

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

May 6, 2026
12:00 PM

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

MINUTES

Council Members Present: Steve Harper, Bryant Neal, Brian Carnes, Billy Mosteller, Charlene McGriff, Jose Luis, Stuart Graham.

Staff Members/Others Present: Steve Willis, Interim County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Sabrena Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Privuznak, Budget Director; Josiah Parke, Budget Analyst; Clay Catoe, Emergency Medical Services Director; Chief Greg Nicholson, Interim Fire Service Director; Suzette Murphy, Auditor; the press; 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 Special Meeting - Chair Brian Carnes

Chairman Brian Carnes called the Lancaster County Council special meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Chair Brian Carnes

Chairman Brian Carnes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Charlene McGriff

Charlene McGriff led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of the Agenda

Charlene McGriff moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Steve Harper. There was no

discussion from Council. The motion Passed by a vote of 7-0.

Executive Session

a. One Item:

1. Discussion of a personnel matter pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws 30-4-70(a)(1) regarding County Administrator Interviews.

[Motions from Members may follow.]

Brian Carnes stated that he needed a motion to go into Executive Session for the discussion of a personnel matter pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws 30-4-70(a)(1) regarding County Administrator Interviews and to invite representatives from the search firm "Find Great People" into the discussion. Billy Mosteller stated that he so moved. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. The motion to go into Executive Session Passed by a vote of 7-0. At approximately 12:03 p.m., Council went into Executive Session.

Items Requiring a Vote Following Executive Session

Council came out of Executive Session and Brian Carnes called the Council meeting back to order at approximately 12:57 p.m. Jose Luis moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Bryant Neal. The motion to come out of Executive Session Passed by a vote of 7-0.

Upon returning to open session, Ginny Merck-Dupont noted that she was not in Executive Session, but that it was her understanding that Council met in Executive Session for the discussion of a personnel matter pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws 30-4-70(a)(1) regarding County Administrator Interviews. She stated that it was her understanding that during Executive Session, no motions were made, and no votes were taken.

Jose Luis made a motion to authorize Chairman Carnes to enter into contract negotiations with a candidate for County Administrator. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. There was no discussion from Council. The motion Passed by a vote of 7-0.

Citizens Comments

The following citizens signed up for and spoke during the Citizen Comments: None.

The following citizens submitted electronic, written comments for Citizen Comments: None.

Non-Consent Agenda

a. 1st Reading of Ordinance 2026-2021

Ordinance Title: An Ordinance To Adopt Amended Policies Related To Poll Workers And Their Classification As Temporary Employees As Included In The Lancaster County Personnel Policies And Procedures In Accordance With Lancaster County Code, Chapter 2, Article IV, Relating To The Lancaster County Personnel Policy. - Steve Willis

Steve Harper moved to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2026-2021. Seconded by

Charlene McGriff.

Steve Willis reviewed the proposed Ordinance and explained that with the change, poll workers would not be required to undergo drug testing or background checks.

There was no discussion from Council. The 1st Reading of Ordinance 2026-2021 Passed by a vote of 6-1; Ayes: Harper, Neal, Carnes, Mosteller, McGriff, Graham; Nays: Luis.

Discussion and Action Items

a. Presentation and Discussion of the County Administrator's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 - *Steve Willis / Sabrena Harris / Jamie Privuznak*

Steve Willis thanked staff for their work on the budget and encouraged Council to ask questions if they had any. Jamie Privuznak presented the Administrator's recommended budget via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the preliminary millage rates, millage value history, and Revenue Outlook handout. A copy of the handout is attached as Schedule A to the minutes. Council and staff discussed, in depth, the need for realistic revenue estimates since the numbers had not been certified yet, and the need to significantly trim the budget down. Steve Harper requested that any positions that had been vacant for a year or more be cut, and that the Administrator also bring back a recommended budget around \$115 million. Council questioned when they would have more realistic revenue numbers and estimates to work with, and Suzette Murphy said within the next couple of weeks. Steve Harper requested information regarding the revenue from the Lancaster County Airport, and Stuart Graham stated that he could not support spending more money on the airport without an actual plan to move the airport forward (in terms of increasing revenue). Council and staff discussed the Indian Land Consolidated Fire and funding Indian Land Fire Station 3. Steve Willis explained that he was working with local municipalities within Lancaster County on creating fire capital districts, and then Council and staff discussed the need to determine the costs for new fire stations.

