

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

**County Administrator**

Dennis E. Marstall

County Attorney

Ginny L. Merck-Dupont

Clerk to Council

Sherrie Simpson

April 28, 2025

6:00 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: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Jeff Catoe, Public Services Division Director; Allison Hardin, Development Services Director; Brian Fulk, Economic Development Director; 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 power point presentation utilized during the meeting is attached to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

Call to Order Regular Meeting - Chairman Brian Carnes

Chairman Brian Carnes called the regular meeting of County Council to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Chairman Brian Carnes

Chairman Brian Carnes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Jose Luis

Jose Luis 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 Jose Luis. The motion Passed by a vote of 7-0.

Special Presentations

a. Recognition of Art Contest Winners and Essay Contest Winner from the Lancaster County School District for "Lancaster County Government Month" - Presented by Dennis Marstall

As a part of "Lancaster County Government Month", Dennis Marstall recognized Caleb Martinez-Sherrin from North Elementary School and Ruhi Anand from Harrisburg Elementary School as the winners of the art contest, and recognized Nora Harder from the Indian Land Intermediate School as the winner of the essay contest.

b. Recognition of the 2024 Volunteer of the Group Award (Larry Honeycutt Award) and the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Award (Frank Ferguson Award) for the Keep Lancaster County Beautiful Committee - Presented by Mandy Catoe

Larry Honeycutt presented the Volunteer Group of the Year award (Larry Honeycutt Award) to Land United, and Leslie Sinclair presented the Volunteer of the Year award (Frank Ferguson Award) to Ed Humphrey. Mandy Catoe recognized the members of the Keep Lancaster County Beautiful Commission.

c. Airport Terminal Update - Tim Greene

Tim Greene provided an update on the Airport Terminal project via the County's PowerPoint presentation and highlighted that the ribbon cutting is expected to occur in July 2025. Council and staff discussed what is to happen to the existing terminal building once the new terminal opens.

Citizens Comments

The following citizens signed up for and spoke during Citizens Comments:

1. Rudy Carter, Lancaster, SC, spoke, as the Chairman of the Lancaster County Transportation Committee (CTC), in favor of a transportation sales tax going on the 2025 General Election ballot.
2. Jean Doyle, Indian Land, SC, spoke regarding truck traffic on Steele Hill Road in Van Wyck.

The following citizens submitted electronic, written comments for Citizen Comments, of which Council received a physical copy at their seats and which was acknowledged during the meeting by Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council:

1. Steve Willis, Lancaster, SC, wrote in requesting that taxes be increased to avoid decreases in service levels due to continued growth in the County. A copy of his comment is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes.
2. Brian Marble, Indian Land, SC, wrote in regarding staff members not answering phones at the County Administration building. A copy of his comment is attached as Schedule B to the written minutes.
3. Yates Dunaway, Charlotte, NC, wrote in regarding his availability for questions when item **8b.** was brought forward for discussion. A copy of his comment is attached as Schedule C to the written minutes.

Consent Agenda

Billy Mosteller moved to approve Consent Agenda Item **7a.**, **7b.**, **7c.**, and **7d.** [which are the

same as Item a., b., c., and d. listed below]. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda Passed by a vote of 7-0.

- a. **Approval of Minutes from the April 9, 2025, County Council Budget Workshop Meeting**
- b. **Approval of Minutes from the April 14, 2025, County Council Regular Meeting**
- c. **2nd Reading of Ordinance 2025-1962**
Ordinance Title: An Ordinance To Amend The Official Zoning Map Of Lancaster County To Rezone Approximately 0.488 Acres Of A Parcel (Identified As TM# 0086D-0C-001.00), Which Is Located Behind 1831 Great Falls Hwy, From The Medium Density Residential (MDR) District To The General Business (GB) District For The Purpose Of Combining Properties Under Unified Ownership. - Planning Department Case Number: RZ-2025-0072. The Planning Commission recommended approval by unanimous vote and the Planning staff also recommended approval of the rezoning request. Passed 7-0 at the April 14, 2025, County Council Meeting. - April Williams
- d. **2nd Reading of Ordinance 2025-1963**
Ordinance Title: An Ordinance To Amend The Official Zoning Map Of Lancaster County To Rezone Approximately 0.73 Acres (TM# 0086C-0M-003.00), Which Is Located At 1754 Old Carter St, From The Manufactured Home (MH) District To The Medium Density Residential (MDR) District For The Purpose Of Building Single-Family Homes. - Planning Department Case Number: RZ-2025-0191. The Planning Commission recommended approval by unanimous vote and the Planning staff also recommended approval of the rezoning request. Passed 7-0 at the April 14, 2025, County Council Meeting. - April Williams

Non-Consent Agenda

- a. **Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2025-1951**
Ordinance Title: An Ordinance To Authorize The Execution And Delivery Of A Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement By And Between Lancaster County And An Entity Identified By The County As Project Block, Including Any Related Or Affiliated Entities, Providing For Special Source Revenue Credits; And To Express The Intention Of County Council To Provide Monies To The Economic Development Fund. - Passed 6-0 at the March 24, 2025, County Council Meeting (Steve Harper Absent). Passed 7-0 at the April 14, 2025, County Council Meeting - Brian Fulk

Brian Carnes opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2025-1951 at approximately 6:33 p.m. He noted that no one signed up to speak at the Public Hearing for the Ordinance. There were approximately 23 citizens, including staff members, in attendance during the Public Hearing for this Ordinance. The following speakers came forward to make comments or sent in written comments regarding the Ordinance: None. Brian Carnes closed the Public Hearing at approximately 6:33 p.m.

Jose Luis moved to approve the 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2025-1951. Seconded by Charlene McGriff.

Brian Fulk announced that the company identified as Project Block was Old Castle APG South Inc. DBA (Doing Business As) Adams Products. Steve Harper welcomed the company to Lancaster County.

There was no discussion from Council. The 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2025-1951 Passed by a vote of 7-0.

b. Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2025-1961

Ordinance Title: An Ordinance To Approve A First Amendment To The Development Agreement Between Lancaster County And Crosland Southeast For A Mixed-Use Townhome/ Multifamily Apartment And Nonresidential Development Project Known As "The Exchange" Upon Approximately 130 Acres Of Land, Located At 8918 Charlotte Highway, Lancaster, South Carolina, Establishing The Regulations For The Development Of The Property And Other Matters Related Thereto. - Passed 6-0 at the March 24, 2025, County Council Meeting (Steve Harper Absent). Passed 7-0 at the April 14, 2025, County Council Meeting. - April Williams

Brian Carnes opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2025-1961 at approximately 6:37 p.m. He noted that no one signed up to speak at the Public Hearing for the Ordinance. There were approximately 23 citizens, including staff members, in attendance during the Public Hearing for this Ordinance. The following speakers came forward to make comments or sent in written comments regarding the Ordinance: None. Brian Carnes closed the Public Hearing at approximately 6:37 p.m.

