1 donation to cast your vote and benefit Manna Ministries
 - 🛒 Local vendors to jumpstart holiday shopping
 Be part of this new community favorite 🙌 <https://ow.ly/6qnP50WUznz>”
- Twitter/X Highlights (September 1 – 30, 2025)
 - Impressions/Reach – 1,213
 - Top tweet (Largest reach): “The municipal election is Tuesday, Nov. 4! Check if your address is in Leland and confirm your registration by Oct. 10. Vote by mail, early voting, or on Election Day. Find details on deadlines, polling places, and more through @BrunscoboE 🙌 <https://ow.ly/xK4s50X4gwf> #LelandNC”
- Nextdoor Highlights (September 1 – 30, 2025)
 - Impressions/Reach – 15,912
 - Likes/Comments – 40
 - Top post (Largest reach: “Happy birthday, Leland! 🎉 Today, we celebrate 36 years since our Town was officially incorporated. From small beginnings to a growing community, each year adds to the story of our Town. Thank you to everyone who helps make Leland a place to call home. Here’s to the year ahead. ❤️ 🌳”
- Instagram Highlights (September 1 – 30, 2025)
 - Added 68 new page followers
 - Post impressions – 307
 - Top post (Largest reach): “🚓 Join us for National Night Out with the Leland Police Department on Oct. 7 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Northwest District Park! Enjoy a free evening with yard games, giveaways, a live DJ, and the chance to explore police cars, fire

trucks and more. Learn more about this family-friendly event under Town News at the link in our bio. [#TownofLelandNC #LelandNC](#)”

- LinkedIn Highlights (September 1 – 30, 2025)
 - Added 14 new followers
 - Page views – 153
 - Post impressions – 4,222
 - Reactions/Comments/Shares – 146
 - Top post (Largest reach): “ 🇺🇸 Since adopting Leland 2045, we’ve been making steady progress toward a thriving, inclusive, and resilient future. From clearing 8,600 feet of debris at Jackeys Creek to hosting our fifth Hurricane Expo, we're putting long-term goals into action. 🌳 🌍 Check out the latest Leland 2045 quarterly update 🙌 <https://ow.ly/mAK650WXv7T>”

Project Updates

- Created posts that resulted in 73,289 impressions across social media platforms.
- Developed and published the [proposed fiscal year 2026-2027 budget webpage](#). This will serve as the main source of comprehensive information and explanation of the proposed budget for next fiscal year.
- Staff have identified a website vendor to enhance Town communications and are working to finalize an agreement.
- Continued a comprehensive marketing campaign for Leland in Lights, including finalizing a contract with a local graphic designer to create a logo and brand guide for the event.
- Continued a comprehensive marketing campaign for Lend a Hand in Leland, including weekly project spotlights and targeted advertising.
- Continued working with IT to create an employee intranet site.
- Continued working with Engineering and Planning and Inspections to create a homeowner's resource guide.
- Began conversations about potential different strategies to make the Public Safety annual reports more engaging.
- Coordinated a video shoot with Leland Fire/Rescue for the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. The foundation awarded the Town a grant to purchase extrication equipment and is now highlighting how the department has put it to use.
- Coordinated and participated in WECT’s Weather Alert Wednesday at the Leland Lowe’s to engage with community members and help them prepare for hurricane season.

Website Articles/Media Coverage

- Town of Leland Website
 - [Town of Leland Begins Construction for 20-Year Roadway Resurfacing Lifecycle Program](#)
 - [Battle of the Bowls Chili Cookoff Coming to Leland](#)
 - [Leland 2045 Quarterly Update](#)
 - [Leland Welcomes the Season with First-Ever Fall Festival](#)
 - [2025 Municipal Election Information](#)
- WECT
 - [Crews start work on Leland's 20-year roadway resurfacing project](#)
 - [Leland Police searching for hit-and-run suspect](#)
 - [First Alert Weather Team hosting Weather Alert Wednesday event in Leland](#)
 - [Battle of the Bowls chili cookoff to be held at Leland Cultural Arts Center](#)
 - [Leland Town Council annexes, rezones Jackey's Creek property](#)
 - [Leland Fire and Rescue holds push-in ceremony for new fire truck](#)
- WWAY
 - [Town of Leland begins construction for 20-Year roadway resurfacing lifecycle program](#)
 - [Leland art exhibit explores culture of Puerto Rico](#)
 - [Leland Town Council unanimously approves annexation and rezoning of Jackey's Creek area](#)
 - [Leland Fire/Rescue to dedicate new fire engine with Push-In Ceremony](#)
 - [Leland fire department unveils new fire truck at push-in ceremony](#)
- StarNews
 - [A Nextdoor favorite, Leland shop offers interior design and 're-loved painted furniture'](#)
 - [You'll find hidden gem burgers and hotdogs at this Leland restaurant](#)
 - [Several new restaurants are opening soon in Leland. Here's the latest.](#)
 - [One of Leland's biggest developments keeps growing as new plans submitted](#)
 - [Leland approves major annexation with plans for development on the horizon](#)
 - [Meet the candidates: Leland Town Council](#)