Josiah Parke reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the ranking of the buses for the Parks and Recreation Department. Chris Clouden explained that new buses would allow for more flexibility when transporting kids to and from programs, since the drivers were not required to have a CDL license to operate. Billy Mosteller questioned if the radio consoles for 911 and Public Safety Communications could wait until next fiscal year due to the high cost, and Robert Purser, 911 and Public Safety Communications Director, explained that they could wait another year with no risk to 911, but they would need the funding to replace them next fiscal year.

Council and staff discussed the proposed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) schedules and the funding for the schedule change. Clay Catoe, EMS Director, stated, for the record, that the EMS Department has staff members that drive in from Lexington, Richland, Cherokee, and Gaffney County, which all offer better work schedules, but the staff members do not want to leave Lancaster County. Council and staff also discussed the requested Information Technology Cybersecurity Manager, requested firefighter positions and staffing needs for new fire stations, the requested Fire Service Logistics Officer position for gear and apparatus upkeep, and a requested Fire Service Maintenance Technician position. Stuart Graham stated that he would not support new positions for specific fire stations until the fire service operating districts were established. Council and staff discussed the turf field requests for the Parks and Recreation

Department.

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

Billy Mosteller stated that the salaries for 911 and Public Safety Communications needed to be looked at again because the proposed 2.5% raise might not be enough of an increase to remain competitive with surrounding counties. Steve Willis stated that he was recommending a 2% salary increase for full and part-time employees, and a 6% salary increase for Sheriff's Office employees. Steve Harper stated that while he respects public safety, all other employees experience the same cost of living increases as well, so the salary increases needed to be closer together. Jose Luis noted that if Council increased salaries and wages, they needed to look at cutting other expenses, with the goal of keeping a static budget and millage rates.

Adjournment

Jose Luis moved to adjourn the special Council meeting. Seconded by Steve Harper.

There being no further business to discuss, the County Council special meeting adjourned at approximately 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by Council on May 26, 2026