Charlene McGriff moved to approve the 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2025-1961. Seconded by Jose Luis.

There was no staff presentation for this Ordinance.

There was no discussion from Council. The 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2025-1961 Passed by a vote of 7-0.

c. Resolution 1293-R2025

Resolution Title: A Resolution To State The Commitment Of Lancaster County To Enter Into A Fee Agreement With Project Janus Including The Provision Of Special Source Revenue Credits; To Provide The General Terms Of The Fee Agreement; And To Provide That This Resolution Is An Inducement Resolution For Purposes Of The Fee In Lieu Of Tax Simplification Act; And To State The Commitment Of Lancaster County To Place Property Owned Or Leased By Project Janus In A Multi-County Park. - Brian Fulk

Steve Harper moved to approve Resolution 1293-R2025. Seconded by Bryant Neal.

Brian Fulk provided information on Project Janus and the company's intentions during the investment period. Mr. Fulk explained that, if approved, the County would provide Special Source Revenue Credit (SSRC) incentives equal to 50% for the first ten years, followed by 25% for 5 years, and the term of the related Fee in Lieu of Tax (FILOT) Agreement was 20 years with a five-year investment. Mr. Fulk stated that the agreement provided for an assessment rate of 6% and a fixed millage rate.

There was no discussion from Council. Resolution 1293-R2025 Passed by a vote of 7-0.

d. 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-1964

Ordinance Title: An Ordinance To Authorize And Approve The Execution And Delivery

Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax And Incentive Agreement Between Lancaster County, South Carolina And Project Janus Providing For The Payment Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes And The Provision Of Special Source Revenue Credits; To Express The Intention Of Council To Provide Monies To The Economic Development Fund; And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto. - *Brian Fulk*

Jose Luis moved to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-1964. Seconded by Billy Mosteller.

Brian Fulk explained the Fee in Lieu of Tax (FILOT) Agreement and Incentive Agreement.

There was no discussion from Council. The 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-1964 Passed by a vote of 7-0.

Discussion and Action Items

a. Receive Information and Take Desired Action Regarding Appointments to Various Boards and Commissions - *Sherrie Simpson*

1. Reappointment to the Keep Lancaster County Beautiful Board - Ann Ferguson as one of the District 3 representatives - 2nd Term; CK (Greg) Gregory as one of the District 5 representatives - 2nd Term; and Clarice (Clare) McConaughay as one of the District 7 representatives - 1st Term (Previously filled an unexpired term).

2. Reappointment to the Recreation Advisory Board - Michael (Mike) Fulkerson as the District 7 representative - 2nd Term; and Brent Stogner as the District 3 representative - 2nd Term.

3. Current Board/Commission Vacancies

4. Upcoming Board/Commission Expirations

1. Sherrie Simpson explained that staff had received applications for reappointment for the Keep Lancaster County Beautiful Commission from Ann Ferguson for a second term (District 3), CK (Greg) Gregory for a second term (District 5), and Clarice (Clare) McConaughay for her first term (previously serving under an unexpired term for District 7). Steve Harper moved to reappoint the applicants. Seconded by Billy Mosteller. There was no discussion from Council. The motion Passed by a vote of 7-0.
2. Sherrie Simpson explained that staff had received applicants for reappointment for the Recreation Advisory Board from Michael (Mike) Fulkerson for a second term (District 7) and Brent Stogner for a second term (District 3). Charlene McGriff moved to reappoint the applicants. Seconded by Bryant Neal. There was no discussion from Council. The motion Passed by a vote of 7-0.
3. Sherrie Simpson explained that the current list of Board and Commission vacancies was included in the agenda packet.
4. Sherrie Simpson explained that the list of upcoming Board and Commission expirations was included in the agenda packet.

b. Rise Lane Alternate Project Proposal - *Jeff Catoe*

Jeff Catoe reviewed alternative project proposals for a water line on Rise Lane via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the four options that Mr. Catoe presented, and cost escalations associated with the project. Mr. Catoe stated that staff's recommendation to Council was Option 1, and Jose Luis questioned if it would be possible to get bids for Option

1 and Option 3.

Jose Luis made a motion to move forward with Option 1 and Option 3 as bids. Seconded by Stuart Graham. The motion Passed by a vote of 7-0.

c. Transportation Sales Tax Proposal - Jeff Catoe

Jeff Catoe reviewed the Transportation Sales Tax proposal via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the timing of the transportation sales tax ballot question and if it should go on the 2025 or 2026 General Election ballot and the need for an educational campaign. Bryant Neal stated that the County needed to move forward with the ballot question, and let the residents of the County vote. Jose Luis stated that the project allocations needed to be determined, and Council needed more details on the widening projects. Stuart Graham noted that the County was behind on infrastructure and Council needed to move forward with the proposal.

Jose Luis made a motion to bring forward legislation to allow for a referendum and provide a ballot question in the 2025 General Election. Seconded by Bryant Neal. The motion Passed by a vote of 6-1; Ayes: Harper, Neal, Carnes, McGriff, Luis, Graham; Nays: Mosteller.

d. Comprehensive Plan Update - Allison Hardin

Allison Hardin provided a brief update on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and explained that the full document was included in the meeting agenda packet. She did not have a PowerPoint presentation. There was no discussion from Council.

Status of Items Tabled, Recommitted, Deferred or Held

There was no discussion regarding the status of any tabled, recommitted, deferred or held items.

Executive Session

a. Two Items:

1. Receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege regarding Impact Fees.

2. Receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege regarding legal services.

Brian Carnes stated that he needed to go into Executive Session for two items: (1) for the receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege regarding Impact Fees; and (2) for the receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege regarding legal services. Charlene McGriff stated that she so moved. Seconded by Jose Luis. The motion to go into Executive Session Passed by a vote of 7-0. At approximately 7:36 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 8:32 p.m. Charlene McGriff moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Billy Mosteller. The motion to come out of Executive Session Passed by a vote of

7-0.

Upon returning to open session, Ginny Merck-Dupont stated that Council met in Executive Session in regard to two items: (1) for the receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege regarding Impact Fees; and (2) for the receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege regarding legal services. She stated the during Executive Session, no motions were made, and no votes were taken.

