

Council Members

District 1: Stuart Graham
District 2: Charlene McGriff
District 3: Billy Mosteller, Vice Chair
District 4: Jose Luis
District 5: Steve Harper
District 6: Bryant Neal, Secretary
District 7: Brian Carnes, Chair



Interim County Administrator
Steve Willis

County Attorney
Ginny L. Merck-Dupont

Clerk to Council
Sherrie Simpson

April 15, 2026
1:00 PM

LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING, 101 NORTH MAIN STREET, LANCASTER, SC 29720

MINUTES

Council Members Present: Stuart Graham, Charlene McGriff, Billy Mosteller, Jose Luis, Steve Harper, and Brian Carnes *[who joined the meeting via Teams but left the meeting early at approximately 3:05 p.m.]*.

Absent: Bryant Neal.

Staff Members/Others Present: Steve Willis, Interim County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Lauren Hill, Deputy Clerk to Council; Sabrena Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Privuznak, Budget Director; Josiah Parke, Budget Analyst; various elected officials; various Department Heads; various employees; and citizens.

A quorum of Lancaster County Council was present for the meeting. The following press were notified of the meeting by e-mail in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act: *The Lancaster News*, *Kershaw News Era*, *The Rock Hill Herald*, Cable News 2, Channel 9 and the local government channel. The agenda was posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building and also on the County website the required length of time. The PowerPoint presentation utilized during the meeting is attached to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

Call to Order County Council Budget Workshop - Vice-Chair Billy Mosteller

Vice Chair Billy Mosteller called the Lancaster County Council Budget Workshop to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Vice-Chair Billy Mosteller

Vice Chair Billy Mosteller welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Steve Harper

Steve Harper led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of the Agenda

Steve Harper moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. The motion

Passed by a vote of 6-0; Absent: Neal.

Departmental Presentations and Discussion Items

a. Opening Budget Remarks - *Steve Willis*

Steve Willis provided Council with a handout that highlighted the new personnel requests for FY27. Mr. Willis explained what was and was not being recommended for funding thus far. A copy of the handout is attached as Schedule A to the minutes.

b. Departmental Presentations:

1. 1:30 p.m. - Animal Shelter - *Alan Williams*
2. 1:38 p.m. - Clemson Extension - *Brian Beer*
3. 1:46 p.m. - Historical Commission - *Fred Witherspoon*
4. 1:54 p.m. - Auditor - *Suzette Murphy and Dawn Faulkenberry*
5. 2:02 p.m. - Register of Deeds - *Brittany Grant*
6. 2:10 p.m. - Procurement - *Tracy Rabon*
7. 2:18 p.m. - Probate Court - *Judge Mary Rathel*
8. BREAK
9. 2:34 p.m. - Planning & Zoning - *Shannon Catoe*
10. 2:42 p.m. - Magistrate - *Judge Curtisha Ingram*
11. 2:50 p.m. - Public Defender - *William Frick*
12. 2:58 p.m. - Solicitor - *Randy Newman*
13. 3:06 p.m. - Registration and Elections - *Mary Anne Hudson*
14. 3:14 p.m. - Human Resources - *Jessica Foggie*
15. 3:22 p.m. - Building Inspections - *Darin Robinson*
16. 3:30 p.m. - Building Maintenance - *Tyler Love*
17. 3:38 p.m. - Fleet Maintenance - *Brandon Elliott*
18. 3:46 p.m. - Landfill - Solid Waste - *Jeffrey Catoe*
19. 3:54 p.m. - Solid Waste Collections - *Jeffrey Catoe*
20. 4:02 p.m. - Road Maintenance - *Jeffrey Catoe*
21. BREAK
22. 4:18 p.m. - Veterans Affairs - *Sabrena Harris (on behalf of Robin Ghent)*
23. 4:26 p.m. - Economic Development - *Brian Fulk*
24. 4:34 p.m. - Sheriff's Office - *Sheriff Barry Faile*
25. 4:42 p.m. - Detention Center - *Sheriff Barry Faile*
26. 4:50 p.m. - School Resource Officers/Court Mandated Security - *Sheriff Barry Faile*
27. 4:58 p.m. - Sheriff - Town of Kershaw - *Sheriff Barry Faile*

Alan Williams presented the budget requests for the Animal Shelter via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the shelter's increased need for additional office space since Animal Control was now housed within the department. Council was in favor of leasing a temporary modular type office until the County came up with a permanent solution, and directed County staff to look into it.

Brian Beer presented the budget requests for Clemson Extension via the County's PowerPoint

presentation. Mr. Beer and Council discussed the salary match and overview of the organization.

Fred Witherspoon presented the budget requests for the Historical Commission and highlighted the Commission's accomplishments during the fiscal year via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Witherspoon provided Council with a handout that highlighted data from the visits to the Historical Courthouse Museum. A copy of the handout is attached as Schedule B to the minutes. Council and staff discussed potential ways to increase revenue from the museum. Jose Luis noted that some of the budget requests should be included in different County department requests instead of the Commission's request.