Lauren Hill

Lauren Hill
Deputy Clerk to Council

Bryant Neal

Bryant Neal, Secretary

Schedule A



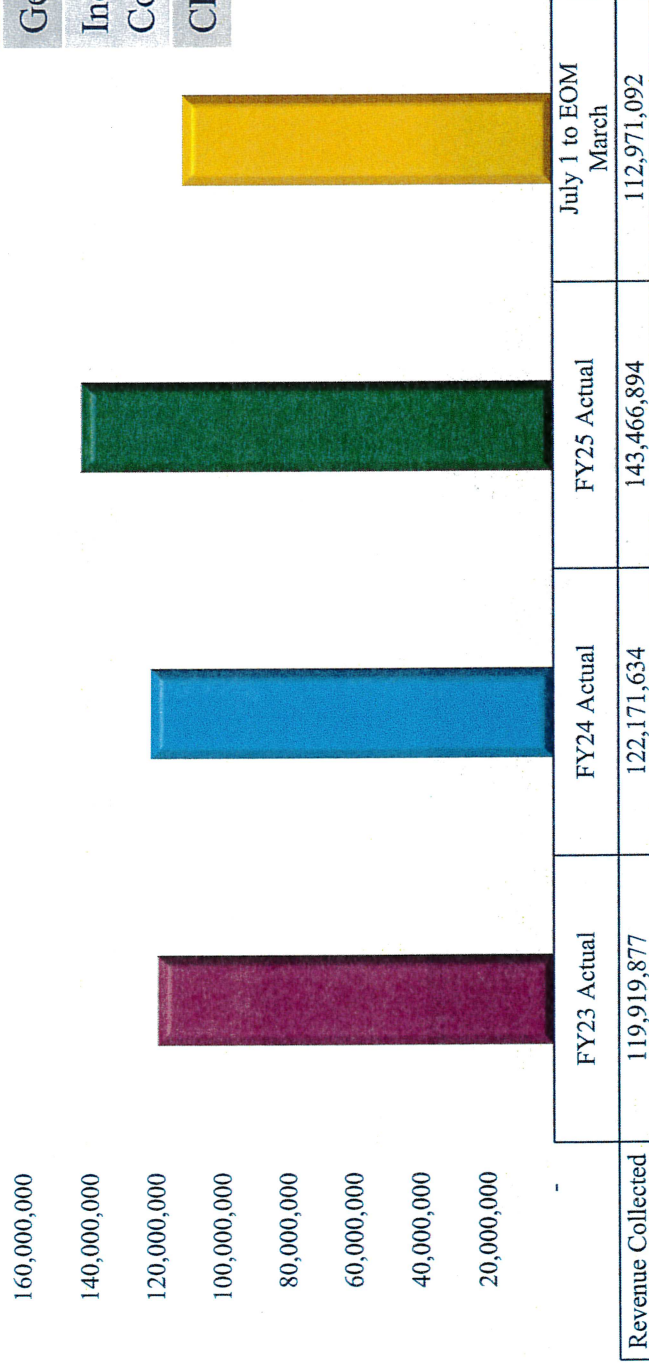
Revenue Outlook for FY2027

April 15, 2026

AGENDA

- Revenue Collections, Monitoring, and Forecasting for All Funds
- Economic Influences
- Expenditure Drivers

All Budgeted Funds



Fund	FY26 YTD Amount (\$)
General Fund	81.4M
Indian Land Consolidated Fire	7.7M
CPST3	9.4M

GENERAL FUND

Major Revenue Sources

General Fund Revenue Source	Source Description
Ad-valorem – Real Property Tax	Taxes levied on the assessed value of real estate properties (e.g., commercial and residential property). Per the County Auditor, the value of a single mil is \$599,976.
Vehicle – Personal Property Tax	Taxes assessed on personal vehicles, including cars, trucks, and motorcycles
Building Permits*	Fees collected for the approval of construction and renovation projects at the time the service is rendered and for the users of the service
Interest Income	Earnings from investments of county funds

*On November 10, 2025, County Council approved a moratorium on new residential development via Ord No. 2025-1992.

Major Revenue Sources

General Fund Revenue Source	Source Description
Road Improvement Fees	\$40 per vehicle charged to owners on personal property tax bill
Ambulance Charges	Revenue generated from emergency medical services provided to residents and visitors at the time the service is rendered and for the users of the service