Adjournment

Jose Luis moved to adjourn the Council meeting. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. There being no further business to discuss, the regular meeting of Council adjourned at approximately 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lauren Hill

Lauren Hill
Deputy Clerk to Council

Approved by Council on May 12, 2025.

Bryant Neal

Bryant Neal, Secretary

Schedule A

Steve Willis of

Lancaster, SC

Mr. Chairman and Council members,

I am submitting my comments in written format as there is far more data in this message than can be covered in three minutes. I would like to note that the opinions expressed are my own and should not be taken to represent the Lancaster Sheriff's Office. Only the Sheriff may speak on behalf of the Sheriff's Office. I have not been asked to submit these comments; they are my own as a lifelong resident of Lancaster County. I would also note that while I am currently a county employee, I am retiring on June 27th but returning as a Sheriff's Volunteer in Research and Planning on June 30th. Whatever you decide on this budget will not affect me as an employee.

It is not often that you hear residents come before you asking that you increase our taxes but that is exactly what I am doing. The alternative is steadily decreasing service levels, which is what we have seen as of late. With a population growth rate that is among the highest in the nation, this trend simply cannot continue.

As you prepare for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget, I am asking you to keep in mind the need for additional resources in all departments to account for additional residents and the increased cost of materials. This is the CPI and population growth written into the state law governing tax millage. Without compensating for that, service levels across the board will inevitably decrease. If Council decides that a reduced level of service to the citizenry is warranted, then that is certainly Councils prerogative. My point is Council cannot expect the departments to maintain high service levels without additional resources. In my 25 years of working with County and City Councils on budgets I have always stated that the phrase "you must do more with less" is the most irrational phrase in history. If you truly believe that and take it to its logical conclusion you reach the point where you can do everything with nothing. Government budgeting is like shopping for any goods or services, you get what you pay for.

Just a quick example is that the lack of increased staffing at the Sheriff's Office has reduced the ratio of sworn law enforcement officers per 1,000 residents to 1.32. Comparative data is below but I would stress the Lancaster Sheriff's Office is clearly understaffed. Just one nearby example,

the Rock Hill Police Department has 213 positions, sworn and civilian. The Sheriff's Office has 179 positions, including SRO and Kershaw deputies but not Correctional staff, while protecting far more residents and performing more duties such as civil process and court security. The Sheriff can't address this problem without Council authorizing the resources.

Also, I urge you to discuss the need for Detention Officers with Sheriff Faile. The current construction schedule has substantial completion of the Detention Center in late 2026, roughly 21 months out. Given that it takes approximately 12 months to recruit and train a Detention Officer to the point they can function independently, Fiscal Year 2026-27 is too late to start recruiting for personnel.

I would stress the Sheriff's Office is not the only example of service level concerns. For example, we currently operate nine EMS stations in Lancaster County. While not a rule or regulation, the general rule of thumb is an entity should have one ambulance in operation per 10,000 residents. We passed 90,000 residents a while ago.

In addition, I am sure you could look at countless other examples such as the number of Appraisers per total parcels in the Assessor's Office, inspection caseload per Inspector in the Building Department, and on and on. I would particularly note the need for resources in the Solicitor's and Public Defender's offices. In the information below you will see a chart from Court Administration showing Lancaster County has the worst record in the state (29%) for meeting the case processing goals established by the state.

As you know, the July 1st 2024 Census estimated population for Lancaster County is 111,652. This is 16.3% growth in four years (Census 2020 to Census 2024 Estimate). Annualizing a 4.075% growth rate (16.3 divided by 4), our population as of June 30, 2026 (end of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget you are planning for now) should be 122,510. I would ask that you disregard the nine month old estimate and plan your budget for the population you will be serving in June 2026. Will you have provided your Administrator and Department Heads with the resources they need to serve such a growing population?

Using Census data from 2020 to 2024, Lancaster County was the 3rd fastest growing county in South Carolina and 43rd fastest growing in the United

States. Lancaster County has grown to the 573rd largest county in the United States, based on total population.

We have outstanding department heads leading a devoted team of employees. I encourage you to find out firsthand what their priority needs are. That may involve reducing spending in lower priority areas and it may involve raising millage. No one wants to see that, but we all know that the concept of growth paying for growth is farcical. Here is a data point to illustrate what your employees are facing. From 2020 to 2024 Lancaster County has grown by 15,640 people. How does that compare to the size of United States counties and South Carolina cities? Just the **GROWTH** in Lancaster County since the 2020 Census is larger than the population of 1,086 counties in the United States. That is just over 1/3 of all counties in the nation. That is also larger than 240 cities in South Carolina. The population of only 31 South Carolina municipalities are larger than just the growth in Lancaster County.

In closing, I spent over two decades working with City and County Councils as they considered their upcoming fiscal year budgets. Everybody wants all of the services without paying for it. One example we all lived through was the 28 years that the State Legislature refused to increase the gas tax while the roads we travelled crumbled from lack of maintenance. Finally, things got so bad the Legislature had to make a six-year commitment to significantly increasing the gas tax. Please don't let the service levels fall to such a low level that a Council coming in after you is going to have to make a substantial investment to clean up the mess.

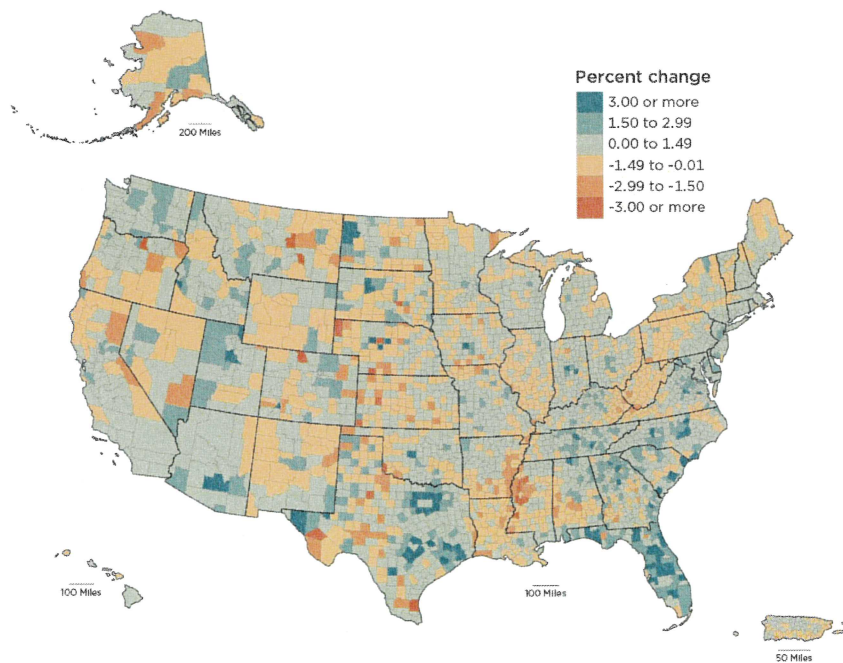
BACKUP DATA

2020 Census Data

Lancaster County is one of the fastest growing counties in South Carolina and the United States. Between 2010 and 2020 Lancaster County was the third fastest growing county in South Carolina, based on percentage growth, with over 25.26% growth from 2010 through 2020. During the same time Lancaster County was the 49th fastest growing county in the United States. As of 2020, Lancaster County was the 629th largest county in the United States, based on population, out of 3,143 counties. Lancaster County has 549 square miles, so our population density has increased from 139.6 residents per square mile in 2010 to 174.9 residents per square mile in 2020.