Suzette Murphy and Dawn Faulkenberry presented the budget requests for the Auditor's Office via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Murphy explained the need for additional office space and staffing due to the growth in the County and potential changes with Homestead Exemption in the future. Council and staff discussed the digitization of applications and records.

Brittany Grant presented the budget requests for the Register of Deeds via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed fraud alert software.

Tracy Rabon presented the budget requests for the Procurement Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Steve Willis pointed out that he would only be recommending one of the two new requested positions, and Ms. Rabon explained the need and differences of the requested position's responsibilities. Billy Mosteller thanked Ms. Rabon for her efforts in recruiting more local vendor participation.

Judge Mary Rathel presented the budget requests for Probate Court via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Judge Rathel highlighted the state-mandated cost of living increase for Probate Judges. Council and staff discussed digitizing documents and archiving records. Jose Luis applauded Judge Rathel for her efficiency.

Council took a break from the budget workshop at approximately 2:32 p.m. and resumed at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Shannon Catoe presented the budget requests for the Planning and Zoning Departments via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Brian Carnes stated that a shared space was needed for the departments that fall under the Development Services Division (Planning, Zoning, Building, and Stormwater).

Curtisha Ingram presented the budget requests for the Magistrate's Court via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Jose Luis applauded Judge Ingram for addressing the backlogged cases. Steve Willis noted that the County might need to add another Magistrate Judge in the next couple of years due to the growing population. The Judge would be appointed by the State Delegation.

William Frick presented the budget requests for the Public Defender's Office via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Frick clarified that his office has 9 full-time staff members. Council and staff discussed the cost of hiring an in-house attorney versus contracting the position out.

Randy Newman presented the budget requests for the Solicitor's Office via the County's PowerPoint presentation. There was no discussion from Council.

Mary Ann Hudson presented the budget requests for the Registration and Elections Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed contractual poll workers versus part-time workers, how other counties handle the hiring of poll workers, and drug and background checks for workers. Ginny Merck-Dupont explained that temporary employees are subject to the same policies as regular employees (including drug and background checks), so if Council wished to change that, the change in the personnel manual would need to go through three readings of an ordinance.

Jessica Foggie presented the budget requests for the Human Resources Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the County's tuition assistance/reimbursement program.

Darin Robinson presented the budget requests for the Building and Inspections Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the department's staffing.

Tyler Love presented the budget requests for the Building Maintenance Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Several Council members explained that they were happy to see work orders being completed in-house, rather than subcontracting out those orders.

Brandon Elliott presented the budget requests for the Fleet Maintenance Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Steve Harper noted that he would support funding an in-house hydraulic hose system for cost savings.

Jeff Catoe presented the budget requests for the Landfill and Solid Waste, Solid Waste Collections, and Road Maintenance Departments via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the lack of garbage collection companies, tipping fees, whether there is potential for a County-owned transfer station, the closure of the Fort convenience site, a drainage project in the Arrowood development, and what the County needed to do in order to be more proactive in planning for roads in the future.

Council took a break from the budget workshop at approximately 4:30 p.m. and resumed at approximately 4:40 p.m.

On behalf of Robin Ghent, Sabrena Harris presented the budget requests for the Veterans Affairs Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Harris highlighted the "Wall That Heal" project that the department was working on. There was no discussion from Council.

Brian Fulk presented the budget requests for the Economic Development Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the Industry Spotlight event hosted by the Economic Development Department, the department's staffing vacancies, and the need for funding.

Sheriff Faile and Captain Jaillette presented the budget requests for the Sheriff's Office, Detention Center, School Resource Officers/Court Mandated Security, and Town of Kershaw via the County's PowerPoint presentation. The Sheriff and Council discussed the number of deputies he needed, flock cameras and drones, new AI technology, and the fleet replacement cycle.

c. Discussion of Operating Budget and Personnel Updates - Steve Willis / Sabrena Harris / Jamie Privuznak

Jamie Privuznak reviewed the operating budget and personnel updates via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Steve Harper stated that he wanted to see the recommended FY27 budget now that all the department requests had been reviewed, and also noted that he wanted some information on the revenue.

d. Discussion of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - Josiah Parke

Josiah Parke reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) via the County's PowerPoint presentation. There was no discussion from Council.

e. Review of Revenue - Steve Willis / Sabrena Harris / Jamie Privuznak

Jamie Privuznak provided a review of revenue via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council requested a forecast for the remainder of the year based on the trends that had been seen. Jose Luis questioned why the road fee revenue and car registration numbers do not mirror each other, and staff stated they would recheck the data.

Steve Willis requested that Council provide staff with feedback on the budget requests. Steve Harper asked that staff provide clarification on the reassessment revenue collected.

Adjournment

Jose Luis moved to adjourn the budget workshop.