Ad-Valorem Property Tax

Methodology

Real estate market trends, property development, and appraisal values

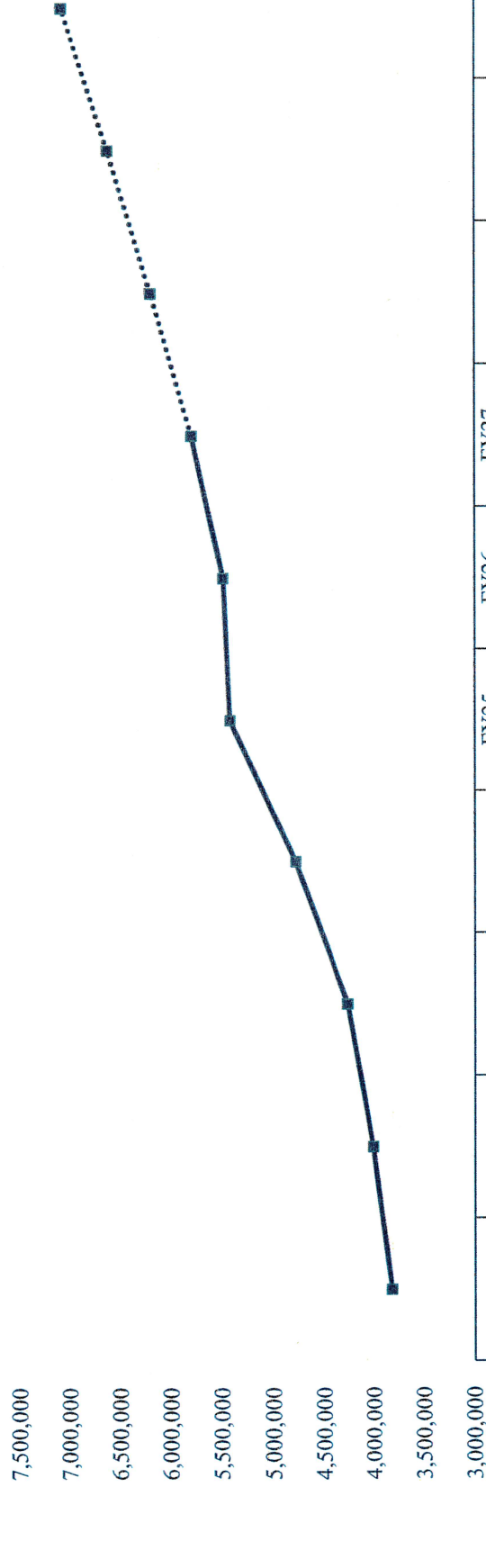


AD VALOREM TAXES CURRENT	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Audited Actual	FY26 Adopted Budget	FY27 Estimate Budget	FY28 Forecast	FY29 Forecast	FY30 Forecast
	24,311,965	26,340,528	29,338,477	33,807,211	36,144,321	38,566,302	38,674,423	41,381,633	44,278,347	47,377,832

Note: Calendar year 2025 requires a reassessment of real property. FY26 actual is \$37,754,427 as of March 31, 2026.

Methodology

Vehicle registration trends, economic conditions, and population growth

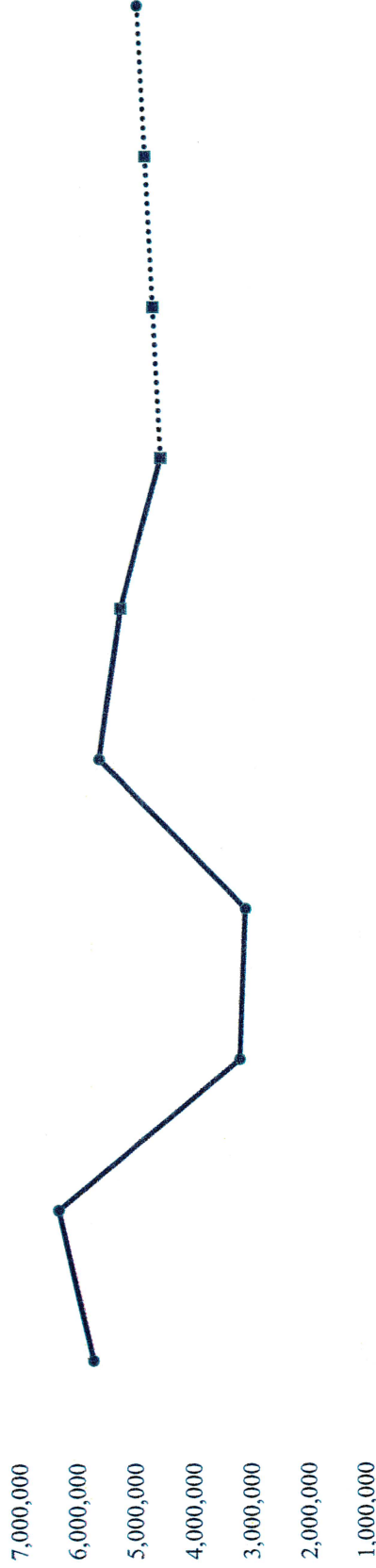


VEHICLE TAXES - COUNTY	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Audited Actual	FY26 Adopted Budget	FY27 Estimate Budget	FY28 Forecast	FY29 Forecast	FY30 Forecast
	3,824,063	4,012,892	4,274,973	4,791,641	5,437,812	5,507,735	5,818,459	6,225,751	6,661,554	7,127,862

Note: Personal property is assessed annually. FY26 actual is \$4,204,017 as of March 31, 2026.