Census Graphic

Percent Change in County Population: July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2024

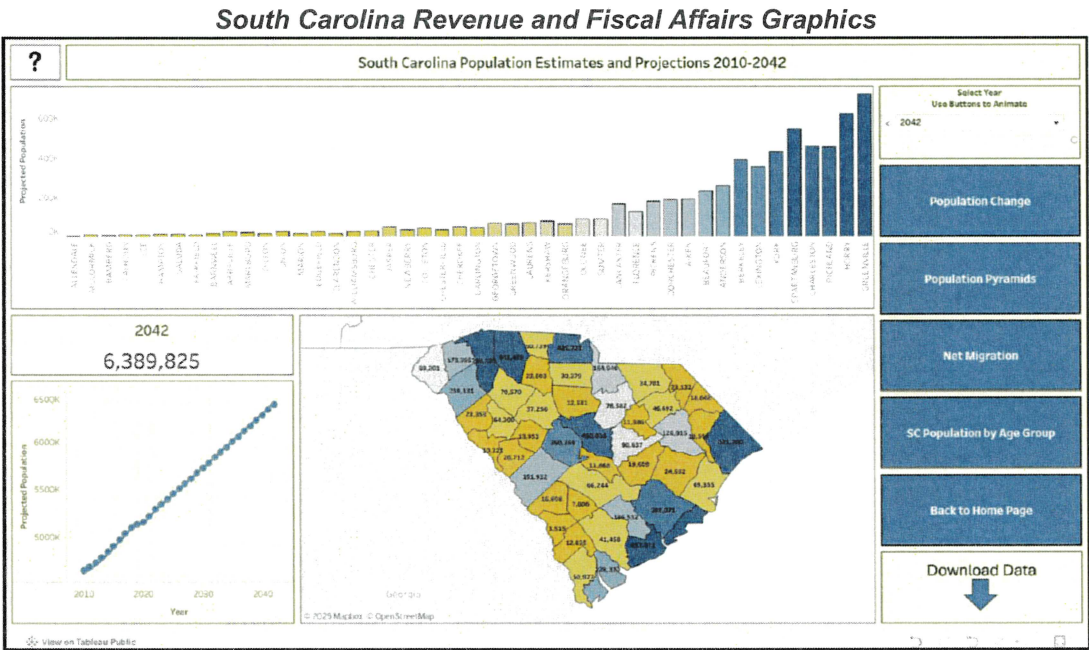


2024 Update Using Census Data Estimates

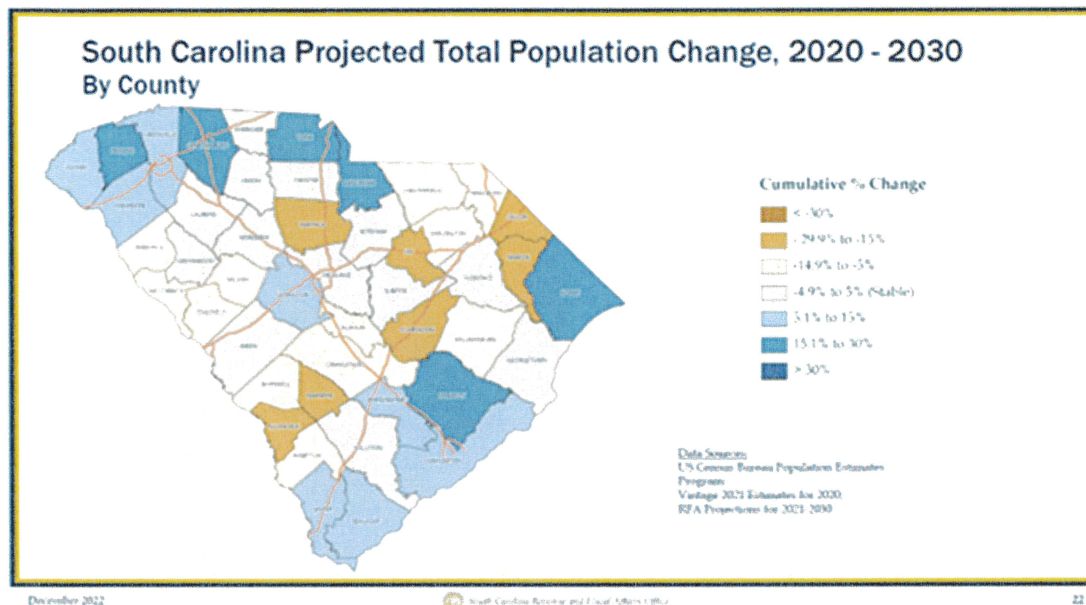
Lancaster County continues to exhibit dynamic growth as reflected in the 2024 Census data. The population as of July 1, 2024 has grown to 111,652 per the 2024 Census Population Estimate. This is 16.3% growth in four years (Census 2020 to Census 2024 Estimate). Using a 4.075% growth rate (16.3 divided by 4), our population as of June 30, 2026 (end of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget) should be 122,510. **(CAUTION – this is a two-year projection)**

As of the 2024 Census Estimate, Lancaster County was the 3rd fastest growing county in South Carolina from 2020 to 2024, the 43rd fastest growing county in the United States, and has grown to the 573rd largest county in the United States, based on total population. Lancaster County has 549 square miles, so our population density has increased from 174.9 residents per square mile in 2020 to 203.4 residents per square mile in 2024.

Lancaster County remains the 15th largest county by total population, out of 46, in South Carolina.



Lancaster is projected to surpass Florence and be very close to surpassing Pickens, Dorchester and Aiken counties by 2042.