There being no further business to discuss, the budget workshop adjourned at approximately 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lauren Hill

Lauren Hill
Deputy Clerk to Council

Approved by Council on May 11, 2026

Bryant Neal

Bryant Neal, Secretary

Schedule A

Department	Count (PT and FT)		
Animal Shelter	0.50	Kennel Technician (Part Time)	22,738
Auditor	1.00	Clerk	64,301
Building Inspections	1.00	Residential Plans Examiner	97,840
Building Inspections	1.00	Development Services Coordinator Technical Assistant	93,459
Building Maintenance	2.00	Maintenance Aides	211,518
Coroner	1.00	Case/Records Data Manager	84,233
Emergency Medical Services	-	Paramedics (12-Hour Response Unit) for Indian Land	277,723
Emergency Medical Services	-	EMTs (12-Hour Response Unit) for Indian Land	199,948
Emergency Medical Services	-	Paramedics (12-Hour Response Unit) for City of Lancaster	284,094
Emergency Medical Services	-	EMTs (12-hour shift) for City of Lancaster	203,798
Emergency Medical Services	5.00	Paramedics - Schedule change from 24/48 to 24/72	561,730
Emergency Medical Services	4.00	EMTs - Schedule change from 24/48 to 24/72	347,762
Emergency Medical Services	5.00	Paramedics – EMS and Fire Services partnership (overview shared at March 11 COW meeting)	534,974
Emergency Medical Services	1.00	Paramedic Instructor – Grant ending in September 2026	116,775
Emergency Medical Services	-	EMTs – QRV Response Team	427,141
Family Court	1.00	Legal Clerk 1	114,538
Finance	0.50	Accounting Specialist (Upgrade from PT to FT)	53,756
Human Resources	-	Human Resources Generalist II	123,740
Human Resources	-	Human Resources Support Technician	95,619
Indian Land Consolidated Fire District	IL Fire Fee	Firefighter I	302,745
Indian Land Consolidated Fire District	IL Fire Fee	Captain	399,588
Indian Land Consolidated Fire District	IL Fire Fee	Engineer (Driver)	332,061
Indian Land Consolidated Fire District	IL Fire Fee	Logistics Officer	101,723
Information Technology	1.00	Cybersecurity Manager	146,657
Information Technology	1.00	ERP Specialist	104,264
Information Technology	-	IT Technician I	92,200
Information Technology	1.00	GIS Analyst	105,564
Lancaster County Firefighters	IF Fire Fee Is Approved	Firefighter Engineers (EOC)	432,264
Lancaster County Firefighters	IF Fire Fee Is Approved	Shift Captain (Station 2)	486,582
Lancaster County Firefighters	IF Fire Fee Is Approved	Shift Engineer (Station 2)	398,858
Lancaster County Firefighters	1.00	Logistics Officer	128,761
Lancaster County Firefighters	1.00	Apparatus Technician	136,856
Lancaster County Firefighters	-	Technician's Assistant	118,703
Lancaster County Firefighters	-	Community Engagement/ Fire Safety Educator	131,731

*Amounts listed include salary, overtime, fringe benefits, and all associated non-personnel costs (i.e., travel, supplies, technology, equipment, vehicles, etc.)

FY27 New Personnel Requests

Department	Count (PT and FT)	Position Title	Amount*	Original Request
Lancaster County Sheriff	0.50	Staff Attorney	230,888	Changed to half year
Lancaster County Sheriff	1.00	Gang Investigator (Grant ending)	113,813	
Lancaster County Sheriff	1.00	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Coordinator (Grant ending)	102,650	
Lancaster County Sheriff	2.00	Traffic Deputies (Grant ending)	232,921	
Lancaster County Sheriff	1.00	Real-Time Crime Center Manager	111,415	
Lancaster County Sheriff - Detention Center	8.00	Corrections Officers	776,837	
Lancaster County Sheriff - Detention Center	4.00	Non-Sworn Booking Clerks	284,580	
Library	1.00	Circulation Assistant	64,180	
Parks and Recreation	2.00	Recreation Facility Managers (Buford & Andrew Jackson)	195,826	
Parks and Recreation	2.00	Program Activity Leader II	131,910	
Parks and Recreation	2.00 Part Time	Recreation Associate (25 to 32 Hours/Week)	103,554	
Procurement	1.00	Procurement Specialist II	93,819	
Procurement	-	Procurement Specialist I	81,238	
Veterans Affairs	1.00	Receptionist	63,887	
Total	52.50 plus 2.00 PT		9,921,762	

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NOTE: OK with GREEN but they are paid from separate fund

*Amounts listed include salary, overtime, fringe benefits, and all associated non-personnel costs (i.e., travel, supplies, technology, equipment, vehicles, etc.)

Schedule B

Lancaster County Historical Courthouse Museum A County Asset

Visitors*

758 Visitors

Visitorship is
steady compared
to 2025

SC 250

Opportunity.

Increase Visitors

***2025-26 Fiscal Year**

Where Are Visitors From?

79% Lancaster County

3% Neighboring
Counties

- 6% Charlotte - Mecklenburg
- 1% State of South Carolina
- 3% US Territories & Foreign Countries

Visitor Profile

School Groups

Family Reunions

Community Groups

Private Tour Groups

Individuals & Families