Methodology

Construction activity, economic growth, and real estate development



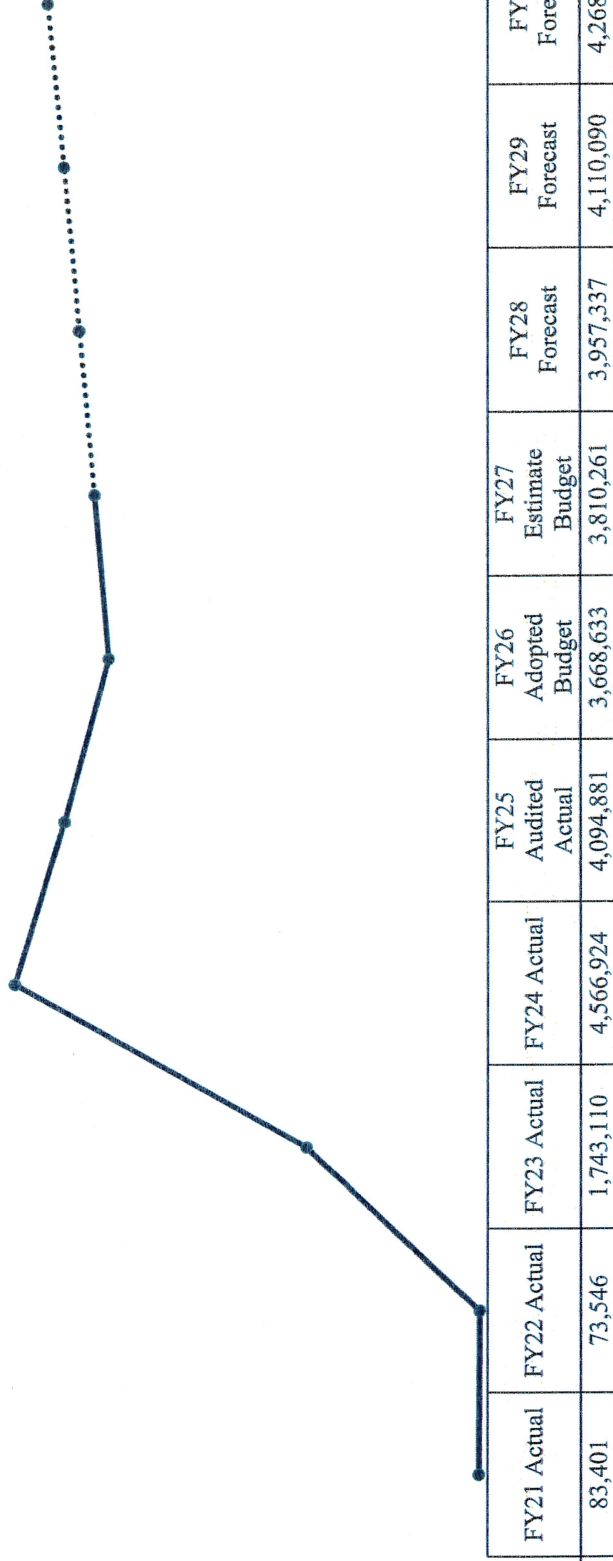
	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Audited Actual	FY26 Adopted Budget	FY27 Estimate Budget	FY28 Forecast	FY29 Forecast	FY30 Forecast
PERMITS - BUILDING	5,730,296	6,334,126	3,204,137	3,103,084	5,640,246	5,269,845	4,570,000	4,702,530	4,838,903	4,979,232

Note: County Council approved a moratorium on residential development in November 2025 (Ord No. 2025-1992). FY26 actual is \$3,734,054 as of March 31, 2026.