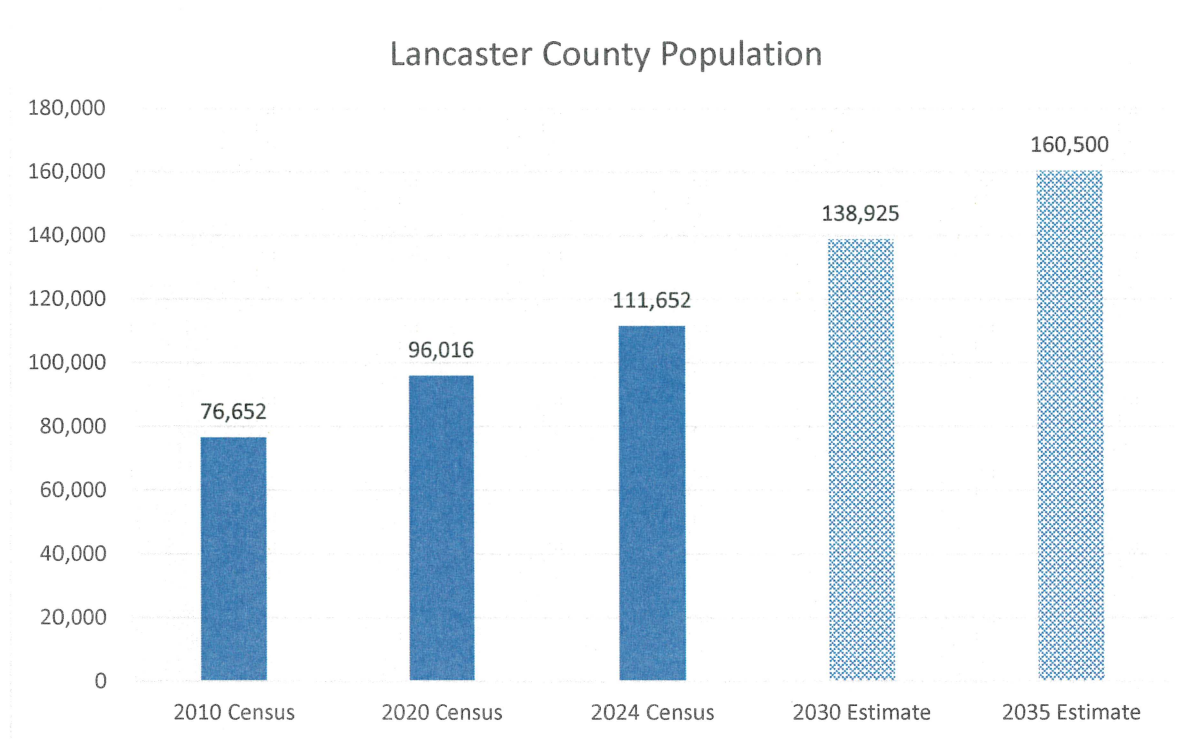


Lancaster County is the dark blue color – 15.1% to 30%.

The South Carolina Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs predicts that Lancaster County will be the fifth fastest growing county in South Carolina for the time frame 2020 to 2030, behind Horry, Berkeley, York, and Spartanburg. They project Lancaster County to grow by 21.83% during that time compared to 9.18% growth for the state as a whole. Only six counties out of forty-six falls into the 15.1% to 30% growth range. By 2042 they predict the population of Lancaster County to be 164,946 having surpassed Florence County in population and closing in on Pickens, Dorchester, and Aiken counties.

The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office growth projection equates to 2.183% per year. Based on what we have already seen from the 2020 to 2024 Census estimates, I feel that estimate is low. The Census data shows that we grew by 16.3% from 2020 to 2024, which equates to 4.075% growth per year. In forecasting manpower needs I will use a 4% growth rate per annum, which matches our historical trend.

The following graphic shows United States Census numbers from 2010, 2020, and 2023 for Lancaster County with forecasts by the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office for 2030 and 2035.



Lancaster Sheriff's Office Staffing

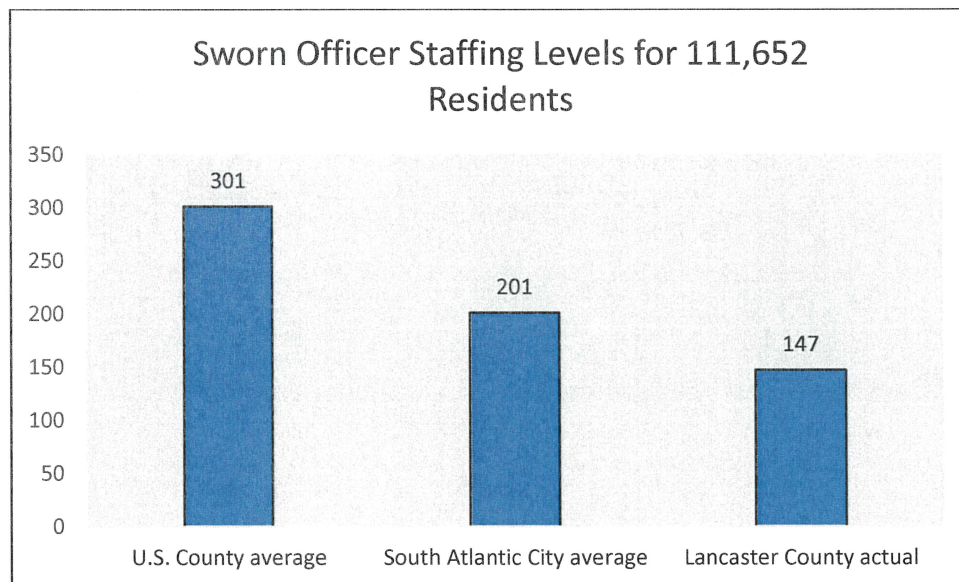
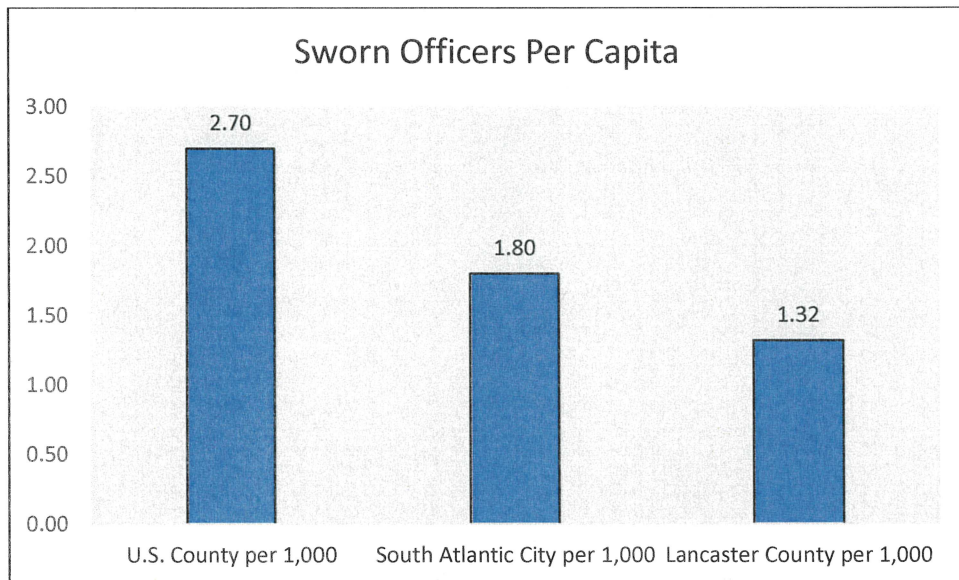
As of January 2025, the Sheriff's Office consists of 133 sworn positions, 14 sworn School Resource Officers, 42 Correctional Officers, and 32 non-sworn support positions. As has been the case nationwide, staffing remains an ongoing area of concern. During FY 24-25 we added no new sworn positions but did assume fiscal responsibility for two previously grant funded Crime Prevention positions, two new Correctional Officer positions, and two new civilian positions – one in Crime Scene/ Evidence and one in Records.