- Port City Daily
 - [The Agenda: Government meetings happening this week](#)
 - [Town of Leland begins major roadway resurfacing program](#)
 - [The Agenda: Local government meetings this week](#)
 - [The Agenda: Meetings in local government this week](#)
 - [Leland Town Council moves forward with Jackey's Creek annexation](#)
 - [The Agenda: Meetings in local government this week](#)
 - [Leland council backs Jackey's Creek development despite public opposition](#)
- Wilmington Biz
 - [Looking At Leland](#)

TDA Marketing

- Finalized a full-page ad promoting Leland in Lights to be published in Our State magazine.
- Finalized a contract with Springer Studios for photography and videography services through the remainder of the fiscal year. Staff have started developing expectations and identifying needs for tourism coverage.
- Staff met to discuss the recently adopted Strategic Plan and set implementation goals and timelines.

Leland TDA Meeting Summary

The Leland Tourism Development Authority met on September 8 and heard the following:

- Brunswick County TDA presentation
- LTDA and Town service contract discussion
- Adopted the Leland Tourism Development Authority Strategic Plan
- Adopted a resolution authorizing the LTDA chair to enter into an agreement for photography/videography services
- Adopted a resolution approving a grant contract with the Town of Leland for Leland in Lights

The next LTDA meeting is scheduled for November 3.

Department News

Eric Heunemann celebrated 20 years of service as a Building Inspector with the Town.

Lawrence Wills, Adam Stanley, and Mark Fields completed the Mechanical Level 2 course and are now preparing to take the standard Mechanical Level 2 certification exam.

Josh Babson successfully passed the NC Fire Standard Level 2 certification exam and received his standard Fire Level 2 certification. He also received his probationary Fire Level 2 certification.

Bill Thornton attended the International Code Council Plan Review Institute, a five-day seminar that focused on the knowledge and skills necessary to perform a plan review referencing the 2021 International Residential Code and the structural and nonstructural provisions of the International Building Code.

Javier Barrera attended the NC Association of Floodplain Managers Fall Conference, a three-day event that included presentations from NCDOT and NC State on lessons learned from past disasters such as Hurricane Helene, legislative updates, and technical sessions. At the closing of the event, Mr. Barrera successfully passed the Certified Floodplain Manager exam and is now among the staff trained and accredited to evaluate permits for development in special flood hazard areas.

Planning Board Meeting Summary

The Planning Board met on September 23, 2025 and heard the following item:

1. Zoning Text Amendment – The Planning Board voted 6 to 0 to recommend approval of a staff-initiated ordinance amendment to update some standards in the FlexCode, including playground design criteria, definitions, administrative adjustments for travel lane widths, forecourt private frontages, lot coverage, glazing requirements, and others.

The Planning Board's next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2025, at 6 p.m.

Board of Adjustment Meeting Summary

The Board of Adjustment met on September 2, 2025 and heard the following item:

1. Variance Request – The Board of Adjustment voted to deny a variance request that would have allowed for additional signage on a business at 3717 Leland Corners Drive.

The Board of Adjustment’s next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2025, at 6 p.m.

Current Planning Update

Technical Review Committee (TRC) Report

In September, the TRC reviewed only project revisions and no new items.

Number of Reviews by Stage – Permitting Applications

<u>Stage/Plan Type</u>	<u>Initial</u>		<u>Revisions</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	No.	Avg. Days	No.	Avg. Days	No.	Avg. Days
Building/ Flood (3 Day Review)	2	1.0	1	1.0	3	1.0
Chief Building Official Review	4	8.3	2	5.0	6	7.2
Commercial Building / Flood	7	4.3	2	3.0	9	4.0
Commercial Building / Flood / Zoning	2	7.0	11	2.4	13	3.1
Commercial Building / Zoning	3	7.3	6	2.3	9	4.0
Commercial Zoning	1	1.0	1	1.0	2	1.0
Electrical (5-Day Review)	9	2.7	4	1.3	13	2.2
Fire Operational Permits	2	1.0	0		2	1.0
Fire/Electrical/Zoning/Pub Serv	0		2	1.0	2	1.0
Permit Building/Zoning	11	5.7	13	3.2	24	4.4
Permit Flood	2	1.5	1	1.0	3	1.3
Permit Zoning Only	1	1.0	1	2.0	2	1.5
Residential Building / Flood	4	5.5	1	3.0	5	5.0
Residential Building / Zoning / Flood	71	7.1	66	2.2	137	4.8
Residential Flood	2	1.5	0		2	1.5
	Total Initial: 121		Total Revisions: 111		Total Plans: 232	