Methodology

Interest rates, market performance, and investment strategies

5,000,000
4,500,000
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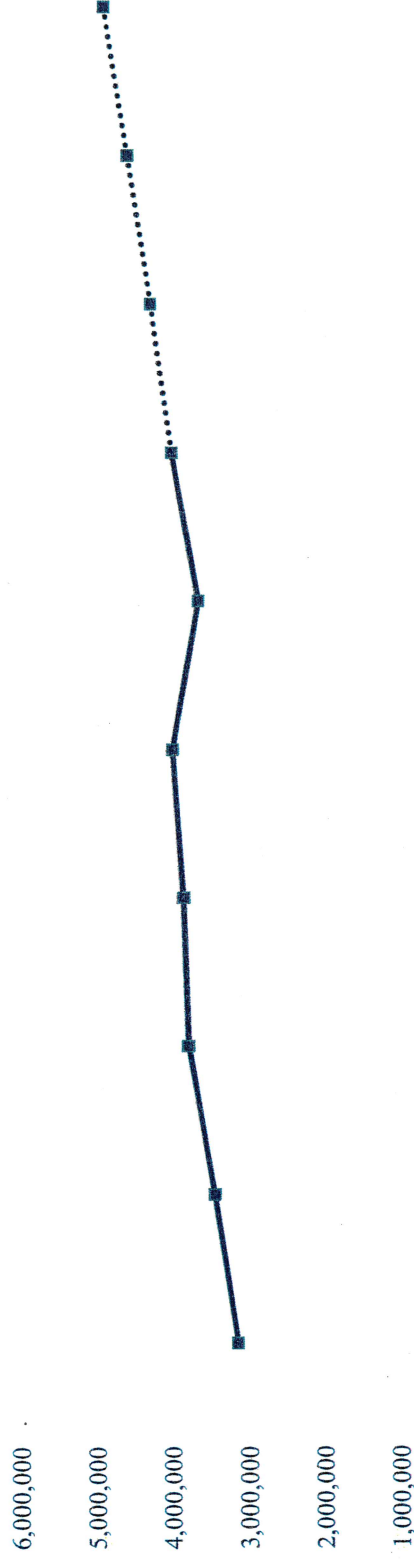


Note: FY26 actual is \$2,077,935 as of March 31, 2026. Interest rate is 3.86% per Local Government Investment Pool and as of March 2026.

Road Improvement Fee

Methodology

Vehicle registration trends, economic conditions, and population growth



	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Audited Actual	FY26 Adopted Budget	FY27 Estimate Budget	FY28 Forecast	FY29 Forecast	FY30 Forecast
ROAD IMPROVEMENT FEES	3,154,315	3,460,173	3,807,819	3,866,524	4,007,454	3,672,000	4,018,140	4,299,410	4,600,369	4,922,394

Note: FY26 actual is \$3,033,243 as of March 31, 2026. Road Fee is \$40 as noted in the Adopted Annual Fee Schedule.

Methodology

Population health, call volumes, and reimbursement rates from insurance



Note: FY26 actual is \$2,950,148 as of March 31, 2026.

SPECIAL REVENUE/ MINOR FUNDS

Special Revenue Funds

Fund	FY26 Adopted Budget	YTD Collections (\$) (as of March 31)	Budget to Actual Variance (\$)	% Collected
Airport	566,408	261,716	304,692	46.21%
Capital Improvement	3,986,216	3,749,847	236,369	94.07%
Capital Project Sales Tax 3	24,611,492	9,441,014	15,170,478	38.36%
County Debt Service	4,760,286	5,250,006	489,720	110.29%

Special Revenue Funds

Fund	FY26 Adopted Budget	YTD Collections (\$) (as of March 31)	Budget to Actual Variance (\$)	% Collected
County Impact Fees	343,880	823,994	480,114	239.62%
County Transportation Committee (CTC)	6,336,660	1,420,859	4,915,801	22.42%
Court Mandated Security	2,344,495	2,868,111	523,616	122.33%
DSS Special Revenue	-	240,213	-	-

Special Revenue Funds

Fund	FY26 Adopted Budget	YTD Collections (\$) (as of March 31)	Budget to Actual Variance (\$)	% Collected
State Accommodations Tax	225,000	7,186	217,814	3.19%
State Aid to Library	247,806	264,689	16,883	106.81%
Stormwater	2,780,021	1,804,231	975,790	64.90%
Van Wyck Fire Service District	163,751	323,056	159,305	197.28%
Victim Services	-	136,721	-	-