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office is responsible for law enforcement services throughout the County of Lancaster with the exception of the City of Lancaster. The Sheriff's Office maintains multiple divisions to provide a full complement of services. This includes Patrol, Investigations, Corrections, Support Services, and Standards and Compliance. The Sheriff's Office is an accredited agency through both the South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and The Commission for Accredited Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

For comparative purposes the following information is from the 2023 Crime in the United States publication by the United States Department of Justice, table 71. County law enforcement staffing is not separated by population and is a national average of 2.7 sworn officers per 1,000 population. Municipal agencies are separated by geography and population; the same table shows that for a municipal police department in the South Atlantic of 100,000 to 249,999 population the average is 1.8 sworn officers per 1,000 population. As indicated above, the Lancaster Sheriff's Office has 147 sworn positions

authorized (includes School Resource Officers). For comparative purposes we will use the Lancaster County 2024 Census number of 111,652.

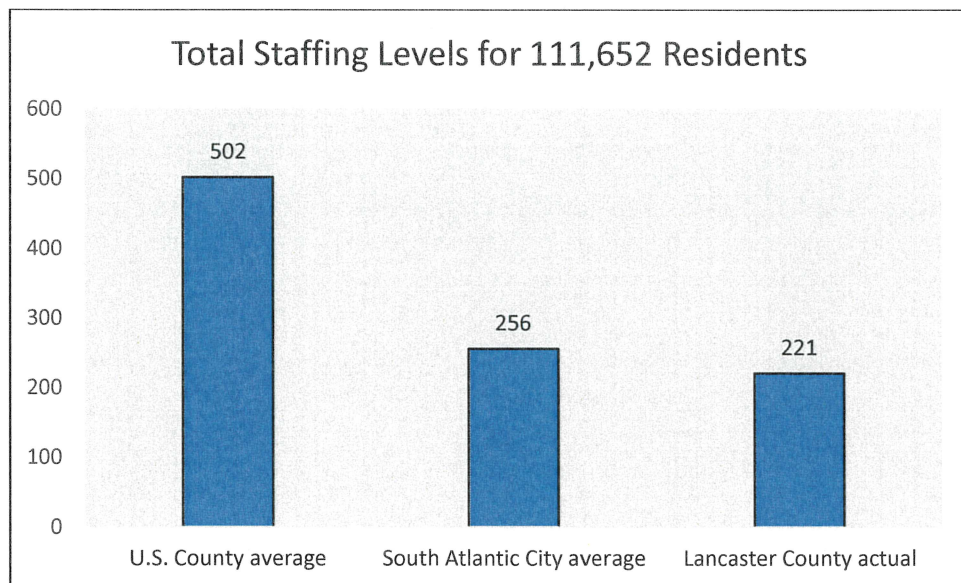
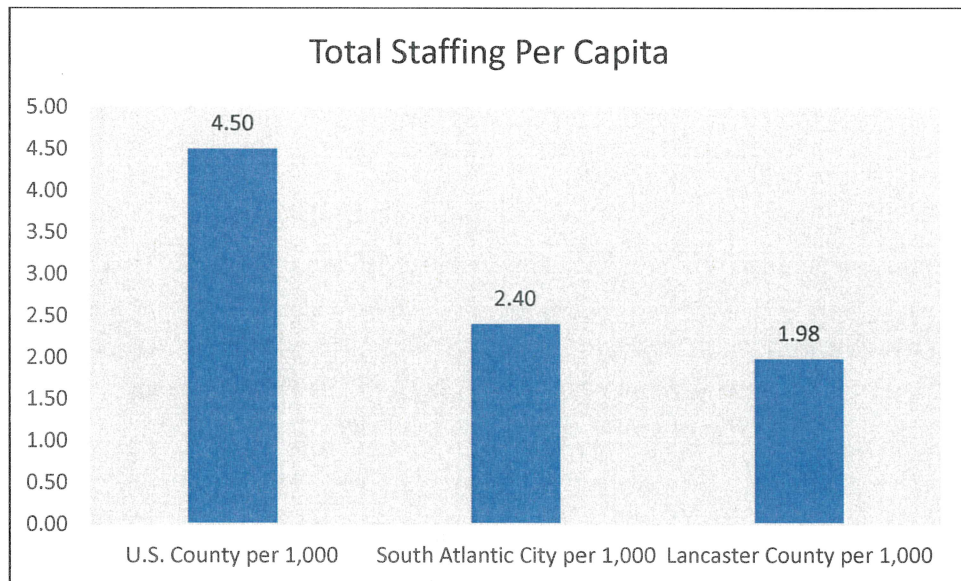
Law Enforcement Officer Graphs



Regarding total employment at law enforcement agencies the 2023 Crime in the United States publication by the United States Department of Justice, table 70 reflects the county average at 4.5 employees per 1,000 population. The graphs below show that the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office has a total employment of 221, which for our population

results in 1.98 employees per 1,000 population. Again, looking at a population-based data set, the South Atlantic municipal department shows an average of 2.4 employees per 1,000 population. The national average would result in the Sheriff's Office having 502 total employees while the South Atlantic average results in 256 employees. Keep in mind that municipal law enforcement agencies do not have as many responsibilities as Sheriff's offices. By either measure, the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office employment numbers are low for both sworn law enforcement officers and total law enforcement staff.