Number of Reviews by Stage – Planning Applications

<u>Stage/Plan Type</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Revisions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Address Request	4	1	5
Development Site Plan	2	5	7
Development Site Plan Minor Modification	1	1	2
Exempt Plat	7	2	9
Final Plat	2	2	4
General Rezoning	1	1	2
Home Occupation	0	1	1
Performance Guarantee Reduction	0	1	1
Performance Guarantee Release	0	4	4
Performance Guarantees New	0	2	2
Preliminary Plat Minor Modifications	1	1	2
PUD Site Specific Plan Revision/Master Plan Update	2	5	7
Text Amendment	1	0	1
Zoning Letter	4	7	11
	Total Initial: 25	Total Revisions: 33	Total Plans: 58

Floodplain Development Update

Floodplain Development Permits	Floodplain Development Inspections
1	9

Other Information

Performance Guarantees

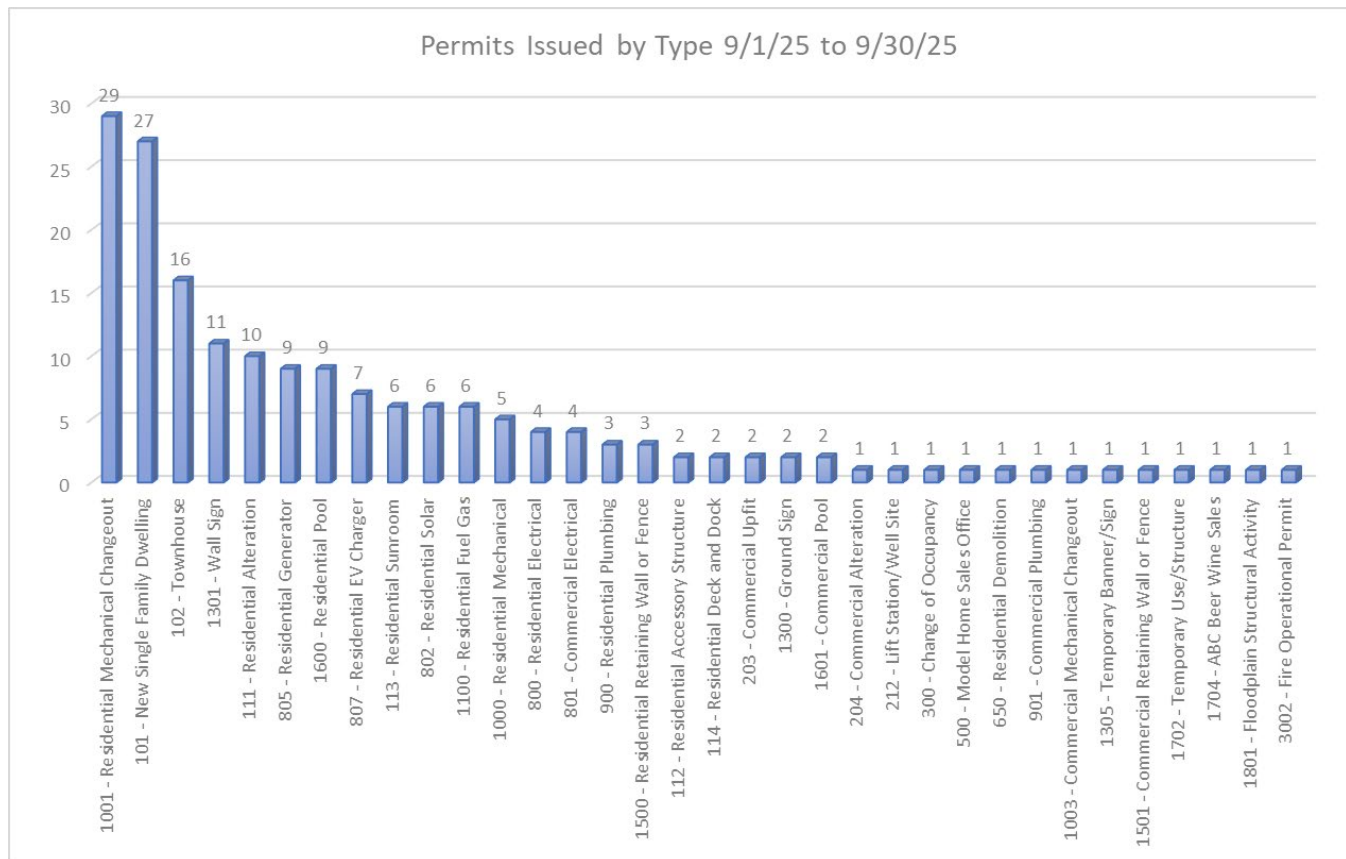
Subdivision	Number of Agreements	Total per Agreement Type	Change from Previous Month
Beckington Townhomes			
Surety Bonds	2	\$139,964.38	\$0.00
Bellamy Place			
Cash Bond	1	\$1,037,615.00	\$0.00
Bishops Ridge			
Cash Bond	1	\$14,875.84	\$0.00
Brunswick Forest			
Letters of Credit	1	\$2,395,849.00	\$0.00
Surety Bonds	16	\$11,217,092.00	-\$46,599.16
Charleston Commons			
Cash Bond	2	\$171,490.62	\$0.00
Grand Park			
Surety Bond	2	\$895,602.23	\$0.00
Grayson Park			
Cash Bonds	3	\$50,860.15	\$0.00
Surety Bonds	8	\$1,225,669.38	\$0.00
Highland Hills Village			
Letters of Credit	1	\$56,250.00	\$0.00
Leland Corners			
Surety Bond	1	\$181,343.75	\$0.00
Mallory Creek			
Letters of Credit	1	\$92,285.00	\$0.00
Cash Bonds	5	\$329,716.44	\$0.00
Surety Bonds	9	\$2,286,584.15	\$0.00
Night Harbor Dr			
Cash Bond	1	\$7,650.00	\$0.00
Pinewood			
Surety Bond	4	\$2,218,289.76	\$0.00
Riverwalk Pointe			
Surety Bond	2	\$481,560.00	\$481,560.00
Savannah Branch			
Surety Bond	1	\$854,407.50	\$0.00
Seabrooke			
Cash Bond	1	\$144,035.00	\$0.00
Terrapin			
Surety Bond	2	\$109,287.50	\$0.00
Townes at Seabrooke			
Surety Bond	2	\$683,850.25	\$0.00
Westgate Townes			
Surety Bond	4	\$1,490,956.30	\$0.00
Total Cash Bonds	14	\$1,756,243.05	\$0.00
Total Surety Bonds	53	\$21,784,607.20	\$434,960.84
Total Letters of Credit	3	\$2,544,384.00	\$0.00
Total Performance Guarantee Sureties	70	\$26,085,234.25	\$434,960.84