For Personnel:

- Across-the-board salary increases (i.e., 2% for non-Sheriff and 6% for Sheriff's Office staff)
- 2% increase for State Probate Judges (State mandate)
- Career ladder adjustments for Public Defender and Solicitor
- 91 new position requests
 - Grants funding expiring for certain positions in EMS, Sheriff, and Solicitor's offices
- 22 positions funded for half-year in FY26; fully funded in FY27
- No increase in PEBA State Health Plan as of March 2026
- Overtime needs

For Operations:

- Annual cost escalation reflecting increases in construction, materials, and professional services
- Insurance premium increases: property, liability, cyber, fleet
- Utility cost escalations including electricity, natural gas, water, fuel, and related services
- Multi-year, long-term contractual commitments: ERP and other licensing, hosting, and support fees
- Ongoing operating costs associated with new capital assets, completed capital projects, cleaning, maintenance, IT, utilities, and vehicle expenses.
- Regulatory and compliance costs
- Proposed increase in per diem rates related to staff training and travel
- One-time and recurring costs for capital projects

Economic Influences & Fiscal Stewardship

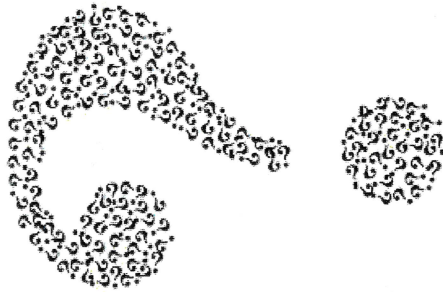
- 2027 Inflation Component is 4.2%
 - The cost of goods and services is increasing for individuals and families
 - The cost of local government daily operations is increasing
- SC State Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office growth factor for area = 2.63%
- Population Growth - County population increase of 2.69% since last census count
- Lancaster County has healthy reserves due to a conservative approach to budgeting and revenue forecasting
- Available debt capacity provides a viable option to offset the immediate burden on taxpayers while funding capital projects
 - Expands and diversifies the County's funding strategies
 - Requires ongoing debt service payments over the life of the financing (multi-year obligations that must be incorporated into future budgets)

Council's role:

- Establish clear budget priorities for FY27 based on departmental requests and community needs
- Collaborate with staff to define a fiscally responsible revenue strategy to support those priorities

Staff's role:

- Present a balanced recommended budget aligned with Council's direction for Council deliberation in May and June 2026



Recommended Interdepartmental Requests				
Request Type	Department	Item Requested	Amount*	Admin Recommended
IT	Animal Shelter	Pet Point Software	5,200	5,200
IT	Animal Shelter	desk computer and telephone for new Animal Control office if approved	1,920	1,920
IT	EMS	Body Camera's*	25,000	-
IT	EMS	Narcotics Software	4,220	4,220
IT	Library	TV Projection Screens	8,500	8,500
IT	Marketing and Communications	New iPhones or Pro versions of current phone, Ipad	4,510	4,510
IT	Parks and Recreation	Placer. AI*	32,000	-
IT	Parks and Recreation	Civic Rec	30,672	30,672
IT	Sheriff's Office	Flock OS Safety Platform*	107,000	-
IT	Sheriff's Office	Truleo AI Assistant	73,800	73,800
IT	Sheriff's Office	Clearview Facial Recognition Software-continuation	10,000	10,000
IT	Veterans Affairs	Increase in copying cost and new desktop printer for 2 employees	3,000	3,000
Capital	Animal Shelter	Add on space for Animal Control Officers	120,000	120,000
Capital	Communications and Marketing	Welcome Signs for Lancaster County*	80,000	-
Capital	EMS	Commercial Kitchen - Finish Build from 2021	38,000	38,000
Capital	EMS	Station Generator	46,525	46,525
Capital	EMS	Mini EMS Unit*	95,000	-
Capital	Fire Rescue	Riverchase Developement Agreement Fire Station	6,228,000	6,228,000
Capital	Fire Rescue	Fire Service County Training Center*	26,228,000	-
Capital	Indian Land Fire District	Concrete for station 1*	320,000	-
Capital	Information Technology	Public Safety Dispatch and Records Management System (Cloud Migration)	803,933	803,933
Capital	Information Technology	Council Chamber Audio Video Improvements	9,350	9,350
Capital	Parks & Recreation	Turfing Walnut Creek soccer fields	2,108,738	2,108,738
Capital	Parks & Recreation	Replace Springdale gym floor	240,000	240,000
Capital	Parks & Recreation	Automatic gate at Springs Park*	64,000	-