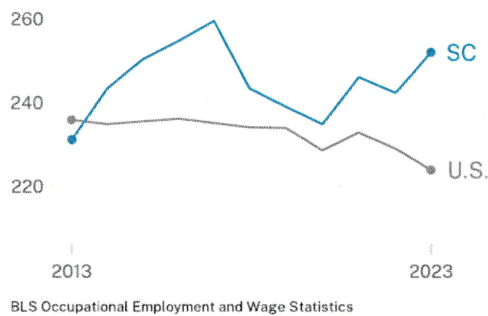
Total Law Enforcement Employee (including Detention Center) Graphs



The January 2025 Bureau of Justice Assistance South Carolina Criminal Justice Data Snapshot includes Figure 22 which graphs the rate of police officers and detectives employed per 100,000 residents. In South Carolina the figure is approximately 250. As mentioned previously, the total number of sworn officers at the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, which serves a population in excess of 100,000 residents, is only 147.

Figure 22. Police officers and detectives employed

Rate per 100k residents



While the above data and graphics reflect total county population, the data does not change much if you utilize Service Population numbers. The reason is that Lancaster County is an outlier amongst South Carolina counties and covers the vast majority of the county's population. The only other local law enforcement agency in Lancaster County is the Lancaster Police Department which serves a population of 9,103 (2023 Census estimate – 2024 data not available until May). This reflects that the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office serves 102,549 residents, or 91.85% of the total residents in Lancaster County. For comparison, the 2024 York County population estimate is 303,001. Again, using the 2023 Census estimates the City of Rock Hill Police Department serves 75,654 residents, the Town of Fort Mill Police Department serves 33,626 residents, the City of Tega Cay Police Department serves 14,057 residents, the City of York Police Department serves 9,154, and the Town of Clover Police Department serves 7,391 residents, yielding a total of 139,882 residents served by municipal police agencies. This leaves the York Sheriff's Office serving 53.83% of the county residents. (Note: The Winthrop University Police Department serves that campus but there are no population numbers for the campus.)

Again, using either measure, the staffing numbers for the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office are very low compared to national and state averages using either the total population number or the percentage of total residents served.

Data Comparisons by Service Population

*(updated with 2024 Census Estimates for Counties and FY 24-25 Budget Data)
(municipal population numbers will be available in mid-May and FY 25-26 financial data will be available in August)*

The Lancaster County 2024 Census Estimate is 111,652. The Lancaster Sheriff's Office serves the entire County except for the City of Lancaster (2023 estimated population 9,103) **giving the Lancaster Sheriff's Office a service population of 102,549 (91.85% of the county population)**. The towns of Kershaw, Heath Springs, and Van Wyck have no police department.

Sumter County has a population of 104,776. The City of Sumter population is 42,766. The towns of Mayesville and Pinewood has no police department. **This gives Sumter Sheriff's Office a service population of 62,010 (59.18% of the county population)**. *NOTE:* The Sumter Sheriff's Office does not patrol Joint Base Shaw which is a federal military installation. The Census Quick Facts website does not breakdown population on base (served by the USAF Security Force) versus off base (served by civilian law enforcement) military housing. The Air Force reports that 8,200 service members, 1,200 civilian employees, with 12,000 family members are stationed at Shaw.

Florence County has a population of 138,049. The City of Florence population is 40,609, Coward has a population of 748, Johnsonville has a population of 1,378, Lake City has a population of 5,961, Olanta has a population of 550, Pamplico has a population of 1,021, Quinby has a population of 915, Scranton has a population of 648, and Timmonsville has a population of 2,099. **This gives Florence Sheriff's Office a service population of 84,120 (60.93% of the county population)**. *NOTE:* The Florence Sheriff's Office does not patrol Francis Marion University, including the dorms (served by the Francis Marion University Police Department). Off campus housing would be served by one of several agencies depending upon location.

Pickens County has a population of 138,207. The City of Pickens population is 3,388, Central has a population of 5,322, Clemson has a population of 17,838, Easley has a population of 26,386, and Liberty has a population of 3,366. The towns of Norris and Six Mile have no police department. **This gives Pickens Sheriff's Office a service population of 91,907 (59.26% of the county population).** NOTE: The Pickens Sheriff's Office does not patrol Clemson University, including the dorms (served by the Clemson University Police Department). Off campus housing would be served by one of several agencies depending upon location.

The Lancaster Sheriff's Office has a larger service population than the next two larger counties based solely on population. Simply using overall county population data for comparative purposes can be very misleading.

A nearby example is York County which has a population of 303,001. However, the City of York has a population of 9,154, Rock Hill has a population of 75,654, Fort Mill has a population of 33,626, Tega Cay has a population of 14,057, and Clover has a population of 7,391. The Catawba Indian Nation is starting its own law enforcement under federal jurisdiction. The towns of Hickory Grove, Sharon, and Smyrna have no police department. NOTE: The York Sheriff's Office does not patrol Winthrop University, including the dorms (served by the Winthrop University Police Department). Off campus housing would most likely be served by the Rock Hill Police Department.

With 139,882 residents served by municipal police departments (46.89% of the total county population), this leaves the York Sheriff's Office with a service population of 163,119. In other words, despite having a county population that is just under three times larger than Lancaster County, the York Sheriff's Office service population is approximately 1.65 times larger than Lancaster Sheriff's Office. In short, simply comparing the number of sworn officers and budgets based on overall county population can be severely misleading.

Data source for towns with police departments: South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy @ <https://sccja.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/AGENCY-HEAD-DIRECTORY-2024-04-17-1.pdf>

Data sources for population: counties and municipalities over 5,000 in population U.S. Census website; municipalities under 5,000 Municipal Association website (Census does not provide annual estimates for locations under 5,000 in population).

Data comparisons on overall law enforcement budgets and number of sworn law enforcement positions below are based on the service population and **NOT** the county population data. The four counties in the sample are arranged from smallest to largest in overall population, since that is how most people would recognize them, even though the Lancaster Sheriff's Office has the largest service population of any of the four counties listed.

Item	Sumter	Lancaster	Florence	Pickens
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Sheriff's Budget	\$14,234,037	\$19,240,387	\$17,174,049	\$17,485,647
Jail Budget	N/A	\$4,326,129	\$10,632,601	N/A

Source: Online budgets or e-mail from Finance Departments

Note: Sumter operates the Sumter/ Lee County Detention Center for FY 24-25 the Sumter portion of the jail budget was \$7,332,220.