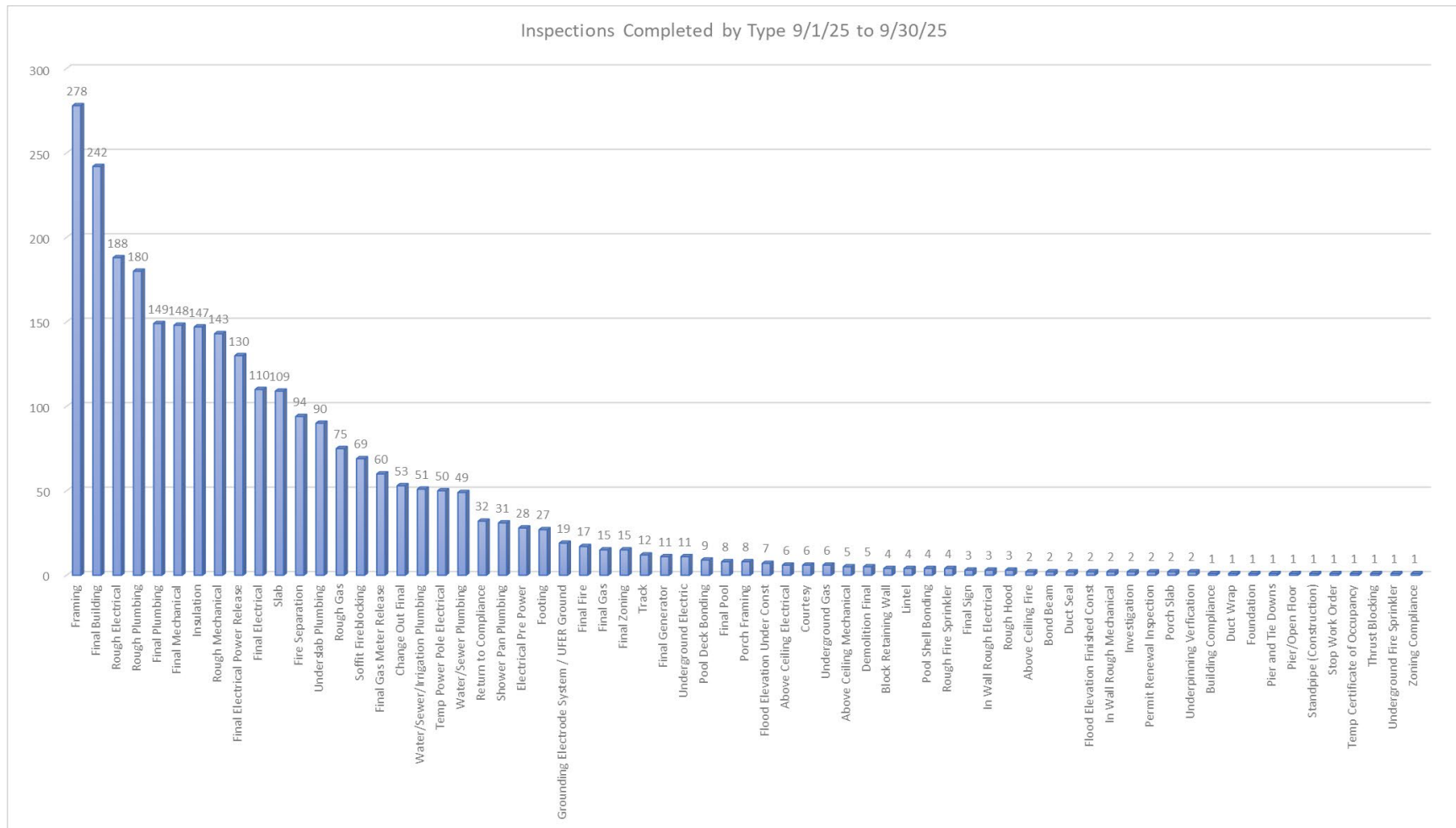
Long Range Planning and Community Development Update