Recommended Interdepartmental Requests				
Request Type	Department	Item Requested	Amount*	Admin Recommended
Capital	Parks & Recreation	Flat Creek Improvements	600,000	600,000
Capital	Parks and Recreation	Mini Buses (x4)	256,980	256,980
Capital	Parks and Recreation	Mini Bus Replacement (x1)	123,740	123,740
Capital	Parks and Recreation	45 Passenger Bus (x3)	195,980	195,980
Capital	Planning Commission	EMS Microhub*	1,200,000	-
Capital	Planning Commission	Workforce/Affordable Housing Land Control Fund*	1,000,000	-
Capital	Public Safety Communications	12 Position Radio Console Replacement	1,900,000	1,900,000
Capital	Public Safety Communications	Generator Replacement	300,000	300,000
Capital	Public Safety Communications	Fire Dispatch CAD Integration*	750,000	-
Capital	Road Maintenance	Caterpillar 930 Wheel Loader	294,701	294,701
Capital	Sheriff's Office	25 Replacement Patrol Vehicles (Fund 11)	1,650,000	1,650,000
Fleet	Building	SUV - Ford Explorer**	48,640	-
Fleet	Building Maintenance	Transit Cargo Van	57,240	57,240
Fleet	Economic Development	SUV - Ford Explorer	44,427	44,427
Fleet	EMS	Truck- QRV (Chevy 2500)**	123,619	-
Fleet	EMS	Truck- Chevy 2500	97,242	97,242
Fleet	EMS	SUV - Chevy Tahoe(x2)**	236,768	-
Fleet	Fire Commission	Trucks- Brush Trucks (x2) (Fund 11)	330,950	330,950
Fleet	Fire Rescue	Truck - F350	158,758	158,758
Fleet	Fire Rescue	Truck - F350	158,759	158,759
Fleet	Fleet Operations	Trucks - Chevy Silverado, F150, F150	186,876	186,876
Fleet	Marketing and Communications	SUV - Ford Explorer**	48,640	-
Fleet	Parks and Recreation	Truck - F250*	66,001	-
Fleet	Parks and Recreation	SUV - Dodge Durango	44,178	44,178
Fleet	Parks and Recreation	Truck - Ford Ranger	41,223	41,223

Exhibit B: Interdepartmental Requests

Recommended Interdepartmental Requests				
Request Type	Department	Item Requested	Amount*	Admin Recommended
Fleet	Parks and Recreation	Truck - F250	65,029	65,029
Fleet	Parks and Recreation	Truck - F250	64,777	64,777
Fleet	Parks and Recreation	SUV - Dodge Durango	44,178	44,178
Fleet	Planning Department	SUV - Ford Explorer	45,852	45,852
Fleet	Procurement	SUV - Ford Explorer*	44,178	-
Fleet	Road Maintenance	Trucks F150 (x2)	182,802	182,802
Fleet	Road Maintenance	Drop deck trailer for hauling equipment (Fund 11)	79,098	79,098
Fleet	Sheriff's Office	SUV- Chevy Tahoe	74,530	74,530
Fleet	Stormwater	SUV - Ford Explorer*	48,640	-
Building	EMS	EMS Station 6 Floor Replacement	6,674	6,674
Building	Finance	Finance Dept Repainting**	23,786	-
Building	Sheriff's Office	Parking Lot Resurfacing/Repair*	451,220	-
Building	Sheriff's Office	Painting Project**	100,000	-
Total:			47,832,854	16,740,362

*Request not Recommended

**Request Withdrawn by Department