Note: Pickens County does not segregate the jail budget

Sworn LEOs	214	147	143	162
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Source: SCAC FY 2024 Wage and Salary Report; Appendix A – Page 203/

**Lancaster per Major Shaw as of January 2025/ Florence from Budget*

Sheriff's Budget per Service Population	\$230	\$188	\$204	\$190
Jail Budget per Service Population	N/A - two county operation	\$42	\$126	N/A – budget is combined with S.O.

Sworn LEOs per 1,000 Service Population	3.45	1.43	1.70	1.76
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Sworn LEOs per 1,000 Total Population	2.04	1.32	1.05	1.17
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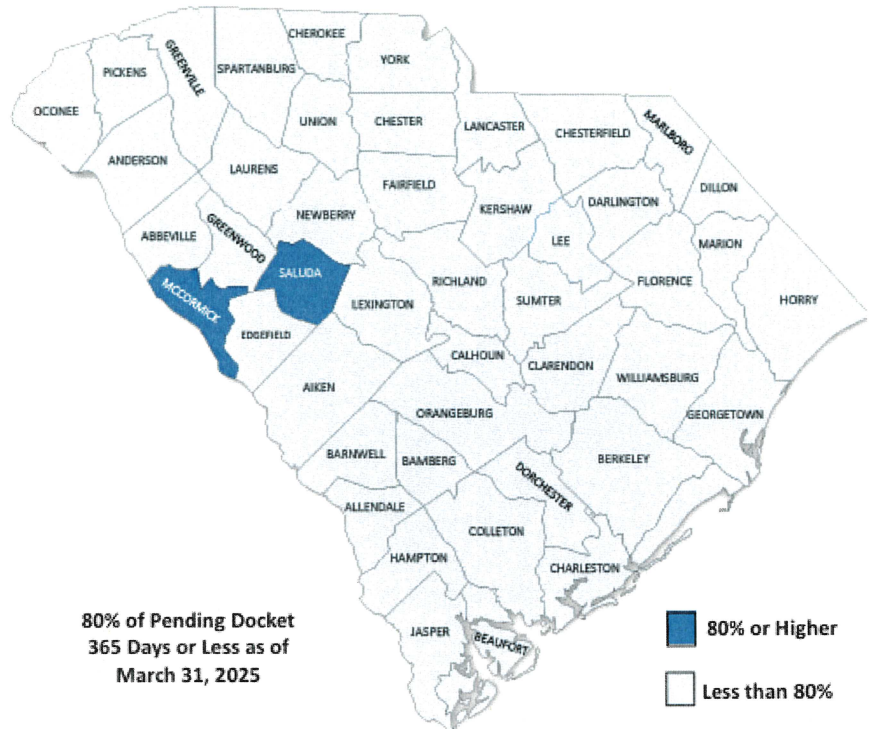
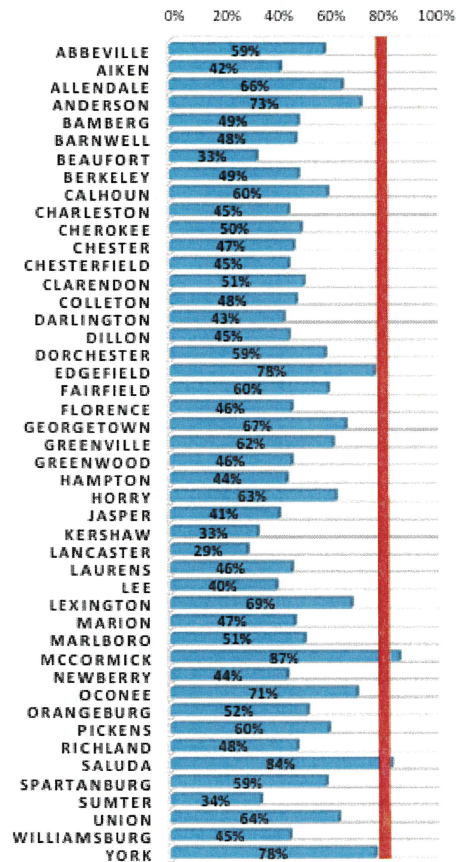
Lancaster County Detention Center

Local Detention Centers do not lend themselves to staffing comparisons as facilities differ in design, capacity, and methods of supervision. Staffing studies for local facilities are performed by the staff from the South Carolina Association of Counties Insurance Trust and reviewed and approved by the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Detention Center budgetary comparisons are presented above as information. The reader's attention is called to the fact that two counties, Sumter and Pickens, fall into the category of not lending themselves to comparison. Sumter operates a two county detention facility with its much smaller neighbor of Lee County. Pickens County chooses not to separate the jail budget from the overall Sheriff's Office budget.

For the current Lancaster County Detention Center, the minimum staffing level has been calculated at 38 detention center staff. Under the current Lancaster County budget, as adopted by Lancaster County Council, 42 detention center staff positions are authorized. A study will be conducted by the South Carolina Department of Corrections to determine the minimum staffing level for the new Detention Center. Minimum staffing levels will most assuredly increase significantly due to several factors including, but not limited to, the increased size of the physical plant with a corresponding increase in the number of cells and beds, meeting requirements for a new facility under the South Carolina Department of Correction Minimum Standards, an increase in both the average daily population (ADP) and average length of stay (ALOS) at the Detention Center (these are controlled by functions of the court system and not controlled by the Sheriff's Office), and the intent to see that the new facility not only meets the statutory requirements as established by the South Carolina Department of Corrections Minimum Standards but to also meet the standards set forth by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The intent is to eventually seek certification as an ACA accredited facility.

South Carolina / General Sessions Court Counties Meeting Benchmark



Run date April 9, 2025



Citizen Com
Lancaster Cou

Schedule B

tted On:
r 21, 2025, 09:57AM EDT

Agenda Item for Discussion:	No one answers at any of your local government offices.
Meeting Date:	April 21, 2025 09:54 AM
Full Name	First Name: Brian Last Name: Marble
Phone Number	
Email	
Address:	
Citizen Comment - Regarding Agenda Item:	I have been calling multiple numbers to discuss my vehicle property tax. No human EVER answers the phone. These are the numbers that I have tried: 803.285.7939 / 803.285.7424 / 803.285.1565. These are government offices funded by tax payers. I don't have time to call all day long in hopes that a human picks up. Please return my call. You need to do better.



Citizen Comment

Lancaster County

SCHEDULE C

Agenda Item for Discussion:	Non-Consent Agenda item 00
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Meeting Date:	April 28, 2025 05:24 AM
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Full Name	First Name: Yates Last Name: Dunaway
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Phone Number	
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Email	
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Address:	
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Citizen Comment - Regarding Agenda Item:	I'm available for questions.
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