Due to a staff vacancy, there are no long range planning or community development updates for September.

Building Permitting and Inspections Update

Total Permits Issued	Total Inspections	Total Value of Construction
211	2,747	\$16,003,990





Code Enforcement Update

Case Summary

9/1 Through 9/30	Minimum Housing	Nuisance	Zoning	Vehicle	Total
Cases Carried over from August	2	1	19	0	19
Cases Opened September 2025	0	13	19	0	32
Cases Closed September 2025	0	3	7	0	10
Active Cases (Evolve) 2025	2	11	31	0	44

Department News

Staff participated in three community presentations: the Newcomers Club, the Brunswick Forest Men's Club, and the 2025 Annual Community Socioeconomic Summit in Wilmington. Staff also conducted a park tour for representatives from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to discuss the potential for Loblolly Park, Sturgeon Creek Park, and Cypress Cove Park.

New Businesses

- No new businesses were announced in September.

New Construction/Development

- No new projects were submitted in September.

Economic Development Committee Meeting Summary

The Economic Development Committee did not meet in September. The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025.

Department News

The department had a great Battle of the Bowls on September 25. Over 200 participants gathered at the LCAC to enjoy live music from Massive Grass, browse art vendors, and sample chili prepared by the Town's Fire/Rescue and Police departments. Congratulations to Leland Fire/Rescue for winning this year's Battle of the Bowls. Upcoming events include Fall Festival on October 25 and Open House and Tree Giveaway on November 1.

Parks and Recreation Board Summary

The Parks and Recreation Board met on September 24, 2025. Vonda Martin and Lillian Heaton from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources presented on State Grants and Outreach, in addition to congratulating the Town on its recent award of a PARTF grant. Alex Efting of the local Disc Golf Club presented their vision of the community's growth and desire to see disc golf expansion in Leland. Staff presented an update on the future of disc golf at Loblolly Park, plans for Leland in Lights 2025, and David Hollis provided an update on Founders Park. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2025.

Upcoming Events

October 21, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. – Leland We Don't Know, LCAC

October 21, 10-11 a.m. – Little Learners, LCAC

October 25, 4-7 p.m. – Leland Fall Festival, Northwest District Park

October 27, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Homeschool Studio, LCAC

October 30, 6-7:30 p.m. – Composting for Anyone, LCAC

November 1, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. – Tree Giveaway, LCAC

November 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Open House, LCAC

November 1, 9-10:30 a.m. – National Weather Service Station Tour, Wilmington

November 1, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. – National Weather Service Station Tour, Wilmington

