

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE
PILOT PROGRAM

City of Buckhannon

2015
PROGRESS
REPORT

West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:

“Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.”

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Pilot Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on December 1, 2015 by emailing Debbie Browning at debbie.a.browning@wv.gov, West Virginia Development Office, West Virginia Home Rule Pilot Program, State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 553, Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0311, 304-558-2234.

A. General Information		
Name of Municipality: City of Buckhannon		
Certifying Official: Richard W. Edwards	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Michael W. Doss	Title: City Administrator	
Address: 70 E. Main Street		
City, State, Zip: Buckhannon, WV 26201		
Telephone Number: 304-472-1651	Fax Number: 304-472-2640	
E-Mail Address: Michael.Doss@buckhannonwv.org		
2010 Census Population: 5,639		
B. Municipal Classification		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I	<input type="checkbox"/> Class II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class III
<input type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
C. Pilot Program Entry Phase		
<input type="checkbox"/> Phase I (2007 Legislation)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phase II (2014 Legislation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Phase III (2015 Legislation)
D. Attest		
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.		
<i>Richard W. Edwards</i>	<i>Richard W. Edwards</i>	12/1/15
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official	Date

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each non-tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Enterprise Zones			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application YES			
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? Ordinance 393 Enacted August 16, 2015			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s) Not Applicable			
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The establishment of an Enterprise Zone has enabled the City of Buckhannon to provide tax incentives for establishing economic development opportunities. The Enterprise Zone create municipal rebates for both real and tangible personal property as well as Business and Occupation tax credits for industrial and commercial businesses. These rebates and credits are unique and exclusive only to Buckhannon West Virginia. The rebates and credits are determine by the amount of capital investment from the industrial or commercial business and the amount of full-time employee jobs created by the business. By creating Enterprise Zones within our corporate limits, Buckhannon has the ability to attract new business or expand existing businesses within the Enterprise Zone. The expansion of Corridor H and the Oil and Gas Industry in North-central West Virginia will create new economic opportunities in the future and has enabled Buckhannon the ability to capitalize on future economic growth and development. At the present time, no business has applied for or realized the Enterprise Zone tax incentives.</p>			
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>The challenge with the establishment of the Enterprise Zone was convincing the public that tax incentives had a direct correlation with job creation and economic development. The public perceived these tax incentives as tax breaks which would temporarily burden the existing tax base. Although research of economic development incentives is mixed, the City of Buckhannon believes that without these incentives the city would be at a disadvantage over competing municipalities in other neighboring states.</p>			

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Initiative: Property Nuisance Abatement and Special Property Tax Lien and "On Site" Citations			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application YES			
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? Ordinance 391 Enacted July 19, 2015			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s) Not Applicable			
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The passage of this ordinance now permits the City of Buckhannon to issue on-site citations for property nuisance violations. In addition, the City of Buckhannon can now address more serious and critical property violations by actually abating the issues utilizing city funded resources. These resources can now be recouped by placing an actual tax assessed lien on the property This tax assessed lien is issued on the property tax ticket and shall be paid in addition to the regular property tax for the next realized property year. Under home rule, this tax assessed lien assures that city funded resources will be reimbursed and paid in full within a year of the actual abatement of the property nuisance. At the present time, no on-site citations or tax assessed liens on property have been issues. The ordinance is relatively new and the City does expect full enforcement in the near future.</p>			
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>This ordinance was well received by the community. Although the City of Buckhannon has yet to issue an on-site citation or utilize city funded resources to abate a property nuisance, the city has enhance power and control to clean-up more neighborhoods within the city. These tools provide for a more effective and efficient means of managing property nuisance related issues.</p>			

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Initiative: Police Civil Service Employment of Part-time Officers and Expansion of Applicants Maximum Age			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personnel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application YES			
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)			
<p>The City of Buckhannon is currently working on the draft ordinance for this particular Home Rule item. The subject of part-time police officers has implications on currently police civil service rules. The legal details related to this item are being explored as to satisfy any challenges to the incorporation of part-time police officers into the Buckhannon Police Department. It is expected that the future ordinance will provide both need resources to our police department as well as relieve the City of the financial burden and budgetary constraints associated with only employing full-time police officers. The increase in applicant age will assist the City and police department in attracting a wider and more diversified range of qualified candidates for police officer.</p>			
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>			
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>			

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Initiative: Online Sale or Disposition of Other Municipal Property			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES			
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s) The City of Buckhannon has determined this Home Rule item to be a lower priority and it is expected to be address in the early 2016.			
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>			
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>			