

# ***A Comparison of the City of Lynchburg and the Surrounding Counties***

## **General Differences Between Cities and Counties in Virginia**

- Cities are the economic, arts, and culture hubs for their regions.
- Cities provide a higher level of service to residents.
- There are significant differences in how the state funds cities and counties.
- Cities typically have more concentrated poverty, requiring a higher level of support for vulnerable residents.
- City infrastructure is typically older and more expensive to maintain.
- Cities are usually fully developed, which limits economic development opportunities due to land availability and site prep costs

## ***Comparison of Select Characteristics***

City of Lynchburg & Surrounding Counties (Amherst, Appamattox, Bedford, Campbell)

Description	Size (Sq Mi)	Density (population/Sq Mi)	Avg SFH Price	Median HH Income	Poverty Rate	Taxable AV Per Capita
Lynchburg	51	1,564	\$222,870	\$49,201	21.8	\$69,638
Counties (Avg)	536	80	\$256,731	\$58,070	12.1	\$89,888
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(485)</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>(\$33,861)</b>	<b>(\$8,869)</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>(\$20,250)</b>

- The Counties have, on average, 10.5 times more land than Lynchburg.
- Lynchburg's population density is 20 times greater than in the counties.
- The average single-family home in Lynchburg is worth 15.2 percent less than in the counties.
- The median household income in Lynchburg is 18 percent lower than in the counties.
- The poverty rate in Lynchburg is 80 percent higher than in the counties.
- The taxable assessed value per capita in Lynchburg is 29.1 percent less than in the counties

## Comparison of FY 2021 Per Capita Spending by Category

City of Lynchburg & Surrounding Counties (Amherst, Appamattox, Bedford, Campbell)

Description	Public Safety	Public Works	Health & Human Svcs	Parks & Culture	Overall
Lynchburg	\$753	\$356	\$694	\$126	\$3,716
Counties (Avg)	\$364	\$125	\$352	\$37	\$2,721
Difference	\$389	\$231	\$342	\$89	\$995

### Public Safety

- Counties do not have police departments and the Sheriff's Office is primarily funded by the state
- Counties have limited paid fire department staff or are 100 percent volunteer
- In FY 2021 Lynchburg spent 106.9 percent more per capita (PC) on Public Safety than the counties
- If Lynchburg were to adjust its FY 2021 PC Public Safety spending to match the counties it would result in a reduction of \$31.3M from \$60.5M to \$29.2M

### Public Works

- VDOT is responsible for street and highway maintenance in the counties
- Counties have no refuse, bulk, brush, or leaf collection so residents must take waste to landfill convenience center or pay for private service
- In FY 2021 Lynchburg spent 184.8 percent more PC on Public Works than the counties
- If Lynchburg were to adjust its FY 2021 PC Public Works spending to match the counties it would result in a reduction of \$18.6M from \$28.6M to \$10.0M

### Health and Human Services

- Lynchburg's poverty rate is significantly higher than in the counties resulting in a higher need for service
- Most localities do not have a group home or juvenile detention center – Lynchburg has both
- In FY 2021 Lynchburg spent 97.2 percent more PC on Health and Human Services than the counties
- If Lynchburg were to adjust its FY 2021 PC Health and Human Services spending to match the counties it would result in a reduction of \$27.5 from \$55.8M to \$28.3M

### Parks and Culture

- Lynchburg has more than a dozen parks – the counties have far fewer
- The city has a miles-long trail system, something not found in the counties
- The city offers an extensive array of recreation programming, which many county residents travel into the city to attend.
- In FY 2021 Lynchburg spent 240.5 percent more PC on Parks and Culture than the counties
- If Lynchburg were to adjust its FY 2021 PC Parks and Culture spending to match the counties it would result in a reduction of \$7.1 from \$10.1M to \$3.0M

### Overall PC Spending

- In FY 2021 Lynchburg spent 36.6 percent more PC Overall than the counties
- If Lynchburg were to adjust its FY 2021 Overall PC spending to match the counties it would result in a reduction of \$80.0M from \$298.8M to \$218.8M