November 1-25, Art League of Leland Gallery, LCAC

November 3-5, Brunswick County Board of Election Municipal Election, LCAC

November 6, 6-8 p.m. – Gallery Reception, LCAC

November 13, 6-7 p.m. – Cedar Salad Planter, LCAC

November 15, 7-10 p.m. – Contra Dance, LCAC

Social Media Update

- PRCR Facebook Highlights (September 1 – 30, 2025)
 - Followers/Likes – 34,456
 - Page reach – 6,625
 - Top post (Largest reach): “Battle of the Bowls is here. Come hang out with us on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the Leland Cultural Arts Center for a night of bluegrass music by Massive Grass, our annual chili showdown between the Leland Fire/Rescue & Leland NC Police Department and shop local artisan vendors. Bring canned goods to vote for your favorite chili and help support Manna Ministries. Free entry, family-friendly, and football vibes encouraged. Full information available at townofleland.com/battleofthebowls.”
- LCAC Facebook Highlights (September 1 – 30, 2025)
 - Followers/Likes – 2,425
 - Page reach – 5,346
 - Top post (Largest reach): “Battle of the Bowls is here. Come hang out with us on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the Leland Cultural Arts Center for a night of bluegrass music by Massive Grass, our annual chili showdown between the Leland Fire/Rescue & Leland NC Police Department and shop local artisan vendors. Bring canned goods to vote for your favorite chili and help support Manna Ministries. Free entry, family-friendly, and football vibes encouraged. Full information available at townofleland.com/battleofthebowls.”
- PRCR Instagram (September 1 – 30, 2025)
 - Followers/Likes – 1,148
 - Post reach – 2,121
 - Top post (Largest reach): “Lights out, Leland! Did you know approximately one billion birds are injured in collisions with windows and buildings each year? One thing we can do to help our feathered friends is to shut down exterior lighting from 11 p.m.-6 a.m. each evening. It is peak fall migration right now, and the US will see about 500,000 birds per day migrating from the northern-

most parts of North America all the way down to South America. Let's make their journey a little easier by reducing light pollution. If you're interested in tracking migration through Brunswick County, try BirdCast! Click the link in our bio to access this free online education tool.”

- LCAC Instagram (September 1 – 30, 2025)
 - Followers/Likes – 2,121
 - Post reach – 2,108
 - Top post (Largest reach): “We are so excited to share Massive Grass will be performing at the Town of Leland’s Battle of the Bowls on Thursday, September 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Leland Cultural Arts Center! Massive Grass is a local bluegrass band performing traditional bluegrass sounds while adding their own rock and roll spin, The concert is free to attend, but guests are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations to support Manna Ministries.”

Department News

In September, the Town welcomed one new employee to the Fire Department. Four employees were promoted. Performance review check-ins were successfully completed and reviewed. The Safety Committee provided cyber security awareness content for team talks and a new app was launched, in collaboration with the IT Department, to conduct monthly safety inspections of Town buildings. The Wellness Committee is hosting a Fall Walking Challenge for staff. Also, in honor of Mental Health Awareness month, the Wellness Committee provided content for monthly team talks to help employees better recognize the signs of someone in mental health crisis. The department is preparing for Open Enrollment, which begins October 13. The Town will host its second annual Health and Wellness Fair for employees on October 17.

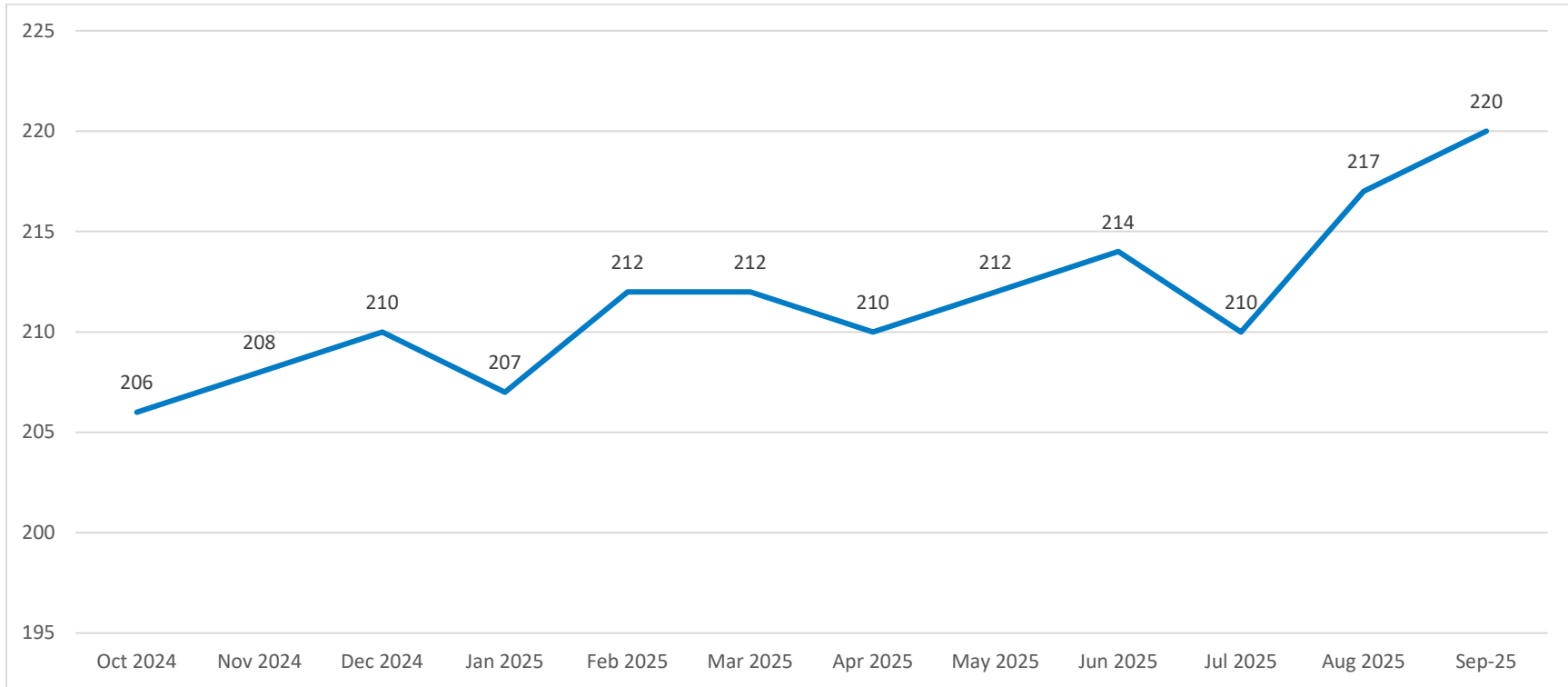
Personnel Updates

Name of Employee	Department	Type of Change	Date of Change	Position Title	From Position	To Position
Joseph "Joe" Tassi	Fire/Rescue	New Hire	9/2/2025	Firefighter		
Stephen Odom	Police	Promotion	9/13/2025		Police Officer	Master Police Officer
Tyler McElroy	Police	Promotion	9/13/2025		Master Police Officer	Senior Police Officer
Andrew Neylon	Planning	Promotion	9/13/2025		Planning Supervisor	Planning Manager
Tyler Barth	Public Works	Promotion	9/25/2025		Streets Maintenance Technician I	Streets Maintenance Technician II

Workers Comp Data September 2025

Number of Incidents	Loss Time (Y or N)	Brief Description of Incident and Injury/Illness
1	N	Fainting

Headcount (FT and PT Employees) October 2024 – September 2025



<p>Headcount ⓘ</p> <p>220</p> <p>As of Sep 2025</p>	<p>Hired ⓘ</p> <p>55</p>	<p>Termed ⓘ</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Growth Rate ⓘ</p> <p>12.2%</p>	<p>Turnover Rate ⓘ</p> <p>14.7%</p>	<p>Average Tenure ⓘ</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>(Years)</p>
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Terminations include voluntary and involuntary separations of employment.

Department News

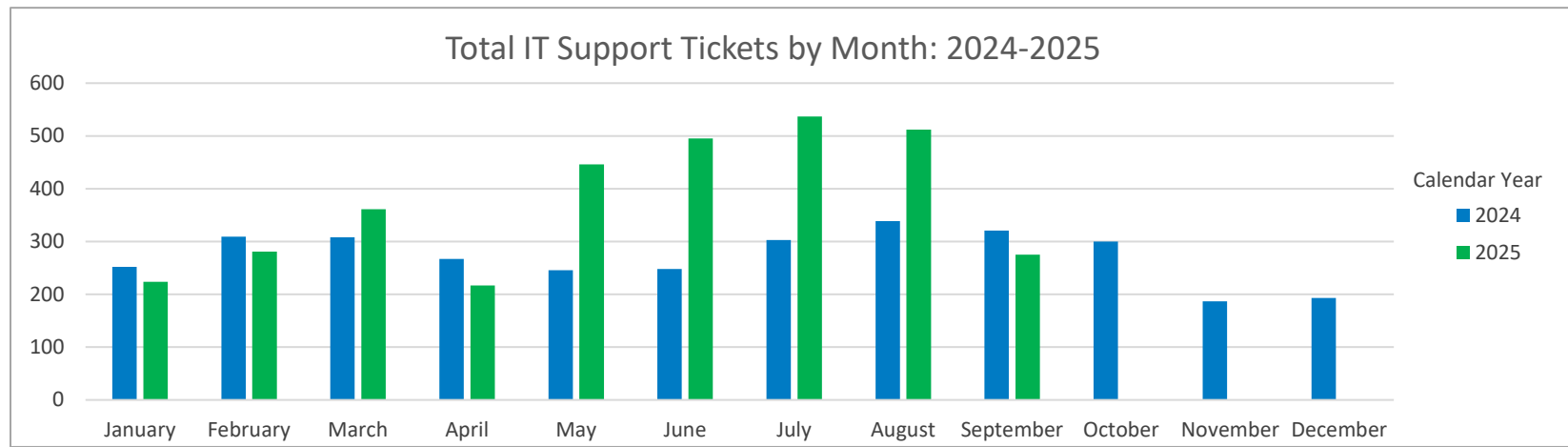
Mr. Vandergriff attended Operation Tobacco Road, a cybersecurity training program that presents real-world scenarios involving cyberattack simulations designed to prepare IT professionals with tools and methods to respond to and mitigate such threats.

Major Work Priorities

- Public Safety Mobile Data Terminals: Staff continue to work through provisioning new computers for Police and Fire.
- Audio-Visual Systems Upgrade: The initial phase of audio-visual equipment installation in the Town Hall expansion is nearing completion.
- Integrated Mobility Plan Webmap: Staff are working with the Planning Department to create a publicly available interactive webmap showcasing data from the plan that was adopted in July.
- Transparency Portal Reporting: Staff are working with the Finance Department to create the database design and reporting methods that will supply data for the digital Transparency Portal.

Projects Completed

- 4 employees onboarded/offboarded
- Process Automation: Staff have created various web applications to streamline and automate multiple internal data collection processes.
- Radio System Repair: Repairs to the Town’s UHF radio communications equipment, damaged by lightning, have been successfully completed.



Administration News

Mayor Bozeman signed a letter of support for federal funding of trails. Leland is a proud member of the North Carolina Great Trails State Coalition and strongly supports trail and active transportation infrastructure, recognizing the economic development opportunities and safe transportation options it provides for residents and visitors.

On September 8, Mayor Bozeman, Councilmember Carter, and Ms. Reinhardt attended the City of Wilmington's Council Chamber Ribbon Cutting to engage with and show support for a fellow municipality.

On September 16, Councilmember Carter attended the UNC School of Government Community Engagement Seminar. The coursework covered assessing the civic ecosystem, distinguishing between citizen engagement and public participation, and exploring strategies for policymaking and service development. The seminar also highlighted opportunities related to citizen academies, advisory boards and committees, and engagement between public agencies and elected officials.

On September 17 and 18, Mayor Bozeman and Mayor Pro Tem Campbell attended the NC Mayors Association Conference in Asheville. The event provided opportunities for networking and discussion on key issues facing municipalities. Highlights included a legislative panel with Senator Kevin Corbin and Representative Lindsey Prather, a presentation by NC Commerce Chief Deputy Secretary Kenny Flowers, and a recovery panel on Hurricane Helene featuring Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's valuable perspective on disaster response. Members also enjoyed a reception and dinner with Lieutenant Governor Rachel Hunt, who expressed her appreciation for the hard work and dedication of North Carolina's mayors.

Town Clerk's Office

On September 11, Mr. Golonka and Ms. Reinhardt attended a Brunswick County Clerk Series event focused on municipal elections, presented by Brunswick County Board of Elections Director Sara LaVere.

In addition, Mr. Golonka and Ms. Reinhardt recorded a North Carolina League of Municipalities webinar on best practices for boards and elected officials, which will be available in 2026. Topics included independence, professionalism, and public engagement.

Work Priorities

- The Town Clerk published meeting agendas and prepared minutes for the following meetings:
 - September 2 Board of Adjustment Meeting
 - September 8 Leland Tourism Development Authority Meeting
 - September 11 Economic Development Meeting – Canceled

- September 15 Agenda Council Meeting
- September 15 Closed Session Meeting
- September 22 Regular Council Meeting
- September 23 Planning Board Meeting
- September 24 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

- Action Items:
 - Budget Amendments – 1
 - Budget Ordinances – 0
 - Minutes – 8
 - Agendas – 7
 - Resolutions – 7
 - Ordinances – 2
 - Proclamations – 0
 - Presentations – 0
 - Public Hearing Notices for the Council Meetings – 2
 - Current Board/Committee Vacancies: Board of Adjustment Member and Alternate and Parks & Recreation Board Student Representative (2)

Government Portal (iCompass) Transparency Update

- Portal Visits – 4,639
- Portal Unique Visits – 3,571
- Board of Adjustment Meeting September 2 Agenda Views – 124
- Leland Tourism Development Authority Meeting September 8 Agenda Views – 194
- Canceled Economic Development Committee Meeting September 11 Agenda Views – 137
- Agenda Council Meeting September 15 Agenda Views – 235
- Regular Council Meeting September 22 Agenda Views – 501
- Planning Board Meeting September 23 Agenda Views – 320
- Parks and Recreation Board Meeting September 24 Agenda Views – 156
- July 2025 Monthly Staff Reports – 77